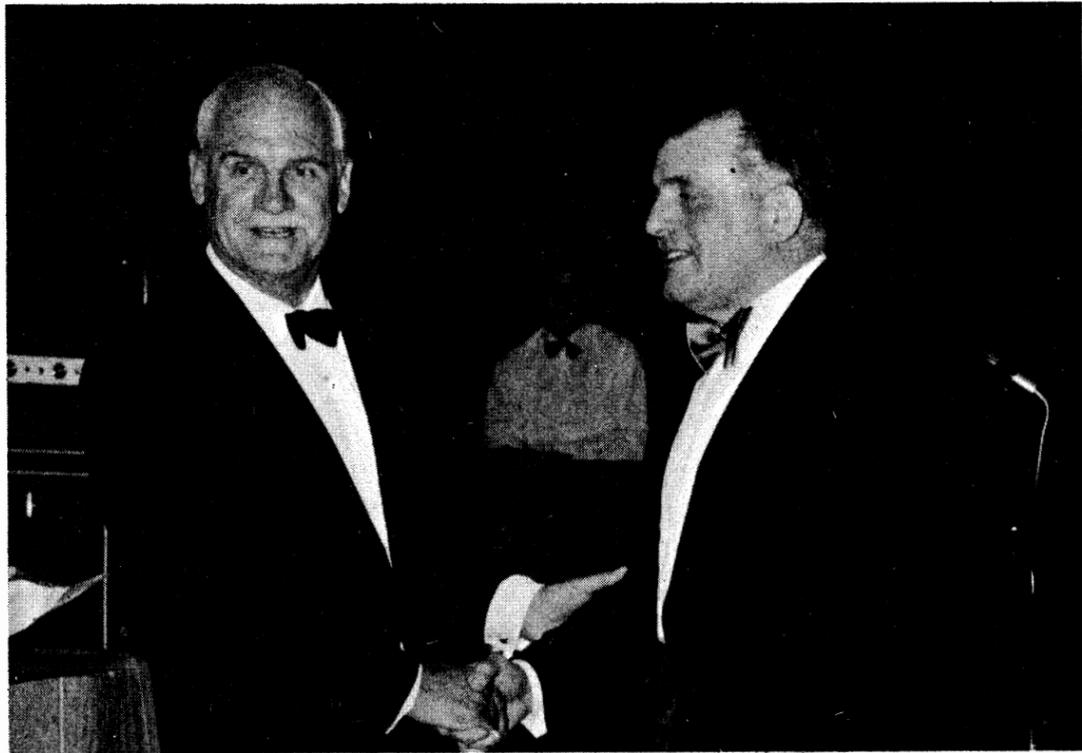


## A great character leaves the force



A farewell handshake from the Chief Constable and Sergeant Wally Hammond becomes just plain Mister.



Tribute  
by Ray  
Skillin  
on page 3.

### In this issue:

- Brew it yourself P.2
- Cadets display talents Centre
- S. Smith on Appraisal P.8

## P.A.B.'s running well.

THIS year's P.A.B. season is now well advanced with interviews of constables by the central board almost finished. Only some five interviews remain to polish off the marathon task of seeing all those constables recommended by the local boards.

Said Mr. J. Duke, Assistant Chief Constable, Personnel, directing the P.A.B.'s, "Until the last man has been seen we cannot tell anyone the result."

Already the board's second stage is under way with sergeants' applications to appear before the board coming in.

### Fair System

In operating a system which is seen to be fair a tremendous burden is placed upon senior officers who are clearly destined to interview unsuccessful applicants year after year, in the preliminary stage at least. And with more men qualifying every year the problem must grow.

But one bright spot is that almost all the constables recommended last year now wear stripes. And those left, who have problems about the area in which they can serve due to housing, or other reasons, will in normal circumstances be promoted before this year's lucky few.

## Holiday cliff rescue.

When a young Ilford man, Michael Bray, fell and broke his ankle while rock climbing at The Lizard, Cornwall, two Headquarters officers came to his rescue. Supt. Joe Baker and Ps Brian Denton teamed up to carry the injured man 200ft. to the cliff top — for the experts, using a two-handed carry.

There a Land-Rover took them to their own cars which they used to take the patient to Truro Hospital for treatment.

Supt. Baker is featured in "Portrait" on page 3.

## Traffic Chief takes over workshops



Finishing touches are still being put to the new garage workshops at H.Q. but last Friday Chief Supt. Harry Smith took over the keys from the contractors. Moving in takes place this week. Watching Mr. Smith cross the threshold are, from the right, Mr. H. C. Field, the Architect; Mr. Charles Hill, Contracts Manager, Cowards; Sgt. Des Biggs, Mr. Dan Jones, Clerk of Works; Mr. Peter Taylor, Site Agent, and Supt. Reg Searle. The workshops, the newest building in the Force, will be featured next month.

## Course No 1 graduate from the Cadet School



Course number 1 passed out from the Cadet School last month at the end of their two-year course and are pictured here with members of the school staff. More pictures of the parade and displays on centre pages.

# Brentwood B.I.Y. (brew it y'self) specialist tells how

AGAIN and again we find that the cost of living is going up but it would appear that our Brentwood representative, Vic Davis, has found a partial solution. In offering it to you he is performing an act above and beyond the call of duty for he's been threatened with terrible consequences by the Brentwood bar manager, Sergeant Bob Williamson, should he reveal his secret.

Gentlemen, he gives you BEER at about four shillings per gallon. Home-made beer, Sir, the real bees knees, too. If you're interested this is what to do.

First get your equipment as follows:—

1. Two gallon plastic bucket—cost about 30p.
2. Glass 'J' tube—cost about 10p.
3. One yard, more if you like, of plastic tubing—cost about 10p per yard.
4. Saucepan, 4 pint capacity or more.
5. Wooden spoon, most certainly for stirring.
6. Fine sieve, not a domestic colander for the holes will be too big.
7. Scales.
8. Plastic sheeting or similar.
9. Large elastic band, to hold down the plastic sheeting.
10. Handkerchief, clean of course and without holes.
11. Funnel.
12. Tea spoon.

You will have to consider what bottles you will use. The screw-stopper ones are fine but nowadays they seem to only come in quart sizes and this means the bottle needs to be emptied at one sitting. If you use a pint or half-pint, or the non-returnable lager bottles then you will need caps. These can be obtained in two kinds plastic ones which can be re-used and cost about 10p for 16 or metal "Crown Caps" which are slightly dearer. These are the ones which the professionals use. However, these latter are best fitted with a special tool and this costs about 55p. Needless to say, our Brentwood Beermaster goes for the cheaper ones.

## INGREDIENTS

You will want water salts, malt extract, malt grain, hops and yeast. There are many ex-



cellent recipes to choose from but the beginner should start safely with a pre-packed kit of his favourite — milk stout, stout, brown, lager, bitter or even barley wine.

These pre-packed kits can be obtained in two gallon or five gallon sizes and the smaller ones cost 40p or a little more depending on what you choose. Take care not to buy a "full kit" or you will get all kinds of fancy things and not just the ingredients. These can be obtained from most chemists, don't be shy to ask for just what you want and if you choose a smaller establishment you will find the assistant only too ready and willing to "talk beer" with you and give advice.

## DOWN TO BUSINESS

Let's assume you've bought a pre-packed kit. Check it and see that it contains all the label says it should. We're all human and make mistakes.

Fill your saucepan about two-thirds full with water. You need to leave a safety margin because Mrs. Copper will not be pleased if your "mash" boils over.

Add water salts and stir with the wooden spoon until dissolved and bring the water to the boil. Stir in the malt extract with the wooden spoon. Remember to turn down the heat or over it'll boil just like milk. When this is dissolved add grain malt and hops then simmer for 40 minutes. To give your finished product a stronger hop aroma and taste keep back not more than a quarter of the hops and add during the last five minutes of boiling.

When the 40 minutes is up pour the liquid through the sieve into the bucket catching all the hops and grain. The malt extract will have disappeared. Pour up to one quart

# At a tanner a pint it's worth the trouble

of cold water on to the hops and let it drain into the bucket. This will cool down the hops so that you can press out as much moisture as possible before discarding the hops and grain. I'm sure the dustmen know, who is on the "home brew" and who isn't.

Still using the wooden spoon stir in sugar at the rate of ¼ to ½lb. per finished gallon. If you have a two-gallon kit then add 1lb. of sugar, if a five-gallon then add 2½lb. sugar. The more sugar, the more strength to the beer.

Having dissolved the sugar top up the bucket to the two-gallon or five-gallon level with boiling water and leave it to cool. When the temperature



Well, if you couldn't spell constabulary, why the 'ell didn't you come in and ask?

is below 75 degrees F sprinkle the yeast on the top of the liquid. Our Brentwood B'master does his brewing of an evening when Mrs. B'master is out of the kitchen, he leaves it to cool overnight and adds the yeast first thing next morning. If you're flush you can always buy a thermometer but cheapness is something to be aimed at.

Having added the yeast spread the plastic sheeting over the bucket and fasten it down with the elastic band. After about 24 hours, depending on room temperature, the yeast will begin to work and after about 48 hours a scum will form which will need to be lifted off. If the plastic sheeting is only about quarter of an inch from top of liquid when you will find that it is "self-skimming".

## WHEN IS IT READY?

Now comes what some people consider the tricky bit. When is the yeast finished and the liquid ready for syphoning off? Racking, they call it in "the trade".

