



Newsletter

Inspiring, encouraging and developing excellence in the management and leadership of UK agriculture



The 2019 WCF ski team



Delegates attending the 2019 inaugural WCF Learning Extension Day



The Master, Senior Warden – David Bolton and Junior Warden – Richard Whitlock, take the 'Back British Farming' message to the City



Christopher Day receives the Livery Silver Salver from Capt Tim Cryer RN (retired)

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The 2019 Annual Livery Banquet



Goldsmiths Hall splendid by candlelight

The Master chose Goldsmiths' Hall for the 2019 Banquet and as over two hundred of us took our places in the Great Hall, delightfully illuminated by natural candlelight, it felt very special indeed. Masterminded wonderfully by the Clerk, aided this year by his new Assistant Clerk, the evening went off flawlessly.

The speeches, from the Senior Warden, the Master and her principle guest Captain Tim Cryar RN (retired) were each a model of brevity and entertainment. The food was superb and the entertainment, including an exceptional 'poste horn chase' was perfectly judged. All-in-all another memorable and thoroughly enjoyable night for all who attended.



The Middlesex Wing ATC team and Master



The poste horn chase was exceptional



Senior Warden David Bolton a model of brevity



Guests Mr James Barkhouse and Mrs Kier Hall share the Loving Cup

Livery visit to Wimbledon

With 'Evidence based decision making' in mind, the Master arranged a private Livery visit to the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon. So it was, on the morning after the Banquet, that a group of us accompanied her to the home of British tennis.

We were warmly welcomed by the CEO, Richard Lewis and two of his most senior grounds staff - Head of Courts and Horticulture, Neil Stubbley and Head Groundsman, Grant Cantin.

In the talks and tour that followed the extraordinary level care, detail and precision applied to Wimbledon's precious turf, quickly became apparent.

During our 'money can't buy', behind the scenes look at this iconic venue we learned about the continuous variety development programme, the intense concentration on disease and weed control and the meticulous preparation of the courts.



AELTC's Chief Executive Richard Lewis welcomes the Company party to Wimbledon



Inter-Livery Ski Championships

January saw the WCF Ski team gathered in beautiful Morzine for the tenth running of the ever-more-popular, Inter-Livery Ski Championships. With thirty seven Companies represented and over 200 competitors, the event has become the largest Inter-Livery event held outside the UK. Its importance, and profile, were highlighted this year by the attendance of the recently elected Lord Mayor of London, fresh from representing the City of London at the Davos World Economic Forum; one of his Sheriffs, WCF Freeman, Liz Green and Mayor of Morzine, Gerard Berger.

Our five man team - Richard Whitlock, John Ward, Christopher Day, Richard Davies and team captain Hugh Wykes was our biggest yet and we enjoyed two splendid days of competition. A short course qualifying event on day one followed by a much longer and very challenging slalom course on day two.



Ski team and supporters in beautiful Morzine

Hugh achieved a highly creditable thirteenth overall in the age adjusted finishing positions and topped the list for over seventies - a fantastic effort on his part. Whilst the rest of the team may not have been front runners, our

enthusiasm, friendliness and willingness to engage with every Liveryman and competitor we encountered will have, we hope, done much for the Company's standing within the wider Livery movement.

WCF/NFYFC scholars at the 2019 OFC

Each year the Company sponsors two senior YFC members to attend the Oxford Farming Conference. This year Lee Pritchard, from Glamorgan YFC and Amy Panton, from the Cumbria YFC were able to get an insight into the future of farming, when they attended the 2019 'World of Opportunity' themed - Oxford Farming Conference.

Amy who is a Technical and Livestock Procurement Manager for Dunbia Cumbria, said: *I wanted to understand how we can all work together to share our knowledge and collaborate as an industry - and that is exactly what I feel the conference delivered."*

Speaking after the conference Lee said, *"I would strongly recommend NFYFC members to apply for one of these amazing opportunities provided by the Worshipful Company of Farmers, and to use it to help steer your career and businesses forward."*



NFYFC WCF scholars Amy Panton and Lee Pritchard meet The Master and Liverymen Christopher Day and Peter Clarke at the 2019 OFC



The 23rd Challenge of Rural Leadership – January 2019

Following the conclusion of another successful Challenge of Rural Leadership course at Dartington Hall, near Totnes in Devon, the Master led a party from the Company, including Chairman of Education Karen Mercer and Senior Warden David Bolton, to attend the post course review session with the eighteen delegates and representatives of the course provider the Duchy Business School, led by Course Director, Professor Richard Soffe.

