

GPvD's Sub Prior Makes Presentation at the Provincial Prior's Body Guard End of Year Dinner



The ceremonial demands and commitments following a highly successful year were celebrated in great style by Northumberland's PP Body Guard at this year's annual dinner with several significant milestones to happily reflect upon. Newcastle being well patronised with great venues came up trumps with Kt Paul Baker selecting Black Friars as the setting to celebrate a year of variety and span of ceremonial work. The medieval baronial ambience and long dining tables added to the splendour and spectacle of the evening.

As is the tradition, distinguished guests, and past members of the bodyguard were invited to help celebrate. However, everyone had one thing in common, enjoying each other's company, with stories of past chucklesome ceremonial gaffes and successes abounding.



Above: The dinning room prior to be set up – Wow factor ?



Above: Missing the Deputy Commander, but making his spirit welcome !

form of Knights, Sir Kt Ray Coe, Sir Kt Guy Smith, Kt Phil Quearns and Kt Tony Hunter.

The food and the wine flowed with great joy, however, the evening was also tinged with some sadness as farewells were said to Knights Martin Jackson, David Stockdale, Stephen Kirtley, Gary Breach and Nick Deakin having served so faithfully during their term. The silver lining, however, was welcoming the "newbies" to the Body Guard in the



Above: Current and outgoing members of the Provincial Prior's Body Guard and Provincial Executive, with the "*main man*" on the left. GPvD's Sub Prior of Malta, RE Lt Col (Retd) Kt Ian Harper KCT third from the left.



very successful year.

With the backdrop of a medieval dining room, everyone took their places at the tables and with drinks flowing and fantastic company we started the evening. With the meal in full flow and drinks being enjoyed, the night went well. It was an evening to be proud of and to celebrate what was a

During the after dinner speech, both the Provincial Prior, RE Kt Kevin Stannard and the Commander of his Body Guard provided some reflections in their speeches of which note was made of Providing an honour guard at Lindisfarne's Centenary celebration in Berwick-upon-Tweed to the ME&S Grand Master Paul Clement GCT. Not settling for that, comment



was made of the trip to Germany (Herford) where the Body Guard, by invitation, also provided an honour Guard to Grand Master of the Great Priory of German (ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT). Certificates of Service were personally presented by RE Kt Kevin Stannard to all knights retiring from the Provincial Body Guard adding to the sense of occasion.

Left: Provincial Prior, RE Kt Kevin Stannard and Kt Scott Hunter, Commander Provincial Prior's Body Guard.

Following the speeches RE Kt Lt Col (Retd) Ian Harper KCT, the GPvD's Great Sub Prior of Malta Great was invited to present, on behalf of the ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT, personal Grand Master's beer Steiners to members of the Provincial Body Guard who visited Pilgrims No.5 to thank them for their support to him during their visit to Germany. RE Kt Harper conveyed the delight and privilege the Grand Master, along with RE Kts Siny Mackinnon GCT and Joe Maison GCT wished to express at the honour of having such an expert Arch of Steel to process and recess under.



Right: Kt Scott Hunter presenting a specially labelled and boxed bottle of vintage Port to RE Kt Kevin Stannard, similar to one given to ME Kt Rody Mackenzie GCT in Germany.

In closing, the Commander of the PP's Body Guard, Kt Scott Hunter said, "It has been an amazing year with some incredible highlights, in particular our visit to Germany, the way were hosted and the memory of providing and honour Guard to their Grand Master. Plans are already in place to visit Germany again in 2024"

