



Putting finger on crime - Centre



Commended for bravery - P8



New Colchester commander - P10

Major Investigation Section doubles expected workload:

BAPTISM OF FIRE

WITH more than double the number of referrals than was expected, the first year of work for the Major Investigation Section has proved a baptism of fire for all those involved.

The MIS was established in April last year, following recommendations by the HOLMES 2 and Major Investigation Review Project.

Four investigation teams, each led by a Detective Superintendent, are located at dedicated Major Investigation Rooms (MIR) at Brentwood, Harlow, Rayleigh and Stanway.

Support

Administration and support is centralised at Headquarters, where a fifth MIR is also located.

Among the main reasons for making the move to dedicated Major Investigation

Teams was a desire to reduce costs and ease the burden on divisions caused by lengthy abstractions of staff.

To achieve this MIS sought to undertake the investigation of all offences of murder, abduction, stranger rapes and extortion, although some such offences where the offender was readily identifiable (category C offences) could be retained by divisions for community or developmental reasons.

During the 12 months end-

ing March 31, in excess of 70 referrals were made to MIS.

In the main these related to suspicious deaths and allegations of rape by unknown offenders, although the vast majority of the rape allegations have not been substantiated.

Hijack

In addition, a number of investigations which had begun before April 2000 were adopted by the section, including the hijack of Ariana Airlines' plane in February last year, the murder of Hok Wang Leung at Colchester in July 1999 and the murder of Grant Byrom,

also at Colchester, in December 1998.

During the year there were 15 suspicious deaths reported to MIS. Significantly there were 22 murder/manslaughter investigations undertaken, including those which occurred before April 1 and requiring additional work.

Of these 22 offences 15 have been detected, two recorded as no offence and five remain on-going, although only two remain undetected.

This volume of work, against a previous average of 12 such offences in a 12-month period, has affected the section's capacity to conduct reviews of outstanding murders.

A number of other investigations were taken on during the year, including assisting Mobile Support with the investigation into the tragic death of Pc Rod Daniels, an inquiry into a road death on the A12 in December 1999

and assistance to Thurrock Division in relation to a reported racially motivated assault.

Head of Crime Det Supt Steve Reynolds said he was pleased with the section's first year of operation.

He said: "What has been surprising for us has been the workload. Resourcing was based on between 15 and 20 major incidents a year, but we have dealt with more than 70 inquiries, including suspicious deaths and rapes, more than twice as much as we anticipated.

Burden

"We have relieved the burden on divisions, but it has meant that we have not been able to do the number of reviews of investigations we would have liked," said Det Supt Reynolds.

A review of the way the section is running is under way and there will be some fine-tuning in the next few months.

MIS attracts world interest

THE Major Investigation Section's work has attracted the attention of other police forces, with numerous visits during the year from forces interested in adopting some of the working practices used in Essex.

Manager of Major Investigation Centralised Administration and Support (MICAS) David Blackiston said: "We have had 25 forces visit us to look at not only the concept of permanent major investigation teams, but also to look at the concept of centralising indexing and other support facilities by MICAS, which is not done elsewhere in the country - a first for Essex."

The section has also been visited by the Swedish National Homicide Squad.

The media has also taken a keen interest in developments in Essex, he said.

Television

In connection with HOLMES 2 there have been interviews on national radio and television channels, as well as in PITO News and other publications.

"I have also been interviewed for a company producing programmes for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office for 46 countries and 350 radio stations," said Mr Blackiston.

Officers in the firing line



OFFICERS attending Southend Airshow this year got some hands-on experience of a different kind, when they were allowed to take part in

gun drill on a 25 pounder field gun from the Shoeburyness branch of the Royal Artillery Association.

The gun was made in

1939 and is still in working order. It is fired on ceremonial occasions and on Remembrance Day.

Pictured are Sgt John Knott (arm raised), Pc

Guy Judd (nearest camera), Pc Chris Bramhill, Pc Danny Barnes and Pc Nichola Twist.

Photo: Royal Artillery Association, Shoeburyness Branch.

Tribunal rejects regional allowances for all

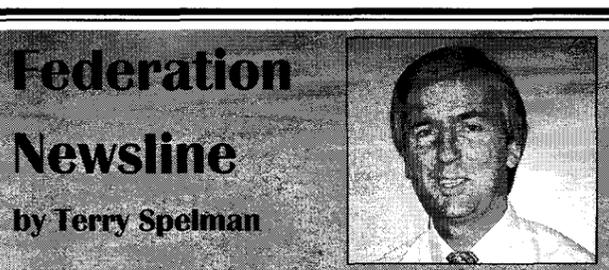
POLICE Forces outside the South East will not be paid regional allowances under a ruling made by the Police Arbitration Tribunal.

The ruling is likely to slow down recruiting police officers in many parts of England and Wales, because they cannot afford the high cost of housing in their areas.

Setback

The Police Federation believes the decision is a major setback to Government plans to increase police strengths, which have been in decline for nearly ten years, so that Forces can cope with a massive rise in workload and violent behaviour.

The Federation has been campaigning vigorously for more than a decade to bolster police numbers and stop the haemorrhaging of experienced officers because of overwork, stress, lack of resources, knee-jerk legislation and mountain-



ous paperwork.

Clint Elliott, General Secretary of the Police Federation, said of the ruling: "We have agreed with the idea of arbitration as being a fair and tested method of resolving disputes but this and recent other rulings brings the process into question.

"Over a period the arbitrators appear to have made decisions on a cost-neutral basis or, as in this case, in line with the official side's last position.

"We were, however, encouraged by their comment that: 'if there had been significant recruitment problems beyond London and the South East, then there would be a stronger argument for meeting the staff side's claim'."

He added: "We will be monitoring recruitment and wastage very closely in the coming months."

The Police Arbitration Tribunal ruled against the payment of regional

allowances other than for Region 5 (South East) who received an interim settlement last February. The tribunal also refused to increase the interim allowances payable to Region 5 or to apply automatic annual uprating to the South East allowance.

Housing

The staff side of the Police Negotiating Board put in a claim last November to be paid throughout the UK (with the exception of London Forces who received £4,338 with effect from July 1, 2000) to post-1994 officers not in receipt of housing allowance. The allowances claimed were: Region 2 (North East) £2,167 Region 3 (Midlands) £2,278 Region 4 (Eastern) £2,328 Region 5 (South East) £2,551 Region 6 (South West) £2,210 Region 7 (Wales) £2,206

In negotiations at the PNB during December and January, proposals from the official side, which had Home

Office backing, were considered alongside the staff side's claim.

Under the official side's proposals, an allowance of £2,000 would have been paid to post-1994 officers where at least half their Basic Command Unit (BCU) area was within 30 miles of Charing Cross and £1,000 to such officers where at least half their BCU area was between 30 and 40 miles from Charing Cross.

The staff side told the official side that these proposals were 'defective, divisive and unworkable'.

In January, the official side put an improved offer under which all post-1994 officers in the Forces immediately surrounding London (Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey and Thames Valley) would have been paid an allowance of £1,500 and in the other Forces in Region 5 (Sussex, Hampshire and Bedfordshire) an allowance of £750.

This offer was further improved in February to £2,000 and £1,000 respectively.

Half hour unpaid overtime:

I PRECIS what should be administered for unforeseeable police overtime

enhancement rate AX, in accordance with Police Regulations:

(a) Paid - If an officer elects to have his/her AX overtime paid, then the first two units of each incidence up to a maximum deduction of two hours in a week must be deducted from claims.

(b) Time off in lieu - If an officer elects to take time off in lieu then the two units must not be deducted when it is input into EPOS.

(c) If an officer elects to take overtime as time off in lieu and then fails to take the time off within three months, it then becomes payable and, therefore, the appropriate number of units as per (a) above are then deducted for payment.

We are still negotiating on past claims but no money would be paid on any successful negotiations.

Police platinum card directories:

THESE have recently arrived and been despatched to Divisional Reps, for distribution.

If you have any problems getting hold of a copy, please contact Jackie Card on extension 54555 or Trish Morley on extension 54560.

Romford 'old boys' to meet

TO all ex-Romfordians, date for your diary Saturday, September 22, for a reunion to be held at Police HQ, Springfield.

It is hoped that many ex-Romford division officers will attend so that old times can be relived.

There will be a buffet lunch which will be held in the Training Centre at 1pm and the bar in the Sports Pavilion will be open from 11.30am.

The cost will be £14 including wine at the table. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to forward details and a cheque to Stu Mather, 25 Queen Avenue, Tower Park, Poole Lane, Hullbridge SS5 6P before September 8.

Cheques payable to S. Mather.

Correction

THE Law editors wish to apologise for an error which appeared in the June edition suggesting that only three out of 15 students passed their recent surveillance course.

We would certainly not want to put people off applying for the course and the item should in fact have read "three out of 15 student failed the course".

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'Bridge Busters' revisit Boreham

ON Monday, June 18, 2001 a group of American second world war veterans, of the 394th Bomb Group who served at Boreham airfield during the war, returned for a poignant visit.

The original control tower, built by the Americans during the war, is the current base of the Air Support Unit, who acted as hosts for the visit to the airfield.

The veterans toured the airfield in a coach and

admired the views from the roof of the control tower.

ASU officers flew an American flag from the tower to make their guests feel welcome.

Obtaining the flag proved surprisingly difficult, with neither the US Embassy nor US airbases able to provide one.

An appeal was broadcast on local radio station Chelmer FM and fortunately, an American who lives in

Witham heard it and came to the rescue in the nick of time.

