

Lock, Stock & Barrel



The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers

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Winter 2010



The new Master: Paul Cort

On Tuesday 3 November 2009, Brigadier Paul Cort became the three hundred and sixty-first Master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers when he took the keys of the Proof House from outgoing Master Richard Purdey at the Company's Nomination Dinner. He gave the following speech.

May I on behalf of the Livery thank my predecessor, Richard Purdey, the retiring Master, as I take up this venerable office?

Coming from such a famous London gun making family as Richard does, you will recall from last year that he rejoined the family business in 1995 as its Chairman, became a Liveryman three years later and joined the Court in 2003. Richard's business experience and his wider network in the arena of shooting and field sports have proved invaluable since he joined the Court. He has introduced many of you here tonight to the Fellowship, Society and Company of Gunmakers. His knowledge of the gun trade and the realities of merchandising fine weapons and shooting equipment to a wide spectrum of

nationalities, with his inimitable charm and charisma, have made him an ideal emissary for our Livery.

He has encouraged our Social Committee, which has delivered a wide and varied range of successful events over the past twelve months. He has attended the Proof House Committee at its quarterly sessions, adding wisdom and common sense as we move our procedures into the twenty-first century. He has hosted our regular Livery lunches, to which several of you bring your friends and potential Liverymen, and the less frequent Masters' and Clerks' lunches where we repay hospitality to other Liveries and endeavour to educate them in our continuing role in both the City and the Nation. Richard has also represented our interests at a myriad of events in the City and elsewhere in the United Kingdom, on many of which he has been accompanied by his charming wife, Margaretha.

Richard has also been the driving force behind our recently launched accreditation scheme for the certification of gunsmiths who have completed comprehensive training in one or more of the seven gun making trades. The scheme "The Training and Certification of Newly Qualified Gunmakers" will be judged by a suitably qualified

Master Gunmaker, and awarded annually – it is currently worth £300 to the recipient.

I therefore on your behalf propose a sincere vote of thanks from the Court and the Livery to Richard and Margaretha for their outstanding year in office. I look forward to Richard's continuing support as Deputy Master and also that of Colin Sharman and Clive Richards (sadly not able to be here this evening but represented by his Deputy, David Lentaigne), following their election as Upper and Renter Warden respectively.

Now for a few words about me. I am a Chartered Engineer whose original degree was in Production Engineering. This helped me progress my Army career as a commissioned officer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. I served for 34 years in the south of England, Northern Ireland, Whitehall, Germany and Jordan. I commanded REME soldiers supporting Mechanised Infantry Battalions, Armoured Brigades and an Armoured Division.

My real skill set was as a weapons staff officer. My most recent appointments were in the MOD's procurement world overseeing the acquisition of armoured fighting vehicles, small arms, trucks, electronic counter measures, clothing, complete tented camps, field hospitals, simulators and test equipment. Much of this was destined for Iraq; some subsequently was redeployed to Afghanistan. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Army, an Army of which I am extremely proud.

Since my retirement I have joined the Board of a vehicle engineering company in Scotland. Their specialism is up-armouring commercial vehicles for cash and bullion in transit, covert cars for the Foreign Office and other government departments. We also design and build bespoke vehicles for minefield clearance, bomb disposal and electronic counter measures for the military and the Home Office.

It is interesting to be working to protect those who must drive harm's road from the effects end of ballistics and blast, especially with the new threats being posed by both the underworld and terrorists.

As is customary at this occasion I will now update you on the state of affairs within the Company. As you can imagine, with the ongoing operations in Afghanistan, life in the Proof House has continued to be extremely busy. The improvements to the fabric of the Proof House have con-

tinued, including reviews on physical security and access following the occupation of the new housing behind our premises. Our listed-building status has meant that some of our proposed improvements are taking longer than one would have hoped.

The amount of work being presented for proof physically at the Proof House and off site on MOD Ranges has continued at record levels. Many of the weapons are 0.50 calibre in the form of heavy machine guns, spare barrels and sniper rifles. The 0.50-inch machine gun and 20mm grenade launcher appear to be the Army's weapons of choice in Afghanistan at the moment. Our staff have continued to excel and, on behalf of the Court and the Livery, I offer them our sincere thanks.

You will recall that the Company gave £5,000 from its profits to Help for Heroes this year and a similar amount to Combat Stress the year before. It is my intention to continue this style of giving during my year as your Master. A suitable recipient is being identified.

