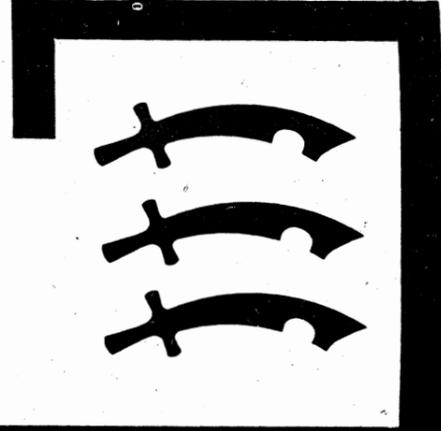




# THE LAW

OCTOBER 1975

No 79



## The Newspaper of the Essex Police

### Order sets date for end of A.R.D.'s

KEEPING up to date on the manpower situation — and remember, it has a direct bearing on the A.R.D. question — The Law finds that so far this year the overall gain in strength has been 130. For this purpose the year begins on April 1.

This compares with an overall gain in the year ending on March 31, of only 52.

As the pictures of the two most recent intakes show, the numbers being processed by the Recruiting Department show no sign of falling off. Another 22 will be interviewed on November 11 and there are over 100 in the pipeline, including 25 cadets who will reach the age of 18½ by next February.

Cadet School staff covering schools' careers conventions are finding themselves inundated with enquiries from next year's school leavers looking for secure employment.

All going very nicely, and no doubt the favourable recruitment situation has had a direct bearing on the recent Force Order cancelling A.R.D. working from January.

### as flow of recruits continues



GETTING their arms brown — can the summer have been so recent — are the September local procedure course who have now been on divisions for so long, all of four weeks, that they probably feel ready to show the next lot, pictured below, the way around.

From the left, with postings in brackets, they are Laurie Austin, a force cricketer (Southend E), Bill Clark (Harlow), Brian Ragless (Southend E), Andy Odell, see inset (Harlow), Bernie King (Colchester), Steve Langdon (Southend E), Lydia Brash (Basildon), Steve Trott (Harlow), Ernie Bird (Southend W), Julia Cleaver and Ross Drake (Harlow), Steve Bottrill (Southend E), Rita Beech (Harlow), Roy Colledge

(Clacton), Tony Britten (Southend E), Don Hylton and Kay Sharpe (Grays), Malcolm Trickey (Southend E), Christine Fletcher (Clacton), Keith Fitzjohn, hidden (Southend E), John Jones (Braintree), Geof Miller (Southend W), David Fox (Basildon).



TWO top students were among the intake in the top picture. David Fox was top of the course at Eynsham Hall, and at Dishforth Andy Odell added best all round student to his Cadet of the Year, 1974. He is pictured receiving his prize from the ACC, West Yorks, the inspecting officer.



TAKE WARNING in Divisions: this lot are probably accident prone, at least the ex-cadets (7) among them. Brenda Burgin (front in civvies) broke her ankle at Training School and Kevin Rowe (back to camera, centre) was carted off to hospital with a serious virus from which he has now recovered.

They will arrive in divisions at the same time as this issue though not tied in bundles we hope. From the left, back row, postings in brackets, Paul Nicholas (Harlow), Paul

Gamman (Basildon — see football column), Martin Cook (Harwich), Ian Brown (Harlow), Paul Hughes (Colchester), Brian Jelf (Grays).

Centre: Dave Turner (Canvey), Bob Turner, Tim Reece and Kevin Rowe (all Harlow), Chris Bragg (Basildon), Ricky Gould and Ann Garrard (both Harlow), Karen Vertue (Grays). Front: Bill Brightmore (Basildon), Bernie Emslie (Harlow), John Stewart (Colchester), Jessie Ringer (Clacton), Brenda Burgin (Colchester), Susan Sharplan (Clacton) and Denise Bowater (Southend).

### Rent aid rates unlikely to be settled till '76

TALKS aimed at raising the maximum rent allowance continued during October and last week the Federation Joint Branch Board decided to go back to the Police Authority to ask for the higher assessment, £13.18 per week, to be adopted and that if this is refused to then appeal to the Rent Conciliation Panel.

There had been indications that the assessment of the selected house would yield a maximum allowance of £13.18. However, in the event, the assessment was made as if the selected house was theoretically in a place other than where it stands. This produced a maximum of only £12.68.

#### Typical police house

Under the "1969 agreement", produced by negotiations in the Police Council in that year, police authorities should normally select a 3-bedroom semi-detached police house, built in the period roughly 1960-65, and with a garage if it is their practise normally to build houses with this amenity.

The Force maximum limit allowance is then arrived at by calculating the "economic rent" of the selected house, that is, an amount sufficient to cover capital cost, loan charges and maintenance over a reasonable period — this is done by the District Valuer — and adding to this the prevailing general and water rates.

In theory, therefore, an owner-occupier who provides himself with a house identical with the "selected house" should get the maximum rent allowance but it is not always this simple.

Rates vary greatly throughout Essex, between urban and rural areas and so it depends where one lives. It follows that even a Stately Home cannot attract an amount above the maximum though sub-standard accommodation will yield less.

It is the District Valuer who comes along once every 3 years to value the owner-occupier's house. Provision is made for back-dating any rises which come about because of this infrequency.

#### Metropolitan System

In the days before inflation and savage rate increases rent allowances were agreed nationally and remained static for long periods.

Recently there has been the concession of an annual adjustment between the two-yearly full review specifically to take care of rate increases. Some discussion has taken place over the adoption of the "Metropolitan System" taken up in that Force and

### Federation may appeal to Rent Panel

also elsewhere. There the "typical" house is assessed in the same way and a maximum amount calculated.

But to avoid triennial valuations of every house this assessment is then divided by the rateable value, producing a figure called the "multiplier".

This multiplier can then be used to calculate rent allowance — after all, rateable value reflects the quality of the accommodation — without a separate assessment by the District Valuer. The owner-occupier would multiply his rateable value by the agreed amount — the "multiplier" — to calculate his allowance.

#### Multiplier too small

The Federation's problem in considering the adoption of this scheme is the size of the multiplier.

To go back to the recent assessments, the lower figure of £12.68 would give a multiplier of 1.79 whereas the higher amount of £13.18 would produce 1.88.

If the new system were adopted in Essex every owner-occupier would have to be embraced by it — even if in some individual cases this were disadvantageous. The figure of 1.79 would be detrimental to many more than would 1.88.

This then is the Federation's dilemma: the

### Can women win?

IN A roundabout way, no pun intended, the letter from Miss Hill on this page raises the question yet again of equality of the sexes, Miss Hill having recently taken up the appointment of sergeant in Kent with about four years' service.

It was the size of the garment in question which called to mind a conversation we had recently with a Swedish visitor to Headquarters. Apparently the Swedes have gone overboard on this equality business too but their equivalent of the Federation are campaigning for equality to be extended to every facet of police affairs — including stature.

Now there's a thought! If the ladies are to be made to do equal work they really should be of a stature equal to the job. The minimum would then be 1.72 metres this having gone metric too.

After all, under the new arrangements, soon to be enforced by legislation, all applicants to join the force will simply be candidates and not men or women. Enshrined among all the other qualifications to become a constable has always been a minimum height. It has been held that a stature of less than the gradually reducing minimum rendered an applicant unsuitable for police work.

And yet with the recent posting of women to "ordinary" police work, this principle seems to have gone out of the window and constables are being signed on monthly who are up to ten centimetres below the minimum height required to carry out policework

properly — even if some of them are 48 round the chest!

Looked at the other way round the minimum height for all candidates could be reduced to 1.62 mts, that is five feet four inches in English measurements, thus giving another chance to all those excellent (male) candidates who have been turned down out of hand over the years because they were too short.

Or is our male piggish chauvinism showing again?

To avoid accusations of not being constructive, and at the risk of sounding serious, we have to confess to some concern at this equality business.

These situations are all very nice in an ideal world but things do not always work out this way. When forces are no longer required to maintain a separate establishment for women there is no reason to suppose that in every case female strength will rise.

And particularly if this freedom coincides, as it is likely to, with the restrictions on recruitment which must be the result of forces getting up to strength, who could criticise those responsible for recruiting for filling their few vacancies with the biggest, strongest, longest serving applicants they could get. These may not always be men but one suspects that women will not come out of this business as well as they might have hoped.

Indeed already some chauvinist male supervising officers, we hear, are sending girlie constables out by themselves at night while others, over-protective, keep them in the station altogether once the sun goes down.

Ah well, life was ever thus. Just wait until there are lots of female supervising officers.

### Fiddling with figures

IS IT SURPRISING that alterations in allowances take time to sort out? There are some 1,400 rent allowances paid and about 450 car allowances. Some people draw both, some draw one, some the other. Some are on full rent allowance, some below the maximum rent and therefore on the abated motor rate. Sometimes a member of the force may change his house and his car more than once in the course of a year during which time both allowances rise, perhaps also more than once, always retrospectively.

Pity the finance office staff. If only those who dream up these complicated allowances had to work them out, matters might be simplified.

### The right to progress

WHATEVER can things be coming to? In the far south west a solicitor has written to the Chief Constable formally complaining on behalf of his client, a sergeant, at his lack of progress.

We do not think this was a very good idea, though it has started the inevitable internal — or interminable — enquiry. Without knowing too much about the circumstances we wonder when one arrives at the point of entitlement to promotion — or at least so convinced of one's rights as to involve a solicitor.

We are especially interested in this not having had so much as a kind word, let alone promotion, since last Wednesday but not being acquainted with legal people who have not been disbarred, wonder what to do next.

(continued from p.1)

### Rent allowance

protection of the interests of a small number, or the removal from the many of the frustrations and anomalies of the present system.

Says Stan Smith, JBB Secretary, "As there would be quite significant savings in both labour and other administrative costs both within the Force and the District Valuer's office, we would obviously like to be able to negotiate a system at this time."

One line of thought is that the selected house ought to be valued for the amenities it offers taking no notice of its apparently unsatisfactory situation and that we ought to negotiate up to Police Council level on this point. Another is that the valuation should be challenged on the grounds that it is not high enough under the 1969 Agreement.

"In any event," says Stan, "all this will take some months to bring to completion and in the meantime it would be best to arrange for the payment of the limit of £12.68 interim until all negotiations have been completed, with retrospective payments back to 1 April 1975 being made should any higher figure be achieved."

**postbag**

READERS' letters are welcomed but will not be published if unsigned. Those written under a pen name must be accompanied by a note of the writer's name. The editors reserve the right to edit any letter published in the interest of economy of space.

### Very blousy

Police Station  
Basildon  
19 September 1975

Dear Sir,

In view of the present 'economic climate' dare I make a suggestion to the County tailors? In an effort to save material and money, why not supply the policewomen of more modest proportions with smaller blouses as opposed to the size 48 inch bust blouse I have been issued with? Or am I expected to grow into it?

-Elaine Hill  
Basildon

### Credit where it is due

Dear Sir,

In a time when money is hard to find it was really gratifying to see how the Epping Rotary Club, through our own Chief Supt. Vickers recently came to the help of some needy people.

Ch. Supt. Vickers was President of the Rotary Club of Epping for 1970 and 1971. During his years of

office he organised activities which raised £2,000 for an ambulance for the St. Margaret's Hospital Ex-Patients Club. Since then, the Rotary Club of Epping has taken a very keen interest in the activities of the Ex-Patients Club and the members have provided the ex-patients with their Christmas fare, and waited on them at their Christmas dinner.

