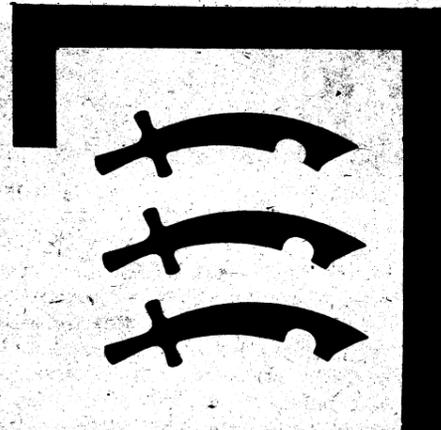




THE LAW

March 1977

No 93



The Newspaper of the Essex Police

65 per cent for right to strike

A memento from Little Old Essex



ON WEDNESDAY, February 23, the outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, Mrs. Anne L. Armstrong, made a private visit to what remains of Boxted Airfield, near Colchester.

It was from this airfield that Mrs. Armstrong's husband, then Lieutenant Tobin Armstrong (USAF), operated as a fighter pilot with the renowned 56th Fighter Group during the latter stages of World War II.

There to welcome the Ambassador were the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex — Col. H. E. Hunter-Jones, Commander Peter Barrington from R.O.C. Headquarters, Colchester and Mr. Derek Webb representing the Mayor.

For the occasion three Essex officers, Pcs Ken Ranson, Dc Nigel Grainger and Pc John Tracey made up the Ambassadors' bodyguard.

Our photograph shows Ken Ranson presenting Mrs. Armstrong with a copy of the Essex Police Magazine, which contained a short history of Boxted Airfield, under the title "The Wolfpack's Lair" compiled by him in 1971.

Local farmer and air historian, Roger Freeman, provided a copy of his definitive history "The Mighty Eighth" — this was presented to the Ambassador by Col. Hunter-Jones.

Photo courtesy of The British Tourist Authority.

As pay dispute meanders on, police frustration overflows

HOWEVER anyone may choose to interpret the voting figures on the Force referendum on the right to strike the answer must come out a resounding "Yes."

The decision to hold the ballot in Essex, in company with many other forces in the country, was brought about by dissatisfaction with pay negotiating arrangements generally, rather than with the present stalemate.

Other forces' votes have almost all been in favour of a change in the law to allow police the right to strike. On the same day as the Essex result, 65%, was announced yes votes came from Northumbria, South Yorkshire, and Nottingham. A few days later West Yorkshire topped 82%.

The number of yes votes, 1537, in answer to the question, "Do you agree

with the police having the right to strike?" cannot in any way be made into a minority. It is 65% of the membership, that is "federated" ranks in the force; it is 73% of returned ballot papers; it is even more than half of the Force.

Announcing the result, Sgt. Jim Rodgers, JBB Secretary, said, "It is exactly the proportions I expected. We are a fairly conservative

lot in Essex and I didn't expect 80%."

Of the results of force ballots on this subject so far announced, not one has registered disapproval of the police having the right to strike. This will undoubtedly lead to support for motions calling for this right, and even for affiliation to the TUC, at the Federation Annual Conference.

Says Jim Rodgers, "What we wanted was a mandate from the Force to take to Conference. We've now got a clear mandate."

Voting figures were: ballot papers issued 2,341; "Yes" 1,537; "No" 533; spoiled 20; not returned 251. This indicates a very high poll, about 90%.

The Millard Trophy — The Wilson Trophy

Constables faced man with pistol

THE WILSON TROPHY for the most meritorious act performed in the course of duty during 1976 has been awarded jointly to P.c. T. R. Kelly and P.c. I. J. Batkin, who are stationed at Basildon.

During the afternoon of 16 September P.c.'s Kelly and Batkin were on plain clothes duty at Laindon when they became suspicious of two men near a Ford Cortina car on the railway station car park.

They stopped and questioned the two men and were not satisfied with the explanation given for possession of the Ford car. P.c. Kelly was about to arrest the men when one of them produced an automatic pistol which he aimed at him.

The constable told him to put the gun away and started to walk towards the armed man who, after shouting a warning, pulled the trigger. The gun did not discharge but was at once re-cocked and aimed at P.c. Kelly and the trigger pulled. Again the weapon did not fire and both men turned and ran pursued by the officers.

As the chase continued the armed man turned on several occasions and aimed his gun at the constables but the weapon was not fired. The two men then parted

pursuit of the armed man whilst P.c. Kelly caught and detained his accomplice. After jumping a hedge Batkin was able to grapple with the armed man and after a violent struggle, arrested him.

The weapon which was found at the spot where the arrest was made was an unloaded 6.35 mm automatic pistol in working order. The armed man was found to have 11 rounds of ammunition in his pocket.

The two men were later dealt with at Chelmsford Crown Court. The armed man being sentenced to a total of 5½ years and his accomplice to 2 years imprisonment.

"P.c.'s Kelly and Batkin acted in the highest traditions of the police service in their pursuit and arrest of these two men," states the Chief Constable's citation. The trophy will be presented by H. M. Lord Lieutenant, on 25th April.

TROPHY FOR SCOUT LEADER

THE Millard Trophy was presented by Alderman S. Woodfull Millard for award to the Police Officer who, in the preceding year, made the greatest contribution to social service in the community or in Police/Public Relations.

The Trophy for 1976 has been awarded to P.c. C. W. Lay, who is stationed at the Traffic Sub Division at Colchester.

P.c. Lay is the Assistant

the Colchester W... Section... which... So... gr... the... a... L... instr... training... addition it is neces...

More or less

WITH THIS ISSUE, The Law completes its eighth year, a period which it has survived under more or less the same management. Reactions to this news may vary, indeed we do not ourselves know whether to laugh or cry at it, but we hope that we have not antagonised too many but have been able to afford you a wry smile from time to time. Finally, we can, no doubt, all join in the wish this journal will not remain under the same management, more or less, for the next eight years.

Equality is all

WE WERE in the Metropolis recently and saw a constable of our acquaintance resplendent in a white shirt. Not wishing to let on that we had missed his passage through the rank of sergeant we said nothing but later overheard him remark to a colleague, "It's quite amusing, really, all the cadets keep calling me Sir." It transpires that the Metropolitan Police, together with a few other forces are putting all ranks into white shirts.

This has nothing to do with any working party on uniform and at a time when Essex, for example, are in the process of changing policewomen from white shirts back to blue in the interest of sexual equality, we wonder which proletarian principle has inspired the change in London attire.

CH 1126 HEDRE/HOBNE

Do you support Police Officers having the right to strike?

NO

YES

WE HAD read that the Great-Right-to-Strike Ballot was to be a secret one. Not in the sense that on-one was to know about it, after all, the local papers had it before the J.B.B. minutes came out, but in the way that no-one should know how individuals had voted. So it was with surprise that we removed the staple from our ballot paper, gashing only one finger in the process, to find that the voting slip had a name written across the back of it in biro. It was not the name which caused surprise since it was our own, but the fact that it was there at all, scored so heavily into the paper as to be clearly visible from the front.

Now in case readers find the position of our cross somewhat out of character may we assure them that this is some small act of protest brought about by the pittance we received the same day as the ballot paper by way of what is known, with typical English understatement, as a salary cheque.

Also on that very same day a former civilian chauffeur, more recently employed driving a lorry about, had shown us his pay advice slip which advised that his take home pay was £99 that week. In our position half-way up the police salary ladder, ours was £68.

We heard of a constable who went for an interview for another job. The selection board asked why he wanted to leave the police and by way of answer he produced his monthly pay slip. "Oh dear," said the chairman, "have you been off sick or something? This doesn't seem much for a week."

What it would mean

SIXTY-FIVE per cent of the Federation membership having placed their mark in the yes box and every other force holding a ballot having produced the same pattern, one must hope that all concerned will pause to reflect what a police strike of any length might mean.

However much our political masters choose to bury their heads in the sand on this subject, they must know that the way of life which this country follows, exists only by the good grace of the police.

They should think beyond traffic jams and an increase in burglaries and assaults. With the police on strike the breakdown in order would be immediate. Within a few days it would not be safe for local authorities to put up the rates or decide on any unpopular measure for fear of having the Town Hall burned down. Parliament would be unable to function except behind a ring of fixed bayonets. When the Police struck in 1919 troops were called out to control looting mobs. Where are the troops now? In Ulster or disbanded under defence cuts.

Far fetched? We do not think so. We are not living in Great Britain of former times, stolid self-disciplined Great Britain, but in swinging, do-it-yourself, devil take the hindmost Little Britain where the strong grab at the expense of the weak and where only a strong and contented police can hold the balance.

The Government seems bent on sacrificing the loyalty of the Police on the altar of a social contract and pay policy which seems likely soon to collapse in ruins in any case. Once the Police enter the world of militant bloody-mindedness it will be far more difficult to just legislate it away than it was in 1919.

Only one a week

THE Ediview correspondent in the faraway land where all the people are mad has sent us another despatch. At great risk to life and limb we might add because not only do they have censorship but their borders have been closed.

