

**SPEECH BY MICHAEL STEPHENS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS THE NEW MASTER OF THE
WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF ARBITRATORS, 25 October 2005**

There are some things in life that go without the need to be said. But a dinner like this offers me the chance to say them.

Some things should be said – “that was delicious” or (one I’ve found very popular) “don’t worry dear, I’ll do them”.

Tonight the first thing that I want to say may seem to be a statement of the obvious but I do stand before you tonight very thrilled and enormously proud to be your Master in what will be a special year for this Company.

I know that I am surrounded on the Court by many able and distinguished people, all great practitioners of the art and mystery of arbitration. They bring all their best qualities to assist in the governance of the Company and we should be grateful for that.

I am particularly pleased to have the friendship and support of Donald as my Senior Warden and Harold as my Junior Warden. I have known them both for many years and I look forward to working with them in the forthcoming months.

I must also tell you how happy I am that Catherine is looking forward to the oncoming months. She knows that I will have commitments to honour and obligations to attend. She has always been a tremendous encouragement to me in all that I have done. I am glad that she is here tonight.

May I pay tribute to the Immediate Past Master? Ann led this Company with great presence and distinction in the past year. She has left us many memories to treasure: I would pick out the success of our Annual Banquet at Drapers’ Hall and the trip to Burgundy as two of many highlights. Well done Ann on all that you achieved and thank you for the way you gave your time and energy to the Company.

May I also thank Past Master James Mackie for saying grace for us tonight? James brings his own special touch to an occasion such as this and his support and enthusiasm for the Company over the years has never been in doubt.

Let me now tell you something about the year ahead. We move into our 25th year since the grant of livery. There are 2 events in particular that I want to mention to you tonight. On Wednesday 25th January we shall have our Annual Banquet. On this occasion we shall return to the Mansion House and the hospitality of the Lord Mayor. Alderman David Brewer has been a great friend of this Company; helping us when we wanted to make changes to our constitution and needed the approval of the Court of Aldermen; attending our party at the Greenjackets Club and encouraging others to join our livery. It will be a great pleasure to go to his home in the New Year.

We can also look forward to enjoying the company of some distinguished guests at the Mansion House. We hope to be honoured by the presence of the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Family Division and the President of the Lands Tribunal among others. I do hope that you and you and your guests will be able to join us on what promises to be a memorable evening.

The Master's Lecture is to take place on Tuesday 14th March. Once again, this will be in the Lecture Theatre at the office of Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw, near to St Pauls. The lecture is to be given by Mr Justice David Steel, who is the Admiralty Judge. I have no doubt that he will be an entertaining and stimulating speaker. Do come and listen.

On Wednesday 19th July we shall hold our Annual Church Service at St Mary-le-Bow. I intend that it will be a special service to celebrate our silver anniversary. I anticipate that there will be some new and exciting music from the choir. And I am also looking forward to hearing from our preacher, the Bishop of London.

Afterwards we shall celebrate in appropriate style. I hope to see you there.

But our Company is not just about celebration and socialising. When we joined this Livery each of us gave a promise that we would support its charitable objectives. Our Charitable Trusts have carried out great works, often unknown to many of us. With the help of the Charity Commission we are now in a position to merge the two Trusts. Not only will this amalgamate the funds but it will also mean that the objects of the new Trust are as wide as we would want them to be, so that we can support matters and people who are not necessarily connected with arbitration and dispute resolution. I know that I speak for the Trustees and for the Court when I tell how keen we are to increase our trust funds. I shall be writing to each member of the Company in the near future to tell you more – what I simply want to ask you to do tonight is to think about helping mark our anniversary year by way of showing your support for those charitable objectives. By doing so you will play a very important part in the life and work of the Company.

The mention of work reminds me of one of the ties that bind many of us tonight. Many of the Company are Members, Associates or Fellows of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. To achieve any such status we had to pass an exam, something that I daresay few of us enjoyed.

Let me mark the start of my year by discharging a very pleasant duty. May I ask you to salute the achievement of one of our number here tonight? Martin Hofman was awarded the highest marks in Part 3A of the Chartered Institute exams in 2004. He must have enjoyed that exam!

It gives me great pleasure to present him with a Certificate from this Company to mark that success.

