

good friend's face. Forget about any further martini. You might be lucky to get a pudding. But remember, the handbook is batting for you, not for your good friend.

The final Section is headed **Second Thoughts**. You may wonder whether you've done it all too early. Are you leaving the warm burrow of the City before you're ready for it? Here the handbook gives you the opportunity to contribute something of your own. It will consist of guidelines as to how to make up your own personal list. There are quite a few skills and disciplines assembled here this evening, but here, simply as an example is a check-list for maritime lawyers.

You will never again have to read:

A law report with the headnote 'Gafta 100, prohibition of export.

A computer print-out of unpaid bills

An unsigned note saying that while you were out someone rang asking you to call back with extreme urgency.

A thirty page article on the adjustment of general average in Albania.

A memorandum from the Sub-Committee On Business Development commenting on a memorandum from the Sub-Committee On Tax And Financial Planning.

You will never again have to experience:

Nine thirty in the office on Monday morning.

Or even ten thirty.

The fourth hour of a partner's meeting.

The right client on the wrong day.

The wrong client on the right day.

The 26th day of a trial you thought turned on a simple point.

The 26th day of any other trial.

So much for the handbook. I hope it will be a trusty guide. But it does occur to me that some of you may think that it does not have that gravitas that a retirement speech should have. So may I end on a slightly more serious note.

First, may I publicly give thanks to Ince and Co. Most of it has been fun. They've put up with me for more than thirty years. And you can readily see what they've put up with.

Second, and far more serious, at the door as you leave, you will see a bag marked 'non-indexed-linked pension'.

Thank you again for coming.