

## **Deputy Commissioner's Dinner - 20 April 2017**

On 20 April 2017 in the sumptuous premises of the RAF Club we held the fourth annual New Scotland Yard Commissioner's Dinner. The Dinner was a resounding success attended by around seventy guests which pleased me no end having lost the Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (to premature retirement) and New Scotland Yard (sold for £347m). Very careless of me! Luckily, with the provision of the grand ballroom in the RAF Club and the attendance of the Deputy Commissioner, Craig Mackey QPM, the evening was saved.

Craig gave a very honest appraisal of the continuing challenges to policing the Metropolis, that include the growth of cyber-crime, the recent rise in knife crime and violence, the ever-present threat of terrorist attack and the requirement to find another £427 million of savings from the police budget. It is sobering to consider that at the end of this efficiency drive the Metropolitan Police Service budget will have been reduced by over a billion pounds.

The evening was ably hosted by the Master Elect, Air Commodore Stephen Anderton, who awarded one of our sponsorship certificates to Jim Brown, the Chairman of Selectamark, who so generously sponsor this event. Jim, who was accompanied by his sons James and Jason, was touched and grateful for this gesture and we are grateful for the support of his company.

The evening commenced with a reception in the Churchill Room where a superb picture of the 1st Viscount Trenchard hangs on the wall. Known as the 'Father of the Royal Air Force' he was a Marshal of Royal Air Force up to 1930 but, ironically, he also served as Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and I remember when I was in the Met we had a section house honouring his name.

After an excellent four course dinner, and subsequent to his speech, Craig was kind enough to take numerous questions from the audience which he answered with honesty and good humour. As might be expected from guests from the security world, all the questions were of high quality and thoughtfully put. Although at the time of writing the accounts have not been finalised, I am confident that this dinner will have again raised a significant sum for our charities and the Master Elect and I send grateful thanks to all who supported this event.

I feel confident that we can secure the attendance of Commissioner Cressida Dick CBE QPM, for the next dinner, which we will hold in April 2018, and would encourage members of the Company to attend; you will not be disappointed!

Phillip Hagon QPM BSc(Hons) MSt (Cantab)  
Senior Warden Elect