

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS

Annual Banquet at the Fishmongers Hall

Thursday 3rd November 2016

Our Annual Banquet this year was held at the prestigious Fishmongers' Hall on Thursday 3rd November. With 100 Members and their guests present, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening orchestrated with great skill by our Clerk (Ralph Riley), Beadle (Tony Parker) and Bargemaster (Johnny Dwan).



The Fishmongers Hall Prepared For Dinner

As guests arrived they were greeted by our Bargemaster, Johnny Dawn. Below, our Beadle on the left, Bargemaster in the centre and Clerk on the right, flanked by two Doggets.



The Master and three Wardens (and their Consorts) then welcomed guests to the reception and a glass of champagne. Dinner was preceded by the singing of grace. The excellent meal was prepared by Head Chef Stephen Pini and his team and was followed by the Loving Cup Ceremony.



The Master and Principal Guest Mark Hunter Enjoy Dinner

Following the dinner our Master, Keith Tozzi gave a welcoming speech to our guests who included the Clerk to the Chamberlains Court, representatives from three of our Corporate Members (AECOM, Thames Water and Atkins), our cutter rowing crew from Poplar Rowing Club and principal guest Olympic Gold Medallist rower Mark Hunter. Keith paid tribute to the cutter rowing crew who were awarded the silver rose bowl again for winning the women's race in the Port of London Challenge.

Mark Hunter then responded with a personal story of his tenacity to "win gold". He told us how he was initially inspired by Sir Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, what it felt like to come last in his first Olympic challenge, followed by four years of hard work to reach his ultimate goal, winning gold in the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Our Master then responded with a further speech giving some anecdotes relating to his role of Master over the last few months.

Throughout dinner we were treated to some excellent music from a pianist and this was followed after dinner by a musical interlude with selected songs from Flanders & Swan. The two opera singers and pianist were all from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and they did a great job.

Following a stirrup cup, the last of us left just after 11.00pm. A very enjoyable evening and many thanks to everyone who helped organize it.