If you want to be "all scientific" you can buy a hydrometer and measure the specific gravity or you can be like the Brentwood B and note the action of the plastic sheeting. You see, once the yeast has started to work then the sheeting "domes" upwards. It is more pronounced with

The committee of 6 Region I.P.A. are presenting a dance to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the British section.

## LIBRAHOP 71

The Lyceum, Strand, London, W.C.2  
8 p.m. till 1 a.m., October 13, 1971

Tickets 50p. The proceeds to be divided between I.P.A. funds and charities. Further details from Mick Sims on 01-690-1422.

stout and least pronounced with lager. When the yeast has finished the "dome" drops. Very rough and ready but it works.

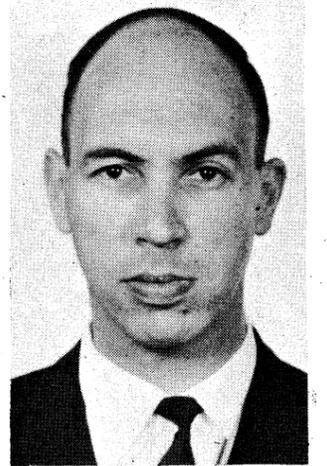
Now syphon off the beer into a second container, another bucket, glass jars in one or two gallon sizes or anything else similar but don't use metal. When syphoning with the 'J' glass tube and plastic tubing let the liquid discharge into a handkerchief laid single on the funnel, this will filter at the same time and help produce a clear beer.



Having thus got rid of the stale yeast and other deposits let the beer settle for a couple of days before bottling. Again syphon and filter as before letting about one inch or so go into each bottle then add more sugar at the rate of one teaspoonful for a quart bottle, pro rata if you use smaller bottles. Shake the bottles to dissolve the sugar, cap or cork lightly first or the beer will be over the floor. Top up bottles with beer and if you are making a milk stout add the lactose supplied with the kit evening it out between all your bottles. By this time your funnel will be wet so cut off the corner of an envelope and use this. Cap off the bottles and store away for 14 days to mature, the longer the better but best not kept more than three months.

All this may sound compli-

# To attend University of Essex



INSPECTOR JOHN WATSON who transferred from Leicester two years ago is off again soon — this time to university.

John, who has served at Basildon since his transfer, has been nominated for the three-year course at the University of Essex.

A past national police javelin champion, John won this year's force event in the regional contest at Oxford.

# Right on the line

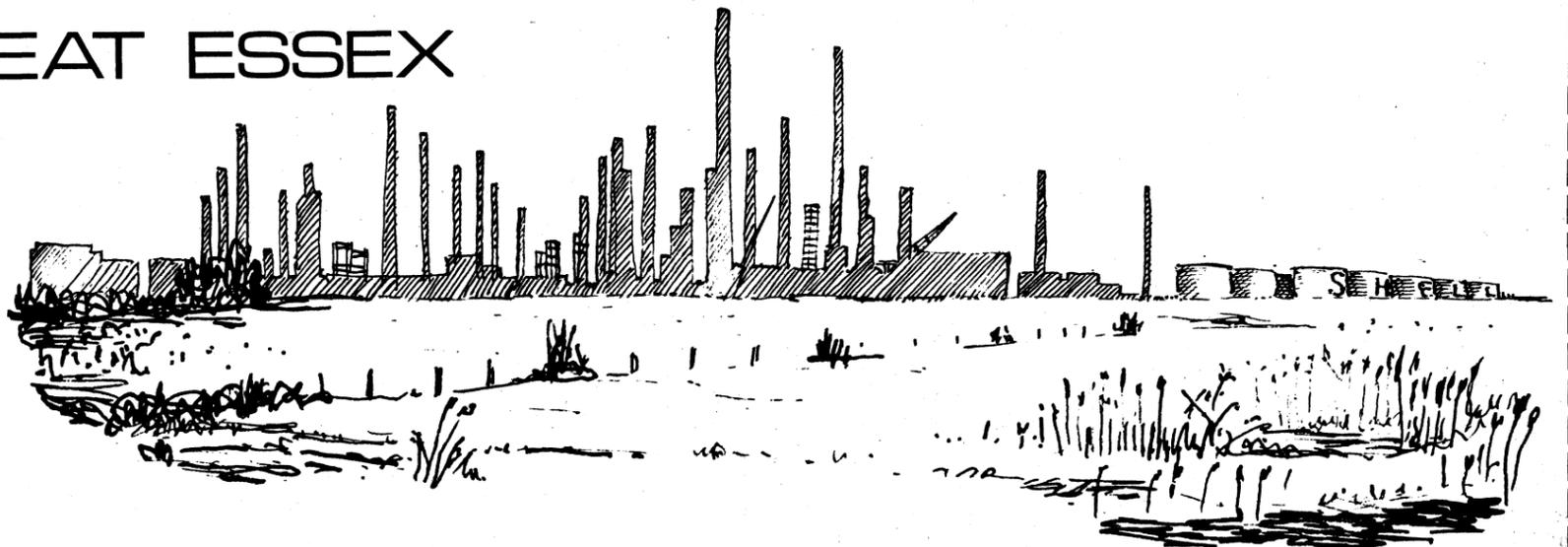
HARLOW Traffic Wardens are on the ball... The classic fixed penalty has been placed on a lorry parked in a "no waiting" area unattended. The driver called at the station and was able to prove the lorry contained equipment which they were using under contract to the local council, for painting the yellow lines...



Editor's note: Remember that home-made beer is reputed to be at least twice as strong as commercial beer.

# OFF-BEAT ESSEX

This sketch of the oil refineries by the Thames typifies the changing face of Essex. Where only marshes were before huge industrial installations sprout, having a metallic, angular beauty of their own but a poor exchange for the wild, remote saltings they have replaced. And now Foulness...



# PORTRAIT

Force Training Officer

## Supt Joe Baker



RECENTLY appointed as Force Training Officer, Superintendent Joe Baker found himself involved in that department for the first time in his career.

Supt. Baker joined Colchester Boro' in 1946 after service in the R.A.F. which took him to North Africa, Malta, Sicily and Italy. On 1st April, 1947, to use his own words, Joe Baker "Suffered amalgamation—and 22 years later I was to suffer from it again."

Although he opted to move it was not until 1955 that he did so—on promotion to Sgt. at Pitsea. After two years there he opened up the police section at Basildon, then a section station in an old post office. By 1960 Mr. Baker was off again, this time to Braintree, first as patrol inspector and later in admin.

In 1965 came a return to Basildon on promotion to Chief Insp. and this was followed in 1968 by appointment at Complaints Supt. at H.Q. In the next year came Joe Baker's second taste of mergers when he was transferred to Southend Eastern. But

only for six months, then back to H.Q. in admin., where later he was Acting Chief Supt. Earlier this year Mr. Baker suffered a new experience — he was civilianised, and transferred to Recruiting and Training.

He holds several honorary treasurerships — Benevolent Fund, War Memorial Fund, Force Sports, Comrades Association — and hopes "they'll soon be civilianised as well."

Born at Great Horkesley, where his family still live, Supt. Baker is married with a 23-year-old son and a daughter of 14. In earlier days he played soccer for Colchester Boro' and also played a little cricket and badminton.

He's  
full  
of  
fun  
like  
that

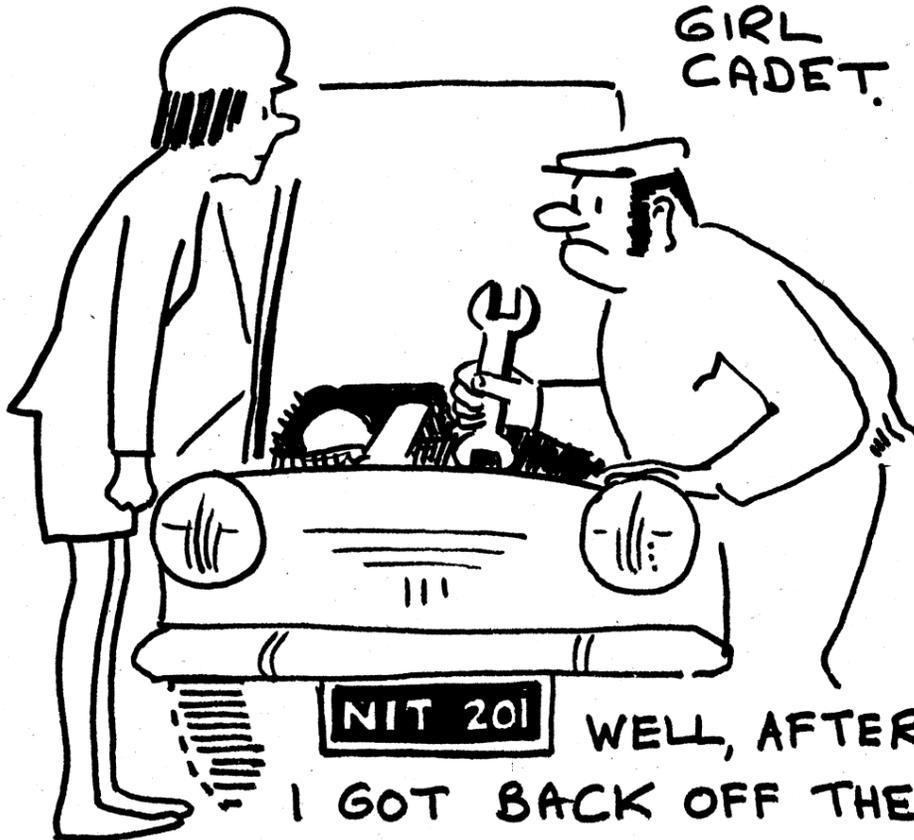
RECENTLY the Duty Sergeant at Epping, P.S. 180 Butcher, was attending to a call at Coopersale concerning a dog that was being a nuisance.