Remaining with the Proof House, it is with some regret that I announce that our Proof Master, Michael White, left us on 1 November 2009. As many of you know, Michael joined us in November 2005. He has been a good servant to the Company, expending much time and effort in working for and supporting the activities of the Proof House. We wish Michael the very best for his future endeavours.

I am very pleased to announce that Richard Mabbitt, presently the Proof House Superintendent, is to be appointed as Michael's successor. Richard, many congratulations and good luck in your new appointment. We look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Next, Gunmakers' Hall. Our tenants continue to pay their rent on time and have carried out the repairs programme as required by our surveyor. At a recent meeting they confirmed that they do not now wish to proceed with an assignment of their lease. The lease runs to 2015 and the Court continues to review the strategy for our future use of the Hall.

The Gunmakers' Company Charitable Trust held an Open Day at the Proof House on 1 October. It was modestly attended. We look forward to seeing its fruits in the shooting press over the forthcoming months. Our two trainees, from Watson Brothers and Westley Richards, presented their work to a high standard and with great enthusiasm. The banners produced for that event are on show tonight.

I am looking forward to my year as Master and will strive to serve the Company to the best of my abilities. My main goals are to:

- Achieve ISO accreditation for the Proof House with our new Proof Master
- Further develop our working relations with the Birmingham Proof House, especially in connection with the Joint Laboratory
- Foster our military affiliations, both with 20 Cadet Squadron Royal Engineers and their Group, and, in the future, with the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, where armourers are trained for all three services.

I am sure I can count on your support.



Nomination Dinner, Stationers' Hall, 3 November 2009

Richard Beaumont

The Honourable Richard Blackett Beaumont, CVO, twice Master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers and second son of the second Viscount Allendale, KG, died on 8th January aged 83. He owned London gun- and rifle-maker James Purdey & Sons Ltd from 1949 until 1994, and was its Chairman from 1971. He retired following a serious heart attack, having sold Purdey's to the Geneva-based international luxury goods group Richemont AG. Richard Purdey contributed this appreciation of the man, which was originally published in The Times on 15 January.

Richard Beaumont was born on 13th August 1926, spending his childhood between the family's Northumberland estate and their London home in Mayfair. For a time the Duke and Duchess of York, and the young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose, were next door neighbours.

Richard Beaumont went to Eton in September 1939, leaving in December 1943, at 17, to join the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. After basic training at HMS *King*

Arthur in Skegness, he joined the training cruiser HMS *Dauntless* at Rosyth, as an Ordinary Seaman. He often recalled how Eton had been a sound preparation for the lower deck. From *Dauntless* he was sent for officer training at HMS *King Alfred* in Hove, then served as midshipman in the destroyer HMS *Comet*. Sub-Lieutenant Richard Beaumont finished his RNVR service in Hong Kong in 1947.

He returned home via India, spending a year as personal assistant to Sir Walter Monckton, then acting for the Nizam of Hyderabad in delicate negotiations over partition. With this task completed Richard Beaumont flew back to London in 1948, to a job as a shipping clerk in Billingsgate, which, after his foreign adventures he found 'very mundane'.

In 1949 Richard Beaumont was telephoned by his father, Lord Allendale. "Uncle Hughie (his mother's brother Sir Hugh Seely) has given you Purdey's" "What's Purdey's?" was his response. "It's a well known gun shop" his father replied. "Uncle Hughie thought it might be rather fun, but you don't have to go into it if you don't want to."

Shortly after this exchange Richard Beaumont met Tom Purdey, the Managing Director, who had sold the company to Sir Hugh and his brother Sir Victor Seely in

1946. In his book *Purdey's - The Guns and the Family*, published in 1984, Richard Beaumont described his first visit to the Long Room. "Tom was charming", he said, "He told me about the firm, the families who made the guns, and his own family, and introduced me to Harry Lawrence, the factory manager. It all sounded so wonderful I decided that this was what I wanted to do, which is how I came to be associated with the great firm of James Purdey & Sons and entered a career so entirely different from that which I had planned."

Before doing so Richard Beaumont served as Aide-de-Camp to the last British High Commissioner of Malaysia, Sir Donald MacGillivray. He then joined Purdey's, eventually taking over from Tom Purdey in 1956, with Sir Hugh Seely, then Lord Sherwood, as Chairman. Over the next 40 years Richard Beaumont demonstrated an astute business brain and a fierce determination to maintain traditional gunmaking skills, which kept Purdey's afloat throughout the dauntingly difficult business climate of the 1970s, coping with hyper-inflation, the loss of skilled

craftsmen, unacceptably long delivery times, and persuading customers to pay prices far higher than when they had placed their orders. Any one of these had the potential to sink the firm, but it was saved by Richard Beaumont's tenacity and belief in the business, aided by the loyalty and great affection in which he was held by his craftsmen and staff.

