



Report from the Social Committee meeting on 26th February 2024

Members Attending: Charles Brooks (Chairman/Upper Warden), David Adams (Master), Sr Steward Philippa Stary (PS), Stewards Kevin Thomas (KT), John Wilson (JW), Chris Saunders (CS) and David Pearson (DP), the Clerk – Apologies received from Stewards Gary Lester (GL), Melville Gumbs (MG) and Jacob Ball (JB).

1. General Business

- JB had drafted and circulated a generic risk assessment for our events. It was agreed this represents a valuable record to demonstrate that basic risks have been identified and reasonable precautions taken if necessary, advising those attending events if there are issues of concern. The form would be populated with a few obvious regularly recurring risks to list on page 2, acting as reminders for those completing the form. These should be completed and provided to the Clerk a week ahead of each event.
- PS noted that write-ups of events are to be undertaken by the steward responsible: there is now a sign-up box for this on the Stewards google spreadsheet. It was agreed that this was not an onerous task, very often amounting to a couple of sentences to caption photographs.
- The new practice of organising City of London Freedom Ceremonies into clusters was welcomed by the Chairman and the Master who had recently attended the first group ceremony. Others are planned for 2 April and 2 May when the Master, Upper Warden and Clerk again expect to attend in support of new Freemen.

2. Recent Events

- *Wednesday 6th December: Plumbers' Carol Service.*

It was agreed that this was a very enjoyable event with a super atmosphere. The catering from Cook & Butler was good and about right although a little more would be ordered next year noting that paper plates should also be requested. JW was thanked for organising merchandise sales.

- *Tuesday 23rd January: Court meeting and lunch at Mercers' Hall*

There were good reviews for the venue and the catering. Timings were a little tight, but the good number of Stewards present helped to ensure that the event ran smoothly. A Steward placed at the entrance door was especially valued as first point of contact at the venue.

- *Monday 5th February 2024: Royal Albert Hall, London*

The guided tour and the whole event were clearly enjoyed by those attending. Feedback from GL reported that google forms worked well for menu choices.

- *Monday 12th February: Plumbers' Table at Ironmongers' Hall*

Attendance of 40 was good and PS was thanked for organising, in particular, providing a place card for diners with personal menu choices.

3. Future events

- *29 February 2024 (Thursday): 'Leap Day' Dinner, London*

MG is the organizing Steward for this event at *Mar I Terra* restaurant at Blackfriars. 28 are booked for the event.

- *15 March (Friday): United Guilds Service: St Pauls Cathedral and lunch at Carpenters*

This had been fully subscribed and no stewards are needed.

- *19 March 2024 (Tuesday): Museum of the Home (formerly Geffrye Museum) Hoxton, London*

PS is lead Steward and plans are well in hand for the event. In response to JW's query whether Freemen could come to this event, the Clerk noted that it was not usual to invite Freemen to events in the short time between Freedom and clothing; however, the present group will receive invitations to purely Social events next week.

- *8 April (Monday): Annual Banquet at the Mansion House*

All Stewards are asked to be at the Mansion House for a briefing at 5.30pm so that duties can be shared-out in liaison with PS. It was confirmed that the dress code will be white tie; however, in response to a question from JW, the Chairman agreed to raise the subject of banquet dress code at the forthcoming meeting of F&L for consideration.

- *30 April (Tuesday): Master & Clerks' Lunch at Carpenters' Hall*

The Clerk reported that the meeting of the Court would start 30 minutes earlier than usual in order to accommodate clothing ceremonies, forces presentations and freedom ceremonies. Coupled with at least 12 Masters and Clerks from other companies attending the lunch, a good number of Stewards were requested with at least two on the door to welcome and check in. JW again kindly agreed to lead on Merchandise sales.

- *13 May (Monday): Annual Lecture*

This will be different from prior years, taking place at Carpenters' Hall and being followed with a sparkling wine reception but no dinner. Two or three stewards will be valued at the entrance and another two to manage the merchandise stand. Agreed that the Clerk to look in to the provision of name badges.

- *25 May (Saturday): Reigate Priory Cricket Club (RPCC), Reigate*

DP is well on with organising this event, involving a two-course buffet style lunch and open bar; this will be a family-friendly day out.

- *18-20 June: The Master & Mistress Plumber's Break on the Isle of Wight*

The Master reported that the brochure is shortly going out and that numbers will be limited to around 53 (the size of the largest coach available on the Island). Attendees will be asked to book directly with the hotel which also has limited capacity.

4. Events in 2024-25

The Chairman set out his main ideas for events for his year as Master which he had set out in more detail in an email circulated just ahead of the meeting:

- A visit to the Kennel Club Art Gallery in Clarges Street with sit down lunch
- The Greenwich Royal Observatory in March with lunch at the Cutty Sark and possible optional visit to the National Maritime Museum.
- The National Rifle Museum in Bisley, most likely on a summer Tuesday, with an informal lunch and optional clay shooting in the afternoon.
- Visit to the London Proof House at the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers for a tour and lunch. As there is a 25-person limit, there was a possibility of a second event if necessary or to decide if to limit the event to Liverymen only.
- A visit to the Amberley Museum and Worship Trust, probably on a Saturday or a Sunday.
- As a possible extra event, a visit to HMS President.

Upper Warden Charles Brooks

Chairman

18th April 2024