The 394th Bomb Group were part of the US 9th Air Force which undertook missions from Boreham into France and the low countries during 1944.

Flying Martin B2 Marauders their high success rate earned them the nickname "The Bridge Busters".

The group visited other sites of interest locally, before travelling to France.



● The US Veterans, pictured outside the Air Support Unit control tower, at Boreham

Unit to improve courts process

THE criminal justice process in Laindon is to become more effective and efficient, with the introduction of one of four new units in the county.

The move follows a review of the Crown Prosecution Service by Sir Iain Glidewell.

Police support staff will work alongside CPS lawyers at Laindon. Sites at Colchester, Southend and Harlow are already up and running.

Previously, police staff worked from six Prosecution Units within police stations and CPS staff were based at their HQ in Chelmsford. CPS headquarters will still be used to hold a Crown Court Unit also officially opening, probably in July.

Staff at the four Criminal Justice Units will be able to focus on contested magistrates' court cases and disposal of guilty plea cases on the first date of hearing.

This will free up staff at the Crown Court Unit to be able to channel their energies and resources into dealing with more serious cases.

Launch

The Laindon unit was officially opened last month, at Laindon Police Station. Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) John Broughton attended the launch, along with Chief Crown Prosecutor John Bell.

Resource and Operations Manager for the Essex Police Criminal Justice Department, Tricia Brennan, said: "By introducing these new Criminal Justice Units we hope to improve the service even further, providing a speedier and more efficient approach to both magistrates and Crown Court casework."

Intelligence review nears completion

A REVIEW of the current intelligence process is nearing conclusion with a final report and recommendations due to be put to Essex Police Authority in September.

Help for African police

MORE than 50 manual typewriters, no longer required by Essex Police, are on their way to Somaliland, Africa to help in a project to educate 2,500 young men and women who are being recruited into the police service.

Most of the young people in this country have never received even basic schooling because of the civil war.

The charity Africa Educational Trust, based in Covent Garden, is helping the local community and the police in Somaliland to develop a new community police education programme to provide basic literacy, numeracy, human rights awareness and first aid training.

In addition it will provide training in office skills for 100 recruits and the typewriters will be sent to the rural police stations, where the majority do not even have electricity.

Dr Michael Brophy, Director of Africa

by Kim Perks

It was late last year that the review was launched as part of the Authority's five year Best Value programme.

The review's primary aim was to find a means of

improving the way in which Essex Police gather, analyse and disseminate intelligence. It is also seeking to identify ways of effectively measuring improvements in performance.

The Best Value team undertook a series of workshops attended by members of staff undertaking key roles across the force.

The workshops initially sought to highlight problem areas before considering options for improvement and how they might be implemented.

Concerns expressed included the lack of a consistent approach to the intelligence process across the force and the need for performance measures to reflect quality rather than just quantity.

Armed with a variety of issues to be examined and resolved, members of the Best Value team have already visited the Metropolitan Police, Leicestershire and Kent Constabularies, to make comparisons.

Detailed

They have also gained a more detailed understanding of the National Intelligence Model (NIM) being rolled out by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS).

Consideration of the NIM has provided answers to a number of the concerns raised during the review and one of the major recommendations will be to adopt the national model.

Staff attending the final series of workshops discussed a number of improvement options and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

The review report will reflect five key areas:

- the need for a consistent approach to intelligence across the force;
- alignment of roles and responsibilities with the NIM;
- technological solutions which rationalise the number of intelligence databases and which make our working practices more efficient, particularly those concerned with intelligence analysis;
- a common set of performance measures;
- improved training and awareness.

The final report will be considered by the police authority as part of its best value role.

It is hoped the final decisions resulting from this review will considerably improve the intelligence function.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, said: "The provision of intelligence for policing is to ensure we make the most out of all the information and crime analysis to combat criminals."

"The intelligence process is at the heart of policing and if

Martin is in charge

WITH the promotion of Chief Inspector Ray Burman to Superintendent in the Metropolitan Police, the post of Best Value Manager has been taken up by Martin Gormley, already a long-standing member of the Corporate Support Department.

we get this right it will really help front-line staff".

Mr. Neville Brown, Chairman of the Police Authority's Best Value Assurance Panel said: "Many police authorities are carrying out their BV reviews on a functional basis."

"This, of course, was the approach taken for our first review in Essex on force restructuring."

"Apart from sharing the DCC's hopes and expectations for a successful outcome to the current study in the key area of intelligence, the current study will be the authority's first opportunity to evaluate the process approach to our best value reviews."

Speeding is halved

THE NUMBER of motorists exceeding the speed limit on the M11 halved overnight following widespread publicity for a safety camera.

A record 2,000 vehicles were caught on the newly activated camera on the southbound carriageway near Woodford.

The camera had been installed to reduce the number of injury-related road crashes on the stretch of road where figures reached six times the national average.

Casualty Reduction Manager Brian Ladd said: "We are becoming increasingly concerned at the number of motorists who appear to be ignoring the clearly visible signs that indicate the safety camera is in operation."

"It's not in the driver's interests to continue handing over £60 each time; eventually leading to a period where they will be banned from driving which may have consequences on their professional lives."

The camera is one of 102 in Essex funded by a two-year Government pilot scheme.



● Jill Landymore, Executive Officer AET loads up the typewriters.

Educational Trust said: "We were delighted to receive the 52 typewriters from Essex Police."

"They will be shipped out this month and will arrive

early August. These typewriters will be extremely valuable in helping us to provide assistance in the training of the police recruits in Somaliland."

Death of serving Special

THE death has occurred in hospital in Colchester of Brightlingsea Beat Supervisor Alan Barrass, who was aged 51.

Alan was a member of the Specials for 31 years, joining on May 3, 1969.

He was born locally in Clacton and spent most of his early life in St Osyth.

He left school, aged 15, to become an apprentice shipwright at Cooks shipyard, Wivenhoe, where he remained until the shipyard ceased business about ten years ago.

He was one of the few people who laid the teak decks on the Lord Nelson, which continues to carry on its work of training young people.

He received his long service medal in March, 1978, a first bar in March, 1988 and in February, 1993 became the Beat Supervisor at Brightlingsea, receiving a second bar in March, 1998.

Alan was a very private man, keeping his thoughts to himself but was well known for his willingness to help other people when he could.

The later part of his Specials' career was spent with police officers at the Brightlingsea beat team. He was well respected by all his colleagues and was a well known face at all official functions, whether it be carnival or Remembrance parade.

Pc Andy Thorpe, Community Beat Officer at Brightlingsea, paid tribute to Alan.

He said: "Having known him for a number of years my colleagues and I sadly miss his passing, tempered with fond memories of a quiet, likeable man, always approachable, never arrogant or rude, a truly upstanding member of the local community."

"My thoughts go to his family, his sister and two nephews, to whom he was very close."

The funeral took place at Weeley Crematorium, on May 25, with a police guard of honour, together with a



● Beat Supervisor Alan Barrass, who has died, aged 51.

chapel full of his friends, who wished to pay their own tribute to him. Money collected by his colleagues will be donated to a cancer charity.

Law letters

Send your letters to:
The Law, Press Office,
Police Headquarters,
PO Box 2, Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 6DA

Service needs to take stock to restore public confidence

I THANK Paul Smith for his response regarding 'double crewing' and the issues this raises.

He is right that I have an agenda, which is to promote thought about where Essex Police is in relation to its service to the people of Essex and how we got to where we are.

Part of this is to examine why there needed to be restatement of policy. Paul implied I am still a serving officer, but I have been retired nearly six years after serving nearly 32.

I can therefore speak with some authority about how we arrived at a situation where policing in twos and threes has become the 'norm'.

Even Traffic Wardens seem to be unable to function without being accompanied most of the time by another warden.

Until the 1970s it was unheard of for officers to patrol in pairs unless for a specific purpose, or when

crewing an area or traffic car.

Around the mid 70s policing become very much a 'mobile' business and it became rare for an officer to patrol in any other way.

Those without a permit were found something to do by teaming up with a panda driver. I well recall that attempts to challenge this depletion of our service were met with great resistance by most officers.

Liberal

This coincided with a distinctly more liberal approach to supervision and discipline by supervisors and senior officers.

The reasons for this may also unlock some of the doors to why some say we have a more liberal society, lacking in appreciation of the boundaries of acceptable behaviour and moral or social discipline.

So a new approach led to less rigid discipline. Not such a bad thing in many ways, but it also bred unwillingness

by supervisors and managers to challenge and a fear of being unpopular.

The seeds were sown that have brought us to where we are. Anyway, where are we? I think we have two distinct views of that. The service appears pretty pleased with itself, and well it might be.

Statistics tell us that it is fulfilling all the required performance indicators. Yet the public, as I have recently had confirmed to me on a thousand doorsteps, is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with that service.

The police have become distanced, unseen, unresponsive and almost unknown to whole communities. People no longer bother to report crime unless they need a crime number for an insurance claim, are unwilling to be witnesses and reject their social obligations.

The police are losing the confidence of the public and it is showing in the political debate. Not all of this is the

fault of the police. Essex, for instance, has maintained its level of front line policing in spite of falling numbers.

But it seems to have become preoccupied with its own internal problems and we hear little about the provision of service to the public.

It will take a lot of brave action to halt this culture and sell the concept of service again, which is why I made the point about those charged with the hands-on supervision and management of officers accepting responsibility for implementing the changes that are implicit in the review of policy on double crewing.

There will need to be some radical changes if the service is going to live up to expectations. Especially if numbers are actually going to rise to the extent promised.

