

Chairman's Report to the Livery Committee
Wednesday 14th September 2016

I welcome Common Councilmen Christopher Hayward and Judith Pleasance to the Committee, along with Fiona Adler (Tobacco Pipe-Maker) and Andrew Marsden (Marketer) nominated by the Fellowship liveries. They replace respectively John Barker, Robert Howard, Raymond Blaber and Richard Lewis, to whom our thanks for their service and contribution. Deputy Richard Regan was elected Deputy Chairman at our June meeting in succession to Ian Seaton, to whom my thanks for his nearly three years service in that office. My congratulations also to Richard on his recent installation as Prime Warden of the Blacksmiths'.

This September meeting will mark the end of my third year as your chairman. Our constitution allows the chairman to serve for three years, or "in exceptional circumstances" a fourth year, if elected by a two thirds majority. *Exceptional circumstances* are not defined, but might include the continued suitability/contribution of the incumbent, the availability/experience on the Committee of a successor, the current "work in progress" of the Committee, and the need for the Livery Committee and its leadership to reflect the hard work and energy of the 110 livery companies. When Geoffrey Bond was re-elected for a fourth year in 2009 I believe the circumstances were a mixture of all of the above.

During my tenure as your chairman, I have endeavoured to communicate the work of the Committee and the contribution of the livery in a modern and effective way. Over the past three years the website has been created, and now incorporates the much improved Livery Companies Database; the re-vamped bi-monthly *Livery Briefing* has become an established newsletter, and readership is steadily growing; the programme of City Briefings and other courses has been modernised, and now includes the much respected After Dinner Speaking Course. In addition to other speaking engagements, I now regularly Tweet livery items (followed by most livery companies and many others), and respond promptly to the myriad enquiries I receive each week from masters, clerks and others about best livery practice and related matters.

But in all of this, the work is still in progress, and whilst succession plans are in place (other than for the *Livery Briefing*), I believe one further year will allow much to be completed, especially the work on phase 2 of the Database (Clubs & Guilds, referred to in my last report). Accordingly, it will be moved on 14th September that Exceptional Circumstances exist,

and assuming another candidate, a vote will be taken.

On other matters, following the success of last year's Committee dinner at Trinity House, the same venue was chosen for our dinner in June, and the feedback indicated another success. The guest of honour was the Town Clerk, who gave a well researched and relevant speech about the role of the livery. In welcoming our guests, I highlighted the many individuals who had been invited to recognise their work in organising some of the many inter livery events arranged every year, from pancake races to golf and clay shoots, and much else.

As all will be aware, the first weekend of September has marked the climax of the Great Fire 350 commemorations, and the centrepiece *London's Burning*, created by Artichoke, with founding sponsorship from the City of London. I was invited by Artichoke last year to join their Development Board to help raise the necessary finance. I am pleased to report that not only was their target achieved, but a third of all the livery companies made a financial contribution, totaling just a few hundred pounds short of a magnificent £100,000. Hence the involvement of the Livery in Great Fire 350 was fully acknowledged, including explicitly in the Radio 4 feature on the afternoon of 3rd September (*Great Fire 350*, at 3.30pm, now on iPlayer)

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Nigel R Pullman
Chairman

6th September 2016