It seems that the Guardians of The Law, their equivalent of the police, have been agitating for the right to go on strike. There is, apparently, no actual prohibition of this action but some years ago when the Guardians tried it they were all rounded up and placed in what the mad people call a lunatic asylum, but which is in fact a place of confinement for people who are sane, this being the most serious offence possible in that land.

But on this occasion the Guardians' pleas were heeded and they have not only been given the right to strike but have been allowed to affiliate to the BOE, the Brotherhood of Ease, the mad people's association of trades unions.

Unfortunately, this has led to one or two problems, not entirely foreseen by the Guardians. Prompted by BOE the mad people's National Assembly, entirely in the interests of social justice and fair play, decided that it was not equitable that some sections of the working population should have to strike more often than others to get their rights.

They therefore accepted a BOE proposal and passed it into law that every six and a half months, instead of sitting inside their warm police stations, they have to spend a week performing their eight hour stint on picket duty outside. But the National Assembly and the Brotherhood of Ease boast that there are now fewer strikes than at any time in the mad people's history — never more than one per week.

Phil Meiklejohn's thanks

Dear Sir,
Those members of the Force who are acquainted with Police Constable 652 Philip Meiklejohn of my Division will be aware that he has been sick for some time and has recently undergone brain surgery. There is now a possibility that he is going to have to embark on a more radical course of radio therapy and/or surgery. I saw him and he expressed how very happy he felt at the numerous expressions of good wishes which had been received by himself and his family during his illness. He has asked me to say that he is unable to himself respond but asks that I express his gratitude which perhaps you would be good enough to do through the medium of your newspaper.
Yours faithfully,
J. BIRD,
Chief Superintendent.

Constables' Representative replies

Dear Sir,
With reference to the letter in the last issue of "The Law" from Pc John Russell of Nazeing, headed "He doesn't want to volunteer." I feel that part of this letter is an attack on my integrity both as a Constable of some years standing and as the Constables' Representative for Harlow for the past ten years. I must therefore reply.
Let me say immediately that I fully support the Police Federation's policy that the pay of a Police Officer should be such that it would be unnecessary to work overtime in order to obtain a living wage. But having said that I must
Continued on page 3

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.

A Question of Rights

Dear Sir,
We are frequently reminded that we are a civilian body and one need only think back to the legal definition of a Constable to realise that this is in fact what we are, albeit a disciplined one. In the light of this I can see no valid reason or argument against us having the basic right to strike.

After many years of being against this view I have now changed my opinion. My decision in this has not wholly been influenced by the current stalemate in pay negotiations. I have never believed that we would receive the £6 and once again having been cleverly out-manoeuvred by the Police Council, I am left in some doubt as to whether we can justify our entitlement to it, but let us not forget that this was not the sole reason for the breakdown in talks. More important in my opinion was that at long last our Federation Reps. have taken definite steps to bring about real changes in the negotiating process. We must remain behind them in their efforts.

It is my opinion that having or seeking the right to strike would greatly strengthen our bargaining position in all future negotiations. It is not very long till next September and the Pay Code will not last for ever. We are a long, long way behind and have a great deal of catching up to do. It will not be easy. I feel that we have long paid the price for our ineptitude and lack of muscle.

For the sceptics let me add a few words. There is a vast difference between having rights and using them unwisely. Are we not doing this very thing in our daily dealing with the public? We have always been a responsible body represented by responsible people. There is no reason to assume that this would change overnight, nor do I advocate that it should do so. Our common market counterparts, particularly in Germany, have had these rights for many years, which extend to the members of the forces and I have never seen any country involving the present government with its so-called "Closed Shop Legislation" recently forced this right on to many groups of workers by its insistence on union membership with all its conditions and responsibilities, successfully

arguing that not only was this justifiable but to the common good, and yet we are still asking ourselves whether or not we should seek this basic right afforded to all others. The time for change is long overdue. Support your Federation remembering that had it not been for police strikers we might never have had one.

Pc 1078 A. BRYMER

Grays

Grovelling Reports

Dear Sur

I fought I would rite to say that I have been trying to get in tuch with Pc Dubble at Safren Warden Traffick becors of his advurt in yor paper to do do me a stropoy letta arsking for maw pay as I fink we policemen, hoo hav to no a lot, drive well and be good riters desurv mounie.

I hav trubble wiv me paper wurk, wich may serprise you, but he cant help becors he is to bizzy dooing a gruvellin report for hiself to get his driving purmit bak.

If he likes to contact me & teech me to do reports betta and talk nicer so I could jine a yung farmers club, I can lurn him to drive betta and he wont hav to wurry about black ice and dogs on the rodes.

I like yor pitchers of bent perlice cars which corse a lot of coment at my yuthe club, but we fink the pretty wuns would be betta in culler. I beleev their is a jam sandwich at HQ garag wich woold maik a feneeq fotograf becors it has got a fence groing out if it.

I remane yor good friend, and Pc Dubbles.

KEETH STANFERLINSON
Oldtown traffick sub.

PS wen I put repawts in I get them back to do agane, wot do you get a droiving purmit bak for? Purhaps Pc Dubble can explaine this faw me becors I aint got the brane to wurk it out

NB — After Pc Dubble's advertisement for grovelling reports appeared in The Law last month, he had a spot of bother in his Traffic Car. — Editor.

A Plea

Dear Sir,

Through The Law may I make the following plea?

Would anyone care to give a good home to bound copies of Police Review dating from 1958 to 1976? No reasonable offer will be refused as the space they occupy is needed.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE DARBY

Police Station,
Ongar.

Appreciation of her stay at Hove

Dear Sir,

May I through the courtesy of 'The Law' express my appreciation and gratitude to those concerned with my recent stay at the Convalescent Police Seaside Home at Hove.

In particular, I would like to mention P.S. E. A. Easley, Force Welfare Officer, who over the years has been ever-willing to be helpful and who so kindly arranged my visit.

Words are a poor medium for expressing my thanks to Mr. Denis Holmes, the Home Superintendent, and his wife Betty. The warmth of their welcome, their concern for patients comfort and well being ensures that everyone obtains the maximum benefit from their visit. Nothing is too much trouble for them. There is no doubt that the happy and relaxed atmosphere that pervades throughout the home stems from the warmth of their personalities.

Without exception the staff are caring and helpful and the excellence of the food makes each meal a gastronomical event. The

Home is indeed a wonderful place to recuperate from illness.

It may be of interest to my former colleagues to know that in December, in fact, whilst I was staying at the Convalescent Police Home, I graduated at Sussex University as Bachelor of Education with second class Honours. The photograph enclosed was taken at the Home on my Graduation Day by a visiting Metropolitan Police Officer, D/S James P. Moores and shows myself with Betty Holmes, Det. Sgt. Jim Huggins (Metropolitan Police) and another visiting Metropolitan Police Officer.

I close my letter with renewed thanks to all those who made my stay at Hove so happy and successful.

Yours faithfully,
Rosemary S. Rutherford
(Ex W.P.c. 22)

Greensleeves,
St. Mary's Road,
Burnham-on-Crouch,
Essex.



Rosemary Rutherford receiving congratulations of friends at the Hove Convalescent Home, on her graduation.

It is worth reminding all members of the Force, cadets and pensioners that the home exists for your use after an illness. The sickness can be what many would consider slight, as well as the more serious varieties, but full details can be obtained from Sgt. Ed. Easley, Headquarters extension 363.

Federation Open Meeting

As this takes place today The Law will not report in detail on the meeting but will carry a picture report in the next issue.

Southend stage indoor games finals



DELIGHT all over his face Constable Perkins, of Hampshire, comes off the table after winning the Regional singles championship in straight sets.

