New police bird takes to the skies

Essex Police is flying high with the arrival of a new helicopter.

The Eurocopter 135, which replaces the aircraft bought by the force in 1998, was unveiled by Chief Constable David Stevens and the Chairman of the Essex Police Authority Mr Robert Chambers at a ceremony at Boreham Airfield.

Air support constable Russ Woolford said: "The new helicopter has flown a lot of hours both training and operations with many successes. We've recovered many stolen vehicles and made numerous arrests."

Retired detectives will study all major ‘live’ and undetected crimes

TOP TEAM TO REVIEW COLD CASES

MURDERS and rapes, some dating back several years, are set to be reviewed by a specialist team of retired detectives.

The team of three is the first of its kind in Essex Police to focus solely on reviews of major crime. Two, who have experience as detective chief inspectors - Ray Newman and Peter Hamilton - took up their posts on August 4. A third is to be recruited.

Their task is effectively two-fold - the review of ongoing or ‘live’ investigations and the review of undetected major crimes, often referred to in the media as ‘cold cases’. Reviews of ‘live’ cases will be undertaken in stages with

continued on page 3

Det Supt Simon Coxall - "vital support"
Pay increase agreed

A THREE per cent pay increase has been agreed with effect from the September 1, 2003. I know the majority of you will be aware of this but, for those who didn’t, this was agreed on July 24 at the Police Negotiating Board meeting. Also agreed was a three per cent increase for cadets and a three per cent increase to the dog handler’s allowance.

Special Priority Payments continue to cause concern through the ranks. One thousand officers wrote to Police Review and these letters were handed to Downing Street with many criticising the scheme for undermining the very basis of what policing is all about.

The Home Secretary has asked the Police Negotiating Board to review the system. In the meantime there is also a lot of work being done on the safe crewing policy.

For your sakes and to help evidence possible submissions, please make sure you submit Pers 35 and Pers 47 Forms.

Divorce and the police pension

THEY say that breaking up is hard to do and this is especially true if pensions are involved. And now for better or for worse, the options for dealing with pensions on divorce have increased with the introduction of pension sharing.

We have been in discussions with solicitors who specialise in divorce. They are in a unique position to appreciate the financial priorities that different clients have when they go through a financial settlement. Dealing with a large number of marriage breakdowns involving police officers has show them consistently that a high priority amongst officers is to try and protect their pension policy if at all possible.

This is not surprising. Any police officer with more than a minimum period of service will have a pension of significant value. It is also recognised by police officers and solicitors alike that the police pension scheme is possibly the best funded public service scheme available.

For many years, solicitors and the courts have had little appreciation of the cash value of pension funding. At present, everyone who has a professional involvement in a marriage breakdown has come to appreciate that pension funds are usually the second most valuable asset in a marriage (after the house) and are often more valuable than the house itself.

Police officers who have commenced divorce proceedings since December 1, 2000 or are intending to, will have a choice of two methods of dealing with pensions and will clearly need specialist advice in this complex financial minefield.

There are two key options - off-setting and pension sharing.

In recent years, off-setting has proved to be the most popular option for police officers. Under off-setting, the pension remains with the police officer but its value is taken into consideration when dividing the matrimonial assets.

The spouse will receive a correspondingly greater proportion of the non-pension assets. A common example is for the police officer to preserve his pension fund and for the spouse to retain a greater share of the former matrimonial home or savings.

This is currently the simplest way of allowing for pension on divorce as it represents a ‘clean break’ settlement at the date of divorce. The settlement is split into two parts, not necessarily equal, at the date of the divorce. The spouse’s share is then transferred into a pension fund in his or her own right.

Most police officers will find this option distasteful as it has the immediate effect of reducing the benefits of the original pension fund.

For an officer with limited service this may prove to be a problem. However, an officer who has built up a pension fund through many years of hard work could face disappointment from a reduced pension on retirement.

Pension sharing is not all bad news. The advantage of this option is that the transfer of pension funds is calculated as at the date of divorce. Therefore, any increase in pension benefits accrued after the date of the pension sharing order will be untouched.

It is possible for a police officer to rebuild lost funds through private financial investments.

Police pensions are complex in nature. The best advice to any police officer concerned about how their pension will be affected on divorce is to speak to a matrimonial specialist who is familiar with police pensions.

