



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF ARBITRATORS

(A Modern Livery Company)

ORIGINS and HISTORY, and THE ROLE OF LIVERY COMPANIES AND THEIR LIVERYMEN AND FREEMEN

Origins

The company of Arbitrators was granted Livery at a meeting of the Court of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London at Guildhall on 17 March 1981. It became the 93rd in the list of Livery Companies created by the City.

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators thus joined the band of Livery Companies, led by the "Great Twelve", Companies whose origins and history go back to the 14th Century; and in particular joined a group of Livery Companies created since 1976 which generally represent leading professions associated with the City, all with long established records of service to the City and of the country's business activity and invisible earnings. Thus that modern list includes Chartered Surveyors, Chartered Accountants, Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, Insurers, Marketors, Chartered Architects, Engineers, Information Technologists and several others including of course the Arbitrators Company. The total number of Livery Companies in the year 2004 is 105.

Membership

While many of the ancient Livery Companies fulfil important functions, and virtually all do great work in educational and charitable fields, the composition of their membership has, over the years, become less related to the calling which gave the companies their names - Grocers, Mercers, Loriners, Fletchers, Haberdashers - than as was the case in earlier times; and a conscious and deliberate feature of the new companies has been a return to the original concept by requiring that membership of the Livery Company be confined to those involved with the relevant profession. Thus, with the Arbitrators, under the constitutions and ordinances of the Livery Company, as approved by the Court of Mayor and Aldermen, members must have a real interest in arbitration either directly as practitioners or users of arbitration or through a related form of dispute resolution.

Role of Livery Companies and Liverymen

Livery Companies play a vital part in the government of the City of London, the constitution of which, although unique in the structure of local government in the United Kingdom and enshrined in custom and tradition, is assuredly as effective, economic and democratic as any, and above all maintains the position of London as a world centre of business life.

Every Liveryman of the City of London plays his own part in the government of the City. He (or she) chooses and elects the Lord Mayor of London and the Sheriffs of the City. Liverymen participate in many functions of the City and of the Corporation. Accordingly, if one conceives of "the City" as comprehending the Corporation, the great financial institutions, the professional services and the livery companies, the true picture is of an integrated and fully representative group representing the power, influence, service and control of the City of London to the outside world.

Admission of the individual to the Livery is, accordingly, an act of dedication to the cause of good government and order - and of community service. The Liveryman may earn, indeed may expect to receive if he discharges his obligations, the respect and approbation of his fellows. What he must not expect is any personal material advantage or preferment.

Charitable giving is very much the key message of Livery Companies today, and both Liverymen and Freemen of the Company are expected to support the Company's charities by periodic money donations.

Activities of the Company

The Company aims to maintain a programme of activities which promotes arbitration, and the interests in arbitration of the City of London. In these matters it is determined to be at the leading edge of ideas and development, in ways which cross boundaries between different arbitration specialisations. It has established charitable trusts through which it expects to build substantial funds, with the aim of supporting education in the field of arbitration. It provides members with the opportunity of hearing from distinguished experts in the field and to exchange ideas and views in convivial surroundings.

Administration

The responsibility for the administration and activities of the Company rests with the Master and two Wardens (Senior and Junior) who hold office mainly for one year, and Assistants (not less than 10 and not more than 24) who together form the Court of Assistants.

The general body of membership is comprised of Liverymen and Freemen. Admission to Freedom comes first. Suitably qualified or experienced persons in good standing engaged in commercial arbitration or related forms of dispute resolution may apply to become Freemen of the Company. Freedom of the City of London is required before a Freeman of the Company can progress to become a Liveryman of the Company. This can be achieved by an application (supported by a certificate of Freedom of the Company) to the Chamberlain of the City of London. At the present time the maximum number of Liverymen of the Company is set at 300.

Admission to the Freedom of the Company and subsequent transfer to Livery is a matter for the Court of Assistants. The majority of activities of the Company are open to all members although a limited number may be restricted to Liverymen.

More details about the Company and the procedure involved in becoming a member may be obtained from the Clerk to the Company: Mrs Gaye Duffy, 13 Hall Gardens, Colney Heath, St. Albans, Herts AL4 0QF, Telephone: 01727 826578, E-Mail: clerk@arbitratorscompany.org or from the Company's Website at www.arbitratorscompany.org.