The response from the delegates was overwhelmingly positive. With particular mention made of the quality of the speakers, the interactive nature of many of the sessions and the way the course structure and environment built up trust between the delegates and staff and between the delegates themselves.

David Drage – *“Thank you to the Worshipful Company of Farmers for providing this wonderful course. None of the delegates knew what they were walking into, except the course came highly recommended. It certainly did not fail to deliver”.*

but one that the delegates felt had helped develop confidence, provided inspiration and the chance to think ‘outside the box’.

Jonathan Hodgson *“It has been an amazing journey and we leave with 17 new friends. Thank you to Richard & Geoff for their hard work – and patience – without which we would not have got through this. Thank you once again to the Worshipful Company of Farmers and your commitment to the course. I have achieved so much and it has helped my confidence. The skills I have learnt will allow me to progress in the future. Before we go there is one Post-it note that embraces the course”:* *“Incredible. I feel that I am more equipped to develop as a person in pushing my career and business forward.”*



Media training includes filmed interviews with the delegates



Teamwork comes in many guises during the course

The sense was that from interview to final wash-up, the process and the people had been exceptional. The course was certainly a challenge



The Master, Senior Warden and Chairman of Education attend the wash-up session

CRL Attendees 2019

Robert Asquith N. Yorks	Rhianne Jones Powys
Robert Bowden Cornwall	William Mann Glouc
Richard Bower Staffs	Diane Mitchell Warks
Benjamin Dolbear Hants	Victoria Morgan Warks
David Drage Nuffield Australia	Patrick Mutimer Norfolk
Edward Hall Berkshire	Jocelyn Orr Cheshire
Katie Hall Gloucs	Sarah Payne Oxon
Jonathan Hodgson East Yorks	Han Shiong Siah Nuffield Australia
Gemma Hooper London	James Thomas Notts

68th Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management November 2018

Delegates for the Worshipful Company of Farmers' 68th, Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management, the first in the new November annual timing slot, met at the Royal Agricultural University on Sunday 11th December, under the tutelage of Keith Barriball, to start three weeks, of what proved to be intense and 'life-changing' study and engagement.

Here's what delegate George Hurrall thought about the experience of being one of the delegates on this course:-

George Hurrell – My thoughts on the 2018 ACABM I attended in November

Now the dust has settled, having completed the WCF Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management, I can reflect and conclude that this course has been the most helpful and thought-provoking experience of my professional career. Having hit what I considered a 'glass ceiling' in farm management and with uncertain times ahead, I thought that now was the right time to push myself and interview for the 68th ACABM. I wanted to ensure that I knew my business inside out, have my mind opened to diversification projects and focus on the way that I lead employees going forward.



The course itself taught me to rethink the way I run our family business, it is essential that as an industry we become more professional and the ACABM is the first step in this process, it built my confidence and taught me new skills that I now use on a daily bases. The opportunity to benchmark against others on the course is invaluable and all delegates will make new friends for life.

The Master and Senior Warden, David Bolton participated in a panel discussion during the 68th ACABM

The full list of delegates attending the 68th ACABM

Edward Corbett Shropshire	George Hurrell Cambridgeshire
Peter Craven Lincolnshire	Stuart Laws Norfolk
Peter Cox Suffolk	Ryan McCormack Kent
Simon Day Lincolnshire	Charles Marshall Lincolnshire
Adam Driver Suffolk	Michael Patch Gloucestershire
William Forsyth Warkwickshire	Stephen Siddorn Northumberland
Alex Hall Essex	Pieter Smits Netherlands
Edward Hammond Nottinghamshire	James Trotter Gloucestershire
Rupert Haywood Northumberland	Helen Thomas Nuffield Australia



Delegates spent an afternoon at Cheltenham Racecourse



New course gets name change and official launch at the NFU Conference

The Company's new course, delivered by Harper Adams University and sponsored by the NFU Mutual – was officially launched at the NFU Conference in Birmingham on February 20th and at the same time receiving the name "Adopting Precision Technology in Agriculture". The first course commences on 11th November 2019 at Harper Adams University and takes the form of three, one-week blocks, with the last block concluding on the 26th June 2020.



