



The Quill

*A periodic Newsletter for Distribution to the
Members of the Three Rooms Club*

Autumn 2023

www.3roomsclub.london

Need to Contact the Club?

Our mailing address is: The Three Rooms Club, Room 136, Lloyd's, 1 Lime Street, London EC3M 7HA

Email: Tim Willens

secretary@3roomsclub.london

From the Editor

Welcome to our Autumn 2023 edition of the Quill

Martin Robinson
Editor

In this edition of the Quill.....

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Keeping in Contact

Our website aims to keep members up to date with club news. We are very keen to speed up the communication with our members, currently the mainstay of our communication is via surface mail.

We have very few member email addresses, if you have an email address, please do let Tim Willens know your details.

Email to: secretary@3roomsclub.london

You can find past editions of the Quill on our website at: www.3roomsclub.london/the-quill



Articles and Pictures for Future Editions

We need stories and pictures from the past please do send any content to the Editor of the Quill:

martinbrob@gmail.com

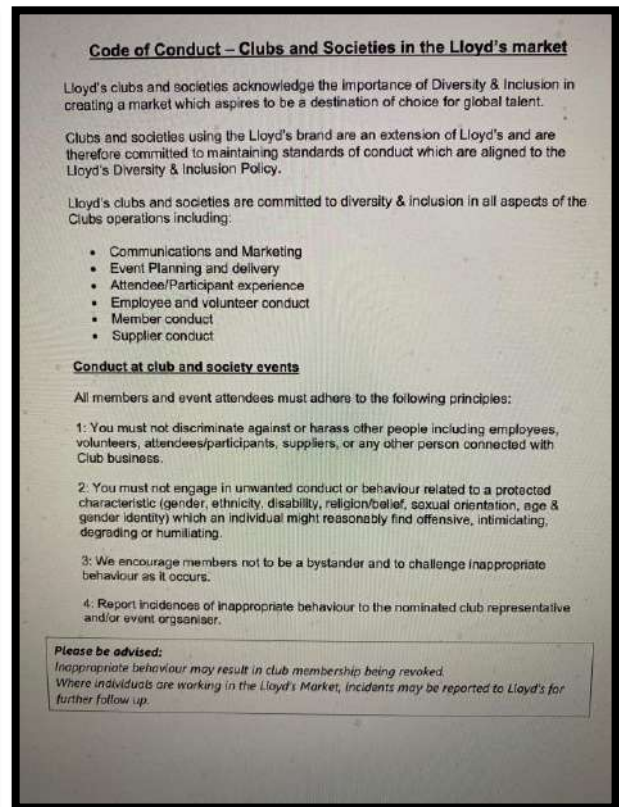
Code of Conduct

Following discussion between Lloyd's and the Lloyd's clubs we have agreed that a Code of Conduct be recognized by the clubs and implemented.

The Code is set out below along with a letter from Chairman, Bruce Carnegie-Brown.

So my friends and colleagues, behave!

Code of Conduct – Clubs and Societies in the Lloyd's market



Membership Matters

New Members

Mr. C.R. **GREEN** – Life Member No. 2048 (Agreed at July Committee Meeting)

