

Nicholas Rettie MI

Master of Worshipful Company of Innholders

2017-18



My career as an hotelier began with the Savoy Hotel's five year management training programme, including a stage at Le Bristol in Paris. A year in Cologne and various assistant management roles led to my first job as a General Manager, at The Athenaeum Hotel, Piccadilly.

In 1991 I became GM of The Halkin, a boutique hotel in Belgravia: this was followed by opening and managing The Metropolitan on Park Lane. Both hotels were in the vanguard of London's fashion conscious, modern hotels and restaurants during the 1990s.

I then joined Sir Terence Conran and his co-investor as Managing Director of the Great Eastern Hotel, which was undergoing a (long overdue) £65m reconstruction, and re-opened it in 1999 as the City's leading hotel. This would have been the first time for many years that there was an Innholder actually managing an hotel in the City.

Following the sale of the GEH in 2006, with two colleagues I set up MRMD, a company providing pre-opening management services for hotels in London and the Home Counties, and in Moscow.

Caren, my wife, whom I met while we were both working in Paris, is an NLP and language trainer. Our two children are both in the industry: Christopher, a Freeman of the Company, is Director of Catering for 'rhubarb' at the Royal Albert Hall and the Goodwood Estate; Antony has created 'Anteater', a London-based restaurant communications and public relations agency. Living near Richmond Park, we enjoy time with our grandchildren, travelling or good food as well as reading, music, and cycling.

In 1997, as Chair of the Master Innholders, I was invited to join the Innholders' Company. It is a privilege to be the first member of the Court to have been drawn from the ranks of the MIs to serve as Master of the Company.