Now, the skipper although not Irish, must have kissed the Blarney stone sometime during his life and with his known charm proceeded to inform the little old lady that her lovely dog was the subject of a complaint. The complaint read: "Roaming and snapping at the children." So, continued the sergeant, perhaps something could be done to curb his ways. The old lady was amazed for how could anyone think he snapped, just look at him. Some one must be jealous, she concluded, and one had to agree that the nice looking brown mongrel was a friendly little chap, so the sergeant reached out a friendly hand to the dog. The little B—ow wow had other ideas and lunged forward towards the other hand clutching the complaint and some other documents. These he trailed down the road as he ran ripping them into small pieces but not small enough to be untraceable to the police. So with cap in hand the sergeant attempted to collect these pieces. But now that little old dog was greedy and tried to snap at each piece raised above ground level by the gallant sergeant.

Said the little lady: "He's full of fun like that!"

JOINT FORCE  
TYPES No 26

THE  
GIRL  
CADET.



WELL, AFTER  
I GOT BACK OFF THE  
FOOTPATH IT STARTED MAKING  
A NOISE LIKE STIRRING TEA  
IN A PLASTIC CUP!

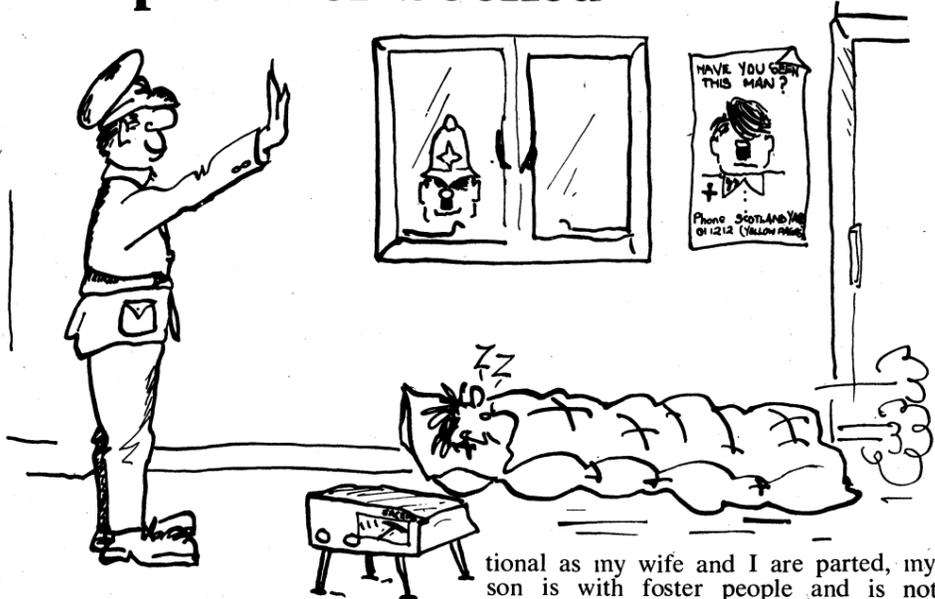
NOTE: Three girl cadets start a driving course this week.

## No B.H. leave

TO MEET the heavy demands on manpower arising from the proposed Weeley 'Pop' Festival, in addition to the normal Bank Holiday requirements, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 28, 29 and 30 August, 1971, all leave other than Annual Leave is cancelled. Officers will be required to work 12 hours on Saturday, 28th, 12 hours on Sunday, and 8 hours on Monday (Bank Holiday).

It is estimated that the cost of the festival to the county's ratepayers will be about £3,000 in police wages alone, without any other unforeseen costs which may arise.

## Sleep-driver booked



Where will the Traffic Department set up a radar next? Defendant's excuse sent in with plea of guilty to speeding summons. "Dear Sir, I would like to state that the speeding was not inten-

tional as my wife and I are parted, my son is with foster people and is not very happy about being there and I was worried about this. I have no home at all of my own and at the time of the offence I was sleeping in the firm's office in a sleeping bag on the floor, which can be confirmed if necessary.



Wally, centre, celebrates his retirement with former colleagues.

By Ray Skillin

SOME weeks ago one of the most outstanding characters of the Force retired after serving 25 years — Wally Hammond.

Wally first joined the Force in 1946 after serving in the Army from the age of 16 (he put his age up). After training he was stationed in the Romford division, a few years later he moved to the Traffic department at Headquarters and eventually to the driving school where he served for a number of years with occasional turns back on Traffic for various reasons.

Promotion to sergeant came in 1957 which meant a move to Communications where he stayed for a year after which he moved, with other officers, to the Colchester Traffic Dept. I had the pleasure of being one of those officers.

It was during the period at Headquarters that Wally was one of the organisers of the force tug-of-war teams that were P.A.A. champions for three successive years, also winning many trophies throughout the country. The team spirit that was in the tug-of-war team was also in the Colchester Traffic Department under this man. Of the officers who

served with him at Colchester, 11 have been promoted, one now a Superintendent, one a Chief Inspector, some credit must be given to Wally for their achievements.

Earlier this year P.C. Ray Hicks organised a farewell party to mark Wally's retirement, this was a wonderful evening with some 250 guests turning up to say farewell to a wonderful chap. The guests included many senior officers, serving and retired, also past members of the tug-of-war team who had a few old songs to sing.

Wally is still training them with his own driving school which, as you may guess, is called "Wally Hammond's School of Driving."

He was a chap that you could dislike one minute and love the next. In my book the force is the poorer for Wally's retirement.

Best of luck, Wally, you will always be a talking point.

## Do you know your law?

1. The Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, applies automatically in every .....
2. Public Service Vehicles not conveying passengers at separate fares are known as .....
3. The Breath Test Device used under the Road Safety Act, 1967, must be approved by the .....

# Cadets Corp



The Chief Constable, inspecting the girls cadets' squad, stops to speak to Cadet Pat Cole who is stationed at Brentwood. His remarks seem to be amusing.

THE Cadet Corps home day and passing out parade was held at The Cadet School on July 18 when senior officers and parents and friends watched the parade followed by displays.

The parade was inspected by the Chief Constable who then presented cups and other awards. These were the Inter-House Cup decided by contests in a dozen sports played off since Christmas, and handed to Cadet John Weatherley for Crouch House; the Photography Cup presented to Cadet David Grimshaw as being the camera club member making the greatest contribution to the group; and judo belts in yellow, orange and green, won by 13 cadets at an up-grading session earlier this week.

One cup not presented at this stage was the Fitness Cup, awarded to the cadet scoring the highest marks in the physical fitness test carried out each term. Four cadets had tied with maximum marks—Richard Madden, Gary Egerton, Graham Blois and Timothy Mildin hall—and had to race against the clock over the assault course. And it was the lone first year representative who won—Tim Mildin hall.

The displays, which were greeted with enthusiasm by the spectators, were slicker than last year and included drill squads under Inspector Harry Fuller, log drill and climbing under P.C. Larry Piper, judo with Det. Sgt. Jim Graham, and weight training directed by P.C. Barry Walker.

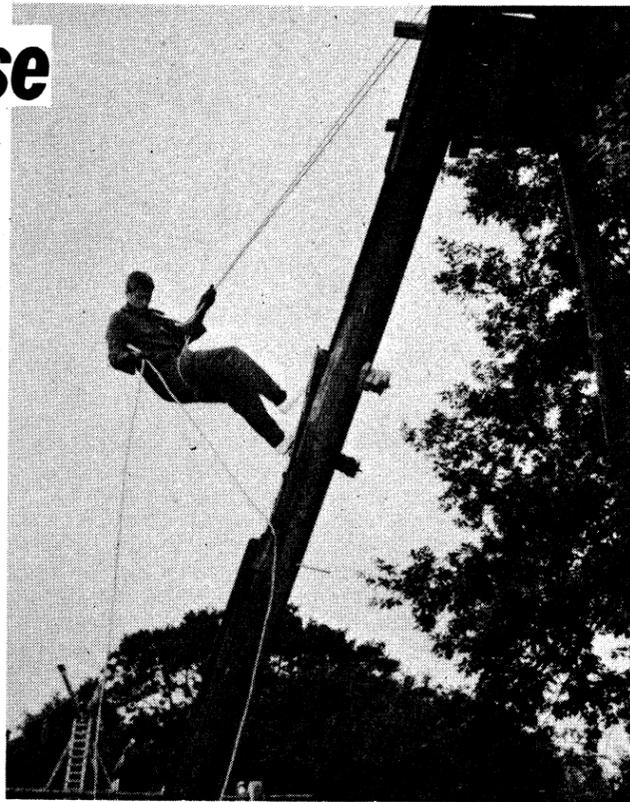
## Cadet School's first course ends—What next?

A MILESTONE was reached on July 18 when Course number one passed out of the Cadet School.

The school, opened two years ago by Princess Anne, marked a new era in Force training, starting cadets on their career with a two-year residential course of virtually full-time education. What fruits this will bear remains to be seen when the G.C.E. examiners announce their verdict towards the end of this month.

