

BILLINGSGATE GOSSIP

THE LONDON FISH AND POULTRY RETAIL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2002

Fishmonger of the future

The London Fish & Poultry Retailers Association (LFPRA) in partnership with the Greater London Seafish Group Training Association are looking for Fishmongers of the Future.

If you want to become a fishmonger we will provide all the help and training you will require and advice on all aspects of the skills and qualifications you will need to place your foot on the ladder.

This really is a wonderful opportunity for you to be part of the 'in food' business of fresh fish.

Please contact me, Ray Sandys, on: 020 8892 5788, Charlie Caisey on: 01708 448667, e-mail: charlie.caisey@virgin.net or Libby Woodhatch, Office 36, Billingsgate Market, London E14 5ST. Telephone: 020 7517 3545, Fax: 020 7517 3535 or e-mail: fishgtaldn@aol.com

Dinner dance

Further to our report on the annual dinner dance, we are pleased to announce that the profit from the the raffle was donated to two charities.

£150 to The Fishmongers & Poulterers Association and £150 to the Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen.

Thank you to all concerned Plans are already in hand for the Chairman's Dinner Dance for 2002. Watch this space.

Billingsgate celebrates 20 years in Docklands

The 20th anniversary celebrations of Billingsgate Market's move to Docklands took place on Thursday 24th February.

The London Fish and Poultry Retail Association was pleased to provide a fine show of fish, all of which was available on the market floor that morning.

Great interest was shown by many of the distinguished guests, not least the Lord Mayor of London - Alderman Michael Oliver, The Mayor of Tower Hamlets - Cllr Lorraine Melvin, Chairman of the Leadenhall & Billingsgate Market Committee - Stanley Ginsburg and many more people associated with Billingsgate and the fish trade past and present.

The Association would like to thank John Koch Ltd, J. Bennetts and A.A. Lyons for their help in supplying merchandise.

The celebrations were featured in the press, on the BBC's LDN news and also on the BBC's website.



Inset: 'Anniversary card' from the LFPRA

The Lord Mayor of London and The Mayor of Tower Hamlets with Charlie Caisey.

Did you win the Ken Livingstone caption competition? See back page

Greater London Seafish - Group Training Association

Dear Colleagues

The Fishmonger of the Future?

As you will see from this edition, the Seafish GTA is pleased to be working with the London Fish & Poultry Retail Association in the quest to find the, "Fishmonger of the Future", who we will help train and promote.

We normally hear in the press that the fish trade is either dead or dying, so this is a great opportunity to show that it is not! If you know of anyone who would like to join the trade, or has just started, and wants help developing a career, then please get in touch with either myself or Adam, at the Seafish GTA as they could be eligible for the proposed scheme.

Computer Courses

Our free computer courses continue at Billingsgate, in the IT Suite in Office 3. Many of you are taking advantage of the scheme to help develop your own personal and business needs - New England

Seafood have recently embarked on a series of instructor-led Excel tutorials, tailor-made to suit the needs of their staff, and we are still holding our popular Thursday morning classes for those of you who are new to the computer, but there are still plenty of time slots and courses available, so come and tell us what you want!

Bite-sized learning

We also have a variety of other free courses available that can be completed via the Internet, including health & safety, food safety, project management, managing your budget, decision making and many more. None of these courses will take you any longer than 2 hours, and can be done at a time and pace to suit you.

If there is anything you would like to learn now is your chance – don't get left behind.

Libby Woodhatch

Development Manager

New England take advantage of free computer training



New England Seafood, based in Wandsworth, London, is the latest company to take advantage of the free computer training available from GTA. The company recognises the benefits of training, which invests in any company's key asset, their people.

"We supply the UK's principal seafood outlets, the major multiples, wholesale companies as well as the food service industry and the airline trade," explains Stewart McQueen, General Manager at New England.

"Our approach is to form strong alliances with our suppliers working with them as partners, not just a product source. This network now extends to over 40 countries worldwide. Our supplier charter commits us to the

development of suppliers as well as our own business and to the sustainability of our natural resources.

To achieve this we buy only the freshest, safest and highest quality fish and remain committed to food hygiene standards such as HACCP and EU plant accreditation together with sustainable fishing methods.