As a result of giving a talk at the ex-patients club I gathered that they were in financial difficulties and were having to close because of this. I mentioned this to Mr. Vickers who immediately raised £50 from an anonymous donor, and then raised £100 within the week from the Rotary Club members, and this will enable the ex-patients club to carry on until next Christmas. Arrangements are now in hand for the Essex Police Band to assist in raising money to help the ex-patients club through 1976.

We in the lower ranks often get recognition if we have done well in this way, and now I thought some thanks in reverse are well called for. Many thanks to all those concerned.

C. Ferrie  
Ps 265 Harlow Dog Section

### Beware the British workman

Abridge Police House  
Abridge, Essex.

Dear Sir,

This short story might be entitled "It really did happen".

It was during the end of September beginning of October 1974 that it started. I was visited by two persons at the County owned house in which I reside. They introduced themselves as County Architect and Builder. I invited them into the house where I was informed that the house I reside in was one of a group for which a modernisation programme had been worked out. This included central heating, new work tops and cupboards, a new sink in the kitchen, the coal house changed to a utility room, a fitted wardrobe in the large bedroom, a door at the end of the rear passageway, a garage, and a driveway together with a hard standing for the Police mini.

The Builder warned us that when the work started we would be upside down for three whole weeks after which time they would be done and away. He was assured that if he phoned me the day before commencing the job the house would be his and we would

### Mrs. Burden's thanks

Dear Sir,

May I, through The Law, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the Essex Police, retired Officers, and civilian staff, for the kindness and sympathy shown to myself and my family during the time of our sad and sudden loss.

Thank you also to the many of my late husband's colleagues who attended the funeral service and for the lovely floral tributes sent.

Yours sincerely,  
FAY BURDEN.

I live in the office out of their way. They left, leaving my wife and I with a pleasant feeling of home comforts to come. It was a job refraining from lifting the carpets there and then in preparation.

It was in November they started work and I only wish my three weeks annual leave was as long as the builders three weeks hard work. The builders called and made a start. The plumbers called and carried on and with a lot of crashing, banging, walloping, leaking pipes and dirty walls the central heating was finally installed and working and it only took eight weeks.

As a result of periodical visits by builders, electricians, carpenters and plumbers, at the beginning of August 1975 we have got to the point where we now have central heating fitted but which will not turn off. Consequently we have hot radiators during this present hot spell. Fitted wardrobe — the frame's twisted and the doors won't close but there's no handles to open them with if they did close. Utility room — the cold water tap fell off the wall. The toilet — the door won't close owing to the position of the light switch. The kitchen — one of the main wall cupboards fell off the wall when the cupboard door was opened. The garage — not quite done, ran out of bricks.

To cap it all, when conferring with the County Architect previously regarding work on County owned houses his reply was, "we are trying to bring the standard of work done by you chaps up to that of the Contractors".

Yours faithfully,  
C. Green  
P.C. 1376

### History explained by Mr. Clark

63 Swallowdale,  
Great Clacton,  
Essex.

Dear Sir,

The photo and article in the September issue of The Law dealing with a Colchester constable on point duty standing on a mat,

### The offence doesn't matter

Dear Sir

I thought readers might like to hear a short story from Braintree.

Being the sub-divisional Ds at Braintree on the afternoon of Saturday, 20 September, I was out in my vehicle on enquiries when the personal radio (yes I had one with me) burst into action and a call was put out for a burglar alarm in the town. This was for a warehouse in a street designated "No entry except for access."

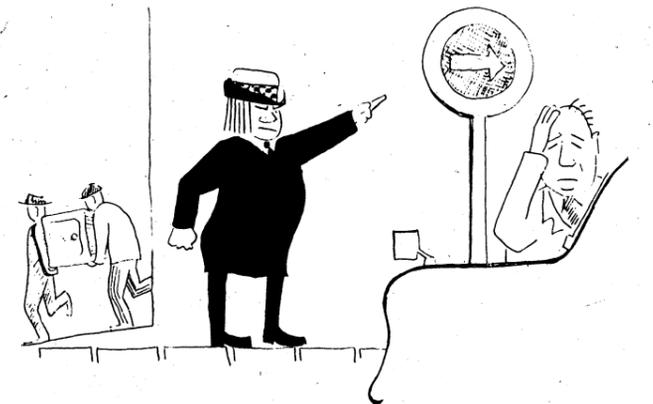
No one appeared to accept the call immediately and then I heard the message passed to a car with, "Well you will have to go". I assumed this vehicle was some

distance off and I thought I would also attend in case of prisoners as I do believe in the maxim, "Saying prisoner to the CID is like saying corn to chickens".

I drove into the No entry (etc.) street and pulled up outside the warehouse. The uniform was already there. A certain Wpc then spoke to me and, no, not "Fancy the CID attending as well", but "Where were you going in the one way street."

No prisoners but I suppose they believe it's an ill wind that blows no one any good. One offender is much like another.

P. J. WHENT, Det. Sgt.



### Dial a Disco

P.C. Bob Sheridan of Canvey Island Police Station would like it spread abroad that should anyone in the Force be thinking of arranging a disco on their patch, duties permitting of course, he is prepared to act as Disc Jockey and provide all the noise.

He has all the equipment and a good selection of records and above all he's prepared to do it free of charge. All the prospective promotor need provide is transport for D.J. and equipment — can't be bad!

All enquiries, ring PC Sheridan, General Office, Canvey police station.

raises several more interesting memories of the Borough Force. The constable was P.C. 48 Clark who was a member of the boxing team, was on a town beat, and like the rest of us on town beats did one hour on and one hour off the particular point to which he was allocated (the hour "off" was spent in patrolling a beat). I would guess that this was winter time and a wet day because the mats had to be collected from the police station at the Town Hall by the constable next on point duty if it rained.

We considered these mats to be dangerous as it was necessary to step out of the way of large vehicles to avoid getting a side-swipe as they passed, and one tended to remain on the mat for as long as possible. On the other hand we could not see what practical value they had, as one was walking on wet roads and footpaths until reaching the point and as far as I could see they saved nothing in the way of drier footwear. However they were one of the ideas of

"HCS" our Chief Constable so we said nothing.

At that time (1931) we had five Clarks in the Borough Force which was then 68 strong, including the C.C. and two policewomen: they were Inspector Clark, and P.C.s 11, 35, 47 and 48 Clark. As far as I am aware I am the only surviving member of the Clark clan, but I think I was then the "baby".

With regard to the Confidential notice about enemy agents. I think this was in the nature of a leg-pull. As far as my memory goes it was one of the exercises we had to keep us on our toes, and was run in co-operation with the Military of whom there were several thousand in the town. These "spies" were always caught by the Military, and I felt at the time that the Military knew who the "spies" were before they started on their scheme, so that the exercise would not last too long.

A. B. Clark  
Ex-Inspector

### The Band Concert

"AT THE END of the Concert will you please take the back door of the theatre on the left-hand side, when facing the stage, for the collection."

A correspondent sent this to The Law noting that it was addressed to Mrs. Freeman who is "quite a big girl" and might find the request beyond her powers. But at The Law being more concerned with the letter, so to speak, we wondered why anyone would want the theatre back door for the collection.

### Roger Goad Fund Collection

THE total sum donated by Police and Civilian staff of the Essex Police amounted to £136.44 and a cheque for this amount has been forwarded to the Fund Secretary at the Metropolitan Police Office. The total collected was over £4,000.

THE annual general meeting of the newly formed Civilian Staff Welfare Fund took place some time last month at a venue The Law has been unable to discover.

The Fund has aims similar to equivalent police organisations in respect of the 1,150 civilian employees of the Police Authority. Almost 700 have joined the Fund the secretary of which is Mr. R. Bowker of H.Q.

**Federation Notes**



by Stan Smith

**Dahlias or tomatoes — they all mean prizes to Harry Gilder**

NEWS comes from the deep south, Lymington to be exact, that Harry Gilder, the scourge of fellow gardeners when he was a member of this force some years ago, is still tilling his half acre of good Hampshire soil to some effect.

In bygone days Mr Gilder used to sweep the board at the HQ garden show — he was then Superintendent, Traffic. But in September at the New Milton autumn show he bagged six cups, three certificates and 14 firsts with rose, dahlias and such eatables as tomatoes and cucumbers. This despite watering restrictions during the summer drought.

Harry Gilder lives at Everton near Lymington, Hants, and spends up to four hours working in his garden each day.

**RENT ALLOWANCE**

Referring to the article on the front page, it should be remembered that the question of rent allowance not only affects those who either rent property or who are house-owners, but also to all the single officers in the Force, who receive half the maximum limit for the Force in respect of that part of their lodging costs which puts a roof over their heads.

Before considering the adoption of the Metropolitan system one has to get the Force maximum limit right because if this is not high enough, then no matter how large the 'multiplying figure' may be it is of no use if one cannot receive an allowance high enough to take full advantage of the new system.

To those officers who are not owner-occupiers and who may say that we appear to be using up a lot of our energy on this subject I must reiterate that advantages gained in this field will probably benefit them in due course when conditions are improved so that every officer

can take advantage of house ownership if he so desires and in my opinion, once the present economic depression is over, quite rapid moves towards this end will be pushed forward. It should also be remembered that the value of a free house is self-updating as the cost of living rises, but each increase in the allowance paid the owner-occupier has to be fought for in order that they keep pace with the rapidly rising costs of housing.

**HOUSING**

Whilst on the subject of housing and rent allowance I would like to mention once again that where an officer sees a police house which is in either a more favourable location or is a better type house, and this house is empty or about to become vacated an application to move into this house will be favourably considered provided it has not already been allocated, and an established police officer will have priority over the recruit in the question of its occupation. But it should be remembered that all expenses incurred in the move will be at the member's expense and also speed of action is required because these houses are very

quickly allocated and occupied.

It has come to notice recently that recruits who enter the Service whilst being house owners, despite what is printed in their application form that they will be required to work wherever directed in the police area and the quite definite indication they have at their interview before joining that they will have to sell or let their houses, and move into a police house, are being advised by members of the Force they will be able to stay in their houses and get a rent allowance if they can put up a reasonable excuse that they cannot sell their houses.

This advice is both incorrect and cruel because a much firmer line is being taken on this issue and very few permissions will be granted in the future because of the high incidence of recruits who have their own houses. If a recruit takes this advice and then discovers once in the job that he will have to move despite problems he may have, then he may find himself in serious trouble if his wife will not move and he has to leave the Force without the possibility of returning to his old job which he gave up to enter the Service.

With the very limited removals now taking place because of the amount of money involved a recruit remaining in his own house has virtually gained a superior condition of service over those already serving who have to move where directed and this has already caused very bad feeling in some areas where it is considered that those in authority lean over backwards for the recruit but will not give such ready consideration to those officers who have served loyally and uncomplainingly for several years.

In the present recruitment situation it is not necessary for the rules to be slanted in favour of those about to join to the possible detriment of those already serving.

**WAR SERVICE**

Despite two requests from the Home Office our Police administration at County Hall have not yet implemented the conditions of the buying-in of War Service. I

have made a couple of requests that the necessary paper work should be started but there is no indication that any move is imminent. I should have thought that the verification of service could have been completed by now and even if there are problems concerning the interpretation of some points which have not yet been clarified by the Home Office, these will only apply to a few people and it is no excuse to delay things. Some Forces have already operated the provisions and it seems very strange that Essex cannot do the same and get on with the job. There is a saying "Where there is a will there is a way" and there seems to be a singular lack of will in this case.

**FORTY-HOUR WEEK**

Despite the recent Force Order giving instruction that the system of taking the extra leave day will be taken into operation in January, the Joint Branch Board have asked the Chief Constable to permit Divisions, Sub-Divisions or Departments the choice of the system they favour themselves provided that system is consistent with efficiency.

