THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' COMPANY
COURT CIRCULAR
October 2007

THE MASTER'S REPORT

"Thank you busy committee chairmen for achieving so much in the year"



Richard Cotton, Master

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Having just returned from the Mansion House to hear the Lord Mayor's briefing, before I go off to Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party this afternoon, it is not a bad time to spend a lunch time reflecting on my Master's year.

I hope the Company feels that standards have been maintained.

We have enjoyed our traditional formal dinners beginning with the Installation Dinner held at Drapers Hall. I thought we had an outstanding address by the ex-President of the Country Landowners Association, Mark Hudson, followed by our Spring Livery dinner at Apothecaries' Hall where we were much entertained by Sir Jeremy Hanley. In addition, we had a most enjoyable Friday evening Ladies Dinner in the Members' Restaurant in the House of Lords where we were most beautifully looked after by Lord Cope, with whom Penny worked a number of years ago when he was an MP. Our last dinner is planned for 24 September and we hope to use the Barclays Bank Directors Restaurant at the top of their building at Canary Wharf. I have dined there before and it is a most amazing venue on a sunny summer's eve (what chance?).

We had a most memorable Education Lunch very early in my year at Haberdashers' Hall where I think we were all bowled over by the addresses given to us by Liz Simms the Headmistress of Archbishop Tenison's School who was well supported by Paul Grant from the Robert Clack School in Dagenham. Dr. Irene Bishop, Headmistress of St. Saviour's and St. Olave's, and Dr. Anne Hudson, Headmistress of Central Foundation Girls School attended another lunch subsequently to let us know what was happening in their schools.

I am in the middle of presenting awards to prize winners at our four schools. We are clearly making a difference with those schools in our support for head teachers, staff and students, and I am very pleased to acknowledge the wonderful work that Pipyn Trustram Eve is doing on our behalf in leading that initiative for us.

It is clear that there is enormous talent in these schools which only needs the opportunity to convert potential into actual. For Liverymen to really understand what the need is and what the potential is, they will need to visit these schools. I have mentioned this to all the Head Teachers and they would be very pleased to facilitate such visits.

A new venture as part of our education initiative has been the establishment of a Company bursary. We are hoping to raise a total of £250,000 to get it established. It has got off to a very good start by a generous donation from Past Master Hugh Stebbing and we are still hoping for a major donation from a Liveryman's surveying business. We have also received a number of personal donations from individual Liverymen, but there is still much work to be done if we are to make this a significant venture.

On the education front, our education programme continues to flourish and expand which is largely due to our schools co-ordinator, Pipyn Trustram Eve under the Education Committee chairmanship of Liz Edwards. I have much enjoyed my visits and presentations to schools and there is no doubt that they value our support.

Having said that, we have awarded our first bursary to Charlotte Watson from Archbishop Tenison's. She is about to embark on a law degree, and we shall watch her progress through her degree course with much interest.

We have maintained our links with our three Services groups under the stewardship of Jon Turner. Jon has had to resign from the Court due to business pressures, not helped by him being based in Herefordshire, but he has made a significant contribution while he has been with us, and we are most grateful to him. I have attended open days with 135 Independent Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers (V) at their depot at Hermitage, and I have given prizes at an awards ceremony they held at Ewell, their base in Surrey.

I have also attended an all-ranks dinner at the RAF Club in Piccadilly with 7010 (VR) Squadron RAF where I was pleased to present the Chartered Surveyors Award for Professional Excellence.

Jon Turner enjoyed the hospitality of HMS Echo on operational survey work out of Glasgow. Others of us are looking for a more relaxed day as their guests on 20 August when the ship will be moored in Falmouth.

Led by the Membership and Communication Committee a survey of Liverymen was undertaken to check that the Company was living up to Liverymens' expectations. I think we can say that on the whole we are. Good communications on all aspects of Livery activities are very important.

This will enable Liverymen to choose what they want to participate in more knowledgeably and are therefore likely to make greater commitment.

I have enjoyed much hospitality from many other Livery Companies and it has been fascinating to see how they all operate. Every Company seems to do things slightly differently. What has, though, been most heartening is the high regard with which the Surveyors' Company is held by all Livery Companies from the Great Twelve downwards, and certainly one of the most satisfactory memories I will take away from my year is that compared to many Companies we are initiating and implementing some wonderful initiatives across our fundraising, charitable and educational fields of interest.

I think we have also got to know a little bit more this year about the Livery Committee. That Committee is an opportunity for the Modern Companies to make their mark within the Livery movement and on matters regarding the Mayoralty. I am most grateful to Simon Kolesar, Junior Warden, for putting together our response to a questionnaire which they sent out during my year.

The Surveyors' Company sits naturally in two groups within the Livery movement, namely those connected with the property industry and the Modern Companies. It is my personal view from a year's close involvement with the movement that it is the Modern Companies that can have great influence within the Livery movement in the years to come, and I would encourage the Surveyors Company to participate to the full in all Modern Company initiatives.

Our funds within the Company are at record levels and membership stands at 346 having inducted 17 new Liverymen during the year and lost 6.

On the social side, we have had a fully supported sports programme which will be reported on elsewhere. In addition there have been well-supported trips to Wimbledon, Highgrove, Kew Palace, Chevening and the National Theatre.

Prompted by the Membership and Communications Committee an inaugural Ladies Lunch was held, hosted by Penny, and from all accounts that was a great success and will no doubt be repeated – and may I take this opportunity to thank Penny for all her support during the year.