Ring 0800 056 2787 and ask for Amanda McAlistar.

Open meeting

EARLY news of an in-force open meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 4 at the HQ sports pavilion at 7pm. The Chief Constable will be there, hopefully with his police authority member to answer your questions.

Measuring up for personal body armour

ALL eligible officers are to be measured for personal body armour following the award of a manufacturing contract.

It is anticipated that the measuring programme will be completed by the end of the year and the issue of body armour for identified officers will be completed shortly afterwards.

Body armour will be available for male uniformed officers, tactical teams, authorised firearm officers, all new recruits, transferees and female special constables.

Female uniformed officers already have personal issue armour.

Federation Chairman Sue Jones said, “The whole process goes smoothly and according to time-line.”

“Although it has been a long time since the inception of personal body armour technology has moved on and the body armour is a lot lighter and a lot more comfortable for officers to wear.”

The current pool body armour will be made available to male members of the special constabulary and other groups.

Following completion of the implementation programme a risk assessment will need to be carried out for any other groups requesting personal issue body armour in conjunction with their divisional commander.

Help select new recruits

IF you are trained in selection interviewing there is an opportunity to help in the selection process of new recruits.

Essex Police is changing the selection process for new recruits to meet the target of 300 recruits by the end of the year.

If available to give up at least one day a month and have the support of your line manager email Patricia Fridd in police recruiting.

ESSEX remains one of the safest counties in the country. According to latest crime figures from the Home Office, the national report for the 12 months to March, 2003, shows that it had the eighth lowest crime rate out of the 39 English police forces. Only two forces achieved a lower burglary rate.

An additional 7,677 offences were solved in Essex during the period, pushing the detection rate up by one point to 27 per cent. The detection rate for violent crime was 67 per cent.

The latest statistics were distorted by the introduction in April, 2002, of the National Crime Recording Standard.

Incidents now have to be recorded even if there is no firm evidence of an offence having taken place or the victim does not want to make a complaint.

As a result, the bottom line showed a 20 per cent increase in crime in Essex. The Home Office has acknowledged that it had not been for the new counting rules, there would have been a year-on year drop of one per cent in the number of offences recorded in the county.

ACC (Crime) Liam Briggs said: “The National Crime Recording Standard is a welcome introduction, since it is important that we have a full perspective of offences and trends and that all police forces count crime in the same way. However, it is no surprise that this has caused a distortion in the first year.

A more realistic comparison will be available in future years.

He added: “It is pleasing that Essex remains one of the safest counties in the country and had a higher proportion of offences being detected, but there is certainly no complacency amongst Essex Police that committed to making further progress on behalf of the communities it serves.”

Spinaker media strategy shortlisted

THE handling of the media during the search for missing teenager Danielle Jones and the ensuing murder investigation has led the Media and PR Department to be shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

The department is eagerly waiting to hear if it has been successful in the Association of Police Press and Public Relations Officers annual Awards for Excellence, sponsored by Group 4 Falck, which are announced in November.

Last year the team was highly commended in the planned communication category for its work on the positive aspects of policing in Essex.
Too fast and furious

YOUNG motorists keen on ‘pulling doughnuts’ and racing at high speeds are in for a surprise as a widespread clampdown on reckless driving takes place across Essex.

Boy and girl racers are being notified of the ‘rigorous’ measures to stop young drivers threatening others’ lives by using the county’s roads as their own personal race tracks to show off to others.

During recent weekends, police have witnessed outrageously dangerous driving including people pouring oil on main roads, and motorists caught travelling at lethal speeds. One was recorded at 138mph on the A127.

The intensive approach by police, in conjunction with local councils and the Vehicle Inspectorate, will ensure visitors from outside Essex, as well as local residents are free from the threat of the ‘hoodigan elements’ on the road.

During the special operation is Chief Insp Tim Stokes who has witnessed the full range of stunts carried out by such drivers.

by Tom Hennessey

“Every weekend we see some crazy stuff, with nearby crowds who are the potential, innocent, casualties,” said Chief Insp Stokes.

“We have several contacts through our intelligence sources, and are speaking to them in order to let them know of our intentions and powers available to us.

“We’re concerned for those who want to really enjoy the summer weekend evenings in south Essex and we will continue to ensure they do so in a safe environment.