But Essex are out of luck

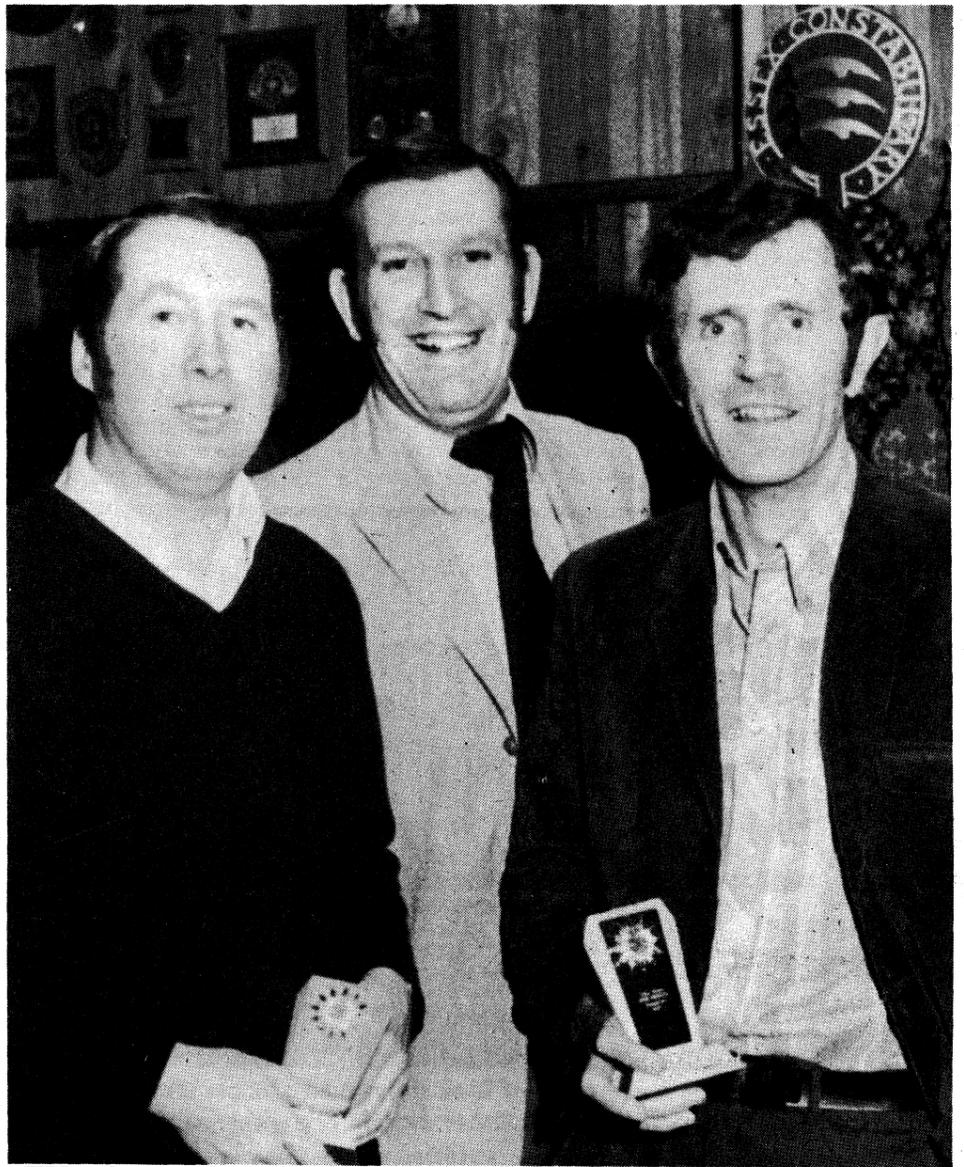
STAGED at Southend on February 22 the regional indoor games, billiards and table tennis competitions were a sore disappointment to the home team. Only in one of the seven contests did Essex competitors take regional plaques.

This was in the table tennis men's doubles where Peter Prouse and John Barcham made their way into the final only to lose by three straight sets.

On the basis of four points for the winner two points for the runner-up and one for each losing semi-finalist, Sussex were the winners of the day's events with 17 points with Bedfordshire, 13, second and Thames Valley, eight, third.

The organising committee, under the leadership of Ron Irwin, included Messrs. Anderson, Prouse, Wheatland and Tuthill, referee.

After the events, awards were presented by the Chief.



THE ONLY Essex award winners, doubles runners-up Peter Rouse, left, and John Barcham. In the centre Ron Irwin who looked after the organisation.

Oldest Pensioner dies: 95

LAST month William Drane, the oldest Essex Police pensioner, died at the age of 95. When he retired over 40 years ago he was an Inspector in the Colchester Borough Force.

Mr. Drane left a widow who is 92 and a daughter who is herself over retirement age. The old couple never had a state pension and lived entirely on their police pension.

The title of Oldest Pensioner now seems to fall on "Zeppelin" Smith, who is himself 95, having celebrated this anniversary in February. Mr. Smith got his name after arresting the crew of a German Zeppelin in World War I.



MR. DUKE makes the draw for the contests of the next day, assisted by Insp. Green, Sussex Indoor Games Captain.

Continued from page 2

emphasise that I am in no way different from John Russell (who in the past has done his fair share of overtime, both paid and unpaid and again like me when Regulations have allowed, claimed the allowances) I too like the little extras that overtime money can buy. Like many in the past who have stated that overtime should be paid, I am pleased the Police Federation gained that right.

Whilst John is entitled to his viewpoint he is not entitled to be condescending, especially in regard to young officers. Let me assure you John, not only young Constables are taking up the offer, I believe your colleague at Nazeing has also taken advantage of the offer, so he apparently doesn't share your views either!

There is no obligation on anyone's part to take this overtime and who says it must be in conjunction with a normal shift? Many members are doing the odd four hours on top of their normal shift to suit themselves, many others are doing the overtime in two hour stints. Having spoken to him it appears John's main grouse is that travelling time and refreshment allowance is not being paid. Does John think that from the

break? A good idea, no doubt, but Regulations do not allow for this and we are bound by Regulations in spite of what John thinks. Because, in the main, Regulations are a safeguard to our members — those we feel are not so, we endeavour to change.

As I have said, I have been the Constables' Representative for the past ten years and I have always acted in the best interests of my colleagues, including John; as he well knows and I am sure accepts.

With regard to the Police Federation as a whole, at our last Joint Branch Board Meeting this subject was brought up by our Secretary, Jim Rodgers, and we all felt that any money available would be better sited in the pockets of the Constables than in those of the Police Authority. So you see John, my attitude is indicative at least of the rest of the Branch Board.

I will end by saying that John and I see a lot of each other, being in the same Sub Division, and although we agree to differ on this point, I am thankful he takes an active interest in the Police Federation.

Perhaps we can have another talk on this matter, John, maybe you can sway me towards your point of view or vice versa!

A bigger problem

FOLLOWING our report of the new methods of briefing police prior to the Colchester/Derby match in January, Supt. Mike Humberston told The Law that he was invited to Derby for the replay.

When he got there he was soon spirited away from the directors' box to meet the

Family's thanks

Dear Sir,
My wife and I and our two remaining sons would like, through the medium of The Law, to express our appreciation for the many written and verbal messages of sympathy from our many colleagues and friends at the loss of our son, and brother, Paul, who died on 12 December, 1976 as the result of a road accident.

Doug Wheatley
2 Craiston Way



MASTERLY play by Sgt. Webb, of Brighton, secured the veterans table tennis championship for Sussex. The Chief presented awards at the end of a full day's sport.

TROPHIES—FROM PAGE 1

him to attend District, Divisional and County Scout meetings.

He is also the Group Scout Leader for a troop of Scouts at Eight Ash Green near Colchester and as such is the co-ordinator of the Cub, Scout and Venture Scout Troops there. His responsibilities include recruitment, training and general administration of the Group.

evenings each week, with additional time at weekends, particularly during the summer months, almost every weekend his off-duty time is fully taken up with Scout work. He also attends annual leave camps with the Scouts.

"His involvement is outstanding and of great value to the Scout movement and to the community," concludes the Chief's

police officer in charge of operations, Mr. A. Mitchell.

Supt. Humberston was given a guided tour of the area to view police arrangements and found the situation, in his own words, "horrific," because of the number of people attending matches at the Derby ground and the narrow streets with terraced houses immediately outside, where windows are kicked in almost every Saturday.

Via Mr. Humberston, Mr. Mitchell sent his regards to

On foot in rural Essex

Down by the riverside Chelmsford to Maldon

13 miles

IN CONTRAST to last month's country walk, the Forest Way, in March we take you along the riverside from Chelmsford to Heybridge Basin.

While much of the Forest Way runs along paths and country lanes and could be covered from end to end on a bicycle without dismounting too often, the Chelmer towpath is a real country walk. It is quite safe to let the hound run — provided always he hasn't got a thing about cattle or sheep. Certainly there is no traffic to worry about. Much of the time

one cannot see, or even hear, a road.

On the other hand, if the prospect of an unrelieved riverside vista does not appeal there are some diversions which take one up footpaths and lanes before returning to the river further on.

The Chelmer and Blackwater Canal was constructed in the last century to carry barges up from Heybridge Basin to Chelmsford. In recent years only loads of timber

have made the journey and now, alas, due to the shortage of boatmen, these, too, have ceased. But pleasure boats have lately begun to ply the waterway in summer and for those whose energies do not extend to walking, a pleasant afternoon may be spent afloat in one of the quieter parts of Essex.

The dedicated Rambler will consider nothing less than the full journey, there and back. But this is 26 miles, rather more than most will want to tackle in a day. Indeed, the single journey is about enough because the going gets heavy in places, particularly after the sort of rains we have had recently.

For the less ambitious there are parking places along the way and a few miles at a time the lot can be done in several sessions.

Starting at the beginning one gains the Chelmsford end of the towpath by passing down an alley leading from Navigation Road, between Brown's timber yard and Howard's Dairies.

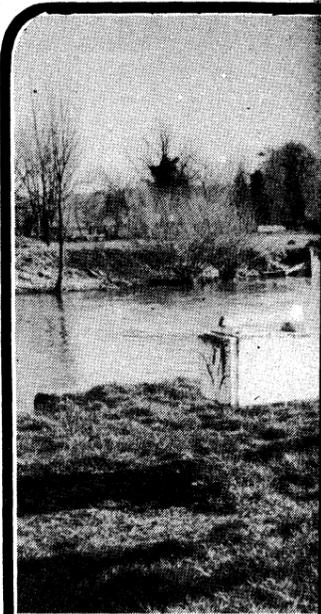
Within a short distance

between buildings on one side and the gas works opposite the path disgorges on to Baddow Meads and open country. Alternatively, and better for those arriving by car, a start may be made in Lion Mead car park, by skirting the gas works wall to gain the canal bank after a few hundred yards.