Richard Cotton, Master

THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

As the label on the bottle implies, this committee looks after the Company's finances, administration and anything else which falls outside the remit of the other committees!

The stewardship of the Company's funds is a large part of the work and this responsibility is sharply in focus as I write this in the middle of a wave of turbulence in world stock markets. Inevitably the Company's investments have not escaped the resultant volatility largely driven by the crunch in the money markets driven by the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the United States although strong performance earlier in the year has cushioned some of this to date.

As at 31st June 2007 the Company portfolio was valued at £414,889 and in the twelve months to this date had produced a return of 11.8%, outperforming the benchmark by 4.5%.

The Charitable funds were valued at the same date at £1,035,452 and produced a return over the previous twelve months of 12.5%, outperforming the benchmark by 2.3%. Liverymen might also be interested to see the asset allocation for each fund (pie charts on the right).

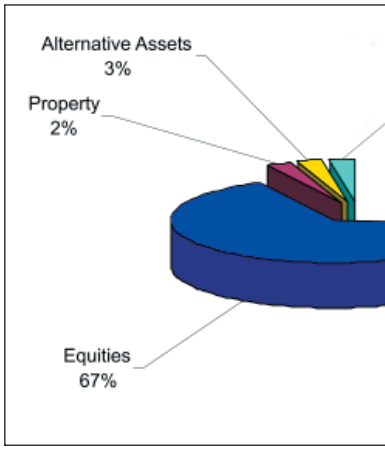
This Committee has also started the preparation of a disaster recovery strategy. This is an ongoing task but the first steps, including the preparation of a master file on administration and the minutiae of the Clerk's role, is well underway. Another major task has been to respond to the paper circulated by the City Corporation Livery Committee on best practice. Under the leadership of the Junior Warden we conducted a full analysis and prepared a detailed response which I am delighted to report resulted in a very complimentary response from Tom Hoffman our designated contact on that Committee. The Company tries very hard to 'punch above its weight' and it seems we are in the vanguard amongst our peers.

We are also trying to harness the benefits and advantages of this electronic age and the Company website now has the announcement and the booking form for all Livery events which highlights how this Committee is always seeking to improve the Company's efficiency and effect cost savings.

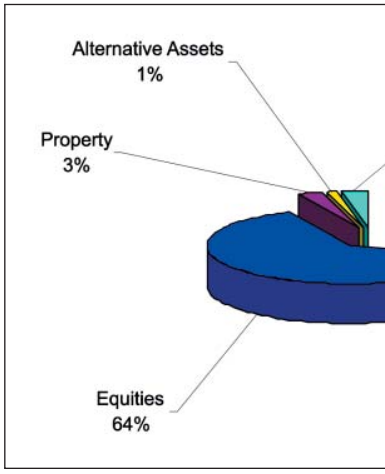
The Committee is increasingly looking to our auditor, James Harmon for general financial advice and with his background with other Livery Companies he is proving to be most helpful and it is likely he and his team will assume greater responsibility for preparation of the financial data needed to manage the Company's affairs.

Achieving all this would not be possible without the hard work of the Committee members. My thanks are due to you all for your help and support over the last twelve months.

David Larkin, Senior Warden & Chairman of F & GP



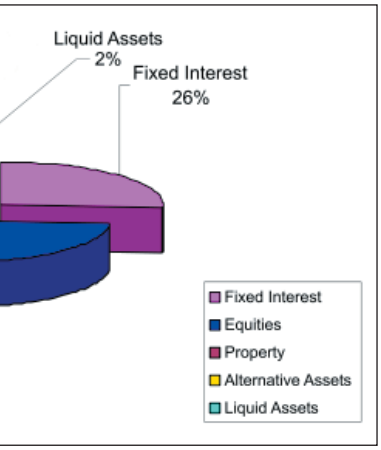
Company of Chartered Surveyors Charitable Investment Fund

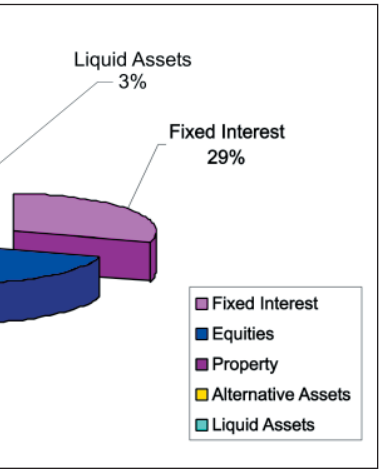


Company of Chartered Surveyors Investment Fund



THE COMPANY SURVEY







EG Editor, Peter Bill presents the donation from the PMA to the Master

Aims and Objectives of the Survey

Earlier this year, it was decided to undertake a survey of the members views on a range of issues relating to the conduct of the Livery. In particular, the choice and frequency of its various activities and the focus of its charitable work, all with the view to ensuring more inclusiveness throughout its membership and thus elicit wider support.

Conclusions and Future Actions:

The main conclusions of the survey were that the majority of the events were popular and there was wide spread support for the charitable trust and educational activities. Members referred to the difficulties of making time available for the many events and functions and some felt that the Livery could be more inclusive especially for younger members.

Whilst the survey results did not indicate that the members were looking for any major change in the style or management of the Livery, many members felt that communication about the charitable initiatives could be stepped up and members were keen to increase their involvement in 'giving back' something to the community.