The new APTA course aims to bridge the gap between the new technology and farmers who might use it

Course Director, Simon Thelwell says, *"The course is aimed primarily at farmers, farm managers and those associated with delivering and utilising advanced agricultural technology in the field and aims to fill the gap between research, science and technology and the farmers who might use these new technologies. Delegates will learn to use information from their own farms and will have the opportunity to develop a 'Precision Vision' for their business".* The Company and The University are now recruiting delegates who have, or who are considering, implementing new

technologies within their business but somehow, as yet, are not truly convinced about the technical, financial or operational benefits that implementation can bring to their own units. For more information go to the link on the Worshipful Company of Farmers website

Closing date for applications is 31st July 2019 and interviews will be held on 12th September 2019 at Harper Adams University.

Invest in yourself says 2018 WCF Cranfield Business Growth Programme delegate Benjamin Jackson

'Invest in yourself – because the single biggest factor in the success of your business is you.'

Those were the words of advice I received when I left the military and joined the family farming business nearly six years ago. Full of enthusiasm and positive energy, I immersed myself in learning and running our family business – which is how I found myself five years later and still having done nothing about it!

But once I started looking, I discovered a plethora of potential courses and finally chose the Cranfield Business Growth

Programme because it is entirely focused on your own business, which along with the modular structure, really suited me because it meant I could continue to run my family business and still study.

With 28 attendees from all different areas of industry from candle making to speech therapy there was a very diverse range of business structures and objectives represented. These other attendees are now a network of business owners I can call on for advice and whom I now consider friends.

Personally, I have found the BGP has given me back the enthusiasm for our business that I had five years ago and a new drive to shape the business going forward. Additionally I now have the tools to justify my decisions to the rest of the family. But the most important thing to come out of the course is that it has prompted our family to hold a long and frank discussion about the business and estate planning.

If we had achieved nothing else this outcome alone would have made the course a massively worthwhile investment.

The 2019 Learning Extension Day

There was a full house of one hundred delegates in attendance for the WCFA's very first WCFA Learning Extension Day, held at Cranfield University on December 19th 2018.

The programme, which featured a host of top quality speakers and session leads, started with a typically challenging and combative address from Professor Sean Rickard. This was followed by a series of three work streams on International Competitiveness, People Management and Precision Agriculture. As the day progressed the delegates, in their colour coded work groups, made their way around all three workshops.



Court Assistant Richard Crane leads a lunchtime mentoring session

During the lunch break – throughout which delegates could participate in personal mentoring discussions – the delegates mingled and chatted, with members of their own and other courses and year groups. With many reporting real value in the conversations they had and the contacts they took away.

In his closing address Sir Peter Kendall returned to many of the topics raised by Professor Rickard and gave some really interesting feedback on the day's activities which in turn fed into a lively and thought provoking discussion session.

WCF Chairman of Education, Karen Mercer, gave an update on the Company's educational portfolio, including the new 'Adopting Precision Technology in Agriculture' course the Company is launching in association with Harper Adams.

The atmosphere throughout the day, and the dinner that followed, was lively, challenging and positive. And the event's success was confirmed by a survey of delegates in which over 80% of respondents said they would be 'likely or very likely' to attend again in 2019 and an equal number said

they would recommend attending to friends and colleagues.



Delegates in the plenary session at the 2019 Learning Extension Day



Professor Sean Rickard opens the 2019 LED



Sun shines on the Master at the 2018 Lord Mayor's Show

On November 10th last year, The Master and Wardens - David Bolton and Richard Whitlock, led the Company's entry, as the 803rd Lord Mayor's Show took to the streets of the City of London. With the National Farmers' Union, Massey Ferguson, Red Tractor, the UK's largest farm and food assurance scheme, and Surrey Docks City Farm all providing wonderful support the team delivered the 'Back British Farming' message into the heart of the City of London.