The two-year course is devoted mainly to further education. The minimum course of study is for four 'O' levels over the full two years. The middle stream sit two 'O' levels after the first year and three or four more at the end of the second year. The upper stream, who would have already gained six or seven 'O' levels before entering the school, study subjects at 'A' level or Ordinary National Certificate.

Although all the "usual" subjects are covered there is a leaning towards such subjects as sociology, economics and British Con-



Geoffrey Hammond abseils down the climbing wall built by the cadets under the guidance of P.C. Larry Piper. It is used to introduce newcomers to climbing techniques before they are confronted by real rock.

stitution, which have some bearing on police work.

In a five-day working week, 3½ days are spent at the College of Further Education, and in addition homework must be completed in the evenings. The remaining 1½ days are spent at the Cadet School undergoing training in drill, map reading, first aid, life saving, games and adventure pursuits.

### Non-residential

Girl cadets unfortunately miss the advantages of living at the school but reside at home, as all cadets did previously. Their working week is split three ways: two days at College, two days at the Police Station and

one day at the Cadet School where they follow much the same physical programme as the boys.

### No police work

During the residential course no formal training in police subjects is given. The nearest cadets come to this is listening to talks by representatives of various departments on their work, these lectures are no more detailed than might be given to any outside body, or learning definitions as a mental exercise when the weather is too wet for drill.

The residential part of the cadets' training is followed by a third-year programme which brings them into work-



Three display teams in the drill squad, the

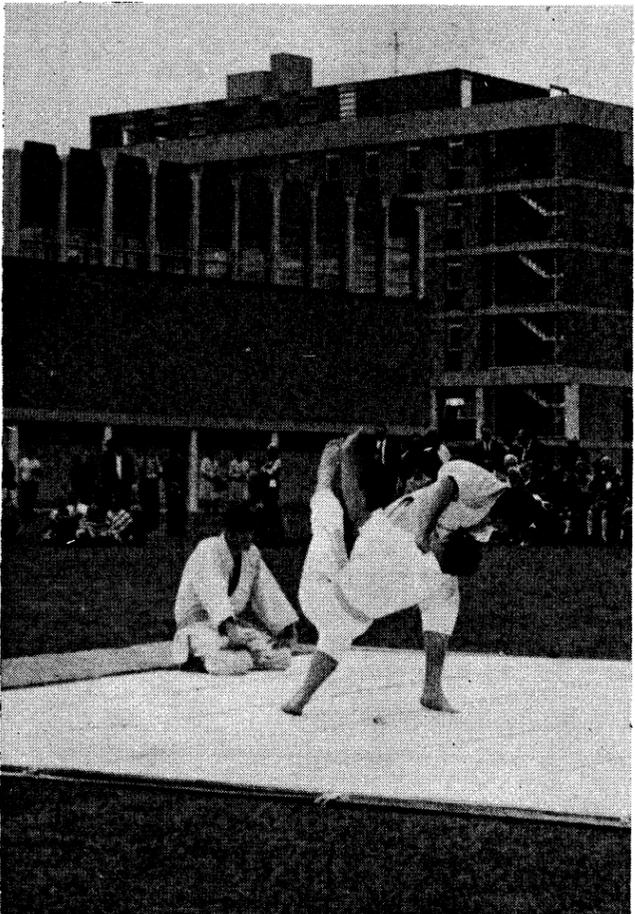
ing contact with police men for the first time.

Even now, however, the contact is brief, limited to one month at each department—just long enough to learn what goes on but not long enough to become a useful member of the department.

Members of the Force brought up under the old system, under which cadets worked in an office and had a definite job to do—mostly filing, filling up repetitive forms, making tea or running errands, one suspect—may find the change difficult to grasp.



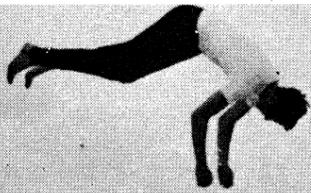
During the judo display the girls showed that though they belong to the "weaker" sex they are still part of the strong arm of the law. Here Margaret Cooper replaces her hat, lost in the struggle to apprehend Fred the call box vandal, whips his arm up his back and takes him away.



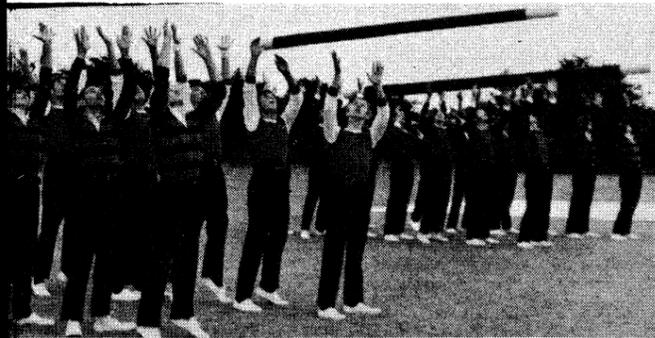
Other parts of the judo display, devised by Det. Sgt. Jim Graham of Basildon, were more formal. With Stephen Taylor looking on, John Shanahan throws Ed Cross. All three were among those gaining yellow belts.

# pass-out-

## the Chief inspects the parade and views displays



Fitness Cup winner Tim Mildinhal shows some skill as he bounces high above the trampoline, watched by other members of the display team.



top to bottom, weight training demo with P.c. Barry Walker, teams and the himself a former cadet, supervising.

Cadets are now additional to establishment and the co-operation of heads of departments is essential if the attachment scheme is to succeed in its purpose of showing the cadet the police at work.

### Citizenship

At other times the cadet will be attached to organisations outside the Force, newspaper offices, hospitals, and factories. All these are designed to broaden his outlook to compensate for any lack of "worldliness" which

may have been produced by being taken straight from school into the Cadet Corps.

Course Number One begin their third year this month. For some this part of their course is short. The oldest will be 19 from September onwards and by Christmas will be back from Eynsham and posted to divisions.

Whether they make good coppers is not just up to them, nor does it rest only on the Cadet School staff. Everyone in the Force must help — but then, that is true of every recruit.

## They all had a ball- but after...

The passing out course came near to passing out in another sense during the week following the Sunday parade.

The morning after was black Monday — 30 miles march day had come round again. This year's route began near Maldon and went via Southminster and South Woodham back to Chelmsford.

Unlike last year, no one encountered a "bull" so no-one broke his leg leaping into a ditch to escape, and apart from blisters and strains the day passed uneventfully.

It was followed next morning by the journey to Wales for the end-of-year 4-day expedition across the hills when some real rag-time map reading was observed.

Within a mile of alighting from the coach to march to the top of Plynymon almost the whole course were found tramping up the wrong hill. Similar difficulties were apparently involved in finding the camping site for that evening.

On the second day a stretch of forested ground threw some cadets off the scent so effectively that two never did find the target and others approached from various directions having walked somewhat further than necessary.

On the third day our intrepid mountaineers were to climb Cader Idris which they achieved after much huffing and puffing in clammy cloud. At the top they sat down to congratulate each other on their hair-raising feat when out of the summit came a middle-aged lady wearing high-heeled shoes, which rather put things in a different light.



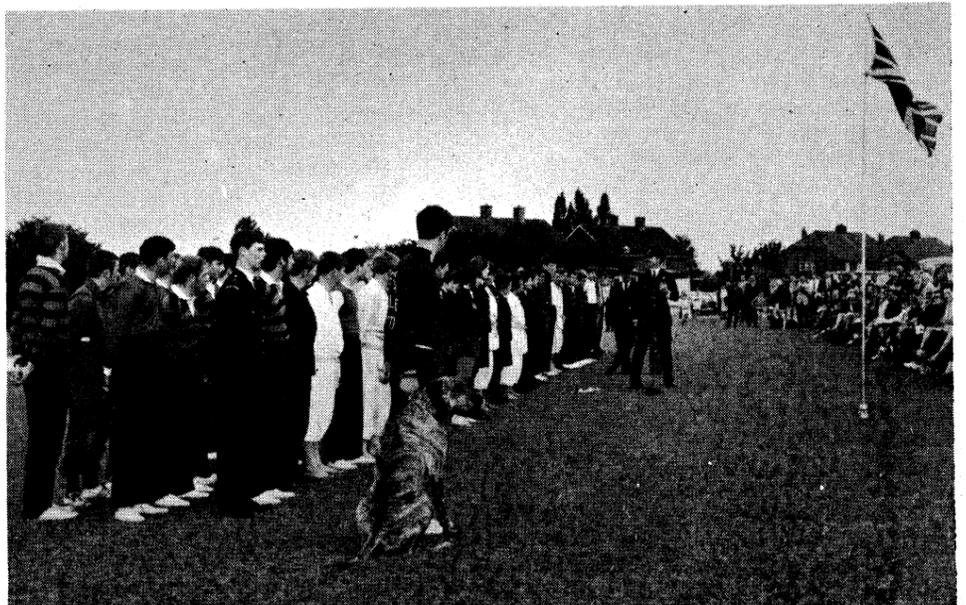
PETER and Alma Reeve who have been warden and matron at the Cadet School since it opened two years ago stand this month when Peter takes up another appointment as a teacher/youth organiser at Basingstoke. Although Alma Reeve has been seen frequently in uniform over the two years, it is believed that this picture represents the only occasion when Peter's suit came back from the moths and his "cardy" had a day off. The photo was taken at the Royal Opening as they waited to be presented to Princess Anne.

