



NEW BREATH TEST DEVICE FOR CHRISTMAS

AN ELECTRONIC breath testing device is to be taken into use by the Force in time for the Christmas drink and driving campaign.

The device, the Alcolmeter S-L2, is a more accurate method of taking a breath test and is to be used wherever possible, instead of the Alcotest glass tube.

The training of officers in the use of the new equipment is well under way, with Headquarters Training School priming Divisional Instructors who will pass on the new procedures to all other divisional officers.

The new alcohol analyser, with its "traffic light" indicators, is designed to give less false positive readings which result in negative blood sample analysis, whilst, at the same time ensuring that drivers who are over the prescribed limit are more easily detected.

A "pass" reading shows an amber light on the machine and a "failure" is indicated by a red display. One added advantage is that a driver using the device with between 75 and 80 milligrammes of blood alcohol will activate both lights, and can be given the appropriate advice.

Issue

The Alcolmeter will be issued to sub-divisional level, and Sub-Divisional Commanders will decide which vehicles will carry them. Basically all traffic and area cars will carry the analyser and other patrol cars as suits local needs.

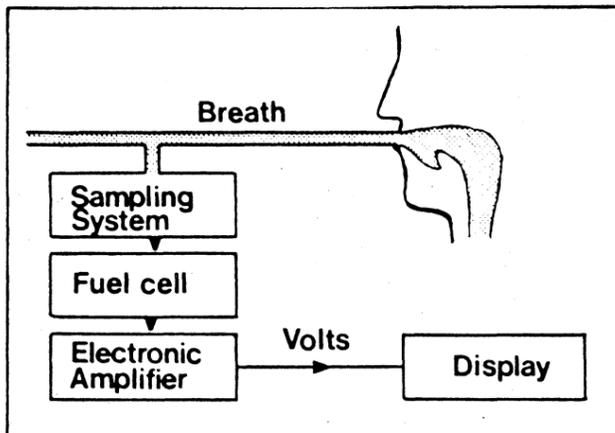
Those vehicles without the new equipment will of course, be able to call for one if needed, or resort to the old-type "steam" breathalyser.

The new device uses an electro-chemical cell to measure the concentration of alcohol in expired breath. A small amount of

the breath is taken into a fuel-cell where a voltage is generated in proportion to the alcohol concentration. This voltage is passed through an electronic amplifier and the lights start flashing.

Disposable mouth-pieces are provided, individually wrapped, and carried in the protective pouch and the whole kit is fitted with a wrist-strap.

For officers who have to enforce the drink and driving laws, this equipment will be of substantial benefit — enabling them to provide a more efficient and effective result, with a greater degree of fairness to those borderline cases.



The new device in a simplified diagram.



Ch Insp Allan Collins demonstrating the new breath test device.

Day-Long 'Chat'

A SERIES of one-day seminars are to take place at Force HQ to give all Constables and Sergeants the opportunity to discuss their day to day involvement with the Forces' Specialist departments.

The week-long Constables Refresher Courses are so packed with the formal teaching of law and procedure, that little time is left for informal information sessions that allow for discussions and the exchange of ideas.

The new system of one-day meetings are designed to fill this gap. Representatives from various specialist areas of police work will be available to put over their message and in return get feed-back from the course members.



Insp Roy Clarke

"Hopefully", says Insp Roy Clarke, who is co-ordinating the sessions, "this will be a two-way thing with informal discussions evolving." There will be no set format for the seminars — any department with something to say will present its own material in its own way. "It's really an internal 'Public Relations' exercise" explains Roy, "a chance for everyone to have a say."

Since there is no 'teaching' as such, the groups will be quite large — 40 officers at a time, four from each Division.

This should result in every Sergeant and Constable getting a day at HQ on a regular basis, although Sergeants and Constables will have separate seminars with different inputs.

There will be no writing or testing — but departments may circulate some preparatory reading to save time.

A pilot session is to take place on November 18, when representatives from the Community Services Branch, the Central Detective Unit, and the Complaints Department will be amongst those presenting their wares.

Harlow win for third year

BENNETT TROPHY

FOR THE third year in a row Harlow Division provided the winner of the Bennett Trophy.

