

Smoke Signals



ISSUE 02 WINTER 2015 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENTERS



1 The Master's Year

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Winter Smoking Club Quarterly Drinks



From Ironbridge to Agincourt

It is now six months since I was installed as Master. Incredible that half of my year has already gone and once Christmas is over it will no doubt race at top speed towards the Installation of my successor. For this newsletter, I thought I would pick out some highlights to share with you. Some may have read my blogs and apologies to them if I repeat myself here but others will have little idea of what a Master gets up to. I must say I really didn't know either and having floated out of Vintners' Hall after my Installation Lunch on a wave of good wishes, I began a steep learning curve and highlight number one must be my first week.

Just two days after the Installation Lunch I was in the Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire, the birthplace of the industrial revolution, at the Livery Weekend. The Livery Companies have been coming here for a weekend in June for many years to allow Masters to get to know their fellow Masters, some of whom are very new in the job and others who are at the end of

their year. I was the newest Master there beating by one hour the newly installed Master of the Security Professionals. The Mistress and I had a wonderful time and it was a great chance so early in my year to meet many of the Masters I would be seeing on the 'Circuit' during the coming year.

In the week immediately following that weekend I was a guest at the Livery Committee Dinner at Trinity House and a guest at Plaisterers' Hall for their Annual Banquet. I also had the pleasure of presenting the prizes at the Tobacco Trade's annual lunch and at our Company Golf Day in beautiful Tandridge in the Surrey hills. It was all great fun, good company and good dining! I now began to appreciate the waistline problems of my fellow Masters.

On a beautiful summer's evening a week or so later I was a guest at Hunters and Frankau's 225th anniversary party in Belgrave Square. This has to be a real highlight. Hunters and Frankau have been





importing cigars since 1790 and they celebrated their great age in style. The square, which feels completely private once you are through the gate, was dressed for the occasion with white marquees where they were serving oysters and champagne and much more. Every guest was given a specially rolled 225th anniversary Havana cigar, usherettes were walking through the gardens with trays of smaller cigars and as we toasted the company we drank a specially distilled anniversary rum. All in the most beautiful surroundings. The scent of the summer's evening mingled with the cigar smoke. You just don't get much better than that.

From then until the end of July there were dinners and lectures, the election of the new Sheriffs and a delightful lunch in the Savile Club hosted the by the Master Upholder. I must say August was a welcome break before it all started up again in September.

The highlight of the Autumn must be our own Banquet held in Barber Surgeons' Hall. Any Master is anxious that this event goes well. It is after all the most important of our year and I was pleased and

relieved, to have so many of you who came, say how much you enjoyed yourselves. Our guest of honour, Dr. Richard Chartres, Lord Bishop of London was a delightful dinner guest and an excellent speaker, looking magnificent in his episcopal equivalent of white tie and tails, satin frock coat and gaiters no less.

And so to Agincourt. The 600th anniversary service took place in Westminster Abbey at the end of October and was a splendid occasion. The weight of history sat firmly on our shoulders as we sat in the very place where news of the victory was celebrated six centuries before and within a few feet of the tomb of Henry V. Robert Hardy, the actor and expert on the longbow, celebrated his 90th birthday that day and read the prologue from Henry V whilst the young RSC actor playing Henry in their latest production at the Barbican, gave a wonderful performance of the St Crispin's day speech. A memorable day and I felt very privileged to be there.

My half year ended with the Lord Mayor's Show. This year we were back to walking again as part of the modern companies' float organized by the





Firefighters. We were sandwiched between a fire engine and an enormous computer and GPS controlled tractor which cost £250,000. A little different from the tiny Fordson which illustrated 'Topsy and Tim at the Farm'! It was so heavy, 15 tonnes, that it was banned from passing over Mansion House station on the return leg and went home on a vast transporter. Yes, it rained. And we got wet but we had a wonderful walk. With the Senior Warden's supply of the King's Ginger to fortify us en route and sloe gin to add to the fizz provided at lunchtime on HQS Wellington together with the Renter Warden's flask of The Famous Grouse we were warmed to the cockles. We puffed our specially made 18-inch clay pipes which delighted the crowd who cheered us on.

And so the year moves on. By the end of 2015 I shall have represented you at well over 40 events and I have been proud to do so. As I write this it is just a month to Christmas and two weeks to our Carol Service in St Lawrence Jewry, which this year we are sharing with the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants. I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to be there and that you all have a very happy Christmas.





Appointments

Liverymen Elise Rasmussen and Antony Scanlan have been elected to the Court as Assistants and were installed on 3rd June 2015.

Members Gowned with the Livery

The Reverend Canon David Parrott
3rd June 2015
Honorary Chaplain

Nicholas Wing
3rd June 2015
Company Director

John Francis Threshie
22nd September 2015
Insurance Broker, Lloyd's

NEW BEADLE

Mark Anderson was born in Ipswich in 1960 but moved to Penzance in Cornwall in 1963. Educated at Humphrey Davy Grammar school, he left and worked on St Michael's Mount until he joined the Army in February 1978 aged 17 and a half. He trained as a Radioman and was posted to Germany.



Through Mark's long career he worked in a bomb Disposal Squad in Northern Ireland, as a motorcycle stunt rider and as an advisor to the Army of Oman. He served in Germany, Bosnia, the 1st Gulf War and Northern Ireland.

Mark was an active sportsman representing his regiments at swimming and rugby, winning many trophies and reaching representative level as a hooker. Mark now plays golf. Mark left the army in 2010 and became a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London. Mark married Sandra in 1982 and has three children and two grandchildren.

Lost Brethren

Liveryman Ken Pritchard

Liveryman Ken Pritchard died on 7th June 2015. Ken Pritchard took up the Freedom in 1979 and was gowned in the Livery the same year. A chartered accountant by profession and for a time, he was the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Honorary Archivist. A well respected gentleman in business and a keen Liveryman who was a quiet but an unassuming and friendly man. He was Chairman and Managing Director of Finlay & Co Ltd which was a chain of retail tobacconists owned by Imperial Tobacco Group at one time.

