

Trade Groups – a guide

Introduction

Livery companies have long formed alliances (and enmities!) with each other, often through a shared or similar trade (or conflict). In recent years some of these mutual interest groups have organized themselves into what are termed in this short paper as “Trade Groups”.

Examples

This list is not exhaustive, and many of these groups have an informal nature, with limited ambitions, and members who in some cases may dip in and out as they please.

- Cask group (drink industry)
- Construction
- Financial Services
- Food
- Leather
- Metal Bashers
- Textiles
- Wet 10 (water related)
- Wood

What do they do?

Each group sets its own agenda (or none) and membership. Some work hard to collectively promote their trade, whilst others are less active, or only come together for a specific purpose. The Food group only organise an annual lecture, whilst a Science group (now defunct) came together briefly with the specific purpose of producing a brochure, and then dissolved themselves. The Financial Services Group (FSG) and the Wet 10 (not only 10, but representing many companies who have an interest in water, including its use, eg Farmers and Gardeners) have their own websites (go to Useful Links menu tab)

Other points

There is no authority (and not the Livery Committee) that decides on these groupings – they are self selecting. If any livery perceives a common interest with another, then it is up to them to pursue it. Some groups are welcoming to new members, others less so. The list does not include bilateral pairings (eg Bowyers & Fletchers). One or two new groups have been mooted – military; paper related. Some companies may choose to be part of two groups.

List

To receive a list of all the groups, please email nrpullman@btinternet.com

Nigel R Pullman
Livery Committee

21st February 2015

Was this note helpful? Do you have comment? Email nrpullman@btinternet.com