For many reasons different groups of officers may wish to adopt a system of their own from the many which have been circulated, and surely, provided they are happy working their system then we will not get many complaints from the men on the ground.

This is an exercise in management and it is a known fact that a happy man will work better than one who is miserable. Provided that the system is published well in advance so that members know which day they are taking off and the numbers off at one time is not excessive, then surely it is best for the system to be left to those who have to operate it. I deplore the fact that this matter has been rushed through so quickly when there has been ample time to get this matter out of the way before now.

**CANTEENS**

The system of taking a meal at the nearest police canteen when attending duty at a station other than one's own is causing some problems, not because of the instruction that a meal shall be provided instead of a subsistence claim being submitted, but because of the lack of choice of meal at the smaller canteens. There is, I suppose a "chicken and egg" situation, because if there are insufficient meals required there cannot be a very large choice and if there is no choice then members will not use the canteen.

Anyone having a complaint about this system is advised to contact the local Divisional Administrative office and request that this matter be taken up with the local canteen committee and I shall do what I can with the central canteen committee. Only when we have pursued this avenue of complaint can we go back to square one and ask the Chief Constable to revert to the old system.

**CAPS IN POLICE CARS**

Sub-Divisional Commanders can now give permission on a personal basis for a police officer not to wear his cap whilst driving, and exceptionally whilst a passenger in, a police vehicle where he is satisfied that to do so would either restrict the officer's ability to drive or for reasons in connection with his stature. Any refusals should be taken up with the Divisional Commander through the local Federation Representative and any obvious instances where representation to the Chief Constable would be made will be taken up through the Federation Boards. The Joint Branch Board endorses the instruction that all officers should wear their caps when getting out of the car and failure to do so will probably result in disciplinary action being taken.

**SPOUSE INSURANCE**

An Insurance Broker has introduced a Scheme in some Forces which gives cover to the wives of police officers on a group basis similar to the Force Group Insurance Scheme. This firm considers that where a wife's income is depended upon for the family finances then some form of insurance in the event of an accident may be thought to be necessary. Premiums may well be stopped from pay and for 10p weekly the wife could be covered



JUST a few days later and the Reeds are sufficiently recovered to be back in league badminton (and advertising sportswear?).

**48 hours of badminton to help charities**

THINK BIG must be Martin Reed's motto. When his father-in-law suggested he should do something to help raise funds for the Chelmsford Talking Newspaper for the Blind he agreed provided the proceeds were divided between this charity and the Police Benevolent Fund.

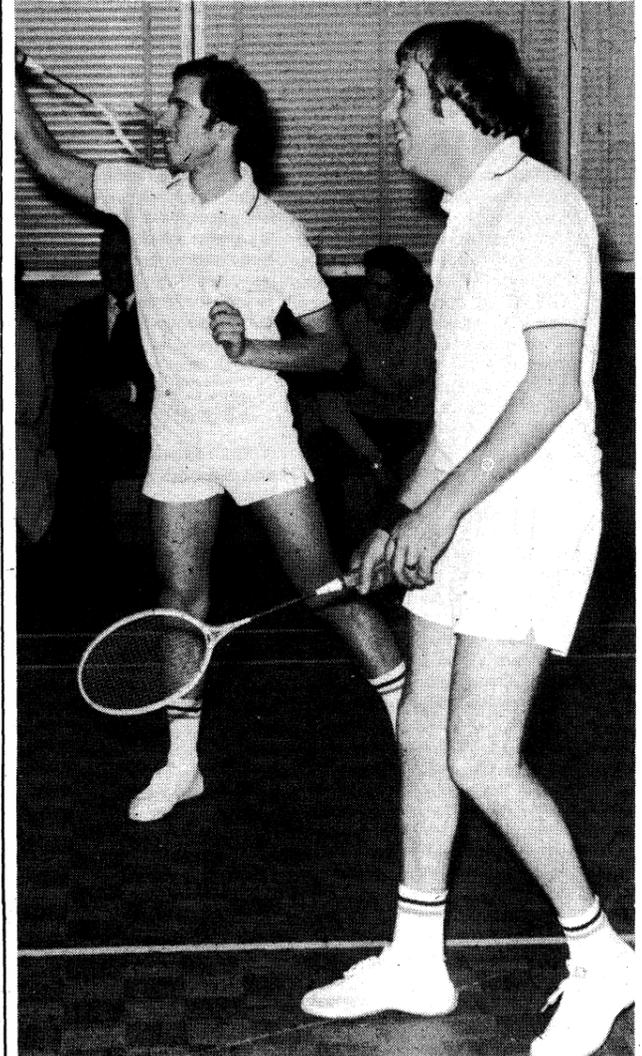
And what would Martin, a Force badminton player, decide to do but play badminton — for 48 hours.

So he enlisted the aid of Stewart Fleming, son of Constable Fleming in the HQ Information Room to act as his partner while relays of opponents played against them.

And at 7 p.m. on 3rd October they began. But after "only" 9 hours Stewart had to give up with blisters. Who should step into the breach but Martin's wife Jenny, herself a handy player, who just played on to the end — another 39 hours.

No one should run away with the idea that badminton is a soft game anyway. Just think of standing up for 39 long hours with only 5 minutes rest per hour.

Even at the end the Reeds were still taking games from their opponents. Proceeds, if everyone pays up as promised will be about £750 to divide between the two charities.



STEWART Fleming left, and Martin Reed in play during the early part of the marathon.

**CHRISTIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION ESSEX BRANCH**

Our next branch meetings will be held as below:  
7.30 pm on Friday, 31st October, 1975. At the home of Mr and Mrs Keith Pincock, 24 Tabrums Way, Upminster, Essex.

7.30 pm on Friday, 28th November, 1975. At the home of Mr and Mrs Tony Boreham, "Langley," No. 20 Kathleen Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Anyone who would like to come along would be most welcome.

**Albert Wombwell strikes gold**



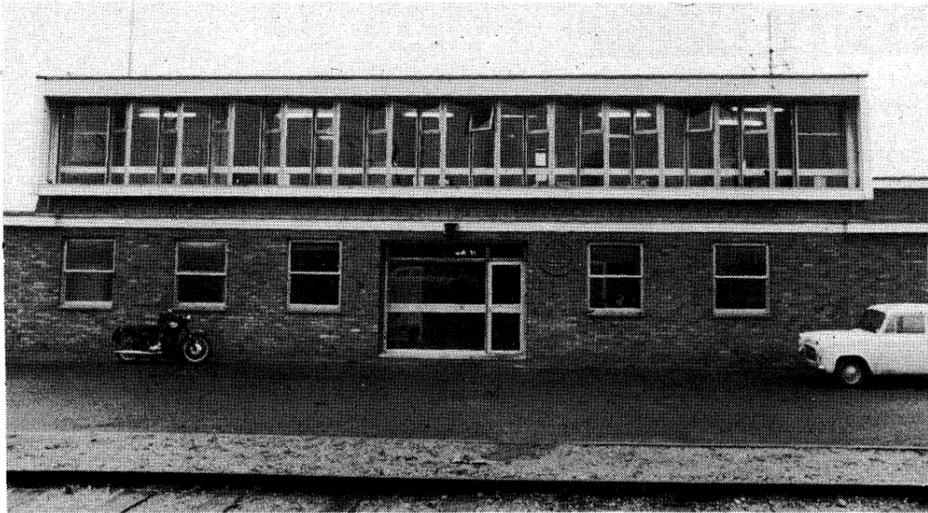
STILL going strong at 73, several years after leaving the job ex-Chief Supt. Albert Wombwell celebrates his golden wedding with his wife Marjorie and members of their family.

benefits for disablement; £5 per week whilst off work or unable to do housework and £2 per day if necessary. If anyone is interested perhaps they will drop me a line so that I can

# P.L.A. enclave in Ess

At the southernmost point of the Force area and still, even in these pollution-free days, usually suffering from smog and dust from surrounding industries, lies the town of Tilbury. To the outsider it is a somewhat stark and unprepossessing town, known only for the fact that Good Queen Bess addressed her troops there as the Spanish Armada sailed towards England... and for its Docks.

The Essex Police Station can be found situated in the salubrious sounding Dock Road, Tilbury. Less than a quarter of a mile away, as the proverbial crow flies is another police station of modern design with spacious car park. "What's this?" you may ask, "Two nicks in the same town?" The answer lies on the impressive plaque on the outside of the more modern of the two buildings. It is the Headquarters of the Tilbury Dock SubDivision of the Port of London Authority Police.



THE modern Police station in Tilbury Docks.

The Port of London Authority (PLA) Police has an establishment of 316 Officers under the command of a Chief Constable responsible to the Port Authority which is an independent public body set up under an Act of Parliament in 1908. At the time of the founding of the PLA, the private police forces operated by the various dock companies were amalgamated into one force and the PLA Police was born. At present the Force HQ are at the Royal Albert Dock, London, which is also the Office of the Chief Constable, Mr. E. Ellen LL.B.

Although not subject to the supervision or control of the Home Secretary, the PLA Police has always been organised on the lines of an 'outside' Force. The Police visitor to the docks would soon notice that it seems to be organised on "Met" rather than provincial lines, indeed, uniform, pay, allowances and conditions of service are all similar to those appertaining in the Metropolitan Police. This is not surprising as the bulk of the Force has always been situated "Up Town."

The Force is entirely responsible for the maintenance of law and order within the dock complex. It is also responsible for the safety of persons living and working in the area, the prevention of fire, and the prevention and detection of all crime and other offences. Due to the very nature of the Port, the Force often finds itself working in conjunction with other agencies, e.g. the Essex Police Tilbury Sub-Division and Marine Section, the Special Branch, HM Customs and Excise and the Immigration Department.

## 1000 acres

The Dock complex at Tilbury covers some 1,057½ acres of docks, terminals, container berths, jetties and sheds, roadways, railways, warehouses, offices, licensed premises and even dwelling houses. There are five miles of quay and an enclosed water area of 155 acres. Thousands of tons of cargo pass through the docks each year. The area also contains the recently completed grain terminal, said to be one of the most modern in the world and capable of discharging grain at the rate of 2,000 tons an hour.

With this amount of property, much of it extremely valuable, the standard of policing must be very high in order to prevent the industry coming to a standstill through theft. This was the unhappy position reached in London itself during the latter part of the 18th century and was a direct cause of the inauguration of the first dock police force. The present day PLA Police strength at Tilbury is 72 Officers under the command of Chief Inspector Dave Bentley. The Sub Division is provided with a modern communications system and personal radios are of the new Burndept type. The force maintains its own training scheme and is responsible for training all its recruits. It also trains overseas officers. Port Police Officers from Nigeria and Oman have recently attended courses at the Port. Officers are also sent, where applicable, to the Police College at Bramshill and various Detective Training Centres.

The PLA Police, as the foremost dock police force in the country, now has years of accumulated experience in this specialised field.

This is evident to the visitor by the readily apparent police presence within the Docks. Upon entry to Tilbury Dock, all persons and vehicles must pass a police check point. Not every vehicle is stopped on its inward journey but all are checked upon leaving and the necessary pass produced to the Police Officer on duty at the gate before the vehicle is allowed on its way. Stop checks on the main gates reveal a large number of offences. One of the most common is "unlawful possession of property" a Port offence similar to the one provided by the Metropolitan Police Act. PLA Police powers are, in fact, far more extensive than those of the Grays Division Officers doing 'the job' on the streets outside. In the long run however these extra powers can only be of benefit to both Forces and the public they serve. A thief in the docks is also a thief outside and his apprehension can only be a good thing for everyone concerned — except the villain!

