



Working as one

ON 22 May 2017, Manchester suffered a horrendous terrorist bomb attack. Twenty-two innocent children and adults lost their lives and hundreds were injured. Twenty-four hours later, a vigil took place in Albert Square outside Manchester Town Hall, the most emotional experience of my shrieval year.

On this poignant, painful and respectful day, the city was sombre and reflective. People of all ages, ethnicities, faiths and cultures came together. In the midst of sorrow was pride, passion, defiance and the true diversity of Manchester. In the following days and weeks, the City authorities, the emergency services, the medical profession and the people of Manchester worked as one – with grit, determination, efficiency, empathy and togetherness.

During these traumatic times, Greater Manchester Police were taken to people's hearts. As High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and Her Majesty The Queen's appointee upholding all aspects of law and order, I felt strongly that their good work needed to be acknowledged by my office. As a citizen of Greater Manchester, I wanted to stand together with my fellow Mancunians and show my respect and gratitude to GMP – those feelings took me to the chief constable's door.



The Lady Mayoress of Manchester, the late Mrs Sheila Newman, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Eddy Newman, the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Chief Constable of GMP, Ian Hopkins, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Mr Andy Burnham

There was no way to thank the 1,000 officers and staff involved in one go – there would be no bobbies left on the beat – so it was agreed that four GMP Staff Arena Recognition Events would be organised, and everyone would be invited.

As this High Sheriff happened to be in the restaurant business, the choice of venue was straightforward. However, much thought, consideration and meticulous organisation was put into the events – timing, scale and most importantly ensuring that the tone was right to show respect for the victims and their families.

The dates were set for the beginning of February 2018 and I went out to friends, business associates and the Chinese community to look for sponsorship. The response was overwhelming and heart-warming. The

events were attended by the Lord Mayor of the City of Manchester, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the Chief Constable of GMP, and myself. We all spoke movingly of our respect for the officers and the staff of GMP and BTP; their sacrifices, their professionalism and their care and compassion.

Chinese Lion Dancers performed – traditionally used on important occasions and what could be more important than to say thank you to such incredible people. From their feedback, it appears that we delivered what we intended:

'The thought that all the businesses and the High Sheriff provided everything as a thank you to the emergency services is really wonderful and the speeches reinforced that message.'

'What a lovely gesture and so very generous and much appreciated.'

'Lovely evening, fantastic food, very respectful.'

'Last night was brilliant – it allowed staff to come together, relax and support each other. For me it provided some "closure" and allowed me to think and refocus... I am really grateful.'

Heartfelt thanks go to all my friends, colleagues, the chief constable and the awards team at GMP for making these events possible.

◆ Kui Man Gerry Yeung
OBE DL

High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2017-18



The Manchester Chi Mo Kung Fu Dragon and Lion Dance Group