“Recent legislation now provides police with a variety of methods. New powers under the Police Reform Act 2002, for instance, allow for the seizure of vehicles which are deemed to be in an unfit state or are being driven in an erratic fashion.

“Essex Police has already seized one vehicle under this Act, as well as formally warning a number of motorists who, should they commit a similar offence, will see their cars taken away indefinitely.

The new legislation will be used in conjunction with everyday powers under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Mobile police units fitted with Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) will monitor the influx of vehicles travelling towards hotspots like Southend, with both covert and overt speed camera units.

Chief Insp Stokes added: “We take a very serious view of this sort of recklessness on our roads. Those involved in such crashes often receive horrifying injuries or end up dying a violent death. As such we will always seek to prosecute any driver who causes such a serious and violent crime.

“We admit that this is a big nut to crack, but if we don’t do something then people will be killed. As such, we will use various bits of legislation in new and innovative ways to hammer home the message.”

During 2002, there were six people killed and another 113 seriously injured following crashes in areas close to Basildon’s Festival Leisure area and Southend seashore - popular venues for ‘racers’ to congregate.

Joint summer crackdown on reckless and high speed driving

Review team will provide continual scrutiny

continued from page 1

At this point a ‘live’ case will become an undetected major crime and will be reviewed at a later date under the ‘cold case’ criteria.

Undetected crime will require the review team to locate original case papers and exhibits. They will then be tasked with identifying any new investigative or forensic opportunities and talking the views of key staff from the original investigation team.

As many of these cases will date back some years this could clearly open old wounds so families and, in some cases, the victims will only be approached if there is anything significant to tell them or there is a need to glean any information or intelligence not previously divulged.

The review team will also manage other commissioning work under the new legislation resulting from cases adopted by the Criminal Cases Review Commission or reviews on behalf of another police force.

Director of Investigations Det Supt Simon Coxall, who will be the line manager of the team said: “Essex Police is committed to providing the highest standards of criminal investigation. In the field of major crime the Major Investigation Section of experienced detectives has more than proven its worth in achieving just these standards.

The introduction of this team supports these aims further and as well as supporting SIGs on live investigations ensures past cases come under continual scrutiny and wherever possible offenders are brought to book.

“It will allow senior investigators to focus on their inquiry knowing that an independent eye is providing them vital support and ensuring no opportunity is overlooked. It should also provide reassurance to families and victims of both new and historical cases that Essex Police will do everything possible to ensure that perpetrators are caught and justice is done.”

Airwave update

The first batch of Sepura SRP 2000 handheld radios is being tested by the Airwave project team.

Pc John Walkington, who represents users, said: “The quality and clarity of the transmissions are excellent. The new radios have a much longer range and there is an emergency button, status code updates, messaging and telephone facilities.”

There will be 72 Airwave base stations compared with the current 55.

Students put a stop to speeders

CHILDREN have been teaching speeding motorists a few lessons in safe driving in a new police initiative.

Pupils from Cressing Primary School with the help of Bocking Road Policing Unit and local road safety officer Elaine Beckett began the initiative to raise awareness of the dangers of excessive speed outside their school.

Drivers who were found speeding - 23 in three hours - were stopped by police and, where appropriate, given a telling-off by pupils who explained why speeding past their school is so dangerous.

The aim is to ensure drivers realise there is a human cost to their impatience and to encourage them to reduce their speed.

Insp Mark Harman said: “So often children are the victims of drivers’ careless and thoughtless actions. The initiative allows them to play a part in improving their environment, spreading the message that speed kills.

by Tom Hennessey

The days of the traditional ID parade are set to be a thing of the past thanks to a new video-based system.

Video ID is great step forward

The system offers comprehensive support including support questions and answer sessions on various OSPRE topics, using the same technology already in use by CID textless interviews as probation training.

The competition will appear on the website www.policeoracle.com. Keep an eye on the Competition section under the Off-Duty category. Details will be appearing in the near future.

Win a year’s study support

FOR those officers mulling over their study programme for next year’s OSPRE Part 1 there is opportunity around the corner to win 12 month’s worth of on-line assistance.

Police Oracle has teamed up with Police-Training to give away 10 prizes. The system offers comprehensive support including support questions and answer sessions on various OSPRE topics, using the same technology already in use by CID textless interviews as probation training.

The competition will appear on the website www.policeoracle.com. Keep an eye on the Competition section under the Off-Duty category. Details will be appearing in the near future.