Giving Back

The key message from the survey was that members wanted to be actively involved in 'Giving Back'

This aspect of the survey produced the most interesting and valuable results, the findings are summarised by this comment from one member:-

"the most disappointing aspect for me has been not having the opportunity to give back and help those not as fortunate as us…which was my number one reason for joining …"

There is a clear link between this wish to give back and the work of the Charitable Trust and the Education Committee. In this context, there were numerous comments about communication, the need for clearly identified objectives for charitable donations, and details of where the money is going.

There were few objections to making donations, but some confusion over the various good causes, individual initiatives and the annual charges with the Livery fines.

The key theme of David Larkin's year as Master will be to "Make A Difference" – at all levels, so make a difference to the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves but also make a difference "to the people involved in giving back too".

David is committed to responding to the points raised by the survey, and a number of opportunities for giving back have been identified including the special fund raising initiative and the Livery Liaison Group providing regular contact with the pupils at the selected schools. The key to the success of 'giving back' is for members themselves to contact the Master or the Clerk or the Chairman of the relevant committee and let us know what they have time and are willing to do.

Giving is a two way street!

Assistant Mickola Wilson,
Chairman Membership & Communications

PROPERTY MARKETING AWARDS 2007

2007 was another successful year for the Property Marketing Awards, helping to further raise standards of marketing in the property industry, increase awareness of the Company's charitable undertakings and raise £22,000 for our charities.

Over 500 entries were received in 15 categories following both conventional advertising in the Estates Gazette and our first electronic viral advertising campaign.

Acknowledging advances in electronic marketing rather than a separate category for websites these were for the first time included in every category.

The Awards Ceremony was again held at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square where after short introductions from Geoff Hadwick on behalf of the Estates Gazette and Digby Flower for the Company including an explanation of our charitable activities and a short film on the Company's work in inner city schools Tony Hawks took over to compere the awards themselves.

The winner of the Victor Ludorum award for best of the best was Grosvenor for its Liverpool One retail scheme, whilst Driver Jonas once again won Marketing Team of the year and Allsop's celebrated the firm's 101st birthday by winning the Estate Gazette front cover award.

The 2008 Awards will be held at the Hilton Park Lane on 16th April 2008.

Assistant Digby Flower, Chairman PMA

CHARITABLE GIVING

Significant progress has been made over the last twelve months with regard to our Charitable Trusts which as at the 31st July 2007 had Net Assets just over £1,100, 000. Over the last 12 months the Court has supported a focus to our charitable giving in three principal areas, namely

- Support of the Chartered Surveyors Training Trust
- Support for our adopted schools
- Support for the Christchurch Gardens Youth Centre in Spitalfields

Our donations for these three areas is in the order of £55,000 out of total donations of £65,000.

This focus will be maintained for the coming year and our intention is to generate further funds following the creation of a fund raising sub committee led initially by the new Master, David Larkin

The Company founded the CSTT in 1984 and since that date they have managed to assist hundreds of people to achieve a career in surveying that would otherwise have been unavailable to them. The Trust's objective is to help 16 to 24 year olds who face a barrier to getting into surveying. The medium term objective of the Charitable Board is to provide financial support to cover the Trusts occupational costs

The Schools CD circulated by the Master shows how much our adopted schools value the relationship with the Company. Further copies are available from the Clerk and there is also a link on the web site.

At the beginning of this year we investigated the establishment of a Bursary Fund to offer financial support to pupils from our adopted schools.

Through the generosity of Liverymen, Bould, Bowdidge, Broadhurst, Cotton, Hickman, Houston, Johnstone, King, Larkin, Orchard-Lisle, Ross, Soames, Strachan, Stebbing and Taylor, we now have now laid the foundations for a Fund that will provide ongoing financial support.

Fund raising for this area will be a major objective for the Company over the coming year and you will be hearing more about the recipients and how you can help.

Finally Christchurch Garden Youth Centre. The centre sits next to the magnificent Hawksmoor designed Christchurch in Spitalfields and close to the core of the financial markets in Broadgate. This centre would not exist without our support and Mickola Wilson who has become a Governor will be happy to explain more. Focus for youth in these challenging times benefits both the individuals and the wider public.

Our charitable giving provides a real opportunity for the Company to further develop and for Liverymen to tangibly put something back.

Rob Bould
Chairman Charitable Board 2007/ 2008

CORAM BOYS - A REPORT FROM YOUR LIVERYMAN IN THE 2nd ROW!

All those attending the Livery outing to 'Coram Boys' at the National Theatre were treated to a superb evening.

Based around the Coram Hospital for Deserted Children England's first hospital for abandoned children, founded by Thomas Coram in 1739, this was a tale of two cities; Gloucester and London. A tale of two orphans at: Toby, saved from an African slave ship and Aaron, the abandoned son of the heir to a great estate. A tale of fathers and sons set in the dark heart of 18th-century England. An epic adventure filled with danger and excitement.

As playwright Philip Pullman describes it, "A rich and almost gothic drama unfolds, full of dastardly villains, cold-hearted aristocrats, devoted friends and passionate lovers, and set against a background of cruelty, music and murder", and I have to agree! The acting was first class and story line gripping, thought provoking and topical, considering this year being the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery.

A big thank you to the Master and his wife for hosting a fantastic evening's theatre, which proved a thoughtful start to 2007 in 21st Century London!