We believe these business practices give us a competitive edge. However, unless your team are kept well trained and motivated no business strategy can succeed!"

New England Seafood is currently undertaking a series of tailored Excel training sessions that are being delivered by Newham College.

"These tutor lead sessions at



Billingsgate are a great way of successfully training small groups in a specific application," says Libby Woodhatch.. "They give us another string to the services we can offer at Billingsgate from the GTA.

"Together with the wide range of courses that students can undertake on their own via the on-line learning route, we can also offer a traditional classroom approach to create a blended learning experience."



Making Training a top priority at Olley's

Rave reviews from the national papers and queues outside his premises are a testimony to the success achieved by Harry Niazi at his business 'Olley's Fish Experience'. Located in Herne Hill SE24, Olley's offers both take away and since 1999, an adjoining restaurant styled to recreate the Dickensian era. Harry is very much the driving force behind the business and his enthusiasm for the industry is clear.

enthusiasm

"I met Harry for the first time four or five years ago," remembers Charlie Caisey. "We were both at Hays' Galleria and I was really impressed by his enthusiasm for new skills and ideas. He is one of a rare breed who can actually transfer ideas into reality."

This enthusiasm and drive is clear when you speak to Harry. "Our people are the backbone to the business," explains Harry. "I really believe training is the key to our

success and something you have to make time for. One of the big issues is taking staff out of the work place, however, if you don't no business can develop."

"There are many arguments for not training, particularly in the frying sector where many businesses talk of high staff turnover and narrow margins. My argument is to flip this problem on its head.

I believe these are the main reasons businesses should think seriously about training.

As a member of the GTA Committee, our policy is to help as broader range of businesses in Greater London as possible.

The committee draws experience from all sectors of the Fish Industry. If you need to help getting over a particular issue or just want to know what is available please get in touch."

Unbeaten run leads to Cup Final

Success keeps on coming for the Billingsgate FC team, still unbeaten in the league, with a place in the Cup Final and also in the Junior Cup! As a team they have got stronger and the support on the line from the Merchants has also got bigger.

"This isn't the craze that most people thought," says Press Officer Dean Lewis.

"The weather has not been kind to the players since

our last report. The heavy down pours of rain over the past four to six weeks has unsettled players. However, the results are still coming, this team just doesn't want to lose! What has been achieved in the first season is unexpected by most. Billingsgate FC is one of the best teams in the league, only second by one or two points."

The Cup Final will be played at Barkingside F.C

(date to be announced). A chance to get a piece of silverware at the 'Gate' the question is will it be just one trophy or will they grab both?

"The way we are playing getting into Europe is a must," boasts Dean. "There will be no stopping us now we have our top goal scorer, Rob Garety back from his long stay (5 days) in Australia."

For enquiries about The Greater London Seafish, Group Training Association, please contact: Libby Woodhatch, Office 28, Billingsgate Market, London E14 5ST.
Tel: 020 7517 3545 Fax: 020 7517 3535 Mobile: 07968 775272.
E-mail: fishgtaldn@aol.com Web: www.london-seafish.org.uk

Health and safety posters

The popular laminated, flexible Health & Safety posters are available from the GTA for just £4.95.

The poster is compliant with current legislation, & facilitates the recording of health & safety checks, risk assessments, safety information, warnings, insurance



documentation and a health & safety policy statement all on one washable poster. Contact Libby Woodhatch in Office 28 for your full colour poster while stocks last.

Your LFPRA Council Members

Chairman

Ray Sandys
020 8894 5352

Vice Chairman

To be elected

Hon. Treasurer

Ken Condon
020 8771 6798

Hon. Secretary

Charlie Caisey
01708 448667

Hon. Joint Secretary

Sue Lyons
01245 400787

Gordon Sage
01702 549 849

Ted Saunders
020 8997 5639

Dave Shepperton
020 8742 7670

Phil Diamond



And the winner is...