Past Masters John Adler and Roger Merton

Liveryman Brian Blacoe

Liveryman Brian Blacoe died on 13th October 2015. Brian took up the Freedom in 2001 and was gowned in the Livery in 2002. Following a period in the Army, Brian joined Gallaher at the age of 24 and worked in senior positions in the Sales Division before switching latterly to the position of General Manager Management Resources.

After his retirement in 1990, Brian and his wife Ann lived in the West Country and France. They both enjoyed sailing and Brian was a keen rugby player as a young man.

Past Master David Glynn-Jones

Notices

Past Master Simon Orlik has indicated to the Court that he will retire as Assistant Clerk & Treasurer at the end of this financial year. If you are interested in the vacancy, please email Simon at assistantclerk@tobaccolivery.org for more information.

Assistant Nick Hallings-Pott has decided to stand down as the voluntary Honorary Archivist. If you are interested in this position, please email the Clerk at clerk@tobaccolivery.org for more information.





Livery Clay Shoot Liverymen Adam Bennett, Colin Ritchie, Chris Walter Senior Warden Charles Miller

Inter Livery Clay Shoot

This was our Livery's third outing to this hugely popular event. Many liveries had entered multiple teams – the Gun Makers' had mustered a veritable army of 12 teams for instance which assured the results were, like the last line from the Freddie Frinton sketch, "the same as last year".

Undaunted, Liverymen Adam Bennett, Colin Ritchie and Christopher Walter joined me as Captain to undermine the combined forces of many companies. Meeting for bacon rolls and coffee at 8.00am in the Holland & Holland pavilions clad in stout shoes, padded jackets and sporting livery ties, we were furnished with an impressive array of weaponry dating between 1893 and 2003 and (courtesy of Colin) included a gun made for Otto von Bismarck, a great black-barrelled Teutonic mass with gilt scrolls and heraldic devices in excellent condition and which was manfully carried by Chris who used it towards the end with considerable aplomb.

The weather remained on the right side of acceptable, just, however with so many teams now participating, we found we were waiting at least 20 minutes at each of the ten stands to take our turn. So by eleven o'clock we felt we had earned a small reward and I produced a few of Cuba's finest to buck us up which, with occasional pinches of snuff, kept our peckers well and truly up.

The "birds" as clays are called, were pretty difficult on the whole – no allowances made for rusty come-as-you-are types like us, never-the-less we placed some memorable hits, but the "kill of the day" went to Colin who unwittingly bagged two clays – (one thrown from behind with the other rising in front) where their paths dissected with a single shot:

impressive! The most fun part was the drive – this is where the four guns standing in a line have loaders accompanying them and a tumult of clays whizz overhead at insanely short intervals. It is hard to say who shot what frankly, and perhaps a discreet veil is best drawn over the precise scores anyway – as mentioned at the start, usual folks won all the prizes, with the same Butcher getting top score again – dropping just two birds apparently.

In some respects, knowing the scores are already a forgone conclusion before you start takes the pressure off and so it was with the best of Livery Camaraderie we indulged each other's near-misses and, with aching shoulders, finished the course around 1.00pm. Before we had lunch though, Colin provided a delicious aperitif from a handsome fitted wooden "aperitif box" complete with bottle and glass compartments – now there's useful chap to know on a cold day! Suitably refreshed and with guns stowed by the sloe gin, we joined the queue for luncheon where the form seemed to be to try everything you could, thus with plates tottering with roast and salt beef, spitted pork etc., we enjoyed a very agreeable lunch and were able to wend our now quite weary ways at a civilised time – we didn't bother to wait for the official results as they were the only formality of the day!

Senior Warden Charles Miller





The Benevolent Fund

In the first edition of Smoke Signals, we looked at how the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders has maintained a tradition of benevolence since it was formed over 60 years ago. This and future editions will focus on some of the charities and good causes we support. Two charities aimed at helping disadvantaged young people have been long-standing recipients of our support.

Trustees

There are nine Benevolent Fund Trustees who meet four times a year to review the governance and financial position of the Funds. The Trustees also consider appeals from many worthy causes and when it is agreed that an appeal should be supported, at least one Trustee will be nominated to stay in touch, liaise and monitor the recipient charity's progress. The Court approves nominations to the Board of Trustees. If you are interested in joining the Trustees when a vacancy arises, please contact the Secretary of the Benevolent Fund. To understand the duties and obligations of trustees, please follow the link: www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved

Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation

The ACCF's purpose is to enhance the development and education of young people (mainly aged between 7-19 years) with a special emphasis upon the

disadvantaged and those deprived of opportunity. It has focused strongly on inner city regions nationwide and particularly London's boroughs where the need has been greatest. Led by the inspirational Johnny Barclay, the Foundation hosts a number of projects that make a real difference to the young people who benefit from the activities.

It was on a bitterly cold, and subsequently wet, day in May when the Clerk and several members of the Livery ventured to Arundel to watch the third England v India visually impaired cricket one day international. It was a case of having to be there to appreciate the talent and enthusiasm of young sportsmen putting on a hugely enjoyable game of cricket. Blind cricket has been played in England and Wales since the 1940s, having started as a means of recreation for injured servicemen coming home from the Second World War. Under the rules, all players are registered blind or partially sighted and at least four of the players in each side must be totally blind. The loss of one sense often means that the other senses, hearing and spatial awareness are enhanced. Fine stroke play and enthusiastic fielding made for a great spectacle at the beautiful Arundel Castle cricket ground.

While we watched the match, the ACCF was hosting the Inner London Boroughs Community Cricket Development Programme, which ran for 5 days.





The cost of holding the Inner London Boroughs programme is in excess of £27,000 and £5,000 of the Benevolent Fund's donation makes the event possible. Johnny Barclay's gratitude for our support is clear from the letter he sent me.

