

## **National Masonic Inter-Provincial Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition Hoghton Tower 6<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

Well at last, the premier shooting event of the Masonic Calendar, The National Masonic Inter-Provincial Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition at Hoghton Tower (revisited). Glorious sunshine and blue skies, oh what a change from the last event.

The day was one of great excitement for the organisers with an Archery display and a have a go stand, a Novice Stand sponsored by Morgan Stanley Quilter Stockbrokers which proved extremely popular and a Pool Shoot to warm up on before the 75 bird competition. In all seventeen Provinces were represented with over 170 shooters on the day.

At 12.00 p.m. The Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire Rt W Bro Colin Penty Wright and Mrs Kathryn Wright presented a commercial exhibition trailer, purchased by West Lancashire Freemasons, to Lynda Brislin and Jackie Northover, who represented the Northwest Air Ambulance. It was hoped that the Air Ambulance helicopter would be paying a visit to us at that time, but unfortunately it was called away to an incident in the Lake District. However, it returned with a vengeance at about 3.00 p.m. and stayed with us for the rest of the afternoon, much to the delight of the crowd.

Then onto the most important part of the event the presentation of cheques by the Provincial Grand Master on behalf of the Society. The proceeds of the event were distributed as follows:

**West Lancashire Masonic Charities Fund - £3000**

**The Masonic Grand Charity - £3000**

**Derian House Children's Hospice in Chorley - £6000**

**British Association for Shooting and Conservation (Young Shots Programme) - £1000**

**Bryan House Children's Hospice in Blackpool - £1000**

**Royal Liverpool Blind Children's Home - £1000**

A further **£500** was presented to the Provincial Grand Master's wife to be donated to a charity of her choice – she chose the **Northwest Air Ambulance** and the **Highgate String Quartet** donated their fee of **£200** to **Derian House**. Everyone must agree an incredible effort totalling £15700.

The competition itself was hard fought and produced some close results. **The Masonic High Gun Trophy** was won by **Nigel Hurst** from the Province of **Yorkshire West Riding** with a score of **66** out of **75**. The runner up was **J McCluskey** of **Warwickshire** with **61**. **The Masonic Team Trophy** was also won by **Yorkshire West Riding** with a score of **183** out of **225** with **West Lancashire** second with **167** and **Cambridgeshire** third with **166**. After a shoot off **The Guest High Gun Trophy** was won by **Darren Newton** with a score of **70**. Also after another shoot off **The Sponsors High Gun Trophy** was won by **Marcus Iddon** shooting for the **Bowker BMW 2<sup>nd</sup> Team** with a score of **69**. **D White** shooting for **Envirosafe (Enclosures) Ltd** was runner up. The winners of the **Sponsors Team Trophy** were **G Cole (63)**, **J Turner (63)** and **I Farnworth (59)** a total of **185** shooting for **Dolphin Shooting Ground Ltd (Flying Fish Gun Club)**. Runners up were **Blackledge & Co 1<sup>st</sup> Team** with a score of **183** and third were **Bowker BMW 2<sup>nd</sup> Team** with **172**. **Kathleen Wright** won the Ladies Trophy for the second time with a score of **51**. Rt W Bro Colin Penty Wright and Mrs Kathryn Wright presented all the prizes.

To all the volunteers, helpers, the ladies in the café, the trappers and the wives who assisted and of course to everyone who competed a heartfelt thank you to you all for a wonderful achievement and an excellent day one that will be remembered for a long time. Congratulations to you all, you were all winners.