

The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards



**Richard J Wells
Esq. ACII**

**The Master
Maker of
Playing Cards
2016~2017**



Richard Wells was born in June 1944 at East Cranmore in Somerset, returning to London at the end of the war. He was educated at Haberdashers Aske's School Hatcham and, aged 16, started work in the City of London in 1960 as a marine insurance clerk with The Orion Insurance Company. He obtained his professional qualification, an Associate of The Chartered Insurance Institute, before he was 21 and, in 1966, was awarded The Institute of London Underwriters Marine Prize. That same year he joined a small firm of Lloyd's insurance brokers of which, after many years and many mergers, he later became its Group Managing Director. In 1983 he was appointed a director of the merchant bank, Henry Ansbacher Holdings PLC and Managing Director of its insurance operations, Seascope. He later became Managing Director of Windsor PLC before establishing his own broking consultancy specialising in company 'turn-rounds' and provision of general management experience. In these roles he has held many executive and non-executive positions including more than 20 years as Chairman of Senior Wright Limited and 10 years as Deputy Chairman of the SCB Group. Like many others, Richard's career has involved a considerable amount of overseas travel including some 60 visits to the United States. Today, having spent 56 years in the City, he still works - on a part-time basis - as a Partner with the Lloyd's Broker, European Specialty Risks Ltd.

Richard became a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Gardeners in 1985 and of The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards in 2007, before joining its Court in 2012. The Company, of which he becomes Master in November 2016, together with the wider livery movement forms an important part of his life.

In 1968, he was elected as a Conservative Councillor in The London Borough of Lewisham, serving on the Amenities and Establishment Committees. He was proud to have represented the Borough on the Territorial Army & Voluntary Reserve Council, having previously served with Lloyd's Company, London Rifle Brigade Rangers TA.

Richard has been married to Valerie for 47 years and they live at Lullingstone Castle in Eynsford, Kent where they are both active participants in local societies and charities including croquet, clay pigeon shooting and the local wine club!

Contact: Phone: 01322 860868 (day). Mobile: 07531 420481.
Email: wells999@btinternet.com