



La Flèche

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers

A NEW YEAR - A NEW TEAM

On the 14th April, our Installation Court and Dinner took place - a full report of which will

be given later. The new team that takes over the running of the Company is David Wootton - Master, Des Clark - Upper Warden and Peter Scott - Renter Warden and we all wish them well in their year of office.

Not all the team has changed and we retain the services of Captain Michael Johnson RN as our

Learned Clerk but Past Master John Dumbrell has taken over the editorship of this newsletter. Elsewhere

in this edition is a list of those Liverymen serving on our committees and a list of our new Stewards.

Members of the Court

Assistants

Captain AM Poulter OBE, RN
Mr IKR MacLellan
Alderman BR Hall
Mrs VP Clarke

Deputy Master FA Neal CMG

Past Masters

JL Dumbrell
RH Upton
HR Vogt
CJ Brown
JR Fenner OBE

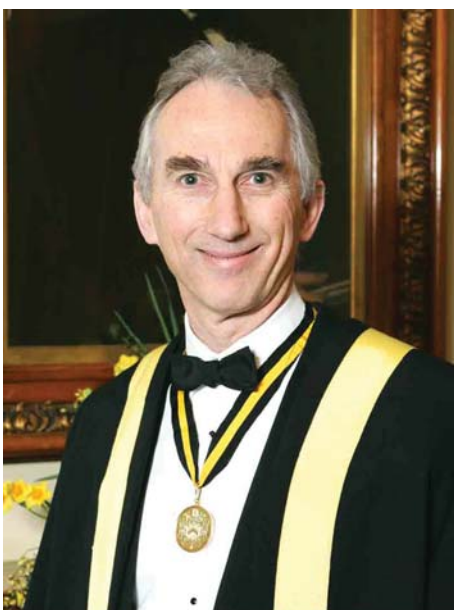
Other Past Masters retain their positions as Honorary Assistants



David Wootton CC - Master



Des Clark - Upper Warden



Peter Scott - Renter Warden



Captain Michael Johnson RN - Clerk

DAVID WOOTON CC - OUR NEW MASTER

An accomplished oarsman of many years' standing, our new Master combines a senior role in legal practice with an extensive involvement with the City's civic affairs. After his time at Bradford Grammar School, David read Classics and then Law at Jesus College Cambridge, but still found time to row in the College's First Boat.

After coming down in 1972, he became in 1973 an Articled Clerk with Allen & Overy, progressing to become an Assistant Solicitor in 1975, and a partner in 1979. His role there is as a corporate lawyer, covering boardroom advice and corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, and flotations. Not surprisingly, he is also a Livery man of the Solicitors' Company.

In his civic career, David became a Common Councilman in 2002, and has been Deputy Chairman of the Corporation's Finance Committee since 2003.

He is a member of the Policy and Resources Committee, the City and Bridge House Estates Committee, and also serves as a Governor of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the City of London School for Girls and the City Academy in Southwark, he is also on the board of the City Festival. David was elected to our Livery in 1993, on the invitation of past Master Pat MacLellan (not a person to be denied!) and joined our Court in 1999. His eldest daughter Alexandra became a Liveryman on 14th April of this year, and his younger daughter Sophie shows a great interest in the Company, and may (perhaps) be set fair to join our number. David also has two sons, James and Christopher.

Our new Master greatly values our longstanding relationship with the Worshipful Company of Bowyers and is also keen to continue the Company's association with HMS Southampton, RAF Northolt and The Fusiliers. The Lord Mayor told us at the last Ladies Banquet how much he values the association maintained by individual Liveries with their eponymous trades. In the case of the Fletchers, we

have recently become involved with quality control for traditional wooden arrows, but our new Master wonders how this might be taken further. Arrows were, of course, the medieval equivalent of the intercontinental ballistic missile, but it might, perhaps, not be too politically correct to enlarge our association with this area. However, fletchers create fleches i.e. flights, which are essential components of darts a la dartboard. David is working on this!

