

Nicholas D O Williams TD DL
Master Cutler 2019-20

Nick was born and raised in Sheffield, a proud Yorkshireman. He was educated at Elizabeth College in Guernsey, Channel Islands and Sheffield Polytechnic (Diploma of Management Studies).

He began his working life with GKN Ltd in Birmingham and Cardiff, he then joined his family engineering business in Sheffield on the shop floor and worked his way up to Works Director, with works in Walsall and Sheffield.

A family fall out in 1993 saw him move to GT Tubes Ltd, a manufacturer of steel structural hollow section, as General Manager. He became Managing Director on their acquisition by Australian National Industries Pty (ANI) which had sister plants in Brisbane and Chicago and headquarters in Sydney.

In 1998, international company politics, excessive travel and the subsequent acquisition by Smorgon Steel, saw him leave to acquire his own engineering business and to form the SMP Group of Companies - a diverse group of small metal finishing and manufacturing companies in Sheffield.

Now semi-retired, he still maintains his interest in steel and manufacturing as a “Little Mester”, manufacturing a select few products, including the ubiquitous stainless steel “Presto Egg Opener” (the only way to cut the top off a raw or boiled egg), first produced by John Watts Ltd, a Sheffield company dating back to 1765.

He spent many years in the Territorial Army, commanding 75 Engineer Regiment between 1992/5 and completing his TA career as Deputy Commander 42 (North West) Brigade in the rank of Colonel.

Currently maintaining his links with the Reserve Forces as Chairman of the North West of England and Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadet Association. He is also National President of St John Ambulance

He lives in the Peak District of Derbyshire and is married to Susie, with three grown up children. His interests are split between the summer when he can be found or rather heard as a commentator at Horse Trials throughout England and winter when, having given up active refereeing, he is a Rugby Union referee advisor and assessor. He is a very keen member of HADIT - Hope Amateur Dramatic and Independent Theatre Company - a local Am-Dram group, where he is often seen on the stage.

Nick has been a Freeman of the Cutlers’ Company since 1987 and a Member since 1993.

October 2019.