



His Master's Voice

During the first months of my Mastership, much seems to have taken place.

We have had of course the sad death of our dear friend and Past Master Peter Forrester. All who came into contact with him, will appreciate how sorely he will be missed. His life and his glass were incredibly full, industry, humour, charm and much else, he had in abundance. People of his caliber are too rare to lose. The Court stood for a minutes silence in his memory.

The events of the Company have so far been well supported for which I thank all concerned and would ask those who we do not see to contact myself or any member of the Court, to explain if there is any way in which we can make attending more attractive so that we may have the pleasure of your company.

My theme is, as it has been for many Masters before, Charity. I want to raise the capital base of our charity fund so that it brings in more interest for us to give out. Ideas on this subject are always welcome. We are also trying to be seen as a more caring Company and to that end an Almoner has been appointed, more details will come later. It does not matter if you are the newest Freeman or a Liveryman who has not attended in years, you are part of the Bowyers Company, and you matter. The last event to have taken place was the Agincourt Dinner, which according to all the reports coming in, would appear to have been a great success. The Cardinal was very fulsome in his praise and I hope he will come again just as a friend. Lord Alton is due to be our Host on our visit to the House of Lords' and I hope more of you will have a chance to get to know him. He is one of the good ones in Westminster, and



an extremely nice guy. I should finally like to thank all those who are being so kind in helping and supporting me, and helping to make being Master such great fun.

Richard Model

Agincourt Dinner

Innholders' Hall was the delightful setting for this years Agincourt Dinner on 25th October with our Master, Mr Richard Model, presiding over the first major event of his two-year tenure. We were most priveleged to entertain as our principal guest the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor who gave us the benefit of his wise and amusing words.



Peter Forrester

Who passed away peacefully on 5th October 2006

On that sad Thursday 20th October 2006 when many people gathered to mark the life of Peter my heart was lifted by the tribute paid by Mike Pugh, Peter's life long friend. Mike's words summed up the man I had known.

I first met Peter in 1974 when I went for an interview at Moore Stephens. I had interviews at four firms of Chartered Accountants that day including two of the largest firms at the time. They all impressed me, but the lasting impression I took away with me was the warmth of my interviewer at Moore Stephens. Suffice it to say that I joined Moore Stephens and went on to enjoy many years working with Peter.

Peter had a great sense of fun, which came out most often on the trips we had to visit clients both at home and abroad. The most memorable of these were numerous trips to Shannon in Southern Ireland. Peter seemed to have a natural affinity with the Irish, no doubt his enjoyment of a good drink helped. It would be unjust to say that he led me astray, but he certainly got me into some scrapes on these trips. Whenever we got together he would invariably recall at least one of the numerous incidents which had often involved a couple of drinks at Dirty Nellies.

Peter was admitted to the Livery of our company in 1975 and The Bowyers became an important part of his life. He was called to the court in July 1986 and soon after this he invited me to a dinner following which he asked if I enjoyed the dinner and would I be interested in becoming a Bowyer. Having been admitted to the livery in 1990 I attended various functions and I could see the enjoyment Peter got from the Bowyers. Peter always liked to spring little surprises and on 28th July 1994 I turned up for the Livery dinner. Just as we were about to go into dinner Peter sidled up and said "I ought to tell you that I put your name forward as a court assistant and you were elected to the court this evening". It did not take him long to pass on the responsibility for the company's finances.

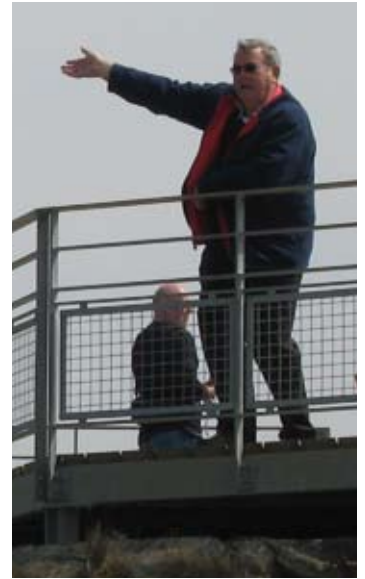
Peter was Master of the company from 1998 to 2000 and I am sure that we all have fond memories of his mastership. His sense of humour and mischievous streak were apparent throughout and continued when he moved on to the middle table at court meetings.