In his programme for his Master's year, our Master is keen to promote events that will attract younger members of our Livery, and also continue to develop relations with the Society of Young Freemen. At the same time, with his own civic and personal connections, he will be able to take us on a tour of the "hidden places" of Guildhall, and backstage at the Royal Opera House.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, are greatly looking forward to the joys and challenges of the Mastership and hope very much that Liverymen and Freemen will attend and enjoy as many events as they possibly can (the Weekend Away in Salzburg is already very well supported). The Fletchers' Company's civic, social and cultural programme is now at least five times greater than it was only a few decades ago - he hopes that we will support it, sustain it, and enjoy it! David greatly values his continued association with his old College, Jesus, and rows there, once a year, with gentlemen of his generation!. He is also Chairman of Trustees of the College's Boat Club Trust Fund. He also enjoys skiing, and opera at Covent Garden, Glyndeboume, and Garsington (and was recently reproved by Past Master Jeremy Garnett for appearing improperly dressed at a performance in Salzburg!).

Bob Roberts

THE CROOKED STICK

Company Members will need no introduction to Freeman Hugh Soar, a leading authority on archery history, and for many years a very active member of both the British Longbow Society and the Society of Archer-Antiquaries. Hugh's writings on the bow are legion, and his latest long and learned work, *The Crooked Stick*, has just been published by Westholme Publishing (Windsor Books International) price £13.33. (ISBN 1 594 16002 3). In it, Hugh details the history of the bow, its physical development, and its use (*inter alia*) as a weapon of mass destruction. That last phrase is used advisedly, since the longbow has been, for better or worse, a vastly more lethal instrument than the (slow-firing) musket or the (quite inaccurate at any distance!) pistol. But there are limitations. As a recent review of Hugh's book in *The Times* pointed out, it takes a vast amount of physical strength to bend an armour-piercing longbow with a 100lb. pull! Not quite the weapon Company members would use in our annual contest with the Bowyers' Company (unless provoked!).

MVR

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FLETCHERS PROGRAMME FOR THE LIVERY 2005-2006

14 April 05	l	Installation Court and Livery Dinner
15 May 05	*	Archery Training Perks Field (S)
19 May 05	g	Prince Arthur Cup Golf match
22 May 05	*	Shoot for disabled Burnham
08 June 05	*	Visit RAF Northolt
10 June 05	g	Match v Painter Stainers at the Dyke GC
24 June 05	l	Election of Sheriffs and luncheon at Hall *
05 July 05	+	Joint Shoot with Bowyers (S)
14 July 05	c	Court Meeting and Court Dinner at Hall
18 July 05	l	Visit to HMS Southampton at Portsmouth
20 July 05	g	Fletchers Golf day at Tandridge
05 Aug 05	g+	LOGVEC Golf day at Milford
08 Aug 05	9+	Fletchers v Founders Golf match at Swinley Forest
03 Sept 05	*	Fletchers' Day at Burnham (S)
08 Sept 05	l +	Joint Dinner with Bowyers
12 Sept 05		New Members' Reception (S)
15/18 Sept 05	*	Weekend away Salzburg (S)
29 Sept 05	l	Election of Lord Mayor and lunch at Hall
06 Oct 05	g	Fruiterers' Golf day at the Addington
14 Oct 05	* +	Court meeting, Thanksgiving service and luncheon. (S)
?? Oct 05		Visit Royal Opera House and Supper
12 Nov 05	* +	Lord Mayor's Show and lunch at Hall (F)
16 Dec 05	*	Fletchers Luncheon in the Hall (S)
18 Dec 05	*	Carol Service in St. Bartholomew the Great (F)
11 Jan 06	c +	Court meeting and Court Dinner in the Hall
01 Feb 06	l+	Ladies Banquet (S)
?? Mar 06	+	Visit Guildhall
31 Mar 06	l+	United Guilds Service in St. Paul's Cathedral and lunch
06 April 06	l+	Installation Court and Livery Dinner in the Hall

*l Livery, c Court, * Livery and Freemen, (F) = Families included, g Golf, + to be confirmed, (S) spouses included*

Young Liverymen

We have scheduled 3 informal social drinks evenings for the Younger Fletchers on 19th April, 16th June and 18th October. These are held in Betjeman's wine bar in Cloth Fair from 6.30pm.

We e-mail details of these dates to the Younger Fletchers group only i.e. not the whole Livery like the more organised events and so these are not generally widely publicised. We don't charge - people just pay what they consume on the night - and its normally a small group of about 6 to 8 of us.

These social evenings would be an excellent forum for anyone with children in their 20s who they wish to introduce to the Livery as it gives an opportunity to get to know the Younger Liverymen and Freemen in a relaxed atmosphere and ask any questions from a younger perspective.

