

THE CITY OF LONDON SOLICITORS' COMPANY

Guidance note for prospective Liverymen

Introduction

We are pleased that you are thinking of becoming more closely involved in the Company by applying to join the Livery. As a Freeman you will have learned something about our aims and activities. But, like any other Livery Company, we want to be sure that applicants realise that while Liverymen will have access to a wider range of activities, they should also accept greater responsibility to join in promoting the Company's aims. This is why we ask you to read this note carefully. When you complete our application form, you will be asked to declare that you have read this note and intend to contribute as best you can to the work and aims of the Company. How quickly you can widen your contribution will of course depend in part on the pressures of your career. But remember that, like so many other things in life, the more you can contribute to the Company, the greater will be your rewards and satisfaction.

The procedure

Before you can apply to join the Livery, you need to become a Freeman of the City of London through the Chamberlain's Court at Guildhall. You will find details of how to go about this at <https://www.citysolicitors.org/register/freedom-of-the-city-of-london>. Once this step has been completed you should complete the accompanying application form. The form should be countersigned by two of our existing Liverymen, both of whom (save in exceptional circumstances) have known you for at least a year. Please contact the Clerk if you should want help with identifying a suitable proposer and seconder from among our Liverymen.

Your application will go before the Court. Assuming it is approved, you will be asked to pay a one-off fine, currently £450 (or £350 if you are under 35). It includes the cost of a Livery Medal and your first Livery Dinner. You will then be invited to a meeting of the Court when you will be installed formally as a Liveryman and introduced to all members of the Court. Before you leave you will be invited to place a contribution in the Poor Box which will find its way into the Company's Charitable Fund.

Charitable activities

One of the most important sides of the Company's work lies in its support of charities which are connected with the law or with deserving work in the City or surrounding areas. The Company's Charitable Fund gives support to our associated charity, the City Solicitors Educational Trust.

Some Livery Companies require their members to make annual donations to their charitable funds as a condition of membership. We do not do this, but we do encourage our members, Liverymen in particular, to commit to giving annual amounts. We hope that you will be ready to do this. In time you might consider leaving a legacy or a contribution from your SIPP fund.

Committee activities

Members of the Court are drawn from those Liverymen who can show a record of service to the Company and/or The City of London Law Society. Once elected they become eligible to progress in

seniority, perhaps ultimately to serve as Master of the Company. But the Company is always on the look-out for suitably qualified Liverymen ready to serve on its committees. These are:

- The Investment Committee. This oversees the Company's investments and those of the Company's Charitable Fund.
- The Communications Committee. This is responsible for promoting the efficient flow of information between the Company, its members and the outside world.
- The Wine Committee. This chooses wine for Company events and organises occasional wine-tasting events.
- The Membership Committee. This is responsible for promoting increased membership of the Company, drawing also on solicitors working outside private practice.
- The City Solicitor Editorial Board. This group oversees the production of "City Solicitor", the official organ of the Company and the City of London Law Society.
- The Livery Committee. This promotes a range of activities for our Liverymen, sometimes involving contacts with members of other Livery Companies.
- The Whittington Committee. This is responsible for organising activities for our younger members.

Social activities

As a Liveryman you will have access to a wider range of social activities. Every year you would be able to attend a Livery Dinner with your guest. Each Master will usually organise a week-end outing. Recent examples have included visits to Edinburgh and Madrid as well as to wine-producing areas in France. In several years a group of our Liverymen have travelled to Treguier in Brittany so as to take part in the colourful "Pardon de Saint Yves", celebrating the life of our Patron Saint.

Our Liverymen are invited to attend a lunch organised by one of our fellow Livery Companies to follow the annual United Guilds' Service in Saint Paul's Cathedral. We also join with another Company for their carol service.

Teams of our Liverymen take part in Inter-Livery Golf, Bridge and Clay Shoots. We ourselves organise wine-tastings and other varied events for our Liverymen.

The Civic City

Taking the Livery gives a greater connection with the Civic City and we encourage our Liverymen to take full advantage of this. Liverymen can participate in the civic life of the Square Mile by taking part in the annual election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, with the opportunity to stand for elections within the City. You may know that in recent years more Lord Mayors have been drawn from our Company than from any other single Company. And of course for many years the Company has become known nationally for its colourful floats in the Lord Mayor's procession.

Conclusion

We hope that you will decide to go forward and once elected, will develop new friends within the Company and find your activities with us richly rewarding.