Pc Mick Allen, stationed at Harlow Town since he joined the Force 18 months ago, won the competition against strong opposition from 62 other contestants.

The day's activities, organised by the Force Training School, were immediately supervised by Insp Terry Horton, and the examiners were the ACC(P), Mr Peter Simpson, Chief Superintendent Keith Hunter and Superintendent Ken Hambleton.

The Bennett Trophy was presented to the Force in 1959 by Alderman W. J. Bennett, CBE, JP, to be competed for annually by probationary constables.

Various written and oral tests covering police duties, home defence, and first-aid take up the contestants' day — each giving a graded number of points towards the grand total.

Pcs Grunenberg and Smith were the two previous Harlow winners, giving that Division an unprecedented triple result. The secret of Harlow's success might be in the fact that they give themselves a much better chance of finding a winner. In the last three years they have entered far more contestants than any of their competitors.

An analysis of the results of the early years of this competition gives some

interesting figures. A look at the top three constables in the first ten years, shows that one has made the rank of Superintendent, two Chief Inspector, and eight Inspector. Seven of these 30 contestants are now Sergeants, and there is one Pc. The eleven remaining from the sample have all since left the police service.

It is pointed out, of course, that conclusions drawn from such small numbers are rarely valid. But one could be forgiven for suggesting that if you're a bright, competitive and ambitious young officer in the Police Service, and you don't get promoted, you find some alternative outlet for your energies!



Pc Mick Allen



The top-ten — well eleven actually, including a tied placing.

Editorial

ABOUT-FACE

THERE CAN BE few issues more important to the Police Service than the procedure for dealing with complaints against the Police. It is a subject that affects every police officer of every rank, every day of his service, on or off duty, no matter with which Force, Department or Branch he serves.

It is understandable that Chief Officers favour the present procedure, whereby the Police investigate and adjudicate the complaints themselves. The imposition of an outside body would seriously interfere with the Chief Constable's sole right to maintain discipline and could completely upset the Command structure of the Service.

From other ranks it is apparent that there is a split of opinion. A not unsubstantial portion of the rank and file seem to feel that an investigative outside body could be advantageous. The logic seems to stem from the feeling that the Service — in an effort to be clearly seen to be fair — sometimes leans over backwards in favour of the complainant, to the detriment of the police officer. Thus, a body, accepted by all as being independent, would not have this pressure imposed and this would work to the benefit of the individual.

This view is amplified by the fact that since we have nothing to hide, we could all benefit from the improved public relations the independent complaints body would bring.

Fascinating

It is not strange that this debate exists in the Service, what is surprising is the recent Police Federation about-face on this issue.

The Federation has remained vehemently opposed to complaints being dealt with outside the Service until earlier this month, when Jim Jardine announced their complete support for such a scheme. Federationists, irrespective of their feelings on the matter, must have been astonished at this sudden and seemingly inexplicable change of heart.

One would have expected some warning of the announcement not to mention some consultation beforehand, and still an aura of mystery surrounds the bland statement.

What are the reasons for the about-face? What are the safe-guards Jim spoke of? Why wasn't the membership consulted or at least informed of the momentous occasion?

It will be fascinating to know the answers to these questions when the membership of the Federation receive a full statement. Presumably there is a full statement on its way?

Jabs

Dear Sir,

Not many years ago this force introduced the facility of inoculations against flu for those who wished to avail themselves.

It appears that every year these are later and later and very little encouragement given to anyone to have one. Firstly, lists go missing and apathy takes over. It is not until the sick book starts to fill that the message comes home.

I am now told that 'some date' in November the inoculations will start. Too late for many — me included!

Doctors tell me it should be done in September when the weather changes. A telephone call to the Police Station reveals he could obtain the vaccine at a moments notice so why oh why delays? Is it simply a fact of life we must wait for anything and everything and everything is just too much trouble any more?

Perhaps next year encouragement could be given, but not for me . . . I've had enough, I'll pay and go private!

Nigel Harbour
Sergeant 340

Basildon.

