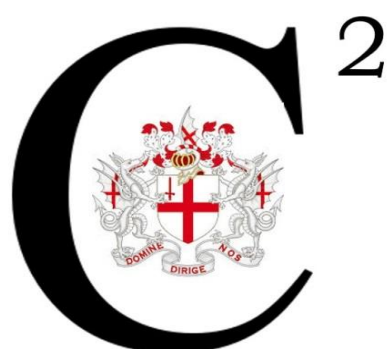


City Consorts

Annual Report

(for year ending 30th June 2023)



City Consorts

“Giving the Consort of any future Livery Master of the City of London the confidence and knowledge to embrace and enjoy their year”

The 6th Annual General Meeting of City Consorts
will be held on 9th October 2023 at 11.30am
at Butchers’ Hall, 87 Bartholomew Close, London, EC1A 7EB

City Consorts Limited – Private Company Limited by Guarantee

Company Number: 14128964

Bank: Metro Bank, One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

Registered Office: Quarry Hill, Brassey Road, Oxted, RH8 0ET

Committees:

City Consorts Limited – Directors:

Claire Chitty
Sonya Zuckerman
Von Spofforth (to May 2023)
Tina Seymour (from May 2023)

Management Committee - Officers:

Chairman – Sonya Zuckerman
Hon. Treasurer - Tina Seymour
Hon. Secretary – Claire Chitty

Management Committee Members:

Carol Law – Events Committee Chairman
Jenifer Andersen – Membership & Vice Chairman

Events Committee:

Kimball Bailey, Christine Elliott, Carol Law (Chairman), Wendy Levy, Maggie Macdonald,
Joanna Painter, Linda Towell

Members of the Management Committee attend.

Membership Committee:

Jenifer Andersen (Co-Chairman), Claire Chitty, Sonya Zuckerman (Co-Chairman)

Patrons

The Lady Mayoress Felicity Lyons, Caroline Wright, Elisabeth Mainelli, Glenn Hurstfield,
Corinne Lee, Marian Marsden

AGM Agenda:

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 2. Apologies for absence / confirm quorum**
- 3. Chairman's Report**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting 17th October 2022**
- 5. Hon. Treasurer's Report & Accounts**
- 6. Adoption of the Accounts**
- 7. Presentation of Committee Chairs' Reports (available to read in report)**
- 8. Confirmation of new Management Committee Member – Kimball Bailey**
- 9. AOB & Questions (Notified to Secretary at least 7 days before meeting)**

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The AGM is expected to last for 20 minutes and will be followed by lunch.

Draft Minutes of City Consorts 5th Annual General Meeting

(subject to approval at AGM 2023)

17th October 2022, at Barts Great Hall, W Smithfield, London, EC1A 7BE

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairman Veronica Spofforth welcomed everyone to this AGM and confirmed everyone had signed in. We have returned to an in-person AGM, this is for the period 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022. We have never had such a glamorous AGM.
- 2.** We have had apologies from 30 members and I can confirm we need 10 to form a quorum so we can safely say we are there.

Attendees: Von Spofforth - Chairman (VS), Claire Chitty – Honorary Secretary (CC – minute secretary), Sonya Zuckerman (SZ) Membership Committee Chairman, Carol Law (CL) Events Committee Acting Chairman, Jenifer Andersen, Tina Seymour, plus 51 other members (a list of names is kept and is available to view on request).

Apologies: Amanda (Millie) de Margary – Honorary Treasurer (AdM), and a further 30 members (a list of names is kept and is available to view on request).

3. Chairman's Report (VS)

Over the past year as things opened up again, I am sure you will agree we hit the ground running with events, and we enjoyed them too. Friendships were picked up where they left off. Jigsaw started its 5th course and has proved to be invaluable to any consort. During this year we changed our society bank account, we also became a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, a forward thinking mature thing to do. There have been many peaks and troughs along the way but as you can see from the report, City Consorts is in great shape, Covid didn't beat us into submission, the opposite in fact. I would like to thank you all for your continuing support and I am sure City Consorts will continue to thrive under the new Chairman.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report & Accounts (VS)

Normally at this point we would have our Treasurer's Report. Unfortunately, Millie is unwell and can't make it, so, on behalf of all of you and us I would like to thank her for all her amazing work over the last 5 years and wish her a speedy recovery.