Clare James

Stewards

The Court of Assistant has appointed Leslie Agutter, Bryn Aldridge, Bobby Johnson, Per-Olaf Larsson, John Leatherdale, Andrew McMillan, Diana MacLellan, Andrew Trapnell and Anne Sweeney as Stewards. They replace our three previous Stewards – Reg Fry, Stan Smart and Darren Upton who have given excellent service over the last few years. There will be more about the Stewards in the next issue.

New Liverymen

Unfortunately, technical problems have prevented including our new Liverymen in this issue and their pictures and mini biographies are being held over until the Autumn.

Editor

THE LADIES BANQUET

One of the highlights of the Fletchers' calendar is the Ladies' Banquet, which the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and their ladies traditionally attend.

On 2 February 2005, the Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall was packed to capacity with around 120 Fletchers and their guests. The menu had a confident designer quality about it, combining an enticing starter of ravioli, asparagus and feta cheese, followed by sole, guinea fowl and a nougat parfait with mango. Such a balanced meal had not come about by chance. A tasting committee consisting of the Master, the Mistress Fletcher, the Clerk and our in-house professional wine expert, Alastair Mackenzie, had met some time before to sample many dishes and to select the wines to go with them. The committee chose well and everyone much enjoyed the result.

The loving cup did the rounds and the drinkers were stoutly defended against imagined but unfounded misadventure.

David Wootton, the Upper Warden, proposed the Civic toast and thanked the Lord Mayor for including the Fletchers in his crowded diary. He noted the Lord Mayor's interest in historic armaments and that there had only been room at the Lord Mayor's Show to parade three of the sixteen working battle tanks, from his own military museum in Norfolk.

The Lord Mayor proposed the toast to the Fletchers' Company and emphasized the need for all the liveries to use their creative imagination to extend their traditions and support new developments and activities, which were in some way connected to their historic origins.

The Master responded by acknowledging that arrow making was no longer a mainstay of the armaments industry nor likely to become so again, but that the Company has



active affiliations with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at the Tower, the Royal Air Force at Northolt and HMS Southampton. We also support archery as a sport and pastime, arranging tuition and visiting Montalcino in Tuscany, where there is still a strong archery tradition. This year, for the first time we awarded Certificates of Craftsmanship to professional fletchers at Warwick Castle. The main focus of our charitable work has been to encourage disabled archers of all ages and abilities and to provide financial assistance to the British team at the Paralympics, who returned with four gold medals. A contribution from the Company to the Lord Mayor's Appeal was presented together with a miniature replica of a Victorian arrow made by Bob Powell as a personal memento.

It seemed that the evening was over in less than the time it takes an arrow to reach its mark. We were summoned to take a stirrup cup with our honoured guests and soon they were gone. Once again the Fletchers had demonstrated their friendly and relaxed style of hospitality and everyone set out for home replete and in a happy mood.

John Leatherdale

Burns Night - Double Whammy

In true tradition the Burns Night was another spectacular event held at our own hall in January. The evening started with lots of laughter and whispering about the “other event” being held at Founders Hall and organised, as a first, by the Masters wife, Gloria Neal. The address to the Haggis was by Mr Allan MacLeod, escorted by our very own Bob Upton, whisky bottles were paraded and tossed as the ceremony got underway. In a non Scottish accent Mr John Bolton gave the Immortal Memory, informing us in great detail of “Burns” life, this was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. I get the feeling we may be hearing more of Mr Bolton’s tales? The highlight of the evening was



when we all watched in delight, as Master Fred Neal presented the Affiliation Scroll to Commander Bob Vitali of HMS Southampton. HMS Southampton is now the Companies affiliated ship and she will be docked at Southampton for the next six months and then she will be away on duties with her 280 crew for eighteen months in the South Atlantic, ending her journey in Chile. After such a serious matter as the Affiliation, we were thoroughly entertained by Mr Nicholas Spence and his accompanist Dale Willis on the piano.

Although there was a true Scottish theme there was just enough time to be able to include one French tune. The evening came to a close with the Master’s Toast and the Master of the Wax Chandlers replying on behalf of the guests, he entertained us all with a view of the Scottish/Welsh/Irish and English: To our delight the Master informed us that the “other event” was invited to join us in the stirrup cup. We hear that the gang were baggiped up from Founders Hall, through Cloth Fair to Fletchers Hall in true crocodile form. In summary, a great night was enjoyed by all.