Liveryman David Reynolds

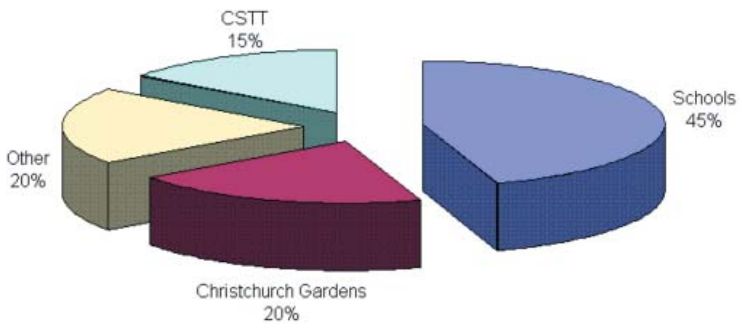


Members of The Livery and The Hermes Golfing Society at the annual Golf Day



Above: Lunch at Salters Hall

Distribution of Charitable funds



EDUCATION PROGRAMME







The WCCS Lionheart Award presented to Geoffrey Dyball by the Master

We have had an exciting year so far! Firstly, the Education video, which was produced by Assistant Daniel Carter was "premiered" at our first ever education lunch , to which the head teachers from our schools attended. Three of the headteachers spoke passionately about their motivation and their gratitude to the Livery Company for support and assistance. In fact our relationships with the schools are two way and the birth of the Bursary Award has added new impetus to the spirit of what the Company is setting out to achieve .

The Bursary Award has now been established and our aim now is to build up Funds. I am working closely with Assistant Rob Bould to build resources over the next few years, so that we can lay down a suitable endowment for young, needy people in the future . This will work in two ways and I hope that it will not least, engage many Liverymen who might either be able to donate financially or assist in practical ways with our various initiatives. By way of example, one of our committee members, Richard Carter, has run building surveying workshops at a couple of the schools with major success : the level of interest shown by both students and teachers has been very encouraging and we would like to repeat these using Liverymen from other disciplines including Investment, Agency and Valuation : both residential and commercial. In addition to these workshops, the Company continues to put on a varied programme for students, ranging from the one day mini version of the City Seminar for 17 year olds, through to sports visits, the Old Bailey and Ironbridge .

Job placements play an important role and we are always in need or firms offering places to the students who are typically from Year 10 or 11. Volunteers please!

Our schools vary hugely in terms of abilities of children, ethnicity and academic abilities. Their successes are down to the headteachers and staff who, quite frankly, are of such high calibre that they could be running international businesses in their own right. And they manage this with difficult budgets and with the issues facing anyone in the inner city today. This is where the impact of the Bursary Award comes in .

Our first recipient has achieved her place at university but she would be unable to support herself due to many issues, especially financial ones. Many of these young people from our schools are potential university entrants, but their families have very small household incomes and effectively cannot afford them to be non income earning for 3 or 4 years. As a consequence, many potential students fall out of the education system from the age of 16 onwards.

To give another example, one of our younger students has just been given employment and a place at college through the Livery : he comes from a family which has essentially disintegrated and timely intervention by his headteacher and the Livery have provided him with a goal to work towards .

In essence, the Livery is about putting something back and with a combination of giving, both in terms of financial support and time, we can make a real difference to young people, who are of course part of our society .

Assistant Liz Edwards
Chairman, Education Committee

THE COMPANY THANKS

Firms who offered work experience placements in 2007

Cluttons LLP

EC Harris

Gardiner & Theobald LLP

Donaldsons

Delva Patman Associates

Martin Associates

GVA Grimley

Skanska UK Building

Chase & Partners

Cushman Wakefield

DTZ

King Sturge LLP

Firms who supported the 2007 Changing City Seminar

City of London Corporation

Canary Wharf Group

Morgan Stanley

Schroder Property Investment Management

ING Real Estate

EDUCATION LUNCH

I do not think anyone who attended the Livery Company's Education Lunch at the Haberdashers' Hall in November is likely to forget the occasion.

It started in the normal way with the Master saying a few words (and promising the proceedings would be finished by 2.30 – which they were).

Assistant Daniel Carter, retiring Chairman of the Education Committee talked briefly about the work of the Committee and introduced an impressive short film of the past work and future agenda of the Committee which was to be distributed to the Livery.

Dr. Irene Bishop, the Headmistress of St. Saviour's and St. Olave's (one of our adopted schools) was our first guest speaker. She thanked the Company for its invaluable support and continuing her speech, spoke about a small girl who had come from a very poor background – no shoes to wear, no books at home – but the girl's mother, despite ill health, had recognised the fundamental importance of education as a "passport to a better future". The girl had looked after her infirm mother but her mother would not let her miss school. When her mother died, despite the hardships, she continued to work hard at school, always remembering her mother's words "passport to a better future".

We all listened intently but when Dr. Irene Bishop said "and that girl was me" you could have heard a pin drop. She went on to say that despite her school being in one of the most deprived areas of London, 80% of her students leave with higher level grades. One of her students has achieved six grade A's at A levels (the highest marks achieved by any state school pupil) and is now studying medicine at Cambridge. It was one of the most powerful speeches I think a lot of us had ever heard.

Our second speaker was Paul Grant the Head Master of The Robert Clack School (another of our adopted schools) whose opening words "How do you follow that?" summed up exactly what everyone was thinking. He went on to explain how, when he had taken over the school eight years ago it was considered a "sink school" but it now features in the top 20 state schools in the UK, both academically and in sport. Paul emphasised how extremely grateful he is for all the Livery Company has done and continues to do for his school.