Once the walker passes under the A12 with its heavy transport grumbling over the Chelmer Bridge urban scenes are exchanged for more pastoral views.

The path now moves through meadows well known to all those who have endured the pleasures of cross-country running. Here it is that the police courses skirt the water meadows. Even the road walkers cross the canal twice on their circuit from Sandford Mill Lane.

Soon after Brook End comes the first chance to divert away from the waterside. A wobbly-looking though sturdy



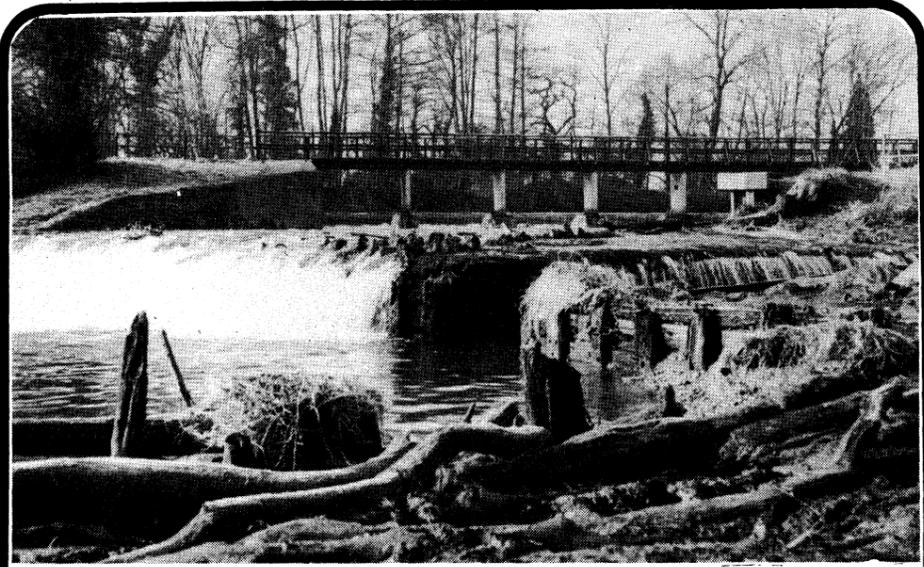
WINTER sunshine but the hound can run molesting farm lives

again towards Beeleigh Abbey, an ancient house of architectural interest, and open to the public in the summer.

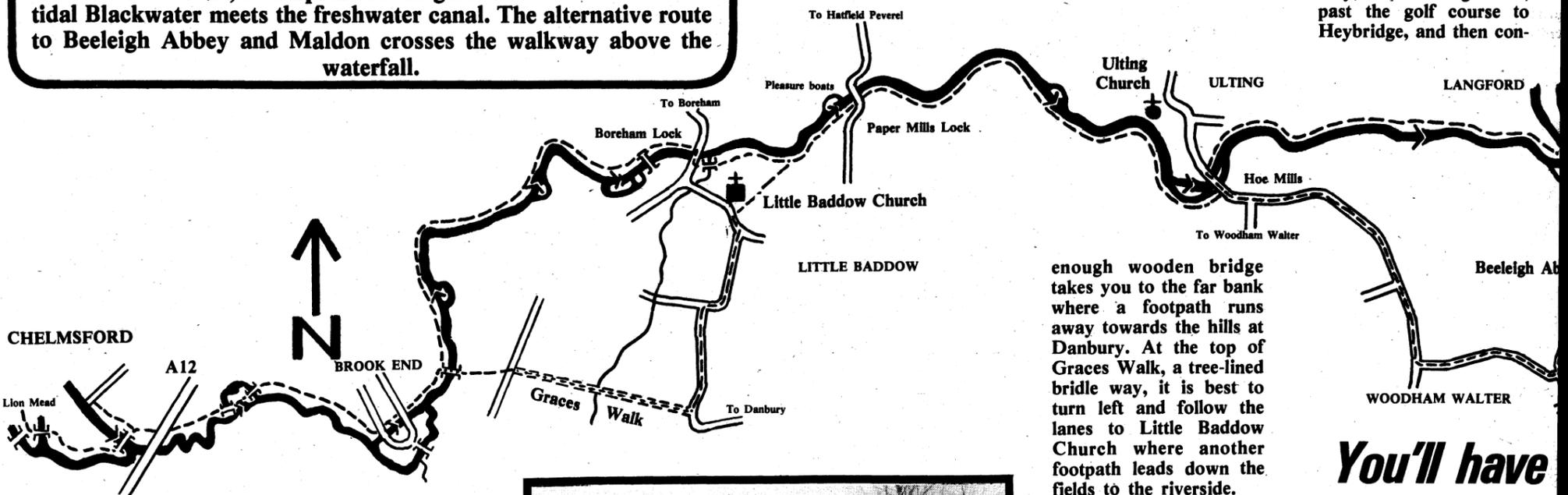
The Abbey can also be gained from the riverside. By walking on to Beeleigh Lock, where the Chelmer and Blackwater rivers meet, the Rambler may turn south and stroll up the road to the old house.

From there a footpath runs directly into Maldon — and refreshment.

But for the fanatic who has come to walk the whole path, come what may, the course goes on, past the golf course to Heybridge, and then con-



BEELEIGH Locks, a complex of lock gates and sluices where the tidal Blackwater meets the freshwater canal. The alternative route to Beeleigh Abbey and Maldon crosses the walkway above the waterfall.



enough wooden bridge takes you to the far bank where a footpath runs away towards the hills at Danbury. At the top of Graces Walk, a tree-lined bridle way, it is best to turn left and follow the lanes to Little Baddow Church where another footpath leads down the fields to the riverside.

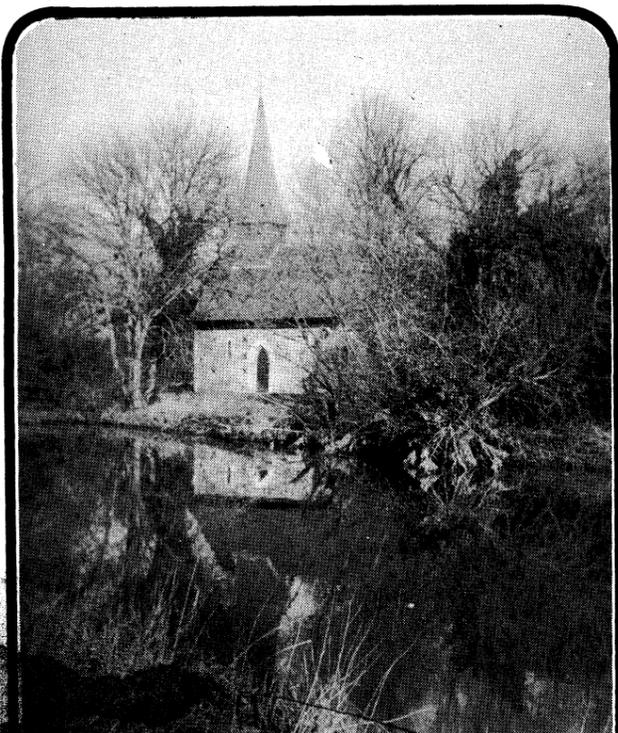
These lanes are pleasant, tree-lined, ways unlike so much of Essex and, as they climb a little above the valley, offer views across the meadows.

From Boreham Lock the river flows on to Paper Mills Bridge, from whence the pleasure boats ply in summer, and then on past Ulting Church which stands close to the bank among the trees.

Nearby at Hoe Mill quarries the flooded pits are well-stocked with wild fowl, worth a visit without the walk. Alas, the "danger, keep out" signs probably mean what they say!

At this point alternative routes are again available, the first being, obviously, the river bank. But one can turn right, along the road towards Woodham Walter, and after a furlong or so, left into a narrow lane which gradually climbs away from the river, passing Beeleigh point-to-point

You'll have snack — and Survey, sh might be



SITTING sedately beside the river, Ulting Church is reflected in the quiet water. Past generations of cadets will remember the soggy meadow beside the church where they put up their tents



WOODEN footbridges span the canal at intervals between Maldon and Chelmsford.

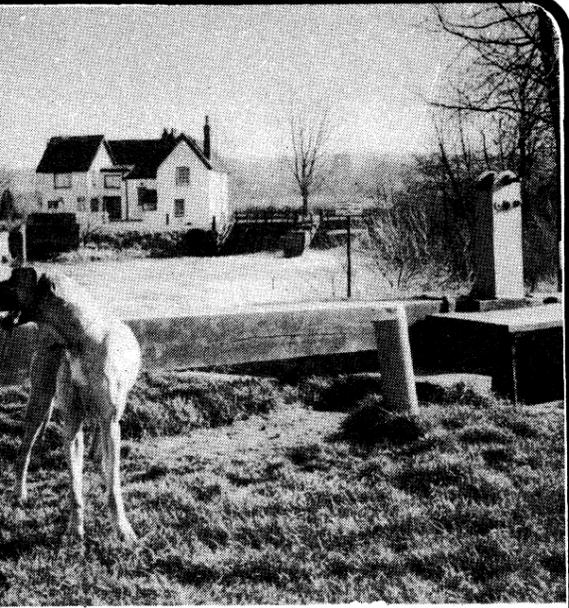


AT HEYBRIDGE BASIN yachts squat sedately on their reflections.