Cdr Bob Vitali & Lt Cdr Mike Edey
receive the Scroll

Lin Luder

THE SPELLING CHEQUER (or Poet Tree Without Mist Aches)

I have a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marks four my revue
Miss steaks eye cannot sea

Each thyme hive struck the quays
I weight for it two say
If watt eye rote is wrong or write
It shows me strait a weigh

As soon as a missed ache is maid
It nose bee fore two late
And eye can put the error write
Now eye shall find that grate

Hive run this poem threw it
I’m shore policed to no
It’s letter perfect in its weigh
My chequer told me sew.

Anon

Valedictory

Representing the Company at well over one hundred meetings, functions, visits, even banquets over the past year has been a challenge, a great privilege, and an enormous source of pleasure. It would not have been possible to do this with any semblance of success without the full support of my wife Gloria, the Wardens, Past Masters and, perhaps most important of all, our Clerk. My gratitude to you all is very real, as are my thanks to all those members of the Livery who have supported our mixed programme of events. From the FCO to the London Eye; the hidden jewel of St Magnus Martyr to the grandeur of St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey; archery tuition to golf matches; or buffet luncheons to our Ladies' Banquet, I hope there has been something for most tastes.

As I hoped at the beginning of my year, we have continued to simplify and clarify our internal procedures and make them more transparent to members of the Company. I was particularly pleased that for the first time we published the full membership of the various Court Committees in our Members List and, also for the first time, circulated an overview of the accounts of both the Company and the Fletchers' Trust. I consider the latter to be of particular importance to those whose generous contributions have made this such a successful year for our charity, under the guidance of our Honorary Almoner and the Charity Committee. To find that we had provided assistance to six of the eight members of the very successful Paralympic team was a bonus of which the Company may feel justifiably proud.

Meeting the Masters and Clerks of so many other Companies during one's year as Master provides priceless opportunities to exchange

views on policies and procedures, an interchange of great importance in that it helps to keep the Livery as a whole from stagnation and too much Company introspection. A new affiliation with HMS Southampton got off to a flying start with members of the Company invited to both a lunch and, subsequently, a sea day on board. Most recently, the Upper Warden and I with our wives enjoyed an unexpectedly chilly reception (air temperature only) on deck in mid February. I hope it will be possible for more members to visit this exciting warship during the coming year. We also held a joint wine-tasting with the Society of Young Freemen and shall be supporting their Chairman, Liveryman Nigel James, at his Annual Dinner in May.



A further aim was to expand our traditional links with archery. Building on the initiative begun in Past Master John Dumbrell's year, I presented our first Certificates of Excellence to eight professional Fletchers at Warwick Castle last October. We had a splendid day's archery tuition provided by the London Archers at Kensington Palace in June (which helped us to

a second consecutive victory over the Bowyers at the Tower Shoot). Later, Past Master Chris Brown and I went to the Lilleshall Sports Centre in Shropshire to talk to our Paralympic team and present them with a cheque for £2,500 towards their expenses, shortly before their departure for Athens. Our overseas trip was centred, of course, on the mediaeval archers of Montalcino in Tuscany and, finally, I had the honour to be the Speaker at the Annual Dinner of the Royal Toxophilite Society this March.

And so, with many happy memories, the Stewardship of the Company passes to our new Master, David Wootton. Gloria and I wish David and Liz a most successful and happy year in office and thank you all once again for supporting us throughout this fantastic year.

Frederick Neal

THE FLETCHERS' TRUST

Our Honorary Almoner, Des Clark, reports that he has received letters from some of the disabled archers that we have helped, showing their achievements. These are shown below. On the wider archery front, the British Blind Sports are trying to have Visually Impaired Archery included in the Paralympics. The first step is to get endorsement from the International Blind Sports Association. Sandra Nesbit, who many of you know, has promised us an article on archery for the visually impaired.

Mrs DA Cooper writes:

"I have put together a profile of my archery achievements during 2004 and enclosed some information which I thought would be of interest



to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers. The two photographs enclosed show the bow that I was able to purchase with the support of the 'Fletchers' and myself in action with the new bow at an archery

competition in Bruges over the Easter Holiday 2004. I was also invited to attend a residential development squad training weekend at Lilleshall. The main purpose of which was to assess the potential of up and coming disabled archers. Two visually



impaired archers were invited to this weekend, of which I was one and Steve Prowse the other. This was an intensive shooting weekend full of enthusiasm and hard work."

Mrs Cooper went on to win the Burntwood Round on our day at Burnham and was also the first lady to win a Rose Award with a tactile stand.

