

Spring Court Dinner

Painters' Hall

5th March 2020



Master Rick Alford was delighted to host so many Liverymen, Freeman, Masters, Clerks and guests at Painters' Hall in March.

In the Court meeting the Master was pleased to Admit Leighton King and Ronnie Welch as Freeman of the Company. Congratulations and welcome to both of you.



Leighton King and Ronnie Welch

Also present were two of our three Military Affiliation Award recipients: Private Oliver Coles from 20 Transport Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps and WO1 (Aircraft Handler) Bob Holborn from the Royal Naval School of Flight Deck Operations.

Major Richard Habbershaw presented the Company with superb framed embroidered twin ensign bearing the Badge of 20 Transport Squadron RLC and the WCHCD Coat of Arms.



At dinner we were fortunate to be joined by not one, but two guest speakers; His Excellency Robert Wood Johnson The Ambassador of the United States of America and entrepreneur, author and TV presenter, Alison Cork. "Woody" spoke of his admiration for the Hackney Carriage trade while Alison was pleased to report that she was in fact the Granddaughter of a Hackney Carriage driver.



Alison Cork, Maggie Alford, "Woody" Johnson, Rick Alford



l to r: Steve Plumb, Master Environmental Cleaner - Barrie Torbett, Wendy Sorrell, Dave Cannell, Alison Cork, "Woody" Johnson, Rick Alford, Maggie Alford, Mick Cullen & Belinda Tregear.

The Master's Speech in Full



Your Excellency, Prime Warden, Masters, Wardens, honoured guests; thank you all for joining me here tonight at our Master and Clerks dinner. Thank you Master Painter Stainer for allowing us to use your magnificent hall this evening.

At the reception earlier Master Barrie Torbett of the Environmental Cleaners presented me with a cheque for our Magical Taxi Tour which I shall pass on to the treasurer after the dinner.

At tonight's dinner we have many Masters of Companies that are generous sponsors of our annual trip to Disneyland Paris and the CEO of the London Electric Vehicle Company who are also one of our many sponsors. I would like to thank them all for their continued support from myself, our Company and all the children that go on the trip.

We have 21 visiting Masters here tonight, and if I read all there biographies we shall still be here for breakfast, so I have taken snippets from each of them, hopefully you will recognise yourself

We have one who is the 4th generation Master. We have Masters that have been at universities from Edinburgh to Durham in the north; to Southampton in the south; to Belfast in the West, and many in between.

We have one who was Ambassador to Budapest, a past Lord Mayor of Westminster, a Commodore, Majors, Captains, and a Professor. There are Masters with OBEs, MBEs, CBEs, and a QC.

We have many, as you can imagine, from the banking and financial world - including

owning a safe deposit company; as well as from the world of IT and computing, including IBM. There are some who are lawyers, engineers and an ex-Senior Police Officer from Scotland Yard, a Judge who has served at the Old Bailey, one who supplies world famous Royal Brierly Crystal to the Queen and yet another who helped to row the Royal Barge "Gloriana" and owns River Thames sightseeing Boats.

There is one who looks after our meat, fish, and vegetable markets - which brings me to the one common denominator, most Masters admit to enjoying good food and wine, one even referring to himself as a "trencherman". Hopefully this is the right gig for them.

At the other end of the scale we have one who makes a living cleaning toilets!

Onto hobbies; we have one who enjoys dressmaking, we have car enthusiasts, horse racing enthusiasts - including owning the leg of a horse - and another who enjoys nurturing pigs.

We have masters who play real tennis, cricket, running, clay pigeon shooting, fly fishing, deer stalking, flying and gliding. Some who enjoy rugby, and many golfers - some saying they play erratically - and many dog walkers, but the one I take my hat off to is the Master into freefall parachuting.

We have many that enjoy music, theatre, and opera, including one that has seen over 330 different operas.

Many of you have a passion for holidays and travelling, including one who is slowly making his way along the Silk Road (is there any other way?). Welcome to you all.

Now a short mention regarding our military affiliation.