## Containers

The Port at Tilbury deals with both container and conventional cargoes. From the Police point of view, it was at one time thought that the conventional cargoes posed the greater problem. With goods moving from ship to shore and vice versa in individual parcels the opportunities for theft are immense. With the introduction of container traffic it was hoped that thieving from cargo would almost disappear, but, unfortunately, as always, the thief has found methods of circumventing this 'safe' method of transit and thefts from containers is now a world-wide problem. To combat this type of crime, the PLA Police have pioneered a unique system of Police Seals on containers. These are placed on selected containers by police officers within the dock and checked upon leaving the dock premises. In this way it is possible to quickly detect interference with containers and to ensure that they are intact at the time of their leaving PLA property.

## RTA's apply

The various Road Traffic Acts and Regulations all apply to Dock Roads. In addition there are various Port Bye-Laws covering situations only applicable to Dock conditions. All roads are patrolled

by PLA police mobile patrols who deal with accidents and offences. A variety of vehicles is available to the Tilbury Dock Officers for Patrol work, including Triumph 750 cc motor cycles built to Police specification, BLMC 1800s saloon car, Transit personnel carrier and Escort Vans. Most are provided with the standard two-tone horns and flashing blue beacons for use in emergency situations. The C.I.D. use Cortina Saloons for their duties.

## Ambulances

One feature of the Port Police set-up which seems unusual to outside eyes is that the Force is responsible for the Ambulance Service. Two ambulances are based at Tilbury for use in industrial and road accidents. One of these was used recently in a fatal road accident which occurred in Dock Road, Tilbury, on 'county' ground. The accident was witnessed, from some distance, by a Police Constable on gate duty. He called for assistance and the Force Ambulance attended the scene and removed a child casualty to hospital. The accident was particularly unpleasant and the presence of the Port Policemen was greatly appreciated by the Essex Sergeant dealing.

Although the bulk of the PLA Police Work is carried on within the confines of the high dock wall there are certain areas of Tilbury owned by the PLA which are not walled off. Due to the fact that there are no obvious boundaries these areas have become a kind of 'no man's land' in which both Port and Civil Police Officers operate. For example a theft may be reported to the Essex Police one day and a similar theft to the Port Police on the next. These areas are often covered by patrols from both organisations. Sometimes incidents occurring within these 'grey' areas are dealt with by officers from both Forces. Last year a joint operation by patrol officers resulted in two men being arrested stripping lead from the roof of the local Sea Cadets training hall. Although such incidents are always dealt with amicably, Essex Police Officers do comment on the anomaly of two sets of officers engaged on the same operation with one set receiving less pay than the other! A position which Essex Officers working on the western 'Fringe' areas of the Force have had to live with for many years.

**By Dave Taylor**

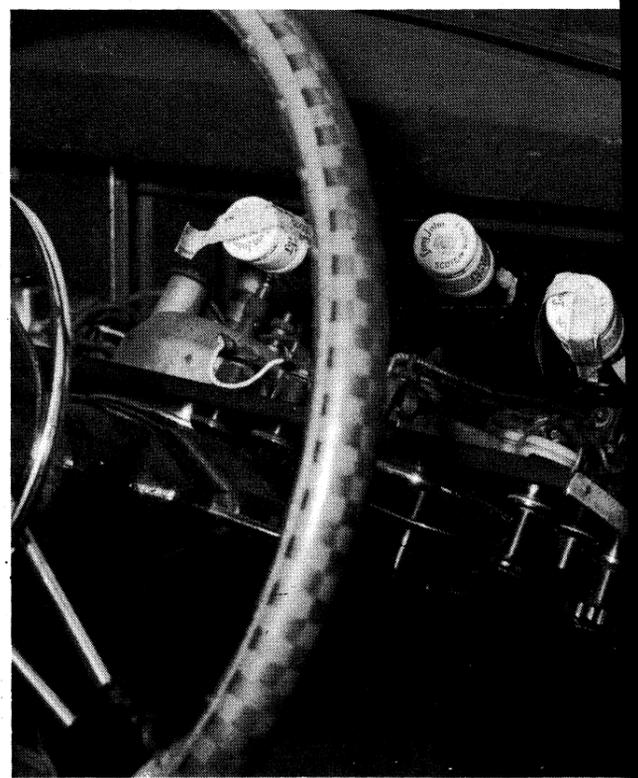
Another example of co-operation between the two Forces occurred during the last Football season when advance reports were received at Tilbury Police Station from the Kent Constabulary HQ. Some fifty Southend supporters had been ejected from the ground at Gillingham for disorderly conduct. They were believed to be making their way back to Southend via the Gravesend-Tilbury Ferry and trouble was expected.

There was little time to prepare extensive arrangements and available officers from Tilbury and Grays were sent to the Ferry terminal to meet the expected invaders. The PLA Police were also informed of the situation, the landing stage at Tilbury Riverside being Port Authority property. Useful reinforcements in the shape of a carrier and crew were sent to the scene to assist in the operation if necessary. Fortunately, or otherwise, the so-called fans were in a state of 'combat fatigue' upon their arrival at Tilbury, having been effectively dealt with by Gravesend Officers before their departure across the Water!

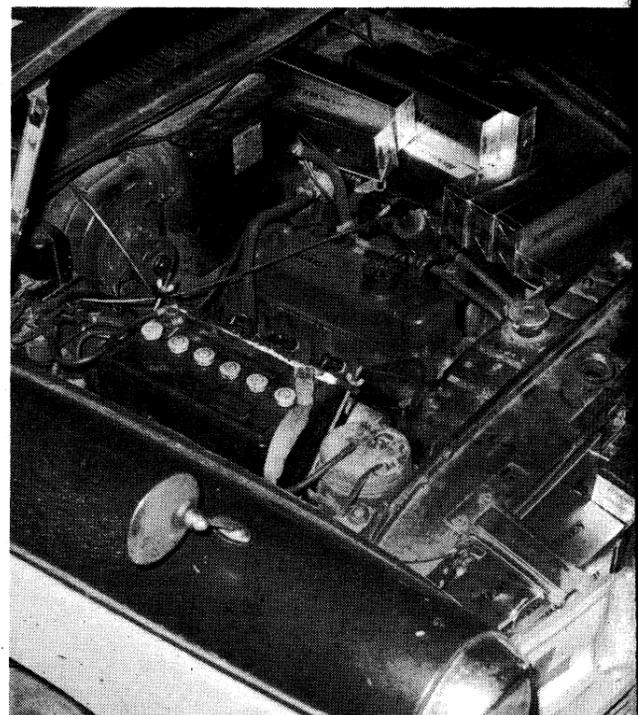
## Prisoners

All prisoners arrested by PLA Officers are brought to Tilbury Police Station for completion of the charge procedure as the PLA Police Office is not a 'charging' station. In all cases, except one, the subsequent prosecution is then undertaken by solicitors representing the Port of London Authority. The one exception is driving with excess alcohol where full use is made of Essex Police divisional surgeons and the offices of the County Prosecuting Solicitor.

Because of the international nature of the Port some of the prisoners arriving at Tilbury 'nick' have provided legal headaches for the officers concerned. Last year a British passenger on a Swedish Registered vessel took a Swedish owned motor car parked on board and drove it into five other foreign owned vehicles also parked on board, causing extensive damage. The offence happened half-way



STOP CHECKS in the docks often yield success. Above, the dashboard. Below, cigarettes in the eng



between Sweden and Britain and was complicated by the fact that the national status of the offender was unclear at the start of the enquiry!

One minor task of the PLA Police which has recently assumed large proportions is the check on vessels berthed in the Port to confirm that dogs on board are kept under strict control. In view of the real fear that rabies could spread from the Continent to Britain this task is obviously of great importance. The Force has

also shown great awareness of another modern phenomenon, the evil of terrorist activity. Contingency plans have been drawn up jointly with the Essex Police to cover terrorist incidents and other major disasters such as flooding, accident, etc.

Over the years, the Port of London Authority have developed a Port Police Force of a very high standard. At the present time Government plans for the future of the country's docks industry are not clear, nationalisation has been

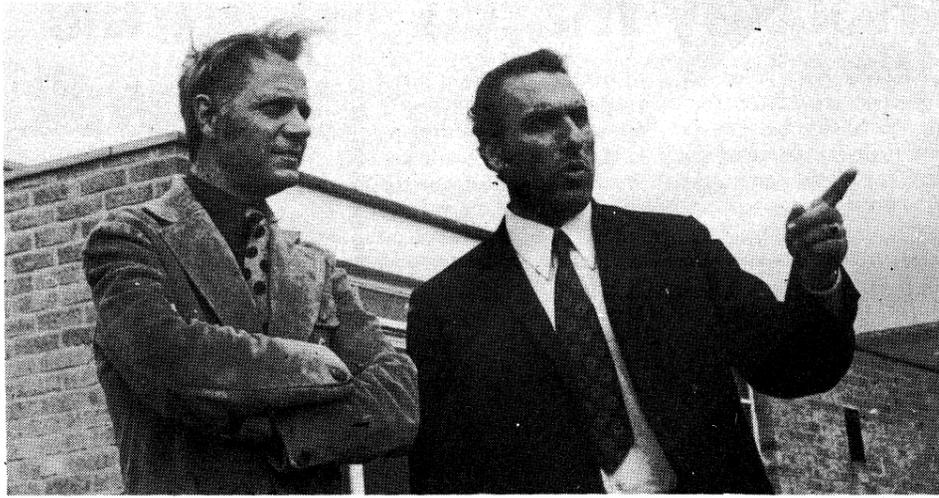


A GROUP of Amani policemen on a course with the Port of London Authority Police.



PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY Police on duty for a Pier.

# Swede meets Cypriot



VISITING Essex Police Headquarters has become part of the "Grande Tour" for foreign police officers. So it was that Inspector Rune Lundberg from Beras, Sweden, came to Headquarters, studying the methods of the training of probationary constables.

He told The Law, "I have been very interested to see the way your probationers are trained and the differences there are between our methods and yours."

Inspector Lundberg lives in what he describes as "a pretty town" in the west of Sweden with the nearest large city being at Goteberg.

He has served in the past with the United Nations "Peacekeeping Force" civilian police in Cyprus, and, whilst at Headquarters

## on the HQ skidpan

met Sergeant Charis Savva, a member of the Cyprus Police in Nicosia, who was completing a driving instructor's course.

Charis, full name Theocharis, has during his 22 years' service, been in most branches of his Force and is at present a vehicle examiner.

He was the first to admit that he found driving conditions in England a little confusing and as he had never seen roundabouts so complex as ours he did well to sort things out. Nevertheless, after the first week his instructor, who intended to give him a bit of

praise, was overheard saying, "Now Charis that was the best drive you have given to date. Mark you, it was still dangerous but it was your best drive." However, Charis came out all right in the end.

Throughout the six weeks the only rain that Sergeant Savva saw was when he was on his final test drive and when he was having his skidding examination. That's the luck of the draw:

Mrs. Savva flew into Heathrow after the course ended and joined her husband for a holiday whilst their two children went back to college.

# Madden marries



LATEST move in Richard Madden's chequered career. After being Police Cadet of the Year (twice) he resigned during his probation and went to work in Portugal. He left there some time before the revolution to re-enlist and served at Basildon. This month he married Miss Kathryn Barham of Chelmsford. Picture by courtesy of Douglas H. Crome.

## Master of Ceremonies is seconded to Visual Aids Unit

SWELLING the numbers known as 'Seconded Staff' is Sergeant Mike Frost. Having served as a residential beatman through to Detective Sergeant in the Essex Special Branch and for the last year "teaching" in the Force Training School, on Monday, September 8 Mike took up a position as 2 i/c the new Visual Aids Unit of the Home Office Central Planning and Instructors Training Unit.

