

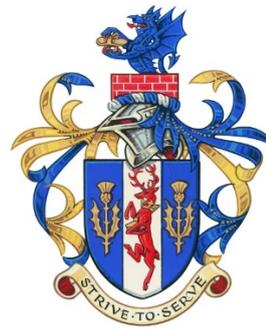


SHERIFFS' CHALLENGE 2021

Why the post-Covid-19 world is now completely different



Sheriff Alderman Michael Mainelli



Sheriff Christopher Hayward CC

Despite being Zoom-bound this year the event flourished with the Heats on 23rd March and the Final on 11th May 2021. Certainly, the standard of the presentations was as high as in previous years.

The on-line Heats proved to be almost more convenient for the schools than having to travel across London in the rush hour and the students found no difficulties in managing their on-line presentations. Our Heat judges – Andrew Marsden (Chair of the Financial Services Group of Livery Companies), Graeme Gordon (Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants) and Dr Lis Goodwin (Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Educators) – completed their role with aplomb. They unanimously agreed that the finalists would be King's College London Mathematics School (supported by the Worshipful Company of Actuaries) and Lilian Baylis Technology College (supported by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists).

Still Zooming for the Final, the sense of occasion and drama were enhanced by the judges - Her Honour Judge Munro QC and Her Honour Judge Dhir QC – who wore their wigs and gowns, while the Sheriffs - Alderman Michael Mainelli and Christopher Hayward CC - wore their very grand insignia. Our own Educator – Past Master Pamela Taylor kept time perfectly as usual.



Both finalist teams were extraordinarily strong this year with King's showing an overall mastery of the subject, and Lilian Baylis, pictured above, giving us a riveting role play that explored the theme in a dynamic way. The winning team, by two marks, was King's College London Maths School, pictured below, so they will retain the Challenge Cup for another year.



This year the judges have been particularly attentive to giving all the teams detailed feedback on their presentations. This feedback is invaluable; it supports the strong rationale behind the Sheriffs' Challenge which is to give Year 12 students the chance

to develop their skills and confidence in delivering a formal, group presentation in order to equip them for interviews and career presentations that they will face in the future. The sponsoring Financial Services Group of Livery companies and the Worshipful Company of Educators in their administrative role are at one in their aim to give students opportunities to gain experience in speaking fluently and to do so in a City of London context. Andrew Marsden wisely grounded the event by outlining this aim in his introductory and closing addresses.

Her Honour Judge Munro QC and Her Honour Judge Dhir QC, mindful of the disappointment of the finalist teams not having access to the Old Bailey during lockdown, have most generously offered to host both teams in the Courts of Justice later in the year; so there is additional excitement yet to come.