“Blessed with fine weather until the final day, this was once again a superbly well-organised event in conjunction with the Capital Kids Cricket project in London under the direction of Md. Shahidul Alam (Ratan).”

96 boys and girls, aged 9-11 years, in equal numbers, visited us for 3 days apiece – Monday to Wednesday and Wednesday to Friday. Parents and teachers supervised the pastoral element of their stay, with accommodation based at the Lodge Hill Residential Centre near Pulborough. The cricket and programme of activities were inspired by 4 experienced coaches and directed by myself.

The children came primarily from 5 boroughs, all of which suffer from varying scales of deprivation:

Hackney, Camden, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Greenwich.

The coaches and assistants created a wonderful atmosphere – joyous and happy. The themes for the week were Energy, Enthusiasm and Excellence based on the many new skills attempted. The main outcome was the visible increase in confidence which was displayed on the faces of many participants. There was much laughter and several boys and girls told me they were ‘having the best time of their life’. We like that.

I have attached with this brief summary of a very successful week, some photographs which illustrate the joy exuded from the programme as well as a few comments from the children.

May I thank you for your wonderful and generous support which has truly inspired the youngsters and done so much for their educational, social and spiritual development. A very big thank you on behalf of the young too.”





The remainder of the Benevolent Fund's annual donation is directed to the ACCF's Special Needs Programme of visits to give young people ...

"... for whom life is a real struggle, hope and encouragement because, without hope, life is less easy to bear. In 2014, some 2000 youngsters and adults came to Arundel and displayed clearly, and with increasing confidence, the skills and potential of which they were capable. Many of them stayed for one or more nights and in that time showed what they could do. The minor challenges of climbing round the Castle and playing on the sands at Littlehampton were quickly and easily mastered. Shells, boats, sand, sea and fish were new to many. Hitting a ball and running

were important achievements. 'If you can do that, you can do anything'. One boy, unable to speak, but all the same communicating successfully with sounds and expression, was so overcome with emotion when it was time to leave that tears streamed down his face. 'There was no need for words', Alexander McCall Smith has written, 'for there are times when words can only hint at what the heart would wish to say'.

Without doubt the combination of our cricket ground, the space it provides – trees, grass and adventure – the Castle and its gardens and the seaside, is a winner. With comfortable and suitable accommodation nearby added to the mix, we do have something very special to offer. I know it makes a difference to our visitors."





Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation

Arundel Park, West Sussex, BN18 9LH
Tel: 01903 882602 Email: info@arundelcastlecricket.co.uk
www.arundelcastlecricketfoundation.co.uk

President: The Duke of Norfolk
Director of Cricket and Coaching: J.R.T. Barclay DL
Secretary to the Foundation: J.E. Rufey

1 September 2015

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMME 2015

With this short report, I have attached a few photographs which add much colour to illustrate Arundel's activities as well as scope for enhancing the prospects of young lives.

In so doing I would like to thank you for the wonderful support you have given the Foundation at Arundel. Your involvement and financial support have made a real difference to the lives of so many young people who struggle in life.

We have dedicated 53 days to special needs activity during the year; 35 schools and youth groups have visited Arundel and more than 900 young people, teachers and helpers have joined us over the summer. Many of them have stayed over for a night or more and enormously benefited from this experience. Having space upon which to play on the ground is a major attraction, as well as our Indoor Centre from time to time. Mercifully, the weather has treated us well for much of the year – the Castle and its lovely gardens have been much enjoyed. The seaside too is always a winner: paddling, ice creams and fish and chips have lifted the spirits of many of the groups.

Lodge Hill, our accommodation centre, just 5 miles away, has added to the joy of the visits. Camp fires – cooking chestnuts and marshmallows – go down very well and could not be more removed from inner city life on council estates.

We are so lucky and privileged at Arundel to be able to offer all this to youngsters for whom self-confidence and self-esteem are in short supply. We make a difference and for this, we are so, so grateful for the support which you give us.

Thank you so much. It would of course be wonderful if we were able to keep up the good work in years to come.

JOHN BARCLAY, DL
Director of Cricket & Coaching

Registered Charity No: 1150351 Company Registration No: 08018942
Registered Office: Arundel Park, West Sussex, BN18 9LH

*Trustees: P.F. Shervington MBE (Chairman); N.G.H. Draffan (Hon Treasurer); A. Akram; M.A. Atherton OBE;
T.A. Bristowe; Clare Connor OBE; S.G. Doggart; Jocelyn Galsworthy;
Judy Martin-Jenkins; R.A. Pyman; Sir Tim Rice; J. N. Stapleton LLB; O.H.J Stocken CBE*



Barrow Farm RDA

Barrow Farm RDA's report to the Benevolent Fund, July 2015

Barrow Farm RDA is a registered charity. It is one of only two specialist centres in Essex and provides riding opportunities for 120 disabled children and adults every week. The group started in May 1976 with 12 riders from a local special needs school, 4 family Exmoor ponies, one instructor and a small band of dedicated volunteers. Anne Mitchell MBE, who founded the group with her parents, continues with the group today as the Centre Manager and Senior Riding Coach. (Past Master John Adler MBE is also a Trustee.)

There are now 10 ponies and horses, 5 members of staff and over 100 volunteers. The facilities include an indoor riding school with a viewing gallery and an outdoor riding school. The use of props and equipment enables the riders to maximise the health benefits of their riding sessions and a hoist enables riders that need it, to get on their horse safely. The riding sessions provide the riders with an opportunity to exercise benefiting their all round fitness, but particularly assisting their coordination, joint mobility, balance and muscle tone. Riding is often the only regular exercise the riders participate in. It offers physiotherapy, social interaction and FUN!