For display advertising in The Law contact United Press on 01282 459533
IN so many previous issues of The Law retired officers, of whom I am one, compare the working practices of today with yesteryear. I am not about to criticise because we all have to live with change, as a lot of my senior male colleagues had to, when in the early 50's there was an increase of women into the force. However, I would like to inform the 'specially trained officers' that the first time I acted as a decoy was in 1955, when with another WPC I arrested a flasher after observation duty outside the Odeon Cinema in Romford. I feel well placed in saying that if I had the chance I would never act again. With the production of good police service every good officer in today's society. I know that I wouldn't like to be one.

I have no doubt that he won't always like what he sees. We see chief constables come and go as we read of the deaths of our former colleagues. I served under Peter Crust at one time and like him, I still take an interest in how the police service, particularly in Essex is being run. Like Moose White I didn't always see eye to eye with Peter, but I defended Peter's right to say what he likes.

I wish all those who train for and take up this particular duty the best of luck and remember the offenders are not always going to turn up on time and like him. I still take an interest in how the police service we all loved.

We see chief constables come and go as we read of the deaths of our former colleagues. We learn of new schemes being hatched to save money, or of plans to catch up with the ungodly that are usually one-step ahead, as they always were. Is it any wonder that we old codgers think we did it better than our contemporaries?

Let us ‘old codgers’ have our say. I served under Peter Crust at one time and like him, I still take an interest in how the police service, particularly in Essex is being run. Like Moose White I didn’t always see eye to eye with Peter, but I defended Peter’s right to say what he likes. Being described as ‘just another retired officer blasting away at the way we are policing’ is being a little unkind to us old stages who, as even Moose White admits, have done our bit. It prompts me to remind him that if his luck holds he will one day join our ranks and look back upon his service with a critical eye. I have no doubt that he won’t always like what he sees.

Let us old codgers have our say. The Law is about the only link we have to the service we all loved. We see chief constables come and go as we read of the deaths of our former colleagues. We learn of new schemes being hatched to save money, or of plans to catch up with the ungodly that are usually one-step ahead, as they always were. Is it any wonder that we old codgers think we did it better in our day? I take my hat off to all serving officers who do their job in a climate of fear and criticism that did not exist when I served, well not until the complaints department was born. It is quite obvious that policing has to change with the times, and it always did. But I always found it interesting to know how it used to be before I joined.

I have recently completed a book called Of Police and Politics, which is a chronicle of what went on in Essex Police in my time (1953 -1983) and how changes in the social context and in the way politicians shaped what you are today. If anyone ever publishes it I will let police officers have a complimentary copy.

Former Det Supt George Ravey
Maldon
No match for DNA success

DNA profiles on the national database have hit the two million mark.

The National DNA Database has transformed the fight against crime helping to catch both serious criminals and those committing ‘volume’ crime like burglary and car theft.

Last year alone 21,000 crimes were detected using DNA evidence – a 132 per cent increase on 2000.

Each month, on average, the database links suspects to 31 rapes, 15 murders, and 770 car crimes.

The Home Office is funding the expansion of the national database with an investment of £182 million from April 2000 to 2004.

In Essex there have been just under 2,700 crimes detected through the National DNA Database.

According to the head of scientific support, DCI Tom Harper: “The success rate will increase further with the more samples taken.”

If Home Office Minister Hazel Blears on a recent visit to the Forensic Science Service praised the database. “The crime-fighting success of the national DNA database is staggering.”

It has quickly become a vital police intelligence tool - helping police identify criminals more quickly, make easier arrests and get more secure convictions.”

Danny Adkins
Assistant Chief Constable

Recruitment workshops
A NEW run of one-day workshops for staff involved in recruitment and selection processes will be staged over the next year by human resources.

All workshops are an opportunity for staff to update themselves about changes in legal issues and practical approaches to recruitment and selection processes.

The workshops supplements the training centre’s structured interview course, but does not replace it. The following dates are open to all staff regardless of rank or grade July 1 and 22, August 21, September 23, November 11, December 11, February 17, 2004 and March 16, 2004.

To book places on the course, email Lucy Myall at the training centre.

Staffing at all time high

POLICE numbers have reached record highs. At the end of December 2002 there were 132,288 police officers in England and Wales, the highest since records began in 1921.