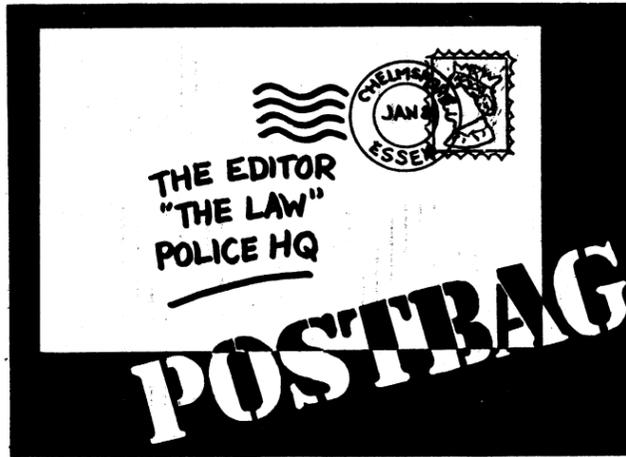
Ed — We are given to understand that the person responsible for distribution of the vaccine has been off sick — with flu!

Thank-You

Dear Sir,

May I, through your columns, thank everyone concerned for all the very kind assistance given to me following the sudden death of my husband, Albert, on October 12.

It made me very proud that he was given a Police funeral and that so many of his friends and colleagues from the Force attended, especially those who served with Albert at the old Hadleigh Police Station — a



very happy period in his thirty-two years' service.

I would also like to thank everyone for the messages and cards of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes that I have received.

Yours sincerely,
Esme Flint
Hadleigh
Benfleet
Essex

Coincidence

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you would kindly allow a few lines of your columns to record a remarkable coincidence.

My father, ex Ps 103 (formerly Pc 529) 'Ben' Snowsill, who joined the Essex Police at Billericay in 1931, and has seen moves successively to Brentwood, Billericay (again), Rayleigh and Hornchurch (Emerson Park), plus Hutton and Stondon Massey in retirement, has recently moved house yet again — to Billericay.

Thus in exactly 50 years, he has come 'full cycle' and is back where he started.

May I take this opportunity to say my parents would welcome re-acquainting themselves with any old friends and colleagues: their address is 7 Norsey View Drive, tel. Billericay 55544.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Snowsill

Appreciation

Dear Sir,

I would like to say how much I appreciated the lovely floral tribute sent by the Essex police following the death of my dear husband.

Please convey my thanks to everyone.
Sincerely,
Jessie McMillan

Retirement

Dear Sir,

Will you please allow me the facility of your columns to send a message of sincere thanks to all members of the force who sent me off into retirement with gifts of glassware and silverware. During my career I received wonderful support through the staunch efforts of my colleagues and their combined strength has made this force, in my opinion, one of the finest in the land. Although I am no longer a fully paid-up member of it I shall remain one in heart. I am thankful that by remaining in Essex I shall still be able to enjoy the friendship of my comrades.

I send my greetings and best wishes to all.
Yours sincerely,
C. Len White

Caps

Dear Sir,

I would be interested to know why it is that certain H.Q. uniform staff do not see fit to comply with the Chief Constable's recent instruction regarding the altering of Police uniform caps. F.O. 1297 of 30.7.81 refers.

Surely it is no wonder that this practice has become so popular when those who are responsible for training our cadets and setting an example are so blatantly ignoring the Chief's instructions. It is bad enough within the confines of Police H.Q. but to be displayed 'nationwide' on television is nothing short of a disgrace.

I look forward to seeing my letter published in the 'Law' in the hope that someone can give me a satisfactory answer.

L. Skyring Pc 872
Ex Regular Sergeant
Grenadier Guards.

Ed: A good try, Les, but Frank Bell has special dispensation for the parade-ground. He has an authorised cap for normal duties.

Timely

Dear Sir,

Would you kindly allow Mary and myself to express our most grateful thanks to all former members of the Cadet School for the magnificent clock which they presented to us at our Retirement Party in September.

It will be a timely reminder of our very happy years as Warden and Matron.

Yours sincerely,
Henry and Mary
Yarde-Martin
10 Millview
Saham Toney
Thetford, Norfolk

TOP DOG TRIALS

FOUR DAYS of competition held last month decided the Force's four top dogs who will represent Essex in the Regional dog handling finals.