The annual cost of running Barrow Farm RDA is over £120,000 a year. The group receives approximately 40% of its funding from ride fees. Fund raising events e.g. Open Days, Barn Dances, quizzes provide about 5% of the running costs. Another 15% comes from the hiring out of our facilities to local groups, e.g. riding clubs, dog agility club, archery club. Donations contribute about 30% of our running costs and grant funding between 5% and 15%. This does vary year to year, depending on projects needing funding. The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders have been supporting Barrow Farm for many years. Over the last two years, you have given £8,000 each year to help with the running costs. This equates to over 10% of the money needed to meet the gap between our outgoings and the ride fees received. In addition you have given funds to buy two new horses.





Barrow Farm

Riding for the Disabled

www.barrowfarmrda.org.uk 01277 822927

Mr Ralph Edmundson
The Secretary
The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Trade Benevolent Fund
2 Spa Close
Brill
Aylesbury HP18 9RZ

8th July 2015

Dear Mr Edmundson,

Thank you very much for yet another wonderful cheque from your Livery Company. It really is most generous of you to keep supporting us.

As you know we are a self-funded charity and only charge our riders half of what each ride actually costs so donations like yours are very important to us. We are very proud of what we do and delight in the pleasure we provide to so many disabled children and adults. Our group can only continue to survive and provide these riding opportunities with the help of donations like yours. Once again many thanks. Your support to us really is very much appreciated.

With best wishes,

Karen Lehner
Vice Chairman, Trustees



The 51st AITS Tobacco Trades Luncheon at Lords

– 10th June

As I walked past the busy mower sheds at 'Head Quarters' on a hushed and delightfully sunny June lunch time, Lords was strangely silent. But as I rounded the north western corner of the famous pavilion I heard the tones of a Trad Jazz band guiding me, helpfully, towards the Harris Gardens and a preprandial glass of excellent chilled Champagne.

I was in plenty of time, thoughtfully, this being a tobacco event; the organisers had allowed a full ninety minutes for a reasonable cigar and a couple of glasses of fizz before we moved into lunch. There was already a sizeable crowd enjoying one of the early summers all too rare sunny days and a smoke.

These are wonderful occasions for meeting friends old and new and we circulated and caught up with colleagues from all over the country who make their way to this event.

At One on the dot we moved upstairs to the Thomas Lord suite for lunch. As guests started to move upstairs I took the opportunity to discuss my son's batting with the day's speaker. Phil Tuffnell was a player, as my son is, more known for his bowling than his batting and he offered a couple of useful tips. I managed to slip a hand rolled cigar into his top pocket as a thank-you having checked that he still likes a cheeky puff.

In the suite I was delighted as a new Liveryman, to find myself on the Livery table and as we sat we were welcomed by the AITS chairman Adam Jakeman who also dispensed grace and we set to for what I have to say was a quite excellent lunch. Sometimes these events can produce less than inspiring fare but this was quite wonderful and I commend you to look out for future events hosted at the Thomas Lord Suite.

After the lunch was over there was a very brief ceremony in which the Master Chris Allen presented the Retailer of the Year Award to the Manager of the Robert Graham store in Cambridge. This was followed a sparky and well rehearsed 'impromptu' question and answer skit between the Master of Ceremonies and Phil Tuffnell which replaced the After Dinner speech. It was both educational and highly amusing with the really difficult questions saved for the brief audience questions to Phil at the end.

After the drawing of a huge number of raffle prizes we made our way downstairs, many made their way to quench their thirsts in the Tavern Bar, well this was the brief British summer.

I spotted Simon Chase sitting in the Harris Garden and lighting up a sizeable cigar and, always keen to learn from the master, I took my post luncheon cigar and headed over for a most enjoyable and educational discussion which put the lid on a rather excellent day.

The AITS lunch started in 1964 when the AITS inaugurated the Pipeman of the Year. The award ceremony included a raffle which raised money for the Tobacco Trades Benevolent Association which dates from 1860 and helps former Tobacco trade employees who have fallen on hard times. In 2010 the association was amalgamated with the Tobacco Livery Company Benevolent Fund to become the Livery Companies 'Welfare Fund'

Liveryman Nic Wing.



Phil Tufnell
trying snuff



Livery Golf Day at Tandridge Golf Club

The annual Livery golf day was once again held at the very beautiful and pretty Surrey course of Tandridge, in the rolling hills near Oxted. Past Master Derek Harris did a splendid job with all that goes into organising these events and the day proceeded wonderfully smoothly. There was a good turn out for the event with 22 livery members and guests participating and with the Master and Clerk kindly joining us for lunch and prize giving.

Tee-off commenced at 08.45 a.m. after registration, a bacon roll and several cups of coffee on a chilly morning, but very soon we warmed up and it was, weather wise, a most beautiful day. The course boasts some spectacular views of the surrounding countryside along with more than a fair share of bunkers and very nice greens. Compliments must go to the management and green staff for presenting a very well conditioned golf course. Tandridge is well known for its quality kitchen and what a delightful spread we all enjoyed for a latish lunch. Its reputation continues!

Very special thanks to Derek for his devoted organisation of the day. One member of staff at the club told me that Derek was one of their very favourite members...which is not at all surprising!

The prizes were presented by the Master after an enjoyable lunch and British American Tobacco (BAT) deserve special mention for their generous sponsorship and to Past Master Nigel Rich who kindly provided drinks before and at lunch.

Next year's event is scheduled to take place at the same venue on Monday 13th June.

Liveryman Paul Taberer

TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS GOLF RESULTS TANDRIDGE 2015

1ST AND WINNER OF THE CHARLES RICH CUP
LIVERYMAN PAUL TABERER

2ND
PAST MASTER THE HON MICHAEL RICHARDS

3RD
FREEMAN TONY BROWN

LONGEST DRIVE
LIVERYMAN COLIN RITCHIE

NEAREST THE PIN
LIVERYMAN JOHN GOSSAGE

BEST GUEST
NICHOLAS BROWN (GUEST OF FREEMAN
TONY BROWN)

WINNING LADY
MRS LYNN TALBOT (GUEST OF PAST MASTER
THE HON MICHAEL RICHARDS)

SECOND LADY
MRS HERCHEL MACLEAR-JORDAN (GUEST OF
PAST MASTER IAN PANTO)





CARMEN GOLF DAY

The Carmen Company kindly invited us to enter a team into their annual golf day which was at Cuddington Golf Club on Thursday 24 September.

