

Master's Report to the Annual Dinner

Friday May 8th, 2009

I am privileged and honoured to have been elected your Master and to have served the Company for the last twelve months.

While this year did not get off to a great start with the sad loss of our Master Elect Robin Braithwaite, and then the resignation of our Honourable Treasurer and Honourable Clerk in June, I have to say that it has ended very well.

I am indebted to Michael Charles and Martin Walmsley for filling the breach as Honourable Treasurer and Honourable Clerk respectively, I would also like particularly to thank John Smith for the support and encouragement he has given me over the last twelve months.

My gratitude and appreciation are also extended to the other members of the Court who have been very helpful in many different ways.

This year is to be the last for Warden Nigel Napier-Andrews who is retiring from business life and stepping down from the Court. Nigel will be missed. Through his good initiative we have gained access to the Performing Arts Lodge and have held events such as wine and beer tastings as well as our Court meetings in this location. Nigel regrettably cannot be with us this evening, but we wish him much happiness in his retirement.

At our recent AGM I outlined, the objectives I set, at the beginning of my term:

1. Complete and launch the new Company Website.
2. Continue to develop and improve attendance to the 7 or so events the Company holds each year.

3. Improve communications to all our members.
4. Ensure the Events we propose continue to contribute to our Charitable Fund to support our ongoing relationship with the University of Western Ontario.
5. Ensure our membership continues to grow and look for new members who can assist on the Court in due course.

I am very happy to report that we are well on our way to completing all these objectives.

1. The website has been live since last June.
2. Attendance has held steady or improved at each of our events
3. Communication with our Members and The Company Comment, is now handled via email and the website for all those members with on-line access and by hard copy to all those who are not. We are working towards a better means of Event Registration and hope to include a secure method of payment through our website.
4. Our Events continue to raise monies for our Charitable Account
5. We have attracted 12 new members in the last twelve months.

Regrettably we bade farewell to our Past Master Tim Sheeres who passed away in February of this year. While the Court had sent condolences to Tim's widow, Anne Sheeres, who is present with us this evening, out of respect for Tim as a Liveryman, a true gentleman and for his efforts on behalf of the Honourable Company, I now ask you all to observe a short period of silence.

At the AGM, our Honorary Treasurer reported our finances in both the Operating and Charity accounts were in excellent shape. The Charity account having increased by 31.5% during the previous year. One-time charges connected with the development of the web site had reduced our Operating account by 23.5%.

Martin Walmsley in his capacity as Chair of the Charitable Trust reported on the

progress of identifying a recipient for The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London Scholarship and I am delighted to announce the recipient is David Cook who is with us tonight as Martin's guest. David, please stand and be acknowledged. We hope David will be able to join us this time next year to report on his first year at the City University in London, England.

And finally, with the exception of Nigel, all the other Court Members have agreed to stand again and, following the approval of the AGM, are being joined by three new Court Members – Ken Foxcroft, Bill Motley and Norman Morris. Gentlemen, thank you.

Fellow Freemen, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes my report.