The School has revolved around the Reeves. Hardly a cadet has managed never to go sick, but Alma Reeve has also been very much involved in the social life of the school. Peter has organised canoe building and camera club activities, has acted as head chef at camp and ace "Law" photographer.

Last month cadets and staff presented mementoes to remind the Reeves of their stay in Essex, a decanter and glasses from the cadets, and from the staff a print of Dedham Vale by (who else but) Constable.



All the displays went like clockwork and even Tostig sat down when he was told. Tostig is the large striped hound in the foreground who is found lurching about the school now and then, and who led the final parade, handled by Cadet Bob Feilding.



Two weighty publications came belatedly into our possession during the past month and it was their delayed arrival which made these two solemn documents remarkable. Dare one describe either the Chief Constable's Annual Report, 1970, or The Essex Wastage Survey (Venner Report) as outstanding works of fiction? Alas, the former is, as usual, crammed with good old dry facts and figures, presented in the format to which we have become accustomed and precise to a fault: does it not, under the heading "Force Newspaper," with commendable accuracy, state, "The Force newspaper 'The Law' has been published monthly throughout the year and continued to be very popular with members of the Force"?

Members of the Force will be less used to reading reports of the type Mr. Venner has written. Indeed, one should say collated since it is reasonable to assert that members of the Force wrote the report by filling in the questionnaires all those months ago, at least, the 73 per cent of the Force who completed them. One blinding glimpse of the obvious which comes out of the figures presented by the report is that attitudes change as policemen advance in rank. One feels that the inability of older, more senior, men to fully understand their juniors because their own attitudes have subtly changed is itself a cause of wastage, but that might be too deep.

### Manpower

The two publications cover the same ground in their references to the manpower problem. In this respect it is a pity that they have taken so long to come out. Since the Venner questionnaire went the rounds wastage has continued unchecked until the recent pay award closed the stable door. The Chief Constable's report gives facts and figures for 1970 which was not a good year with only 117 recruits joining up as opposed to 149 the previous year and the effective strength of the Force dropping to 46 less than on amalgamation day three years ago.

But these are 1970's figures and in this respect it is a great pity that the report takes so long in the printing. Almost every local Essex newspaper seized upon the first two paragraphs of the introduction, which deal with the drop in effective strength and the Chief Constable's opinion that "in the particular circumstances of this force . . . financial considerations are the principal cause of the problem," to publish articles of the crisis-police-pay-too-low variety. These ignore the fact that since the report was written a pay rise has been negotiated which has done something to put things right, a fact which is partly borne out by a present improving trend in recruitment figures.

### Concerned but for different reasons

Recruitment is a subject on which the police, as a body, "speak with forked tongue." The Chief Constable and senior ranks, genuinely express concern over the fact that the Force contracted by eight men last year. Junior ranks also express concern but their worry is that should the Force come up to strength they will "lose the A.R.D.'s." This fear for their financial survival, and many could not manage without these payments, means that they are at best dead numbers in the recruiting drive and at worst counter productive.

### Drive or short putt?

But is it right to refer to recruiting efforts in this Force as a "drive"? This term infers a dynamic search for recruits pressed forward by eager "ideas men" bursting to go beyond the deficit stage and run up a sizable waiting list. Yet this aspect of "R and T" is almost totally left to jolly along by itself. The whole policy is a passive, wait and see exercise, leaving plenty of time for wringing the hands in despair.

The only indication recently that things might be taking a turn for the better is the provision of cash from central funds to provide additional advertising space. But this is merely pouring good money after bad unless much more is done to improve the present image the Force must present outside.

### Aggressive P.R. campaign needed

As a start a conscious, constant, public relations campaign should be waged in the county, directed by a senior officer with nothing else to do but dress up news items showing the police up in a good light. An Assistant Chief Constable began to study such a scheme earlier this year but the result seems to have caught the virus which delayed Mr. Venner's work.

A good public image is something the Force must create. It is probably true that there are more people in Essex with possible cause to resent the police than there are with real cause to be grateful so this is a problem which has to be tackled aggressively, and not just when the senior officer nominated to deal with the press in a particular area has the time.

The present short-handed position is no good to anyone. With or without A.R.D.'s the Force ought to get up to strength as quickly as possible but this can only be achieved if everyone, top to bottom, starts to actively do something about it.



## Rolls Royce parts needed

Dear Sir,

Through your widely circulated paper may I ask fellow officers, particularly those in the country areas of the county, if they know the location of any pre-war Rolls-Royce motor cars or spare parts.

Condition is immaterial, the components are made well enough to be cleaned or repaired.

I know there are still a lot of these cars lying around in barns and sheds, etc. My own car came from a broken down farm at Blackmore.

As I cannot traverse the entire county to find any others, would any officer who knows of one or spares please let me know. Don't let them rot away so they are too far gone and have to be broken up for spares.

D. S. HURRELL  
Con. 91

## The tax man never forgets

Dear Sir,

There was a very old saying at one time, "The Income Tax" never make a mistake, but I am sure when you have read this you will agree with me, that in my case they have made a very big one and if you think this will be of any interest to any reader of "The Law" you may find room for it to be published.

When I got by pension for July I might say I had a shock for they had deducted the sum of £23.40 from my month's pay. I wrote to the County Treasurer to see if he could help me and had a reply that "he had only done what he was told to do by H.M. Inspector of Taxes." I was told to write them. I did and after nearly a fortnight, I had a very nice letter and an apology to say that owing to an error I had been undertaxed for four months and the only way they could see to get the Tax back was to deduct the whole amount in the one month and I had the large amount of £15 to take for the month.

I thought some of the pensioners may be interested to read this. I certainly noticed in my pension for April I had a reduction of Income Tax and did not bother about it and quite thought it was a new regulation.

Yours truly,  
G. Waterman, Ex Pc 1257

Well, you other pensioners, be warned! If your tax goes down start saving up because they'll get you in the end. —Ed.

## When a meal is traditional serve 3 times daily—S.O's

Members of the Force cannot have failed to notice (or can they?) that Standing Orders are being rewritten and the duplicated copies kept in a large expensive-looking binder quite closely resembling Met. Police General Orders. They are a mine of information but careful reading will often reveal hidden meanings which throw an entirely new light on the subject.

For example did you read

# The end of an Era

Have you ever had the feeling  
That a page has been torn out  
That recent events have caught you by the collar  
Were you among the piqued  
When the news was carefully leaked  
Of the impending resignation of Charlie Waller.



You see he'd never served in Birmingham  
In Liverpool or Leeds  
No Senior Staff Course every checked his prowess  
He had never yearned to be  
At University  
And had never even heard of Dyfed Powys.



His kind was really made  
In an age when loyalty paid  
When promotion prospects seemed that much the fairer  
And you never had to bother  
About the northern leap-frogger  
The Special Course blokes or the couldn't-less-carer.

I'm sure he felt barmy  
That a growing civilian army  
Should demonstrate a positive "Parkinson" bent  
And viewed with some disgust  
The ever growing trust  
In County Hall's inexpert involvement.



Quite possibly at lunch  
He must have met that bunch  
Of Home Office sociology  
And most have thought it queer  
That they were never very near  
To ordinary blokes like you and me.

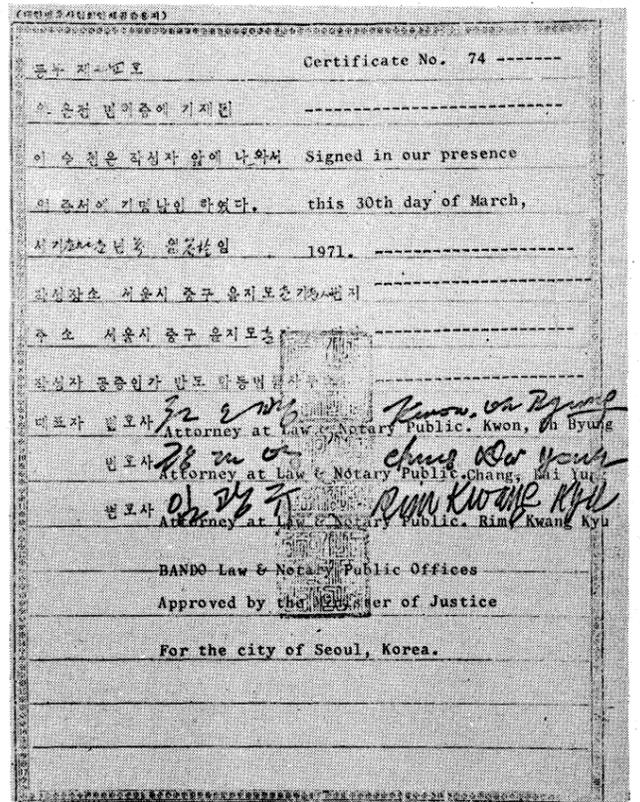
So he has gone; perhaps its best  
My friends, I do not jest  
Lets wish him well, it's the ending of an era.  
Its very very plain  
To those who still remain  
That our turn grows daily somewhat nearer.



**Anon**

DOWNSIDE

## Ying tong hiddle I pu fong



What do you do if confronted by a document like this? The answer says Ch. Insp. Bill Wildish, of Brentwood, is ask for the accompanying translation. This will show that it is a Korean motor vehicle operator's licence, and it also carries a picture of the holder. This document was produced at Brentwood by a Ford of Europe employee when he was checked while driving a motor car.

