

Master, fellow Wardens, My Lords, Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Liverymen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome all our guests to this Mansion House feast.

First in time I thank our trusty preacher, the Rev George Bush for his customary Grace and we look forward to his spiritual guidance in the coming year.

Then I am delighted to welcome our fellow liveryman and Lord Mayor Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE and her diligent consort Nicholas Wolf. Lord Mayor, we have followed your glittering year in office, and your tireless promotion of the City at home and abroad including, of course, your own profession of arbitration. As to Nicholas, while he by now must know his place, I happen to have been present in this very room when he, accompanied by his dutiful wife, was the principal speaker at the recent banquet of the Gardeners' Company---and a cracker of a speech it was. I hope that will not be the only occasion he will be asked to get to his feet during Fiona's year!

We welcome your Sheriffs, Alderman Sir Paul Judge with Lady Barbara; and Sheriff Adrian Waddingham and his wife Angela. Sir Paul is the Aldermanic Sherriff and a liveryman of the Marketors, the Clothworkers and the recently launched Educators. In that latter role he is an Honorary Professor at Institutes in Cyprus and Moscow, has a string of Honorary degrees, as well as some very impressive real ones. His current day job is as Chairman of Schroder Income Growth Fund plc. in which his success is well demonstrated by an extraordinary level of personal philanthropy. He is deeply involved in international trade and political affairs but fortunately finds time also to serve on the City's Finance Committee.

Sheriff Waddington became an actuary after studying mathematics. He was a founding partner and later senior partner of Barnett Waddingham. He is a past Chairman of the [Association of Consulting Actuaries](#) and Immediate Past Master of the [Worshipful Company of Actuaries](#). Adrian has been closely involved with the development of self-administered pensions and has provided valuable advice in that field to the City Corporation. He was appointed a CBE in 2012.

The civic party is accompanied by the Duty Household Officer Jonathan Pallant who is also welcome to our banquet.

Next Dame Elizabeth Gloster, who will be our principal speaker this evening. Among her many achievements, she is Patron of the London Branch, one of the liveliest branches of the of CIArb. Dame Elizabeth of course presided over the headline catching case in the Commercial Court between two Russian Oligarchs, which benefitted greatly from her firm handling; but she was rewarded with a new job in the Court of Appeal, sadly with no more live witnesses or scintillating cross-examination; but this is no doubt relieved by the intellectual satisfaction of reversing her former friends in the Commercial Court. She is accompanied by her husband Sir Oliver Popplewell

who, as well as corresponding with the Times on the laws of cricket, and getting re-admitted to Oxford as an undergraduate after retiring from the bench, achieved a unique professional transfer. As you know all barristers' chambers operate a system of equal opportunities so that you can no longer invite your son or daughter to join. Sir Oliver, however, on leaving the bench, managed deftly to join the chambers of his distinguished son—as an arbitrator! Sir Oliver is of course a Fellow of the Chartered Institute and fully qualified save only for membership of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators.

Next I welcome Jane Andrewartha, not only as a renowned mediator and now member of the Company, but to express our gratitude for having persuaded her firm, Clyde & Co, to host the Master's Lecture in April of this year. Jane you are welcome to our banquet and to the company.

Michael Stephens is truly one of our own, as the only Past Master twice over, at least as yet. Michael is currently President of CI Arb, the body out of which we sprang, fully armed so to speak, and with which we maintain the closest and friendliest relations.

Last, it is my particular pleasure to welcome Sir Anthony Evans and Lady Caroline Evans, who are here as guests of Past Master Hew Dundas but who have given enormous support over the years to the Chartered Institute and by extension to the Worshipful Company. I seem to have followed Sir Anthony's career with unusual attention, first while he was a junior at the Bar and pupil master to my future wife Diana. He then took silk, went onto the bench and concluded that part of his career in the Court of Appeal. After retirement from the bench he took on commercial arbitration but also became Chief Justice of the DIFC Court in Dubai. And his retirement from that job coincided with the financial collapse of Dubai World, for which a new Special Tribunal was set up to deal with the mass of insolvency cases—presided over by Sir Anthony. You will be glad to know that I am still dealing with an arbitration, the launch of which was heralded by an order from you and your colleagues restraining the further calling of bonds!

It now remains for me to invite the Members of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, to be upstanding, and to drink the health of our guests.

'OUR GUESTS'.

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