These finals will be held in Hertfordshire at the beginning of March next year and the top four, again, from that competition, will go forward to the National Finals later in the year.

Winners

The local trials were won this year by Pc Martyn Garwood with his dog "Bruin," from Sandon, with Ps Les Theobald from Brentwood taking the second place with

"Sergeant." Pc's Mick Gurden with "Sabre," and Tim Rees with "Bren," make up the rest of the team.

The trials are divided into two parts. Three days out at Wethersfield doing tracking and searching and the final day

at Sandon for obedience and criminal work at HQ.

Not all of the Essex dogs took place in the trials; only the youngest and fittest are chosen. This year out of the 36 dogs and handlers, 21 competed in the competition.



The Trophy winners — with their handlers.

Marconi Sports Club
Beehive Lane, Chelmsford

Essex Police Band
Christmas Concert

Monday,
December 21, 7.30 p.m.

Hot food and licenced bar

Admission by programme

50p from any Band Member

SUMMER COMFORT IS ON ITS WAY

'The Law' And You

'THE LAW' office must apologise for missing last month's issue. Staffing changes and the "exigencies of the service" made it impossible to get the paper out — but we're all straight now and normal service is being resumed.

The results of the questionnaire we circulated to a sample of the force about 'The Law' and its contents showed that the vast majority of you like the idea of a force newspaper and read most of it, most months.

We also discovered that there was a demand for articles about the job — about new equipment, new systems, new courses and so on. As somebody said, "It would be nice to have something between Force Orders and rumour" — so that's what we'll try to do. But we'd also like to hear from you, about things you'd like to see in The Law or about stories you think might interest your colleagues. Just pick up the telephone and give us a ring.



Going . . .



Going . . .



Gone . . .

A NEW LOOK for uniform officers is to be made available for next summer. A short-sleeved, open necked shirt is to be phased in during the coming months which will give officers a cooler, neater appearance for all those tropical sunny days we get.

The shirt has been carefully designed so that it can be worn with a tie, without the problems that open collars often bring.

Available in terylene/cotton, this is a high quality garment, easy to wear and even easier to wash. The Force Supplies Officer, Dennis Yates, explains, "Each officer will be issued with two of the new shirts initially. These will be an extra issue, and thereafter the usual issue of three a year will be a matter of choice for the individual — he can have short or long sleeves as he wishes."

The new shirt is one of a number of garments being looked at by the Force Uniform Committee. This advisory Committee sits regularly and is made up of officers from all ranks. Suggestions from individual officers are welcomed and one of the ideas being looked at, at the moment, is a uniform anorak to replace the rain-coat.

The whole uniform problem is being examined to try to get a simpler, rational and fairer system that gives each officer the equipment he needs to do his job in comfort.

The new shirt can be worn with a tie at the wearer's discretion, and guide-lines will be given, as the summer approaches, about the open-neck look.



Force Supplies Officer, Dennis Yates.

10 MILE CHARITY TROT

SAFFRON WALDEN might look like a tiny town on the map, but it can seem vast — if you have to run around its boundaries. That's what a team from the Harlow Division volunteered to do on a sunny, but cold Sunday morning last month.

The event was a Mini-Marathon organised by the Mayor of Saffron Walden in aid of charity. The runners, who were all individually sponsored were trying to raise money to buy a mini-bus fitted with a lift for use by the disabled.

The Harlow team, under the captaincy of Detective Inspector Tom Dickinson were 'selected' from the whole Division and truly representative. The Saffron Walden contingent was the two 'A-A's' — Pc's Andrewartha and Addison-Atkinson, whilst Pc Dave Brew came up from Ongar and Rob Dicks from Epping. Detective Sergeant George Florence was the Regional Crime Squad's designated champion.

The whole police team completed the 10 mile course, which Tom Dickinson considered a most satisfactory result — considering that none of them were regular athletes, and at least one of them was getting past the age for that sort of thing.

The sponsorship money should reach towards £6,000 with nearly £4,000 already in the kitty.