I must thank Lieutenant Commander Billy Benton and Major Richie Habbershaw who have both shown our Company such a warm welcome at their respective barracks. Unfortunately, they are both being deployed elsewhere in the next couple of months and I would like to wish them all the best for their future careers.

Tonight's guest speakers (we have two this evening); firstly, we have Alison Cork.

Alison has quite a varied background. After leaving Newnham College, Cambridge, where she studied classics, she has gone on to become an entrepreneur, a home style guru, has been in journalism, publishing and TV broadcasting, and is always in the weekend newspapers.....that I read.

But most importantly living in the west London near to a posh hotel Alison uses the taxi rank there, and is a regular taxi user so therefore a good friend of our trade, welcome Alison.

Our next guest speaker is the American ambassador His Excellency, Mr. Robert Wood Johnson.

“Woody” was sworn in as the American Ambassador in August 2017. I first met Woody last summer when he invited over 100 taxi drivers from different trade organisations and charities to his home at Westfield House for afternoon tea. While there, we were chatting and I asked if he had ever been to a Livery dinner which he said he hadn’t, so thankfully he has joined us here tonight.

“Woody” is quite a sports fan, being the owner of the New York Jets, and has court-side seats for the New York Nicks.

He set up a foundation for the Alliance for Lupus Research, just one of his many charitable causes.

Before we left his house, we had a group photo with 3 of the new electric taxis. He told me that all his staff use London taxis, which also makes him a good friend of our trade. “Woody”, welcome to our dinner this evening. 🚗

Award Recipients & Citations

20 TPT SQN ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS



30196696
Private Oliver Coles joined the British Army in September 2013 and attended his basic training at the Army Training Centre, Pirbright. On completion of his basic training he went

to the Defence School of Transport, Leconfield to complete his trade training. This saw him qualify as a Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) Driver, leaving training with B, C, C+E licences.

After completing his trade training Pte Coles was assigned to 4 Regiment RLC, 33 Squadron in Abingdon. Within the early stages of his assignment Pte Coles Deployed to Canada on Exercise Prairie Storm where he undertook multiple stages of training in order to enhance the resupply for his Battle Group. In 2016 Pte Coles, who is extremely fit, enthusiastic and thrives at any opportunity to enhance his capabilities, attended his Rock-Climbing Foundation and Pool Life-Guard courses in Aldershot. In 2017, Pte Coles furthered his qualifications by attending and successfully completing the Physical Training Instructors course.

Using his qualification and knowledge Pte Coles conducted Physical Training for his Squadron and provided essential nutritional and dietary information to all members of his Sqn.

In August 2018, Pte Coles was assigned to 20 Transport Squadron RLC, Bravo Troop, whose role is to provide transport solutions to the Royal Household and all London District units. He regularly undertakes tasks in order to support all ceremonial activities, this role also includes transporting high-ranking dignitaries throughout Central London. Pte Coles is highly trusted to drive Senior Members of Parliament and visiting Foreign Generals during their UK State visits to London.

Pte Coles has made a very positive impact to the Squadron in a short period of time. He is highly professional, smart and reliable enabling him to stand out of the crowd, his ability in trade is of the highest standard and with little guidance Pte Coles always continues to find the best results and build his trade knowledge. He has proven himself to be adaptable, tackling high profile tasks or more routine activity with equal ease. Pte Coles is always willing to assist in helping others and go that extra step, as shown when using his own time to help run the local Army Cadet Force drill nights within Regent’s Park Barracks.

Pte Coles has excelled over the last year in the Squadron, proving to be a beneficial asset to both the Squadron and the RLC. Pte Coles is an extremely well-respected Soldier by all his peers and the Chain of Command. 30196696 Private Coles is therefore nominated to receive the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers’ Award for Professional Excellence 2020 🚗

ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL OF FLIGHT DECK OPERATIONS



Warrant Officer
1st Class
(Aircraft
Handler) Robert
‘Bob’ Holborn is
the epitome of
military
discipline and
professionalism.
His 38 years’
Service has seen
him employed in
a variety of front-
line roles and
second line

support positions. Regardless of where he

serves, he consistently leads from the front and delivers excellence.

