

BILLINGSGATE GOSSIP

THE LONDON FISH & POULTRY RETAILERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

LFPRA AGM and meeting 2012



• Left to right - Eddie Hill, Charlie Caisey, Steve Davies, John Purkiss, Gordon Sage, Ray Sandys, Rex Goldsmith and Ken Condon

Happy New Year to all our readers from the London Fish & Poultry Retail Association. Our apologies for these late Greetings but due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to produce our Christmas edition. We trust you all enjoyed this very special time.

Notice of the AGM/Council meeting held on January 9, 2012, was posted to all members and it proved very encouraging as to the continuation of your Association.

Chairman, Mr Ray Sandys, addressed the meeting and provided an update on the many changes taking place in the Market, and covered additional meetings he had attended to raise our many concerns and suggestions. He reminded those present that he thought this shows the need for the Association to continue. Members will of course receive minutes of this meeting .

Ray, your Chairman for the last six years, announced that he would now resign, thanking his Council members for all their help. Ray proposed that Mr Rex Goldsmith would take the Chair.

There were no other nominations and Mr. Rex. Goldsmith will have Mr. John Purkiss as his Vice Chairman.

You can read a short profile of both John Purkiss and Rex Goldsmith on the back page of this issue.

Ray Sandys retires

As you may have already read, Ray Sandys has decided to resign the Chairmanship of the LFPRA. Ray has been a staunch member of the Association for many years, from very early days when entering the independent fish trade following a highly successful career with Mac Fisheries. He brought a wealth of experience with his own ideas of training and both Ray and I were constantly pushing for training in the retail trade and we would like to think that we had some success as to much of the training that is available today.

He was always a firm supporter for the Open Days and any way we could promote fish, critical of all who were not prepared to put a little back into the trade for what it has provided for us.

This is Ray, seldom talking of his very successful businesses (Witton and Twickenham) but again looking for new ways ahead. After eventually selling the Witton shop he set out on a wonderful partnership with Son Stuart at Twickenham. This proved highly successful allowing Ray to excel at what he loved so much, serving the customer. In his element, smiling, charming and second to none as a salesman. He never stopped, rarely taking a break spending a few weekends on his beloved boat on the Thames and surprised everyone when he decided to retire to Norfolk. The highlight of his year was to auction



• Ray enjoying the banter of the auction sale at Hays' Galleria

the fish at the NFF Craftsmanship competition at Hays' Galleria. As he always said "My day for the trade, London Association and The National Federation "

He and I forged a great friendship, sniping at one another's ways of presenting our shows, critical of each other, not always agreeing on lots of market etiquette (sorry, but there was such a thing!) but the point was we became very good friends. Thanks Ray - Charlie Caisey.

LATE NEWS Cartminders

We hear that Notice has been served to the cartminders. Their end date is Saturday 24th March so we will see the new system at the start of the week thereafter. They are being given details on the replacement jobs as 'parking marshals'. These vacancies are also being advertised in local papers.



SPRING COURSE DATES

WED 15th FEBRUARY

Student Visit IDCF visit from BEST
City Food Lecture

THURS 16th FEBRUARY

Knife Skills Level 2

FRI 17th FEBRUARY

Morning Catch
Adam Whittle visits Leiths School

SAT 18th FEBRUARY

Mastering the Art

TUES 21st FEBRUARY

Seafood Classics Eve
Crepe evening

Wed 22nd FEBRUARY

Outreach Visit from Leiths students to
market

THUR 23rd FEBRUARY

COTD1

FRI 24th FEBRUARY

COTD1
Evening at Billingsgate - Normandy Fish
Casserole

SAT 25th FEBRUARY

Saturday Catch

MON 27th FEBRUARY

Fish for Life Day one

TUES 28th FEBRUARY

Fish for Life Day two

WED 29th FEBRUARY

Intro to Fishmongering School in house
Visit from Leiths students to market
COMMERCIAL CUTTING COURSE