WHO'S UP THERE?

Dear Editor,

Forwarded herewith is a pictorial reply to the recent memo from CSB about the measuring of sunflowers. Do not try fingerprinting this form as we all wore gloves, and the reason we don't want to be known is because WE know who lives at the top!!



Seems a funny place to make a point Sarge

Nice to see a cartoon turning up for 'The Law.' We thought the accompanying letter was as funny as the drawing, so we left it in.

New traffic chief

THE NEW head of the Force Traffic Division will certainly be able to find his way round the county. A varied and wide-spread career has led Mike Humberston to this latest job which he took over on November 1, on promotion to the rank of Chief Superintendent.

Mr Humberston started his police service at Colchester in 1955, but finished his probation the next year at Chelmsford. A time as an administration and courts officer was followed by two years as a Residential Beat Officer at Broomfield.

Promotion to Sergeant brought Mike a complete

change of scene as he took up a shift supervisor's job at Grays in 1963. The next year he was off to Eynsham Hall, the now disbanded, District Training Centre where he spent the next two years as an instructor.

Returning to the force as an Inspector he went to Grays and Tilbury until he attended the first ever Inspectors' Course at the Police College, Bramshill.

The Force amalgamation brought Mike to Force HQ onto the Special team set up to handle the re-organisation, and in 1969 — as the forces combined — he was promoted to

Chief Inspector and took over the Administration Department at Colchester.

The Intermediate Command Course in 1973 preceded his promotion to Superintendent in charge of the Colchester Sub-Division and later, in 1977, as Deputy Divisional Commander. Back to Headquarters in 1978, Mike spent a year in Research and Development and then went into the Traffic Division, where after 3 years he received this latest promotion.

Mr Humberston lives at Chelmsford with his wife and two children.



Ch Supt Mike Humberston.

Force lottery

RESULT of the draw held at Harlow on Friday, October 30, 1981.

1st prize Pc 432 R. Nightingale, Traffic Laindon, £1,165.11; 2nd prize Pc 520 K. Marks, Steeple Bumpstead, £582.56; 3rd prize F. G. Prigmore, Traffic Laindon, £291.28; 4th prize Ch Insp G. Waller, Harwich, £145.64.

Consolation prizes at £29.13 each — Pc 1055 H. Walker, Traffic Harlow; Ps 175 D. Johnson, Rayleigh; Pc 862 J. Tracey, Traffic, Stanway; Det Supt P. Blythe, Headquarters; Dc 1287 M. Puttick, Braintree.

TAMING NATURE'S LETHAL BEAUTY

IF YOU find a bird in the hand more advantageous than two in the bush, you'll certainly find it more exciting if that bird happens to be a fully-grown female buzzard.

Falconry is one of the oldest and most widespread of the world's hunting skills. In most countries today it is practiced purely as a sport — a sport requiring almost infinite patience but rewarding the participant with one of the most fascinating and unusual relationships between man and the animal world.

Sergeant Mike Barry, of the Force Support Unit, first became interested in birds of prey when a young kestrel was handed into Colchester Police Station. Since that time he's had other kestrels, and at the moment keeps 3 Tawny Owls, one Little Owl, a pair of kestrels and his pride and joy, a magnificent female buzzard called 'Thew'.



This is the lady in a defensive pose. She doesn't like the camera — or anything else — this close.

To be precise, a buzzard isn't actually a falcon, nor is it a hawk, it's a separate species that stands alone from these two main categories.

Basically, Mick explains, birds of prey are divided into the long-winged variety — falcons — who swoop or "stoop" on their prey from a great height, and the shorter winged hawks who rely on speed of flight to bring down their victims.

This part of the British Isles is almost devoid of birds of prey — the result of dedicated game-keepers protecting their masters' game from these voracious predators. The buzzard is almost unknown in the east of England, but it can still be seen in the west country and right up the west coast to Scotland. The most commonly found English falcon is the Kestrel and this is the smaller bird quite often seen hovering beside motorways, scanning the verges for its prey. The Kestrel performs the most fantastic feats of aerodynamic control in maintaining its static poise, and it is this skill that makes it such an interesting bird for the novice falconer.