Past Master Simon Orlik and Liverymen Patrick McGuinness-Smith, Colin Ritchie and Paul Taberer represented the Tobacco Blenders and Pipe Makers team - a formidable team on paper!

Cuddington, located on the outskirts of London in Banstead, Surrey, is a 1929 Harry Colt design course and was well presented with lovely views and autumnal colours.

The heavy rains lifted just in time for the start and we played in wonderful golfing conditions.

Our team began well and were probably leading the pack after 9 holes; however something happened (lack of cigars?) and we weakened significantly on the back 9 to finish somewhat down the order of the 12 participating teams.

The Carmen were wonderful hosts and we enjoyed a lovely day of golf in super conditions followed by a late lunch and prize giving.

Next year's event is scheduled to take place on 15 September, 2016.



Visit to Hither Green St John Ambulance Cadet Unit

The Immediate Past Master, Mark Gower-Smith, acting on behalf of the Master and I visited our newly affiliated St John Ambulance Cadet Unit, Hither Green in South London, on Tuesday 14th July to present the 'Frederick Tranter Trophy for Excellence' which was presented to the Company by Past Master Richard Tranter.

Hither Green All Services Unit, originated as a First Aid Club at the Methodist Church, Verdant Lane in 1942. Doctor Merrick and Sister Roffrey founded the club as a response to the local bombings in the area, so that the local parishioners would learn vital first aid skills. In 1951, the club formally joined the St John Ambulance Brigade and the unit continued to meet at the Verdant Lane site until 1996. Hither Green All Services Unit now currently resides at Hartley Hall, Catford. During the preceding years, Hither Green Unit has taken on members from the disbanded Lewisham Adults and Hither Green and Lewisham Cadets Units. Hither Green All Services Unit has a thriving adult and cadet membership. The unit is currently one of the largest in London and undertakes local community events as well as London wide training and first aid support.

The first winner of the 'Frederick Tranter Trophy for Excellence' is Kiara Martin, the Cadet of the Year of the Unit. Kiara has been a member of Hither Green Cadet Unit for 4 years and during this time she has attended events and undertaken training in Teaching and Leadership. She has proven herself to be a dedicated member of the organisation and took on the role of co-ordinating duties for the cadets, as well as taking on responsibility in Leadership of the younger cadets. Kiara is now 18 years old, has just finished her 'A' levels and has applied to university, with the aim of becoming a dentist.

The Court agreed that in addition to the presentation of the Trophy, a cheque for £100 should be given to the winner to be used in the unit. The Unit Leader thanked us for the donation and said it would be used to buy printed polo shirts that new cadet members wear when they first join the unit, before they have to buy a uniform. Parents/guardians have

to buy uniform for the children just as in other youth organisations and the polo shirts could then be recycled for other new members.

The Immediate Past Master and I were made to feel very welcome by the Vice President of the Unit, the Unit Manager and the London Youth Manager for the South Area, in addition to the other adult leaders who work with the cadets. Some twenty cadets ranging in age from 11 to 18 were present, in uniform and looking very smart. After the presentation, we were treated to two demonstrations - drill led by and carried out by the cadets followed by a first aid re-enactment. The leaders had laid on light refreshments for us but more importantly for the cadets, who were meeting for the last time before the summer break, although they will still be heavily involved in carrying out public duties over the summer.

The Immediate Past Master and I then had the opportunity to talk with the cadets and leaders over a very welcome cup of tea. Previous cadets of the unit include three doctors and another who is training to be a doctor, numerous paramedics and paediatric nurses but Kiara will hopefully be the first dentist. Speaking with cadets is always enjoyable and last night was no different. They spoke of the public duties they have attended including the Lord Mayor's Show, the London Marathon and various concerts and sporting events. One cadet explained that as a representative of his school, he had enjoyed and learnt a great deal whilst attending the recent Livery Showcase Event organised by Livery Schools Link. The cadets also spoke of their plans for the future, several wanted to go into medicine including one who hoped that he would be able to specialise in genetics but there were also plans for an actress and a fire-fighter. All of them spoke highly of being part of the cadet unit and of St John Ambulance and the opportunities it gives them. They have another opportunity now as their Leader reminded them and that is to win the 'Frederick Tranter Trophy for Excellence' next year.

Sandra Stocker, Clerk



The Lord Mayor's Parade 2015

After last year's Shrieval Grandeur, blessed as we were with fine weather, a Sheriff in Office and a horse-drawn carriage in the procession in addition to the foot troops forming up as part of the modern livery section, the forecast was not encouraging... However, far from being discouraged, the Master, Senior and Renter Wardens made their rendezvous in the shelter of a vintage 'Routemaster' bus (coloured green to denote it was from a country route) as the spitting rain became rather too steady for comfort. Using the "No 2" robes over our raincoats we grouped with the pleasant members of many other Companies a little before 11am, the supposed kick-off time. In fact the opposite occurred as, at 11am on the dot, the church bells and chatter fell away as we observed a two minute silence for the victims of the shocking ISIL attacks in Paris late the night before. With news still confused and changing hourly, it was clear our own security had been discreetly increased.