I personally enjoyed several Masters Trips with Peter. On these occasions he was often the ringleader organising the post dinner drinks at a local hostelry. The first trip I went on was to Agincourt. We met up at Victoria Coach Station early one morning and after a couple of hours on the coach arrived at Dover for the ferry. There was only time for a couple of drinks on the ferry and we then faced quite a long drive through France. Settled on the coach Peter Beagent announced that he fancied a gin and tonic, he had the gin and tonic but no ice and lemon. Peter Forrester however had had the foresight to empty one of the ice buckets from the bar into a carrier bag, and where he got the lemon from I don't know. Peter was quite proud of his French linguistic skills, with some justification. Imagination his embarrassment later that day when we had gathered for an after dinner drink. Everyone agreed that a glass of port would go down well. After a few minutes six large beer mugs appeared. On being asked what these were, the French waiter replied "this is what you ordered, six large porters".

Peter always put everything in to anything he did. I know that in recent years he has devoted a lot of time to two charities "The Montgomeryshire Wild Life Trust" & "Rekindle". I was very pleased when he agreed to respond on behalf of the guests at the dinner when I became captain of my golf club. Peter had prepared so well for his speech that night that I had two phone calls from other guests asking whether they could hire him, as an after dinner speaker for events they were organising.

Sitting here writing this piece I realise that the stories and memories I have of Peter are too numerous to include even a small proportion. I also realise how much his wit and love of life will be missed by us all.

Peter Harrow



The Craft Guild of Traditional Bowyers and Fletchers

The Craft Guild has now been in existence for nearly twenty years and has just held its 18th Wardmote - the equivalent of an annual general meeting. Membership is limited to practicing bowyers and fletchers, their being separate categories for those who practise the craft professionally and those who make bows mainly as a hobby. In the way they conduct business there are several parallels with the Bowyers Company, not least in having a two-year Wardenship (equivalent to Master). On the other hand they have lady members, including a lady clerk!

Attending the Wardmote on behalf of the Company, the main impression is that of conducting business in a manner that is almost certainly reminiscent of how the Bowyers must have conducted theirs in the early days of the Company's existence, almost 550 years ago. The debates cover issues such as how to deal with sub-standard goods, health and safety, advertising and taxation. They also considered recommendations for awards of Bowyers Company Certificates of merit, this year a Gold Award, the highest and least awarded, was debated. The Guild has its own website and the webmaster was at pains to explain the various sections on the site as well as asking how members would like it changed. Some members want to use the site to expand their business, but others have enough orders to keep them fully employed.

The centre-piece of every Wardmote is the consideration of new members and this is carried out by inspection of products. In the break before lunch, the members fill in sheets giving their impressions of a candidate's work and this is carefully collated. After lunch, the bows and arrows are tested in the field, so the full process is comprehensive. Sometimes a candidate is informed that he can become a member, but sometimes his work does not come up to scratch, in which case he is given detailed feedback and advice as to how to make the grade. This year a potential



Inspecting the products of potential new members

candidate submitted work merely to get such feedback and it seems that this is quite a common practice. While it may seem remarkable that there is such a flourishing membership, the number of longbow shooters in this country now runs into thousands, so there is a ready market for their goods. Sales in the USA and in Europe are also growing.

In previous years the Wardmote has been held on a farm and at Warwick Castle, but this year the Guild was invited to use a meeting room at the Bosworth Battle Visitors Centre, just north of Hinckley, Leics. The invitation came about as a result of helping the Centre out with a demonstration and the Guild is very keen to show off the level of skill in making bows. Any chance to see Guild members at work should be grabbed as it gives a fascinating glimpse into the Bowyers' own history and experience.

Andrew Barnsdale



Normandy - May 2006

Good company, good food and good wine were the main ingredients for the Bowyers' trip to Normandy in May this year led by Michael Orr on one of his battlefield tours. With his encyclopaedic knowledge of the 'D' Day landings and other battles of the second world war our visits to Bayeux, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches and many other fascinating sites provided us with a clearer understanding of the people and events that culminated in the liberty of Europe over sixty years ago.