Lazy Lady

Once tamed the Kestrel may be trained to fly to its master's command, swooping onto a "lure", hovering at a whistle and returning to the hand for its reward.

If you want to hunt with your bird, you'll need something a little more

potent than a Kestrel though. Once they've been fed from the hand they don't seem to want to hunt any more and in any case they only ever go after tiny mammals and insects. Whilst the buzzard is a much larger and fiercer creature altogether, Mick explains that his "Thew" doesn't hunt — she's a lazy lady who prefers her food the easy way — from the fridge or freezer. "Mind you," Mick says "she has scared the life out of a couple of rabbits once or twice."

The delight in flying a falcon or a hawk isn't necessarily in actually taking game, but much more to do with the elation of watching your bird fly free — after hours of patient training.

Fiercely independent the bird of prey cannot be trained like a dog. It is an uncompromising carnivore with a sensitive and sometimes irascible nature. It also has extremely efficient claws and beak and mistakes in the training can be painful and costly in terms of human flesh. Patience and determination are necessary in abundance but are amply rewarded by that first flight, when you realise the bird from its leash and it returns to your hand — eventually. It doesn't always go that smoothly, Mick confesses, "I've spent a good few evenings stomping across fields after my birds — but it's worth it in the long run." A single flight can make up for the whole effort. Mick remembers one

flight when "Thew" perched herself at the top of a high tree the other side of a field. After repeated calls she launched herself into a lightning, swooping dive onto his specially gloved hand. "It was a wonderful sight," he says. "A really fantastic feeling to see her coming to you."

Although they are tough and hardy, and live in the open quite comfortably — birds of prey need a lot of looking after. Their diet is specialised, their weight has to be constantly monitored and they really should be exercised regularly. Their training, which is highly repetitive, takes time and since they live as long as, say a dog, it can be quite a commitment.

Pinnacle

But for getting away from it all, there's nothing like flying your own bird alone in the open countryside. Mick says, "When you're out alone with your bird you see the countryside through her eyes. You're quieter in yourself to keep the bird quiet, so you tend to see more and get more involved in what's going on around you."

Falconry or hawking can be an expensive pastime. Some of the exotic foreign hawks cost hundreds of pounds — but a beginner should be able to get a young Kestrel from a breeder for about £35.

If you get one of the special licences you could always take a young bird



Mick needs a reinforced 'Thew's' talons. They're des



The buzzards powerful prey. Some falcons strike

from the wild. But that's an expert's job and represents the ultimate challenge in country sports.

At the pinnacle of the sport there are stories of Russian falconers who hunt wolves with Steppes Eagles. Apparently they have more casualties amongst the handlers than the prey!

If you are interested in this unusual hobby, or you fly a bird of your own — why not contact Mick Barry at Force H.Q. He'd be interested to hear from you — and he's fascinating to listen to.

ROAD QUIZ

TWELVE youngsters from three local schools in the Brightlingsea area recently took part in a competition of a different kind when they did battle to determine which of the three teams of four were the most knowledgeable in the matter of Road Safety.

The quiz was the brainchild of Brightlingsea Schools Liaison Officer Pc Pete Chilver who hit upon the idea as an interesting way of promoting road safety amongst children in his area.

The local Lions club donated a most impressive shield and the event was such a success that it has been decided to turn it into an annual event.

Complex

Nearly two hundred people turned up to watch the three teams with an age range of 7-11 years wrestle

with some complex problems set by question master Pete Chilver with Inspector Derek Rulden of the Community Services Branch acting as adjudicator.

The winning team was Wivenhoe Broome Grove Junior School with a total

of 33 points to Brightlingsea County Junior's 30 points followed by Brightlingsea St James' Junior School with 26 points.

Each of the entrants was also presented with a £2 book token donated by Essex Police.



The winning team with organiser Pete Chilver.

First-Aid Success

THE FORCE First-aid Team had a spectacular success when they won the Hertfordshire Open First-aid Competition at the end of last month. One of nine teams that competed at the Hertfordshire Force Headquarters, Essex won the closely fought contest by a margin of only one point. The Metropolitan Police and British Telecom teams were in joint second place — but the marks were all very close and the competition described as "tough".