THUR 1st MARCH

COTD1 Outreach
Seafood Evening - Global Food - Moroccan

FRI 2nd MARCH

Knife Skills Level 1

SAT 3rd MARCH

Saturday Catch

MON 5th MARCH

Monday at BG

TUES 6th MARCH

School visit in house

WED 7th MARCH

Get into Fishmongering
with Charlie Caisey MBE

THUR 8th MARCH

Shellfish Workshop

FRI 9th MARCH

COTD1 Outreach

SAT 10 MARCH

Mastering the Art

MON 12th MARCH

Making Most of Meat

TUE 13th MARCH

Steve Pini Masterclass at Fishmongers' Hall

WED 14th MARCH

EHO FISH Outreach
Evening at Billingsgate -
Techniques evening - Scallops

THUR 15th MARCH

COTD1

FRI 16th MARCH

COTD2 Outreach
Seafood Friday

SAT 17th MARCH

Sat Catch

MON 19th MARCH

Fish for Life One

TUES 20th MARCH

Fish for Life Two
Commercial cutting course skills room
Seafood Classics Evening - Lobster Bisque
and Crab Cakes

WED 21st MARCH

COTD 1

Thurs 22nd MARCH

Outreach

FRI 23rd MARCH

COTD1

SAT 24th MARCH

Mastering the Art
Inspire morning

TUES 27th MARCH

TBC

WED 28th MARCH

CLG Lunch Outreach

THURS 29TH MARCH

Outreach

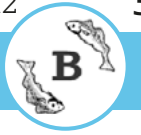
FRI 30th MARCH

COTD1

SAT 31st MARCH

Passionate about Shellfish

For enquiries about The Billingsgate Seafood Training School
please contact Adam Whittle, Office 30,
Billingsgate Market, London E14 5ST
Tel: 020 7517 3545 Fax: 020 7517 3535
E: newsletter@seafoodtraining.org
Web: www.seafoodtraining.org



Challenges of 2012

by CJ Jackson

Like everyone else, 2011 was a challenging time for us at the school, but we are still managing to fill our courses well and there is still much interest in learning more about fish and also about life at Billingsgate!

We are looking forward to 2012 and have a couple of new courses which we are managing to sell too! We are wondering what the year will bring and are hoping that the challenge of the Olympics will offer us all new opportunities.

Viva Las Vegas

We do have some odd requests from people wanting to see the market in action and certainly get a feel for the history - remember the Guy Ritchie visit a couple of years ago?

In November we hosted a short market visit and breakfast from the lady Mayor of Las Vegas



• Oscar and Tony

(Carolyn Goodman) and her husband (the past Mayor) and a group from the Las Vegas tourist board (complete with a larger than life Colorado cowboy in a Stetson!).

They had a fabulous time and loved the very warm welcome that was extended to them by many on the market... the past Mayor.... Oscar Goodman - was totally bowled over when Tony Violino recognized him and welcomed him by name!

Apart from the fish - they loved the atmosphere on the market floor and the Lady Mayor enjoyed out handing her gaming chip 'business card' (she gave away quite a few!!)

The visit is a yearly event and they have asked to come back again next year.

Collage competition

On the first floor landing you may notice all the fish illustrations along the wall - these are all submitted by the many schools we visit as part

of our collage competition. Barry O'Toole will judge the best and these will form part of a new tea towel that we will be selling to raise funds in the school.

We like to get feedback from you - so if you are interested in anything we are doing at the school or want more info - please ask... ALSO....

Don't forget that if you want to give a friend or family a place on one of our courses we offer a 50% discount for anyone working on the market.

We have funding to visit schools across the South East to deliver a Fish Experience Day (OUR Outreach project). We are always looking for new schools and would be more than happy to visit a school on your behalf - if you would like to propose a school please speak to CJ. It's free but we ask that any school participating takes part in our collage competition.

EXPERIENCED FISH FILLETER REQUIRED

The Fish Shop at Kensington Place,
Notting Hill, W8 7LX
Contact Will McKechnie on 020 7727 3184

To all my friends and colleagues at Billingsgate

I would like to thank you for your thoughts and kindness at the time of me leaving the Market after 25 years as Head of Maintenance. It has been a great wrench to leave but my physical condition has deteriorated to such an extent that I had no option. I would have like to have held a buffet in the Committee Room where I would have had the opportunity to say goodbye to you all personally but the circumstances of my departure from the Corporation sadly seem to have denied me that or made it inappropriate. The job has been very challenging but at the same time I cannot think of anything more

rewarding and I have been proud to lead a small but effective maintenance team who have been responsible for providing you with a clean and well maintained market. There have been times when we have fallen short of the mark but more often than not this has been due to a problem of resources rather than any deficiencies in the team.

Apart from my day to day duties I was on call for most of my time at the Market and have less than fond memories of being called out at all times, sometimes in the middle of the night, Christmas Day, any time basically, to attend breakdowns and repair faults. It was worth it to know that as a result all the businesses and the market as a whole continued to trade, without interruption or inconvenience.