PERHAPS with recent good weather and holidays in full swing, mentioning the Christmas holiday period may be considered a bit off, but many arrangements are already being made. One aspect of Christmas which needs early attention is cards. The particular cards we mention now are those in aid of the Police Dependents' Trust. Samples are out and will be sent down to Subs quite soon. Do you remember last year's Giles effort showing the Vicar snowballing the Traffic Warden? This year Jak has produced a drawing of a grizzled police sergeant hanging up as decorations breathalyzer bags inflated by a red-nosed drunk. They are only 5p each and it's a good cause. So order up! (Advt.)

# SPORT

## Sticks at the ready! Force hockey girls go for National contest

Urged on by Supt. Helen Welburn the policewomen of the Force will be competing in National competitions at netball and hockey this winter.

Last winter by the luck of the draw the cadet team encountered Met. Police in the first round and were beaten. With the whole team available again this year they must hope for better things on the netball court.

Lady hockey and netball players should contact Chief Insp. Olive Butler at H.Q.

### BOWLS

By A. J. SMITH

ON JUNE 27, the Force Section were honoured to be the host to a representative side from Group 3 of the Essex County Bowling Association—a fixture not easily obtained but greatly prized. This was a full six-rink game played in whites on the Lionmede green.

The Force team began in excellent form and in fact held a good lead overall after the first five ends, but after having a cup of tea, the tables were turned. By the halfway stage the Group side had really come into their own and were heading for a resounding victory. However, the Police bowlers stuck manfully to their task and gradually got back into the game and the scores began to look a little more respectable. Even the short sharp deluge which drove us all from the green could not dampen our spirits and the final outcome was a disgrace to no one.

Scores (Police skips): Gorham 17-23; Stibbards 20-29, Horne 16-20, Cable 26-17, Turner 14-22, Hitchcock 9-16.

On June 30, the section played a four-rink match against the Falcon Bowls Club on their Seymour Street green. As always we were made most welcome by the members of this popular club. It has been said in the past that if you can't bowl at the Falcon you can't bowl anywhere and it is true to say that Police teams always seem to do well on this green. This occasion proved no exception. With both teams bowling very well the scoring kept very close but gradually the Police bowlers took a lead and by tea time were comfortably ahead on all rinks.

It is very often the case that after a tea break Police teams fall apart — perhaps they eat too much — but on this afternoon nothing daunted they continued to press the advantage and in the end came out with a good win by 24 shots.

Scores (Police skips named): Horne 21-15, Turner 22-16, Gorham 21-13, Smith 26-22.

### P.A.A. DEFEAT

In the Region P.A.A. competitions this Force was drawn against Bedfordshire in both the fours and triples. The fours match was played at Kempston on July 7, at the same time as a four-rink match which had already been included on our fixture list.

As ever our players were made very welcome by the Bedford lads although it has been reported that certain officers had some difficulty in finding the green: I understand that the same officers have experienced the same difficulties in the past and that this may well be due to the owner of a dispensing house for liquid refreshment being a bit liberal with the measure.

Despite any hazards which may have existed a good game developed with the scoreline running very close except on one rink where the lads struck excellent form and apparently scored almost at will. Unfortunately this was not the rink which had been nominated as

### ATHLETICS

THE small party which travelled north to Edinburgh for the P.A.A. championships on July 10 showed the Force flag with competent performances all round, each gaining a standard certificate.

Bert Wallace in particular, had one of his good days and after occupying sixth place in the javelin preliminaries, advanced to fourth position in the throw-off with a throw of 172ft. 6in., his best of the season so far.

This indicates a good degree of control as the javelins were being thrown into a wind, weak at ground level but strong above which made them hang in the air before floating down, often tail first.

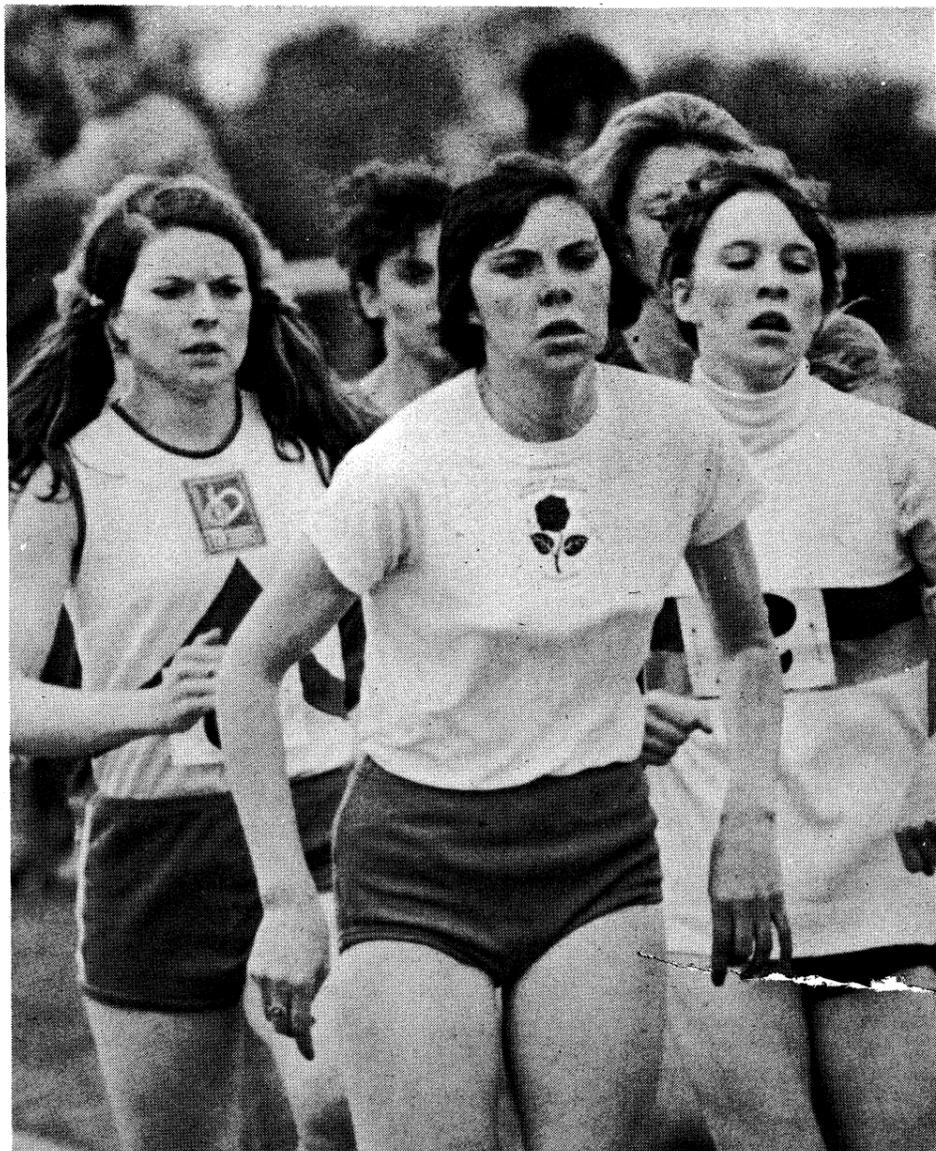
The setting for this year's championships was the magnificent Meadowbank Stadium, scene of last year's Commonwealth Games, where even John Hedgethorne, in his 24th summer season and the oldest individual competing, had to admit that he had never competed in such superb conditions. Competitors and officials were marched about in single file to and from their events, disappearing down a tunnel after performing; results came up on the loudspeakers at once and were flashed on the scoreboard (names in lights at last); a running commentary accompanied most events.

John's 7th place in 14m. 44.2s. in the 3000 mts. walk indicated that the switch from 3 kilos to 100 miles is easier than the other way round.

### Finalists

Andy Down qualified for the 1500 mts final (4m. 12s.) but found himself leading the finalists for 2 laps after which an increase in speed left him somewhat adrift and he finished 7th in 4m. 15.9s.

Sprint man Mick Jackson failed by one place to enter the 200 mts. final but got through in the short sprint by the same margin. His time for 200 mts. was 23.5s. which left



Despite their overwhelming victory in this year's Regional championships the athletic section cannot rest on their laurels but must look to team building for next year. A good start is the recruitment of Maria Oldall, last year's national schools 400mts. champ, as a cadet. Maria has represented England in the international schools meeting. She is seen, above centre, in a recent 800mts. race.

him a little disheartened. "I knew I hadn't qualified but felt I had done at least 23.2s," he said.

Repeating his final placing of last year in the 100 mts. he finished last in a season's best of 11.6s.

Standards were high and new championship best performances abounded. While we must hope for next year's games to be nearer home to enable a larger team to take part, there is talk of Billingham as the Stadium to be used.

Police events now lapse but with the season still having two months to run, Force records are still likely to fall.

Below, a rare picture of the top six members of the walking section lined up for the start of a track race. From the left: Mike Blackwell, Ron Hammond, Mike Eldred, Keith Mann, John Hedgethorne and Brian Jones. If they look pretty tense it is because a loudspeaker announcement had delayed the start.



comfortable win by ten shots. Scores: Newnham 17-15; Horne 9-20; Cable 27-8. Total: 53-43.

On 14th June, we held our annual fixture with the Pensioners. It seems to matter not what time this match is due to start as the first hour is inevitably taken up with the re-counting of old tales and conquests—some old, some blue, some having mellowed with the passing years.

Sooner or later, and it was later, three rinks took to the green. After the recent fine weather we have experienced the green was bowling at lightning speed.