Officers are being supported by nearly 1,400 community support officers who offer vital assistance to police officers in tackling low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

Essex Police has seen a rise in officer numbers from 3,073 in June 2002 to 3,134 in June 2003.

According to Essex Police recruitment manager Sue Atkins the increase in police officer numbers is set to rise: “We have a big recruitment drive on at the moment and are currently interviewing 70 people a week. This is set to carry on through until August to achieve our target of 300 new recruitments this year.”

Home Secretary David Blunkett’s target of 130,000 police officers by March 2003 has been exceeded. The target of 132,500 officer for March 2004 looks set to be met as well.

THE challenge of Essex and the respect given to officers as ‘individuals’, as opposed to ‘a number’, are just two of the reasons why the grass isn’t always greener on the other side.

Detective Sergeant Paula Bradley transferred to Cleveland Police in April and returned to Essex at the end of June.

Pc Trevor Brown transferred to the Metropolitan Police in May this year but returned a short time later.

He said: “I felt more of a number than an individual with the Met and after phoning my previous inspector my return was made very easy.”

More than just a number

THE number of police officers transferring to Essex from other forces more than doubled in the first six months of this year.

Sixty officers agreed to join the force between January and June. Just 24 officers transferred into Essex during the whole of 2002.

Supt Dave Folkard, training and development head, believes the rise is partly due to the introduction of new measures making it easier for officers to join Essex.

However, with 61 officers leaving the force since January, he admits there is more work to be done to ensure that skilled officers choose to remain loyal to this force.

He said: “Streamlining the transfer process and introducing incentives on division to attract staff, such as special priority payments, have paid off. Officers can now get an on-the-spot decision on whether Essex will offer them a job.

“We’re not complacent about the number of officers leaving. We’re working hard to keep our skilled officers. Of those who have recently left the force, five have returned, so the grass is not always greener.”

The signs are there, over the next few months, the numbers of officers joining Essex will continue to match those leaving. Supt Folkard is also confident that special priority payments will ensure that divisions such as Basildon and Thurrock can operate at full strength.

“If divisions are better resourced, people feel they’re getting the support they need, and they’re less likely to look elsewhere,” he said.

Much work has gone into developing incentives to encourage officers to remain in Essex. These include a special priority payments rule that detective constables must return to uniform before winning promotion to detective sergeant, and development of the Sergeants Development Scheme. Other initiatives are still under consideration.

Supt Folkard believes the signs are positive. “Some people still believe a move to the Met will help their career but many others are realising that what they’ve got with Essex Police is worth keeping.”

New chairmanship

THE Chief Constable has agreed to take on the chairmanship of the Essex Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee.

The move, only one of a few across the UK to have an in-house TV Unit, spent the last six months of this year charting all licensed premises in Essex is now available through the force’s premises in Essex.

The briefing DVD for Essex Police TV Unit was specially shown the unique briefing performances were involved in policing operations.

Producer Dave Fogerty believes such briefing programmes have a pivotal role to play and can help reduce confusion and improve communication prior to such pre-planned operations.

For display advertising in The Law contact United Press on 01282 459533
Sgt Roy Scanes never dreamed he would need the facilities of the police rehabilitation centre. How wrong he could be!...
Health & Welfare

Dangers of the demon drink

ALCOHOL is our favourite drug. Most of us use it for enjoyment, but for some of us drinking can become a serious problem. Alcohol is a tranquilizer, addictive and causes physical/emotional difficulties.

Keep an eye on how much you drink. We often underestimate our weekly intake. Try keeping a weekly diary when you evaluate the entries you may be surprised by the result.

Recommended weekly limit for alcohol consumption is 21 units for men, and 14 units for women. One unit equals half a pint of beer, a shot of whisky or small glass of wine.

Associated problems
- Arguments, money troubles, family upsets, accidents, mood swings, problems at work.
- Drinking heavily can cause physical problems, in extreme cases liver disease and makes you depressed.

Where to get help

If you are worried about your drinking and finding things difficult, make steps to change as early as possible. Seek support from friends and family. Try talking to your GP.

Specialist treatment is available via the Occupational Health and Welfare Team.

Support from friends and family. Try to change as early as possible. Seek advice from the GP.

Finding your name among the various stars and dignitaries in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list is one thing. The daunting experience of actually collecting the award is something else entirely.

