

## INSTALLATION COURT DINNER AT TALLOW CHANDLERS

The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers held their 2008 Installation Dinner at the beautiful Tallow Chandlers' Hall. This hall has its stunning entrance on Dowgate Hill, just opposite Cannon Street Station and the Hall itself is a Grade I listed building. It was built in 1672 after the destruction of the original hall during the Great Fire of London. Having survived the Blitz, it is one of the few Livery Halls to remain unchanged since the 17th Century. In the Court Room on the second floor prior to the Dinner, Andrew Overton was installed as Master of the Company for the next twelve months. Two new Court Assistants, Sandie Goodwin and Alan Roughan, were also installed. The Court Room is one of the original purpose-built Stuart court rooms of London, with seventeenth century seating arrangements. A new Freeman, Stephen Mullen, was sworn in.



Stephen Mullen

Freemen, Liverymen and their guests were welcomed to a champagne reception by the Master and his Wardens. Unfortunately due to the inclement weather, it was not possible to have the reception in the lovely Courtyard where there is a fifty year old olive tree. Instead guests were enjoying the oak panelled parlour, which also dates from the seventeenth century. Sir Joseph Sheldon, Lord Mayor of London in 1676, undertook the cost of the oak panelling. The lovely atmosphere in these surroundings reflects the diversity of the taxi trade in London. Dinners are always a time for those involved in the trade to renew their acquaintance with people they do not see often. On this occasion, amongst those present was Roy Ellis, former Head of the PCO, together with Dave Stock who is still at the PCO. Roy took time to catch up with the latest news from the taxi trade. Staff

from LTI Vehicles were present as their CEO John Russell was giving the after dinner speech. Members of trade associations, taxi trade paper editors and taxi drivers all enjoyed their evening. The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers is a non political organisation and is proud to promote the taxi trade throughout the City, fostering relationships with other Livery Companies.

After the Dinner, Master Andrew Overton gave his first speech as Master and welcomed everyone to the Tallow Chandlers. Andrew has a long connection with the cab trade himself and his family have been connected for over 100 years. Following an entertaining speech by John Russell who explained the progress of LTI Vehicles new venture in China, Andrew Overton invited everyone to join him in a Stirrup Cup.

If you would like more details about The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers please contact The Clerk Mary Whitworth on 01494765922 who would be delighted to help you.



The Master and his Wardens, (l-r) Eddie Crossley Andrew Overton Michael Davies Jim Rainbird

## GOLF DAY RAISES £4000

The Charity Fund for The Worshipful Company of Hackney Drivers has received a cheque for £4000 thanks to a Golf Day held in July 2008. Brian Rice, Chairman of Dial-a-Cab was delighted to present the cheque to

Michael Davies, Upper Warden of the Company, just prior to the Installation Dinner. This is the 2nd year that the Company has held a fund raising event and it is hoped it will become an annual event.



## NEW BOOK DONATED TO WCHCD

The long-awaited third edition of the most comprehensive book on London ever published is a must for cab drivers studying on The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Cab Guide Course. The publishers have kindly donated a copy of the book to the course co-ordinator, Graham Woodhouse.



Pictured here receiving the book from Sandie Goodwin, editor of Taxi Globe, who presented it on behalf of the publishers, Graham said: "This is a great source of reference and I am delighted to have been donated a copy of ruse on future courses. We already have a large number of students enrolled and ready to start our next course on 17th September."

If you would like more information about the course, please contact Graham on 07968-791117, or e-mail him at [info@cabguide.com](mailto:info@cabguide.com)

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