Liveryman Janie Strange



THE COMPANY'S SAILING DAY

In superb racing conditions the Company's sailing day took place in the Solent on 18 June aboard two Sunsail 37 racing yachts. An energetic group of liverymen and guests formed crews skippered by Senior Warden David Larkin and Past Master Brian Lamden.



With an early start, race training took place in the morning across Portsmouth Harbour and towards Osborne Bay. After a fortifying lunch moored off Wootton Creek, the race proper took place in the afternoon in a force six wind following a challenging course marked by racing buoys first heading north towards Lee-on-Solent and then in a easterly direction towards Southsea, the finish being just beyond Spitbank Fort.

First across the finishing line with a convincing victory was Brian Lamden's team comprising Laurence Johnstone, Simon Marshall, Tim Matthews, Richard and Mickola Wilson. Runner-up was David Larkin's team comprising Mark Carrington, Katherine Edgar, John Townsend and Rik Lewis.

This was an exceptionally enjoyable day held in sunny but stirring sailing conditions and much enjoyed by all who took part.

Assistant Laurence Johnstone



L to R: Laurence Johnstone, Tim Matthews, Brian Lamden and Richard Wilson



The education themed lunch at Haberdashers' Hall

CHARTERED SURVEYORS TRAINING TRUST - AN UPDATE

The CSTT was established in 1984 by the Company as a charitable organisation, providing Advanced Level Surveying Apprenticeships to young people aged between 16 to 24 years. It principally supports those who would normally have difficulty entering the profession, those with financial, social or academic barriers and individuals currently under-represented by the industry – namely females and ethnic minorities. All trainees follow a work based learning route attending a day release college course leading on to a RICS Surveying degree & APC qualification.

Overview of 2007 activity

- For the period 2006/7 CSTT made over 50 visits to schools and colleges across London, with particular focus on girls schools and deprived London boroughs such as Newham, Ealing and Hackney.

- Six Taster Day visits were organised to Container City, Trinity Buoy Wharf, Docklands to provide young people with an opportunity to hear more about the profession from a qualified surveyor and tour round this innovative construction project. A number of employers including DTZ were involved.

- CSTT exhibited at two large career fairs (Careers Jobs Live held at Excel Centre and Earls Court) attracting young people across London.

- A total of 700 enquiries and 425 applications were received for the 2006/7 period with more than 50 applicants gaining a place on CSTT books.

- A total of 25 individuals successfully gained a place for Apprenticeships commencing September 2007. Unfortunately a number of surveying firms dropped out due to commercial reasons, and thus not as many trainees were placed as were on our books. Employers include: BBC Workplace, Balfour Kilpatrick, DE J Levy, GL Hearn, E-Surv, Gardiner & Theobald, Ladbrokes, Malcolm Hollis, Tuffin Ferraby Taylor, & Wates. We are very grateful to them but are always keen to speak to new firms about the scheme.

- A total of 85 trainees are now managed by CSTT (trainees are at various stages of training including 26 enrolled onto RICS accredited degrees).

In 2007 CSTT trainee pass rates were 100% at all levels bar one (96%)

- Following feedback from employers, CSTT has been working hard to change the existing training framework to make it more discipline specific earlier on in the trainee's learning programme:

A revised NVQ (Surveying Property & Maintenance Level 3) has been introduced to students as of September 2007.

In addition, CSTT is also looking to replace the NC & HNC qualification with a more discipline specific course, prior to degree entry. As of September 2008, all CSTT trainees will enrol onto the College of Estate Management Diploma in Surveying Practice (whilst at the same time undertaking the NVQ qualification).

SWIM, BIKE, RUN - BARBEQUE!

On Sunday 5th August 2007 I took part in this year's London Triathlon in aid of three chosen charities, WellChild, the Chartered Surveyors Company's Charitable Trust and the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators' Charitable Trust. With the help of my sponsors, I managed to raise over £3,000 for my chosen charities.

I'd harboured a desire to do the London triathlon for a number of years, but never found the motivation to complete the training for it. I therefore decided that this year I would tell as many people that I had entered the London Triathlon in order to raise money for charity - I figured that it would be more difficult to let other people down than myself.

The London Triathlon consists of a 1500m swim in Victoria Dock (with the aid of a wetsuit), a 40K bike ride taking in roads around and between the Excel Centre, Canary Wharf and Parliament Square and a 10K run around Victoria Dock. Coming from a competitive swimming background, I found the swim pretty comfortable. Similarly, the bike course, being flat and closed to traffic, was pleasant. However, I found the run more of a challenge by virtue of the 31° heat which decided to make an appearance. Whilst the heat didn't prevent me finishing, it did result in me collapsing from heat stroke shortly after crossing the line. Thankfully, the doctors and St. John's Ambulance team were on hand and once I was fully functioning I was allowed to go home to take part in a 'normal' Sunday activity - the first BBQ in the sun this year!

Whilst sitting in the garden with a cold drink in my hand that evening, I received confirmation of my time– 2:07:02hrs – and position in my age group – 3rd - which was a big shock (my aim was to complete the distance in under 2 ½ hours). As you can imagine, I was pretty chuffed and I am in no doubt that without the motivation which taking part in aid of charity gives, my attempt to complete the training for, and ultimately complete, the triathlon would have ended in similar results as previous years – i.e. an unfulfilled desire.