Michael Hague wrote:

"I am delighted to say that the money that you, and your committee awarded me last spring, has been most beneficial. My scores have seriously improved. I have taken part in a number of competitions, including the Disability Sport England competition at Maidenhead. The new curtain I was able to buy has enabled me to get in a lot of practice here at

home. Also, some of my Archery colleagues have been able to join me.

The highlight of the summer is always our "Harry Hood" shoot; We V.I.s take on our coaches; with a very slight handicap. This event takes place on our farm, and my wife

puts on a marvelous spread for both lunch and tea. It is never very popular to be dragged from the shade of the trees to resume the afternoon session, but with



Harry Heeley in chair, their is no hiding place! We seem to win alternate years. I enclose a photograph of our trophy. Next year will be our tenth.

Once again thank you for your considerable help."

Photo Harry Heeley presenting the Harry Wood Trophy to Michael Hague.

Our Committees 2005/6

Our Committees are authorised by and report to the Court of Assistants.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

HR Vogt (Chairman)
Master
Upper Warden
Renter Warden
CA Coward
MG Hart
NAC Hopkins

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Master
Deputy Master
AIF MacKenzie
JR Garnett (Chairman)
APW MacLellan
JR Owen-Ward

CHARITY COMMITTEE

Master
Wardens
Three Trustees - CJ Brown (Chairman)
DJ Eldridge
JR Fenner
DW Clark Honorary Almoner

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

JL Dumbrell (Chairman) Editor of "La Flèche"
MV Roberts Honorary Archivist
AGF Dyke Webmaster
LJ Luder

Our Representative for the City University, City & Guilds and Livery Schools Liason is our Renter Warden PJJ Scott

A NOTE FROM THE NEW MASTER

I am delighted and honoured to take office as your new Master. I do so after a most successful year in which Fred and Gloria Neal presided over our affairs with style, elegance, diplomacy, sense of detail, humour and friendliness. Fred continued John Dumbrell's emphasis on transparency in the way in which we manage ourselves, led us in a return to our roots in archery, notably through the introduction of our Certificates of Excellence in Arrow-making. I shall seek to continue and develop both these themes: at its meeting on the day of my Installation the Court decided to move forward towards the formation of an active archery section of the company.

We will be looking to increasing the resources available to the Fletchers Trust, our charity which focuses primarily on support for disabled archers. We are rightly proud to be one of the more active companies in the City and we will play our full part in the governance of the City, and I personally look forward to the Livery Ball in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal, in June. This year we have new stewards, and I thank both old and new. As it happens, both Fred and I have the same Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Martin Dudley, and those who have heard Martin's eloquent graces will understand why.

I will maintain our tradition of measured innovation. We are looking at our installation process, and at our programme of events overall, to see whether we had the right balance across the year. We are looking at the policy of links with new technologies, as well as maintaining and developing our existing, and much valued, affiliations. Above all, I shall be concentrating on what we are just as much as what we do. As I said at my Installation Dinner, we have our tradition and we have our history but, as Fletchers, we are active, relevant, and above all, happy and friendly, and that is why I am extremely proud to be elected Master. Liz and I are looking forward with great enthusiasm to the year now beginning – it will be a lot of fun – to our many events, and not least to our weekend away in Salzburg.

The Master

Charity Report

Elsewhere in this edition is the very real personal tribute from those in receipt of your charity funds. It puts a human touch from outside but it does show the efforts made to promote our Livery Company to the outside world. This external publicity is further demonstrated by having our own sponsored British Blind Sports Archery Coaching Weekend on 11/12 June in the Apperley Bridge area of Bradford. We will be there. It is all part and parcel of "returning to our roots" which has been so much encouraged by the Deputy Master Fred Neal.



Space this time does not allow me to insert an edited version of the Paralympic Report from Athens but photographs taken were included in the last Newsletter. The 6th July brings the result of the 2012 candidate city decision and where ever it will be, you can rest assured that disabled and VI archery will be a "tour de force". Our photograph shows "Kathy Smith - Paralympic Gold Medalist - at her Freeman's Declaration Ceremony at One New Change, EC1 on 9 May2005

CJB

La Flèche is the Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers and is published by them twice a year in May and November. The Editor is John Dumbrell and material for publication should be sent to him, preferably by eMail john@dumbrell.org.uk, or by post to Riverholme, The Towpath, Shepperton, Tw17 9LL. Articles should be short and to the point and accompanied, where possible, by colour photographs with a resolution of 300dpi.