If we arrive in the promised land of 140,000 officers and still none are on the street, what then?

Tony Hall, Harlow

Debate was first class

MAY I congratulate the Police and Neighbourhood Watch personnel involved with this year's Police/Neighbourhood Watch conference.

It was extremely well organised and, as with the last conference, the venue and catering were first class.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Chief Constable and Essex Police for creating such a friendly and hospitable atmosphere?

The speakers were well-matched to the conference theme, especially Susan Kiely (Essex Trading Standards) and Jan Williams (Help The Aged).

We took away some interesting concepts, which we hope to set up in our area.

The interactive drama was once again very entertaining and professionally executed. However, I felt it would be more informative to have a video scenario, then invite the professionals to explain how they would deal with a specific situation.

Following its success in Suffolk, we tried to set up DataLink (Message In A Bottle) some time ago, with little success. I would therefore also like to applaud the work of the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association and the Police for making this very worthwhile scheme happen in Essex.

Finally, the conference organisers may wish to consider the use of a portable hearing induction loop to make this type of community safety conference more accessible to the hearing impaired.

Barry Smith,
NW Co-ordinator,
South Woodham
Ferrers.

Thanks for your thoughts

MY sons and I, through the medium of *The Law*, would like to thank the Chief Constable and the many members of the Essex Police and the county Neighbourhood Watch movement who sent letters and cards of condolence, following the death of my wife, Pam.

Thank you, too, all those of you who were able to attend the funeral and service of celebration of her life in the Cathedral in May.

We very much appreciate your kind thoughts.

Geoff Ireland,
County Neighbourhood
Watch Co-ordinator,
Chelmsford

We're busy knitting Teddies for children

RE the article in the April issue of *The Law*, featuring Chris Downes with his "Teddies for accident victims", what a lovely idea.

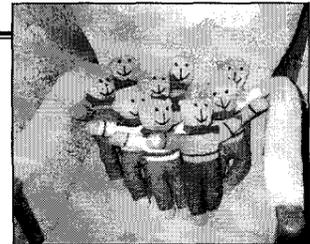
I have knitted over 200 Teddies for the charity Containers of Hope, which are sent to African countries, where they are given to chil-

dren, many of them orphans, when they are admitted to hospital.

My wife Edna has knitted over 500 babies' vests for the same charity.

We make them in the evening, while watching TV.

Jack Faulkner,
Southend-on-Sea.



Duty of care was lacking

I HAVE served Essex for 22 years and currently work in Scenes of Crime. My wife works in Personnel, both of us at Harlow.

A year ago I was diagnosed with inoperable stomach and liver cancer and given one year to live. Friends told me to give up work and travel the world, but I saw this as being defeatist and decided on an intensive course of chemotherapy. The drugs used were so toxic I have permanent disabilities.

I approached Occupational Health and informed them I wished to continue work, albeit on reduced hours. I wanted to continue to work as I felt this was the best therapy for me. I wore a baseball cap to cover my hair loss. Even after tubes were put into my body which enabled the drug infusions I continued to work, rarely being off sick.

Fortunately, there was a reduction in cancer on the liver and I found a surgeon who would operate on the cancer of the stomach, which gave me a slim chance of cure.

In December 2000, I went to Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire and had most of my stomach and my entire oesophagus removed. It is the most major operation

the hospital carries out.

It was touch and go for a while as I bounced back and forth from intensive care. It was also the start of a long stay in hospital. I received many cards, gifts and telephone calls from various departments, visits from officers both serving and retired, even the Superintendent of Harlow Command Team. I would like to thank you all.

I waited for visits or calls from my colleagues, but the only visitor from Scenes of Crime was the civilian clerk in his own time. I did receive two personal cards from two of my colleagues at Harlow Scenes of Crime.

Due to complications I was re-admitted to Papworth Hospital for a further five weeks.

On my release from hospital I received a visit from the Acting Support Manager, Crime Division. I eventually got a home visit from the DI SOC, who was newly promoted and hardly knew me.

Through my own choice I have returned to work Monday to Friday, day shifts. I could be on light duties but I enjoy the return to work and although it was physically demanding I have not had a day off sick. However, I was told I couldn't work bank hol-

idays as this would be unfair to the other SOC officers.

As it turned out SOC were short on a later bank holiday and asked if I could work.

One year after I was diagnosed, I received a visit from the Crime Division Support Manager who told me he hadn't been informed of my situation. Why was this?

As the cancer has again returned to my liver and I don't have long left to live, the Force Medical Examiner has asked me to travel to Headquarters once a month to see him. I have refused, only to be told "it is force policy".

Failed

I write this not for my benefit, because it is too late for me, but because Essex Police and Scenes of Crime have a duty to support and care for their officers. I feel they have let me down and failed me.

Only now after so much complaining am I getting improved support from SOC Headquarters. My wife and I are now receiving support from Welfare.

I would just like to thank all officers who offer support and wish me well on a daily basis, it is much appreciated. Special thanks to the Harlow Command Team who have

supported my wife and I at work and home, day or night.

I will soon be gone and may be forgotten, but I hope lessons will be learnt and improvements made. I wouldn't wish this to happen to you or anyone close to you.

De Micky Page,
SOC Harlow

● Reply from DCI Tom Harper, Head of Scientific Support: I have known Micky almost all of the 11 years I have been with Essex Police and like everyone that knows him I was shocked and saddened at the news of his illness when he was diagnosed over one year ago. He is an extremely competent crime scene examiner and an excellent ambassador for Scientific Support and I had no hesitation in supporting his request to carry on being a Soco for as long as he felt able.

The trauma of his surgery and on-going treatment has, at times even shocked Micky in its severity, but with dogged determination he battled to maintain as normal an existence as possible, working when he could and resting when it was needed. I believe the role of managers is to balance the force sickness policy with the compassion that each case deserves. The line between support to an indi-

vidual and intrusion is a fine one and I do not profess to get it right every time, but I do try my very best. I am saddened that Micky feels the way he does.

I will continue to support Micky in every way possible in his battle to beat this illness.

● Reply from Supt Steve Reynolds, Head of Crime: The first time I met Micky Page was at the Stansted air crash. His performance and commitment was unstinting. Several months after the crash I learned of his illness and believed that he was getting all the support that he so rightly deserved. Since taking command of Crime Division I have tried to promote a caring management style amongst my staff, ensuring that all staff feel valued. This is made more challenging due to the disparate nature of the division but nonetheless it is a priority. I particularly recognise how important proper support is as a very close friend of mine within the organisation was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago.

I can assure Micky that Crime Division will do everything possible to provide the appropriate support in the future.



● The North East Essex Minority Ethnic Project at its domestic violence forum.

Project focus on domestic violence

by Nishan Wijeratne

ESSEX Police continued to improve relationships with minority ethnic communities when a seminar for female victims of domestic violence was held last month.

The North East Essex Minority Ethnic Project, together with Essex Police, held its second meeting in Colchester in a further bid to encourage people from these specific groups to seek help and advice from the police.

Members from several agencies, including the

Colchester Community Voluntary Services and the Women's Refuge, explained how their services can be accessed by people from black and Asian communities, with a particular focus on domestic violence.

For various reasons, the majority of members of minority ethnic groups are reluctant to report crime or

perhaps even seek assistance from the police generally.

They are cautious of attending police stations to report incidents that may affect their domestic lives, mainly due to cultural beliefs.

Families can be subjected to racial incidents outside the home and domestic incidents within the home.

Insp Jo Dudley, from the Community Safety Department, is aware confidence needs to be instilled into the community to show the public that police take the issue seriously.

Community

She said: "It's always sad that incidents of domestic violence occur, but it is encouraging to know that we can begin to reach the wider community."

"Working together with other members of the Colchester Community Safety Partnership, we can give everyone confidence to report problems and issues." In 2000, there were 1,085 reported incidents of domestic violence, of which only six were from a minority ethnic background.

This indicates that there was a continued reluctance for women to report.

Since the north east initiative began in March, there have been 16 minority ethnic incidents reported.

Search team's work praised

by Helen Cook

THE recovery by police of the largest ever consignment of cocaine in the UK saw a lengthy sentence of 28 years imprisonment handed down to Essex drug dealer Richard Gooden-Wood, of Steeple, who admitted conspiracy to supply cocaine.

In June Northampton Crown Court heard how National Crime Squad officers swooped on buildings at a Second World War airfield in Cambridgeshire and seized 115kgs of pure cocaine, worth about £15 million.

They also recovered £3 million in used £10 and £20 notes and 140 packages of cocaine, which were concealed in a secret compartment in a lorry loaded with Spanish potatoes.

Gooden-Wood had been arrested by NCS officers at his home and although he initially pleaded not guilty at his trial the weight of evidence was so significant that he later changed his plea.

Some of the evidence was gathered by the excellent work by the Essex Police Specialist Search team, lead by Sgt Steve Kettle who reports: "After a briefing by NCS officers we undertook a systematic search of the suspect's home using specialist equipment and very soon we began to find items highly relevant to the inquiry, some of which were secreted very well indeed."

Shares

"We found share certificates for a million company shares and a false passport."

"Most of the search team officers had been doing their normal police jobs that day."

"I had been on early turn at Clacton and so had been up since 4.30am. Lack of NCS resources meant that I

was also called upon to be the exhibits officer, in addition to planning and supervising the various stages of the search."

"Reinforcements were called in, with Pc John Carpenter from Thurrock as team leader, who was left in charge after I went home after some 28 hours work."

"The team filled a cell at Chelmsford police station with exhibits."