BEYOND the locks the atmosphere changes inland river to tidal herons give way to pubs help set the scene The Jolly Sailor

YOUR NUMBER COMES UP but you still don't win a prize



...ntening Boreham Lock, a quiet spot where
outing without getting on to the road or
ck. In the background Little Baddow
Church.

...mes straight for another
ile or more to Hey-
ridge Basin and the deep
cks giving access to the
ackwater Estuary and
e sea.

Really rural

This is a walk for the
...thony enthusiast.
...either on the main route
...or on the diversions is
...ere a pub or cafe to be
...ound, so it's packed
...nch or go without.

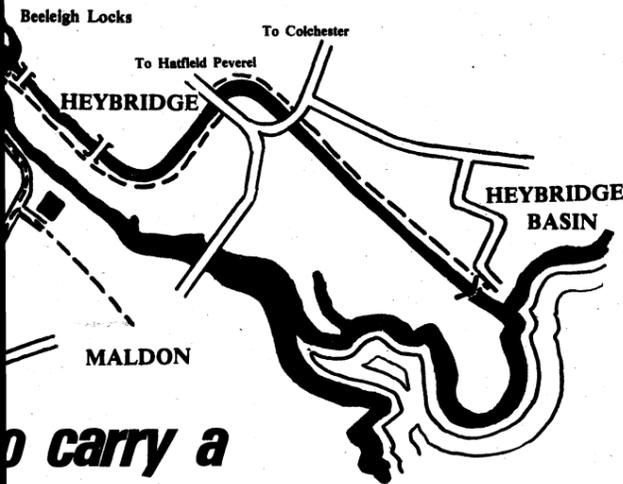
Starting at the Chelms-
...rd ending one can park at
...ook End, just by the
...ad side, there's no car
...ark, and make the
...rcuit, out along the river

bank and back along the
diversion, returning down
Graces Walk. This would
be an afternoon's stroll
after an early lunch —
and before a late tea.

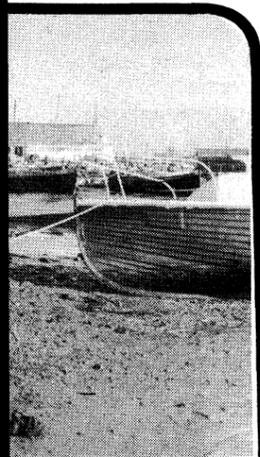
Similarly the family
transport may be left near
Beeleigh Abbey and this
circuit covered, up to Hoe
Mill.

To be sure of not
getting lost — especially
if you leave the river
bank, invest in the Ord-
nance Survey, sheet 162
— only 44p.

Finally, you could
borrow a canoe and
paddle down to the sea
from the County Town,
but you'll need a licence
from the canal authority.
And it's a long way back
against the current.



...o carry a
... Ordnance
... et 162,
... useful



Heybridge Basin
dramatically from
uary. Wrens and
and even the two
with their names,
The Old Ship.

National
Association of
Retired
Police
Officers *by Bert Brinkley*

Chelmsford Branch A.G.M.

The meeting has been fixed for Saturday, May 21, 1977, at 10.30 hrs. in the Staff Canteen, Police Headquarters. Refreshments will be available at 10.00 hrs. It is hoped the Spring bulletins will arrive by the end of April so that they can be included with the Agenda and Statement of Accounts for the Meeting. If the bulletins do not arrive in time for posting they will be despatched with the next bulletins. We are now threatened



THE LAW went along to see fair play. Indeed the play was fair though the players were rather better.

The occasion was the force lottery draw at a social evening at Southend. Some said it was an IPA do; there was talk of a superintendents' meeting; rumour had it that there was to be an indoor games event next day and the social had to do with this. Never mind, Edgar Easlea was there and with his usual eye to the welfare of all and sundry had sorted out four charming young women from Sussex to make the draw.

Alas, they repaid Essex by sorting out the home team next day, winning the regional games contest by a street.

It was to the misfortune of The Law that though our telephone number, 216, was the second number out, this apparent omen did nothing to rescue us from our financial folly.

But Mrs. Christine Sullivan, a clerk in the collator's office at Clacton, was the better off by £581.96 and The Law was made to promise not to make any funnies about for that price she could buy Clacton Nick.

The winner heard of her good fortune when the teleprinter message arrived early next morning at Clacton where she has worked for 18 months. Christine told The

Law that she will "think about it" before spending the money, though with three children aged 7, 9 and 12 spending isn't difficult. "I expect a holiday will be on the list", she said.

Seven divisions shared the 9 prizes and, in contrast to other months, no one above sergeant got a prize — rough justice of a sort.

Our pictures show, top, the Sussex Young Ladies, conducted by Ed Easlea, and, bottom, the hard working Lottery Admin Squad, Arthur Negus, Mrs. Negus and Mrs. Cooper, who have the winners names out in a matter of seconds.

THE RESULT of the Force Lottery Draw for January (draw No. 9), held at Southend on Monday 21.2.77.

1st (03942) Mrs. C. B. Sullivan, Clacton, £581.96p; 2nd (00216) Ps 257 L. E. G. Perrott, Basildon, £290.98; 3rd (02225) Dc 98 R. Kelsey, Leigh, £145.49; 4th (00977) Ps 86 P. W. Millichip, Tilbury, £72.75.

Consolation prizes: (£14.55 each): 04831, Ps 117 D. K. Parish, Harwich; 04107, Pc 890 D. Barrell, HQ Traffic; 05099, Pc 623 K. Tait, Harlow; 00370, TW 93 J. A. Dawson, Harlow; 04921, Dc 1173 N. F. Grainger, Colchester.

The February draw will be at the Police Cadet School end-of-term Disco on Wednesday 30th March. All welcome, but take your earplugs.



with further increased postal charges which will add to our already overburdened postage account. However, with good husbandry we will survive. We look forward to a good turnout for this meeting. Now is the chance to elect your Officers and Committee for the ensuing year. A few fresh faces would be welcomed as indeed would be the presence of the ladies — so do your utmost to attend. Our guest speakers will be — Mr. J. Duke, Deputy Chief Constable, Sgt. Ed Easlea, Force Welfare Officer and Sgt. Jim Rodgers, Secretary J.B.B. Police Federation. We always appreciate their visit to our meetings and to learn up to date news of the Force.

It is learned that as the result of a recent ballot several forces (including Essex) have voted for the "right to strike" in order to have their grievances over pay and

conditions brought home more forcibly to the Authorities. Those of us with longer memories will undoubtedly recall the dilatory manner in which these grievances were dealt with in the distant past by the Home Office which were frustrating at times, even so, it is difficult to see the object of this ballot, whether to constitute a threat of industrial action or otherwise.

But many pensioners will remember the Police Strike of 1919 and its subsequent consequences. Contracts were broken and as the result many lost their jobs and some suffered reduced pensions. If the Conditions of Service are again broken the result could be disastrous. However frustrating it may be, tolerance must be paramount in negotiations. Many times N.A.R.P.O. has invited the Home Secretary to address the

Annual Conference but it has not been found possible for anyone to attend — not even a junior Minister, but the situation is endured and we keep plugging away ever hopeful. One wonders if the Home Secretary has been in the job long enough to fully appreciate the implications involved and is somewhat sceptical in attending these conferences in case some awkward questions might arise of which he is unable suitably to reply.

Annual Bowls Fixture versus Regular Police

The date for this annual event has been fixed for 3pm, Thursday, June 30, 1977, on Headquarters Green, 4 Rinks, Dress — greys. Any bowlers interested should contact the Social Secretary — Bill Hindley, 64 Oliver Road, Shenfield, Brentwood. Tel. Brentwood 214614.

Chelmsford Branch Social

This Social will be held as usual in the Staff Canteen at Police Headquarters on September 17, 1977, at 12 noon for 12.30. The Licensed Bar will be open at 11.30 hrs. Instead of the usual running buffet, a "sit-down" lunch is being provided at a cost of £1 per person attending. Branch funds will underwrite the difference. Our Widows will, as usual, be invited free of charge. Invitations will be sent out with the June bulletins and I earnestly ask that you reply as soon as possible. In the past, at least by September 3, it was a bit frustrating last year that two weeks before the Social only 20 replies had been received, which almost convinced me that these Socials were not wanted. A great deal of work does go into the preparation for a Social and all I ask is for your co-operation.

Runners' best ever



Regional champions Margaret Whitley, Linda Brewster, and Siobhan McAuley.



Mens' runners-up Andy Hayman, front, from left, Andy Down, Graham Butler, Alex Vowles.

