



## SHERIFFS' CHALLENGE 2019

**'What will be the key impacts of the digital revolution on the City of London?'**



**Vincent Keaveny**  
Alderman & Sheriff



**Liz Green**  
Sheriff

The current Lord Mayor, Peter Estlin, initiated the Sheriffs' Challenge. Its rationale was to give students in London schools a chance to hone their public speaking skills by delivering a team-work presentation, competitively, on a topic relating to the City of London or the business/wider world. 2019 is the third year in which the Challenge has been a feature of the Livery Year, but this is the first year in which it has been organised by the Worshipful Company of Educators.

The Educators mustered Liverymen to manage the event: The Master, Lis Goodwin supported the event at each stage, as did Senior Warden Pam Taylor as the timekeeper. The Immediate Past Master Susan Fey gave the Vote of Thanks and Max Weaver took the photographs at the final. Anne Punter sorted the rest.

The Financial Services Group of Liveries (FSG) was absolutely key to the success of this Challenge; each of these Liveries supported one or two school teams by mentoring the students and helping in the preparation of their presentation. These Liveries also paid the entry fee for each of their schools, covering all the costs of the event. The FSG Masters in particular supported the Challenge by encouraging and supporting their own livery members to be mentors and by attending the Heats and the Final.

Fifteen schools<sup>1</sup> entered teams of up to eight students; the ten Liveries that supported the schools were: The Worshipful Companies of Chartered Accountants, Chartered Secretaries & Administrators, Marketors, Actuaries, Insurers, Information Technologists, World Traders, Management Consultants, International Bankers, and the Guild of Entrepreneurs.

The Heats in February were held at Coventry University, London, where Carol Still, Liveryman Educator, provided the venue and light refreshments. FSG Masters and Liverymen Judged<sup>2</sup> the Heats. The two finalists were Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Christ's Hospital.

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<sup>1</sup> Mulberry School for Girls and Haberdashers' Aske's Knight's Academy, WC Chartered Accountants (Hilary Lindsay); Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Rokeby, WC Secretaries and Administrators (Edward Nicholls); Hammersmith Academy, WC Marketors (Philippa Seal); King's College Maths School, WC Actuaries (Sally Bridgeland); La Retraite and Burntwood, WC Insurers (Claire Burrell); Lilian Baylis School, WC Information Technologists, (David Barker); London Academy of Excellence, WC World Traders (Ben Pape); Oasis Academy, WC Management Consultants (Frank Brown); Pimlico and Walworth Academies, WC International Bankers (Jordan Buck); Christ's Hospital and Kensington Aldridge Academy, Guild of Entrepreneurs (Sarah Davis).

<sup>2</sup> Terry Masters Moderating Head Judge (Master WC Insurers), Christina Parry (Master WC Secretaries and Administrators), Mark Sismey-Durrant (Master WC International Bankers) David Barker (WC Information Technologists) and Frank Brown (WC Management Consultants).

The Final at the Old Bailey on 4<sup>th</sup> March was a grand and dramatic occasion. The Old Bailey itself is an awe-inspiring building in so many ways: the interior is lofty and the Grand Hall where we gathered has a ceiling rather like the Sistine chapel, and marble pillars and statues like the Victoria and Albert Museum – it is vast. More than this, as the Central Criminal Court for the country, it has the reputation of legal pre-eminence. We also found that its levels of security for entering the building are non-negotiable; Jane Ware with her pivotal management role at the Old Bailey played a vital part in circumnavigating any issues for us.

Court 1, in which our event was held, was THE court in which the most famous trials of the century were held including those concerning *'Lady Chatterley's Lover'*, Jeremy Thorpe, Dr. Crippen, the Kray Twins, Ruth Ellis, Lord Haw-Haw and Peter Sutcliffe the Yorkshire Ripper. Yet further gravitas was added by the two Old Bailey Judges– HHJ Munro, QC and HHJ, Katz QC – who were seated aloft in splendour on green padded leather 'thrones' alongside the two Sheriffs, Liz Green and Vincent Keaveny, who were resplendent in their gowns, lace jabots and chains of office.

After the teams had delivered their material and had answered questions on the topic from the Judges and the Sheriffs, we left Court 1 and ate from a delicious buffet, prepared by Abbie Scott and her team, while Judges HHJ Munro and HHJ Katz determined the winner. Mulberry Academy Shoreditch won, by the slimmest whisker of one mark. (Pictured below with the Sheriffs and the Judges)



Eating, exchanging mutual congratulations and the taking of photographs continued for some time after the result was announced. Everyone was rather thrilled to be in such an outstanding venue after a closely-fought final and it was excellent that the Livery Companies supporting and mentoring the teams that were not finalists were also well represented at the Old Bailey. Unsurprisingly, in the upbeat conversations following the event, we were already debating the merits of possible topics for 2020.



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