



# PIPELINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPEMAKERS AND TOBACCO BLENDERS

## MICHAEL RICHARDS REFLECTS ON HIS YEAR AS MASTER

It is an enormous honour to have been elected and installed as your Master for the 1999/2000 year. I have been as active as possible in the "City round" and hope I have been able to represent the Tobacco Pipe Makers in a manner that will bring credit to our Company. I have endeavoured to make our functions really enjoyable for all by having good food and wines in the best Halls, whilst at the same time incorporating as many of the Livery traditions as possible with as little of the pomp that normally surrounds them. I believe strongly that members of the Company will be prepared to accept the ever increasing costs associated with these events so long as we get this mix right and so long as we attract guest speakers of stature and public standing. We have been most fortunate to have had John Carlisle, who has the tough task of fronting up to Government and others for our industry. We have also been honoured by the Chief Constable of The Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir Ronnie Flannagan, who has the awesome task of leading and controlling the RUC through these difficult times in his part of our country. Those of you who heard him will have appreciated that he is a living example of the old maxim "cometh the hour, cometh the man". Our January Dinner was given something to think about by General Sir David Ramsbotham, Her Majesty's

Inspector of Prisons. All three men in the public eye doing mind chillingly controversial jobs with great dignity and each of them gave up their time to be with us as a mark of respect for our Livery and our charitable work.

I wrote to all of you in June saying that my Missions Statement for the Livery was "to increase the size of the Livery and to attract the support of more of its members to our functions". We have made a small start towards achieving this aim. Many of you may not be aware that the Nationality restrictions on becoming a Freeman of the City of London have been lifted. This means that there is a real opportunity for us with our international business connections. I believe that many of your overseas friends and colleagues would derive great pleasure and satisfaction by being connected with our traditions and the unique hospitality of our functions. Of course, it is up to each Livery Company to decide on its own rules for taking up their Livery. So the most important message I have for fellow members of our Company is to encourage you to support our functions and to bring your friends as guests in order to encourage them to apply to join themselves.

We now have our first lady on the Court of Assistants and we have made a start at

reducing the average age of Assistants by attracting some very good young talent. It was felt that if the members of the Court and their partners all got to know each other better it would help to make our functions that much more friendly. So my wife arranged two unofficial "wives lunches" followed by a visit to a place of interest - Apsley House and Kensington Palace. Those who attended certainly got to know each other better and enjoyed the day. The Court, not to be outdone, was able to visit the people's Dome before the people were allowed in! All in all, it has been a fun year. And for this I have to thank the Wardens for their support and help and particularly to the Immediate Past Master and his predecessors who set the scene so splendidly for my year. The Third Warden and his Forward Planning Committee will be coming up with some exciting proposals for the future. So watch this space!

Thank you all so much for having supported me in my year so well and made it a truly memorable year for me. The fellowship engendered in our Livery is something for which we should all be very proud. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the biggest and most ambitious function we have ever staged at Blenheim Palace on 24 June.

### BRIDGE TEAM LIVERY COMPETITION

Although Master Elect, Ian Panto, can rightly be described as a veteran of this Competition, he had always been partnered in the past by the late George Ross Goobey. Together they had recorded some six victories.

Ian and his new partner, Freeman Anthony Waterlow, won this year's Competition and apparently with some ease. So it is a matter of congratulations on our seventh victory since the Competition was inaugurated by the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards in 1983.

### AND OUR SHOOTERS OUT-SHOOT THE ARMY DOWN ON THE RANGE

There are various version as to how the scoring worked and a feeling that perhaps the HQ Company London Regiment might have been a bit generous in its interpretation of some none too certain rules. But for the first time in many years, we were declared winners and the main thing is that, from all accounts, a good evening was had by all. Hot shots of the evening included the Master's son and perhaps more surprisingly, the Clerk's lady, Clarissa. The Clerk had better watch his step...!

During the course of the evening the Master presented a cheque for £300 as a donation towards the general funds of the HO Company.

## RIDING FOR THE DISABLED - BARROW FARM

*The Benevolent Fund Trustees donate £2,500 per annum towards the running costs of this most worthwhile charity. However, what the Company can donate to the charities it supports depends very much on the generosity of its members.... So if you do not have a covenant or support the Trustees in any other way, please contact John Adler, the Chairman of Trustees, who will be delighted to hear from you!*



**T**he object of this short article is to tell you more about the background aims and aspirations of this particular Charity.

The Barrow Farm group of Riding for the Disabled came into existence in 1974. It was very much the brainchild of Peter and Mary Mitchell, assisted by their riding expert daughter, Anne. The Farm is located at Highwood near Chelmsford.