"At the trial I, John Carpenter and several of the specialist search team were called to give evidence and none of the search planning, procedures or documentation could be faulted in court."

"Richard Gooden-Wood was sentenced to a massive 28 years imprisonment, which was one year for every hour I spent involved at the scene - if only all criminals could be

sentenced that way."

Sgt Kettle adds: "From Essex Police's perspective this case was an excellent example of liaison, skill, professionalism and attention to detail and I would like to thank all the search team officers involved."

"Search team officers always perform to high standards but on this occasion they surpassed themselves and I was especially proud to pass on thanks from the National Crime Squad."

Eye-opener visit for US students

A PRISON visit proved a real eye-opener for American students visiting Essex to learn more about the British criminal justice system.

The 19 under-graduates and post-graduates from the American University in Washington undertook a tour of Chelmsford Prison and were amazed at the apparently "relaxed atmosphere", compared to US institutions.

One student commented on how "they even have a pool table".

Another shock to the system were the rules surrounding CCTV, following a visit to Southend. The set-up was described as "an invasion of privacy", which would be unacceptable across the Atlantic.

Students from the university visit Essex Police every two years and also make trips to the Netherlands to learn about differences in criminal justice systems.

Throughout their week's

stay in Essex the group heard presentations on a number of subjects including forensics, restorative justice, community partnerships and hostage negotiation. They even staged their own press conference as part of a segment on major investigation and the media.

Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Joe Edwards, said: "The visit went very well and all involved thoroughly enjoyed their time here. The students were particularly impressed with the friendliness and approachability of 'UK cops'."

"There are clearly many differences between the policing methods of British officers and their American counterparts."

"The course was extremely beneficial to the students. Essex Police has gained some excellent contacts and some good friends and I thank everyone who contributed."

Home Secretary to seek officers' views

HOME Secretary David Blunkett has signalled his intention to consult officers about their working day, as part of a study to help to inform the police reform and modernisation process.

Mr Blunkett was speaking during the Home Affairs debate on the Queen's Speech, which had earlier set out planned Home Office legislation for the next Parliamentary session.

This includes the Criminal Justice Bill; The Police Bill; The Proceeds of Crime Bill;

and The Football (Disorder) (Amendment) Bill.

Mr Blunkett said: "We want to ensure that police officers are not held back from effective policing by unnecessary paperwork or blockages in the system."

"That is why we will look carefully at the daily routine and working practices of front-line police officers, identifying ways in which time could be saved, for example through new technology or reduction of paperwork."

"Time saved in the police

station means extra time preventing and detecting crime."

"We will have a Police Bill this Parliamentary session to deal with the aspects of the modernisation programme which require legislation."

"The Police Bill would strengthen the capacity of the police to reduce crime, but reducing crime is not just about policing. We want to be able to help communities fight crime and become stronger as a result."

Mr Blunkett is also keen to tackle those who offend while on bail for other offences.

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For more information and an application form call 0207 434 1062, or e-mail twowrongs@hat-trick.com.



● Fingerprint Officer Helen Hartley gets down to some close work.

Pointing

at cro

THEY are the hidden side of crime-fighting, yet form one of the integral parts of the war against crime.

Men and women clad in white suits have been rooting out offenders in Essex since 1947, using tools based on the principle that no two people have the same finger, palm or foot print.

This form of identification

is a fundamental process in detecting criminals and is damning evidence in court.

Each person has a unique distribution of characteristics which develop in the womb and persist throughout life. Essex Police's Fingerprint Bureau receives an average

20,000 sets of prints each and last year saw it record the highest number of positive identifications.

Crime scene marks are retrieved using a variety of techniques and are compared with others on the database maintained in the Fingerprint

NAFIS leads in war against crime

THE war against crime has become increasingly reliant on information technology and it has allowed police to catch villains more quickly.

Essex Police identified its first suspect within two hours using NAFIS and the system has since been used to identify everyone from burglars to armed robbers.

Database

Fingerprint Officer Helen Hartley believes it has represented a real breakthrough in technology.

She said: "It works by matching key characteristics indicated by the officer or expert with prints in the database having the same features."

Bureau heads to maintain record of re

ESSEX Police Fingerprint Bureau has been civilised since 1977 and Wendy Palmer joined as the department's head in January.

She credits the year-on-year identification increases to the Bureau's commitment to keep pace with legislation and technology.

"The dedication and all round excellent work by the 27-strong team enables the force to continue to bring criminals to justice," said Mrs Palmer.

"The recent changes in legislation have certainly not made it easier for the force to prosecute with this comes the constant pressure of maintaining a reliable and effective system with absolute integrity."

Science

Welsh-born Mrs Palmer qualified fingerprint expert (complementing the force's other experts) having spent 14 years' experience in the

Real-

ONE of the biggest test cases the now flourishing Essex Police was the high profile silver robbery in 1997 at Margareting.

Multiple searches were carried out resulting in several positive identifications leading to a successful conclusion.

The murder of Elsie at Southend in 1987 illustrated the skill and success of the Bureau before computerisation.

Blood

A very poor mark in a plastic bag was searched, with officers examining over 100,000 sets of prints.

This resulted in an identification after 1,300 hours of labour-intensive searching.

Earlier this year, the Essex Police was asked to assist with fingerprint matters surrounding two separate incidents of murder in Clacton and Southend.

Rachel's skills at your disposal

NEED any help with graphics or design?

A new graphic designer, Rachel Stiff, is now in post and is looking to establish your priorities.

In the few weeks Rachel has been with Essex Police Public Relations Unit she has already made a significant contribution to displays, promotional material and forms. She has worked on material for the Hate Crime campaign and Operation Poseidon.

She has also designed and developed the new firearms permit and publicity posters for the Arrest Referral Workers and the Community and Race Relations training sessions.

Rachel said: "It's certainly a very varied job with a mixture of official or operational

work together with more creative opportunities, such as the new *2 Smart 4 Drugs* programme that I'm now working on."

Her work has gone a long way to improve the image of Essex Police, both internally and to the public.

Style

However, there are still forms, posters and leaflets being distributed by Essex Police which are not being produced within the guidelines of the corporate style.

Versions of the correct Essex Police crest are available on the intranet in the Media & PR Department section.

To further develop the work carried out by the Graphic Designer a questionnaire is

being circulated to members of staff. Public Relations Officer, Ruth Collin said: "We're looking to make sure that we're offering the right kind of Graphic Design service."

"Rachel's job incorporates a wide range of tasks and we want to make sure that she is offering the advice and support that is needed."

Media and Public Relations Department will be sending questionnaires to staff who have used the Graphic Design service before and to those who haven't. Please complete the questionnaire and return it.

Any requests for Graphic Design work should always be made through the Public Relations Officer, Ruth Collin on ext 50770 or email.



● Graphic Designer Rachel Stiff

the finger

books

AS the Metropolitan Police Service celebrates 100 years of fingerprinting, Nishan Wijeratne examines how new changes in legislation affect prisoner-handling and speaks to the head of the Force's Fingerprint Bureau to discover why Essex Police is making a big impression in the drive to solve cases.

bureau based at headquarters.

Retrieved marks from crime scenes can be searched against the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System which holds nearly six billion prints of convicted people.

aims unit's ability

fingerprinting industry and a science degree.

She joined Essex Police from the MPS where as an identification officer she encountered five years of scene examination work and studied chemical enhancement techniques for two years.

Mrs Palmer played a prominent role in the Racial and Violent Crime Task Force, helping to arrest London 'nail-bomber' David Copeland.

e cases

Legislation boost to fingerprint evidence

THE Government has made it easier for police forces to ensure consistent standardisation of identification allowing fingerprint evidence to be used more frequently to help secure a successful conviction.

The previous 16-point standard for fingerprint evidence has given way to a non-numeric, expert opinion-based system.

This came into effect on June 11, 2001.

Retained

The Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 also allows every set of a person's fingerprints to be retained.

In line with recent legislation implementation, the Force carried out a series of internal and external audits and appointed a dedicated bureau trainer.

Senior Fingerprint Officer

Chris Cardozo says: "We have 14 Fingerprint Experts and six fingerprint officers with a further two to be appointed by the end of the summer."

"The Bureau has a database of 150,000 fingerprints of people charged and a collection of over 7,100 unidentified marks left at crime scenes."

"All fingerprints are routinely compared against this database."

Further sections of the Criminal Justice and Police Act allows officers to rectify the problem where poor quality fingerprints have been taken from suspects.

Only one set of fingerprints need now be taken from a suspect as the Force now uses only one automated search facility.

Technology is critical in making the search process manageable and Essex Police began using the NAFIS computer system in August 1999.



● Wendy Palmer, head of the Essex Police Fingerprint Bureau.

New technology the key

THE future of the Bureau lies in the further development of technology.

In order to maintain and improve the success rate, it aims to have Lifescan installed into NAFIS, enabling suspects to be digitally fingerprinted on arrest.

"If someone gives his name as Joe Bloggs, we can check his prints almost instantaneously to discover if he really is Joe Bloggs," said Wendy Palmer,

Head of the Fingerprint Bureau.