For 23 years Richard Beaumont was most ably supported by his wife Lavinia, *née* Hon Lavinia Keppel, whom he married in 1971. The Hon. Mrs Beaumont took over managing the clothing and accessories side of Purdey's, transforming it from a sideline to a successful part of the business.

Richard Beaumont was elected a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers in 1950, served on its Court for over 30

years, and was Master in 1968 and 1984. He was invested as a Commander, Royal Victorian Order, (CVO), in 1996.

Although Richard and Lavinia Beaumont did not have children of their own they greatly enjoyed seeing their extended family, especially the younger generation of nieces and nephews, by whom they were much loved.

Richard Beaumont is survived by his wife, and his family connection with Purdey's continues through his cousin Nigel Beaumont, the firm's Chairman, whom he brought into the company as a trainee gunmaker in 1977.



An update on the Proof House

The Court has recently been reviewing the Company's strategy for Gunmakers Hall.

The use of the Hall in recent years has been for a variety of purposes, including banking and wholesale textile display. The current tenant, which is a religious charity, uses it as a headquarters for its evangelical work, and as a base for bible study classes.

The lay out of the Hall has not much since it was built. There is a large basement floor of some 1,200 square feet, of which two thirds is open plan and used as offices, with the rest being utility rooms, kitchens and WCs. The ground floor of some 1,800 square feet comprises the hallway, front office and impressive staircase, together with the Livery Hall of about 900 square feet, and a Committee Room of some 400 square feet. The upper storey is a smaller 800 feet; this storey has an office room behind the front façade overlooking Commercial Road, and at the side and back a number of smaller rooms, which used to be caretaker's accommodation. The building is listed, so it is impossible materially to alter its internal lay out.

When the Hall was bought in 2007, half of the purchase cost was funded by a loan of £500,000 from Royal Bank of Scotland. The strategy behind the loan was that it should be substantially paid off out of the rents arising from the property, net of any interest payable on the loan, between 2007 and the expiry of the lease on the property in 2015. If the property was not let out and receiving rent, the loan would have to be paid off out of Company reserves, and as these are held mainly to support the proof activity, the Court would not wish that to happen. So the short term strategy has been to continue to let the property until the loan is materially reduced.

The original bank loan has by mid-2009 nearly halved, due to initial donations from liverymen, and more recently

due to the effect of much lower interest rates in increasing the net return from the property. At the present rate of progress, and assuming the tenancy remains in place, the loan should be reduced to nearer £100,000 in about 2012.

Nearer that time, the Court agreed it would be prudent to review in detail the various alternatives available for the Hall, which include:

- taking back the whole building and re-establishing it as Gunmakers Hall
- taking back the whole building, and creating a joint venture with other Livery Companies to jointly use it as a Livery Hall
- taking back part of the building to suit Company requirements, and letting the rest
- re-letting the whole building to a third party
- re-letting the whole building to a catering company and reserving specific future usage
- expanding the building to the rear

All these options will require time and money to be spent on building and economic feasibility studies, and on research as to the availability of tenants or joint venturers. Most importantly, the various options can only be realistically reviewed in the light of the prevailing economic conditions nearer the key possession date of 2015. The viability of the various options will much depend on the financial fortunes nearer that time of the City, and of Aldgate in particular, and of the Company and the Proof House finances.

The Court decided that these matters might best be reviewed in detail nearer 2012, assuming satisfactory progress continues to be made in reducing the outstanding loan, but to keep matters under annual review until then.

The Court would welcome any input on the subject of the Hall. If any Liveryman has any observations or recommendations to make, please contact Stewart Urry at stewart.urry@btclick.com.





Standing up for our rights

Driving a sheep across London Bridge without paying a toll is one of the privileges that comes with the Freedom of the City of London. On 11 July 2009, to celebrate the eight-hundredth anniversary of the opening of the first stone bridge, and to help to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal, Gunmakers' liveryman Donna Stevens proudly exercised her sheep-driving rights – or at least most of them. She did drive, or lead, her beast across the bridge. But instead of selling it for chops and a toll-enhanced profit, Donna merely handed it back to its owners, to be trucked back to pasture, and, hopefully, a long and productive life.

