



THE ARCHITECTS' COMPANY

A HELPFUL GUIDE ON LIVERY DRESS CODE

The Livery Companies are perhaps one of the last bastions of traditional formal attire, and many of their members like it that way. Indeed, experience suggests that younger members, in particular, embrace the tradition!

This note sets out a few guidelines.

White Tie/Evening Dress – consists of a black tail coat, dress trousers, a white shirt with winged collar, and a white bow tie, and white waistcoat.

Ladies equivalent – a long dress, with shoulders covered.

Black Tie/Dinner Jacket – consists of a black dinner jacket, dress trousers, a white dress shirt with a folded collar, and a black tie, with optional sober cummerbund or black waistcoat. Coloured ties and cream jackets are generally frowned upon in the City!

Ladies equivalent – long, or below the knee, dresses or cocktail dresses, or evening trousers.

Business dress/Lounge suit – for livery lunches, early evening receptions/church services etc this will be the norm and men to wear a tie – the Company tie if they have one.

Ladies equivalent - smart day dress.

Morning Dress – consists (in the City of London) of a black morning tail coat (of a different style and cut to the evening tails above), a black (not coloured) waistcoat, and matching or striped trousers; and a plain shirt with Company tie.

Ladies equivalent – smart day dress, and if you wish, a hat.