

# NEWSLETTER



The Worshipful  
Company of  
Arbitrators

December 2011

[www.arbitratorscompany.org](http://www.arbitratorscompany.org)



Hew Dundas  
Master 2011-12

## NEW MASTER & WARDENS

Hew Dundas was installed as the 30th Master of the Company on 25th October 2011. The installation took place at Fishmonger's Hall and was followed by dinner. Karl Davies was installed as Senior Warden and Derek Ross as Junior Warden.

## Don't miss:

### ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

Takes place on Tuesday December 13 2011 at St Mary le Bow Church in Cheapside. Take a few minutes to enjoy the Christmas story in music and readings followed by wine and mince pies.

### ROLLS BUILDING VISIT

A private tour of the new Rolls Building in Fetter Lane kindly hosted by Sir Robert Akenhead, Judge in Charge of the Technology and Construction Court on Wednesday 25 January 2012 followed by supper.

For more information go to <http://www.arbitratorscompany.org/events>

## FROM THE MASTER

My first seven weeks have been a period of intense activity. I am pleased to report that detailed planning for the Charter Banquet on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 is well under way. Further, we are looking into expanding the Company's involvement with schools in London Boroughs (and you can help here !). You can read elsewhere in this newsletter how you can make a valuable contribution to the Company-sponsored Mediation Skills Competition and/or, without leaving office/home, there is a valuable role you can play in support of the Vis (East) Moot.

I hope that you will support the Annual Banquet on 20<sup>th</sup> February where, in addition to the privilege of being allowed access to the splendours of Mansion House, the Principal Guest will be Lord Woolf. Your high-turnout support of my Installation Dinner was highly encouraging so let's pack Mansion House!

The first 2011/12 event was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November with a wine-tasting and buffet at Laithwaite's, ably organised by Assistant David Wilson; the evening included a surprise wine, never made before and never to be made again (a Vin Jaune from the South of France from Clairette). On 25<sup>th</sup> January we will visit the new Rolls Buildings, hosted by Sir Robert Akenhead; this will be followed by a supper in a nearby restaurant.

Our charitable works are gaining momentum and if every member contributed a mere £10/month, our Charity would be significantly better placed to do all the good things it has available to do. Thank you for your support to date and I look forward to your continuing support in 2011/12.

## Restoring Trust in the City

Alderman Michael Bear who has just completed his term of office as Lord Mayor launched an initiative at the beginning of 2011 'Restoring Trust in the City'. The initiative looks to explore methods of encouraging ethical behaviour among those who work in 'the City' so as to affirm the old adage 'my word is my bond'.

It is important to restore confidence in the City and in its businesses. City businesses make a major contribution to the UK economy. In 2010 they achieved a £35 billion trade surplus and produced over £53 billion in tax revenue. The financial and professional services sector employed 1.9 million people throughout the UK. The Livery has a role to play and members in this Company will shortly receive two 'reminder' prompt cards about the role of the Livery and how it contributes to the life of the City and the nation.

One of these is the *Livery Profile* which details the charitable and educational support from Livery Companies. The other is a summary of the benefits of doing business in the City and a summary of the link between the Business City, the Livery and the Civic City.

## LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

At the October Court Meeting Peter Chapman, Craig Kersey, David Steward, Irvinder Bakshi, David Lewis and Michael Kavanagh were admitted as Liverymen. Finola O'Farrell QC and Matthew O'Neill were admitted as Freeman.

## HONORARY FREEMAN

Also at the October Court Lieutenant Commander Mark Anderson RN, Commanding Officer of the Company's affiliated ship, HMS Mersey was admitted as an Honorary Freeman.

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## Dates to remember in 2012

### Monday February 20<sup>th</sup>

The Company's Annual Banquet will be held in the Mansion House by kind permission of the Lord Mayor. Details will be issued shortly.



PHOTO: CITY OF LONDON

### Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>

The keynote Master's Lecture will be held at the offices of Herbert Smith LLP in Exchange House, Primrose Street

### Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>

Plans are well advanced for us to celebrate a unique milestone in the life and history of the Company. The Company's newly awarded Charter will be presented to us by a member of the Royal Family at a dinner in the splendid setting of Plaisterers' Hall. This will be a very special and memorable evening.

## Mediation Skills Competition for UK Students 2012

The Company's second Mediation Skills Competition takes place in London from Friday 13 January to Sunday 15 January 2012. Fourteen universities have entered this year's competition which will be headquartered in the offices of Bird & Bird LLP in Fetter Lane who have generously agreed to sponsor the event. In addition HM Courts & Tribunals Service has agreed that the heats will take place in the newly open Rolls Building, the largest specialist centre for the resolution of commercial disputes anywhere in the world.

Members of the Company who are qualified as Mediators are invited to become involved in the Competition by volunteering to join the team of officials who act as judges, mediators and timekeepers during the competition weekend. For more information on how to help go to: [http://www.arbitratorscompany.org/sites/default/files/professionals\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbitratorscompany.org/sites/default/files/professionals_2012.pdf).

## Willem C Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Hong Kong)

The Master is very keen that the Company and its members should support the Vis East Moot which very much needs additional Readers and Arbitrators.

The 18th Vis Moot in Vienna and the 8th Vis (East) Moot in Hong Kong in March/April 2011 were both resounding success with (in Vienna) 265 law school teams from 65 countries participating and, in all, approximately 2,500 people (student participants, coaches, arbitrators, administrators and others) involved. The sibling Vis (East) Moot in Hong Kong had 87 teams from 22 countries and nearly 900 people involved.

The goal of the Vis Moot is to foster the study by university students of international commercial law and arbitration for resolution of international business disputes through its application to a concrete problem of a client and to train the law leaders of tomorrow in methods of alternative dispute resolution.

There are two phases based on a comprehensive case study: first, the student teams write memoranda for claimant and respondent and, second, the hearing of oral argument of the respective cases. The students have to determine questions of contract flowing from a transaction relating to the sale or purchase of goods under the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods in the context of an arbitration of a dispute under specified Arbitration Rules, the 2011/12 case to be under CIETAC Rules.

The present (and urgent) priority is to seek volunteers to read Memoranda for Claimant and Respondent. This takes only a few hours in the comfort of your own home or office, during the period December to February. You do not have to be an arbitrator or a lawyer and, almost by definition, all members of the Company are adequately qualified.

You will receive a batch of four Memoranda with a turnaround time of 3-4 weeks. All you will have to do is rank the four in order. However, you are invited to (and encouraged to) provide feedback to the student teams who will greatly value your practical insights. You can make a real and valuable contribution with your comments and suggestions. Please support this wonderful event by registering as a Reader; you will find all the necessary "paperwork" on the website [www.cisgmoot.org](http://www.cisgmoot.org).

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### The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators

Clerk: Mrs Gaye Duffy, 13 Hall Gardens, Colney Heath, St Albans AL4 0QF  
E: [clerk@arbitratorscompany.org](mailto:clerk@arbitratorscompany.org)