



The Worshipful Company of Cutlers



Michael Pocock

Master Elect — installation date 19 July 2023

Mike studied Engineering at Cambridge University and went on to work as a Civil Engineer, mainly on road construction until the 1980s, when he switched to the other aspect of the construction industry, buildings. He was working for contractors and rose through the ranks to director level of the construction subsidiary of a major contractor. For a number of years he was responsible for construction projects in and around the City of London, and fortunately most of those buildings still exist! After over thirty years working for contractors he switched to become a 'client' overseeing at director level a range of projects for one of the London Boroughs including about £500m worth of school buildings. Over time he was given additional responsibilities including Regeneration, Town Planning and even School Admissions for a period of time.

Now retired, in addition to a variety of pastimes, he sits on the Guildford Diocesan Board of Education, which oversees Church of England schools in the diocese, as well as spending a significant amount of his time with the Worshipful Company of Cutlers. A family connection goes back to his three greats grandfather who became an Apprentice Cutler in 1813 and rose to be Master in 1850-51. Mike has been involved in many Committees since joining the Court in 2005, including the (main management) Committee, the Charities Committee, both of which he has served on for many years, and the HR Committee which he has chaired for the last seven years. He served as Master in 2009-10 and is fortunate to have an opportunity to serve again following another member of the Court having to step aside after a change in their personal circumstances.

At Cambridge Mike rowed pretty seriously but gave up a few years after graduating when he could not put in enough time to prevent himself from becoming progressively less fit, and progressively worse at rowing! Since then he has been a very regular skier, particularly since buying an apartment in the French Alps, and now spends as much of the winter as other activities allow, out in the snow. His daughter and son, who started skiing when very young, of course became much better than him in their early teens, but fortunately he probably still has the edge on his wife Claire.

More recently he has played golf quite regularly, which he took up after a 15-year gap prior to retirement, only having dabbled at it prior to then. Although he enjoys it, he has a very high handicap! Other activities include regular walking, including in the Alps in summer, and gardening, which seems to take an increasing amount of time. In the last few years he and Claire have also spent quite a bit of time travelling around the world, trying to catch up with their much more widely travelled children.