George Cook, who leads a double life as both divisional administration manager for Southend and deputy commander for the Essex Special Constabulary, and Basildon crime reduction officer Pc Ray Williams can now boast MBE after their name following a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

They were two of three Essex employees to find themselves in this year’s list. Head of Scientific Support, DCI Tom Harper was awarded his Queen’s Police Medal earlier this year.

Pc Williams was awarded his MBE for services to policing and general involvement with the community as a leading member of his local crime reduction partnership.

He attended the palace’s Grand Ballroom for a two-hour ceremony with his two daughters and son. HRH The Prince of Wales presented his MBE and even found time to chat with Pc Williams about youth issues.

Pc Williams said: “I have to admit the sight of about 500 guests and various armed guards as I entered the ballroom was quite daunting, but it was a special moment and a great honour to be there.”

Mr Cook’s services to the special constabulary led to his award. He has been a special constable for 40 years.

ACCOMPLISHED by two friends and his brother for the ceremony, he said: “It was a special affair. The Queen was charming and although there were over 100 recipients on the day Her Majesty took time to speak a few words to us all and made us feel welcome.

“I was over the moon.”

When the awards were announced in the honours list, Chief Constable David Stevens said: “Each has, in their own right, done a great deal to support the people of Essex and to develop and implement new ideas.

“The awards are a fitting recognition of their contributions to the community.”

**Licences pass the test**

RAYLEIGH Police and trading standard officers have been cracking down on illegal sales of alcohol and its consumption by underage drinkers.

In a joint initiative licensing officer, Pc Kevin Hemsworth and trading standard officers have contacted a number of off-licences and reminded staff and management of their obligation not to sell alcohol to underage customers and to ask for proof of age when in doubt.

Officers then carried out visits to off-licences using an undercover test purchaser. Only one shop made an illegal sale, at all the others staff demanded proof of age and refused to sell alcohol to the test purchaser.

Rayleigh’s operations manager, Chief Insp Tony Rayner said: “We receive regular complaints from the public that off-licences are selling alcohol to underage youths.

“This operation tested those accusations and proved that the licensees are responsible professionals.

“However we will repeat this initiative at intervals to keep them all on their toes.”

**Disclosure training package**

A NEW joint training package for disclosure of unused material has been rolled out to improve the Crown Prosecution Service and police compliance with the disclosure regime introduced by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

Developed by the police and development centre Centrex, and the Crown Prosecution Service, the training package consists of a case study that can be adapted to suit the needs of both organisations.

There is revised guidance on confiscation proceedings, forensic support material, third party (including the planned introduction of a national protocol with social services and the police) and the introduction of a common protective marking for sensitive material.

A comprehensive national disclosure wall chart has also been developed and produced as a useful quick reference guide to disclosure duties.

More information is available on the CPS website at www.cps.gov.uk.

**Precis your part-time role**

ACPO Eastern Region Diversity Group is seeking part-time officers that would be willing to write a brief precis of their role and experiences, to share with regional forces.

If you are interested or would like further information, contact the equal opportunities advisor on 58621 or Karen on 58835.
Good news: our rates for Police Federation members have just got even lower.

With a lowest-ever typical rate of just **7.8% APR** on loans of £5,000-£25,000 you’ll find it’s better to come to us than many high street banks. There’s no arrangement fee and it’s a fast, friendly service – the money could be in your bank account in just a few days.

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Call for a Police Federation Unsecured Personal Loan

0800 71 65 66

Quoting the reference number 97056 and your Force Lines open Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm, Saturday 9am to 7pm, Sunday 10am to 6pm
Thank you and goodnight

Names in the news

ONE of the first officers to take flight in the force helicopter and a sportsman who boasted his own fan club has retired after 20 years’ service.

Sgt Michael Kliskey has spent time with South Ockendon, Basildon, Braintree, Dunmow and Saffron Walden divisions and was part of the air support for seven years following its initiation.

The IPCC will be independent of police and police misconduct.

New heads of complaints

A DIRECTOR of a civil rights group and a deputy district judge have been appointed to head up the new Independent Police Complaints Commission.

John Wadham, director of Liberty since 1995, and Claire Gilham, have been appointed as deputy chairs of the new body which will replace the Police Complaints Authority in 2004.

They will take up their posts in September, along with 15 commissioners, to oversee complaints and monitor and review procedures for dealing with police misconduct.

