

## Press Release

Issued: January 05  
From : National Health and Safety Groups Council  
Attachments: Photo – from left to right - Frank Miller, Vice President of the LOHSG; Robert Cunningham, President of the LOHSG; Lord Brougham & Vaux CBE, President of the National Health and Safety Groups Council; Warwick Adams, Chairman of the BHSEA and Andy Chappell of the BHSEA  
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**Embargoed until 27<sup>th</sup> January 2005.**

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary awards for Birmingham and Lancashire Health & Safety Groups**



Lord Brougham & Vaux CBE, President of the National Health and Safety Groups Council, presented awards to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of two Health and Safety Groups – Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association (BHSEA) and Lancashire Occupational Health & Safety Group (LOHSG) – at The House of Lords on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2005. Both groups were pivotal in the formation of the Health and Safety Organisations that we know today and both were formed in 1930 as a result of dramatically increased accidents and fatalities due, partly, to the furious production drive for war purposes.

The Birmingham and Lancashire groups are located in areas of the country that have seen huge numbers of manufacturing organisations, often heavy industry, and it was in these areas that accidents and, all too often, fatalities were occurring at an alarming rate. Consequently, local, leading companies decided to form groups so that they could collectively discuss and exchange ideas on how to improve work practices and conditions. In 1942 it was reported by Sir Wilfred Garratt, Chief Inspector of Factories, that there was an increase in machinery accidents. There were 1,363 fatal accidents, milling accidents had trebled between 1938 and 1942 and power press injuries were appallingly common. Over the years industry has changed dramatically but today the HSE confirms that the number of fatalities at work has dropped considerably to 235 (Health and Safety Statistics 2003/2004, HSE) and that around half of these fatalities occurred in two main industries –



construction and agriculture, fisheries and food. These statistics prove that Health and Safety groups such as Birmingham and Lancashire are continually achieving improvement in the standard of health and safety at work.

Robert Cunningham, President of the Lancashire Occupational Health and Safety Group stated, "Over the years, the Lancashire Group has supported both the St. John and the Red Cross organisations by the presentation of a Shield and monetary contribution on an annual basis. In addition, financial benefit was made available to various charities at the time of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Donations of several thousand pounds were made to the Royal Preston Hospital on the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and Cancer charities at the Rosemere Cancer Foundation and Victoria Hospital, Blackpool have also received substantial awards from us. On our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we intend to raise funds for cancer charities again." The Group will be holding their Anniversary dinner in October.

Warwick Adams, Chairman of the Birmingham Health, Safety and Environment Association explained, "Over the years we have been a very influential group. In 1943 a sub committee was established that eventually became the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH). In 1951, the Birmingham Group organised a course for Power Press operators, which led to both the setting up of the first Centre for Industrial Safety Training anywhere in the world and the formation of Safety Press Regulations. We also had involvement in the very first Safety Exhibition "Industrial Safety Exhibition" that took place at Bingley Hall, Birmingham in 1951 and today's leading UK safety show is now hosted in Birmingham. We are very proud of our roots and 75 year's as a working group is a major achievement. We will be celebrating in style in March this year with a special dinner to be held at the Birmingham Council Chambers where we will be joined with various key figures from National and Local government and the Safety organisations to celebrate this impressive anniversary."

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary awards were presented to the two groups at The House of Lords following the National Health and Safety Groups Council annual lunch and afterwards presented the Alan Butler Awards to other member groups of the NHSGC.

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