



Report from the Court meeting on Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 10.30

Members Attending: The Master (P Nash), Upper Warden (D Adams), Renter Warden (C Brooks), Immediate Past Master (N Jones), Past Masters Rae, Brunner, Lockyer, Cartwright, Sneath, Stary and Burgon, Senior Assistant Raine and Assistants Rivers, Shouler, Wingrove, Wheeler, Cooper, and Reynolds.

In attendance: The Clerk.

Item 1. The Master's Report

- Two Coronation Planters design are with the Palace. The King has shown a keen interest in both their design and placement at Sandringham. The Master and Peter Cheesman will make a site visit to Sandringham on 18 May.
- In relation to his list of engagements he drew attention to:-
 - The Master Certificate Awards Ceremony at the Mansion House at which 17 Companies were represented.
 - The social programme visit to Amberley Museum during which a planter was presented in memory of Lvy. Phil Mead, and the opportunity taken to thank PM Edward Hopkinson, recently retired as Chairman of the Workshop Trust.
 - His Charity 'Sleep over' in the Guildhall Yard. He thanked those who contributed; £1,500 was raised.
- The Clerk had regretfully had to announce that he would retire in November 2024, staying on to see-in a new Clerk until the January 2025 Court.
- The Clerk's Assistant, Sharon Sibthorpe will complete 20 years of service to the Company in the summer. The Court warmly endorsed his proposal that she be awarded Honorary Freedom of the Company.

Item 2. Committee Reports (see separate individual Committee Reports, but of particular note):

- **Freedom & Livery.**
 - The Carpenters' Hall has offered to extend our lease, which expires in September 2023 at a reduced rate, saving the Company around

£8,000 per annum. A new lease is being drafted. It is expected there will be ample notice when the time comes to move out, possibly four years from the new lease date.

- A 'Strategy Day' is planned for Wednesday 24th May 2023.
- At the invitation of the Master, it was agreed that Lvy. Kevin Wellman will join the Court at the July 2023 meeting. Kevin is away for Installation day in October.

- **Finance Committee**

- The first quarter accounts had been considered there were no exceptional items to bring to the Courts attention.

- **Membership Committee**

- A project is underway to improve the Company joining process focusing on both shortening and simplifying the explanatory text on the website and providing for the application form to be completed wholly on-line.
- Work on the new 'Apprentice/Young Members' Scheme' in collaboration with CIPHE is advancing. An early priority is to develop a mentoring scheme for those at an early stage in their careers, both general and specialist. A completely new category of membership will be created and those joining it will probably become Company Freeman but both this and the new title of the scheme are to be agreed before a possible launch this summer.
- One new Corporate member has recently joined and two more are potentially in the pipeline. A lunch planned for June is well booked. Corporate members are being encouraged to book tables for the Annual Lecture.

- **Education & Technical Committee**

- The Annual Lecture, '*Who needs university when apprenticeships are better*' takes place at the Royal College of Physicians on Monday 15th May. Over one hundred have already registered to attend. Company 'Certificates of Excellence' will be presented to Bursary winners and others.
- The Company has become a member of the Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG). Asst. Wingrove will be the official Company representative.
- A positive response was received to requests for suitably qualified candidates to join the committee.

- **Social Committee**

- Recent Social Events had been well supported. Plans for the 2023-24 are well advanced. The Master's Weekend, in 2024 will be held on the Isle of Wight.
- The Master will be seeking new volunteers to become Stewards.

- **Charity Trustees**
 - There is an ambitious plan to make grants totalling £60k in the current financial year. This would be a significant increase over recent years. £48k has so far been pledged.
 - A second Webinar to showcase some of the Charity beneficiaries is planned for the early evening of Thursday 15 June.
 - A leaflet is in development to encourage individuals to support the Charity by leaving a bequest in their Will.

Item 3. Company Archivist

Asst. Cooper will take over from Lvy. Hannam as Company Archivist when he retires at the end of the year.

Item 4. Committee Chairmanship

The Master announced that he would be taking over as F&L Chairman when he becomes IPM. The following additional changes to Chairmen of Committees before the end of the Livery year were announced: Asst. Rivers to take on Membership and Lvy. Julie Spinks to take over Ed & Tech.

Item 5. Livery Admissions

The following Freemen were clothed as new Liverymen: Jacob Ball, Mark Chapman and Elaine Cloutman-Green.

Sandra Raine
Senior Court Assistant
4th May 2023