His knowledge and experience are unrivalled, and he is my first point of call for Aircraft Handling SME advice. He has served as Aircraft Handler advisor to Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST), responsible for ensuring the teams on all Royal Navy aviation capable platforms are trained, proficient and ultimately safe to operate in the most demanding of situations.

He also spent a very rewarding period of his career as the Phase 2 Training Warrant Officer where he was responsible for the Divisional management and duty of care for the new Aircraft Handler recruits under training, some of whom were U18s. This involved scrutiny of the Captain's Supervisory Care Directive to ensure compliance ahead of numerous audits and assurance visits including Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) and Ofsted inspections.

Most recently he was the Department Co-ordinator (DEPCO) in HMS Queen Elizabeth where his experience was utilised in the development of the ship's routines as it was newly commissioned into the Royal Navy. His successes, and that of the entire ship's company, were televised on the program Britain's Biggest Warship which followed the build, development and maiden voyage of HMS Queen Elizabeth. This included the embarkation of the F35 Lightning Aircraft conducting the First of Class flying trials. This ship is a milestone in the history of the Royal Navy and WO Holborn was a key component in ensuring the aviation capability of this ship was ready to deploy and deliver anywhere in the world to protect our nation's interests.

WO Holborn's expertise was individually requested to join a team from Navy Command to conduct a trial in the USA. The trial was looking at the development of course material to train personnel from the United States Marine Corps to be safe to operate on the Flight Deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth ahead of their embarkation. This personal request for WO Holborn from Navy Command is a clear indication of the confidence and trust the Royal Navy has in his ability.

WO Holborn conducts himself impeccably and sets the bar for others to aspire. He is an incredibly thoughtful and caring man and manages his subordinates with a light touch; allowing them enough room to grow and develop as professionals whilst remaining available as their steadfast mentor when required. This has created a

highly capable and motivated team who deliver excellent results.

Unwavering loyalty, exceptional values and standards and an enviable reputation that has been forged throughout a career inundated with notable highlights that have influenced the way we operate today. Warrant Officer 1st Class (Aircraft Handler) Robert 'Bob' Holborn fully merits the strongest recommendation for the WCHCD Award for Professional Excellence. 🚗

Keep On Running

WCHCD members and supporters have been busy in recent months with two events to showcase the fitness of some from within our ranks.

Tuesday 25 February (Shrove Tuesday) saw runners form up in Guildhall Yard for the **Annual Inter-Livery Pancake Race**. Court Assistant Leigh Dargan was Chef de Mission of the WCHCD runners. Court Assistant Silvi Oliveira made the finals.



Mick, Rick, Belinda, Silvi, Lorenzo, Leigh and Hannah prepare for the off.



John, Hannah and Lorenzo in action.

Leigh and her team were back in action on Saturday 29 February at the **Run Through Lee Valley Velo Park**. The inclement weather wasn't enough to deter these hardy athletes, and all enjoyed the event and the social afterwards. 🚗

WCHCD at RNAS Culdrose



In February, The Master was joined by Upper Warden Mick Cullen, Clerk Belinda Tregear and Military Liaison Asst Dan Heath at RNAS Culdrose, Cornwall, the WCHCDs first visit to our new Royal Navy Affiliation, the Royal Naval School of Flight Deck Operations where they were generously hosted by Lt Cdr Billy Benton, pictured left.

After the Master had assisted in presenting awards at the Passing In Parade we were treated to a demonstration of some of the skills the new recruits would be deploying, including tackling a simulation of a burning helicopter.



At the following reception the new affiliation was marked with a celebratory cake. 🚗



Christmas Past



Christmas 2019 seems like a long time ago but it won't be forgotten by the Master, Warden and Clerk who attended the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great. We are grateful to the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers for arranging the service and meal afterwards at the newly reopened Butcher's Hall. The WCHCD were joined in an upstairs dining room by the Farmers who threw themselves into the singing of the 12 days of Christmas with great enthusiasm.



