

Masters' Annual Reports



Ted Jackson 1999 to 2000

INTRODUCTION

At the end of his year of office, the Immediate Past Master should give a report on the events and business affairs of the Company. However the Deputy Master, Ted Jackson put his head into a wasps' nest and only by the skill of two teams of paramedics is he still alive today. He is steadily recovering and has been able to attend the Olympic Games in Australia. Therefore this report has been written by Past Master Colin Bland at request The Deputy Past Master.

LIVERY STATUS

On 1st January 2000, the Company achieved its ambition to become the 102nd Livery Company of the City of London. The Lord Mayor presented the Letters Patent to the Master and the Master of Worshipful Company of World Traders at a very impressive ceremony at the Mansion House on 25th January. The Clothing Ceremony held at the Guildhall on 15th March was a great success with 107 Freemen being clothed in the Livery. The expenses of obtaining Livery were held within the budget.

The Master wanted the obtaining of Livery status to be just the beginning of the way forward for the Company. He chaired a seminar looking at new role of the Company. A paper by the Wardens was outlined by the Master and debated by the Liverymen present. From this, three sub-committees were set up to look at Membership and the requirements of Liverymen and Freemen, the interaction of the Company with the Lord Mayor, and the City and the Environment.

MEMBERSHIP

The Company has continued to grow during the past year, the total membership reached 200, there being 150 Liverymen and 50 Freemen. It is expected that this growth will continue during this year.

FINANCES

The financial position remains very sound with a small increase in the reserves. This was better than expected taking into account expenses of the primary Livery functions.

ADMINISTRATION

The main administration of the Company has since the 1st July 2000 been carried out from the new Clerk's home. However the Company's official address is still Watermen's Hall.

CHARITIES

The Charitable Trust Fund and the Water Conservation Trust have seen a small increase in funds during the past year. The Charitable Trust Fund has continued to help people from the water industry. The Water Conservation Trust's Tony Drake Travelling Scholarship awardee has completed his visit to the USA and is writing his report.

LINKS WITH THE ARMEDFORCES

The final link to the armed forces was forged when the Affiliation Document between the Company and the Aeronautical Information Documents Unit (AIDU) of the RAF was signed. A visit was made to its base at Northolt and after lunch members present had a flight over London at 2,000 feet in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight. Visits were also made to HMS Scott at Devonport and The Royal Engineers at Chatham.

EVENTS

The last year was very active with the Master attending a wide range of functions both of this Company and other Livery Companies. The list of those attended in the months of March to June inclusive are given in this Newsletter. The main Company events were those which took place after Livery was granted and reported elsewhere.

CONCLUSIONS

The past year was momentous for the Company and the Deputy Master. It was a success not only in the elevation of the Company to Livery status but its steady growth and financial stability. Dr Ted Jackson carried the Company forward during his year in office as Master and it is hoped that he will soon be restored to full health. He has been helped tirelessly throughout his year and nursed back to health by his wife Ann.