Notification of Resigned Members

Mr. P.J. **ROUTLEY** – Annual Member No. 1339

Mr. J. **LAMBETH** – Annual Member No. 1345

Notification of Deceased Members

Sir Alan **TRAIL** – Life Member No. 1581, Died April, 2020

Mr. A.M. **GORSUCH** – Life Member No. 00800, Died July 18th, 2020

Mr. D. R. **COLLINS** – Life Member No. 00344, Died 2021/2022

Mr. B.J. **BARNES** – Life Member No. 1400, Died August 2021

Mr. M.R. **SMITH** – Annual Member No. 1034, Died September 18th, 2021

Mr. G.J. **BARKER** – Annual Member No. 1282, Died 13th October, 2021

Mr. M.V. **WILLIAMS** – Life Member No. 00912, Died, 2021

Mr. C.J. **HOLLANDS** – Life Member No. 1776, Died December, 2021

Mr. T. **WHATTON** – Life Member No. 00189, Died December 13th, 2021

Mr. J.J. **FOLEY** – Annual Member No. 1475, Died 2022

Mr. A.J. **MILDENHALL** – Annual Member No. 1631, Died January 13th, 2022

Mr. P.G.K. **LLOYD** – Life Member No. 988, Died June 2022

Mr. M.J. **SWEETMAN** – Life Member No. 01038, Died June, 2022

Mr. R.W. **BOSSHARD** – Life Member No. 1184, Died June 6th, 2022

Mr. D.P. **THEOBALD** – Life Member No. 1040, Died July 24th, 2022

Mr. R.S. **HAWKES** – Life Member No. 00346, Died August, 2022

Mr. R.W. **FIELDING** – Life Member No. 588, Died August 22nd, 2022

Mr. C.E.B. **FOX** – Life Member No. 00934, Died October 20th, 2022

Mr. K. **BRACEY** – Annual Member No. 1610, Died October 22nd, 2022

Mr. K.A. **SHEPHERD** - Life Member No 254, Died November 4th, 2022

Mr. J. S.C. **FLINN** – Life Member No. 1200, Died November 14th, 2022

Mr. P.J. **GODIER** - Life Member No. 00369, Died December 25th, 2022

Mr. D.W. **HOWE** – Life Member No. 00728, Died December 26th, 2022

Mr. D.C. **KNECHTLI** – Life Member No. 00419, Died 2023

Mr. D.H. **ELLIOTT** – Life Member No. 00324, Died 2023

Mr. A.R. **PAGE** – Life Member No. 00111, Died January 15th, 2023

Mr. R.A. **BURFORD** – Annual Member No. 1187, Died March 13th, 2023

Mr. L. **KREEGER** – Annual Member No. 2023, Died April 27th, 2023

Mr. H. L. **MEARES** – Life Member No. 1010, Died May 22nd, 2023

Mr. P.T. **OSBORNE** – Life Member No. 00937, Died April 10th, 2023

Notification of Changes of Address

Mr. R. J. **HUNT** – Annual Member No. 1082
Mr. M.V. **BOULT** – Life Member No. 1804
Mr. S. **BARNES** – Life Member No. 1593
Mr. D. G. **GARNER** – Annual Member No. 1618
Mr. M. **HITT** – Life Member No. 1601
Mr. J.R.M. **DAMM** – Annual Member No. 2011
Mr. M.K. **KELLIHER** – Annual Member No. 1737
Mr. P.M. **DOWSETT** – Life Member No. 1469
Mr. E.W **DUFFIN** – Annual Member No. 1291
Mr. B. **PEACOCK** – Annual Member No. 1296
Mr. D. **CAMPBELL-JONES** – Annual Member No. 1328
Mr. A.M.O. **SIGWART** – Annual Member No. 1515
Mr. D.C. **BINSTED** - Annual Member No. 1770
Mr. S. **THOMAS** – Annual Member No. 1554
Mr. D.M. **MAUGHAN** – Life Member No. 1612
Mr. J. **RAMAGE** – Life Member No. 1455
Mr. J.S. **GOLDSMITH** – Life Member No. 1185
Mr. R.A. **LEVY** – Life Member No. 00809
Mr. R. **NEMETH** – Annual Member No. 1713
Mr. G.F. **SULLIVAN** – Annual Member No. 1815
Mr. J.M.P. **CHASE** – Life Member No. 1599
Mr. D.R.H. **ALLEN** – Annual Member No. 1818
Mr. D.J. **WEST** – Annual Member No. 1485
Mr. J.M. **FOWLER** – Life Member No. 1806
Mr. C.T. **BRYAN** – Annual Member No. 1309

If you need to re-establish contact with a member, please contact a committee member who will facilitate the contact request.

Officers and Committee

Bruce Carnegie-Brown	President
Don H Coombe	Hon. Life President ~ Mobile: 07980 009 758
Brian Wilkin	Chairman ~ Mobile: 07775 734 197
Martin Robinson	Deputy Chairman ~ Mobile: 07717 487 953
Vernon Ashford	Treasurer
Tim Willens	Secretary ~ Mobile: 07724 856 752
Paul Coombes	Membership Secretary & Web Master
Bob Hunt ~ Mobile: 07976 805 535	
Peter Cave ~ Mobile: 07563 544 581	
Cliff Hutchinson	
Danny Wild ~ Mobile: 07946 330 946	
Michael Cobb	
Barry Mackay	

Editor of the Quill Martin Robinson ~ martinbrob@gmail.com Mobile 07717 487 953

The Three Rooms Charitable Trust

Financial contributions to the trust are received from The Three Rooms Club and individual contributions from our members. Our current policy is to fund from the club funds, the food for our Get Togethers and we ask attendees to make a minimum contribution of £10 to the trust on the night of our event.



Please remember we only consider charity requests submitted by you, our members, and request that they are U.K. registered charities.

Thanks to your donations we continue to support charities. From the donations at our May 2023 Get Together we were able to support two charities and their messages of thanks are captioned.

If you have a charity in mind for us to assist from the proceeds of our next Get Together on 22nd November please contact our Club Chairman, Brian Wilkin on Mobile: 07775 734197

The committee will review the options and the Charities selected will be referenced on the night of our get together and the donation amount announced.



Our Last Get Together, Wednesday 17th May 2023

Sixty three members joined us at the Brokers Wine Bar for our Get Together in May 2023. As usual we were very well looked after by Veronica Chasey and the team at the Brokers. The move to using the Brokers Wine Bar for has proved popular, please do join us if you can for our next Get Together.