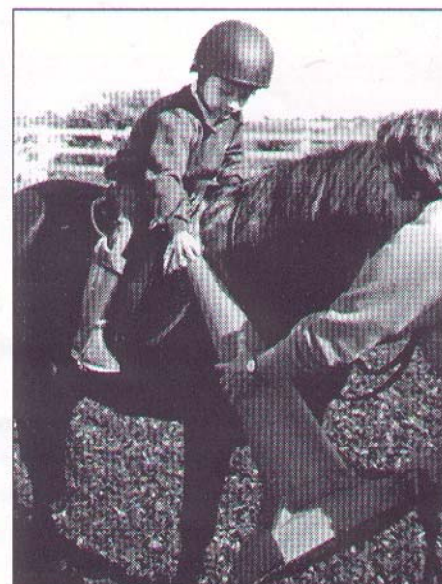
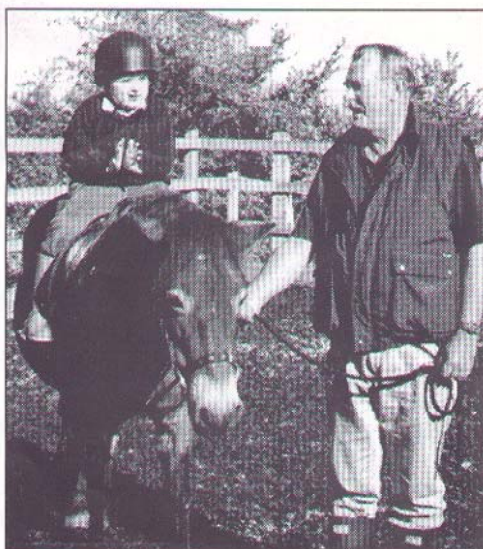
Barrow Farm sets out its aim in simple terms as being "to provide the opportunity of riding to disabled people who might benefit in their general health and well being". Riding and carriage driving facilities are made available for disabled people of all ages. Approximately 130 drivers and riders visit the school every week. The benefits that riding and driving bring to disabled people are many and varied. It makes exercise fun and gives mobility to those who are immobile - this in turn brings a sense of freedom and as the riders progress, increasing self esteem.

But of course none of this can be achieved without a great deal of hard work and expense. For instance, it costs over £1,000 per annum to care for and feed one pony (the school has twelve ponies). And volunteer helpers are always needed, at least one person is needed to assist each child and usually more when it comes to getting the children mounted etc. Even more volunteer "manpower" is needed when the more severely disabled take part in carriage riding.

Talk to any members of our company who have visited Barrow Farm, John Adler, Philip Redman and his family (Philip's daughter provides the music at the annual carol concert which takes place in the indoor school with riders and horses dressed in nativity costume) and a number of recent Masters who have attended

the carol concert and without exception they will all tell you of the sense of achievement and happiness which Barrow Farm gives to its riders.

Many improvements and additions have been made to the school over the years and doubtless more will be needed. And then there are the everyday bills for hay, the blacksmith and the vet .... . Something of a bottomless pit and therefore all the more reason that we should continue to give our support.



## THE CLERK'S COLUMN

As if you don't hear enough from the Clerk direct, there are nevertheless one or two items that are of general interest which bear repetition.

### Your Voting Rights

All Liverymen are entitled to attend and vote in Common Hall when around 1000 Liverymen from all companies gather in the Guildhall to vote for the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor by the simple method of raising their hands. It is a spectacle to be witnessed at least once by every Liveryman, some go to every meeting. It is now necessary to have a pass, available from the Clerk, in order to attend. Common Hall this year is at 11.30 am (11.00 am if you want a seat) on Monday, 26 June for the election of Sheriffs and on Friday, 29 September for the election of the Lord Mayor.

### City of London Briefings

The Corporation has an ongoing programme of briefings for all Liverymen on the workings of the City. These are free, include refreshments, and are a good opportunity to keep up to date as well as meeting Liverymen from other companies. Evening briefings (5 pm to 8 pm) for this year are being held on 14 June, 11 October and 15 November.

At a deeper level, if you really wish to become involved, there is a nine day City Management Course starting in October which visits different venues each week over a period of three months. If you are interested, please apply to the Clerk.

### New Membership Incentives

Liverymen should be aware that under the new City rules, endorsed by our Court, they are now able to propose any nationality - male or female - for admission to the Freedom. The Court has also agreed to charge half quarterage for members under the age of 30. As a further incentive, Liverymen qualify for a £50 credit if they bring a guest to a function who is subsequently admitted to the Freedom.

## GOLF DAY AT WOKING

### Master Leads the Field

On arrival at Woking Golf Club your roving correspondent was bemused and puzzled to see the Master's gown hanging in the visitors' changing room. Was the Master intending to stride purposefully to the first tee, fully robed?!