Some of the WCHCD after dinner

This service format is used in Churches the length and breadth of the Country and is particularly well-known for being broadcast from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Day; but many people don't know it originates from Truro.

In 1880 Truro Cathedral was undergoing extensive refurbishment and services were being held in a temporary wooden building. The Right Rev. Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro, was concerned at the dwindling attendance at Church and excessive alcohol consumption during the festive season. He wanted a service that would encourage more people to join his congregation.

Enlisting the help of his father, an enthusiastic collector of old Church music and service sheets, they brought together carols and lessons which would work in harmony as a service. This was a great success and when Benson moved on to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883 he took the service with him. Roll the clock forward to 1918 and the Rev. Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge, needed a way to mark Christmas in a manner fitting with a Country still recovering from the effects of WW2. This service fitted the bill perfectly and quickly became an annual feature of the College's calendar. 🚗

Are you in the Club?

Along with Fellowship and Education, one of the cornerstones of the Livery movement is Charity.

One of the main charitable causes that the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers supports is the annual Children's Magical Taxi Tour. We also support trade charities, to mention a few: donations to the Widows of the City of London Police; the East London Cabbies Outing; the Military Veterans Trade Charity; our military affiliations, and the Royal Docks Academy.

As a member of the WCHCD you may wish to consider joining the **104 Charity Draw Club**, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk if you are interested in taking part in the quarterly draw as it is an important way of raising charitable funds. All monies raised support the WCHCD Charitable Trust

The 104 Charity Club Draw is drawn quarterly (March; June; September and December) and it costs £15 a quarter (paid by standing order) to take part (or have one share in the Draw).

30% of funds paid will go to prizes, the balance going to charity funds. The prize money is divided into 50% for first prize, 30% for second prize and 20% for third prize. The actual amount of each prize will depend on the number of those participating in the Draw and the number of shares sold. In the September 2019 draw, the first prize winner won £310.00; 2nd prize winner won £186.00; 3rd prize winner won £124.00.

104 Draw Christmas Gift cards are available if you would like membership of the 104 Club for a family member or friend as a Christmas present, or they may wish to join themselves and, of course, Liverymen and Freemen are always welcome to join.

Please contact the Clerk for further information: 🚗

Company Events 2020 subject to Coronavirus advice

13 May 2020	Election Court Lunch (Court Members Only)
19 June 2020	Founders' Day Lunch
10 Sept. 2020	Installation Court & Dinner
2 Oct. 2020	Disney Trip Departs
11 Nov. 2020	Court & Livery Dinner
15 December	Carol Service and Supper

City Events

24 June 2020	Election of the Sheriffs
14 November 2020	Lord Mayor's Show

Got a Story?

Email The Dashboard at
wchcdashboard@outlook.com

Putting on Foul

Deputy Master, Dave Cannell, takes a brief look at the history of

The Beadle & The Clerk



The Beadle and the Clerk are two of the most important positions in any of the 110 Livery Companies of the City of London. The word Beadle is derived from the Latin "bidellus" or "bedellus" and is sometimes spelt "bedel" which comes from the word for "herald". Originally an official in Roman temples, the position has developed over many centuries into the ceremonial role that the modern-day Beadle has today.

There are really four types of Beadle. Parish Beadles (Church Wardens) with duties to the local Parishes. Ward Beadles who were employed in each of the 25 City Wards and answered to the Aldermen and Aldermanic Court (Common Council). Secular buildings would also employ Beadles and some of these can still be seen today around the City in buildings such as the Bank of England, The Royal Exchange and Lloyds to name just a few. Then there are the Beadles of the Livery Companies.