This year was the 800th Lord Mayor's Parade with a further 120 additional floats added, and it was some 45 minutes before we slowly got underway – a

sharp contrast to last year's near canter from the off. Although we are, technically, a modern livery, we have ancient antecedents and it was with great pleasure that the three of us filled our 15in. clay churchwarden pipes with some fragrant tobacco from Nat Sherman's and maintained a steady smoke screen to the clear delight of the crowd and even to our fellow liverymen – we were even obliged to find one Chartered Accountant a spare clay and plug of tobacco and he became an Honorary Member for the duration and I think he was smoking it as we passed the Great Stand in front of St. Pauls where the new Lord Mayor, Jeffrey Evans, waved us on. The weather, whilst inclement, never rose above a steady spit, so the Master and Senior Warden, who were sporting smoking caps, took off their protective shower caps early on. As a novice walker the Master had not come as prepared as his Wardens who between them provided hugely welcome hip flasks of the warming King's Ginger, Sloe Gin, and Famous Grouse whiskey – these also won the crowds approval, and we suddenly became very popular, again, with our fellow walkers!

A picnic lunch aboard HQS Wellington gave some welcome respite and we were quick to grab three chairs near the World Traders rather lavish own set up. The sloe gin turned a standard fizz



into something a certain Past Master refers to as a “Sloe Orgasm”! Once again, we were suddenly very popular and even managed to annex our own source of fizz with that much Dutch Courage and time running out, the World Traders splendidly ignored picnic was “nibbled” at – finally some of them did turn up, but hardly touched it!

After 45 mins, the Master Mariners ejected us, slightly reluctantly, from their comparatively cosy quarterdeck and, donning damp robes over heavy coats was something we needed bracing for – the ‘Famous Grouse’ now appeared and got us over this onerous hurdle. Loitering by the bus just by Temple, it was about half an hour before we were off with clays fired up and going a treat. The crowds had remained loyal and patient and we were greeted with much pointing and smiles as blue smoke curled around us. As we walked passed the stand at Mansion House, we gave a special wave to our late Sheriff and Past Master Fiona Adler and her husband David Moss who were very pleased to see us. With that last flourish achieved, we had technically walked the route although as there were still crowds, we maintained our form until past Wax Chandlers Hall in Gresham Street. The official route is supposed to be 3-4 miles, however the Master’s pedometer reckoned it at closer to 7, and I agreed with it! We had a welcome cup of “Scotch Tea” at the Renter Warden’s neat flat in nearby Barbican before going our separate ways well satisfied with an excellent Lord Mayor’s Parade.

Charles Miller
Senior Warden





Gallery

The Installation Court Luncheon took place at Vintners' Hall on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 with a Reception followed by Luncheon.



A full Gallery of photographs from the luncheon is available [here](#).



Gallery

The Annual Banquet took place at the Barber-Surgeons' Hall on Thursday 22nd October



A full Gallery of photographs from the Banquet is available [here](#).



Jemma Freeman - Managing Director of Hunters & Frankau



Earlier this year Liveryman Nic Wing interviewed Jemma Freeman, Managing Director of Hunters and Frankau, the UK Habanos distributor as part of the celebrations of the company's 225th Anniversary celebrations.

Jemma is the 6th generation of her family to work in the cigar industry and it fell to her to be at the helm of the company as she steers it through the celebrations of 225 years since the company was founded.

The year 1790 was memorable for many things; in Britain Pitt the younger was Prime Minister and William Bligh returned to England with report of the mutiny on the Bounty. Across the channel our neighbours celebrated the first anniversary of the French Revolution and in New York President Washington gave the first state of the Union address.

More importantly for cigar lovers; in England the forerunner of what is today Hunters & Frankau was founded.

As the company that supplies Cuban cigars and happiness to so many British cigar lovers the

company has always been known for their love of a party and the Directors of Hunters & Frankau started planning this celebration some five years ago.

Naturally, a special cigar was at the forefront of their plans and the cigars and their packaging took design cues from the company's 225 years.

First they selected Ramon Allones for the brand because the Hunters side of the company owned the factory in Havana between 1911 and 1927. The shape of the cigar also has historical significance. It's a Gordito size (5½" by 50 ring gauge) with a pointed (cabeza tumbada) head, like a 109, typical of the shape of Havanas in the 1920s when they owned the brand.

But how to present the cigars? It was decided to make historic reference here too. Looking back to the period from the 1880's to the 1940s when Cuban cigars were sold to customers in Great Britain in wardrobe-style cabinets containing anything from 100 up to 10,000 cigars, they chose to produce 225 replicas of these cabinets as humidors containing 100 cigars each. The cigars themselves come in bundles of 25 tied with a silk ribbon inside slide lid boxes, a pack that was originated for cigars destined for large cabinets. Hence these slide lid boxes came to be known as 'Cabinet Selection'.

With the design concept decided, Hunters' team looked around for someone to make the humidors. They decided on the Milan based company DeART. I asked Jemma Freeman why they selected DeART. She told me that they had been hugely impressed by the work they had seen around London where DeART have installed many humidors. "Their work is exemplary" she said, "they have been a pleasure to work with on this project."

The design work for the new cabinets was meticulous with detailed CAD drawings being produced and a final design which Jemma says "pays tribute to the past whilst incorporating a few modern elements relevant to today's cigar connoisseur".



It was agreed that the cabinets would be faced with raw Spanish cedar, which would be left untreated. Jemma says “they have a raw, dusty, natural feel to them and we think the design is timeless”

The top of the humidor lifts up to reveal a humidified compartment into which cigars can be decanted for easy service. Inside the lid is a full colour, porcelain plaque displaying the Ramon Allones insignia. The doors of the cabinet are inscribed with the story of how it came to be made for Hunters & Frankau’s 225th Anniversary, unique number and each one is personally signed by Jemma Freeman.

Below the main cabinet are two drawers, one which will contain cedar spills, one for each of the cigar, and a second drawer for cutters and lighters.

Jemma visited the DeART factory in Milan at the final stages of the production to see the manufacture for herself. “The factory is very impressive” she told me. The humidors have been made almost entirely by hand. Massimo de Munari, owner of the company, even personally selected all of the Spanish cedar used in the building of the humidors and oversaw every stage of the process personally.

