

When the WCHCD last met, on 5 March 2020, avoidance of shaking hands was becoming de rigueur and there was a bit of a run on hand sanitiser.

No-one could have foreseen how quickly, and widely, this thing called Covid-19 would spread.

Its impact has been felt throughout every aspect of the trade and the Master, Wardens and Court would like to send all of you their very best wishes at this difficult time.

If there is any way in which we can help, please contact us at admin@thewchcd.co.uk

Installation Luncheon Bakers' Hall 10 September 2020



l to r: Mick Cullen (Upper Warden); Wendy Sorrell (Lower Warden); Steve Plumb (Renter Warden); Rick Alford (Master); Dave Cannell (Deputy Master)

Despite the present restriction an opportunity to meet at Bakers' Hall presented itself in September and the Court were called together for what would have been the usual Installation Court Meeting, followed by luncheon.

The Master and Wardens will remain in Office for a second year, in the hope that things pick up in the spring, almost where they left off. There was plenty of other business to attend to.

First up was to appoint Liveryman Steven Bates as an Assistant to this Court.



This was followed by Daniel Cross being admitted to the Freedom of the Company.



The Luncheon followed, where we were extremely well catered for by friend of the WCHCD, Mark Grove and his team from The Cook & The Butler. Thanks to Mark and his team and all the staff at Bakers' Hall for making us feel welcome and comfortable in the C-19 compliant settings. We would be back later in the month for the Cab Guide Course Awards Luncheon, news of which follows later.

Thanks also go to all who came along to support the event and make it something to remember. 🚗

A Message From The Master

Dear Liveryman and Freeman,

Hopefully you have been keeping safe and well during the summer.

Since the redundancy of our Clerk things have settled down and most of her duties have been devolved between volunteers and committee chairman.

We finally finished the February guide course and managed to have a small presentation lunch for the students. The new September course is now under way and hopefully will be finished on time despite the challenges that Covid-19 is presenting.

The students at our affiliation with the Royal Docks School had fantastic results this year and the school is improving each year. The new headteacher is slowly turning the school around.

Our military affiliations are ongoing, and we will let you know when things get back to normal.

If you need to contact us the company phone number is the same and to send an email use admin@thewchcd.co.uk

As soon as we are allowed to hold events again, we will be in touch.

Until then, stay safe and well.

Kind Regards,

Rick.

Times of change at The WCHCD

On 1 July this year the Master wrote to all Liverymen and Freeman informing them of a significant change in the WCHCD, the difficult decision to make the position of Clerk redundant.

Since then the duties of the Clerk have been devolved and “farmed out” to other members of the WCHCD. We’re grateful to the Master and his team of helpers for stepping up to take on these duties.

There are some new email addresses that members should be aware of:

Administrative matters can be sent to admin@thewchcd.co.uk

Information relating to the Cab Guide Course can be sent to cabguidecourse@thewchcd.co.uk

Anything relating to social media or the WCHCD website should go to communications@thewchcd.co.uk

Please ensure you save these email addresses to your email address book to avoid messages being diverted to your junk folder 🚗

New WCHCD Website

We’re pleased to announce the launch of the new WCHCD Website www.thewchcd.co.uk

This has been put together by the PR Committee in conjunction with Rob Sorrell and should now be your first port of call for all news relating to the WCHCD.

Please do go to the website and have a good look around, there’s lots of items of news, new and old, to have a look at.

There is also a members’ section and details of how to log-in to that will be circulated separately.

Any comments or items for inclusion can be emailed to PR Committee Chairman, Dan Heath, communications@thewchcd.co.uk



We have also launched a **new Instagram feed**. You can follow us by searching for **thewchcd** or click this link

<https://www.instagram.com/thewchcd/?hl=en>



And a **YouTube Channel**, for which video submissions are always welcome and may be on any topic of interest:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpJDvkOCNg4LhdSwd2fqBQA> 🚗

The WCHCD response to The City of London's 'Transport Strategy'

In August, a newsletter was circulated containing a letter from the Master urging all members of the WCHCD to support our work in challenging The City of London's 'Transport Strategy' and local Council road closures.

Past Masters Colin Evans, Alan Roughan and Dave Cannell have been working tirelessly to raise awareness of the impact the new restrictions are having on the Taxi trade.

The WCHCD cannot be seen to be making political manoeuvres or statements, but we are able to give our backing to the trade from which we draw our members.