All Beadles would have the responsibility for discipline amongst their various charges, i.e. Parish Beadles would have the power to impose fines and levies. Ward Beadles powers were even more far reaching and included cleanliness and maintenance of the streets, the Night Watch (the fore runners of the police), and the power to evict rogues, thieves and undesirables from the area to name but a few of their duties. Beadles in secular buildings acted as a guard, having the same powers as other Beadles, keeping undesirables out, making sure a dress code was adhered to, maintaining the smooth running of the building, and ensuring riotous behaviour was not tolerated. Livery Company Beadles powers

were basically the same but practiced within their Company.

By the 12th Century the Livery Companies were forming to protect their trades within the City walls, (although some Companies can trace their heritage back much earlier, for instance the Butchers 975 AD). As Companies established themselves Beadles were employed or appointed to act as a factotum between the Master, Wardens, Court Members and the Livery. The Beadles would be issued with a staff of office; this would have been used to enforce discipline and to protect the Master. The staff of office would normally have been quite tall and would have been used as a rallying point in Common Hall (Great Hall or Guild Hall) before the days when Companies had their own halls. The Livery Beadles other duties would have included keeping discipline within the Company and recruiting potential apprentices to join and progress through their chosen trade. Their duties were far reaching, and more requirements were placed on the Beadle including recording all the details of their Company's members, properties, transactions, and just about everything that the Company was involved in.

Around the late 14th Century the Livery Companies started to employ a fit and proper person to the position of "Clerk", to keep records. At this time in their history the Liveries had purchased vast amounts of property, land and wealth, everything needed to be recorded. Companies had a responsibility to its members in life and death. Therefore, records had to be kept on members in alms houses, church services including funerals, rents collected and all transactions. Some of the best examples of the amount of records needed can be seen in the Grocers' Company. In 1460 their books were said to have been in excellent condition and for this the Clerk was paid the princely sum of £6 13s 4d (about £6.78p). Some Companies have a mention of a Clerk even earlier, the Brewers' record the death of their clerk, a Mr John Morey in 1418. At this time the Livery was a tight-knit community and both the Beadle and Clerk would have had residence within the Company's most prestigious property known as the Livery Hall. So now we have the Beadle acting as the right-hand man to the Master, but the recording and reference duties being taken over by the Clerk. The Clerk however had many other duties; these included the discreet depository of the Company's secrets, all transactions and securities connected to

their properties. Privileges associated with the Livery and the keeping of the Company's common seal were also entrusted to the Clerk. As Guardian of the Muniment Room or (document room), all books and records were registered to the Clerk.

By the early 18th Century the Livery Companies had, for various reasons, fallen into decline. Trades had relocated outside the City walls and Charters had been revoked. By 1709 the Liveries had ceased to recruit and receive privileges. It is recorded that only 48 Companies were still active, although there were 77 registered.

In 1926 the Livery was rejuvenated with the formation of the Master Mariners, number 78 in the order of precedence. This was the start of the modern companies, and a by-law states that the new Companies must be incorporated in their trade, unlike the old trades. Today the Livery numbers 110 Companies, with more trades looking to gain Charters. At present there are at least three trades in the process of gaining Livery status.

Today the Beadle retains the stewardship of the company and, in some cases, this includes management of the Company Hall. The Beadle is still responsible for discipline within the Company and also advises on matters of protocol, this is done in collaboration with the Clerk. The office of Beadle has become mainly ceremonial. He has to ensure all functions run with the proper decorum, and that the proper regalia and treasures are available and in place. The Beadle will also attend the Master and Wardens on all proper occasions and assist the company as toastmaster at many of its functions.

The Clerks' duties however have changed very little and have an importance of being the Chief Operating Officer of the Company. They are responsible for keeping the Company diary, selecting suitable venues for Company meetings and escorting the Master on many of his or her civic duties and livery events.

From this brief history we can see the importance of the Beadle and Clerk in ensuring the smooth running of the Company and all due respect should be paid to the holders of these positions both past and present.

Acknowledgements: Mr Ted Hall Beadle to the Worshipful Company of Skinners (ret'd) & The History of the Great Twelve by Mr William Herbert. 🚗



The Clerk's Office

Please contact the Clerk, Belinda Tregear for further information on anything in this Newsletter: clerk@hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com