



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour



Viv Jones
Master - Firefighters' Company

FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

By way of this communication, I wish to introduce you to the Firefighters' Company.

Our official title of "The Worshipful Company of Firefighters" was granted after receiving our letters patent following 14 years as the Guild of Firefighters. The Guild was the creation of Gerry Clarkson, the then Chief of London Fire Brigade, who, together with a number of loyal colleagues, had questioned why it was that many trades had Guilds and Livery Companies formed in their name, but not the Firefighters. They were looking at the historic City of London Livery Companies, some of which go back over 800 years and decided the City had waited long enough for the Firefighters!

The mission of the Firefighters' Company is the development and advancement of the science, art and practice of firefighting and fire protection. Of course this could not be achieved with Fire Service members alone. Although vitally important, they are but one sector of the Fire Industry. It was decided at the outset that interest from all sectors of our Industry should be encouraged and we now have members from the Fire Services, vehicle manufacturers, scientific research institutes, test houses, manufacturers of detection and alarm products, rescue equipment, extinguishers and a host of other products used by the fire services, industry, government and the general public.

Before being honoured as the 103rd (there are now 107) livery company in 2001, we were required to demonstrate our commitment, capability and resilience to comply with the traditions of the City of London and its Livery movement, by swearing allegiance to the Lord Mayor of the City of London and Her Majesty's government. But additionally, and most vitally, we had to have accumulated sufficient charity reserves to be able to distribute aid on a regular basis, in line with our Charitable Trust's responsibilities. It is fund raising for charities (and in our case Fire related charities) that is the motivation of many of those who now join the Firefighters. It's not without fun, networking, friendship or indeed professional opportunities but it is charity and the opportunity to put something back into one's industry or

communities which is the bedrock of the modern Livery Companies. In addition, we take part in the government, pageantry and customs of the greatest city in the world.

The Firefighters' Company is responsible for the Fire Industry Charity Ball. This year, it will be held on 28 June 2008, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

It's a great fun night. Following a reception we have a magnificent dinner, followed by entertainment and dancing. We hold a raffle where all the excellent prizes have been donated either by members or the corporate sector. But the main fund raiser is the auction. This is the time when individuals might bid for a personal tour of St. Paul's or the Tower of London, buy football memorabilia, book a ski holiday or bid to drive a Ferrari. The corporate bidders may seek out unique works of art, or grand wines for their guests. Last year, the total raised was over £25,000 and everyone had a fantastic evening.

"It is reassuring and pleasing to see the Fire Industry Charity Ball continue to grow and FIA is proud to be supportive both in spirit and finance. Contributing to Fire related Charities is important and in its first year as an association FIA has adopted the Firefighters Company's Charitable Trust as its main Charity and are proud to be alongside the Firefighters Company as co-sponsors of the Ball. Attending the Ball is a fun way to help Fire Charities and we are particularly delighted to be able help the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund who will be the main beneficiary of the 2008 event."

Martin Harvey
FIA Chairman

"The Fire Services National Benevolent Fund is delighted to accept the Firefighters' Company's invitation for the FSNBF to become one of the official charities for the prestigious Fire Industry Charity Ball. Their support is outstanding and by using both our organisations' expertise, and drawing on the additional support of the joint promoters FIA, we will work together to ensure that fire related worthy causes are better supported than ever before."

Roy Lawrenson
FSNBF Chief Executive



Martin Harvey, FIA Chairman, at their inaugural AGM presents the Master with the FIA donation in support of fundraising for the 2008 Fire Industry Charity Ball

Our 2008 event is expected to be our best yet and we are delighted to be joined by the FIA as joint promoters and we have already received offers of sponsorship from the corporate sector. Sponsorship through our 'Corporate table plan' is a way for business to entertain customers, thank their staff or suppliers, and treat their families, as well as ensuring that a donation goes directly to a most worthy cause

Please join me, my fellow Firefighters and your industry colleagues and friends at the 2008 Fire Industry Charity Ball and have fun whilst showing how we all care for those less fortunate than ourselves!



Fire Industry Charity Ball 2008

The premier social and charitable event for the Fire Industry

The Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London
Saturday 28 June, 2008

Dinner, Auction, Raffle and Dancing
to the 'Big Man and his Band'



For further information or tickets please contact:
Mr Bryan Spearman
Tel: 07860 188 030
E-mail: brandy.promotions@virgin.net

The Ball is organised by The Worshipful Company of Firefighters with the FIA as joint promoters. We are pleased to support the following charities:



LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL



SPONSORSHIP - 2008 BALL

Sponsorship makes a vital contribution to the success of The Fire Industry Charity Ball. Listed below are some of the sponsorship opportunities that exist.

- Band - Generously sponsored by Apollo Fire Detectors
- Reception Drinks
- Table Wines
- Menus and Table Decorations



Interested parties for all sponsorship opportunities please contact Viv Jones on 01702 216999 or email vtj@vimpex.co.uk.

Corporate Table Sponsorship

An important element this year is "Corporate Table Sponsorship" where applications are invited from Companies who in return for a single payment will ensure a donation to the Charitable fund and a table for ten guests.

Current Corporate Table Sponsors:



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Martin Bonham
The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury,
London EC2V 7GF
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Email: clerk@firefighterscompany.org