5. Presentation of Committee Chairs' Reports (VS)

The Committee Chairs reports are available to read in the pack already circulated. This and previous Annual Reviews are available on the Members' Only section of the website, so you can read old ones and catch up.

If I could introduce the Committee Chairs, the Events Committee Chairman Carol Law, the Membership Committee Co-Chairs Jenifer Andersen & Sonya Zuckerman.

6. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting 15th October 2021 (VS)

We do need to approve the minutes of the last meeting, again in the report already circulated. I propose them and need a seconder - Jo Painter, no votes against,
MOTION CARRIED

7. Election of Officers – Honorary Secretary (VS)

The officers of City Consorts are the Chairman, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. When City Consorts was formed the officers were given an initial 4- or 5-year term to

ensure we staggered the rotation. This didn't work as Millie our Treasurer served an extra year to help with succession. This year we need to elect the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Chairman.

Following the completion of an initial 5-year term, Claire has agreed to stand again, this time for a 4-year term. I propose Claire Chitty for re-election as Honorary secretary, may I have a seconder, Susan Keane. No votes against, **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Election of Officers – Treasurer (VS)

We have a difficulty as Millie isn't here. She kindly stayed on an extra year to allow us time to seek a new Treasurer. She is not seeking re-election, and we are delighted Tina Seymour Immediate Past Consort Constructor has agreed to take the post. Unfortunately, she is stuck on a train and not yet arrived. However, in her absence I propose Tina Seymour for election Honorary Treasurer and need a seconder – Angie Morrish. No votes against, **MOTION CARRIED.**
Tina now joins the Management Committee as an Officer of the Society.

9. Confirmation of new Management Committee Member (VS)

We have a new member of the Management Committee to be confirmed at the AGM. Our constitution allows 3 Officers and not more than 6 other members to serve. The Officers are already elected. The Management Committee members once appointed need to be confirmed at the next AGM, they need to serve on a committee and always include the Committee Chairs. Jenifer Andersen was appointed Co-Chair of the Membership Committee during the year and was appointed to the Management Committee in May 2022. Therefore, I propose Jenifer Andersen to be confirmed as a Management Committee member and I need a seconder – Diana Blair Fish, no votes against, **MOTION CARRIED.**

10. Election of Officers – Chairman (VS)

I turn to the final vote to replace me as Chairman. Sonya Zuckerman Membership Committee Co-Chair and Vice Chairman, has been kind enough to stand for election. I propose Sonya Zuckerman for election as Chairman and need a seconder – Wendy Levy. No votes against, **MOTION CARRIED.**
I am now delighted to hand over to Sonya to conclude our formalities tonight. (applause)

11. Introduce new Chairman who takes over meeting (SZ)

Thank you, Von, thank you for voting for me. I have a very hard act to follow but I shall do my best.

12. AOB & Questions (SZ)

No questions have been submitted, so my only duty is to close the meeting (laughter). Tina Seymour arrived in the room. Welcome to Tina Seymour, we are delighted you are here and I can confirm you have been elected Honorary Treasurer.

The meeting closed at 18.20.

Approved (date): _____

Signed: _____

Chairman's Report 2022-2023

Report from the Chairman Sonya Zuckerman

This is my first Report and AGM as Chairman of City Consorts. I was thrilled to be elected by the membership in October 2022 to succeed Von Spofforth after her tenure of five years as Chairman. I had a hard act to follow. I know how lucky I am to be at the head of such a well-run, vibrant and constantly evolving organisation.