The Unit has just moved into what was the Regional Training Centre at Pannal Ash, Harrogate, just down the road from the convalescent home.

Mike will be helping to create a new television studio, and teaching the use of audio/visual aids to potential police instructors. The lucky fella is being paid to do what he has already been doing for some time as a hobby.

Most of us will know Mike as Master of Ceremonies at various social functions about the County, which he did mostly for charity. He told The Law: "I hope to keep this up on a limited scale at Harrogate.

"Everyone needs a

hobby away from the job," he said. "Otherwise we all become very introverted."

Anyway we wish Mike all the best and look forward to seeing him back with us in two or three years — wearing a white shirt we wouldn't wonder.



**N**ational  
**A**ssociation of  
**R**etired  
**P**olice  
**O**fficers by  
**Bert Brinkley**

THE ANNUAL Conference at Oxford on September 19 was very successful. Our Delegates' report has now been received part of which is being incorporated in this Issue but more details will be given in the next quarterly bulletin which may be a trifle delayed for this reason.

Conference decided unanimously to increase subscriptions as under:

Pensioners (which automatically includes wives) .....£1.44 p.a.  
Widows ..... 24 p.a.

These amounts would appear to be high but in terms of monthly subscriptions — 12p and 2p they are considered very reasonable. Inflation has caught up with everyone and pensioners are no exception. The National Executive Committee is hoping to have sufficient funds to enable the provision of better administration facilities, which at the present time seems a far-off dream. It is only fair that an Association such as ours, should be housed in reasonably good conditions, and we all realise the difficulty in trying to amass a Reserve Fund without an increase in subscriptions. The N.E.C. is doing its utmost with the resources readily available and we should all be grateful for the forthcoming increase in pensions of 26.1% which would not have been obtained but for the persistent efforts put in on our behalf. It is expected that legislation will soon be available so that members will know how the increase is being applied in relation to those pensioners recently retired. Congratulations to Mr. G. H.

## Cathedral wedding



CHELMSFORD Cathedral, nothing less, for this Police wedding as Wpc Tricia Cooper a former Miss Chelmsford and the daughter of a policeman, gets her man in the form of Pc Dermot Hawkins of Harlow. Dermot, a former cadet, hails from Warwickshire where his father is in the local force.

Hodges who has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Association. Mr. Hodges has been chairman of the Chelmsford Branch since 1964 and the award is in respect of outstanding service to the Association over that period.

The Conference decided the Bulletins should continue to be issued quarterly as heretofore. Issues on a half-yearly basis would have defeated the object.

I have been asked by the Regional Commissioner for the National Savings Movement to distribute pamphlets dealing with the special issue of Savings Certificates to pensioners over 65 years. These are called Retirement Issue, Index Linked, which means the ultimate value will not be less than the value at time of purchase as fluctuation in the Retail Prices Index will be added in addition to the normal 4% interest — free of tax. This issue would appear to be a very good investment. The

Pamphlets are being sent with the next Bulletins.

Reminders are also being sent out regarding Subscriptions for 1976 which are payable before December 31, the Treasurer will be glad to receive these on time as extra care must be maintained now that postal charges have been increased as from September 29 — I visualise the pigeon post coming into its own again before very long.

The Chelmsford Branch held its Annual Social on Saturday September 27 when 66 members and their wives attended. The Deputy Chief Constable, Mr. J. Duke and Mrs. Duke were also present. The licensed bar was available and provided a very good start for the occasion, after which the company adjourned to the Staff Canteen where they were welcomed by the chairman (Mr. G. H. Hodges) who said it was very gratifying to see such a goodly

circumstances both Sgt. Stan Smith (Police Federation) and Sgt. Easlea (Welfare Officer) were unable to attend and the Secretary conveyed their apologies to the assembly. Then followed an excellent sandwich lunch provided by the manageress, Mrs. Hehn, and her assistant and our grateful thanks were accorded to them both for the excellent arrangements made. Mr. G. H. Hodges thanked Mr. Duke for the assistance readily available on behalf of the Branch and its activities. All in all, a good time was had by all and judging by the general nattering going on the false teeth were thankful for a rest at the end of the proceedings.

### Association ties

A further order is being placed for ties as our last supply was quickly snapped up at the social. It is feared the cost may be slightly more than £1.20 but we shall not

case they are good value for money.

A new member — retired a month ago — described his return to civilian life as that of a 'pack mule which has just lost its load.' One wonders whether the load will be restored when he receives his first pension cheque after the taxing authorities have had their nibble?

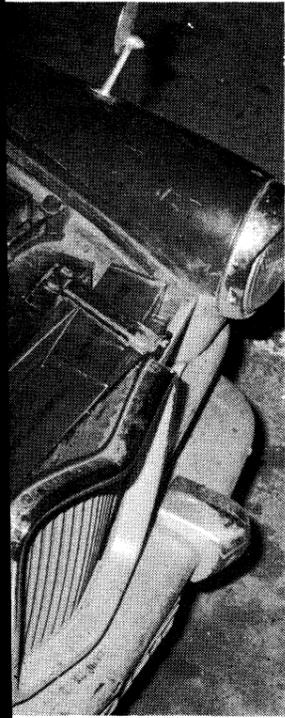
Another new member (ex P.C. 405 J. R. Flory) writing from Victoria, Australia, thanks the Regular Police, Police Federation and NARPO for their efforts to improve the lot of the pensioner. He thought, after reading 'The Law' it was about time he got round to joining NARPO and not knowing the amount of subscriptions sent, a nice fat cheque to cover with the balance to the funds. His ill-health pension has been settled and we all wish him good health and happiness in his retirement 'down under.'

B. G. BRINKLEY

ex



Whisky bottles hidden behind compartment.



ferred yet again. But whatever shape the future takes, the future of Port of London Police seems secure. Apart from the probable large-scale development scheduled for the lower reaches of the River Thames including an expansion of the Docks, news has just been released that Parliamentary approval has been granted to the Merseyside Docks and Harbour Board for the creation of a new port of Liverpool Police, based on one in existence in the Port of London!



Royal visit to Westminster

# Soccer squad enjoy best start in years

WHAT a great start to the season. At least it was different as the Essex Police Olympian League squad went 5 games without defeat at the start of the season.

Then came the crash. But it wasn't the football which let them down so much as the admin, as they turned up to play away at Benfleet with 9 men. Predictably Benfleet scored three without reply.

But one defeat need not wipe out a good start which included a 7-0 drubbing for Marconi and a good 1-1 draw with Collier Row, always strong opposition.

## PAA Cup

In cup competitions you either get a good start or a non-start and it was the latter which befell Essex at the first hurdle in this year's campaign.

The game against Kent at Chelmsford was goal-less until, with 15 minutes, to go the opposition converted a penalty.

## ESSEX OLYMPIAN LEAGUE

Top of the table										
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts			
Sawbridgeworth	7	7	0	0	30	8	14			
Bishop's Stortford	5	5	0	0	10	1	10			
ESSEX POLICE	6	4	1	1	16	7	9			
Ongar Town	7	4	1	2	15	10	9			
Benfleet	6	4	1	1	8	1	9			

On 21st October at Chelmsford, Essex played Metro 'J' Div in the Southern Counties PAA Cup.

The first-half was fairly even but a goal for 'J' left the visitors ahead at half-time. The second-half saw a different Essex side who played good attacking football and within 30 minutes of this half, goals from Taylor (2), Gamman and Clarke put the home side in a very strong position at 4-1 up. However, complacency crept in and they allowed 'J' to score twice in the last 15 minutes. Essex held on and ran out worthy winners, 4-3.

Team: Scott, Stewart, Wilkinson, Whitehill, Rusbridge, Hudson, Gamman, Clarke, Weatherley, Cannon and Taylor. Subs: Rhymes and Bragg.

# Essex lose close hockey match

TAKING on Avon & Somerset at Chelmsford on 22nd October, Essex had their fair share of the early play and came near to scoring.

Play swung up and down the field with both sides thrusting into the circle but it was the westerners who scored first through Chris Slade who shot the ball through a circle full of legs.

Before half time Essex equalised when Ann Wildman, moving into the centre after the ball had progressed down the left wing, rolled it into the goal.

After the interval Essex attacked hard and seemed

to be getting on top but it was the visitors who went ahead through a cracking shot from Chris Slade just inside the post from the edge of the circle.

Still the game went on at a fast pace, up and down, with Essex missing narrowly, K. Purkiss hit the post, but unable to equalise and the score ran out at 2-1 to Avon & Somerset.

Teams: Essex — M. Chaplin, H. Black, K. Cummings, C. Fletcher, J. Foster, J. Cleaver, A. Wildman, K. Purkiss, R. Palmer, J. Collins, S. Couzens. Avon & Somerset: K. Whiting, V. Ellery, J. Walton, A. Whittle, P. Cheek, H. Radford, H. Holder, S. Whittle, C. Slade, P. Jefford, T. King, reserve — H. Collins.

# Cross-country team start the year well

## Athletics

THE ATHLETES of the force wound up the track season at Melbourne Stadium, Chelmsford, on 17th September and just managed to win the team event from a Metropolitan Police team, mainly cadets.

Now that girl cadets have invaded Hendon, Metro can bring a balanced team. Indeed Miss S. Brooks winning 100m and 400m and anchoring their relay team in spectacular fashion, was their most successful competitor.

The event was a chance to look at any new talent which may have come in through cadet entry earlier in the month.

Of these Chris Vale, a triple jumper by choice, ran a quickish 100m, Andy Hayman a useful 400m and Gary Barrett a steady 3000m. In the latter event Graham Butler, taking third place put up a new force record.

A sprint relay team made up of the Odell brothers, Vale and Steve Trott had a good win despite a muddle at the first take-over which led to Trott being spiked and Chris Odell having a nasty fall on to the cinders.

The girls' relay squad led into the final stage but Metro had held their best girl until last in face of which Alison Marshall, more used to cross country had no answer.

A useful outing. Track continues through the winter by way of evening meetings on all-weather tracks but in the cold these are of use only as sharpeners and have little value for putting up good times. Team result: Essex 131, Metropolitan 129, City of London 91, Herts 6. Event results, winners and leading Essex performances.

A USEFUL evening outing for the distance men at Crystal Palace on 8th October, when in the 3,000 metres Gary Barrett set a blistering early pace but later had to give way to team colleagues. Times: G. Butler 9m 37s; A. Hayman 9m 55s; A. Vowles 9m 58s; G. Barratt 10m 20s.

## Essex placings

Men: 5th G. Butler, 32.12; 10th V. Mullender, 33.27; 12th G. Barrett, 33.41; 18th A. Vowles, 34.36; 19th M. Dunion, 34.41; 25th A. Watson, 35.33; 30th D. Murray, 36.08; 31st K. Skingsley, 36.10; 35th D. King, 36.48; 38 K. Jacobs, 37.42; 39th R. Bales, 37.46; 45th M. Spellman, 38.35; 46th A. Hayman, 38.38; 50th C. Odell, 39.06; 51st A. Hinds, 39.11; 63rd B. Schulz, 40.38; 67th N. Chapple, 41.37; 68th P. Rice, 41.42; 69th J. Roche, 41.54; Teams: 1 Essex, 277; 2 Thames Valley 270; 3 Kent 219; 4 Hants 177; 5 Sussex 162; 6 Herts 138; 7 Bedfordshire 120; 8 Surrey 84; 9 City of London 18.

Women: 2nd A. Marshall, 16.07; 3rd S. McAuley, 16.14; 4th J. Aldous, 16.16; 6th A. Prouse, 16.44; 9th T. Haymes, 18.07; Teams: 1 Essex 229; 2 Kent 197; 3 Bedfordshire 167; 4 Surrey 131; 5 Thames Valley 99.