Massimo told me that there were many challenges in reproducing the old style of furniture and stay true to the original cabinet designs in the 30 months it has taken to develop and finalise the design and realisation of the cabinet. “We have 20 years experience in the furniture business, making bespoke cabinets and this experience has helped us to enrich this project”

“This has been a very exciting and stimulating project to work on. We have spent the same commitment and sophistication in building the humidor that Hunters & Frankau did in choosing the type of cigar and the blend. I have a great team and we have been creating great results with passion and savoir faire since 1962”.

Hunters and Frankau like many longstanding businesses has a complex past as Jemma explains with the oldest element of the business being created by John Hunter back in 1790.

Jemma gives us a fascinating insight into her family and the company history including being one of the largest UK manufacturers of cigars with an initial factory in Hoxton and later a much larger site in Cardiff.

Jemma reveals that her family have been traveling to Cuba on cigar business for over 150 years and have huge respect for all the traditions of the cigar trade. In fact there are individuals within the company today who been traveling to Cuba for around 40 years and the experience they have gained is invaluable.

Jemma was smoking a Trinidad Reyes.

This interview was recorded in April 2015 at No1a St James’s Street, London.

Video Production & Editing: Jake Bond & Luke Bond

Cigar Interview photographs: Keith Dewey



The Hunters & Frankau 225th Anniversary Party

On the evening of 19th June there was a bubble of excitement in the queue around Belgrave square and the guests gathered and waited patiently for their turn to be officially welcomed to the 225th Anniversary party for Hunters & Frankau.



The official welcome consisted of a beautiful and much anticipated sample of the Anniversario 225 cigar together with two other cigars which were being tasted for the first time on the evening; The Bolivar Belgravia, the UK regional edition for 2015 and the new Media Corona from

Montecristo which was launched at the Habanos festival last year and which from the party becomes a regular in the Montecristo line in the UK.

The gift bag presented to the guests included both a sample of the RA 225 and the Bolivar to enjoy on the evening but also a sample of each in a commemorative anniversary box which will be a treasured part of many cigar collections.

The centre of Belgrave Square is a traditional 'key garden' to which only local residents with a key are allowed access so most of us had no idea what to expect but we made our way into a positive fairy grotto of delights.

Welcomed with a glass of vintage Pol Roger 2004 champagne there was a very substantial bar offering a wonderful array of carefully crafted cocktails each bearing the name of a location significant to the long history of Hunters & Frankau. There was also a Rum bar offering some of the finest of Havana Club's rums. Wiltons of Jermyn street, who have a family connection with the company, were present with

their beautiful oyster and smoked salmon cart and there was a wonderful steak bar offering substantial sustenance for the long evening ahead.

After a good deal of meeting friends old and new Mr David Lewis, the Chairman of Hunters & Frankau introduced Jemma Freeman who welcomed the guests and outlined the history of the company and the reason we were all summoned to celebrate.

Jemma then introduced Asbel Morales, the Master Blender of Havana Club who introduced the Anniversario rum which he had created to perfectly complement the Anniversario 225 cigars.

As the rum was handed round to sample Edward Sahakian stepped forward to talk briefly about his recollections of Hunters and Frankau and to offer a heartfelt toast to Hunters & Frankau.

The party continued through long into the evening with many other delights to see including a full size version of the Anniversario cabinet crafted by De Art as a full size working humidior.

The party broke up, much to everyone's disappointment, and the cigar lovers dissipated to fill the cigar terraces and lounges of London way into the small hours of the night.

This was a party some 225 years in the making and I can honestly say that there was not one single thing which could have made it more perfect, unless perhaps that it had run for a further 2 days.

Liveryman Nic Wing





A Plea for your Support for our Military

In 2013, I wrote a personal account, published in the Livery Newsletter, of a charity cycle ride from Paris to London for 'Help the Heroes'. 'The Four Musketeers' comprised Julian Keevil, Arthur Richards, myself and our ex Clerk Peter Swanson.

The 'Help for Heroes' iconic 2016 Big Battlefield Bike Ride will once again provide a moving and emotive journey through history – cycling in Northern France to tell the story of the Western Front a century ago. The route starts in Ypres and will make its way towards Verdun. From 5th to 11th June, we will cycle 350 miles (over 565kms) tracking the Western Front. The events of 100 years ago that have shaped the surrounding countryside and the lives of those men and women who experienced it will be revisited and commemorated. A new team has been formed comprising Arthur, myself plus a French/Canadian, Robert Tritz, riding as the 'Three Musketeers'. On each bike we would have an antenna carrying several flags including the Livery Flag. A key feature of the cycle ride is that it is done alongside personnel who have been wounded on duty, and these extraordinarily brave and gutsy people use all manner of contraptions to do exactly the same ride as the able-bodied, a truly remarkable achievement for most of them. Their presence is a constant reminder of why people want to help.

'Help for Heroes' (H4H) is already a high profile charity, but needs continuing financial support to sustain its ambitious projects in support of our service personnel. This is a charity that really makes a difference, and it should be emphasised that funds are also disbursed to help the other principal service charities so that the high profile enjoyed by H4H is shared.

I am hoping that Members of the Livery would help support our collective endeavour and help us towards our target of £10,000 for 'Help for Heroes'. The team has a personal target of raising at least £7,800 almost half of which needs to be achieved by 1st March to show we are serious! If the Livery feels inclined to support us we would like to think we could achieve £10,000 for the H4H charities. I am sure that, not only will it help raise the standing of our Livery in a very high profile event, but once again help us forge ever closer ties to our military. If you can help, please decide how much you can contribute, then you can either, send a cheque payable to 'Help for Heroes' in sterling or euros to the address below, or, alternatively place the cursor over the following website address and press down your Ctrl key and click on the justgiving web site at:

www.justgiving.com/Ronald-Kirk and follow the instructions on the donation section. I will account for any donations from Livery Members so that H4H know the total donations between us via this route.