The Master, Wardens and LMS Livery Liason officers John Martin and Nick Padwick with the whole 2018 show team

On what was, unusually for the Lord Mayor's Show, a sunny day, our entry looked superb, perhaps our best yet and positioned near the front of the parade we had excellent exposure and visibility. Centred around a beautiful red Massey Ferguson tractor and a stunning and very unusual looking, black Massey combine, the entry was flanked by eight members of the NFYFC - selected to represent the eight NFU regions and members of the management team and young

volunteers from our affiliated City Farm - Surrey Docks Farm.

The Lord Mayor's Show once again this year provided the perfect opportunity to showcase the best of British food

and farming to millions of people and to communicate the message about the critical role of our industry and its vital place in delivering quality food for the whole nation.

Special Lincolnshire Dinner to honour new Master



Liverymen from across Lincolnshire gathered to honour the new Master

Our Master has a long, personal association with the County of Lincolnshire, so it was no surprise that the members of the Livery in that great county decided to hold a special Lincolnshire Dinner in her honour. Ably marshalled by Liveryman Christopher

Day, the organising committee were able to assemble a really impressive, one hundred and twenty Lincolnshire based Liverymen, alumni and guests for the evening, which took place on Tuesday 6th November at Hemswell Court, Gainsborough.

Recent ACABM Alumni Emma Blandford and Charles Anyan took the opportunity to speak about their experiences on their respective WCF courses - clearly demonstrating the value the Company delivers through its on-going focus on education and training for our industry.

Past Master Philip Wynn, a previous recipient of a similar Lincolnshire 'special event', proposed a toast to the new Master and the Master replied, with a very interesting speech concentrating on the history and importance of City Livery Companies.

All those attending affirmed the evening a very special one and evidence, if such were needed, of the strength of the Livery representation in the County.

Master attends the ATC Annual Service of Thanksgiving

On Sunday 17th February The Master, accompanied by Past Master Jeremy Courtney and Livery Liaison Officer Anne Courtney, attended the Annual Service of Thanksgiving for the Royal Air Force Air Cadets - London and South East Region - at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand in London.

The parade, led by the Middlesex Wing band, marched along the Aldwych to the church. The uplifting service, with an excellent sermon on the topic of leaving your mark on society was given

by Group Captain the Reverend Giles Legood. The prayers were led by three

cadets also from the Middlesex Wing.



The Master, Past Master Jeremy Courtney and Livery Liaison Officer Anne Courtney with the Middlesex Wing ATC cadets



Lance Corporal Jim Hill © Andy Barnham 2017

Highground - a developing relationship

The Affiliations Committee has re-affirmed its support for Highground - the charity formed to assist in the transition to civilian life of individuals who have served in HM Forces - and plans to explore how we can best contribute to its efforts. "Highground does really valuable work with service leavers, reservists and veterans, many of whom experience

physical and mental health issues as a result of serving their country. The charity aims to provide expert advice and insight into land-based careers and vocational opportunities which enable people to transition more easily from military to civilian life," says Geoff Dodgson, Chairman, Affiliations Committee.

DEFENDER returns to active duty

Lt Cdr Daniel Lee RN, Senior Warfare Officer - reports



The Master presents the Company's award to Petty Officer Ben Tyreman

It has been a long time since DEFENDER was last on an operational footing. Having spent 9 months deployed in 2016, being worked particularly hard, she required some TLC. So, on her return to the UK, DEFENDER entered a deep maintenance period. It took until July 2017 before DEFENDER once again had water beneath her keel.

The Ship's Company re-joined early September 2017 and from then on started to bring their Ship back to life. DEFENDER finally returned to sea on the 27 April 2018.

DEFENDER rejoined the fleet in July 2018 and in early October she sailed

from Portsmouth. The staff of Flag Officer Sea Training embarked and after six gruelling weeks of high intensity exercises, DEFENDER was reported as "trained to fight" on November 22nd. The Christmas and New Year period saw a short time alongside, during which we had the honour of hosting the Master for a tour. During the visit, the Master presented the Worshipful Company of Farmers' Prize for Leadership to Petty Officer Ben Tyreman, one of the Ship's Warfare Senior Ratings, the first recipient of the prize since 2016.

