



Worshipful Company of Arbitrators

Mansion House
Monday 13th May 2013
The Aldermanic Sheriff
Alderman Jeffrey Evans

Master, I am delighted to respond to the Civic Toast and to thank you for your wonderful hospitality this evening, on behalf of Juliet, and my brother Sheriff, Nigel and also for your generous contribution to the Lord Mayor's Appeal. Can I also say how sorry the Lord Mayor is not to be with us this evening. I would also say on a personal note that Nigel and I were reflecting on our way here on the pleasures ahead and we were thinking on the arrangements and we thought we would be in very good hands because being World Traders Gaye Duffy your Clerk also doubles up and does a fantastic job for the World Traders and I'm paying tribute to her excellent arrangements this evening.

We Sheriffs are often told that our job is to stand behind the Lord Mayor and look elegant, but tonight I have been let out for good behaviour into the Mansion House lights and have the great and unusual pleasure of welcoming you all to someone else's house!

Master, you will be aware that before events such as this, there is all sorts of traffic between the Mansion House and Clerks about seating arrangements, protocols, menus and speeches – including providing the Master's CV. I thought I should give my speech a more personal touch and so have supplemented it with research of my own – using that most discerning of research tools, Mr Google!

Entering "Karl Davies" throws up a few surprises. Apparently Karl Davies was a long standing member of the cast of the soap opera, *Emmerdale*, in which he engaged in a number of byzantine feuds with fellow members of the farming community. There are allegations that he was at the centre of what I believe the tabloid newspapers call a "love triangle", including a passionate affair with blonde bombshell and star of stage and screen, Miss Patsy Kensit. She is reported as saying "Karl is so adorable and we had a lot of fun".

Master, Karl Davies is indeed 'adorable' and I can confirm 'fun' after sitting next to you. Whatever Karl has, I would like to have some of it bottled so that I can take it away with me! It takes all sorts to make a world but it seems an unusual career trajectory for a Livery Master. Perhaps I've got the wrong end of the stick ...

The Karl Davies I know is an accomplished mediator and gave distinguished service as the former Chief Executive of the City Disputes Panel. He is also someone who serves his community in that most terrifying of bear pits: the local church parochial council. From my own experience of such bodies, arbitration and mediation are much needed qualities: PCC meetings can make a bad day with the Borgias look like a picnic.

And Master your own personal contribution is mirrored in the most excellent work of the Company: it has been a packed year since the grant of your Royal Charter – a red letter day in the history of any company, and a grant by Her Majesty that the company's endeavours fully justify, and one we commemorate today. Endeavours such as promoting mediation skills at the Master's Lecture – with around half of the attendees non-members - and amongst young people, with the team you sent to the international mediation

championships in Paris finishing very creditably in the top eight. And through the support you give to the Lord Mayor – support for which he is very grateful - through as you mentioned the City Briefings, through your briefing for possible Lord Mayors of the future and through the Financial Services Livery Group. This is great stuff and is very much appreciated. Thank you all.

It seems to me that what you do in arbitration and mediation is something that seems simple, but, like so many important things in life, to achieve the simple is often very difficult indeed. It is about care and patience, about searching for common ground and painstakingly reaching a solution – and a solution that, hopefully, means everyone feels they have been heard and their views taken account of. It is something very precious – and I fear there is precious little of it in the world, so it is all the more important for that.

It is also an increasingly important part of the cluster of services the City provides – we are world leaders in many things, but mediation, dispute resolution and arbitration are real feathers in our cap especially in my own maritime sector.

The Company also clearly subscribe to another great attribute of the Livery: fellowship and fraternity. They have been

clear for all to see this evening and we are all very grateful. And in return for your hospitality may I present you with this book, on the peerless collection of Dutch Old Masters, the Samuel Collection, here at Mansion House, the brainchild of the Lady Mayoress. And for your Clerk, these playing cards – also showing the Samuel Collection.

Master, I see you hail from the Wirral – and that the Company is planning a trip to Merseyside to greet your affiliated ship, HMS Mersey, which you told us of, when she returns to her home port in July. Long may that ship ride the crest of the wave! And long may the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators serve City and nation alike! Master, thank you.