After lunch we introduced a new competition, based on the Bargrave

ESSEX runners really ripped into the South East Police League at Maidstone on October 1st, winning both men's and women's team races. This result was all the more commendable since Essex was represented solely by a Cadet School team, all of the divisional runners being kept away through one cause or another

Perhaps the girls scored the more impressive win, Alison Marshall, sole survivor of last year's national cadet championship winning team, Siobhan McAuley and Julie Aldous finishing with the space of 10 secs, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. This early season form gives hopes that this team is even stronger than last years.

In a field of 39 runners, the five Essex girls finished in the first nine to win the team race easily. Miss Robertson of Bedfordshire was the individual winner.

## Slow start

When the 100 strong men's field got going on the down-hill start Essex were not well placed and at half way were behind Thames Valley, last year's champions, by a large margin. Both teams were running in bunches and on the second lap these broke up, Essex men moving up while their rivals dropped back. Even so it was not until the scores were worked out that Essex realised they had won.

Graham Butler, placing 5th, led the team home just losing out after a long struggle for 4th place. Vaughan Mullender, 10th, finished next and then Gary Barrett, who at 12th made his mark on his first league race at 16 years old having become a cadet just a month before.

The team was on this occasion strengthened by the inclusion of sundry footballers and race walkers who will not always be available and if the league title is to fall to Essex this year a stronger police, as opposed to cadet, participation will be essential in future races.

Next event, November 5th, at Chelmsford.

# Anglers' catches light

## Harlow first and second

ON July 30 the annual inter-divisional freshwater fishing competition was held on the Ricketts Lock to Hoe Mill stretch of the River Chelmer at Ulting. Twenty-five anglers took part, 24 of whom weighed in. The team event was won by Harlow Division in the shape of Pe's Neil Everard and Barry Wylie with 3lb. 15oz. Second again from Harlow was the team of Pe's Peter Horsfell and Mick Phillips with 2lb. 9oz. Third from Southend 'J' Div. were Keith Burgess and Tony Ashdown with 2lb. 4oz. The best individuals were 1st Neil Everard, 3lb. 3oz., 2nd Keith Burgess, 2lb. 4oz., 3rd Peter Horsfell, 1lb. 11oz., 4th Tony Parker (Chelmsford) 1lb. 7oz., 5th Trevor Fisher (Chelmsford) 1lb. 2oz., 6th Jack Baldock (Southend) 1lb.

On September 3 Sussex Police entertained Essex in a freshwater fishing match at Hawkins Pond near Horsham. Weights were very low with the Essex team of 15 weighing in 11lb. to the Sussex weight of 3lb. The best individual was Neil Everard of Essex who weighed nearly 5lb.

## Best ever

On September 18 the Police National Championships were held on the River Severn near Shrewsbury. The Essex team of six anglers finished in the best ever Essex position, 7th out of 40 teams. Two hundred and forty anglers fished this match and Brian Costin from Southend, the best Essex man with 7lb. 4oz., came a very creditable 14th.

The other Essex individual

weights were Ian Frazer 2lb. 5oz., Tony Parker 1lb. 11oz., Neil Everard 1lb. 11oz., Peter Horsfell 2oz., Derek Simmons 4oz.

## Changeable

On October 1 this Force were hosts to teams from Herts and Beds in a freshwater fishing match on the Crown Fishery stretch of the River Lea at Broxbourne. Twenty-six anglers fished in very changeable weather conditions and although some anglers managed to catch considerable numbers of small fish this match was fished to size limits which meant that very few of the fish caught counted at the weigh-in. As a result weights were very low.

Team weights were Essex 2lb. 11oz., Beds 2lb. 9oz., and Herts 2lb. 5oz. Individuals: 1st Parker (Herts) 14oz., 2nd Howes (Herts) 13oz., 3rd Benson and Pooley 10 oz. Best Essex man was Peter Horsfell with 9oz.

## Plucks Gutter

On October 15 a team representing this Force travelled to Kent for a freshwater fishing match on the River Stour at Plucks Gutter. This match resulted in a resounding win for Essex with a team weight of 45lb. 11oz. to Kent's 16lb. 11oz. Twenty-four anglers fished but although the team weights were reasonable the fishing was patchy with only a few lucky anglers finding fish, in fact only eight weighed in. The individual weights were — 1st Peter Pickup (Essex) 22lb. 7oz., 2nd Ron Edwards (Kent) 14lb. 4oz., 3rd Trevor Fisher (Essex) 10lb. 13oz., 4th Neil Everard (Essex) 8lb. 13oz., 5th Mick Phillips (Essex) 3lb. 3oz., 6th Mick Childs (Kent) 1lb. 15oz., 7th Dave Revell (Kent) 8oz., 8th Derek Simmons (Kent) 7oz.

## Golf

THE autumn meeting of the Police of Essex Golf Society was held at Canons Brook Golf Club on September 24 when 22 members of the Force took part in the competition.

The morning round of 18 holes was for the President's Putter which was won by Bob Hayes (Harlow). Jim Stranger (Harlow Traffic) was runner up.

The afternoon Stableford Competition was won by Barry. Ylyie (Stansted) and Cliff Norgate (Epping) with an aggregate score of 64 points. Andy Smith (Witham) and Dave Buchan (Harlow Traffic) were runners up with 62 points. The individual Stableford prize was won by Steve Bardwell (Stansted Airport) with 31 points. The Captains prize was taken by Jim Watson (Colchester) and the Best All Day Scratch prize by Alan Frost (Colchester).

The Three Meetings Challenge Shield was retained by Jim Stranger with a net score over five rounds of 390. (He did better last year with a net score of 365). The runner up was Steve Bardwell (Stansted Airport) with a net score of 399.

As the rule of the Society is one player one prize, with the exception of the Three Meetings Challenge Shield, a lot of working out had to be done at the end of the day, as several players were in the running for a number of prizes.

After a good day's golf and an excellent meal the Police of Essex Golf Society held their Annual General Meeting. During the meeting the Officers were elected for the forthcoming season. Those elected were as follows: Chairman: Ch/Supt. W. Vickers (Harlow); Secretary/Treasurer: Cons. J. H. Clark (Traffic Halstead); Asst. Sec: Cons. R. Irwin (Southend); Captain: Cons. A. Smith (Witham); Vice-captain: Insp. J. Watson (Colchester).

The Secretary spoke of a very successful season, 11 matches in all, the results being 7 wins, 2 losses and 2 matches halved. Unfortunately there were five matches cancelled through various reasons, the reason for these cancellations being explained to the meeting.

# Force pistol contest

By John Page

THE SUN smiled on the Pistol Competition this year in contrast with last year's teeming rain. It was one of the few occasions I can ever recall being warm on Purfleet Ranges. September 1st was the date of the fifth annual competition; as in previous years teams of four from each Division took part. Unfortunately the Regional Crime Squad could not send a team (I am assured they didn't lose their bottle!) and Basilson were reduced by sickness to three men.

The first half of the shoot was from close range — 12 rounds from 15m in the kneeling and standing positions in 1 minute, and 12 rounds from 7m in 30 seconds. The home team Grays were the first to shoot and they set a very high standard indeed — no one else could get near their score for this section.

Obviously their practice in gun-handling had paid off because many of their opponents were too slow re-loading and shooting and dropped valuable points. The Support Unit were second at this stage, followed closely by Harlow and Southend Eastern.

Judging by the second half scores most competitors found that the problem of shooting at longer distances in limited time presented more difficulties. The top scoring team in fact only managed just over 40% of the total possible. In this section teams had 75 seconds in which to run from 60m to 40m and fire shots prone; they then had one minute to move down to 25m load and fire 10 shots from the kneeling and standing positions.

It was certainly hard going and Grays were beaten in this part by Harlow, the P.S.U. Southend Eastern and Chelmsford. Nevertheless their big lead proved sufficient and they romped home by 17 points. It is pleasant to see another Division coming into the

reckoning; previous winners are Harlow (twice), Police Support Unit and Southend Eastern.

This is essentially a team event. There were no awards this year for individuals but I think the ten highest scores are worth recording. Again Graham Harvey was first, in spite of (or because of?) an injured hand. He scored 114 points, well clear of second man Bill Crowhurst with 104. He was closely followed by Alan Barrett (101) and Dave Brooks (99). Roger Eason had 93 and Neville Leach, Phil Webb, Tony Rulten and Charlie Chivers all tied with 89. In tenth place was Spraggon (84).

None of the range officials had any qualms about the safety aspect. It is amazing how much improvement there has been in gun handling and shooting since our first effort in 1971. Of course this is the object of the exercise.

After lunch we introduced a new competition, based on the Bargrave

A NEW feature in The Law is this flash-back, where-are-they-now, who-were-they-then, call it what you will, but a look at some of the characters connected with police sport now with a glance at what they have achieved in the past.

WHO IS this dapper young man pictured here? Could it be the latest "boywonder" to emerge from the Cadet School Athletics team? It is certainly not a face that you would recognise from last year's cross-country team.

Recently his running has been confined to Colchester town centre and has been conducted at a much slower pace. For those who need further clues, his latest "Club Colours" include a cap with yellow band.

In fact it is the pre-war version of Colchester Traffic Warden Bill Pratt, who was the June winner of the Gazette/Rothman award for service to sport. Bill was honoured for his services to

local athletics over the last 50 years.

Bill, who is the only qualified athletics starter in Colchester, devotes a considerable amount of his spare time and energy to youth and athletics.

His athletics career was launched in 1933 when he represented the Army and Combined Services at cross-country running.

For four years in succession from 1936 he was the Garrison cross-country champion, and in 1937 he was Eastern cross-country champion and also led Colchester Harriers to victory in the Eastern Counties Championships.

In 1938 he was the Essex 20-mile champion and was second in the Eastern Command

Championships.

In 1939 he was second in the British Army Championships and represented the Army and Essex in cross-country running.

Before the war caught up with him, he had won 75 cups and 100 medals and was rated as one of the top marathon runners in the country. Unfortunately, war wounds forced him to give up top class running, although he continued to run in inter-club races until he was 53 years old.

It was after the war that Bill began to find his feet as an official and organiser. He reformed the Harriers Club, becoming secretary and coach. He also founded the Garrison Athletic Club, and became secretary, track secretary,



# SPORTLIGHT

cross-country secretary and coaching secretary.

He was a founder member of the present Colchester Athletic Club and is the club's present chairman.

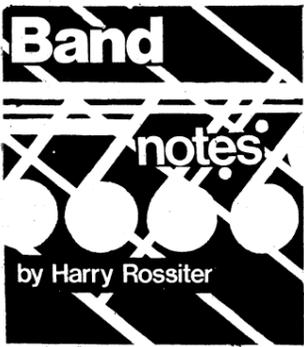
His energies have not been exclusively directed towards athletics; he has been a local football referee and was a founder member of the East Ward Football Club. He was leader of a local youth club and founded Colchester's first fencing club. He is at present leader of Colchester Boys' Club and runs their under-14 football club.

Bill has been an official Essex County AAA track and field judge and still officiates as starter at many athletics meetings in the south-east. He

assists the Force Athletics Team as team manager and at the recent Regional Championships, at Oxford, he probably covered more ground urging on the team than any of the competitors.

In July at Colchester Police Station, Bill was presented with a souvenir trophy and £20 for his club. His name will now go forward, together with the other monthly winners for the selection of the Gazette/Rothman's award for 1975.

After the presentation, Bill confessed as to how he was able to be involved in so many activities at once. His secret, he said, was to set the ball rolling and then plant it firmly in someone else's court.