In anticipation, thank you for taking an interest in our sponsorship appeal and thanks to anyone who can help, however modest the amount might be.

Liveryman Ron Kirk
Lot A 203, Residence Nautica
19 Rue St Nicolas Bouvier
35400 Saint Malo
France



THE SHERIFF'S TANDEM BIKE RIDE

The Sheriff's Tandem Bike Ride took place on 28th July. Dressed in animal 'onesies', Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley and our own Past Master Fiona Adler (bike riders are often known by the acronym M.A.M.I.L.s 'middle aged men in lycra' but Fiona said she would rather dress as a mammal elephant than wear cycling shorts in public) rode their tandem around the Livery Halls, Guildhall and Mansion House to raise money for the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund. Waved off by the Bailey Judges they visited every hall with many halls opening to give them hospitality throughout the day. They asked that people donated no more than £5 and raised over £13,500.





London Regiment Range Day

The Challenge may have come late, but the Call to Arms on Saturday 28th November was an early one: 07.30 at the Barracks in Battersea – the usual scene of our annual match against D (London Irish Rifles) Company, The London Regiment. This year's competition had been delayed for admin reasons, it also seems the Barracks' days are numbered, so hence forward the plan is to go to the ranges proper at Ash Hill in Surrey where we could use the service rifle presently issued to Her Majesty's Armed Forces. The stakes were high – the 'Sirrah Trophy' had been won rather too convincingly by the Company and the professionals were taking this seriously...

The bus laid on for the combined teams was on time and by 07.35 we were underway for the hours' drive to the secure base. The TPTB team consisted of Alan Beggs; Adam Bennett; John Gossage; Charles Miller (Cap); Alex Nokes; Arthur Richards; Sandra Stocker (Clerk) and Paul Taberer and were given loyal support by our Master, Chris Allen and Past Master John Nokes, sadly two of the planned team Mark Domitrak and Alex McGregor were called away on business at the last minute.

Arriving at the base, it was a clear but distinctly chilly morning and we were glad of the Clerk's advice to wrap up well as only an open-sided shelter is available, and nothing when shooting. Briefed about the semi-automatic SA-80 assault rifle, we were then split in to two teams of four and sent to a mat set at 25 metres distance of a target and allowed

two rounds to familiarise ourselves with the gun. At half time clearly something was up. Tight lipped, a rule change was introduced by which the livery members could not return to the same gun they were used to firing. It should be noted that all the guns were "bore sighted" which meant no one had been able to adjust the sights, supposedly giving a level playing field, however once a gun is used, one can get used to its nature and make allowance, but each gun varies, slightly. Whilst no score had been released, we suspected some sleight of hand afoot!! The first team consisting of Adam, Arthur, Paul and Charles returned to their mats and fired twenty rounds in five-round bursts. This format was then repeated with John, Alex, Alan and Sandra at the same time as the D-Company team shot their targets.

The scores were kept by Company Sergeant Major James Dixon and the idea was that the top two scorers from each side would then face off against each other. Round two proceeded with top scorers (from a possible 200) Arthur Richards (198) and Adam Bennett (194) facing D-Company's Colour Sergeant Bessell (192) and Mr Denman (184). And this is where the story becomes a little cloudy. Despite each rifle being supervised, Adam was told to move over by one mat, but no one told him to aim at a different target, the confusion meant he cross-fired on to a target being used by Arthur and, whilst the score was worked out somehow, it wasn't looking too good.





At the post-shoot dénouement it transpired that D-Company had won by 1,900 to our 1,646 with Colour Sergeant Bessell scoring an impassable top score of 300. HOWEVER, it did also transpire that our instincts at half time had been correct – we had been in the lead by a fair margin and so a rapid re-think had been needed to spare Army blushes! We took our defeat pretty well, although when it came to presenting the actual trophy, it transpired that an over-zealous officer had locked it up and taken the key! Thus our host, Major Bob Brown had to receive a fictional trophy – mutterings about presenting D-Company with a fictional cheque were hastily laughed off and the Master graciously presented them with their well-earned donation. There followed a special presentation to the recently retired Officer Commanding, Major Chris Green, a long-standing member whom previous attendees at the Barracks will recall.

D-Company then very kindly hosted a fine lunch at the local pub and we, in turn, stood the drinks. Thus, at around 3pm, we repaired to our waiting coach and set off for the London barracks to collect bikes and cars. A remarkably fine and fun day was had by all and it is hoped that this will now become the standard format for this event, now the Barracks have been sold off for more “luxury housing” etc. Our grateful thanks to Major Brown and his excellent team who gave us such a warm and entertaining day, and a warning that now we know what to expect, the ‘Sirrah’ Trophy will be re-claimed at the earliest possibly opportunity!

Charles Miller
Senior Warden





Diary of Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 20th January 2016

Court Meeting and Livery Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall

Thursday 17th March 2016

Election Court and Ladies Lunch (Court only) at Dyers' Hall

Wednesday 8th June 2016

Installation Court and Luncheon on HQS Wellington

Monday 13th June 2016

Livery Golf Day at Tandridge

Friday 24th June 2016

Common Hall Election of Sheriffs (Liverymen only. Apply to Clerk for tickets.)

Tuesday 20th September 2016

Autumn Court and Dinner (Court only) on HQS Wellington

Thursday 29th September 2016

Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor (Liverymen only. Apply to Clerk for tickets.)

Monday 24th October 2016

Annual Banquet at Merchant Taylors' Hall

Christmas Gifts

If you are looking for something to help to fill a Christmas stocking this year, why not purchase the following:

The official Livery Company Tie – a navy blue silk tie embroidered with the Company Crest at £21.00.

Company Tie – a black silk tie embroidered with the Tobacco leaf plant at £21.00. (Proceeds from the sale of this tie will go to the Benevolent Fund.)

Cufflinks that depict The Company Coat of Arms at £7.00.

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. To purchase any item, please contact the Clerk at clerk@tobaccolivery.org





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