THE BEST performance ever by an Essex Police cross-country squad in the Regional Championships. This was the verdict after the 1977 event at Mote Park, Maidstone, held in bright sunshine on 2nd March.

In the girls' race the opposition proved less strong than had been feared, as Kent, who had beaten Essex in the previous 2 races, had runners on the sick list. So Essex were able to put their 3 scorers into the first 6 home for an easy win.

Not that the runners themselves would call this course easy. The usual Mote Park circuit had been changed, providing a long drag up to the finish.

Siobhan McAuley made the running from the start, but in the end had to give best to Belinda Harding, City. Linda Brewster, 5th, and Margaret Whitley, 6th, gave Essex a total of 13, ahead of Kent 23 and Thames Valley 27. Susan Watson in 10th place pushed through well in the second half. Julia Foster finished 17th and Caroline Poole 20th.

The men's race proved that athletics is chancy. Graham Butler had screwed himself up to beat the opposition — and did so. But last year's champion, Peter Bidmead of Sussex, who has been off form all season had quietly recovered. He pushed into a lead of about 30 yards in the first 2 miles and stayed there, despite Graham's efforts, to the end.

Thames Valley, with their 4 scorers in single figures, won the team race with ease, but Essex, 2nd in every race this winter, were determined not to slip.

Fine team running by two Essex groups made this the best Essex effort since this championship began. In the first Andy Hayman, Alex Vowles — on day release from Ashford initial training course — and Andy Down, back after a 2 year bout of injury, held 12th place. In the end Down had to let his younger colleagues go, but allowed no one else to overtake.

The second Essex bunch included Martin Atkinson and Ian Poynter, who finished 20th, and Tony Hindes who found the course a bit stern and lost ground in the fast mile to finish 24th.

Other Essex runners were K. Skingley, 27th, G. Barrett, 34th, D. King 48th, and S. Wilmott 57th.

When the team scores were announced, Essex were crowned champions, their first medals in several seasons. With the runners-up in each event and teams placing 1st and 2nd, Essex took more awards than any other team.

Men's team scores: Thames Valley 23, Essex 41, Kent 53, Herts 73, Surrey 101, Hants 130, Beds 155.

On track

BACK on the track from their cross country exploits, several members of the force team contested a 5,000 metres event at Crystal Palace last Wednesday. The shorter distance revealed a lack of basic speed but all had a good workout. Times: G. Butler, 16.22; A. Hayman, 16.41; K. Skingley, 17.45; G. Barrett; 18.39.

Walking

IN TERMS of the number of races contested the past few weeks have been quiet. But within the limited programme, tremendous progress has taken place with personal best times abounding.

Members of the section made the journey to Bremerhaven in Northern Germany on 19th February where they took on the local club and others including one large German, a former international known not entirely jocularly as King Kong. Peter Ryan was on sparkling form to win the race in his best time ever while in 5th place Dennis Sheppard, clocking 48.32, was beginning to improve again.

When it came to the Essex 10 miles championship at Southend on 26th February the police team hit a collective high spot which it will be hard to equal.

Ryan lowered the Force record to 75.17; Sheppard put up a personal best of 77.18 to gain selection for Essex in the inter-counties; and Hedgethorne hacked almost a minute off his p.b. set as long ago as

TRACKSUIT TOPS

Sporting Types — are you in need of a new tracksuit top? We have an unlimited supply of finest quality white cotton tops, with royal blue edging on sleeves and collar and "Essex Police" embossed on the back. Nylon Zip front — a bargain at £4.50. Can be viewed at HQ Cadet School at any time. Anyone interested contact Mr Banks PTI — HQ ext. 321. For casual wear available without embossing.

1971, clocking 82.55.

The pattern of improvement was continued at Battersea Park the week after when Sheppard gained 8th place in the Southern Counties 10 miles in a new best time of 76.32. This race saw the reappearance of Mark Spellman but he unfortunately incurred the judges' displeasure through lack of fitness.

The championship season is now upon us with Essex Championships at 10kms, 50kms and 20 miles to come in the next few weeks, together with the national 10 miles, the A.A.A. 10kms, the national police 10 miles — the list could go on, but Police will tackle them all.

RESULTS

Steyning 10 miles: 12.2.77
2nd P. Ryan 77.53; 6th D. Sheppard 83.50; 8th J. Hedgethorne 85.53.

Womens 3000mts
2nd S. McAuley 16.22.

Bremerhaven 10,000mts: 19.2.77
1st P. Ryan 46.42.6; 5th D. Sheppard 48.32.

Essex 10 miles: Southend: 26.2.77
5th P. Ryan 75.17 (Force Rec.); 8th D. Sheppard 77.18 (best); 18th J. Hedgethorne 82.55 (best); 27th T. Hindes 93.02.

Pat earns foreign trip

A FAR CRY from police holds at Police Training School, is the sort of judo which gets you black belt status. And it's out of the ordinary judo that earns you a trip to an international contest in Europe.

So WPC Pat Foster of Leigh has done pretty well. Because she has gained selection for just such a trip on April 4th, to Limburg in the Netherlands to represent Great Britain in an international meeting there. Opposition from all over Europe is expected to take part.

Pat joined Essex police 15 months ago and before that worked for Access at Southend. There she formed and ran a judo club of which she is still a member and instructor. She has been taking part in judo for some six years, and is a Black Belt 2nd Dan.

There's only one snag. The British Judo Association gets no sponsorship and Pat will have to raise about £68 for the honour of making the trip. She has applied for help to the Force Sports Club.



Football Roundup

Essex Police 2, Sussex Police 1

ESSEX started this game well and despite the heavy conditions, were soon on top, with a well headed goal from John Rhymes.

Before Sussex had pulled themselves back into the game Essex scored their second goal. Peter Taylor made an intelligent run to the by-line before pulling the ball back to Don Whitford who calmly placed his shot into the corner of the net. The remainder of the first half saw both teams create chances, although Essex kept the upper hand.

In the second half Sussex pushed more men forward, which eventually paid off with a well taken goal mid-way through the half. However, Essex never gave up, and deservedly held on to their one goal lead, giving them a place in the second round of the regional PAA competition.

THE Force Team is on a winning streak. In addition to victories in recent cup battles they are also making good progress in the Olympian League. A convincing 5-3 victory over Dunmow a couple of weeks ago was followed up by a 1-nil win against Ongar on 5th March. Goal-keeper Peter Moy made his debut for the force in this game and played very well.

The semi-finals of the Colling Cup are still to be played. Colchester meet Southend East on Monday, 21st March. League-wise

Southern 10 miles: Battersea: 5.3.77.
8th D. Sheppard 76.32 (best); 33rd J. Hedgethorne 84.40; 57th T. Hindes 92.16.

Crystal Palace 5000mts: 9.3.77.
6th P. Ryan 22:52.2; 11th D. Sheppard 23:34.2; 24th J. Hedgethorne 25:34; 28th M. Spellman 26:48; 29th S. Wilmott 26:51; 30th P. Rice 27:44; 32nd T. Hindes 28:28.

Southend field three teams, two on Wednesdays and one on Saturdays. By far the most successful of this trio are the Saturday side. They have lost only two games since the beginning of December and are 5th in their league with ten games to play and very hopeful of promotion.

The other semi-finalists are Basildon and Staff, who meet on Friday, 25th March at King George Playing Fields, Brentwood. Insp. Tony Tomlinson, the Basildon secretary told the Law, "We are going through a very lean spell at the moment and the teams' performances are causing me a certain amount of heartache. I only hope we can pull something special out of the bag for the cup."

On the other side, Ps Mick Benning, speaking on behalf of the Staff team commented, "We are not going through a lean spell. In fact we have a 100 per cent record — played one, won one."

Next season things could be different. They are proposing to enter a team in the Southend & District Wednesday League.

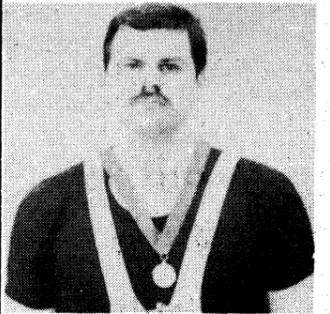
The Cadets' side have lost all of their last three games. The most disappointing of these was their 3-2 defeat by Pegasus in the League Cup.

Despite the fact they have been losing the games it is obvious they have not lost their sense of humour. Mick Benning who plays at centre forward for the Cadets recently received a Certificate from a popular football magazine for scoring a hat-trick. He was described in the magazine as Master M. Benning.

The Certificate is usually presented to Cubs and Scouts for this achievement. The magazine's informer must, for obvious reasons remain anonymous.

Retiring — hurt

WE ARE SAD to have to report that Pc Lionel Thomas, a weight-lifter of 18 years standing and present P.A.A. Light-Heavyweight



Champion has been forced to retire from the sport due to a serious injury sustained in training.

Lionel, a dedicated athlete, has represented the Force on a number of occasions, and last year trained really hard (damaging the floor of the Cadet School gym in the process), and reached peak fitness just before the P.A.A. Championships winning his weight quite comfortably.

This year he was training with equal vigor for the Championships when tragically he over did it and snapped a vertebrae and caused severe muscle damage only three weeks before the event.