Our Next Get Together

Our next Get Together will be held on 22nd November 2023 at the Brokers Wine Bar, 9 Leadenhall Market, London EC3V 1LR.

There will be food made available to attendees on the night courtesy of the Three Rooms Club Committee and there will be a pay bar.

There will be an optional £10 cash charity donation at the door. The proceeds and recipients from the charity collection will be announced during the evening. **If you are attending, please do bring some cash for the charity donation.**

We are limiting the attendance to 70 so please complete and return the enclosed order form if you would like to join us and reserve your place. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis and no tickets will be available on the night.

This a Record

In the Spring 2023 Edition of the Quill readers may remember the article entitled “Is this a Record”.

Mike Lilley wanted to claim that “Nearly 54 years a Lloyds Broker (non-stop)” was a record. Well, I’ve had no evidence that anybody can top that. So, for now Mike, congratulations on your record.

It prompted Gerry Tighe to write to us as follows. Thank you Gerry for your letter.

Dear Sir,

I just received my latest edition of the quill, which I always relish reading.

I noted on page 8. **“Is this a record?”**

I think it must be. I have known Mike for any years and competed with him in Greece & Cyprus, and am pleased to say that his son worked for us (the only Greek Lloyd’s broker) before we sold to Howden. Then transitioning to found his own Lloyd’s broker, which Mike now works for.

This is the wonderful thing about the Lloyd’s market, we compete, become friends and pass on to the next generation. In Mike’s case how wonderful to end up working for his own son.

I also loved the story about David Ronaldson and Bert Stratton, and the reference to good old Bill Cass at AGW made me laugh. The memories of those wonderful days in the old building came flooding back. The days of telex, no mobile phones and the Room buzzing with the voice of the caller, and sound clicking fingers over the gallery trying to get someone’s attention. Of course, if the caller was Alec, he would always put his own spin on certain names, my favourite was when he called anyone with the name Bell, when he would mimic the sound of a bell by drawing out the name as “Beeeeeeell”. Or having to dial in your personal code on the telephone like machines followed by the box number you were at, so the person calling you could locate you. As a youngster in my early 20s then, it was magical time. Of course, there was always 4.30pm to look forward to when the packets of cigarettes came out and smokers could light up!

I was lucky enough to be mentored in my early days by a gentleman called William Sedgwick-Rough, OBE. He was in his late 70s and still active and I helped place his Latin American and Caribbean treaty reinsurance portfolios. He told me about how things were prior to WW2. I remember him recounting his first business trip to Buenos Aries. He said he went by ship, and he rented a villa in a good part of town and then would meet with the local insurers. He had the reinsurance treaties of the British tariff office insurance companies to trade reciprocally, as this was the way of spreading risk in those days. He was told by his director that he should send the occasional telegram to the office to let them know how he was getting on and finally told that if he was to pick up a little excess of loss business it would be a bonus. It just shows how things changed so dramatically in less than a century and the pace of change seems hasten all the time. Next stop we are likely to have artificial intelligence underwriting and broking by robots, I just hope that the personal touch and the importance of relationships never disappear entirely.

Best regards and thank you for the latest edition.

Gerry Tighe | Managing Director | Howden

A Contribution from Paul Miller

I'm delighted that Paul Miller has contributed to this edition of the Quill. Paul frequently publishes articles on "Times past" in the Lloyd's Market and I hope we can tempt him to give us content for our future editions of the Quill. Over to Paul....

There are two subjects that I'm particularly interested in from a historical perspective. The first is Lloyd's of London, the other is the Second World War. Unsurprisingly, there are many stories of demonstrations of bravery during the war from Lloyd's men, but also many unusual tales that involve the role that the market played during those dark days.

Pick up a book about any of the major battles of World War Two and there is a good chance you'll find a familiar market name such as Poland, or Bowring. The first time I realised this was a few years ago when reading a book about the allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day, when I saw mention of Major Robert Kiln. The book described how, after the war, he had gone on to have a successful career at Lloyd's, despite losing his left leg and his hearing in battle. I then read a book about Pearl Harbor and the story of General Kenneth M. Taylor, another man who went on to have a successful career in the market.

General Taylor's story is an interesting one. He was asleep on that Sunday morning in 1941 after a "very entertaining night out" when he woke to the sound of the Japanese attack. Alongside 2nd Lt. George Welch, he quickly went up in a P-40 Warhawk. Piloting the first two American aircraft in the sky, they fired on the first group of planes coming their way, but as General Taylor fired on the rear of one Japanese craft, another came up behind him. He was injured and in grave danger but 2nd Lt. Welch quickly intervened and shot the plane down. Taylor destroyed four enemy aircraft that day at Pearl Harbor, wearing the tuxedo trousers and shirt he'd worn to the previous evening's party. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism with his actions dramatised in the films *Tora! Tora! Tora!* and *Pearl Harbor*. General Taylor began his second career in 1971, as an aviation broker representing Lloyd's in Alaska.

