

Master, Past masters, Wardens, Assistants and members of the court.

It is a great personal honour for me to be admitted as a liveryman to the worshipful company of Pattenmakers.

I would like to thank my proposer Master Keith Bottomley and seconder Liveryman Annette Cove who is unable to be here today.

I have been in the footwear industry now for over 25 years, starting my career at SATRA, who sponsored me through university, then moving into industry working as a footwear technologist at a major retailer before 15 years at a footwear sourcing company, 10 of which, as technical director sourcing footwear for all genders, from around the world supplying to retailers and supermarkets in the UK and Europe.

I have now gone full circle and returned to SATRA in 2020 as Executive Director, with the aim of playing a major part in continuing SATRA's history of supporting the footwear industry with innovation, testing, research, training and the development of the next generation. I am proud to have joined a livery which has such strong links to the footwear trade.

It is also a great privilege to become a liveryman of an institution which along with its charitable and fundraising activities is a huge supporter of education and management training. It has been fantastic to see the positive effect the 2023 young managers award win has had on SATRA's Hannah Coe, who I had proposed for the award and am proud to continue to support on her journey in the footwear industry.

It is of particular interest for me to be involved with the sustainability subcommittee, this is an area, just like with footwear, I am very passionate about and I look forward to the opportunity to make a difference and help the Livery achieve its sustainability targets. I was also proud to be the guest speaker at this year's footwear dinner and proud for SATRA to have been a sponsor of this dinner for the past 3 years. It was also great to be involved with SATRA receiving the amazing 2023 charity bike ride participants with SATRA being the finishing point of their ride.

Once again I am delighted to become today a liveryman of this great company, Thank you.