To date, the campaign has received support from MPs, members of the City of London Corporation, local Council representatives, disability groups and other Taxi trade organisations.

The campaign now needs your support to take it further. It is imperative that we all, as independent supporters of the trade, keep the pressure on those who make these decisions, asking them to review the logic which led them to believe closing streets to licensed Hackney Carriages, when they remain open for buses, is in the best interests of the public who they are elected to serve.

If you have already taken action, please keep going back to your local MP asking how things are progressing and ensuring they keep this issue in their sights.

If you haven't seen the newsletter, please click the link below and follow the links within it to the template letter and a website to find your local MP.

[https://mailchi.mp/84895cb6344a/wchcd-newsletter?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/84895cb6344a/wchcd-newsletter?e=[UNIQID]) 🚗

St George's Day Social

The Social Sub-Committee were pleased to announce at the last Court meeting that plans are under way for a riverboat cruise and dinner to celebrate St George's Day, to be held on Saturday 24 April 2021.

Please make a note of this date in your diaries. Further notice will be sent out when we are in a position to start accepting bookings. 🚗

Got a Story?

Email The Dashboard at communications@thewchcd.co.uk 🚗

Cab Guide Course Graduation Luncheon



It was all back to Bakers' Hall on Thursday 24 September for the Cab Guide Course Graduation Luncheon.

The Master was delighted to welcome 16 Graduates from the spring 2020 course, all of whom were presented with their certificates and badges.





Again, we were very well catered for by Mark Grove and his team from The Cook and The Butler with each table being named after Blue Book runs.



Congratulations to all those who graduated. Enjoy your guiding and we wish you every success.

They are:

Glen Fitzgerald	Derrick Douglas
Steve Creighton	Scott Exley
Lee Willmore	Eric Hollis
Tony Douglas	John Mitchell
Marc Yahchouchi	Terence Schuler
Jason Kirby	Russell Simmons
Steve Donnelly	Karen Teale
Tony Clarke	Chris Wheeler
Oliver Crane	John Mouzouros
Archie Doherty	Patric McGuinness

Military Affiliation Round-Up

During Lockdown our Military Affiliations have been busy keeping their usual roles going as well as being on hand to support the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

At 20 Tpt Sqn RLC, Major Mark Pasalk has been appointed as OC at Regent's Park Barracks in succession to Major Richard Haddershaw who has been a good supporter of the Squadron's links with the WCHCD.

It was encouraging to hear that Maj Pasalk is keen not only to keep the link strong but to look at ways in which we can increase interaction. As soon as circumstances allow, we will be looking at dates for the usual Quiz Night and Driving Skills Day as well as other joint endeavours.

At 504 (County of Nottingham) Sqn RAuxAF, our award recipient of 2020 SAC Gallop, was on deployment for our March dinner and was unable to receive his award. He has now returned to the UK after an extended period away due to C-19 and was due to commence regular service in October.

The Sqn has been busy acting as a Covid-19 Support Force and manning Mobile Testing Stations.

In Cornwall, at The Royal Naval School of Flight Deck Operations, Lt Cdr Billy Benton was due to move on to another Royal Navy role in late spring early summer but his term at RNAS Culdrose has now been extended to mid-November.

His team have likewise been supporting the fight against Covid-19, both locally and nationally but, meanwhile, he has also been trying to keep operations on an even keel at the training school with depleted manpower.

The inaugural joint RNSOFDO/WCHCD Inspire Award has now been presented and Billy tells us that the engraver has done a wonderful job of engraving the WCHCD crest onto the award.

What is clear from all the correspondence we receive is that the "Can Do" attitude, and ability to adapt and react under pressure, associated with Her Majesty's Armed Forces, remains a vital part of their capability to keep the nation safe in times of crisis. 🚗

Company Events 2021

All events subject to Coronavirus advice

4 March	Spring Court & Dinner
24 April	St George's Day Event
19 May	Election Court & Lunch (Court Members Only)
18 June	Founders' Day Lunch
9 September	Installation Court & Dinner
1 October	Disney Trip Departs
11 November	Court & Livery Dinner
4 December	Disney Gala Dinner
15 December	Carol Service and Supper

City Events 2021

16 February	City Pancake Race
26 March	Untied Guilds Service
23 June	Election of the Sheriffs
29 September	Election of the Lord Mayor
13 November	Lord Mayor's Show