



Through the secret door to London's elite

On Wednesday 12th September, this year's NatWest EWIF award winners, were invited to a unique luncheon. Enjoying Butler service at one of London's oldest establishments, overlooking Buckingham Palace, and Trafalgar Square.

Stepping into the salubrious lobby, off Trafalgar Square, of one of Britain's oldest private banks, we were instantly transported into world synonymous with old English glamour and style. Greeted by the butler in tails (alas, no top hat!), we were escorted to the old board room. Via the prosecco and gin table, of course.

Such was the venue of the EWIF Award winners lunch: Drummonds Bank, London. And what better way to celebrate your business achievements, than with a butler-served, silver-service, three-course lunch?

Originally established in 1717, Drummonds has served an exclusive array of clients, not least, the Queen herself. The current building, where the winners of this year's NatWest EWIF Awards were hosted, has stood on the same corner of Charing Cross since 1881. Our butler shared a wonderful story of when Drummonds had set-up a drive-through bank in 1960, just in front of Admiralty's Arch. On one occasion, the Queen Mother's chauffeur-driven car pulled up, allowing her to withdraw money for a flurry on the horses. This building has seen a lot of stories, ours becoming one more.







Guy led us through around the building, pointing out the cheques on the wall, signed by King George III, and a beautifully written letter to Drummonds bank, from Queen Charlotte, to where our luncheon would be served in the "Trafalgar Room". And as we were seated, Clive Sawyer, CEO of EWIF, welcomed everyone, toasting the winners on the successes they had achieved. Seconded by Kate, who proposed another toast to the remarkable women.

In May, Encouraging Women into Franchising (EWIF) held their annual Awards, sponsored by NatWest. These awards are an opportunity to celebrate some of the outstanding contributions women in franchise make to the industry. NatWest, part of the same family of banks under RBS as Drummonds, also sponsor the winners' lunch in September. "NatWest is also part of the RBS brand. Our combined history opened the door for us to be in the position to host the winners lunch at Drummonds," explains Kate Pullum, NatWest Franchising Director. "For us at NatWest, it is massively important to celebrate the success of women in franchising. Bringing people together in such an historical building, gives them time to think about how they have achieved the success, and share their stories."



Head Butler, Guy, talking the winners through Drummonds' history

My dear Drummonds.

Gentlemen. I have been at all times sensible of your willingness to oblige and accommodate me, and I therefore wish to acquaint you, that I have a particular occasion for. ~~King George III~~ To pay some Bills which must be settled. I flatter myself that it will be agreeable to you to advance that Sum on my Bond; but I shall not want it till after the next Instalment is paid to you of my present debt in July next; which payment will discharge the half of that debt.

I shall continue constantly to pay you. 2000 £ every

the whole Sum; but

privately with the reason

Gentlemen, I shall consider
attention to Myself.

Ch. G. G.

Cheques signed by King George III

George III

London 7th Aug 1805

settled my account with Messrs Drummonds
received the Voucher to the 1st Inst
Balance being Eleven Thousand
Hundred and thirty three Pounds 5^{sh} 6^d

George III

Vegan
DRUMMONDS
Helen Mansfield



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THE TOWER OF LONDON



As Hannah Drury, Louise Harris, Jane Maudsley, Jo Middleton, Fiona Boswell, Fiona Simpson and Ali Beckman gathered together in the Board Room, Head Butler, Guy, regaled us with a potted historical tour of some of the items in the room. Items included a dinosaur bone (what else would you expect to find in the building excavations, under London!), King George III's signatures, and the Queen Mother's old kneeling stool. He also pointed out some of the changes Drummonds has witnessed to Central London since it was first established, along with interesting facts about London, most locals aren't even aware of: Like Nelson's spare nose!



Over luncheon, the conversation flowed as freely as the wine. The butlers have a rule about no glass being empty! One of the nicest aspects of being involved in Franchising, is the sense of togetherness. Even though franchisors operate across so many sectors, the sense of support and friendship around the table, made this event a special moment for the winners.

As we ate there were spectacular views over Trafalgar Square, and Buckingham Palace, through Admiralty Arch.



Starter: Creamy haddock risotto,
main: As you like it steak
and for desert: Cheese, biscuits and homemade chutney



And the food?

The food was first-rate!

Absolutely cooked to perfection, and tasted as you would expect, from chefs who regularly host royalty and celebrities, "Whomever I am serving, from Prince Andrew, to corporate bankers, everyone receives the same attention of service," Guy explained.

“Having a winner’s celebration lunch is so important. It helps people recognise and remember why they achieved so much the previous year,” Explains Clive about why EWIF started hosting the Winners’ lunch over the last two years. “I’ve always believed it is important for our winners to promote women in franchising, and give the next generation something they can aspire to. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything women bring to franchising.”



Hannah & Steph
reaching for the nose



Reflection of Helen Mansfield in the
Drummonds' highly polished sign



For more information about
EWIF please visit www.ewif.org



EWIF
ENCOURAGING WOMEN
INTO FRANCHISING

EDUCATE | INSPIRE | EMPOWER

If you have never considered entering the EWIF awards yourself, maybe you should. There are categories for franchisors, franchisees, and women who are employed in a franchise. Who knows, next year, you, or one of your franchisees, could be taking a seat at the salubrious Drummonds table, at the EWIF award-winners lunch, 2019.