The IPCC will be independent of police and government.

Home Secretary David Blunkett has welcomed the appointments.

Grand reunions in the garden

THE weather had been booked to shine, the band played and the cakes were delicious.

The force’s 84th annual garden party once more drew hundreds of visitors from the amassed ranks of serving and retired staff.

Chief Constable David Stevens had a surprise in store for Joan Reed - mother of Chelmsford licensing officer Martin - with the presentation of a cake to mark her 90th birthday.

Joan was married to Wilfred, who served with the police for 38 years.

Also present was Pam Arnold, 73, from her first garden party. Pam retired 18 years ago after 30 years as an officer and nine as support staff, and was one of the first female detectives employed by the force.

The day ended with combat on the cricket pitch. For more details see the back page.

By the end of the day the proceeds from the sale of the Surprise Cake for Joan had reached £70. Further donations were also received, amounting to £150.

A keen sportsman, Michael was captain of the hockey team and was national police duathlon champion from 1993-95 as well as winner of the Police Slate Man Triathlon in 1993 and 1994. He was also part of the cycling team with Mick St.Leger and Graham Snelling who won awards from 1991-95.

In fact he had his fingers in so many sporting pies he was never out of the pages of The Law, so much so that colleagues formed a fan club writing into the newspaper and buying snoraks in celebration.

Michael would like to say thank you to his ‘adoring’ fan club.

Pc Michael Hall has retired following 28 years in service.

Michael who spent time at Basildon in firearms training and at Stansted Airport won the Essex Police Bravery Award in 2002.

Michael also devoted much of his time to the force rugby club taking on the chairmanship.

In retirement, Michael is running his own company in conflict management.

Are you a traitor?

CAN you handle a guilty face? Can you tell fact from fiction and spot a traitor?

If so the BBC wants you.

The day ended with combat on the cricket pitch. For more details see the back page.

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If so the BBC wants you.

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*Another rate may apply depending on your personal circumstances.* The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. reserves the right to decline any loan application, but may, in certain circumstances and at its discretion, offer a loan at an alternative rate to those advertised. Loans subject to status and not available to non-UK residents. Anyone under 21 or over 69 years of age. Written quotations available on request. Rates correct as at 22/04/03. An example of a loan, with Repayment Protection, taken out at our typical rate of **7.8% APR** for £5,000 over 3 years, will be repayable by 36 monthly instalments of £181.35 and a total repayable of £6,528.52. The same typical loan example, without Repayment Protection, will be repayable by 36 monthly instalments of £155.71, and a total repayable of £5,805.38. The Bank may monitor and/or record telephone calls between you and the Bank for security and/or training purposes. **Once we have your signed agreement form, same day transfer is via CHAPS, before 3pm, at a cost of £20.**

Registered Office: The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP. Registered Number 990937. Website: www.co-operativebank.co.uk.

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TWO years ago, I successfully completed the ascent of the three highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales and, despite the exhilarating experience and personal satisfaction, I said “Never again”, writes Paul Watson.

But this year, I found myself once more facing the National Three Peaks Challenge, partly as a favour to support a first-time but also as a kind of pilgrimage to celebrate my having come through testicular cancer last year.

Raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief, a cause which has obvious significance for me, I was fortunate to also be accompanied, for the most part, by a last-minute entry from Southend colleague Pc Vincent Brown.

This year’s event followed a similar timetable - a continuous walking challenge in both darkness and daylight with little or no rest (apart from the coach journeys between the mountains).

It began with the ascent and descent at night of 3,560ft Snowdon in Wales in 4hrs 24 mins. Breakfast and a coach journey then the ascent of Scafell Pike in the Lake District. Completion time for this 3,290ft peak was 6hrs 18 mins.

A further coach journey took us to Ben Nevis in Scotland and a round trip of 6hrs 40 mins for this 4,408ft peak.

All three were demanding in their different ways, but good weather and the company Vincent Brown provided made the task less arduous. However, a good degree of fitness, some hillwalking experience and a dogged determination to succeed were still essential ingredients to the successful completion of the challenge.

Once more, Scafell Pike proved to be technically the most awkward, with its many rocks and boulders near the summit requiring much concentration and care to avoid an accident.