Liveryman Matthew Molloy



Liveryman Matthew Molloy on his way to raising over £3,000 for his chosen charities

THE COMPANY'S ARMED FORCES UNITS

Due to the high level of commitment that our volunteer Army and RAF units have undertaken to supporting the regular Armed Forces there has been little contact with them this year. However, due to the fact that HMS Echo has been in service in waters around the United Kingdom there has been considerable activity with our ship.

135 Independent Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers (V)

The annual Remembrance Day Parade was cancelled last year due to the fact that so many of the unit were away on various training activities. However, the Master did attend a Parade where the Colonel of the regiment gave Gulf War medals to members of the squadron and the Master gave the annual presentation of the Endeavour Award, which is always greatly appreciated by the squadron. There was a further event where the permanent staff administration officer, who had been the main link with the Company, was retiring and the Master and previous Masters attended a dinner to say farewell.

Currently the unit has several personnel serving with the regular forces in the Gulf and Afghanistan.

7010 (VR) Squadron RAF

This has been a slightly unfortunate year as they were not given funds by the MoD to entertain the Master at the RAF Waddington Air Show and due to the nature of their work there has been little chance of meeting them during their training. However, around the time of the publication of this newsletter they will be giving a presentation on 7 November at the RAF Club and it is hoped there will be a high turnout from the Membership.

HMS Echo

The new captain, Commander Jeremy Churcher kindly invited members of the Company to spend three days with the ship when she was deployed off the coast of Isla. The only Member who was able to attend was Jon Turner and his wife Rosalind, who had a fascinating three day stay with the ship and given the freedom of the bridge and all areas of the ship to explore. Subsequently Commander Churcher kindly invited the Company to attend an open day on the 20 August, which is reported separately. The ship is now on here training to depart to the Middle East for further operations in the Gulf area.

Assistant Jon Turner



The Snowdon ascent - left to right: Roger Wilyman (RICS North Wales), Past Master Robert Steel and Liveryman Laurence Johnstone



Members of The Livery onboard HMS Echo



THE 10 PEAKS CHALLENGE

On 15th September Past Master Robert Steel completed a 650 mile walk from Balmoral in the Scottish Highlands to the summit of Snowdon in North Wales. In doing so, over a period of some two months Robert climbed 10 peaks including the three highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales ascending an aggregate of 35,392 vertical feet and raising some £65,000 for his three chosen charities, Lionheart, Macmillan Cancer Relief and Treloars.

Before this latest venture, which was initiated under the patronage of the Company, through a number of other charity fundraising walks Robert had raised some £580,000 in total. At any age this latest expedition would be a great achievement. However, Robert was born in 1920 and began the 10 Peaks Walk two months after his 87th birthday which makes the successful completion of this expedition a remarkable feat with which the Livery Company can be proud to be associated.

On the ascent of Snowdon, Robert was accompanied by liveryman Laurence Johnstone who, at a reception which followed in Llanberis, presented him with a personal letter from the Master congratulating Robert on behalf the Company.

Assistant Laurence Johnstone

THE GARDENS OF HIGHGROVE

The Company visit to Highgrove was on a hot spring day.

Following a pub lunch at the Hare and Hounds the party boarded a private coach which took us the short drive to the country residence of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales .

Some security at the gate and then we continued to the Orchard Room and visitors centre where, as we disembarked, we were surprised to see quite a selection of similar vehicles - clearly we were not the only party enjoying a private visit .

We had a brief introduction by our guide before setting off for our conducted tour of the splendid gardens . Our guide was a most delightful lady, full of enthusiasm and interesting anecdotes about H.R.H. and the continuing development of the gardens. We were glad to be able to roam free in many parts of the garden where we saw sculptures and buildings of interest many of which had come from other parts of the world. The weather could not have been better, bright and sunny with clear blue skies, showing the delightful grounds off to the best possible advantage.

Our visit terminated in elegant style with tea and biscuits in the Orchard Room and an opportunity to spend some money in the great little gift shop and plant centre. Many members of the party enjoyed purchasing plants and other gifts which would be excellent mementoes of a thoroughly enjoyable day .

Assistant Jenna Davies

THE COMPANY AT SEA (WELL NEARLY)

A blustery day in late August saw a party of Liverymen make the long journey to Falmouth to enjoy the renowned hospitality of HMS Echo our 'adopted' Navy warship.

Navigating the maze of Falmouth Dockyard was the first challenge but once on board we were made most welcome and given a full day of activity which included an in depth briefing by the Captain of HMS Echo's recent activities in the Gulf, Indian and Pacific Oceans, which included visits to Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines and Russia, and her work in assembling environmental and bathometric data. HMS Echo had now returned to the UK for routine maintenance and we also learnt how this is delivered under a PFI type arrangement with the ship-builders which guarantees a minimum number of days at sea – or otherwise payment of hefty compensation!

Following an excellent buffet lunch on the Bridge, where we had an opportunity to meet all the Officers, there was a chance to tour the ship and see the crew at work with most realistic exercises in fire fighting and man overboard drill as well as a presentation on how they undertake surveys of the seabed and even three dimensional photographs of wrecks and other unusual features. Sadly the tides and the on-going maintenance prevented us from going to sea but we were assured that the revolutionary azimuth propeller system ensured she can 'turn on a sixpence' and that the Captain's parking skills were legendary!

The ship's company all endorsed the value of the link with our Company and although HMS Echo's duties in far flung parts of the world prevent us from more opportunities like this to meet there is no doubt that our involvement 'makes a difference'.