The Law Shop

CORNWALL. Luxury Holiday Chalet on very pleasant site overlooking sea at Talland Bay, Polperro. Brick built, fully-equipped, all mod. cons. Sleeps six. Shop, Club, Playground and heated Swimming Pool on site. Ideal for off-season holidays. (Reductions). Contact Inspector Craig Bailey, Harlow Police Station.

FOR SALE. Elsan, portable, caravan/camping toilet complete. Excellent condition, £4. 50mm tow ball and unusep £1.25.

Rugby Club Disco — 15th April '77

at Basildon Police Station
Refreshments & Bar Extension
Tickets £1 from John Bowman FSU or Chelmsford 66785

ATHLETES take note that the Force championships, in conjunction with the Cadet Corps championships will take place at Melbourne Stadium, Chelmsford, on Thursday, June 9.

Following the much improved support for the event in 1976 the list of events has been extended and will this year include:

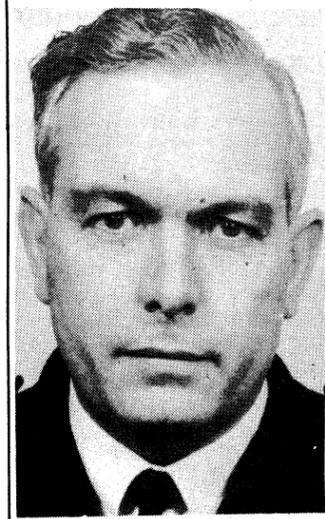
MEN	MEN	WOMEN	SCORING
100 mts.	1,600 mts. relay	100 mts.	Scoring for the divisional team event will be 4, 3, 2, 1.
200 mts.	shot	800 mts.	
400 mts.	discus	Long jump	
800 mts.	javelin	400 mts. relay	
1,500 mts.	hammer	2,000 mts. walk	
3,000 mts. steeplechase	long jump		
3,000 mts. walk	high jump		

Before this, however, the Southern League programme opens in early May when a full programme must be covered on the following dates.

DATE	VENUE	OPPOSITION
7th May	Chelmsford	Banbury, M. Keynes, Diss V.P.H.
28th May	St. Ives	Hunts., Bedford, Lowestoft, Haringey.
25th June	Chiswick	Aylesbury, Dacorum, Loughton, Colchester.
2nd July	Bedford	Biggleswade, O. Gaytonians, Poly, W. Suffolk.
30th July	Hayes	Hillingdon, Gt. Yarmouth, Verleke, Herts.
20th August	Ilford	Wycombe, Eton Manor, Basildon.

Any athletes who have recently joined the Force and wish to be considered please telephone John Hedgethorne at H.Q. ext. 216.

MOVES



LEAVING what he had begun to think of as his last resting place — in the police of course — newly promoted Supt. Ron Shayshutt took over command of Colchester Sub-Division last Monday. Supt. Shayshutt had been at Witham for 12 years and was promoted Chief Inspector when the post was up-graded in 1969. Prior to this he was Inspector at Colchester.

"I am very heavily committed for the next three months with functions in Witham", he told *The Law*, adding that he will still live in the town and travel to Colchester for duty.



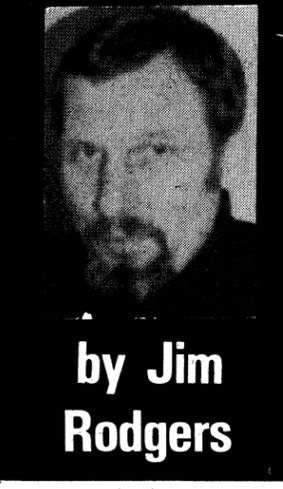
SUPT. Malcolm Moore is going a little further having been seconded to Fiji for a couple of years. But moving is nothing new to a man who came to Essex to take charge of Communications from Somerset, and before this Metropolitan Police.

Mr. Moore will be Communications Adviser to the Fiji Police and in theory will be a civilian employed by the Ministry of Overseas Development. He flies out with his wife and one son on March 25, his other 3 sons remaining in the U.K.

"It's coming into autumn there now", he told us, "and at night the temperature sinks as low as 62 and you might even need a sheet on the bed."

He has promised *The Law* a picture of him in his Fiji Police sarong and sandals — we can't wait.

Federation Notes



by Jim Rodgers

PAY REVIEW 1976

The Home Secretary, after steadfastly denying for close on six months, that he has the power to negotiate with the Police Federation on pay, eventually sat down with our National Committee and made pay offers. In the absence of information from our National Committee, one can only be guided by details gleaned from the Press. If they are to be believed, two or three offers were made within the space of the past 10 days, none of which went beyond the second phase of the Pay Agreement — and none of which were acceptable to our negotiators. So it appears that we are no nearer to a settlement than we were last July when we walked out of the Police Council.

Now moves are afoot to force our negotiators to return to the negotiating table of the Police Council. This would put our negotiators in an invidious position if they were going back voluntarily; but to be forced makes them totally vulnerable. Think what has occurred since we walked out of the Council; the Joint Central Committee made criticism of the way that the Council works; the Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, agreed that there was substance in our criticisms; he has promised that a review of Police Pay Negotiating Machinery will be undertaken — and finally he has usurped their position by negotiating with us on pay.

What chance do we have of a fair settlement of our claims in this climate? It would seem that we would have difficulty in getting a settlement under Phase Two — which has already been offered to us — without having to make concessions! It is important that the membership do not add their own pressure to the negotiators at this time. There has to be some negotiations, there has to be some way that Mr Rees, or Mr Callaghan or someone with similar powers, can set up a means of ensuring fair treatment for the Police Service. And there must be some way that this can be quickly set up. After all if the Home Secretary agrees that the system should be changed, wouldn't it be logical to set up that machinery, organisers of the same.

A Youth Meeting has been planned for this year between 6th-16th August at Liege (Belgium). Members with children between the ages of 16 and 22 who would like to be considered for this event please contact your Div. Rep. The cost to include accommodation, meals and visits will be about £64.

SCBS ARE NOW DUE. Please remit without delay. Any member who fails to renew his membership before 31st March will be struck off.



The first half saw the visitors playing down the slope and fine cover play kept the score down to 12 points. In the second half the Force played some good rugby, worthy of mention, Nick Hall, a driving force in the pack and Graham Clarke who had a rare old tussle at prop.

However we didn't win very much ball in the line as their forwards were almost three inches taller to a man. But none-the-less Norfolk knew they had been in a game.

A new face on the field is Barry Johnson, just back from training school, and able, I believe, to add a bit of experience to the backs.

Finally two things, firstly many thanks to Alan Barrett's wife for turning up each week to cook the meals. Alan recently had his third cartilage out following an injury at Norfolk in the P.A.A. — we wish him well.

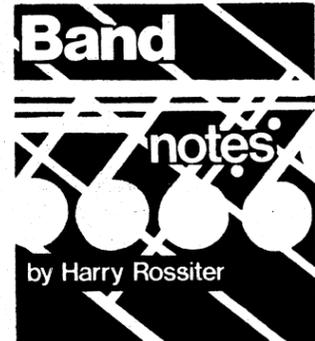
Secondly I must make a mention of the Disco due to be held at Basildon "Nick" on April 15. (pay day), between 8.30 p.m. — 1 a.m. Details on facing page.



DCC gets one back

AT SOUTHEND last month, for the first time since amalgamation in 1969, the Crockers Cup for the Champion Division was presented to Southend East. Such diverse activities as soccer and snooker, and shooting and shot put go into the winning of this trophy. Chief Supt. John Farnsworth is seen above receiving the Cup from Mr. John Duke, D.C.C. Thereafter in a spirit of tit-for-tat Mr. Farnsworth handed the Deputy a cross-country cup, originally the property of the Borough Force, and last engraved in 1966, when Southend East won it.

The new Cup was immediately handed over to the Force Athletic Secretary, Chief Insp. J. Hedgethorpe, who said it would remain in the same sport to be won annually by the team winners in the force championship.



THERE IS little activity to comment on concerning the Essex Police Band. As I said in my last edition we are taking full advantage of a quiet period, (something of a misnomer when you think about it), practising some fresh music and re-organising the sections of the band.

We have two concerts coming up this month. One I have already written about, namely the concert at the Moot Hall at Colchester on 23rd March at 7.30 p.m. in aid of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The other I mentioned briefly is, on the following Wednesday at Witham Public Hall where we shall be doing a stint for the local

Rotary Club. This is due to commence at 7.30 p.m. It is planned to be a "Marching and Waltzing" concert, with a local orchestra.

We used to do this type of concert on a regular basis at Witham, so this may be the beginning of a return to what used to be a very well attended type of function.

On Friday, 29th April the band will be in concert at Billericay Secondary School. The concert is due to commence at 7.30 p.m. and is in aid of the Billericay Rotary Club.

A welcome addition to the band, and worthy of note is Wpc Heather Wenbourne of Grays. Almost a year ago Heather took up playing the soprano cornet, the smallest instrument in the band, and has made great progress in mastering what is a very difficult instrument to play well.