Now 2019 is upon us and there are exciting times ahead with the Ship shortly taking the duty of Fleet Ready Escort and participating in a number of multi-national exercises before heading out for 6 months in warmer waters.



Sleepless in the Saddle

**Epic charity cycle ride
Saturday 13th July 2019**



Join our epic, thru-the-night charity cycle ride and help us raise money for the incredibly important WCF Charitable Fund which supports all our educational and training activities.

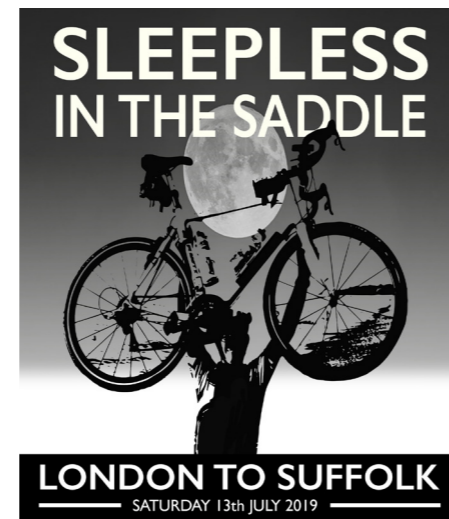
The ride starts at 7pm on Saturday 13th July, from the Farmers & Fletchers Hall on Cloth Street, a stones throw from the Barbican Tube station, from there we cycle to London Fields, Hackney to join 3000 fellow cyclists riding the iconic Dunwich Dynamo.

From there our route will take us through Epping Forest, Great Dunmow, Finchingfield to Sudbury, where we will turn and head across Suffolk to the beach at Dunwich for Breakfast.

To register your place in Sleepless in the Saddle please complete the entry form you will find on the WCF website and either send a cheque for £50.00, made out to Worshipful Company of Farmers, to the Clerk, The Worshipful Company of Farmers, 24 Herons Place, Old Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7BE, or you can pay directly via our Virgin Money Giving Page here.

If you wish to pay by BACS, send £50 to: sort code 60-00-01 account number 00902683

For your entry fee you will be provided with a unique, limited edition WCF Sleepless in the Saddle cycling shirt, a hot pasta meal before we depart from Farmers & Fletchers' Hall and access to our private, WCF Sleepless in the Saddle



food stops along the route - where hot and cold food and drink will be provided.

For more information contact the organiser Richard Anscombe at richardanscombe@framfarmers.co.uk

Livery Familiarisation day

**with Buffet Lunch and Walking Tour of the City.
Monday 17th June 2019 starting at 10.00am**



This event will be of interest to all members of the Company and their guests and anyone considering joining the Company at some time in the future. The un-stuffy day has been designed to give an understanding, of our Company, the City, Freedom and the Livery.

We are delighted that Alderman William Russell, who, subject to Election, is likely to be the next Lord Mayor, has agreed to speak in the morning. Our Beadle, Ted Prior, will take us through the ceremonials such as 'The Loving Cup' Ceremony whilst the Master and

Deputy Master will speak in more depth about the Company's history and governance.

There will be an introduction to Life in the City of London and the Livery followed by a buffet lunch and in the

afternoon a two-hour walking tour, with a Blue Badge Guide, highlighting places of special historic interest.

The City of London was founded by the Romans over two thousand years ago and continues to be one of the most exciting and dynamic cities in the world. On our walk we will discover the site of the Roman basilica and amphitheatre, walk down narrow medieval alleyways, visit the location where the Stock Exchange and Lloyd's of London began and see the 15th century Guildhall which survived the Great Fire of London.

Tickets are £35.00 via the members portal on the WCF website or from the clerk at clerk@farmerslivery.org.uk and as usual tickets will be allocated on a first come basis. Dress: Smart casual with comfortable walking shoes.