David Larkin Senior Warden



HMS Echo

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Inter-Livery tennis tournament is an annual event organised by The Feltmakers' Company and held at the Queens Club. Sixteen livery companies took part at this year's competition which, thanks to unexpectedly fine weather on the day, was played entirely outdoors on clay. The Company's team comprised liverymen Gordon Edington and Laurence Johnstone with their partners Paula Edmunds and Kate Clark.

Gordon and Paula were defending the Plate which they had won in 2006 - this year they were runners up to the Leathersellers whom they had defeated in the finals last year.

Laurence and Kate reached the quarter finals of the Plate but in that round succumbed to the Grocers' Company. Liverymen interested in representing the Company at next years' competition are urged to contact Laurence Johnstone on **laurence.johnstone@eu.jll.com**

Liveryman Laurence Johnstone

INTER-LIVERY CLAY SHOOT

Wednesday 23 May saw seven experienced shooters and myself arrive at Holland & Holland's extremely impressive shooting ground in north west London for the annual Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon massacre in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

The day started warm and sunny and it was then I regretted asking Past Master Brian Lamden about an appropriate dress code for the day. The cotton twill shirt, tie, Barbour jumper and trousers were going to be a little hot! Given Brian arrived in a pair of shorts and short sleeved shirt I cannot help feel he was having some fun at my expense!

We fielded two teams for the competition which took place over 10 stands of 8 birds each and a huge flurry. It was all very efficiently run by Holland & Holland and there was little delay for the 94 teams who took part. Breakfast and lunch were the usual filling fayre with two spit roasted pigs looking pretty sorry for themselves by the time we had all finished.

Although none of us stayed for the prize giving, our first team finished an impressive 16th with the second team, dragged down by me, still managing 59th. Assistant Digby Flower took the top gun award from our teams with 63 out of 80 and finished joint 11th.

Assistant Ken Morgan



Our Inter-Livery Tennis Team : Laurence Johnstone, Kate Clark, Paula Edmunds and Gordon Edington



Some of our members at The Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot

LADIES LUNCH

The Company has for some time been concerned that so few partners of liverymen attend livery functions and that those who do attend do not know each other and sometimes are reluctant to circulate. With this in mind on 28th Feb the Master's Lady, Penny Rankin, hosted the Company's first event for the wives and widows of liverymen plus female liverymen. Before lunch a group of 16 ladies enjoyed a private visit up the Clock Tower of the Houses of Parliament to see the Great Clock and Big Ben itself. With ear plugs in place they watched noon being struck at very close quarters.

39 ladies attended the lunch at St. Stephen`s Club which was an excellent venue close to Westminster. The meal was delicious and those who attended were extremely enthusiastic about the occasion. They welcomed the opportunity to meet others and appeared keen to attend more livery events. Not only was there enthusiasm for another such event but it is hoped that this enthusiasm may spill over into increased participation at our other functions throughout the year when partners are welcome. Many highlighted the problem that notices of company activities were sent to their partner's offices and were sometimes not brought home for consideration.

After lunch a further party of 14 made an afternoon visit to Big Ben though I think the climb up those 364 steps would have been much harder after a good lunch and excellent wines! I am delighted that Jackie Larkin has already indicated that she plans to host a similar lunch next year in May.

Assistant Jenna Davies

THE COURT AND COMMITTEES 2007-2008

THE COURT

David Larkin - Master
Simon Kolesar - Senior Warden
Laurence Johnstone - Junior Warden
Richard Cotton - Immediate Past Master
George Gillon - Past Master
Ted Hartill OBE - Past Master
Terry Knight - Past Master
Brian Lamden - Past Master
Alderman & Sheriff Michael Bear
Robert Bould
James Bryer
Daniel Carter
Graham Chase
Jenna Davies
Elizabeth Edwards
Digby Flower
William Hill
Mark Larard
Ken Morgan
Duncan Preston
Roger Southam
Mickola Wilson
John Woodman

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Simon Kolesar (Senior Warden & Chairman)
Laurence Johnstone (Junior Warden & Vice Chairman)
David Larkin (Master)
Richard Cotton (Immediate Past Master)
William Hill
Duncan Preston

Elections Committee

Laurence Johnstone (Chairman & Junior Warden)
David Larkin (Master)
Simon Kolesar (Senior Warden)
Richard Cotton (Immediate Past Master)
James Bryer
John Woodman
Graham Chase

Charitable Board

Robert Bould (Chairman)
Daniel Carter (Vice Chairman)
David Larkin (Master)
Simon Kolesar (Senior Warden)
Mark Farris
Mark Larard
Bob Dyson
Simon Waugh
Kevin Mason
Andrew Martin
Gerardine Davies

Seminar Committee

John Woodman (Chairman)
William Hill (Vice Chairman)
Simon Kolesar (Senior Warden)
Ken Morgan
James Bryer
Frederick Hargreaves
Roger Southam
David Thompson

Membership and Communications Committee

Mickola Wilson (Chairman)
Jenna Davies (Vice-Chairman)
David Larkin (Master)
Simon Kolesar (Senior Warden)
Rachel Jaques
David Mann
Ken Morgan
Janie Strange
Roger Watts
Neil Cleverton

Chartered Surveyors Training Trust

Roger Southam (Chairman)
William Hill

Education Committee

Elizabeth Edwards (Chairman)
Duncan Preston (Vice-Chairman)
David Larkin (Master)
Richard Carter
Simon Jacklin
Richard Blake
David Reynolds
Christina Banbury
Mark Williams