So with our future before us, our past behind us and next weeks practice always there to make the most of, I will keep the news coming as it happens.

Good listening.



IPA notes

IPA HOUSE is situated at 109 Marguerite Drive, Leigh-on-Sea. During the next few months it will see a number of overseas visitors. Any member wishing to make contact with a view to escorting or meeting them or their families should in the first instance contact his Divisional representative. He will in turn furnish details of the nationalities of the people staying there and the duration of their stay.

For those interested in camping or caravanning your Divisional representatives are in possession of the list of rallies for 1977, and

Rugby

IN THE past few weeks the force have played against Met 'J' division away, Norfolk at home, Basildon Teachers away and Met 'H' division away. Unfortunately they have not won any of these games, but on no account have they been disgraced.

In some cases it has been the age old problem of not having 15 men. In others, lack of experience, weight and height, especially in the pack have led to their downfall. In a police side the height problem should never arise, however not one of our forwards is over six foot. Having said this we are building a platform for next season and I feel sure our present spell of poor results is only temporary.

On the playing side the game against Basildon was an exceptional one. They were by far the most controlled, experienced and well drilled side we have played and to have only 24 points scored against us was very good.

Basildon, fielding five first XV forwards and three first XV backs didn't have it all their own way. Our pack played tremendously well, fighting hard for everything in the loose.

Unfortunately it was in the three-quarters where the damage was done. It was here and in the centre that our lack of experience showed up most. The tackling was hard but too often high and disorganised and the weight of the Basildon forwards took them on and over the line. All credit to the backs however, who are not demoralised and are sticking to the task well. Next year they will be better.

The week prior to the Basildon game we met our old rivals, Norfolk, who incidentally lost to Sussex in the regional final of the P.A.A. competition. Our game with Norfolk was hotly contested. It was unfortunate that two Norfolk players had to go to hospital, one with a broken collar bone, the other with fluid on the knee. Both these injuries occurred in the last three minutes of the game and did not affect the result.

REFERENDUM

Because of the present deadlock on pay, I suppose the result of the referendum was predictable, but only relatively slightly affected by the pay negotiations. Ballot papers were sent to the 2,341 members of the Federated Ranks of the Force. Of these 2,090 were returned, showing 1,537 in favour of Police Officers having the right to strike — and 533 against, with 20 spoiled papers. Of the members polled, 65 per cent were in favour; and of these who returned their ballot papers 73 per cent were in favour, this gives the Joint Branch Board delegates a clear indication how they should vote at Central Conference to represent the views of the membership.

At the time our result was published there was a rash of referenda results, some of them showing 75 and 80 per cent in favour, and it is significant that since these results have been published the National Press has pricked up its ears and become aware that we have been negotiating on Pay! Few of them appear to have got to grips with the pros and cons of our claim — but then "dog bites man" is not such sensational news as "man bites dog" — and it is the sensational aspect that they have seized upon rather than the claim.

RENT ALLOWANCE

There is a slight hold up in the arrangements for the change in the Force Selected House as the County Hall Administrator considers we have selected a house which is not "typical" of those provided for members of the Force. This is based on a date of building basis averaged out over the period in which Police Houses have been provided. By this means a typical house would be one built in about 1963, whereas the Joint Branch Board considered that one built in the middle of the period when the Standard Police House has been built is more "typical" of the houses the Police Authority have agreed to provide. There will be some delay whilst discussions continue on this aspect, but there does appear to have been a precedent set on this subject in Surrey, which will assist us in our efforts. The Force Rent Allowance is not due for review until 1st April 1977, so there is still some time available for this matter to be sorted out. One would hope there will be some news for the next issue of the Law.

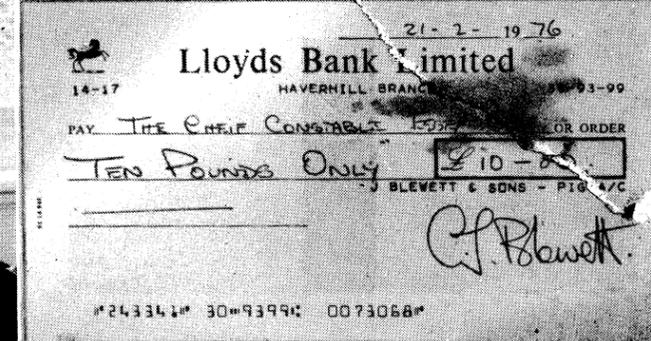
ALLOWANCES GENERALLY

I have been receiving phone calls from members pointing out that NALGO expenses rates for Essential User motor vehicles, and Subsistence and Refreshments have been increased recently, and now outstrip our allowances. The reason for this is that no negotiations have taken place on the Police Council since July 1976, once we again have a negotiating body to sort things out these allowances will be brought up to date. Rest assured that these points have not gone unnoticed.

TELEPHONE FACILITIES

In the very near future a Storacall machine will be installed in the Joint Branch Board offices at Force Headquarters to enable the membership to leave messages or seek facilities from the Secretary of the Board. Since Mrs Black may well be the first one in to use the office, can I ask that heavy breathing calls are kept to a minimum!

On a serious note we do feel that this facility will prove to be of assistance to me and to the membership.



It appears that this cheque came into Braintree Police Station. Ch. Insp. John Page remarks, "Not many people keep a special account for us." For those not familiar with banking — note above the signature, "PIG A/C".

Mr. Page has switched back to Witham from Braintree, will he replace the promoted Mr. Shayshutt. Applications to take charge of the piggery at Braintree should not be forwarded through *The Law*.

Pensioner's Golden Wedding



WITH their family about them, Essex Police pensioner, Henry Waterfield and his wife Florence, celebrated their golden wedding recently at their home in Ewhurst, Surrey.

Henry is 87 and retired from the Force in 1938. "We didn't have a lot of money in the early days, 23s 4d per week," Henry Waterfield recalls.

As a mounted Constable he trotted past the house where Florence was a cook. "That's the girl I'm going to marry," he told a friend. But at first Florence fancied the horse more than she did him.

After leaving the Force they took a pub for 9 years but have lived in retirement at Ewhurst now for the past 24 years.

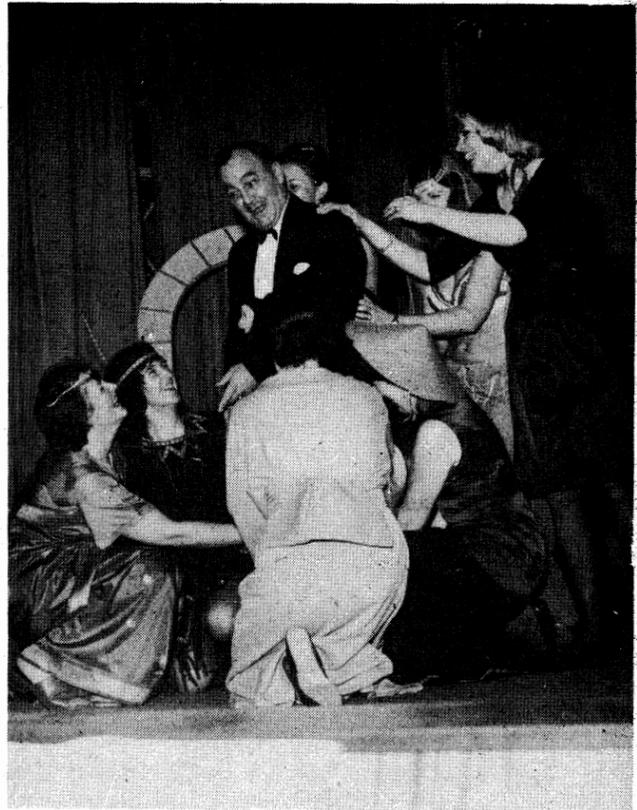
Picture by courtesy of The Advertiser.

HQ Musical Society

The Lilac Domino

ALL THINGS considered, it is a great wonder that the Headquarters Musical Society must, from time to time, make appeals for male singers to come forward and take part in their shows. As our two pictures show, there are definite attractions.

Johnny Johnson, for example, would be the first to admit that in ordinary life one often finds oneself in less glamorous surroundings — a yard full of stolen cars, perhaps.



Johnny Johnson, surrounded.

Then again, Dennis Sheppard, in his normal day-to-day affairs, contrives to go about with less of a moonstruck gaze than in our second picture — well, most of the time anyway.

The Society, for 1977, produced The Lilac Domino, a lively operette with a tangled plot involving masked balls, a gypsy band, mistaken identity, and cads seeking to marry for money. But in the end true love triumphs and they all live happily ever after. Just like the police pay talks, in fact.

Pictures by Ray Horsnell, Essex Chronicle.



Dennis Sheppard and Pat Evans.



CRUNCH

Black ice looked wet

EARLY one morning this car was doing 45 to 50 round a long sweeping left hand bend when it suddenly struck black ice and steering control was lost. The vehicle slid off the road to the left, travelled broadside along the grass, went up a bank and knocked down about 50ft. of wooden fence. Conditions were described as deceptive, the road having the appearance of only being damp.

THE LAW H.Q. telephone extensions 216 or 236

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