

The Master's Report to the Annual Dinner 2010

Distinguished guests, fellow Freeman, ladies and gentlemen, I am privileged and honoured to have been elected your Master and to have served the Company for the last twenty-four months.

This last year has seen your Court complete a number of different initiatives, which I set out as my objectives at the beginning of my two-year term:

- launching a new website;
- separating the AGM from the Annual Dinner;
- improving communications;
- completing an inventory and valuation of the Company Treasures;
- achieving greater attendance at our events;
- continuing to contribute to the Charitable Trust;
- welcoming approximately 15 new members to the Company;
- and producing a new Member's Certificate.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the support and co-operation of your Court. My gratitude and appreciation are extended to all the members of the Court who have been very helpful in many different ways.

The Court:

This year is to be the last for Past Master and our Honourable Clerk, Martin Walmsley who is stepping down from the Court. Martin will be sorely missed, but has agreed to stay on as a Trustee of our Charity and will continue to make a valuable contribution to the actions of our Trust.

Regrettably, Bill Motley had to resign from the Court for re-location reasons. He is now working three hours north of Toronto and finds the commute to our Court meetings a little stressful to say the least!

This next year, under the guidance of a new Master, the nominations committee is recommending a full Court of 12 members together with our Life Court member Captain Ray Gibson. This year it is proposed the Court will be joined by three new members: John Harris; Jim Mitchell; and Ashley Prime and I am delighted they are joining us.

Charitable Trust:

The Charitable Trust will once again be led by Martin Walmsley, with Past Master Michael Charles and myself to assist.

Martin in his capacity as Chair of the Charitable Trust reported on the progress of identifying recipients for The Honourable Company of Freeman of the City of London Scholarship. Two nominations from the University of Western Ontario

have been approved and this will put us back on track with the commitment we made to the University. I am delighted to announce Peter de Vooght and Zhen Liu will be the two students for 2010 and 2011:

Peter de Vooght

Peter is originally from Oakville, Ontario and recently completed his second year of the Aubrey Dan Program in Management and Organizational Studies, with a Specialization in Finance and Administration. He will spend the winter term of his third year, which begins in January 2011, on exchange at the City University, London, England.

Zhen Liu

Zhen is originally from Hamilton, Ontario and recently completed her second year of the Aubrey Dan Program in Management and Organizational Studies, with a Specialization in Finance and Administration. She will spend her entire third year on exchange at the City University, London, England.

Membership:

Our membership now stands at 103, which includes 12 Life members. Regrettably we bade farewell to two of our members, who passed away this last year, Mr. Ronald Lister and Mr. Paul Wilson. I would ask you all to observe a few moments of silence in their memory.

Financials:

Our Honorary Treasurer, Michael Green, has modified our Annual Reports to include a Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for both the Company and the Charitable Trust. He has also subjected both sets of accounts to an audit. Both the new record of accounts and an annual audit will become the norm for the Company in future years.

He is reporting our finances in both the Operating and Charity accounts to be in excellent shape. The Charity account remaining flat against the previous year after two charitable contributions had been approved and paid. Due to the changes in recording inventory of our valuables, many of which are displayed in the centre of the room, Past Master Jewels, membership pins and certificates, it is difficult to make a fair comparison to our Operating Account last year.

Events:

Your Events Committee under its chair Past Master John Smith and Deputy Chair Hugh Pauwels once again put together an excellent year of events which have been reasonably well supported by our members. Events give us all an opportunity to meet one another and enjoy some interesting and diverse

locations, however without our members support, we have difficulty meeting our minimum obligations to the venues, have difficulty generating our revenues for our Charitable Trust and I believe, do not meet our obligation to you our members. This is your Company and we need your help to make our events attractive, cost effective and supported by you and your guests.

I would again like to pay tribute to and thank members of the Court, who have been an invaluable help to me in allowing me to complete the objectives I established for my two years as your Master. I would also like to extend my thanks to you, our members, for your support and input. I have greatly enjoyed these two years and take pleasure in handing over the reigns of this Company to my nominated successor, Michael Green.

I would be extremely remiss if I did not express my thanks and those of you all gathered here to the staff of The National Club. I think you will agree the food and service have been excellent as usual and of course well complimented by the wines from Arthurs Cellars, thank you to Jim and H  l  ne.

But especially, I would like to thank everyone who helped to plan and execute this event, particularly John Smith, tonight's Chair and Hugh Pauwels, our Master of Ceremonies.

Before I close, I would like to recognise all the Past Masters here tonight. Gentlemen, would you please stand to be so recognised.

On the subject of Past Masters, at the conclusion of each term as Master, the outgoing Past Master is presented with a Past Master's collar, which over time, we propose to have engraved with the owners name and year in office. At this time, I would like to express my thanks to the Sheeres family, particularly Anne for agreeing to return her late husband Tim's collar, which I will be presented with later and which I will have engraved with Tim's name and year as well as my own. Thank you Anne and Michael and the other members of your family.

Fellow Freeman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I say again what a privilege and honour its has been for me to serve as your Master for the last two years, thank you for your trust and support. This concludes my report.