Working at the market is an experience unlike most other jobs and I have been happy and hon-

oured to have been part of it. The characters, displays of fish, the events, every day being different, even the "smell" makes the place unique but most importantly it is the people that will stand out in my mind for a long time.

I hope that all the businesses at the Market prosper and that it leads to increased security and prosperity for everyone involved who work hard to make those businesses succeed. I have no doubt that the cleaning and maintenance teams, led by Cliff & Ron will continue to give first class service and contribute to the markets secure and successful future.

Sincerely
Steve Mould





Rex Goldsmith - New Chairman

Rex left his position as a supermarket fishmonger in 1995, convinced that he could do better as an independent trader. Starting out with a small stall in Surrey selling quality fish his reputation soon grew. Outgrowing the stall, he became aware of an empty fishmongers in

Chelsea. This was a business which had over 100 years of history, run by a legend, William 'Bill the Fish' Squires who had retired through ill health. In 2004 Rex refitted the shop, retaining the open front, and carried on the tradition of high quality fish sourced from the famous Billingsgate Market and the West Country. In 2007 Rex opened another branch in Guilford. Rex ever passionate of the products he sells, ever ready to move with the times (just see his website - www.chelseafish.co.uk) but never forgetting the old skills, as a member of the National Federation and now Chairman of the London Fish & Poultry Retail Association, welcome and we wish you every success.



John Purkiss - New Vice Chair.

A retailer with a wealth of knowledge, John 41, joined the family business straight from school - and probably many hours before that! The business had a long history and a fine reputation in Walthamstow, East London. In 1992, John moved to Crouch End, North London where

he still continues the family tradition of home curing and now produces a large range of home-smoked fish as a speciality. John is self confessed sports fanatic, with a great love of cricket and football but, as he rightly says, it's only when the shop allows. The family business have been National Federation members for many years. Welcome John.

Important times? Exciting times? It's all down to you

We are your voice. This is the reason for the London Fish & Poultry Retail Association. The Superintendent will always meet with us, the London Fish Merchants are aware we have voice, but we need your support. As a member of the National Federation of Fishmongers (providing you have paid your subs) you are automatically a London member.

With all the changes that are happening in our Market we need to know: will there still be a 'bobbin' system? Will we be satisfied with the new arrangements for our parking? When will we be told of the new opening times of the Market? These are the things we should know. After all, we are trade customers, 52 weeks a year. Who will take your comments forward?

So now is the time to support your new Chairman, Rex Goldsmith and his Vice Chairman, John Purkis. If you have a view let them know. They are in the market every day.



Market customer saves 7 in force 11 gale

Bill Thornton, of James Nash & Son Ltd, recently wrote to tell us of customer, Mark Richardson (pictured above) who just happens to be volunteer duty Coxswain on the RNLI Dungeness Lifeboat, 'Pride and Spirit' and a 'shout' that they had at 5:30am on January 2nd. The crew of a sailing training vessel hit major difficulties in storm force conditions three miles off Dungeness point.

The crew got up alongside 'Liquid Vortex' and made three attempts to transfer across and attach a tow line but the conditions were just too rough and dangerous. Of the seven people aboard 'Liquid Vortex', only one was in a fit state to assist. The lifeboat crew eventually transferred a crew member across and attached a tow line to start towing to Dover but this broke 3 times! At 8am they requested assistance from Dover RNLI's 'City of London II'.

In the meantime, RAF Rescue helicopter 125 was dispatched to the scene and a paramedic was winched down and airlifted four of her crew for further medical assistance. The remaining three crew aboard the vessel were towed into Ramsgate where a medical team was waiting to provide assistance.

You can read the full report and view footage of the rescue here: <http://tinyurl.com/6owl9gg>

To make a donation to the RNLI, which relies entirely by donations and receives no government funding, visit their website at: www.rnli.org.uk

Congratulations Mark and crew from all at Billingsgate Market.



Photo: Noel Packer. All photos with permission of RNLI

LFPRA Council 2012

Chairman	Mr. Rex. Goldsmith
Vice Chairman	Mr. John Purkiss
Treasurer	Mr K. Condon
Secretary	Mr. C. Caisey MBE.
Mr. G. Sage	
Mr. E. Saunders	
Mr. S. Davies	

Contact us

Send your gossip to: The Gossip, 67 Albany Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4AE. Or e-mail your news to: newsletter@seafoodtraining.org