



Mr Charles Honnywill BA ACA TD

Master - The Worshipful Company of Armourers & Brasiers



Charles has chosen to focus on the Armourers & Brasiers' industrial partnerships in his year as Master, using our convening power to help UK advanced manufacturing businesses succeed.

He is a Kentish man but headed north for university. In 1985, he graduated from Durham university (Economics and Economic History), was commissioned into the Royal Artillery (Territorial Army/Reserves) and joined Ernst & Whinney (now EY).

Initially living in Newcastle upon Tyne, where he qualified as a chartered accountant, he later moved to London in 1990. He worked in the Transaction Advisory Services business of EY for 38 years, 26 as a partner based in London. He worked globally (in over 30 countries) but had significant spells in

Poland (1990), the Middle East (1991-3), USA and Germany. His most dominant roles were as the EY lead partner advising both listed and private-capital backed businesses on corporate transactions – buy and sell-side and stock market listings in London, New York, Frankfurt, Hong Kong and Zurich. In his final year at EY he was the senior in-house adviser to EY (UK and globally) on its 2022/23 (aborted) plan to carve out and float part of the firm on the New York Stock Exchange.

Charles became a Freeman by patrimony in 1986, a Liveryman in 1999 and joined the Court in 2022. He has served on our various committees and is a trustee of our Gauntlet Trust.

His army career was most active between 1985 and 2000, serving with 101 Field Regiment RA (V).

Charles remains active in advising private businesses. He is also an adviser to Form 1 Partners (a specialist consultancy focused on tech-enabled scaling up businesses).

Charles' other interests include being a co-Founder of Rainbow Pony Rides, a charity that serves the specific needs of severely disabled, disadvantaged and terminally ill children; it also has conservation and education objectives. It operates from a 40 acre site near Bough Beech, Kent. He is a life Member (since 1980's) of the Woodland Trust, UK's leading woodland charity.

Charles is married to Sophie; they have two adult independent children, one of whom is a Freeman of the Company.

His other interests include horse riding, hill walking and camping, skiing, scuba diving, and speaking French.