Ben Nevis provided a wondrous sight with some snow on its summit, which for mid-June was quite a sight! The majesty of being at that elevation, with a panoramic view of the surrounding geography, sun drenched in all its natural splendour, was an awesome sight, and I was glad I had made the effort to see it again.

My return to ground level was followed by my succumbing to the effects of sleep deprivation and cumulative fatigue.

For anyone interested in taking part in this challenge I would recommend logging on to www.ukoutdoorpursuits.co.uk. They provide a well-organised package and likely one of the safest. I was however also told that the event is not to be underestimated and I believe that a good level of fitness, combined with some hill-walking experience, is essential its safe and successful completion.

Thank you to all those individuals who sponsored my participation this year and helped to fuel my determination to succeed in an event which many find just too difficult to complete.

With the help of a few famous faces officers drove, chipped and putted their way to £20,000 for charity at a celebrity golf day held at Harbury Manor Golf and Country Club in Hertfordshire. The event raised money for the President’s Sporting Club, which helps provide sporting facilities for disabled children.

Among the 33 teams were well known names such as Sir Geoff Hurst, Sir Steve Redgrave and Ronnie O’Sullivan.

Members of Essex Police helped provide stewards for the course and services such as driving the drinks buggies but two lucky volunteers, Pc John Lace and Dc Miguel Diaz-Rios, also got to play. Miguel partnered former England footballer Alan Ball who he described as a “real character who wouldn’t settle for second place” - well he did win the world cup!

Team spirit wins through

IT is expected that a team of women from Braintree have raised in excess of £1,000 for charity after taking part in the Race For Life. The 12-strong group of staff and friends completed the Chelmsford 5km leg of the annual event to raise money for cancer research.

Lori Rowe romped home first in 28 minutes 26 seconds followed by Braintree divisional commander Chief Supt Sue Harrison. The rest of the team - Carol Bailey, Sue Domain, Sue Toms, Sally Fester, Petra Goodchild, Naomi Andrews, Victoria Butter, Anne Poyner, Linda Brown, Carol Donegan - walked the circuit in about 53 minutes.

Team captain Carol Bailey said: “Raising money for cancer research is a subject very dear to my heart having been treated in 1997 and having friends who have either been treated recently or are still undergoing treatment. In October we held an event at the station during breast cancer awareness month to raise money, and I will definitely be looking to enter another larger team to the Race for Life next year.”

Join gypsy jazz duo

ACOUSTIC gypsy jazz guitarists Dc Mark Wojcik and pc Mark Young are looking for other musicians with similar musical interests to join them.

They are particularly keen to hear from a double bass player, violinist, accordionist and an acoustic or electric bass guitarist.

The duo is keen for the group to play the national and international festivals and this will require a certain amount of commitment including weekly rehearsals and individual practice.

Other than that the requirements are simply that any new recruit is willing to have fun.

Contact Pc Mark Wojcik at Stanway MIT on 01206 761222, ext 13226 or Pc Ian Frakies at the Marine Unit on 01621 785961, ext 61140.

THIS could suit you to a tee if you are a lady golfer looking for a challenge.

It has been decided to progress the introduction of a National PAA Ladies Golf Championship and a new committee is required to promote the section and initiate competitions.

After the initial set up the committee would be responsible for co-ordinating the section before Friday, August 28. The secretary of the National Golf section is contact John Stonehouse on 07776 113 915.

A BEACH angling section has been set up by the Essex Police Service. He has also been selected to represent the national PAA bowls administration of an annual championship, similar to the existing men’s competition.

Anyone interested should contact John Stonehouse on ext 50620 or Nick Todd, the secretary of the National Golf section before Friday, August 22 on 0208 246 0506 or 07764 760437.

Lucky winners

CONSTANCE Ian Harlow, Shoeburyness, was the winner of £1,500 in July. The other results were: £750 Richard Phillibrown, Harlow; £375 Ross Luke, Harlow and £200 Terence Radley, MSD.

Consolation prizes of £50 go to: Dc Dave Clark, Harlow; £100, £75 and £50 to DC John Stewart, HQ, has been selected to represent the national PAA bowling club and £50 to Graeme Bull and Kevin Macey, Chief Supt Mick Thwaites and force solicitor Adam Hunt.

Special thanks to the many people that sponsored me, I have raised in this event about £1,500.

A TEAM of retired officers proved there is life in the old dogs yet when they gave party entertainment.

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