**Band notes**  
by Harry Rossiter

AS ANNOUNCED in my previous column, we performed at the Southend Cliffs Pavilion on Sunday, August 31 commencing at 8 p.m. We were privileged to share the bill with the Suffolk Police Male Voice Choir who although not quite up to strength were in fine voice and the 600-plus audience were suitably responsive to their efforts.

We had with us Keith Duxberry (trombone) and Geoff Broome (cornet) from the Brigade of Guards as guests and they rendered brilliant solos on their respective instruments to a delighted audience. This concert was attended by the Mayor of Southend who was responsible for the concert, the Chief Constable, Mr. Duke, Deputy Chief, and our Chairman Supt. Bob Palmer. There is no doubt that the customers were very pleased with our efforts and with the Suffolk Choir which was not quite full male voice, a solo being rendered by WPC Sue Collins at the end of their contribution to this memorable concert which was in aid of the Police Dependents Trust. The compere was Sgt. Mike Frost who kept the patrons amused and alive between numbers managing some audience participation at times.

On Sunday, 7th September we performed in Halstead Public Gardens in the afternoon and the weather being dry there were quite a few listeners around and the event was quite a success.

There were three engagements in October, Sunday the 5th in Chelmsford Cathedral where the band played before Morning Service at a special occasion for all those dealing in judicial matters, Judges, J.P.'s, Magistrates Clerks, the Police (and possibly one or two CRO's as well).

Also at Princes Theatre, Clacton, on Wednesday the 15th and at the Cliffs Pavilion at Southend on the 29th. We combined with the Southend Salvation Army and Southend School of Music Brass bands for this one.

Another lively event occurred on the 22nd of this month at the Band Annual General Meeting. As I have said before this is no mere formality and is very essential for an organisation such as ours especially as we are about to be placed on sounder legal and financial footing, not the mention the other domestic matters to be discussed, and there is no question of sitting and saying 'Aye' or 'No' at the appropriate moments without knowing what it is all about.

A full report will appear next time. So the Band goes forward and there will be more commitments over Christmas (not all that far away) and we will be playing at Severalls Hospital — on a 3-day order — and other engagements culminating with the Annual 'Home' concert at HQ. But more about that in my next column. Don't forget we always like to see any interested Force members and the more that attend the sooner you will realise that we are getting better and better. With more rehearsal time, we could be a Band to be reckoned with. Perhaps when the economic climate improves there will be a chance. As it is we don't do so bad but it is pleasant to see tangible support at our concerts. Also if anyone wishes to join us, attend any Wednesday evening and we'll see what can be done. Good listening.

Continued from page 6

Deane Competition run at Bisley. This is a knock-out event where two teams take part at a time, shooting at a number of clay discs. They leave their loaded guns at 15m and then retire to 50m. On the whistle signal they have 30 seconds to run to their guns and shoot down as many discs as possible. The only time I have seen this done was at the Norfolk County Shoot where the civilians took part. I roughly estimated the number of clays required by the results I had seen at Norfolk, and I received my rude awakening in the first tie when all

# Three good wins start rugby season

THE FORCE Rugby XV opened the season with a game against 'K' Division Metro at Chigwell on Wednesday, October 1. The team featured one or two new faces from last season and considering it was the first game did well. However they went down 19-11. Scorers — tries Barrett, Hall. Penalty — Foster.

Two days later they were again in action against Bedfordshire in the PAA Cup. Essex playing down the slope made the most of it and were 15-0 up at half-time. However, after the change round Beds came into the game a lot more chances and as we ran out of 'steam' gradually they took their chances and in a total of 35 points. Although going down the force XV showed promise. Scorers — tries Hall, Edkins. Conversion Sparks (2), penalty Sparks.

The following Wednesday the force entertained Norfolk Police at home, this game has always been a close one and again it was. Essex started well playing down the slope and by half-time was 16-nil up with tries from Hall, Edkins and Corbett. Two of these were converted by Sparks. In the second half the game was more even and Norfolk reduced the score to 16-14. They should have drawn level as they missed a conversion attempt in front of the posts with the last kick of the game. So the force had recorded its first win of the season 16-14. Scorers — tries Hall, Edkins, Corbett. Conversions — Sparks (2).

On Sunday October 12 the force travelled to Brentwood College for the annual fixture and fielding 13 men (the first time less than 20 have turned up) played good open rugby, running in 3 tries and converting 2. Score 16-nil. scorers — tries, Bowman, Barrett, Fraser; Conversions, Corbett (2).

On October 22 the force played HMS Ganges at home in front of a small 'crowd' and very quickly settled down to take the game in all aspects. Good possession was won in the line by Roy Nairn whose jumping even surprised him, the loose was won and Wileman took good balls against the head in the scrum. The force XV ran out winners 26-nil with tries coming from Barrett (2), Jackson, Edkins, Cooper and Corbett, though only one was converted by Sparks.

This by far is the best start to a season we have had for a long time — results so far:

P	W	L	F	A
5	3	2	84	68

## International

Dunion was more fortunate elsewhere. In August he was put in the British junior team against Sweden at Edinburgh. He finished 3rd but in a personal best time which he subsequently bettered in Rouen in a slightly over-distance 10,000 mts.

## Essex League

The section completed the 1974-5 Essex League campaign, securing a comfortable place. Best individual placings were Denis Sheppard, 2nd, and John Hedgethorpe, 5th, but the rest were less well placed than in other years. Throughout the period under review force record times were bettered through Denis Sheppard, 5 miles in 38m 47s, and Mike Dunion, 3,000 mts in 12m 49.4s, 9,000 mts in 42m 26s, and 10,000 mts in 46m 09s. Later Sheppard covered 11,898 mts, almost 7½ miles, in an hour at the Hour Race Meeting at Parliament Hill. So despite the setbacks, morale is high, and greater heights are expected in the coming year.

### RESULTS

London - Brighton (52½) 6-9-75.  
21st J. Hedgethorpe, 9h 25s.  
Southend Open 5 miles, 14-9-75.  
11th D. Sheppard 41.25; 18th J. Hedgethorpe 43.14; 26th D. Murray 46.54; 27th M. Faulkner 51.25.  
International Junior 10,000m, Edinburgh, 14-9-75.  
3rd M. Dunion 46.09 (Force & Scottish Jun. Rec.).

team instead of the five or six I had expected. With a careful reduction in the number of clays put out and a little barracking to cut down the number of hits we just managed to get by. There was certainly some good shooting. Harlow were knocked out in the preliminary round. In the next round Southend Eastern, Staff, Basildon and Southend Eastern went under, the latter in spite of Graham Harvey hitting five with six shots. The P.S.U. and Chelmsford were beaten by Grays and Colchester, and in the final Grays rounded off an excellent day by narrowly beating Colchester. Modesty

## Essex Police 5,000m, Chelmsford, 17-9-75.

1st M. Dunion 23.13.7; 4th M. Spellman 25.05; 7th J. Hedgethorpe 25.55; 8th A. King 27.25; 9th B. Schulz 27.26; 11th D. Murray 27.48; 12th J. Roche 27.49; 15th D. King 28.59; 16th A. Hinds 30.24; 17th M. Faulkner 30.36; 18th P. Price 32.24; 19th M. Chapple 36.64.  
Stepping Junior 4 miles, 20-9-75.  
5th D. Sheppard 32.04; 14th A. King 34.32; 18th D. Murray 35.28; 21st J. Roche 36.37; 22nd D. King 37.10; 25th A. Hinds 38.08; 29th G. Barrett 40.09; 30th P. Price 40.42; Team placed 3rd.  
Blackheath 9 Kilos Yacht, 24-9-75.  
8th M. Dunion 42.26 (2nd scratch time); 10th J. Hedgethorpe 47.55; 15th D. King 51.15; 17th D. Sheppard 45.27; 25th B. Schulz 49.08; 27th P. Price 54.10; 28th G. Barrett 54.12; 30th A. Hinds 53.51; 32nd M. Spellman 50.43; 37th A. Masson 59.00; 38th M. Chapple 60.54.  
Haywards Heath 10,000m, 4-10-75.  
3rd M. Dunion 47.14; 7th D. Sheppard 49.29; 12th J. Hedgethorpe 52.29; 18th A. King 55.14; 26th G. Barrett 62.30.  
Crystal Palace 3,000m, 8-10-75.  
2nd M. Dunion 12.49.4 (Force Rec.); 5th D. Sheppard 13.34; 12th M. Spellman 14.27; 17th J. Hedgethorpe 15.00; 18th B. Schulz 15.01; 21st D. Murray 15.19.4; 23rd B. Daymond 15.58; 25th P. Price and D. King 16.35; 27th A. Hinds 17.14; 28th M. Chapple 17.53.  
Bexley 5 miles (short), 11-10-75.  
2nd D. Sheppard 36.06; 9th B. Daymond 41.44.  
Roven 10,000m, 12-10-75.  
2nd M. Dunion 47.02; 15th J. Hedgethorpe 52.51; 16th M. Spellman 53.04; 26th B. Schulz and D. Murray 55.40; 34th D. King 57.40; 35th A. Hinds 59.47; 36th G. Barrett 59.56; 42nd P. Price 62.55.

## Essex Police 5,000m, Chelmsford, 17-9-75.

1st M. Dunion 23.13.7; 4th M. Spellman 25.05; 7th J. Hedgethorpe 25.55; 8th A. King 27.25; 9th B. Schulz 27.26; 11th D. Murray 27.48; 12th J. Roche 27.49; 15th D. King 28.59; 16th A. Hinds 30.24; 17th M. Faulkner 30.36; 18th P. Price 32.24; 19th M. Chapple 36.64.  
Stepping Junior 4 miles, 20-9-75.  
5th D. Sheppard 32.04; 14th A. King 34.32; 18th D. Murray 35.28; 21st J. Roche 36.37; 22nd D. King 37.10; 25th A. Hinds 38.08; 29th G. Barrett 40.09; 30th P. Price 40.42; Team placed 3rd.  
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mentioning that the range staff then believed Grays in a challenge match, but this could be explained by the fact that there was no money on the result! (Alright, we'll put money on it next year). Mr. J. Duke has always taken an interest in firearms training and he was kind enough to travel down and present the trophies. I cannot finish without thanking Mrs. Welch for providing the very welcome lunch and Cadet Wayne Spooner for all his running about. As for the range staff what can I say? (All suggestions in writing please). This is the third year they

# First aid team in cup winning form

COMPETING in the Buxton Trophy first aid contest on 5th October the Force team, led by Ian Hunter, placed an excellent 5th among the 15 finalists.

The competition, organised annually by the Casualties Union, took place at Belvedere Power Station, Kent. All the teams, from Police, Post Office, British Rail, ICI and CEGB, had to win through to the final via eliminating contests. Essex

Police won theirs at Harwich first aid competition.

The Essex team, as well as Constable Hunter, consisted of Constables I. Kennedy Colchester, D. Perry, Marine Section and R. Emberson, Grays.

**TWO CUPS**  
The squad's cup winning run began again on 18th October when two trophies were secured in the Ipswich

The same team as at Belvedere finished runners-up to take the De Saumarez Cup and also gained the highest marks in the lane competition for the Victor Smith Trophy.

The Essex 'B' team consisted of W/Sgt. J. Murphy, W.P.c.s C. Matthews and R. Palmer and P.c.M. Oakey. 19 teams took part.

## Who's off



## What's on

THE column this month finds me almost at a loss for words. The league remains unchanged with Headquarters filling the first place and the remainder of you with nil returns. (That is unless you have kept quiet and performed your own plastic surgery and panel beating). I'm trying to arrange a meeting as mentioned in the last issue but as yet have not finalised the day that is most suitable for you all. Never fear it will be arranged and the usual data sent out.