Agricultural Lecture & Dinner

**April 3rd Plaisterers' Hall -
Brexit 2019**

With Brexit due to take place on March 29th, the Master has arranged a speaker who is an acknowledged expert on the topic - Mark Berrisford-Smith. Having studied economics at Sussex and London Universities, Mark is now Head of Economics for HSBC's commercial banking business in the UK. He is responsible for advising the Bank in the UK and its business customers on developments in the British and global economies.

In order to ensure that HSBC's UK commercial customers are as well informed as possible about the issues arising from 'Brexit', he has spoken at over 150 separate events on the subject since 2016.

The Agricultural Lecture & Dinner is now an established and important



event in the Livery year and popular not just with our Liverymen but with members of our alumni too. So please do join us for a presentation full of invaluable insights and for an evening full of opportunities to meet up and exchange views with some of the brightest and best in the industry.

Tickets (£75.00 plus VAT) are available via the Member's Portal on the website or from the Clerk at clerk@farmerslivery.org.uk

Attire: Black tie / cocktail dress

After a successful first running in 2018, which members of the Company supporting the event thoroughly enjoyed, it is hoped that many more Liverymen and alumni will enter for this year's tournament. Played for the John Alliston Tankard, the tournament is held each year to commemorate and celebrate the enormous contribution John made to the lives and careers of so many in the industry.

All proceeds raised go directly to the Worshipful Company of Farmers Charitable Fund. This fund helps support the Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management that John contributed so much time and effort in helping us build it into the renowned success it has become.

Sponsors, for individual holes and for prizes, are also sort, and the organisers, Liverymen John Martin and Martin Taylor are asking everyone in the

The John Alliston Memorial Golf Day

Stratford on Avon Golf Club, Thursday 29th August



Company to talk to friends, family, colleagues and the industry at large, about the tournament to help grow awareness and the entry list for 2019.

For more information contact either of the organisers on martin1943@hotmail.co.uk or JohnM@fengrain.co.uk



ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the Common Hall Meeting held on the 4th December 2018, the following were clothed with the Livery

Richard John Williamson
Nocton
Lincolnshire

Steven George Corfield
Bridgnorth
Shropshire

Charles Richard Percy
Bovingdon
Herts

Duncan Sigournay
Bath
Somerset



New Liverymen Steven Corfield, Richard Williamson, Richard Percy and Duncan Sigournay

EVENTS 2019

Friday 29th March
United Guilds Service
St Paul's Cathedral

Wednesday 3rd April
Agricultural Lecture & Dinner
6.00pm Plaisterers' Hall

Tuesday 14th May
Farmers' Company visit to RAF
Waddington
RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire

**Wednesday 15th &
Thursday 16th May**
Inter-Livery Clay Shoot
Holland & Holland Shooting
Ground,

**Tuesday 21st May to
Saturday 25th May**
Farmers' Company Spring Visit to
Rapallo
Italian Riviera

Tuesday 4th June
Court & Livery Luncheon
Farmers and Fletchers' Hall

Monday 17th June
City & Livery Familiarisation Day
Farmers & Fletcher's Hall

Saturday 13th July
Sleepless in the Saddle –
Charity Cycle Ride
From Farmers & Fletchers' Hall
to Suffolk

**Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th
September**
The Masters Summer Visit
Accommodation - Francis Hotel,
Bath
Reception - The Roman Baths,
Bath
Dinner - The Pump Room, Bath

Tuesday 8th October
Harvest Thanksgiving and
Installation of the new Master
St Bartholomew the Great,
Smithfield

Saturday 9th November
Lord Mayor's Show
City of London

Tuesday 3rd December
Common Hall & Court and Livery
Luncheon

Livery Regalia

The newly designed Company tie is now available via the members portal on the Company website. You will find it, along with other Company items, in the 'Shopping' section; or from the Clerk clerk@farmerslivery.org.uk
The price is £30.00 inclusive of VAT.



All the other items of regalia are also available via the portal and still include, for those who prefer it, the two colourways of the previous tie (£24 each), as well as The History of the Company book (£35.00), Livery cufflinks (£24/pair), Ladies Brooch (£57.00) and Ladies Silk Scarf (£40.00).