I should also like to mention and ask you to greet our new Freeman – perhaps they would stand so that we may know them better:

- **Simon Daniels**, Secretary of the Academy of Experts and a lecturer at the University of Southampton
- **Dr Mike Gifkins**, whose field of expertise is in computing and telecommunication technology
- **Lorna Thomas**, a member of the Academy of Experts Appeals Tribunal Panel
- **Peter Ferner**, an expert witness in relation to food matters
- **Stephen York**, a solicitor, lecturer and author on ADR and e-commerce

I would also want you to recognise the achievement of these who today advanced from Freeman and were clothed in the Livery:

- **Sandy Bierrum**
- **Ike Ehiribe**
- **Simon Underwood**

You will have noticed on the table before me this magnificent trophy. On it are the initials C.L.Y.C. -- City Livery Yacht Club. It is awarded to the winning crew and the names engraved on it include such distinguished Companies as the Basketmakers and the Dyers. To those is now to be added the name of the Arbitrators. And who were the winning crew? Please will you congratulate Past Master Michael Wilkey, ably assisted by his crew Susan Wilkey.

There are other distinguished people here tonight. First and foremost, you, our guests. May I say "welcome" to you all. We are glad that you are able to join us, to meet our friends in the Company and to share in this special evening. We hope that it will provide happy memories.

May I welcome our principal guests?

Master Water Conservator, David Jones, is well-known to many of us. Until recently he was a partner in a well-respected firm of solicitors in the City and he remains a consultant with them. He specialised in the litigation or arbitration of substantial construction projects both in this country and all over the world. He has considerable expertise in alternative dispute resolution in all its varied forms. He is a successful author in his field and a lecturer who is much in demand.

Master Water Conservator, thank you for taking the time to join us tonight. You and your clerk, Ralph Riley, are most welcome.

Master Fanmaker, Lawrence Turner is another familiar face. We had the pleasure of welcoming him when, some time back, he was Master Engineer. Tonight it is a great personal pleasure for me to share his company since I too am a Liveryman of the Fanmakers Company.

His professional life is spent in the design and manufacture of advanced alarm systems for hospitals and public buildings. For that work he has been honoured by the Queen.

We are honoured that you are able to be with us tonight.

Master Fanmaker, together with your Clerk, Keith Patterson, we welcome you.

Master Firefighter, Alan Wells, has been a professional firefighter for over 40 years. His is a distinguished career. In that time he has not only been on operational duties but he has also been an instructor at the National Fire Service College, on secondment to the Home Office, a key member of the safety assessment team for the Channel Tunnel and latterly one of Her Majesty's Inspector's of Fire Services.

Retirement for him did not mean a book and a comfortable chair; it meant sailing round the world in a clipper race and more time to pursue his other loves of walking, trekking, glider flying and woodworking.

We are therefore especially pleased that he has found time in his busy life to be with us tonight.

Master Firefighter, you and your clerk Martin Bonham are very welcome.

Master Pavior, John Carpenter, also joins us tonight. Master Pavior is a chartered surveyor who began his career as the office boy and completed it as Head of Building and a main board director of John Lewis plc. He was the founding Chairman of the Design Build Foundation and a founding Director of the Reading Construction Forum. Even in retirement he remains very much involved in the construction world since he has Chairman of CRASH, which is the construction and property charity for the homeless and a trustee of CITY, which is the construction industry charity that helps young people to join the industry.

Master Pavior, we welcome you.

Lastly, may I introduce the **Common Serjeant, his Honour Judge Brian Barker QC**? Judge Barker was a leading silk at the Criminal Bar and a former Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association. He was appointed to sit as a judge at the Central Criminal Court – the Old Bailey – in 2000 and became Common Serjeant in July this year. In that role, in addition to his legal duties, he also oversees the election of the Lord Mayor and plays a major part in many of the City's ceremonies, such as the Quit Rents ceremony.

Judge Barker is a liveryman of the Coopers Company and serves on the Court of Assistants.

Common Serjeant, you are most welcome.

Now let us salute all our guests here tonight.

Would the Livery please rise and hold their glasses high? And join with me in acclaiming this toast to "OUR GUESTS"