

The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

CITY OF LONDON

MASTER

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Dear Members

Master's Mailing

The first three months of my year as Master have been very busy and tremendously enjoyable. The most memorable week was the first week of November. This combined the solemnity of events related to Remembrance Sunday, the ceremonial of the Silent Ceremony when the new Lord Mayor was installed and the joyous celebration of the Lord Mayor's Show.

Members' Survey

Thanks again to the 30% of you who replied to our survey on events. It is clear that our membership is diverse, with a wide range of interests and expectations. This was demonstrated with views on the timing of events (daytime or evening), days of events (weekdays or weekends), formality (more or less), etc.

We concluded that, while we are unlikely to "please all our members, all of the time", we can do more to ensure there is "something for everyone, at some time".

In terms of specific steps we intend to:

- Organise some new events aimed at appealing to specific groups of members, but not necessarily all,
- Make changes to some of our established events on an experimental basis with the aim of broadening their appeal, and
- Create a welcoming environment at our events to help newer members to feel part of the Tax Advisers' family.

As our events are planned well in advance, you are unlikely to see much change before the autumn.

In the New Year, we shall be carrying out a second survey covering membership, communication and charities. I hope that you'll share your views with us so that we can meet more of your expectations.

Committees

We are approaching the time of year when we start to plan for changes to the membership of our committees in autumn 2025. The Deputy Master will be writing to you all shortly so that you can express your interests. Our committees meet four times a year but their most valuable work is done outside the formal meetings by small groups and individuals. For example, you might be organising a small social event, taking part in a careers' fair or an event for prospective members, or archiving Company materials.

If activities such as this appeal to you, then you could fit in well with one of our committees or special interest groups.

One specific opportunity is to represent the Company on the Livery Climate Action Group, committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing waste in order to help the City reach Net Zero by 2040. We need a team to develop our own Action plan and so, if you are interested, please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

Charitable giving and pro-bono work

Each year all Livery companies are asked to report their charitable giving and the amount of pro-bono work done by their members. For the year ended 30 June 2024, our figures were:

- Charitable giving – more than £37,000 of which more than £12,000 related to education
- Pro-bono work – 100 hours given using general experience and 84 hours using professional expertise.

A proud contribution.

Future events

In the next three months, highlights include:

- Tuesday 18 February – a History of Tax lecture entitled Glass Tax Magnified given by Liveryman Carrie de Silva
- Tuesday 4 March – Inter-Livery Pancake races in Guildhall Yard
- Thursday 13 March – Budget Banquet at Mercers' Hall. This will be our first visit to this wonderful Hall. The Guest of Honour will be Sir Jim Harra, the head of HMRC.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



Richard Geldard
Master