The City of London Companies and the Queen's South Africa Medal

The outbreak of war between the United Kingdom and the Boer Republics in October 1899 was characterised by demonstrations of patriotic fervour as regular forces boarded troopships to reinforce those stationed in South Africa. The enthusiasm of the general population for the war was, if anything, increased by the news of early Boer successes and the various reverses suffered by British troops in the early stages of the war. As a concrete expression of their support, qualified nurses rushed to join the Army Nursing Service Reserve and young men queued to sign on with the newly invented Imperial Yeomanry Companies.

The idea of a completely new unit to be raised and financed by the City of London arose out of a meeting held in December 1899 between Field Marshal Lord Wolseley and the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir Alfred Newton, Bt. Exactly who came up with the notion is not known for certain, but the result of the meeting was a commitment by the City of London to raise within 21 days a volunteer unit complete with all equipment and to transport it to South Africa. The City of London Imperial Volunteers (CIV) came officially into existence by Royal Warrant dated 6 January 1900.

To defray the immediate expenses of equipping the force, the City of London donated £25,000 and as an encouragement to enlistment, made an extraordinary promise to all potential recruits that every man accepted for service with the CIV would be granted the Freedom of the City of London. This promise was subsequently kept and the names of the 1,756 men who served are recorded.

Ready money being an immediate requirement, the first recourse of the Lord Mayor in his fund raising efforts was to the City Livery Companies and an immediate request for aid

was sent to each of the Companies then in existence. The majority responded (including the Worshipful Company of Bowyers) with donations which varied between 10 guineas and £5000 according to size and resources.

The first contingent of the CIV sailed for South Africa on 13 January 1900 followed by further contingents on 20 and 29 January. A reinforcing draft was also sent out on 12 July. By 16 February the Mounted Infantry section was already in action at Jacobsdal and the CIV subsequently fought engagements at Paardeberg, Britstown, Thaba'Nchu, Welkom, Zand River, Lindley, Florida, Pretoria, Donkerhoek, Diamond Hill, Bethlehem, Frederickstadt and Warm Baths. Casualties were one officer and 60 men killed or died plus one officer and 60 men wounded. As with most of the British army, sickness proved a constant problem and over 100 men contracted enteric fever, from which some 30 died.

On 8 October 1900, the CIV finally embarked at Cape Town for London and on 29 October there was a ceremonial march through the City to St. Paul's Cathedral where they attended a Service of Thanksgiving. They afterwards attended a Reception at the Guildhall before marching to the grounds of the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) to hand in their rifles at the Armoury. In return, each man was presented with a silver topped cane bearing the City of London arms with the letters CIV. The day ended with a banquet in the grounds of the HAC and the formal discharge of the men.

On 12 June 1901, King Edward VII, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, presented the Queen's South Africa Medal to 1,210 officers and men of the CIV. At the same time he ordered that the medal, fitted with the clasps earned by the CIV, should also be presented to the City of London, to the HAC and to those Worshipful Companies which had contributed to the raising and upkeep of the CIV. This instruction was duly carried out and the Livery Companies concerned all received a Queen's South Africa Medal with the clasps Belfast, Wittebergen, Diamond Hill, Johannesburg, Driefontein, Paardeberg and Cape Colony.

Bowyer's Golf

This year's competition for the Forrester Cup was held at Pyecombe Golf Club on the Sussex Downs just north of Brighton. The winner again was Tim West seen here receiving the trophy from Past Master Peter Seaton.



At the Ray Jeffs Trophy meeting in August the Bowyers' managed a credible eighth place out of the twenty four Livery Companies taking part. This event has been on the calendar for some seven years now and in that time has raised over

£23,000 to enable children from City fringe schools to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Forthcoming Events

2007

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| 15th February | Westminster Cathedral visit |
| 23rd March | United Guilds' Service and Lunch (Livery only) |
| 16th April | St Georges's Day Ladies Banquet (Members of the Livery and their guests) |
| 16th May | Visit to the House of Lords |
| 14th June | Court Meeting and Dinner with Fletchers' Company |
| 25th June | Election of Sheriffs and Lunch (Livery only) |
| 7th July | Joint shoot with the Fletchers' Company |
| 24th July | Bowyers' Prize Day at Burnham |
| 13th September | The first Bowyers' Lecture and Dinner |