Property Marketing Awards

Ken Morgan (Chairman)
Digby Flower (Vice-Chairman)
Colin Peacock
Michael Baker
Chris Dymond
Bob Dyson
James Bowdidge
Philip Brown
Richard Kent
John Williams
Chris Goldthorpe
Richard Lanyon
Sven Topel
Rupert Dodson

From the Master Elect

"I am truly honoured to be elected as your Master and promise evolution - not revolution"


David Larkin

Sitting at my desk here in London on a cold and grey showery August day I cannot but be immensely excited about the future as I ruminate on what the period up until mid October 2008 might hold. From all my discussions with Past Masters it seems that I can look forward to a really fascinating year with the opportunity to really add to my knowledge about the City and other Livery Companies, the opportunity to continue the process, so ably set in train by my predecessors, of modernising and challenging all the Company does, the deep rewards of seeing first hand all the Company's activities, particularly its charitable and educational initiatives, and, most of all, the fellowship and opportunity to meet and get to know better as many Liverymen as possible. I am also told it's hard work with all those dinners, receptions and other occasions to attend. Bring it on!!

In many ways I consider my career to date to be a rehearsal for this and I will draw upon my experience as Chairman of LionHeart, Chairman of RICS Central London Branch and member of RICS General Council, and way back the Junior Organisation, as well as nearly thirty years with one of the large surveying practices with time spent in the City, West End, Canary Wharf and internationally.

I also have a deep interest in charitable work and education having also been involved with activities in these areas.

It is clearly agreed within the Court that the Company has a well articulated long term vision and strategy and that the management process is one of evolution not revolution. This sits well with me as one of the great delights to me of all the Livery Companies is their tradition and history, their role, both in the past and in the modern era, and their close association with the City of London. However for me this is coupled with an ever present quest to be the best, or 'top of the class', associated with a key motto which is that the Company can really make a difference in all that it does and by way of reciprocation, Liverymen can enjoy that difference at a personal level too. Examples of this include the work we do with the four Central London schools, the Christchurch Gardens Community Centre and the Chartered Surveyors' Training Trust. These are initiatives where I am confident the Company ' makes a difference.

At a personal level there is the opportunity to visit some amazing places not normally available, to put something back into the community and to meet and, yes, even network with colleagues from diverse backgrounds in some unique surroundings. I am conscious that the Company has acquired a high profile and seemingly a reputation of punching above our weight; I am committed to this continuing but at the same time perhaps closing some of the gaps that exist between modern Companies such as ours with some of the older Companies to our mutual benefit.

I am sure there is a lot we can offer each other and this seems unexplored territory for other Companies.

One new opportunity to 'make a difference' is our newly established role of Livery Liaisor where we are seeking someone with an interest in children and education coupled with lots of enthusiasm, to take on the task of helping to manage and build the Company's relationship with one of the Company's adopted schools. This will be an immensely rewarding opportunity and more information is available from Liz Edwards, Chair of the Education Committee.

One clear message is the desire of many Liverymen to be involved and I will address this during my year. At the same time it is essential to offer the mix of traditional and one-off events and visits that are such a hall mark of our Company. I hope the programme will offer something of interest for everyone but consistent with my theme, there are some minor changes too. The string quartet competition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama is replaced by a jazz competition with the audience participating in the judging and next summer we are deserting the City of London and holding a dinner in Edinburgh specifically for our Scottish Liverymen and their guests.

Experience suggests that the enjoyment and personal reward of being involved with the Livery is directly related to the quality of input so if you have a concern or want something else please communicate.
As they say – my door is always open!

Following on from Richard Cotton will be tough act as he has had a most successful year. The Company is in good financial health and sprits are high and Richard has done a lot to spread the word of the Company in the broader property market and lead from the front in initiatives such as the Bursary Scheme. Richard has been ably supported by Penny who has not only hugely assisted in the Company visiting the Houses of Parliament and Highgrove etc., but also presided over the inaugural Ladies' Lunch, starting a tradition that my wife, Jackie, will continue in 2008.

I hope you will be able to participate in a variety of ways and am looking forward to seeing as many as possible over the year; in return I promise to serve the Company to the very best of my ability as I fully recognise, and am humbled by, the huge honour and responsibility bestowed upon me.

David Larkin, Master Elect

Events

Some notes for your diary & to book early

Tuesday 16th October 2007
Installation Dinner - Goldsmiths' Hall

Friday 26th October 2007
Visit to Poundbury, Dorchester

Monday 26th November 2007
Vinum Exhilarat
Wine tasting and Supper - Vintner's Hall

Thursday 13th December 2007
Carol Service - St. Lawrence Jewry

5th - 7th February 2008
Focus on the Changing City Seminar

Monday 18th February 2008
Livery Visit Supper - Fleming Gallery

Monday 3rd March 2008
Easter Court Spring Livery Dinner

Wednesday 16th April 2008
Property Marketing Awards

Monday 28th April 2008
Inter Livery Swimathon

Wednesday 7th May 2008
Ladies Lunch & Tour - Geffrye Museum

Wednesday 14th May 2008
Jazz Competition - GSMD

21st - 23rd May 2008
Livery Wine Tour - Bordeaux

June 2008
Scottish Dinner - New Club, Edinburgh

Monday 30th June 2008
Livery Sailing Day

Wednesday 2nd July 2008
Court Luncheon

5th and 6th September 2008
Goodwood Revival Meeting

Friday 19th September 2008
Livery visit - Chapel Down winery, Tenterden