

INITIAL INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL FREEMEN.

1. Company Structure.

The Company is comprised of the Master, Wardens (2), Searchers (6), Assistants (24), a total of 33 Members by Statute. The Commonality is comprised of Contributing Freemen who must be qualified. The Company also has a category of Friends who are organisations or individuals involved in support to Manufacturing. The Company Staff comprises: the Clerk/Chief Executive, Secretariat, Accountant, Archivist, Beadle, Deputy Beadle, Commissionaires and Cleaners.

2. Qualification.

Currently interpreted as being a Director, Senior Manager or Proprietor of a Company currently active in manufacturing/engineering 'hard' products in the Sheffield City Region. A copy of the criteria for qualification is attached.

3. History.

The Company was formed by Act of Parliament in 1624. There was then a 2nd Act in 1791 to adapt to changing circumstances and the most recent Act was in 1860 which allowed edged tool and steel makers to be granted Freedom.

4. Company Activities.

Support for Manufacturing. The Master Cutler is the Ambassador for Manufacturing in Hallamshire. He occupies a platform which ensures that his view are heard by decision makers are both national and local level. In addition:

- i. Forum for Manufacturing Industry. The Manufacturing Forum is chaired by the Master Cutler and is now the manufacturing arm of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- ii. Promotion of HALLAMSHIRE (Sheffield City Region): Prestige occasions – such as the Cutlers' Feast and Forfeit Feast as well as the Master Cutler's duties and engagements – in particular in the City of London.

Sheffield Defence: Monitoring propriety of use of word SHEFFIELD in Business names.

- iii. Sheffield. Protecting the word Sheffield on manufactured goods, particularly steel products and cutlery.
- iv. Made in Sheffield. This is controlled outside the Company but the mark is essentially the shared property of the Company, Sheffield City Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

Educational Schemes/Awards:

- v. Joint Education Awards. To apprentices in the Region and to students at Sheffield Hallam.
- vi. Pontifex. To young Managers in the Steel Industry.
- vii. Education Committee. An Education Committee has been established to rebuild the link between business and education in the Region to help in developing an appropriate skills base.

Charities: The Company currently has the following charitable activities:

- viii. Charitable Trust. This is for the relief of poverty and distress in the South Yorkshire Area.
- ix. Sir John Osborn Fund. This is a fund open to more general charitable giving but focused on Sheffield and the City Region.

- x. South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF). Money was gifted by the Company to SYCF to open up a fund to encourage young people into manufacturing. The first donations from this 'Cutlers' Company Grassroots Fund' have now been made.
- xi. Master Cutler's Charitable Activities. Each Master chooses a charity to support and recently, they have done this through the Master Cutler's Challenge. This year the focus has been on Business-Education South Yorkshire with the aim of enhancing the employability of 1000 young people in the Sheffield City Region. Most money will go to this but there will also be some donations to small charities.
- xii. Preservation Trust. The prime function of this charity is to maintain the Hall but it also makes educational awards.

The Hall: The Company has a clear duty to maintain, preserve and enhance the Hall, its possessions as a showpiece for Hallamshire and for the future. The Cutlers' Hall Preservation Trust supports this.