

NOVEMBER COURT LUNCH

# ROYAL SMITHFIELD AND ROYAL MASTER



The Master with her principal guests



New Liveryman Rob Nugent

The Master, HRH The Princess Royal, having chaired the earlier Court meeting, met a number of Liverymen with their guests together with the Company's principal guests during a Reception prior to presiding at the Court and Livery Luncheon. This occasion marked the Royal Smithfield Club's annual Luncheon at the Hall and we saw once again a full house with guests from across the industry and many connected with the Club. The Company also welcomed the new Liveryman, Robert Nugent who took wine with the Master at the end of a delicious lunch.

Assistant Graham Baker made a lively and amusing speech as he introduced some notable guests of individual Liverymen. He warmly thanked Liveryman Amanda Snowie and James Buitelaar for the excellent Fore-rib of Beef which was heartily confirmed by those present. At the



conclusion of his speech, Graham presented on behalf of the Company, a silver goblet to the Master suitably engraved to mark her Mastership. This gift also recognised a special milestone that the Master had passed earlier in the year.

The guest speaker, the Club's President Baroness Byford, was unable to attend due to ill health but Angus Stovold, the Club's

Chairman elect, standing in at the last moment made an interesting and amusing speech capturing the attention of a comfortably full Great Hall. He explained that the Royal Smithfield Club has enjoyed links with our Livery since 1798.

The traditional Smithfield Show has gone the way of many exhibitions with ever increasing costs effectively making it

unsupportable. In 2004 when the Show at Earls Court became too expensive to run, it was moved to its new home, the Royal Bath and West Show-ground at Shepton Mallet but 2007 saw the cancellation of the Show due to the outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease. This was the final straw and the Show, having now lost impetus, was closed in 2010.

So what of the future? Angus and his colleagues who are passionate about and live for the Royal Smithfield Club are asking themselves about the relevance for Smithfield and for livestock. The RSC has set up a working party to consider all prime stock shows and conferences and a working group to consider the prime stock market. He reported that this is all work in progress but it was plain to see that the RSC is in good hands and that the future is far from gloomy.

**Assistant Ian Mackway**