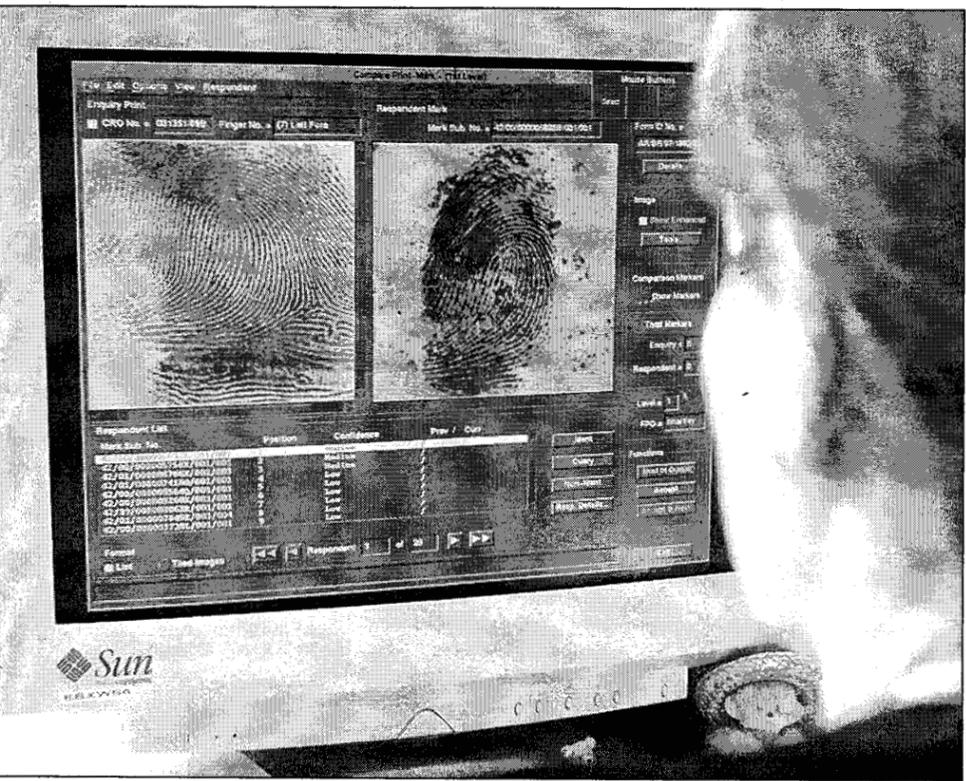
"We will continue to support the Scenes of Crime Department by taking a more proactive role in crime reduction."

Another new piece of equipment that all police forces are looking at is an automated palm-seeking facility."

Mrs Palmer congratulated the MPS Fingerprint Bureau and concluded by saying:

"It's an opportunity for us here at Essex Police to recognise and acknowledge the dedication of our officers and experts, and their unique contribution to criminal investigations."

The Fingerprint Bureau will have their newly-designed home page on the Force Intranet by the end of the summer to help highlight their services.



The NAFIS system has proved to be a real breakthrough in tackling crime.

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Bravery beyond belief



● James Buckingham and Stacey Marie Westpfel, pictured with retired Det Supt David Bright, after receiving their Provincial Police Award gold medals.

ACTS of bravery beyond belief by members of the public at the scene of a murder in Essex in March 1998 received recognition at the ACPO summer conference.

Thirteen Provincial Police Award medals were presented to members of the public for their "bravery or meritorious devotion to civic duty in support of the police", by Mr Tony Burden, ACPO President and Chief Constable of South Wales Police.

With only five gold medals awarded in total it gives an indication of the heroic efforts that Essex medal winners James Buckingham and Stacy Marie Westpfel made on that fateful day trying to save the life of Gary Edwards.

A double first for Essex, as this is the first time Essex has featured in the Provincial Police Awards and the first time that two people from the same force area

by Heather Watts

have received gold medals.

Senior Investigating Officer, Det Supt David Bright (now retired), who was called to the scene of the murder, said: "It was one of the most horrific scenes I have ever come across, like a battle scene."

Erupted

People who were at a public house in South Ockenden, on Wednesday, March 11, 1998, had tried to get out of the way when an argument erupted between three men, one of whom was Gary Edwards.

He was hit over the head

repeatedly with a barstool by the other two men and dragged outside.

Barmaid Stacy went to his aid, trying to pull him away from his attackers and halt the attack when passer-by James, who works as a carer went to assist her and Gary Edwards.

The men turned on James allowing Stacy to tend to Gary Edwards, spooning blood from his mouth with her fingers, to perform mouth to mouth resuscitation stopping only when she realised he was dead.

Meanwhile the two men

mounted a savage attack on James, kicking and punching him about the head and body and striking him with a broken bottle and heavy ashtray.

Despite his severe injuries including a fractured skull, James managed to make his way into the pub where Stacy tried to protect him from further attack from the two men.

Unable to find him, they then set about ransacking the bar.

In May 1999 one man was convicted of murder and received a life sentence and one man was convicted of manslaughter and was ordered to be detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

Team's outstanding work commended

CHIEF Constable David Stevens awarded commendations to the community policing team based at Southend last month for their outstanding work and results.

Sgt Deborah Jones was commended for her high self-motivation and positive leadership skills displayed during the past 14 months.

She has built and led the community policing team that has worked proactively

and consistently produced excellent results during this period.

Other team members including Pc Tommy Batchelor, Pc Paul Bird, Pc Adam Dovaston, Pc Gareth Oats, Pc Paul Schwarz and Pc Dawn Smith, all Southend Police Station and Pc Steven Crane, who has since transferred to Cambridgeshire Police, were also commended for their ability, drive and

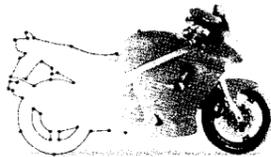
determination over the past 14 months as members of the proactive community policing team.

The team has consistently mixed the best in community and proactive styles of policing, leading to the arrest of 618 offenders for various offences and the seizure of quantities of heroin and cannabis with a street value estimated in excess of £25,000.

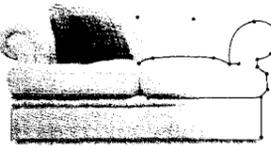


● Members of Southend community policing team pictured with Chief Constable David Stevens after receiving their commendations. Photo: HQ Photographics

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Dismantling barriers

PLANS are in hand for the third in a series of open days at Wethersfield under the heading "Dismantling Barriers and Opening Doors".

Hosts will be Stansted and Mobile Support Divisions, together with Weapons Training and the aim, once more, is to give all officers a chance to learn what is involved in areas of policing such as firearms, road policing and dog handling.

In particular, the open days are intended to dispel any concerns women may have about joining

these traditionally male-dominated policing activities.

A slight change in the format of the third open day, which takes place on Friday, September 14, will see the theme in the morning, "Unlocking Doors", consist of a workshop run by Supt Jacqui Cheer, Stansted Divisional Commander.

This will deal with and examine the interview and application process and address any queries officers may have concerning this.

During lunch those

attending will be able to speak to and question officers working currently within the host divisions.

In the afternoon there will be the chance to use the live firing range and/or simulator.

Those wishing to attend have until Monday, July 16 to register their interest.

Anyone with any queries about the open day should contact Sgt Angelina Crook, Divisional Training Officer in MSD on extension 58323.

Display attracts potential Specials

ESSEX Police joined several voluntary organisations last month to highlight the commitment and dedication of the Special Constabulary during National Volunteer Week.

The High Chelmer Shopping Centre in Chelmsford attracted a large number of potential applicants who may have not otherwise thought of a career in the police service.

Taking on the theme of Recognising and Recruiting, special constables become involved in a variety of activities.

Volunteer

Policing a football match, arresting a shoplifter or attending the scene of a road collision are just some of the activities that Special constables can become involved in when they volunteer.

New recruits should be aged between 18½ and 50, physically fit with a good standard of eyesight.

Working alongside regular officers and other Special constables, new recruits will be assigned to specific beat areas and will be involved in a host of challenging and fulfilling activities for which they will receive training.

Walk's £1,100 for ambulance

THE Essex Police HQ Sports and Social Club charity walk held on Sunday May 20 raised £1100 for Essex Air Ambulance.

Well done to members and their families who joined us and thank you to the sponsors.

A lovely day in Southend was enjoyed by all.

Divisions to stay same

DIVISIONAL policing boundaries in Essex are to stay as they are.

The decision was taken by Essex Police Authority following a review carried out under the force's Best Value programme.

The review considered reducing the present ten divisions to eight by merging Colchester with Tendring and Southend with Rayleigh.

Another option was to

by Peter Laurie

transfer the Castle Point district from Rayleigh division to Basildon.

Councils and other partner organisations were consulted before the police authority made its final decision.

Although a reduction in

the number of divisions would have brought annual savings of up to £442,000 per year, the police authority felt there would be disadvantages, including an adverse effect on police-council partner initiatives under the Crime and Disorder Act.

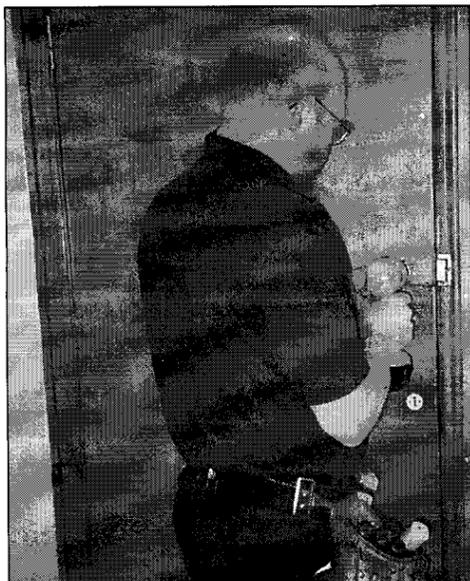
Custody

The Best Value study included a review of custody facilities and command teams.

