



Mark J N Winston
DMS FiMgt



The Master Cardmaker 2018-2019
The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

Mark Winston was born in June 1964 in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. He moved to Tunbridge Wells shortly thereafter and was educated at Holmewood House and Eastbourne College, before going on to study Law and History at Leicester University.

Coming from a family, who for generations have been associated with the City of London, Mark entered the Insurance market at Lloyd's of London as a broker in 1984. His early career was spent with Alexander Howden, now AON and Willis Faber, now Willis Towers Watson, where he specialised in Financial and Professional lines insurance with a key focus on the US market. In 1995, he was approached by C.E. Heath, who were looking to set up a new region for the development of Professional Indemnity, Crime and Directors and Officers Liability in the Caribbean offshore market. This proved so successful that, in 2000, one of the key producers in the region asked Mark if he would consider setting up his own Lloyd's Broker to promote these specialty products throughout the region and to other smaller offshore centres throughout the world. Along with a group of Insurance specialists from the US and Bermuda, Mark launched Paul Napier Ltd in 2001, becoming its Chief Executive Officer. The broker grew throughout the region, as had been expected, and branched out into Europe where similar clients were acquired from Jersey, Guernsey, Gibraltar and Malta. In 2012, the board of Paul Napier Ltd were approached by Assured Partners who were interested in acquiring the business. In 2015, Mark and his team joined Besso Ltd where he is still actively involved as a Director producing business primarily from the offshore environment.

Mark joined the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards in 1984 as an apprentice to his Liveryman father. In 1991, having completed his apprenticeship, he was clothed in Livery.

As a young Liveryman, he was actively involved in all aspects of Company life, which included participating in the Lord Mayor's Show when Sir Christopher Walford was Lord Mayor, the Company's only Liveryman Lord Mayor to date. After several years Mark progressed to the position of Court Steward in 1998.

In 2013, Mark was invited to join the Court of Assistants and on 26th November 2018 will have become Master of the Company, the first apprentice to do so in living memory.

Mark is a keen supporter of Charity, having served on the Company's charitable trust for many years. He recognises the importance of embracing this, especially in a Livery where there are now only a handful of Liverymen connected with the trade. Maintaining the relevance of the Livery Company in the 21st Century is a key focus of his and promoting charitable element to the wider community is vitally important, whilst at the same time ensuring all Liverymen are well educated about our long history that dates back to 1628, when we were granted our charter by Charles I.

Mark has been married to Sally for 21 years. Whenever he so much as hints to Sally about retirement, she reminds him that she agreed to marry him for life but not for lunch! Mark and Sally have two children, Marcus and Savannah. With Marcus fast approaching 18, he is being lined up to join the Company as apprentice in October 2019.