I would like to express enormous thanks to the Management team comprising our new Treasurer, Tina Seymour, who is doing a marvellous job, Jenifer Andersen and Carol Law who continue to chair the Membership Committee and Events Committee brilliantly, and of course to our indispensable Hon Sec. Claire Chitty.

Our anniversary dinner last October, which members of City Consorts and their partners (the Masters – past, present and future) attended, reinforced what a terrific job City Consorts as an organization does. The Masters had heard about us but last October they were able to see us in action.

Jenifer reports that the membership has increased over the past year, and that 99 out of (the now) 111 Livery companies are represented, including 9 from of the Great XII. We have no plans to raise the membership fee. We have commissioned a new brooch for members which is proving very popular and which can be purchased via the website.

2022-2023 was the first year in a little while when things really did get back to normal and we have been able to organise real life events.

The Events team, led by Carol, organised 19 events in the past year, all of which were most enjoyable and very well attended. In her report, she mentions her hard-working and enthusiastic team and I would like to add my thanks to all of them too, and of course to Carol herself.

Tina's financial report shows that once again City Consorts is in good financial health.

The Jigsaw courses, which I run, have continued to attract future, current and past consorts. We have also welcomed Clerks. The courses are open to anyone who wants to learn about the City and being a Consort, or who would like to refresh their memory of certain areas. Members are welcome to drop in and out of the sessions, and pick up or repeat some that they missed or would like to hear again. The sessions are interactive and a fabulous way of getting to know other consorts from the comfort of one's own home.

I know what a buzz City Consorts is making in the City and how highly regarded it is. My thanks of course have to go to you, our membership, for spreading the word. Without you none of this would be possible.

Sonya Zuckerman – Chairman City Consorts.

September 2023

Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

Report from the Honorary Treasurer Tina Seymour

This year, as we continue to grow, we became a Private Company Limited by Guarantee and have moved on to an online accounting system, Xero, to ensure robust accounting procedures and the ability to easily change treasurer when needed.

Our profit and loss account and balance sheet are shown below.

We have made a healthy surplus during the year of £2,952.

11 events during the year have each contributed to a small surplus with the greatest contributor to the surplus being the anniversary dinner at Bart's with £1,258.

Our system of payment in advance for events has meant that we have always been able to maintain a healthy cash flow and we currently have a balance of £13,782 in our bank accounts.

**Tina Seymour - Hon Treasurer
September 2023**

Profit and Loss

City Consorts Limited
For the 12 months ended 30 June
2023

Account for Jul 22-June 23

Membership & other income

	BF	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Membership Fees		3,810.00		3,810.00
Misc. Expense			330.00	-330.00
MEMBERS BROOCH SALES		840.00	840.00	0.00
				3,480.00

Events Income

ANNIVERSARY DINNER		16,080.00	14,822.00	1,258.00
Christmas Lunch		4,195.00	4,007.40	187.60
Drapers Hall Tour		1,120.89	1,064.45	56.44
Gunmakers Tour	530	(15.00)	350.00	165.00
Opera House Tour		360.00	380.00	-20.00
Summer lunch	3123	80.00	3,351.10	-148.60
SUPERBLOOM	-172	171.60		0.00
Wine Tasting Event	490	1,120.00	1,582.00	28.00
Big Curry Lunch		1,300.00	1,300.00	0.00
Dr Johnson's House Tour		702.88	664.05	38.83
Foundling Museum Trip		653.00	615.00	38.00
Goldsmiths Hall Tour		1663.85	1403.19	260.66
Guildhall Tour		2058.5	1950	108.5
Ironmongers Hall lunch		3360	3102.5	257.5
Stationers Hall Tour and Lunch		861	683.1	177.9
		33,711.72	35,274.79	2,407.83

Administrative Costs

Audit & Accountancy fees			150.00	(150.00)
Bank Fees			86.97	(86.97)
Charitable and Political Donations			250.00	(250.00)
Entertainment			118.40	(118.40)
Insurance			192.00	(192.00)
IT Software and Consumables			1,187.68	(1,187.68)
Legal Expenses			13.00	(13.00)
Name Badges			806.17	(806.17)
Printing & Stationery			24.12	(24.12)
Xero Accounting Package Fees			107.34	(107.34)
Total Administrative Costs			2,935.68	(2,935.68)

