

## Meet the Master



At the Installation Court held on Thursday 5 September Rick "Ricky" Alford was Installed as the Master of the WCHCD.

He is pictured centre above with Deputy Master Dave Cannell to his right and his team of Wardens, left to right, Mick Cullen (Upper Warden), Wendy Sorrell (Lower Warden) and Stephen Plumb (Renter Warden).

Ricky, was born in Barking Essex. He left school in 1970 to start work as an apprentice in the Print. However, he decided this was not for him and after two years changed direction and trained as a butcher. He worked for several butchers including at Smithfield Market.

In 1980, wanting to work for himself he bought a delicatessen on Farringdon Road in the City, but after 20 years another change of direction was on the cards! He had always yearned to do 'the Knowledge' and in 2000 embarked on the three years and one month of learning and obtained his 'green badge' in 2003.

Ricky has completed seven marathons, including Paris, Berlin, Disneyland Florida and four London Marathons and competed in the first London Triathlon. He is a trained PADI diver and has scuba dived off Lundy island, the Bahamas and in the Great Barrier Reef. However, these days he mostly gets his exercise from walking his very active dog! Participating in weekly Tai Chi classes

and always seems to be pottering around the garden.

In 2001 he was admitted as a Freeman of the City of London and the following year as a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers. He was Installed as a Court Assistant in 2009 and is currently the Master.

Ricky is very proud of the Company's Magical Taxi Tour for children with life threatening illness and has participated in the tour for the last 13 years.

Ricky is married to Maggie, who retired as Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Musicians in 2013. In August 2014 they decided to do some traveling starting on the Trans-Siberian railway. They spent seven months visiting 12 different countries, 57 different towns and cities and slept in 76 different beds, returning home in February 2015. He loves travelling and has been to more than 45 different countries.

At the Court Meeting Ricky was pleased to appoint Liveryman Silvi Oliveira as the newest Court Assistant and invested him with his collarette. He was also delighted to admit Andrew Pearce to the Freedom of the Company and we wish him and his wife Linda a hearty welcome. 🚗

### Company Events 2019 – 2020

18 October 2019	WCHCD Golf Club Day
13 November 2019	Common Court & Livery Dinner
7 December 2019	Disney Dinner & Dance
17 December 2019	Carol Service & Supper
5 March 2020	Spring Court Dinner
13 May 2020	Election Court Lunch (Court Members Only)
19 June 2020	Founders' Day Lunch

### City Events

2 October 2019	Election of Lord Mayor
9 November 2019	Lord Mayor's Show
25 February 2020	Pancake Race
27 March 2020	United Guild Service
24 June 2020	Election of the Sheriffs

# Disney Trip Works Its Magic Once Again



On Friday 13 September the usual cavalcade of Taxis, Ambulances, Police Motorcycles, AA Wagons and Support Vehicles assembled at the East Winter Gardens, Canary Warf for the Children's Magical Taxi Tour Big Breakfast.

The first main job of the new Master has traditionally been the responsibility of hosting this fantastic event and Rick Alford was very pleased to welcome Lord Mayor Locum Tenens Andrew Parmley and his entourage of City of London representatives to the Breakfast.

We were also joined by servicemen and women from 20 Transport Squadron Royal Logistic Corps and No 504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron RAuxAF, our Army and RAF Affiliations, who welcomed guests and provided a Guard of Honour as the convoy rolled out.

The trip to Paris passed without any great calamity and eventually some very tired adults and very excited children arrived in Disneyland.

The Saturday was a gloriously warm and sunny day the tell-tale lime green lanyards could be seen all around the park as families and their drivers threw themselves enthusiastically onto (and in some cases tottered rather unstably off) the various rides and attractions.

Saturday evening brought the Gala Dinner; a chance for all to relax and have a sit down and catch. Speeches and presentations were made before the Disco fired up and adults and children danced the remainder of the night away.

Up early the following morning for the drive back to blighty but anyone feeling groggy soon had the cobwebs blown away by the noise of sirens, hooters and revved engines from the emergency vehicles that were with us and entering the kids as the drivers loaded the cabs.