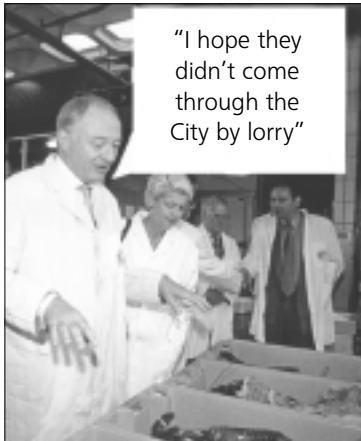


Photo - Terry Bloomfield

We had 37 entries to the Ken Livingstone caption competition, some of which were unprintable!

After great deliberation by a distinguished judge, the winner of the Billingsgate tankard is Gordon Sage of 'Hundreds' - Rochford, Essex.

Apologies!

In the last issue of The Gossip, the reporter of the article regarding 'Fishy Business' of Upminster, Essex, was afraid to use the proprietor's correct name! How can anybody be happy and successful in the fish trade. Hence the alias of Terry 'Smith' Congratulations Terry Murphy.

The reporter is getting old and senile, so join the Council and sack him!

- Apologies to Scott Hitchcock (not Hancock) of Wren & Hines for doing such an excellent job for the Harvest Festival.

NFF Social weekend

Get your skates on if you want to make it to the NFF social weekend in Sheffield from 4th - 6th May. For details contact Head Office on: 01376 571391.

It's time to make yourself heard

Serious consideration must be given to your Association. When you join the National Federation of Fishmongers, this makes you a member of the London fish & Poultry Retail Association. We are unique in that we are the only active Association of the Federation.

We need support if you want to continue to have your input into decisions made by various bodies.

We need as many people as possible to become involved in the Association. Three half days is all we ask. If you don't want any other involvement then that's fine.

A recent statement by your Chairman at the AGM - "do we take for granted the time given by so few people?". He then quoted a few examples: Mr John Adams (Ashtons of Cardiff) who serves on many committees to give so much time and knowledge, all the past Presidents such as John Kenny (Cross of York), Tim Silverthorne (ex Silverthorne of Worthing), John Masters (Peters of Hounslow), Charlie Caisey (Retired), Ken Watmough (Aberdeen) to name just a few.

The council members of the Federation all give a lot of time and most of these people are still involved in running their own businesses.

The President, Peter Mann, at this time is expected to 'fly the flag' by attending seminars and meetings. This is done on your behalf and for the interest of the trade. Remuneration? None.

So, do we continue to pay our part or not? Your Chairman and Council members are open to ideas. What do you think? What do you want?

Get off the coffee shop table, onto our soapbox and let us all hear what you have to say

Subscriptions:

Why every year does the Federation have to work so hard to collect subscriptions? For only £69 you get a whole wealth of services and £5million public liability insurance free.

You know who you are so come on and pay up now.

If you are interested and want to take advantage of the insurance offered then please contact us .

The Fishmongers & Poulterers Institute

Not many people realise it, but this is one of the oldest charitable pension funds, founded in 1835 on the back of the reform of poor law.

The Institute was incorporated for the purpose

Hot Gossip

You may have noticed that in this issue we have given the Gossip a face lift. We have also created the e-Gossip in colour.

Due to a technical difficulty, we have been unable to send the e-Gossip to all those who subscribed last year.

If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail, in full colour and before it even makes it to the printers, then send an e-mail to us at: thegossip@mac.com with 'subscribe' in the subject line. Don't forget it's FREE.

of providing grants and pensions for anyone who had worked for either of the trades.

Today, as far as the fish trade is concerned, it is for anyone who has worked in the shore based sector from the coastal ports to inland markets, processors and merchants, right through to fishmongers.

Many of the applicants that the Institute deals with have given years of service and now find themselves in reduced circumstances. Typically the trustees grant monies towards

home improvements and appliances which help them to stay in their own homes.

In other cases we award small pensions, which for those who are 'up against it', makes the difference between getting by and having a little extra comfort. And why not? These people have given many years of service to the trade and now it's our turn to support them. Remember that this is your charity so support it when you can.

Tim Silverthorne - Chairman

We hope that you've enjoyed the new look Gossip. If there is any item that you would like us to report or comment on then drop us a line and we'll do our best.

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E-mail us at: thegossip@mac.com