Surplus for the year

2,952.15

Balance sheet
as at 30th June
2023

30.06.23

Bank Account 11,677

Stripe Account 2,105

Current Assets:

Prepayments 923

14,705

Less: Current Liabilities

Membership paid in advance 390

Prepaid Events 1,966

2,356

Net Assets 12,349

Reserves 12,349

Movement in reserves

Balance b/fwd 9,396

Contributions to/(from) reserves 2,952

Surplus c/fwd **12,349**

Tina Seymour - Hon. Treasurer
September 2023

Events Committee Report 2022-2023

Report from the Chairman Carol Law

This report covers the events that took place between July 1st 2022 and June 30th 2023. It is the first full year of in-person events since 2019 – 2020 and reflects the restoration of City life and the Livery calendar. The year also marked our fifth anniversary which was celebrated with a dinner at Barts' Great Hall in October, at which our founder Von Spofforth stepped down as Chairman. Whilst members have met in person for a variety of events including tours of Livery Halls, visits to places of interest in the City and formal and informal lunches, the successful Jigsaw programme has continued to run on Zoom.

Below is a reminder of events which have taken place:

2022

6th July: Tour of Gunmakers' Hall and supper at Zia Lucia

11th July: Lunch at The Walbrook and tour of St Stephen Walbrook

1st August: Talk from the Sheriff-elect Andrew Marsden – A Brief Guide to the City of London via Zoom

1st September: Visit to Superbloom and lunch at Côte

14th September: Tour of Gunmakers' Hall and supper at Zia Lucia

21st September: Wine tasting and supper for 2023-year group at Vintners' Hall

29th September: Coffee morning at The Anthologist during the election of the Lord Mayor

11th October: Tour of the Royal Opera House

17th October: AGM and 5th Anniversary Dinner at Barts Great Hall

16th November: Tour of Drapers' Hall and lunch at Brasserie Blanc

9th December: Pre Christmas lunch at Vintners' Hall

2023

27th January: Tour of Goldsmiths' Hall and lunch at Haz

30th January: Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall

23rd February: Visit to the Foundling Museum and lunch at Trattoria Verdi

30th March: Big Curry Lunch at the Guildhall

20th April: Dr Johnson's House tour and lunch at Côte

24th May: Guildhall tour and lunch in the Aldermen's dining room for 2024/2025 Year Groups

26th June: Coffee morning at The Anthologist during the election of the Sheriffs

30th June: Tour of Stationers' Hall and visit to the archive. Lunch at Dion

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the formation of City Consorts a three-course dinner was held in the magnificent surroundings of Barts Great Hall on the evening of 17th October 2022. Masters (future, past and present) joined members to say farewell and thank you to our founder, Von Spofforth, who stepped down as Chairman at the AGM. Von's vision and

belief that 'this can be done' has created a thriving society which continues to offer a valuable resource to Consorts.

We are grateful to Victoria Bishop, Consort to the Master Vintner (2022-2023), who approached City Consorts with the idea of organising a wine tasting event with supper at Vintners' Hall for members in the 2023-year group. The evening which took place on 21st September was designed to give members the opportunity to enhance their understanding of how to taste a wine, grape varieties, where they come from and other points of interest to enhance members' enjoyment of the wines served throughout their year. The evening was a huge success and will be repeated for the 2024-year group. Thank you to Victoria for the initial idea and support in making this happen.

Thanks are also due to Vanessa Gilbert, Consort to the Master Plaisterer (2022-2023), who kindly helped City Consorts organize a very successful behind the scenes tour of the Royal Opera House and to Lady Bridges, Consort to the Prime Warden Goldsmith (2022 -2023) who hosted a fascinating tour of Goldsmiths' Hall which was followed by lunch at Haz.