## Bazoo

Today the rain is falling out of the sky as if some fool cannot find the off switch and thoughts go out to 'Slinger' Woods who will have to sally forth very shortly for the Burnham Carnival. I would have thought that they could have loaned him the Southend 'Bazoo' or whatever they call it. That thing that can travel over almost any surface in any weather conditions. Still, they say that a good motor cyclist never gets wet. So I shall wait and see how 'Slinger' gets on. Heaps of fun, Ian Sparks has just squealed off home having re-rustproofed his Norton cum Crop Sprayer. At least I thought it was him, he was so black and filthy that it could have been anyone. Anyone built like a brick outbuilding, that is, who carries rugby boots round his neck like a medallion.

## Hughes hour races, 27-9-75.

D. Sheppard 11,899mts. (Force Rec.); J. Hedgethorpe 11,030 mts.; B. Schulz 10,676 mts.; J. Roche 10,427 mts.; B. Daymond 10,340 mts.  
Mile race, same day.  
5th D. King 7.52; 12th P. Price 8.38; 15th A. Hinds 9.04; 17th M. Chapple 9.55.  
National Under-21 Champs, Coventry, 18-10-75.  
Junior 5: 6th D. Sheppard 38.47 (Force Rec.); 15th M. Spellman 40.28; 24th B. Schulz 42.07; 32nd A. King 43.42; 40th J. Roche 46.19; 44th M. Faulkner and G. Matthews 53.10; Team placed 4th. Youth 3: 10th D. King 24.56; 21st G. Barrett 26.39; 25th P. Price 27.03; 28th A. Hinds 27.14; 41st M. Chapple 29.03; Team 4th.

	Shoot	Shoot	Total
	A	B	
1st Support	237	111	348
2nd Support Unit	208	123	331
3rd Harlow	193	131	324
4th Southend E.	185	120	305
5th Chelmsford	171	116	287
6th Colchester	172	105	277
7th Staff	165	106	271
8th Southend W.	169	89	258

By the way I had word from Laidon the other day that 'Albie alias Olympic Torch' is about. Someone put a T.6. defect sheet in for a slack chain on a P.I.!! I saw him the other day, out in the big Jag' trying for all he was worth to squeeze another few M.P.H. out of it by twisting the steering wheel and moving the advance and retard slide about. Don't let it get to you lad but remember, that new bike ought to be run in by now.

## A long tale

Really you know, it's not fair to extract the Michael too much because one day, some one will write about you... or so the saying goes. Well before they do, I'm going to get my version in first. One late turf just past I was on a 6-2 a.m. in the noble company of 'Kojak Jnr.' Dave Hicks and Sir 'Columbo' Roberts. Under these circumstances we were in a P.I. Up goes the shout for an accident locally in Chelmsford. Arriving at the scene I leapt out looking keen and promptly started the ball rolling by asking what had happened.

Noddy, alias member of public with clapped out and battered A.60 had been well and truly set about by another motor. The other car was nowhere to be seen. I informed Noddy that I was desirous of exchanging words with the other twit with whom he had played mobile fisticuffs.

Well, this other chap had long gone but his address was duly scribed into an official bit of note paper. It was occupied all right but by some rather excitable female of temperamental nature who informed us how she felt about being awakened at the early hours for a fruitless exchange of words. In other words we had drawn a blank.

## Try again

Hurriedly returning to the scene we found 'Noddy' trying to get one clapped out and flat tyred motor car to go. "Oi chief what's your game," says I. "I'll add 'don't live where you said he did.'" "Oh, I forgot," says he, "He said that he left that address and now lives somewhere else." Noting the new address we again started off on the trail. Result: no one at home and all in darkness.

Other work was carried out until I thought it would be rather nice to try again and see if we could contact the elusive motorist. Returning to this house out in the sticks I left the car, as Kojak and 'Sir' had by now lost interest. Stealthily I crept around the back and was greeted by the welcome sound of some twit in the out-house spending a penny. Great, thinks I. Section 6. Arrest. Name in Lights.

## Flushed out

Gingerly I placed my hand on the outside toilet door and in my best authoritative voice screamed... 'I've been waiting for you chief. Now come here' There was an instant silence, followed by a female screech and a young woman (Noddy 2's wife) and hurriedly cladding her lower garments. I thought this highly encouraging as Noddy 2 could not be far away. Naturally he appears from nowhere and says, 'Sorry Guv. is she bothering you?'

Well the story was that he had gone elsewhere before going home, but needless to say, no section 6, no arrest, no name up in lights. I returned to the Patrol Car and was obliged to drive as Kojak and Sir were now wide awake and incapable of driving through tears of laughter.

Moral of story... The night goes a little quicker with a little fun. Finally, and seriously, if possible... The newer machines are beginning to arrive and those fortunate enough to have one will be running them in and I expect to see you about. Enjoy your riding lads and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.



ALBERT GIVES A CONFIDENT WAVE BEFORE SETTING OUT ON AN ATTEMPT TO BEAT HIS PERSONAL RECORD OF STAYING OUT ON THE ROAD FOR 22MINS 10 SECS.

## The Saga of Cons Seago

THE 13th July was obviously a hot, dry sunny day, because PC Seago was out on his motor cycle. To those who don't know PC Seago, he is the one that always says, "HM anything and doesn't really need a wireless when he speaks to V.G."

It was about lunch time when he walked into the Police Station with a tale of woe that his machine had broken down yet again. "That rotten motor bike," he said. "Ever since I have taken it over from Mick Carter it has been a source of trouble." He then prevailed upon one of his 'four wheeled' colleagues and together they took the Land Rover and trailer to collect the defunct machine. Tenderly it was placed upon the trailer and secured and returned to the yard at Southend. Gently young David removed his machine and aimed a kick at the back wheel — "So and so motor bike. N.V.T. they deserve to go broke" and then suddenly remembering his Unit Trusts he said, "Well, almost."

He began to push the machine to the compound where all the defective vehicles stand. He hauled it up on to its rest and as an apparent gesture the 'four wheeled' colleague said, "Have you checked the petrol?" David returned a sarcastic glare and he opened the petrol cap on the top of the tank. There was a large bang as air rushed into the vacuum — there was very little else in there other than the vacuum! "I can't make that out," said David. "I only filled it last Monday. I know it was Monday because that was the day I filled my 49cc motor."

Such a shame. This is not the first time that David has had trouble with the precious liquid which is mined by the Arabs — only recently he fell off on a patch and was very successful in avoiding any injury, especially to his nose. Keep at it David! No hard feelings. This note is included with David's complete disapproval by

## The Law Shop

FOR SALE: Sunhouse electric fire, teak surround, heat control, 5 settings, excellent condition, £20. Contact T.W. 15 Chelmsford Town.  
WANTED: Small pottery kiln — suitable for enamelling. Contact Ps Cooper — Chelmsford Town ext.

## Has he really retired this time?



MR JACK MUSTO, seated in the picture above, recently retired from Crime Registry when colleagues presented him with a table lighter as a memento. Readers may wonder why anyone would want to desert such a bevy, so that it must be reported that Jack retired on age limit.

A former member of the Metropolitan Police where his duties included working in C.R.O. up to his retirement in 1947, Mr Musto worked for the Central Office of Information before coming to Police Headquarters early in 1974.

## Kuwaitis report on Essex



SEPTEMBER saw the visit to Essex of three officers of the Kuwait State Police Force. The officers, all of whom are ex-university graduates, are attached to the police/public relations department of the Kuwait City Police, and come under the direct control of the Ministry of the Interior.

Having shaken the sand from their sandals during a 14 day visit to the Met. Police they arrived at our Springfield Oasis.

Captain Al-Tahous, officer in charge of the trio told the Law, "The purpose of our visit is to study the way in which other police forces operate and in particular how they deal with police/public relations."

Whilst in Essex the officers visited H.Q., Chelmsford Town and Colchester in order to get a better idea of how a British police force operates. On their return from these visits all three officers shared the view that the trip had not been wasted. They had accumulated a vast amount of knowledge in a short space of time and considered that they were now in a position to return to Kuwait and report their findings to the Minister of the Interior.

First Lieutenant Almok-led, (rank equivalent to Inspector), told the Law, "Kuwait is a very difficult place to police efficiently, its population being multi-racial to the extreme — there being about ninety different nationalities living and working together. The problems are not of language, the vast majority speak Arabic, but religions and customs are highly sensitive subjects in this part of the world and we must be very careful what we say and to whom we say it."

"In England your officers have very close contact with the public that is not the case in Kuwait. I think it is something we must change in order to improve the relationships we have with our citizens."

The officers left Essex impressed by what they had seen and keen to recommend changes to their own system of policing. We often grumble about the lack of public co-operation but perhaps we are more fortunate than our friends overseas. Our picture shows the visitors examining a relic of wartime Essex, a tin hat, at H.Q.

## Avenue of batons at police wedding



Chelmsford police officer Derek Sewell, of Main Road, Broomfield, and his bride Miss Christine Cooper of Crompton Street, Chelmsford found a waiting guard of honour after their wedding at Widford Church on Saturday.

Photo: Arthur Tarrant Studios

A DATE to remember, though alas, in most cases for the purpose of avoiding the event, is Wednesday, December 17, day of the Force cross-country running championship at Chelmsford. Innovation this year is a ladies' race — for points towards the divisional championship. Entry forms and details will be circulating soon.

## Agitation at Headquarters as vehicle alarm sounds

TO THE alarm and consternation of Headquarters staff a weird and wonderful siren shattered the peace and tranquillity of the area adjacent to the canteen, one day in September. In fact it is reported that the supervisor in the typing pool believed that their new "automatic typewriter" was in danger of grinding to a halt and got on the "hot line" to Mr. Bowker, head of office management, reporting a strange noise apparently coming from the "new machine."

The excitement was soon to die down when it was discovered that the cause was in fact a vehicle alarm being tested in connection with a security display run in conjunction with a meeting of Essex Vehicle Observer Corps.

### Campaign

This marked the opening of "Hands Off Our Freight" week, a national campaign aimed at stimulating interest

in crime prevention particularly in the field of road haulage vehicles and loads. The Essex branch of the Vehicle Observer Corps held their meeting at Headquarters to launch the campaign. Sir John Nightingale who opened the meeting, pointed out that operators and Police have an important part to play in combating this type of crime and have indeed experienced some conspicuous successes. He particularly drew attention to the role played by the Vehicle Observer Corps which has helped to keep the situation under control.

### Co-operation

In reply, Mr. Jack Brown, OBE, of the Road Haulage Association, thanked the Chief Constable for allowing the use of Headquarters buildings to stage the meeting and to make it possible for the various security firms to display their products. He expressed his thanks for the high level of co-operation

given by police in general and Essex Police in particular.

At the conclusion of the Vehicle Observer Corps meeting, time was devoted to questioning a panel consisting of Det. Supt. Harris, Mr. Jack Brown, Mr. George Burrows and Inspector MacDonald and PS Dawdry of Headquarters Crime Prevention Department.

The questions stimulated interesting discussion and in the absence of any abuse directed towards the panel the audience were apparently satisfied with the answers given.

Without doubt, the meeting proved to be most convivial (tea and biscuits were served at "half time") and the opportunity of contacting members of the public under these circumstances was most valuable in bettering public relations as well as encouraging an interest from Local Press, Radio and Television to the "Hands Off Our Freight" week.



UNDER the watchful eye of the Chief Constable, Mr. Jack Brown, O.B.E., of the Road Haulage Association, is interviewed by Anglia Radio. The Vehicle Observer Corps has played a significant part in keeping road hijackers in check in recent years.

**THE LAW** H.Q. telephone extensions 216 or 236

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