This proved to be very baffling at first and shots came by accident as much as by design and it was almost impossible to believe from the resting

## Lifesaving at Reading

Competing in the Benyon Trophy Life Saving contest at Reading on July 13 the Force team finished 12th out of 17 teams taking part.

The home force, Thames Valley, were highly successful, their three men's teams finishing 1st, 3rd, and 6th and their policewomen's team 7th. The event was swum off in the Thames where the swift current makes the going very hard. With a score of 520, the winner totalled 570, the team were Insp. Eric Scott, Insp. Dick Parker, and P.c.s Roger Burrows, Roger Coleman and Ted Travers.

## Walking

WITH the walking section taking a month off the only news is of the final positions in the Essex League whose season has been running since last September.

A tough competition to win, either individually or as a team, the League includes 12 races from 3,000 mts. to 50 kilos. John Webb, the Basildon A.C. international, raced consistently throughout to win by a clear 53 points and Southend A.C. ran away with the team contest, having the advantage of a large membership.

The police effort rather petered out and no one raced in the last event, the 50 kilometers, due to other races being on the same day and the juniors being barred by age. Consequently the challenge for third place could not be sustained and Police slipped back to fourth, the same position as last year.

Against this must be set the satisfactory score of 1,235 against only 992 in 1970, and the enlarged gap between police and the fifth team, Essex Beagles, the difference having risen to almost 500 points instead of 150.

Southend A.C.	1880
Basildon A.C.	1406
Ilford A.C.	1367
POLICE	1235
Essex Beagles	747
W'ford Green	643
Newham A.C.	378
Leagate Hs.	261
Thurrock Hs.	60
William Morris	24

Individually 11 walkers contributed to the total score a factor which added to the size of the total. John Hedgethorne in fifth place was one place down on 1970 but eight points up, having missed only the 50 kilometer race. Keith Mann walked consistently and Ron Hammond and Mike Eldred were next in line with scores which will surely be exceeded next year.

5. J. Hedgethorne	309
11. K. Mann	226
15. R. Hammond	217
24. M. Eldred	144
32. M. Blackwell	106
38. J. Hastings	75
B. Jones	75
50. D. Hawkins	44
54. J. Weatherley	37
63. J. Shanahan	22
69. M. Puttick	16

## Southend Divs link to win tug

Southend division combined to enter a team in the Canvey Island Festival of Sport, held on the island on July 3rd.

Chief Supt. J. Farnsworth was present to see his team pull away all the opposition to secure a handsome trophy presented by the Sports Council. Under team coach Bob Higgon of Hadleigh the police squad pulled away Methan Terminal in the first round and local strong boys Canvey Weightlifting Club in the final. The team, Mead, Thomas, Clark, Hawkins, Smith, Marr, Brotherton, Cox and Wallace.

Perhaps this could grow into a challenge to Grays, undisputed champions for some years past.



The account of this year's bowls tour having caused some interest in the county, Supt. E. Horne has forwarded this picture of the Gonk and Gink. These mascots are taken on the tour each year and in each match are carried by the skip of the rink which lost most heavily in the previous match. Pictured outside their tour headquarters, Supt. Horne is holding the Gonk and Mrs. Horne the Gink.

competition. Well as this rink tried they lost in the end by three shots so we have only academic interest now in the fours competition.

Scores (Essex skips named): Turner 29-6; Hitchcock 13-17; Horne 19-20; Cable (PAA) 17-20.

### TRIPLE WIN

The triples took place at H.Q. on July 12, when our players started off in fine form and held a comfortable lead

Bedfordshire players gradually got back into the game so that after fifteen ends they held a slender lead.

Barry Cable's rink was well up but Ted Horne and Wilf Newnham were down and with neither rink getting the rub of the green it looked as though Bedfordshire were going to pip us in both competitions. However nothing daunted over the last three ends Ted and Wilf picked up ten shots to one against and Barry increased his lead so that fortune swung

# NARPO

By Bert Brinkley

THERE is much speculation amongst our members as to how the Police Pensions Increase Bill, 1971 will affect pensioners, but there is very little concrete evidence at the moment upon which calculations can be made. The branch has made application for a copy of the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum which accompanies it but to date neither has been received. The June quarterly bulletins have also been delayed, due we hope, to more information being available as to the implications of the Bill.

Certain amendments to the Bill were put forward by the N.E.C. and branches were asked to enlist the support of their local Members of Parliament.

A letter was sent by the Chelmsford branch to the M.P. for Chelmsford, Mr. Norman St. John-Stevan, who in turn passed it to the Home Office, the Home Office are responsible for police pensions. A very comprehensive reply has been received from the Home Office but as our Member of Parliament stated in his reply, the result is not very encouraging but at least something has been done to bring the feelings of the association to the notice of the Home Office.

Copies of the correspondence referred to are printed below, members can see for themselves the attitude adopted by the Home Office.

Reference was made in a previous issue to a photograph of members attending the A.G.M. of the Chelmsford branch, only one reply was received. If anyone attending is still desirous of having a photograph it will be supplied at a cost of 10p including postage.

## LETTER FROM CHELMSFORD BRANCH TO THEIR M.P.

Dear Sir,

### The Police Pensions Bill, 1971

You will recall in January last I asked for your support in connection with The Pensions (Increase) Bill, 1971, and you very kindly referred it to the Home Office from whom I received a very comprehensive reply which was very much appreciated by members of my branch.

Once again I am asked to enlist your support to the following points raised by The Public Service Pensioners' Council:

- (1) Not only should the cost of living be taken into account but also incomes, and that therefore in Clause 1 of the Bill the percentages 18, 16, 14, 10 and 6, should be 24, 21, 18, 13 and 8 respectively. Similarly the table for conversion of basic rate of pension to 1969 standard should be revised to take into account rises in incomes over the period involved, and
- (2) Future reviews should be annual instead of biennial, and pension adjustments made provided the average rise in the cost of living and wage rates is not under 2 percent.

The urgency of this matter lies in the fact that the detail of the time-table of the Bill in Parliament is uncertain. The Second Reading may well be within the next fortnight and certainly the Royal Assent must be obtained before the summer recess.

Your support to these proposals will be greatly appreciated by all members.

Yours sincerely,

B. G. BRINKLEY  
Secretary

Chelmsford branch.

## REPLY

My Dear Norman,

You sent me on 18th May the enclosed letter from Mr. Brinkley, Hon. Secretary of the Chelmsford Branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers, about the Pensions (Increase) Bill 1971.

He commends to you the line of certain amendments to the Bill which, we understand, are being widely suggested by the Public Service Pensioners' Council. These are the amend-

# Federation News

By Stan Smith

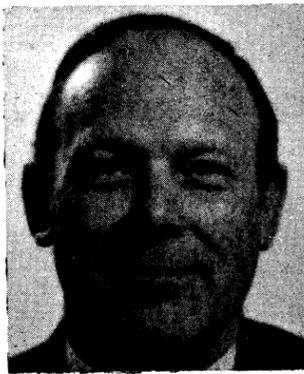
**EVERY member must be aware that he is reported upon annually by his Divisional Commander, but I suspect that a great many never see the form used, let alone what has been said about them.**

Towards the end of last year the Report of the Working Party on Staff Appraisal in the Police Service was published. This Home Office sponsored committee made up of representatives of all components of the Police Service, including the Police Federation, delved deeply into the present practices of the gathering of information about members and came up with suggestions as to how this exercise could be improved so that both the Service and its members could benefit.

Those of us with a few years' service can remember being visited by the then Chief Constable and being pleasantly surprised to find that he knew quite a lot about us and our family. Since then, of course, the size of the Force has doubled and the complexities of administration have kept the Chief Constable busy at other matters. Even the establishment of more assistance in the "top corridor" has not had the effect, apparently, of giving time for more than a cursory visit here and there. At least, this is the impression one gains from the conclusions of the Venner Report.

With so many officers now qualifying for promotion a satisfactory system of reporting upon individual members is now becoming vital if the best men and women are to be brought forward into the higher ranks. In this particular Force, with so few vacancies coming along, it is probably more important than in most others.

The fact that this problem exists, coupled with the belief that many policemen are good enough to be pro-



moted but will perhaps never make it, seems to have been recognised by the Home Office Working Party and emphasis has been laid on the ability to determine what a person's capabilities are. In fact, paragraph 2 of the Report is worthy of reproduction.

"2. Staff appraisal schemes differ in detail but the object of all of them is to ensure that the organisation functions as efficiently as possible and that the chief officer is provided with sufficient information to help him—

- i. to assess whether each officer is carrying out his duties efficiently or whether he is falling below acceptable levels of performance.
- ii. to be aware of the capabilities of individual officers.
- iii. to employ officers on duties for which they are best qualified and suited.
- iv. readily to identify officers suitable for promotion, including young officers worthy of early advancement.
- v. to identify the training needs of individual officers.

We consider that a scheme should give each officer a regular opportunity to discuss his progress with a senior officer at least at divisional level, enable him to know what his immediate superiors think about him and provide him with the chance to make known his own views and wishes for the future."

The Report goes on to deal with methods whereby these aims can be achieved and a copy of the Report itself will be circulated for the information of members shortly.

The Joint Branch Board have discussed this Report at length and have informed the Chief Constable that the contents of the Report are acceptable to them. Negotiations are currently under way to determine the best methods of ensuring that the Force will benefit from the scheme.