Well done and thank you to all involved in the planning and execution of the trip. This event has become the flagship for the Company within the City of London and leads many of the Livery Company Masters, attending the Breakfast to see their Company's Taxi on its way, to remember it as the highlight of their year. 🚗

## Drive Day 2019



This year's Driving Skills Day at Regent's Park Barrack with 20 Sqn RLC was very well attended and drivers enjoyed a variety of challenges from reversing Land Rovers and trailers and an egg and spoon Taxi manoeuvre to a remote-control car obstacle course.

Afterwards we retired to "Dunkerley's" for refreshment, prize giving's and a BBQ.

The overall winners on the day, who received medals and will have their team name engraved on the Mickey Ascott Shield, were "The Jockeys" consisting of SSgt Felix Chikwaka of 20 Sqn and the WCHCDs Richard Chamberlain (again!), Jason Kron and Steve Bates, pictured above.

Thanks to all who took part or supported the event. Details of next year's event will be circulated in due course but, due to usage demands on the Barracks it is normally only confirmed at about 6 weeks' notice. 🚗



### **The Clerk's Office**

Please contact the Clerk, Belinda Tregear for further information on anything in this Newsletter:

[clerk@hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com](mailto:clerk@hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com)

# Who's Who in the WCHCD

Getting involved is a great way to get more enjoyment out of your membership of the WCHCD. There are several Committees that meet to help the Master, Wardens and Court in the management of the Company's affairs and many are on the lookout for keen and enthusiastic members to assist them. Most Committees are open to members who are either Court Assistants or Liverymen so, if you have any interest in being put forward for membership of a Committee, or becoming a Court Assistant, please contact the Clerk.

Here's a list of the Committees and their current Chairmen. 🚗

Finance	Renter Warden Stephen Plumb
Membership	Lower Warden Wendy Sorrell
Trustees	PM Michael Davies
Education	PM Graham Woodhouse
Awards	PM Colin Evans
PR	PM Malcolm Paice

## Company Affiliations:

Military	Asst Dan Heath
Royal Docks Academy	PM Andrew Overton
Social Sub Committee	Asst Leigh Dargan

# Quiz and Race Night at Regent's Park Barracks



You are invited to join members of the WCHCD and 20 Transport Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps, on Thursday 21 November at

Regent's Park Barracks for a Quiz and Race Night. Entry is £5 per head and teams will be mixed up on the night so that members of each organisation can get to know each other.

We've held several of these events in the past and they have all been well supported and good fun so, whether you've been before or not, come along and enjoy a night out with our Army Affiliation. Please email Dan Heath at [dnhth76@gmail.com](mailto:dnhth76@gmail.com) to book in or for further info. 🚗

# Got a Story?

The Dashboard will be published shortly after each Court meeting and when sufficient items of interest are available. If you have anything that you think would be of interest to the members, whether it's an upcoming event, a piece of news or an item of interest about the Taxi trade history, or even that of London or the WCHCD, we would be pleased to hear from you. 🚗

Email The Dashboard at [wchcddashboard@outlook.com](mailto:wchcddashboard@outlook.com)

# Calling all Golf Enthusiasts

The WCHCD Golfing Club is always looking for members of any standard to take part in the inter Livery golf days, giving members a chance to meet other Freemen and Liverymen of the Livery movement.

If you are interested in playing Golf with other members of the WCHCD please contact Liveryman Greg Smith Email: [gtouchtaxislondon@gmail.com](mailto:gtouchtaxislondon@gmail.com)

The next upcoming inter-Livery Golfing Day is taking place on Friday 18 October 2019, when the Worshipful Company of World Traders invites you to join, as individuals or in teams, for a great day of Golf at the Mid Herts Golf Club, Wheathampstead, Jtn 23 off the M25. 🚗

# It's All About The Members



Recruitment has been high on the Agenda of the Membership Committee and the Court this year and we need your help.

If you know anyone involved with the Taxi Trade who would be a keen and enthusiastic member of the WCHCD, please do speak to them about joining.

The Membership committee has produced a leaflet to be handed to those seriously contemplating membership, to give them more detail about what we do. Copies are available from the Clerk. 🚗