

This note is one of a series placed in the Almanac for the guidance of livery masters, wardens, and their clerks, especially new ones, seeking advice on a particular topic. They are not prescriptive, and how individual companies choose to conduct their affairs is, of course, entirely up to them. Most are written by a past chairman of the Livery Committee, of whom you may read more at the foot of the Contact page.

Modern Companies Dinner

The master and senior warden of each of the Modern Companies dine together twice a year, usually on the second Monday in March and September. Clerks do not attend, other than that of the host organising company.

The rota of organisers follows the order of precedence. This clerk will need to choose/book a venue, probably seek advice from his/her predecessor, and generally do all the things clerks do when organising dinners (confirm date, price, menu, issue invitations etc etc). He/she or his/her master may wish to invite a guest speaker.

The host of the dinner is the Master of the organising Modern Company, and hence it is in his/her gift to make all the detailed arrangements as they choose. They are not especially formal affairs (though DJ and badges are the norm) so some flexibility in the chosen arrangements is quite acceptable (eg seating plans etc).

The writer of this note did not invent the concept of these popular dinners, and has never been a Modern Company master, nor organised the dinner. However, he did fix the suggested dates, and the precedence rota idea of the organising clerk (previously both were ad hoc). This was so long ago, that the idea of getting to the most junior new company was over 15 years hence, and therefore not worth worrying about!

But now others will need to remember that it is not too long before the organiser may have to go back to the Master Mariners!

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21st February 2015 (updated March 2019)

Was this note helpful? Do you have comment? Email nrpullman@btinternet.com