Although bridges of one sort or another had since Roman times crossed the Thames at or the site of London Bridge, the first stone structure was conceived by Peter de Colechurch in 1173 – in part to accommodate the increasing traffic of pilgrims going to Canterbury to pay homage to Thomas Becket. That bridge was finally finished in 1209, and gradually accumulated a collection of shops, houses and other buildings that took up half the width of the span, narrowing the central roadway to 12 feet, six in each direction. Meanwhile, the narrow piers which supported the bridge above the river slowed the current to create a sort of mill pond upstream, which froze solid in cold winters to provide a site for London's Ice Fairs.

That bridge was eventually replaced in 1831, when it wore out after 600 years of use. But after only a hundred or so years, it was discovered that the replacement was

sinking at the rate of about an inch a decade. In 1967, Common Councillor Ivan Luckin came up with the bright idea of selling the old bridge to pay for a new one. Somewhat surprisingly, this worked. Robert McCulloch, American founder of McCullough Oil, paid \$2.5m for London Bridge, and reconstructed it at Lake Havasu City in Arizona, where, replete with a Tudor-style shopping mall, it still holds sway as Arizona's second-biggest tourist attraction, after the Grand Canyon.

To celebrate that history, in addition to the sheep drive, 40 livery companies set up booths along the bridge for its eight-hundredth "Anniversary Fayre". The Blacksmiths forged steel; the Scriveners illuminated a manuscript or two; the Architects showed the results of a competition to design a new (wonderful but never-to-be-built) London Bridge; and the Distillers dispensed their wares. As far as is known, no liverymen tested another rumoured (but actually non-existent) privileges of a Freeman – that of being sent home by the London police if drunk and incapacitated rather than locked up.

The Social Committee requests...

The Gunmakers' Social Committee continues to endeavour to entertain, amuse and enlighten. In September it held an enjoyable and well-attended wine-tasting at Berry Bros & Rudd. Assembled liverymen and their guests had the opportunity to sample a variety of Berry's finest, personally chosen and lyrically described by Lance Jefferson. An enjoyable and educational time was had by all.

Another wine-tasting event is being contemplated for the autumn of 2010. In the meantime, the Social Committee is focussing on shooting. Two events have been organised, in addition to the annual Interlivery Clay Shoot to be held at Holland & Holland Shooting Grounds on 19 May.

For liverymen interested in rifles, the Social Committee is organising a day at Bisley on 29 April, continuing a tradition begun in 2008. The day involves shooting in a variety of disciplines: including target rifle at 900 yards, rapid-fire gallery rifle at 25 yards, running deer and flintlock pistol. For experienced shots – like our chaplain, David Cooper, who traditionally outshoots pretty much everybody – the day offers a chance to show off what you can do. For the less experienced, it's a way of trying new things. And the surroundings at Bisley, Britain's national rifle centre, are always convivial.

Back with shotguns, there will be a livery clay shoot at the West London Shooting Ground on 7 July. While there will be an element of competition to the day, the emphasis will be on the variety of stands and a friendly atmosphere. In addition to eating and drinking, the day will include a small-bore stand – shooting, not talking – black powder and perhaps a sitting stand to imitate the challenges of decoyed pigeon.

Looking further ahead, the Social Committee is eager to have your ideas for activities that might entertain you and your fellow Gunmakers. If you have an event that you'd like to suggest – or, better yet, that you might be willing to organise – please contact Simon Grant Rennick at sgrelk@aol.com.



A modern day elephant hunt

My first experience of hunting in Africa dates back to 1992 when I was fortunate to hunt for buffalo in Tanzania, a wonderful experience but once was never going to be enough.

Hunting in Africa suggests big game and adventure with some risk to the hunter. However my fine 43-inch buffalo had narrowed the field until I realised that an elephant hunt would surely top everything. Perfect, but who would be my guide, where to hunt and with what rifle?

The choices were easy. Firstly the rifle. I have worked for Holland & Holland for 46-years, making many hundreds of double-barrel rifles; the 'dangerous game' calibres being my favourites: high time I tried one myself. A 'double' in 500/3-inch Nitro would be perfect.

Where and with who became one as Hollands have strong ties with selected outfitters. One is Peter Holbrow in Botswana. He was hunting in the Chobe Enclave and hopefully would not allow me to get trampled!

Six months later Peter's staff welcomed me with an excellent dinner but wisely followed by an early night in preparation for the days to come. I had almost forgotten the many noises of an African night, the whooping hyenas attracted by the ripe smells of the skinning shed. Wake-up 06:00, breakfast 06:30 – hot porridge as it was cold – and away from camp by 07:00 with the sky still pink and breath visible in the crisp air. We would never be back to camp until after dark, even though we had eight days to find 'my' elephant.