Custody provision will remain a longer-term matter for consideration, but the police authority has approved the closure of the small holding units at Benfleet, Billericay, Epping and Wickford.

On command teams, the authority agreed to retain the existing divisional structure of a superintendent being supported by three chief inspectors and a divisional administration manager.

Project aims to boost safety



● A carpenter from the charity "Safe", helps to provide extra security for residents whose homes have been recently burgled or are considered vulnerable.

A HOME Office grant of £80,000 has enabled Essex Police, together with other agencies, to tackle the problems associated with a densely populated multi-occupancy road in Southend.

York Road is a long street of Victorian housing with a transient population and was formerly one of the most burgled streets in Essex.

Police at Southend applied for the grant which was awarded under the criteria that the area must have suffered at least 54 dwelling burglaries per 1000 households consistently over a three year period.

Burglaries

Six months into the two-year project to reduce burglaries, crack down on crime generally and improve the environment has already produced some excellent results.

Domestic burglaries so far this year total six, a dramatic reduction and to help occupiers further protect themselves from this upsetting crime, police have teamed up with a national charity "Safe" to provide security locks to doors and windows.

Review leads to change in policing style at Southend

POLICING sectors in Southend changed on June 30, following a review of operational policing there, as the first process in the divisional five-year best value review.

Four sectors, each headed by an inspector have provided response and community policing in Southend since October 1999.

The structure of the policing style and shift pattern were analysed and compared with other divisions, both within Essex Police and other

forces and staff were consulted.

Evaluation of each beat in the division, since sector policing was introduced, was made using the number of immediate and high response incidents, response times, recorded crime and detection rates.

Boundaries

With recent changes to council ward boundaries the overall workload demands for each beat and sector were compared, using up-to-the-

minute data and then placed in the new council wards.

Community policing will remain in Southend but it has been identified that it needs to focus on a more proactive approach, which will be intelligence led, involving local CID and working with and alongside response officers.

To create a community team on each sector meant restructuring and four options were considered, taking shift patterns into account, to ensure operational resilience levels are

maintained.

Review team project manager Sergeant Darren Wiles said: "We needed to restructure to ensure that policing boundaries as far as possible fitted in with local community structures at the same time recognising that we have to be more proactive to drive down demand."

"We have chosen the option of having three sectors with a similar workload, operating out of the existing police stations at Southend, Leigh and Shoeburyness."

Airport parking discount

FLYING from Stansted Airport this summer?

Essex Police Sports and Social Club has arranged for a ten per cent discount on the parking rates at Alternative Professional Parking, located at Bishops Stortford Football Club.

CCTV

This is a 24 hour facility, with CCTV and a free transfer shuttle service every five minutes.

Current rates are £4.50 per day for all EPSA members.

Further details from Force Sports Secretary John Stonehouse, on ext 58888, or phone direct to pre book on 01279 306080.

Cancelled

THE BF Trogg Charity Walk, held in memory of Pc Bob Foster who died whilst on duty, has had to be cancelled this year, on the advice of MAFF, because of the foot and mouth disease outbreak. The event was due to take place on August 7, 8 and 9.

The column of the Essex Police Business Association

MEMBERSHIP stands at 81 with five new members. The cost is still only £10 to join plus £10 per year. As our expenses are so minimal the latter has not been collected for a number of years.

The effective use of the membership directory enables networking to continue to produce work for a large number of members.

Inland Revenue advice: Those who attended the last meeting were pleased to receive sound and knowledgeable advice from the Inland Revenue Business Support Team. The bogeyman image of the taxman in the eyes of most people was dispelled when they were told that all inquiries to the team would be strictly confidential and in no way imparted to the IR Collector.

The emphasis of this excellent presentation was to ensure that individual tax responsibilities could be achieved with manageable confidence.

Everyone is encouraged to contact the IR Support Team for fair and impartial advice. They are available on 01245 253707.

Essex Police contracts: A number of members reported their dissatisfaction with the present system operated by Essex Police both in fairness and administration. This has been reflected by non-members in recent articles in *The Law*.

A further invitation will be sent to Essex Police to attend the next meeting, to clarify the complexities of such contracts.

AGM: The annual meeting takes place on Wednesday, September 19, at 7.30pm at the Sports Pavilion, HQ.

As usual there will be many important issues to discuss including the election of officers. Both Bill Pirie and Bob Craven will be stepping down to make way for new blood, ideas and innovations. Your attendance is needed. Items for the agenda to Bob Craven please.

Christmas Dinner: Bill Pirie is arranging a venue for the dinner that will be held on a Friday early in December this year to encourage more members and guests to attend. More details at the AGM.

New members: Contact Membership Secretary Ken Luxford on 01206 395948 or e-mail kenluxford@supanet.com

For general inquiries contact Association Secretary Roy Dennis on 01206 504246 or e-mail roy.dennis@pop.ntl-world, or Assistant Secretary Bob Craven on 01702 582750, e-mail lsg@tiny-world.co.uk

New Colchester commander

SUPT David Murthwaite has been appointed as the Divisional Commander for Colchester, following the retirement of Julian Field.

Having served at Colchester previously as both Inspector and Chief Inspector, David is relishing the challenge of returning in his new role.

As his home is in Great Horkelesley, he has the benefit of living on the patch and can draw upon his 29 years of policing experience.

He has spent his career in uniform, in a variety of roles and is currently head of training.

A keen sportsman, David is a past manager of the force football team and still turns out for the veterans' side, but his primary interest now lies in golf.

Moving on from Operations Manager at Southend with a promotion to Detective Superintendent, and to the role of "Director of Intelligence" is Chief Inspector **Wilson Kennedy**.

Wil has served in uniform and CID in all ranks and is delighted with his appointment. He said: "Essex has come a long way in intelligence-led policing, but there is still a lot of work to be done."

"My aim is to ensure that the intelligence function at the centre supports divisions in reducing crime and arresting criminals through focused, quality policing."

"There are good people

Names in the news



● Supt Dave Murthwaite

working in the intelligence arena across the county and my job is to ensure they have the best direction, equipment and training to do their job."

Retirements

INTERVENING in a fight three years ago has ultimately led to the medical retirement of **Pc Jacky Mills**, 37, from Braintree. A tendon in her arm and shoulder snapped and despite consistent treatment she has reluctantly retired from the job she loved.

She worked for three years as a SOA at Colchester before joining as a police officer at Braintree nine years ago. She has also served at Dunmow and Witham.

Jacky thoroughly enjoyed working and training with the Polska search team, with highlights including training on the QE11 Bridge and the sombre search following the Korean air crash in Stansted.

Her plans for the future are limited by the immobility of her arm but she married a

police officer two months ago and is learning how to slow down.

Pc Peter Furlong, 49, is not sure exactly what he will be doing now he has retired but it will probably involve his love of animals and horticulture.

Peter joined the Metropolitan Police in 1974 and served with them until 1989 when he moved to Essex Police and was stationed at Maldon.

His time with the Met Police passed so quickly he says: "Because you are always busy but you did see the ugly side of life".

He was on duty during the Broadwater Farm riot and during one of the Notting Hill Carnivals when problems erupted.

Working at Maldon has been lovely and he especially enjoyed working on the Crucial Crew education programme, as crime prevention officer.

He now intends to take time out, look after wife Karen and their dogs, rabbit and ten tortoises.

No previous knowledge or experience of computers was not a deterrent to **Chief Insp Brian Jaggs**, 48, when he was drafted in to work on the computer development project in 1985, but it was a life-changing move.

He retires after over 30 years as a police officer but returns to the same job as Computer Services Manager in IT department as support staff.

Brian was one of the first cadets to enlist at the new

training school in 1969 and served as an officer at Grays, Chelmsford, HQ Traffic and as an Inspector at Braintree.

He and another officer were responsible for setting up the first HGV intelligence desk but it was the move, as a sergeant, to the computer project when the force did not even have word processing systems that has mapped his future.

He was responsible for the implementation, installation and testing of the IRIS computer system and for its maintenance.

He has redesigned the police data network from scratch and implemented the automated fuel computer system.

He also remembers coming in one Sunday to set the car park barriers for the first day of the new tag security system that he had helped introduce.

He was promoted to Chief Inspector in 1999 and headed the IT department through the Y2K changes. He hopes to see out the next decade in the same job.

Pc Steve Woodard, 49, retires as a traffic officer based at Newport but his future plans are to be back behind the wheel as a private driving instructor.

Steve joined 30 years ago and served initially at Clacton and Harwich but for the last 26 years he has been with traffic, the last 23 years based at Newport.

He completed the police driving instructor course at HQ in 1977 and spent spells with them training.

He also has run driver awareness and advisory courses for Uttlesford DC for the last seven years and intends to continue with these.

He says he will not miss shift work, motorway driving and looks forward to regular hours and meals but he will miss the job and colleagues.

He says he has thoroughly enjoyed his service and owes the force a lot. Steve has a wife Alison and a daughter and son and lives in Saffron Walden.

After 28 years as a police officer, 21 of them as a traffic officer based at Stanway, Halstead and Bocking, **Pc Melvyn Brett**, 47, has no particular plans for his retirement, but will be indulging in his passion for building model steam engines.

He worked for two years for the Post Office before joining the police, serving initially at Harlow and Halstead.

He says he will miss colleagues but not the shift work but will have more time to spend with his wife Pat and ten year old son Richard.

A love of motorcycles from an early age was a major influence on the career of **Insp Mike Carter**, 60 who retired at the end of May with 35 years service.

Aged 14 he was taking part in motorcycle trials and the last two years of his six in the Army saw him performing with the Army motorcycle display team.