Another Lloyd's man who took to the skies during WW2 was Wing-Commander Peter Dunning-White; one of The Few who fought at the Battle of Britain, joined in the skies that day by two other Lloyd's men, Hurricane pilots Guy Edmiston and Benjamin Bowring.

The story that fascinated me the most, despite not being one of battle, is that of Lieutenant Gerald Deakin. When war broke out, Deakin left his role as a marine underwriting assistant and joined the Rifle Brigade but

was captured by the advancing Africa Korps soon after arriving in North Africa. He was taken prisoner and interned firstly in Italy, then later at Oflag 79 in Saxony, a German prisoner-of-war camp for Allied officers.

Whilst imprisoned, and with the assistance of another Lloyd's man, Leo Annett, he made an application to become a member of Lloyd's. As you will be aware, the procedure for admission as a name included a personal assessment, called a Rota interview. The general purpose of it was to ensure that the candidate understood what they were undertaking. Many names refer to the formality and solemnity of the interviews, some described them as intimidating. It was soon realised that there were sufficient numbers of people in Oflag 79 with a Lloyd's connection for Lieutenant Deakin's Rota interview to be held at the camp. Sent via the POW postal services, there was surprise inside the '28 Building when a document was opened that began:

"To whom these presents shall come, I Gerald Revell Norman Deakin, prisoner of war, of Oflag 79, Saxony, send greetings to the Committee of Lloyd's..."

Lieutenant Deakin was accepted as an underwriting member in 1945 and joined Harris and Dixon Underwriting Agency upon his return. For years afterwards, the chairman of HDUA would show visitors to his office a copy of Mr. Deakin's wartime application to become a member. Deakin and his friend from Oflag 79,

Leo Annett, remained friends. Annett also became a Name and the pair would spend their lunchtimes away from the Room together or enjoy the odd cup of coffee in the Captain's Room.

Of course, no piece about Lloyd's would be complete without a story of imaginative underwriting and these were no less prevalent, even at times of war. In December 1939, London newspapers wrote: "There's a British Tommy who believes he could chew his way through the Siegfried Line and all of Hitler's bayonets couldn't stop him." His name was Private Wally Haylock, a well-known London performer. As part of his act, he would chew up gramophone records, light bulbs, iron, and razor blades and then swallow them with the aid of a swig of water. Doctors of a London hospital were puzzled and decided they would insure Wally's body as they wanted to use him for research purposes. If he were killed in action, any studies would be cut short and the hospital would be compensated for time spent on research that "could not be continued".

If you were wondering, underwriters and brokers would continue to trade in the '28 Building throughout the war, making no exceptions during the Blitz. Whilst back office and processing teams were sent to Pinewood Studios for their safety, those trading in insurance (air-raid insurance for example, offered to citizens at a rate of £100 cover for each £1 paid) stayed in the Room. If the Luftwaffe advanced, the Lutine Bell would ring and those inside would retreat to a specially built bunker that had sufficient room for the day's business to continue. They were clearly men of distinction as apart from the expected desks, pens and paper, the bunker also housed a fully kitted out barber's shop. After all, if they were kept in the bunker for a long period of time, they still had to meet the high-standards of waiters when returning to the Room, even if much of EC3 had been obliterated outside of it.

They really were the finest generation.

Membership of the Club

Keeping the Numbers Up!

Members, if you have any colleagues who are prospective members of the Three Rooms Club please put them in touch

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Committee of the Club may, at their discretion, admit to membership of the club those persons who have served in the Lloyd's community or within the London Insurance Market for a minimum period of 25 years, or otherwise at the discretion of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND APPLICATIONS

Membership of the Three Rooms Club comes in two categories, Life and Annual, and you can apply for either by downloading the Application Form from the 'How to Join Us' page of the Website, completing it, and returning it by post to the Membership Secretary, Mr. Paul Coombes at the address on the Application Form.

When submitting your 'Application' please also enclose your cheque in the amount of £150 if you are applying for 'Life Membership' and are under 70 years of age (£75 for those over 70) or complete the Standing Order Mandate if you are applying for 'Annual Membership'.

Membership applications are considered at the Committee Meetings which are held 4/5 times a year, following which you will be contacted by the Membership Secretary who will either confirm that your application has been successful, and send you a Membership Card, or that your application has been declined in which case any monies that you have paid will be returned to you immediately.

Use this QR Code to get the 3 Rooms Club Application Form



Dates For Your Diary

Three Rooms Club “Get Togethers”

Wednesday 15th May 2024

Wednesday 20th November 2024