We think it essential that in order that members will accept the new scheme, all traces of the "big brother" attitude should be removed, and we think it unfortunate that the first of the five aims listed in the Report should be placed in this position of priority—we have said that it should come a bad fifth.

The most important recommendation in the Report is the

## The Law Shop

**FOR HIRE:** 12ft. four-berth touring caravan, Sprite Alpine, 1970 model. Contact Det. Con. Roger Phillips, Grays CID.

**FOR HIRE:** Large Continental frame tent, insect proof sleeping quarters, Calor gas cooker, etc.; £5 per week. Ted Davidson, H.Q. extension 352. Home, Chelmsford 57092.

**NOTIFICATION** of the deaths of pensioners recently received have been as follows:—

One May 22, ex-P.c. Herbert James Scott, aged 86 years.

On May 1, ex-P.c. Sydney James Taylor, aged 77 years.

On April 24, ex-P.s. William Henry Perkins, aged 93 years.

All were former county force members.

ments to which the Financial Secretary to the Treasury was referring at the end of his speech winding up the debate on the Second Reading of the Pensions (Increase) Bill (Hansard 25th May Cols. 291-3). They seem to amount to proposals:—

1. That the minimum "qualifying" rate of cost of living increase required to trigger off increases at a two-yearly review, and thus the minimum pension increase payable at a review, should be 2 per cent rather than the 4 per cent in Clause 2(1) of the Bill.
2. That the once-for-all increases should restore past pensions, not to their original purchasing power (as would be achieved by the first part of Clause 1(1) (a) plus Schedule 1 of the Bill), but to substantially higher standard derived from applying to original basic pensions a hybrid index intended to reflect wage movements as well as price movement.
3. That the increases payable this year should be based on the same mixed principle as this hybrid index. (This would

raise the standard increase for those who retired before the review period from 18 per cent to 24 percent, with similar uplifts for the graded increases awarded to those who retire within the review period).

4. That future reviews should be based on a similar standard of increase.

5. That future reviews should be annual rather than two-yearly.

These proposals have been studied in detail and our reaction remains that as a response to an essentially non-partisan measure which must be by far the most generous ever introduced to reform the arrangements for increasing public service pensions and to provide for immediate increases, they are quite staggering.

In the first place they would overthrow the main principle of the Bill which, as has now been well advertised and frequently explained, is "inflation-proofing" or the restoration and regular maintenance of the original purchasing power of pensions. Second, their cost could well exceed the £80 mil-

lion or so annual cost of our own proposals by far more than the margin of £30 million per annum which Patrick Jenkin mentioned in debate. Third, they not only appear to cost in total much more than "parity" but they would seem to raise the pensions of some individual pensioners way above the parity level. (Parity, you will remember, has been the long-term aim of the pensioners' organisations: it means raising old pensions to the level of those currently being awarded for the same record of service).

I hope that we have a proper modesty about this reform and the Bill: we are not saying it is not susceptible of any improvement, although we naturally hope that no improvement will prove to be necessary. But a series of amendments of this kind and order totally belie the welcome which has in general been forthcoming from the pensioners' organisations for the main principles of the Bill—a welcome many would say was merited on the basis of the original outline plan announced last November.

## Know Your Law Answers

1. Urban District.
2. Contract carriages.
3. Home Secretary.

matter of the individual being able to see what has been said about him. The Joint Branch Board are strongly of the view that the scheme will stand or fall on this point, and that if this facility is denied those officers wishing to take advantage of knowing what is going forward to the Chief Constable, then the reporting upon officers will lapse into the present unsatisfactory pattern.

Policemen above all others are suspicious people, and if members are told that they cannot see the reports on them, there will always be the thought that perhaps the reporting officer was not being honest in telling them what was written on the form. It is a matter of faith in the senior officer reporting, and as much as we would like to claim that we consider then all to be paragons of truth and honesty, some will always have suspicions about some of them even if unfounded. We felt that if a senior officer is worthy of his rank, then he should be able to report honestly and objectively and need not hide behind a blotter over the form.

Arguments against the officer seeing the report are that the reporting officer will feel inhibited in writing his honest assessment and that it will not help the officer who has reached his peak and has failings which he is unable to rectify because of a character defect or educational limitation. These are understood, but we feel they are far outweighed by the acceptance of the scheme as being honest and straightforward.

## Venner Report

The Chief Constable is anxious that as many officers as possible read the Report and freely discuss the implications and conclusions, and copies are available at Divisions on request.

Unfortunately many think that the conclusions are now out-dated and that most of the reasons given for wastage have now been rectified to some extent by the last pay award

## What's on Who's off

**AS MOST of you have already heard, the league positioning has changed again—Colchester still head the table with three and Southend (one) are joined by Headquarters also with one.**  
This change was brought

and the introduction of the housing scheme.

The main reason still outstanding appears to be the lack of communication between the higher and lower ranks, and this aspect together with other allied reasons for discontent are currently being investigated by another psychologist, whose report should be ready in September. When this latest report has been received it may be possible for some suggestions for improving the situation to be implemented. Any meetings which may be organised should be used by members of the Force to frankly discuss these reasons so that solutions can be found. The difficulty is to tell a Superintendent who is running the meeting that it is his Victorian, penny-pinching, harsh attitudes which are causing discontent. I don't think that there are too many Senior Officers with this attitude, but some appear to do very little to dispel members' opinions.



Very little publicity is given to the fact that we have a Force Welfare Officer who is available to give advice and practical assistance to those in need of his services. "Ed" Easlea is doing a good job and his heart is in it, which has been proved by some good results so far. We could do with a little more humanity in this job and it is to be hoped that those in power will give more than just lip service to this worthwhile employment.

If you are in trouble, real or imaginary, give him a ring at Southend Police Station, extension 205. He is interested in all forms of welfare, including assistance to pensioners and widows.

## Force long distance swimming race

### Why not support your local competitors?

## Westcliff Jetty at 11am on Thursday 5th August

which has however now been improved in one significant respect in response to representations from the pensioners' organisations, and in particular the Public Service Pensioners' Council. It seems to me to be quite impossible sincerely to welcome the Bill and at the same time to support changes which together can only be interpreted as condemning it as totally inadequate in pretty well every main respect.

As you see, we find it rather difficult to take this package of amendments seriously and we cannot help feeling that the authors may not have fully appreciated their significance when putting them forward. It was just because they seemed so wildly unrealistic that, as I have indicated, the Financial Secretary went out of his way to give an immediate government reaction to them in no uncertain terms at the end of his Second Reading speech. We take the warm welcome which was accorded the Bill from both sides of the House as support for our robust reaction.

RICHARD SHARPLES

about by one — Arthur Benjamin Bentley under the heading of PC 1167 — who about 11.30 p.m. one evening in Chelmsford performed a treble backward somersault followed by a half jack-knife. This under any normal circumstances is a very hard drive indeed but when one is wearing a crash helmet and astride a machine doing (we're told??) 30 m.p.h. it is indeed courageous! Anyway the feat was certainly recognised by all the judges and Ben obtained a very high mark — on the nose and forehead to be exact. The supreme judge of all — commenting on the feat said, "You're joking?" and promptly took his permit away — never mind Ben.

## Not the same

As a note of interest I went Pony Trekking on my holiday in North Devon and I can assure anybody who hasn't ridden a horse that it's not so kind to certain parts of the body as a motor bike — I drank my "hops" standing for a day or two. Having been introduced to my "creature" on the first day I immediately checked its water, tyre pressures and fuel, etc., as laid down by the system — which was greeted in a most unkind way by the horse and my request for a "fairing" was greeted in stony silence. Once aboard the brute and the steps taken away there was only one "governor" and whatever he wanted to do was okay by me. To my dismay the braking system left a lot to be desired but opening up the throttle by twisting the right ear certainly brought results! Anyway, a great time was had and a lot was learnt by all.

● Laindon has lost one of its "members" in the form of Mick Radford. Mick is now on the beat in the Rayleigh area and my good spy from Southend informs me that he looks even more out of place in a helmet than a crash helmet — anyway Mick keep at it and hope to see you soon.

● The Nortons should have, by now, been well and truly tested and, as we haven't got one at Headquarters, we would very much like to hear all the news — good or bad — about these machines; so please let's have a full report from the riders concerned—including the Southend member who, I'm informed, "blew-up" on the M2 the other day! No comment.

● John Paisley from Halstead has just completed his advanced and did very well — obtaining a first-class ticket — well done John, see you on your refresher.

The next meeting will be at the "Three Cups," Chelmsford, again — same arrangements — and it will be in September sometime when all the information about our trip to Norton's will be disclosed. By the way, Magna Carter has arranged a display by his old outfit — the Army Display Team — for our benefit so could be a very interesting day. This day out will be sometime in October in London and, please, a really good turn out. Also at our next meeting in September we hope to have a "guest" in the form of one of our "Higher Ranks" from the Corridor of Power so should be lively. I have also been approached by a motor cyclist from Cambridgeshire force requesting if they may attend one of our meetings as, he stated, "We're way behind you", and they would like a "bit of info." They may not get much info but their ride home should be interesting if the last meeting is anything to go by.

Finally, would Div. Reps. give me a ring or drop a note with suitable dates for the next meeting in September and provisional dates for the day out in October as soon as possible please. Oh yes, all that was written about me by Slinger Woods last month is completely and utterly false — I can honestly say that I have never been known to partake in any form of liquid refreshment during my patrol except authorised break periods. (If only I had passed my exams???) Sir!

Ride to the system and safe.