During the year City Consorts posted save-the-date notices for a variety of Consorts' Events that members hosted throughout the year. If you would like us to promote your event in our events diary, please forward details to our Honorary Secretary.

I would like to thank Jenifer Andersen for being our unofficial photographer and all those who took photos of events and posted them on Facebook. Photos can also be found on our website and provide an excellent pictorial record of each event. If members do not wish to have their pictures posted on the website or Facebook they are requested to contact the Honorary Secretary when booking and remind us on the day of the event.

A further three series of the **Jigsaw Coffee morning** have been delivered via Zoom this year to a total of 61 consorts. The feedback remains extremely positive, and the programme will commence again in October 2023. This year the team of Sonya Zuckerman, Von Spofforth, Linda Towell and Wendy Levy were joined by Peter Cave, Joy Laister and Jane Porte.

At the AGM in October 2022, Von Spofforth, Ruth Briant and Lesley Batchelor stepped down from the Events Committee. On behalf of City Consorts I would like to thank them for all their hard work over the past five years. I would also like to thank Maggie Macdonald, Joanna Painter, Christine Elliott, Jenifer Andersen, Kimball Bailey, Linda Towell and Wendy Levy - who have given up their time to attend Committee meetings as well as to research and organise the events. Without their input we would not have been able to enjoy each other's company whilst meeting City Consorts' objective of learning about the City and Livery Movement. Since the introduction of Wufoo for booking and payment the management of events has become much simpler and where there are menu choices these will now be made at the time of booking. Thanks must also go to Claire Chitty, our Honorary Secretary, for the time and energy she puts into promoting events in the newsletters/ebulletins and maintaining the systems that support the application process.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported us in this last year by attending events and spreading the word about City Consorts and its activities. If anyone would like to join us on the Committee or has any ideas for future events, please feel free to contact me or any of the team - we are always delighted to welcome new Committee members. We are currently planning an exciting programme of events for 2024 and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then.

**Carol Law - Chairman of the Events Committee
September 2023**

Membership Committee Report 2022-2023

Report from the Chair of the Membership Committee Jenifer Andersen

The purpose of the membership committee is to manage the database of current members and attract new members to ensure that we can draw on the resources and experience of existing members who can encourage and build the confidence of future consorts.

We welcome Maggie Macdonald and Christine Elliott as Membership Ambassadors. Sonya Zuckerman stood down as the Co-Chairman of the Membership Committee to take up the role of Chairman and I thank her for her hard work in the past 5 years as Membership Chairman.

Membership of City Consorts is open to any consort of a Warden or Master of a City Guild, Livery Company, or other similar organisation deemed appropriate in the opinion of the Management Committee, or any person who has served in that capacity. It is also open to the consort of any Liveryman by invitation or approval of the Management Committee.

Our aim is to attract as many new members as possible, so do please spread the word about the benefits of joining our Society. Please tell future consorts in your Company about us so that they will have the knowledge and the confidence to make the most of their year. We hope that all the Livery Companies will be represented by at least one consort (past, current or future).

The figures below relate to the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. On 30 June 2023 our membership stood at 277.

I have taken the "Ironbridge" year as my reference point for the breakdown of past, current and future consorts. Membership was made up of: Past Consorts 27%, Current Consorts (Ironbridge 2022 and 2023) 41%, Future Consorts (from Ironbridge 2024 onwards) 28%, others 3%.

Our membership comes from 99 Livery Companies (out of 111) and 11 others. We have members from 9 of the "Great XII", 59 of the Ancients (those companies that rank from 13 to 77 in order of precedence) and 31 of the Modern Companies (those companies that rank from 78 to 111).

We also have a members' only Facebook group with 94 members. We post reviews of our events and City news. Many of our members post details about their own Company events.

The link to the membership application form is on the Membership tab of City Consorts' website, www.cityconsorts.org.

Jenifer Andersen - Chairman of the Membership Committee

September 2023