Whilst still a probationer with Essex Police he was posted to Chelmsford traffic, then a spell at Southend as an incident car driver and motorcyclist.

For four years he was the motorcycle wing instructor at the driving school at HQ.

Next he packed his bags and took his family off to Papua New Guinea on secondment for five years.

Here he headed the driving school and traffic section. He describes his time here a tremendous, but with a few ups and downs. To provide the best education for his daughters they returned back to this country for the last two years of his secondment.

His return to this country saw him brought back to earth - serving as custody sergeant at various stations.

Promoted to Inspector he moved to Braintree then back to his real love, in charge of the driving school for the next six years.

His last posting was with Professional Standards.

He says he has enjoyed nearly all of his 35 year service and feels he has done his best.

He is now a company director for a firm providing fleet driver training but does intend to take time out to travel with his wife Pat and spend time with his three children and four grandchildren.

Retiring from the force after 28 years is **Dc Michael Brown**, 50, his last posting was with witness protection at HQ.

Retiring on medical grounds after nearly 26 years with Essex Police is **Dc William Clark** from Crime Division's Witness Protection. William joined Essex Police in 1975 and retired on May 31.

Obituary

THE death has occurred aged 82, of former **Sup Benjamin Jenkinson**.

Mr Jenkinson, from Shenfield, served from 1947 to 1980 at Brentwood, Gidea Park and HQ. The funeral took place at Bedford Crematorium with donations to the RSBP and the Police Benevolent Fund.

Former **Pc Alan Cable** from Beadle, North Yorkshire, has died, aged 79. Mr Cable served from 1946 to 1976 at Chelmsford, Tilbury and stations north of the county. The funeral took place in North Yorkshire with donations to the Children's Ward, Friarage Hospital.

Former **Pc Frank Robinson** from Castle Hedingham has died, aged 77. Mr Robinson served from 1949 to 1978 at Castle Hedingham, Gt Leighs and South Woodham Ferrers.

His funeral took place in his local church and he leaves a widow, Emily.

Ramblers' challenge

THE South East Essex Ramblers are celebrating the re-opening of the Essex footpaths after the foot and mouth crisis by holding their second 23 mile challenge walk around Southend-on-Sea and the surrounding countryside on August 19.

For an entry form send SAE to Jim Cross, 8 Burnham Road, Hullbridge, SS5 6BQ by August 11.

Market Place

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home Tel.....

Date Signed

Send to The Editor, The Law, Press Office, Essex Police Headquarters.

Only adverts from those directly connected to Essex Police (either serving or retired) will be accepted. Adverts should be restricted to a maximum of 24 words and repeat ads should be re-submitted on a monthly basis. The Law team reserves the right to edit or omit any advert which doesn't meet this criteria.

ARGYLL. Cottage flat. 2 bed sleeps 4. Unrestricted sea views. Scotland's most famous scenery. Loch Lomond, Glencoe, Oban, Iona, golf, fishing, sightseeing, Scottish fayre and music. Contact Peter Douglas on 01206 560706.

CYCLE Ladies/girls, 16" frame. Mountain bike with seven gears. As new condition £45. J Cripps 01245 466270.

FLORIDA villa, four beds, beautiful pool, close to airport/attractions. 2002 prices from £450pw. Call 01245 321378 Pete or Lyn for details. Video available.

FRENCH language course complete with tapes and books. Unused £30. Phone 01702 467377 Phil Pewsey.

GUILLOTINE wanted suitable for A4 size paper. Contact Dave Richardson on 01255 556674.

MYSTERIES of mind, space and time contained within 152 editions of "The Unexplained". 3040 pages in 13 volumes with binders. £35 the whole collection. Contact Pc Paul Watson at

Shoebury or 01702 203015. **ORLANDO** luxury villa, 4 beds, 3 baths, sleeps up to 10. Private screened pool. Near Disney and other central Florida attractions. For more details contact 01376 573406.

PEUGEOT 106 XR 1.1 K reg, 6 months tax, 10 mths MOT, dark blue, 79,000 miles. £1,800 ono. Contact Dan Fallows on ext. 22864 or 01245 496870.

POLZEATH, Cornwall. Self-contained static home, five minutes' walk to sandy beach. Miles of National Trust coastal walks. TV/video, own toilet. Most dates available. Fishing and golf nearby. Contact D.Turner on 01375 846704.

RENAULT Laguna 2.0i 16V 1996, 40,000 miles, side impact protection, twin air bags, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, auto dip rear view mirror, full electrics £4,250. Wilkinson 07812 748797.

SCOTTISH Highlands. Self catering in one bed or four bed bungalow. Or stay in an Austrian-style home on B&B basis, or full board. Skiing, fishing, shooting, walking and bird-watching, or just relaxing. Contact Andy Nunn on 01479 841717.

SIXTY ft cruiser style narrowboat, Mercedes engine, one fixed double, two single, inverter charger, fridge, cooker, washing machine. Cratch (awning), suit live aboard, immac throughout, lying Little Hallingbury, £42,000 ono. Sally Hart, Fingerprints HQ, tel. 07909 542522.

SOFA bed Habitat. Good condition, colour red checked, price £300. Contact Ronnie Bell 07770 435740 for more details or to view.

VOLVO S40 1.8XS, S reg metallic blue, FSH, PAS, ABS, air cond. 22,000 miles. One owner vg condition. £8,995 ono. Contact B Simmonds on 01621 783995.

Sport and Leisure

TONY Cooper has recommenced the NARPO presentations to the pre-retirement courses and hopefully will be able to strengthen the numbers of all branches.

At present there are only three branches in the county (details below). Thurrock, Basildon and Harlow do not have their own branches at present and until we have volunteers to run them, we welcome all to join any of the existing branches and benefit from our activities.

Barry Tarbun has organized the golf tournament between the branches for September 20, at Maldon Golf Club.

We want this to be a full social event so supporters and players are welcome to attend. Inform your Secretary as soon as possible.

Colchester and North East Branch: Secretary Reg Shelley 01206 547739.

Chelmsford Branch: Secretary Tony Cooper 01376 329563, e-mail cls254ps@aol.com

Southend Branch: For new membership or renewals contact Dick Bloomfield on 01702 202959 or e-mail cpc@fsbdial.co.uk

Branch Secretary is Bob Craven, 20 Marcus Chase Southend on Sea SS1 3LG, tel 01702 582750 or e-mail lsg@tinyworld.co.uk

Branch Treasurer is Brian Mead, 25 Broadlands Road Hockley Essex SS5 5DT, tel 01702 20135 or e-mail mead-br@aol.com

To keep costs down and assist the Secretaries please send SAE with any correspondence.

The AGM took place at Southend Police Club in May. It was great to see all the 48 members and widows who attended and was really refreshing to hear the old banter and spirit.

Minutes, social event details, welfare letters and the updated members list will be circulated soon.

Social Activities: Mike Beaveridge and Alan Watkins have worked hard to organize the below events. Please give them your full support.

Thursday, August 2: 'Buddy', Strand Theatre, leave 5.30 pm. Member/partner £16.25; guest £21.25.

Saturday, September 22: 'Blood Brothers', Phoenix Theatre, leave 1.30 pm. Member/partner £17; guest £22.

Thursday, August 9: London Eye, Covent Garden and Canal Trip, leave 7.15am. Member/partner £14.50; guest £19.50.

If you wish to get further details or to book tickets to either or both shows or the London day out please contact Mike Beaveridge on 01702 529985 or 01702 421176. You can also fax him on 01702 421176 or e-mail on mbaconsulting@connectfree.co.uk or simply write to him at 17 The Spinneys, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 5QZ.



Rayleigh MIT's £500 boost for hospice

DETECTIVES from Rayleigh's Major Investigation Team held a charity event in aid of the Little Haven Hospice, which was visited last month by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

SIO Det Supt Dick Madden presented the Hadleigh-based charity with a £500 cheque from the proceeds of

the hospitality night held in April, which attracted over 100 people.

He said: "We were celebrating the first anniversary of the formation of our Major Investigation Team and chose the Little Haven Hospice, as it aims to help local children suffering from long-term illnesses."

Triathletes find the going 'soft'

IN total contrast to last year, the sun rose clear and bright over Gloucester Park, Basildon for this year's off road triathlon, organised by the EPSA triathlon section.

At 7.15am on Sunday, May 20, the two swimmers for the relay teams lined up with the 42 individual competitors and at 30 second intervals they set off for their 400 metre swim.

Within nine minutes the first bike was setting off for the three lap, six-mile ride.

Although the weather was kind for the event, heavy rain earlier in the week had softened the ground.

Hill

In horse racing terms the going was soft to very soft.

Many an old English phrase was heard by the marshals as the athletes climbed the short, sharp hill for the third and last time.

The course took its toll on more than one machine, with the failure of a couple of chains, gear systems and more than one puncture making riders start running earlier than expected.

Indeed Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, cyclist for the defending relay team (Team ACPO), descended the hill with a lot less than the recommended pressure in his rear tyre.

The two and half mile run, making up the final leg was mainly on tarmac footpath, although there was a small section which was on rather damp grass.

Without a doubt Mr Clark's puncture was a major factor in the failure of the defending relay team of Chief Constable David Stevens, Mr Clark and ACC (Operations) Joe Edwards holding on to their crown.

The winners were Colchester's Courtney Cowell, Robert Coan and Derek Walker in a new relay record of 57 min 46 sec. The individual winner of the



● The winners pictured with Chief Constable David Stevens.

event was Jez Mancer in 49min 38 sec.