Peter's concession stretched to the horizon on all sides.

The rains had been late and many pans were still 'wet' and the shrub still in leaf: elephants might be difficult to locate. We searched for four or five days until we began to find a pattern of movement. Much of the area was teak that had been cleared long ago leaving a few large trees regenerating at random producing literally millions of saplings forming endless thickets.

As we travelled we talked of hunting in very dense cover, having a well-prepared drill might be the only factor between success and failure. At times we dragged branches behind our wagon, returning later knowing that any marks were fresh. Occasionally one of the trackers would climb a tree for a clear view but mostly it was hours of scanning the ground for spoor, estimating its freshness, checking the wind and starting to walk – but often the spoor faded as elephants walk and graze along faster than people do.

Over the first six days we made seven or eight stalks to 20 metres. This is when the fun really starts. The first time you start to get close to elephants your own senses become heightened – a reaction that must be primeval. The closer the elephants, the more exciting becomes the experience of the hunt, with the sound of breaking branches, stomach rumbles and sand tossed across their backs. The real surprise is that the closer you get the more their features dissolve – becoming an indistinct form as the brilliant sunlight streams through the brush to produce amazingly effective camouflage.

Our approaches were not without incident. On one occasion we experienced a scary moment when, very close to some bulls, we were spotted by one which advanced quite rapidly, head down, forcing us to back-off

sharply with rifles at the ready, and sending our Wildlife Service Scout running off. However most bulls that we stalked up to either had one tusk, one good but the other broken, or were simply 'not worth taking'. Being selective meant clean barrels; it would be prudent to be less selective on day seven.

Elephants have an acute sense of smell, if one gets the slightest wind of you it will raise its trunk to confirm that something is wrong and then flee causing others to panic and follow. Our tracker, using his dust puffer, checked our wind every few metres, as the breeze swirls and the temperature rises, causing the elephants to seek deeper shade. It is difficult to describe how big some bulls are when you are on foot, but as long as they keep feeding all is well. It's all very exciting.

With only two days left we started day seven at 06:30. By 08:00 we found large spoor that looked very hopeful. Our tracker went forward returning quickly with good news. He had found fresh leaves on the ground with one still wet with saliva. Fleece off, camera, hat, get ready (pee), rifle, ammo, load-up and go. A short stalk got us in close on three bulls, one immature, one average and the third huge with thick matching tusks. This was it.

As usual the dense cover forced us to close to about 15-20 metres. But he did not present a side brain shot as he was ahead of us slowly circling to the right. We followed on his left until we were forced to stop when the wind altered – alerting the young bull, which raised its trunk. We stood totally still for what seemed minutes until it relaxed. At this our bull suddenly turned fully towards us but remained largely obscured by vegetation

and shadows; not what we had planned. He continued to advance while I sought a clear image for a brain shot until his towering bulk persuaded me to fire through the brush at less than 15 metres. He reared up but did not fall, instead turning away in pursuit of the others. However as instructed by Peter 'always and instantly fire again' I fired the second barrel aiming for the heart and arteries.

The three bulls disappeared in a cloud of dust with the sound of their escape fading rapidly. Our tracker immediately picked up a copious blood spoor that soon led to a large shape on the ground. He was down, motionless and quite dead. Not quite a classic end but all was well. My first shot had been misdirected – too high and just missing the brain. As to my second shot I have seen boar and deer sprint off with their heart completely destroyed but then drop stone dead.

He had fallen in a typical thicket so the first task was to clear an area for photographs and where the carcass would be butchered and the meat distributed – mostly for biltong. We took the head to our camp and buried it in an earth pit. Decomposition only takes a few days in the heat allowing the tusks to come free from the skull and avoiding damage.

Later we went over the moments before firing the first shot. I was sure the elephant had sensed us by turning towards us and advancing. Peter said that it probably had not, but it would have done so in another step or two. Perhaps if I had waited a second or two longer I may have had a clearer view. Who knows – however one thing does remain certain, I will never forget my thrilling adventure.