In the event, it transpired that with or without his gown the Master produced some fine golf in the morning and won the stableford competition with a score of 40 - all a question of leading from the front. He was closely pursued by Nigel Rich with a score of 39.

After the usual good lunch, names were put in a hat and some less serious foursomes were played in the afternoon. The winners were Nigel Rich and his partner, Derek Harris - the latter having won the prize for the shot nearest the hole at the short 10th in the morning.

An enjoyable day was rounded off by the Master presenting the prizes which had been most kindly donated by David Glynn-Jones and Robin Philpott.

Those taking part were Michael Richards, Ian Panto, Michael and David Walter, Alec Murray, Nigel Rich, Derek Harris, Richard Anderton (plus guest), Ian Kimmins, Patrick McGuinness-Smith, Jack Golding and Len Kelsey.

After four years at Woking GC, it has been decided to move the venue to Tandridge GC which is the home Club of Derek Harris and other members of the Company. Derek has kindly agreed to organise the day so please contact him if you want to play - the date is 20 July 2000.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Saturday 24 June 2000

Millennium Ball at Blenheim Palace - 7 pm

### Monday 26 June 2000

11.45am Common Hall - Election of Sheriffs

### Thursday 29 June 2000

12.30pm Installation Luncheon at Glaziers Hall

### Thursday 20 July 2000

Livery Golf Day at Tandridge

### Friday 29 September 2000

11.45am Common Hall - Election of Lord Mayor

### Tuesday 10 October

Ladies Banquet at Vintner's Hall

### Tuesday 16 January 2001

7pm January Dinner - Hall to be confirmed

## BUTT THAT'S NOT ALL

### Congratulations:

• to **Ian Panto** who will take over as Master at his installation on 29 June. His Wardens will be **Alec Murray** (Senior Warden), **Michael Walter** (Renter Warden) and **Michael Bramwell** and **David Glynn-Jones** as Third and Fourth Wardens.

• to **Fiona Adler, Roger Brooks, Simon Glendenning** and **Ian Birks** who have all been elected to and joined the Court. They are all comparative youngsters and the average age of the Court will have fallen quite considerably. Fiona Adler has the further distinction of being the first lady member of the Court.

### New Liverymen and Freemen

It is good to see new blood coming into the Company and we give a warm welcome to the following new Freemen:

- **Ronald Kirk, Wyndham Carver, Vimal Shah, Edward Preedy, John Crosby, Robert Fletcher, Clive Inston, Anthony Waterlow, John Withers and Nicolas Edinger**

We also congratulate the following who have been gowned with the Livery:

- **Gareth Davis, John Nokes, Phillip Shervington and David Walter.**

### Visit to the Dome

After the Court Meeting in October some twenty three members of the Court paid a quick visit to see the finishing touches being put to the Dome. It would be interesting to know how many of them were sufficiently fired up to make a return visit after that somewhat controversial opening.

### Election Nonsense

There is a reference in the Clerk's column to this year's elections at Guildhall. Last June there was a contested election for the Sheriffs. Everyone knew before the event that the election would be contested. Those who attended Guildhall went home empty handed, so to speak and were greeted the next day by a Notice from the Town Clerk saying there would be a poll at Guildhall on 8 July. This is all a bit of a nonsense for our Liverymen living, for instance, in Exeter, Nottingham or Worcester. Surely there must be a better way.

### Obituary

Nathan Barnett died at the age of 92. He was formerly a City cigar merchant and had been a Liveryman since 1969. At the October Court Meeting the Court stood in silence in his memory.

### The Tranter Trophy

Richard Tranter has donated this trophy which is to be an annual award for excellence in design and craftsmanship in pipe making or allied crafts. Bearing in mind there are relatively few craftsmen left in the trade, it was gratifying to see some fine entries on display at the January Dinner. The splendid trophy was presented by the Master to the winner, Mr T D Willmer.



### 1999 Carol Concert

The 1999 Carol Concert, held at St Botolphs and presided over by our worthy Chaplain, Brian Lee, was better attended than previously, but there is still room for improvement. We were well supported again by the Sevenoaks Choir and Organist and to whom we are most grateful. The proceeds of the collection went to St Botolphs and the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund have donated £1,000 to the Chaplain's charity. Do make yourself known to our Honorary Chaplain if you have not already done so.

### Leonie Richards

At the March Court Luncheon, the ladies of the Court made a presentation of a specially commissioned brooch depicting part of the Pipe Makers Badge to Leonie Richards. This was in recognition of her initiative in organising two lunches and visits (with a third visit still to come) and which had been much enjoyed by the ladies of the Court.