

2017 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTATION

JEREMY BOWEN, 19th APRIL, 2018

At last. The reason for Jeremy Bowen earning the Company's 2017 Achievement Award was the very same reason that placing Jeremy and Liverymen in the same place and at the same time had proved so difficult - the BBC's Middle East Editor is hardly master of his own timetable. We had hoped that he would be able to join us at our Awards Ceremony at Cardiff Metropolitan University last September but events elsewhere meant that we had to make do with a televised message from Djibouti - a place which Jeremy would find difficult to recommend for a vacation. That message was well received, especially by the other award recipients who were present at the successful occasion designed to recognise publicly those who had received awards from the Company over the year.

Jeremy's work with the BBC was again the reason why he and his partner, Julia Williams (also a BBC journalist), were not able to attend the Silver Jubilee Anniversary Banquet at Lincoln's Inn on 19th April. Jeremy was, though, able to fit in an hour with us before an engagement at the Foreign Office. He joined us for the reception on the lawn (and in the sunshine) where he was able to meet several with a special interest in the Middle East and rather more who were able to engage Jeremy with tales about their times at Jeremy's alma mater, Cardiff High School. In the Hall before dinner and following the citation for the award read by Past Master Sarah Cockbill, the Master presented Jeremy with the Achievement Award trophy. The advantage of Jeremy being so well known and regarded is that it is not necessary to repeat the citation here, but merely to state that all those present recognised that the award was indeed well deserved.

Jeremy responded to the presentation with, as one would expect from one so accomplished, fluent and engaging words. Recording his appreciation of the award (although he did not refer to all the other awards he has garnered over the years), he dwelt on his Welsh connections, before moving on to some of his journalistic experiences. His first foray into a war-zone had been by chance when he had to stand in for someone else, but since then he has drawn satisfaction from being able to broadcast from difficult and dangerous places; this in spite of his sadness at the death of his Lebanese driver on one such venture. He gave no indication that his desire to cover events in the Middle East was declining, and the Company wishes him continued success in his important career of keeping us objectively informed.

22 Apr 18

GRTM