Without exception everyone who crossed the line had a broad smile and a story of personal achievement. This fact, as race director, makes

the trials and tribulation of organising such an event more than worthwhile, particularly when over 80 per cent of those taking part were first time triathletes.

The provisional date for

2002 is May 19, so there is plenty of time to hone your athletic skills in swimming, cycling and running, ready for next year.

Peter Bryan

Special deal at Cannons

THE Force Sports Secretary, John Stonehouse, has received numerous inquiries with regard to the 'Golf and Health Force' package.

Said John: "It really is a most frustrating time, as there appears to be various hold-ups for whatever reason."

"We are assured that the package will eventually materialise. In the meantime Cannons Health Club

have informed us that irrespective of any other "deal" they will, from immediate effect, offer members of EPSA who join Cannons 50 per cent off the joining fee.

"They will then pay a monthly subscription of £56 for full membership and £39 for off-peak membership.

Anyone considering joining is advised to do so, you can always negotiate later."

PAA selections

DC John Stewart, HQ has been selected to represent the National PAA bowls team in a match against the British Fire Service to be held in Belfast in August. He will also be representing the PAA in the Home International

series in Newcastle.

Pc Sarah Bamfield, Clacton, Pc Diane Taylor and Pc Toni Brockwell, both Chelmsford have been selected to represent the British Police hockey team in a national tournament.

Were you a winner?

THE result of the May lottery was as follows:-

£1,500 Pc Derek Passey, Brightlingsea; £750 Dc Kelly Drennan, Wickford CID; £375 Sgt Adrian Went, Harlow; £200 Jean Finch, Harlow.

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes:

Dc Terence Barrow, Laindon CID; Pc Philip Stokes, Dengie; Michael Wade, FIR, HQ; Sgt Graham Sharman, Northern Road Policing Unit; Pc Robert Hunter, Camera Enforcement Office; Pc David Bent, Colchester; Pc Trevor Brand, Walton; Mr D H Bright, retired; Pauline Dines, Property Services, HQ; Pc Gary Watts, Leigh.

June lottery results: £1,500 Insp Clive Butler, Colchester; £750 Insp Tony Payne, Rayleigh; £375 Pc John Gray, Tilbury; £200 Pc Justin Siggins, Canvey Island; and £50 consolations prizes to Dc Mark Pickett, RCS Hainault; Tony Boothman, FIR; Pc Ken Miller, Braintree; Pc Alan Taylor, Rochford; Pc Darren Griffin, Basildon; Ds Philip Caldwell, FIB; Eileen Marvin, Thurrock; Pc Chris Roper, MSD Stanway; Dc Richard Adams, MIT Harlow and Pc George McGroarty, Colchester.

Date set for judo contest

THE PAA National Judo Championships will be hosted by Surrey Police from Friday to Sunday, September 14-16, in Guildford.

This event is open to any police officer or support staff member, as long as they are members of their respective sports clubs.

For details of entries, contact Sgt Andy Grand, Surrey Police HQ, or e-mail: 219@surrey.police.uk

County honour

COLCHESTER Traffic Warden Alan Rees has been chosen to represent the Essex Bowling Association in a fixture to be played in Leicestershire on August 2.

At the fixture he will be awarded his county badge.

Well done Alan.

Volleyball players needed

THE Essex Police volleyball section urgently requires players of any standard, or beginners, for both the men's and ladies' teams, with a view to playing in the PAA finals in Liverpool in September and the Essex local league.

Training takes place most Tuesday evenings at the force training school gym.

Please contact one of the following in the first instance if you are interested:-

Sgt Neil Pettitt, South Ockendon; Pc Dave Rudd, Rochford Dog Unit; Pc Steve Millbourne, Colchester.

Sport
and Leisure

Harlow capture athletics crown

Slow start to cup events

THE first event of the new Croker Cup year was the sea angling competition, which resulted in a win for Braintree (12 points).

Other placings were as follows:-

2 Harlow (10); 3 HQ (8); 4 Rayleigh (7); 5 Southend (6); 6 Basildon (5); 7 Chelmsford (4); 8 Thurrock (3). Tendring and Colchester did not participate.

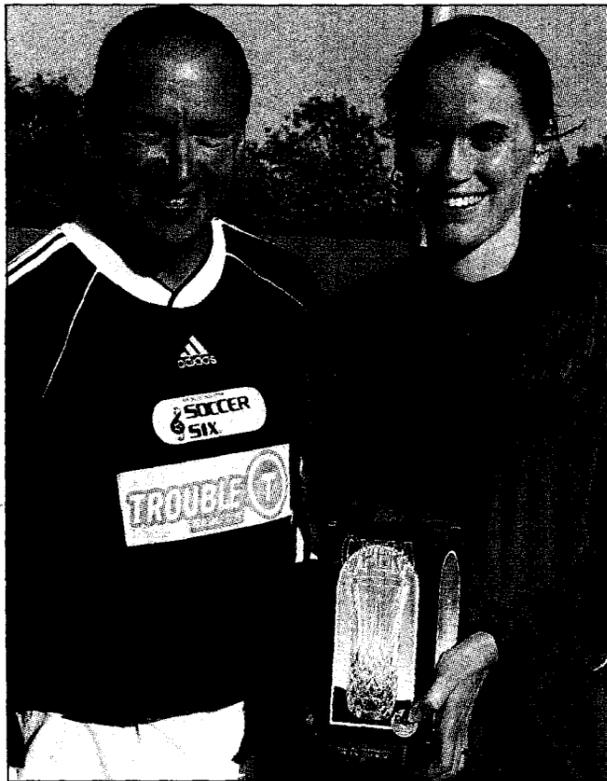
The date of the Croker Cup golf tournament has been set for Friday, August 31, at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club. First tee time is 11am.

Contact Gavin Watson (Colchester) for further information.

With the Croker Cup year more than a quarter complete, sea angling and athletics are the only two events completed, with only the golf contest firmly scheduled to take place.

Force Sports Secretary John Stonehouse has urged all section secretaries to give some thought to dates and venues for their respective events and to let him know as soon as possible.

After two events, Harlow lead the table with 22 points, followed by Braintree (18), Rayleigh (14), Basildon (13), Colchester (10), HQ, Chelmsford and Thurrock (8), Southend (6) and Tendring (0).



● Glyn Evans presents Karen Wilson (Colchester) with the Victrix Ludorum, after her amazing 47 points.



● Above left - Mick Bacon (Harlow) receives the John Hedgethorn Cup from Glyn Evans. Above right - Glyn Evans proudly displays the 'Mo' Brazier Trophy after his win in the the Vet 200m.



● The victorious Harlow team, pictured with the John Hedgethorn Cup.

GLOUCESTER Park, Basildon was the venue for the Force athletics championship held at the end of May which saw new champions.

After three impressive consecutive victories Basildon have had their athletics crown wrested away from them by Harlow.

In fact they had to settle for 3rd place behind Harlow and a resurgent Colchester.

Despite yet another low turnout - approximately 60 athletes - the competition was nothing short of fantastic.

Everyone who turned out to represent their divisions did so with great commitment and 'wore their hearts

by Laurie Rampling

on their sleeves'. From the first event to the grand finale combat was intense.

Just when the sport needed a shot in the arm it got it in the form a young woman called Karen Wilson, who dominated the afternoon quite magnificently.

Track

Karen, from Colchester support staff chalked up no fewer than seven first places - 100m, 200m, 400m on the track and discus, javelin, high jump, long jump in the field and one second place in the shot putt, to mass an incredible 47 points towards her division's final total of 159 points.

Karen took home the Victrix Ludorum trophy awarded for the best performance of the competition. That was never really in

question, but in truth there were many other fine contributions.

Derek Walker, also support staff at Colchester was truly majestic in his three events, claiming first in the 800m, 400m and 200m, form that will hopefully win him a medal in the forthcoming nationals.

That performance earned him to pip another fine competitor Davey Joseph, to the coveted Maurice Bra memorial cup, to whom competition is dedicated.

A new name on the phy, after Davey's three year dominance. Mau would be proud of b men's performances in name.

Partner

Super vet Al Barley his usual one/two in 100/200m but he pushed close this year training partner Her Garrod, who in turn pushed Roy Kebbell hard in the b ribbon 5000m super category.

So all in all a stimulating afternoon's competition. would be great to mention everyone, but it is a humanly possible. Suffice say thank you to everyone

You all proved that the is still life in athletics a I'm ashamed to have ever considered calling it a d mainly due to lack of support.

The truth is sports bree good morale, camarader and above all teamwork which is absolutely essential in today's modern poli service. Take that message back to your divisions as 2002 could be a 'renaissance year in force athletics.

Special

A very special mention my 'right arm' my wife Marian, who worked flat out throughout the afternoon bring you the results in record time. No computer just good mathematics.

See you next year thank you Karen Wilson for giving us something to smile about.

Police veterans soccer team joins league

ESSEX Police FC will be entering a team of veterans into next season's Mid Essex League and is looking to sign up players from across the force to help re-establish

Essex Police in the football world.

Following the demise of the force football club from the Essex Intermediate League, detectives are now hoping to put together a winning team

to participate in several cup competitions, in addition to the league and National Veterans' Police competition.

Saturday afternoon matches will be played at Force Headquarters, with away

matches throughout the mid-Essex area.

Several officers and support staff from divisions and departments have already shown an interest, but the MIT are still looking for players.

Anyone interested, and aged 35 or over, should contact team manager DI Cliff Haines on ext 35231 or team secretary Dc Ian Howitt on ext 35232.



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