

Masters' Annual Reports



Sue Owen 2006 to 2007

I have been asked many times whether I have enjoyed this year as Master and without exception, my answer has always been “How could I not?”

Traditionally, the Deputy Master has always said how fast the year has gone and I totally concur, but it wasn't just fast – It flew. There are so many wonderful memories that I will treasure forever and fortunately, many photographs to help when memory fades.

In my first speech I anticipated a marvellous year but the experience far surpassed the expectation. I have enjoyed wonderful food, great wines and entertaining company in beautiful and historic surroundings. To give a flavour of the first two weeks as Master, I was a guest at Vintners' Hall, Mansion House, Painters' Hall and a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The pace continued throughout the year, with our first Ladies Event at Mansion House and the only dampener the total washout of York Races in June, the first time they had ever cancelled the June meeting. In true company tradition, the rain in no way prevented nearly forty members from enjoying a convivial evening, dining in style at York's Merchant Taylors' Hall. I can vouch for the fact that recent tradition was upheld with all present enjoying an impressive volume of liquid refreshments.

I started my year in the middle of a drought and departed amidst floods. I am an expert on the fastest routes between Livery Halls and hotels. I travelled by Barge from Hampton Court to the Tower and was released without charge. More mundanely, I made the journey from Durham to London Kings Cross by train 37 times. (According to the Internet, this is a distance of 19,684 miles, not quite the circumference of the earth at the equator - but not far off!).

It will no doubt take some time to come to terms with the fact that I no longer have a personal Bargemaster or Barge, but I hand over both with pleasure to a great team in the new Master and his Wardens.

The Company is in good heart with attendances at record levels, events over the year made a small profit, we managed to make savings on printing, meeting room hire.

The Charity is moving forward and the Master will outline the various projects for his year. We are increasing our funds and new initiatives will be announced in the near future.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in this wonderful, unforgettable year, but particularly to my long suffering colleagues at Northumbrian Water. I look forward to meeting you all again at our Company events.

Sue Owen
Deputy Master