— *Russell Wilkin*



Clerk's Notes

Clerk's Assistant. At last I have a settled team supporting me working most efficiently. With occasional variations, Sue Hobbs works Mondays to Thursdays and Ruth Streeter works on Fridays

Dinners. Attendance at this year's Nomination Dinner at Stationers' Hall was the best for several years. 108 Liverymen came, bringing 76 guests. It was, by most reports, a successful evening with particularly good food and service from our caterers, The Cook & The Butler. Our Providitor, Roger Mitchell, as ever, was surprised at the quantity of his fine wines consumed. We are fortunate to have stocks of wines of such quality, for which Roger deserves much praise and thanks. Next year's dinners are: Midsummer Banquet at Glaziers' / Launderers' Hall on Tuesday 9th June, Nomination Dinner at Stationers' Hall on Tuesday 3rd November. Please make every effort to attend both.

Livery Lunches. The programme of Livery Lunches continues to grow in popularity and is attracting a wider participation. The quality of food and wine served at the lunches is excellent and they represent exceptional value. In addition to their gastronomic delights, they provide a good opportunity for Liverymen and their friends to see what goes on at the Proof House and to learn more about the Company's *raison d'être*. You will have received an application form for places at lunches for the first six months of 2010. Total bids received to date exceed capacity but many have applied for all four lunches and will have to be rationed and cancellations are not infrequent. Ensuring that 24 sit down to lunch on the day is quite a challenge! We are considering putting on an extra lunch on Thursday 8th April and application forms for lunches in the second six months of 2010 will be sent out soon. Places will be allocated as far as possible in advance of each lunch. Please do not assume you are attending unless you have received confirmation from me.

City of London Briefings. Attendance at City of London Briefings by Gunmakers has improved a little but should be better. I once

Admissions to the Company

	Freemen	Liverymen
9 July	Simon Barnes Stuart Bryant	Tim Thornton Jones John Joseph Batty Stephen Morant Ray Watson William Winget
10 September	Timothy Goodger Julian Leefe-Griffiths Claire Zambuni Andrew Sturdy	Graham Barnes Ian Joseph Andrews
22 October	Glynn Alger Stephen Dickenson Alastair Phillips Patrick Turner	Jeremy Mackenzie Geoffrey de Jager

again urge more of you to try to go on one. As Liverymen and electors, you should make the effort to learn something about your City and how it is governed. The briefings are aimed particularly at newcomers but Liverymen and Freemen of longer standing are encouraged to attend as well. They are interesting, good fun and give you the chance to meet Liverymen and Freemen from other Companies. Wives, husbands and partners are welcome too. The briefings are held at Innholders' Hall. You can find full details and book online at www.livery-committeecourses.org.uk/city-briefings.php. There is a charge of £10 per head to cover catering costs.

Ties, Scarves and Caps. Our range of items available for purchase from the Proof House has expanded. The new Livery tie in silk features the Company's arms and the London Proof Mark in a vertically repeating pattern in a diamond grid. It is in two colours – blue with a grid of red lines and green with a grid of white lines. The new Livery scarf for Lady Liverymen is of a similar design on a blue background. Both may be worn only by Liverymen of the Company. Sale price for ties is £15, and £20 for scarves. The new silk Proof Mark ties, featuring the London Proof Mark in a repeating pattern on a background of green, red or blue, and the new silk Proof Mark scarf, of similar design on a blue background, may be worn by anyone. The sale price for both is £15. Polyester Proof Mark ties are available only in blue at a sale price of £12.50. Gunmakers' baseball-type

caps, also featuring the London Proof Mark, are available for purchase at £8.50. Enquiries to the Clerk's Assistant on 020 7481 2695 Option 4, or pa@gunmakers.org.uk.



Wines. The Company's principal wine merchants, Berry Bros & Rudd, have increased the discount offered Liverymen 12.5% on unmixed cases of wine. If you wish to take advantage of this discount, you should place an order by telephoning Lance Jefferson direct on 020 7396 9605. The discount is unlikely to be available if you try to buy wines direct from their premises in St James's Street without speaking to Lance first.

Forthcoming events. The Gunmakers' Social Committee requests your presence at:

Bisley Rifle Day 29 April. Participants will shoot a variety of rifles over differing distances, plus flintlock pistol. Enquiries to stewart.urry@btclick.com.

Interlivery Clay Shoot 19 May. Annual clay competition and barbeque lunch. Enquiries to jb@poplar.com.

Livery Clay Shoot 7 July. New format will have a wide variety of stands, plus a chance to try some unusual guns. Enquiries to sgrelk@aol.com.

Interlivery Bridge 1 March.

For pairs, with dinner, organised by the Playing Card Makers. Enquiries by 8 February, via email to clerk@makersofplayingcards.co.uk.