The Essex team, trained by Pc Ian Hunter from Colchester, came from all over the county. Pc Bob Emberson from the top right hand corner at Clacton; Reg Hooper from Rayleigh and Det Con Dave Perry from Grays. Cheryl Matthews from Benfleet was the only lady in the team, which was completed by Sergeant Trevor Matthews from the Force Training School.

TEAM	MARK	PLACE
Rank Xerox	234	8th
Metropolitan Police	285	2nd
British Telecom	285	2nd
City of London Police	268	5th
Essex Police	286	1st
Eastern Gas	265	6th
British Transport Police	220	9th
Cambridgeshire Police	251	7th
Kent Police	282	4th

CADETS

THE LATEST intake of cadets to join the Essex Police recently passed out from their one-month induction course at the Force Training School at Headquarters.

The 12-strong course come into the Force with little or no knowledge of Police work or its code of discipline. In one short month under the watchful eye of Sergeant Frank Bell, they were able to give a very smart demonstration of continuity drill in front of an audience of their friends, relatives and the Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Peter Simpson.

Frank Bell really had his work cut out for him this time as the intake included the now famous two sets of identical twins. All the cadets now join their Divisions, where they will get their first taste of operational police work.

The end of sunflowers as we know them



Supt George Harris with a selection of prize-winners

The presentation of the prizes brought the Great Sunflower Race to an end this month. All year, children from 70 local schools have been growing sunflowers for charity, and their efforts have raised an amazing £14,426. The money will be used by the organisers, The Winged Fellowship Trust, to help in providing holidays for the disabled.

Essex Police school officers have been involved in distributing the seeds to the contestants and more recently measuring the winning entries. Not content with that role, all our Community Service Branch officers grew sunflowers too, and their sponsors came up with £180 which went towards the grand total.

The whole scheme was an enormous success for charity and was part of the organisation's efforts during the International Year of the Disabled.

The overall winner of the competition was presented with a bicycle and the second and third placed also received gifts donated by a local businessman. The top 'grower' in every school received a gift voucher which was presented to them by Supt George Harris.

The organiser of the competition — Mrs Rosemary Young of the Winged Fellowship Trust — was delighted with the police involvement in this community effort. Mrs Young made her feelings known in a letter she sent to the Chief Constable just before the final presentations.

Dear Mr Bunyard,

We are now coming to the end of our Sponsored Sunflower-Growing Competition, and I am writing to express the thanks of all of us at Winged Fellowship for the wonderful support and help your officers have given us during the year. As a small organisation trying to meet a large need, we simply did not have the manpower to cover the ground and maintain contact with all the schools involved, so the help we received from the Essex Police was crucial to our being able to run the competition.

We would be grateful if it is possible to pass on our thanks to all the officers who visited schools for I understand that they all entered into the spirit of the competition and the children were very thrilled to have their local policeman visiting them to measure their plants. In fact I think in many cases they far exceeded the request to measure the tallest in the school and were to be found enthusiastically, and somewhat precariously, perched up ladders in many of the competitors' gardens!

We shall be presenting the prizes to the winners on Saturday, November 7, 1981 at Grange Farm Leisure Centre and will announce how much money has been raised. At present we are more than pleased with the response we have had from schools, with just about half of them having sent their sponsor money so far.

Our warmest thanks to everyone involved for all the help we have received.

Yours sincerely,
Rosemary Young.

FOOTBALL CRAZY?

IS YOUR SON A KEEN FOOTBALLER?

Is he fourteen years of age but under fifteen on September 1, 1982?

Would he be interested in playing in a Sunday League for a team made up of Police employees sons?

If so please forward his details, in writing, including full name, date of birth and a telephone number (preferably day time private line) to Ps Roger Clough at Headquarters Driving School before 1.1.82.

If sufficient interest is shown Dc Peter Taylor, an ex professional footballer will be coaching the team.

It is anticipated that training and matches will be mainly in the Chelmsford area.

glove to handle
to impale flesh.



drive her onto her
early 100 mph.

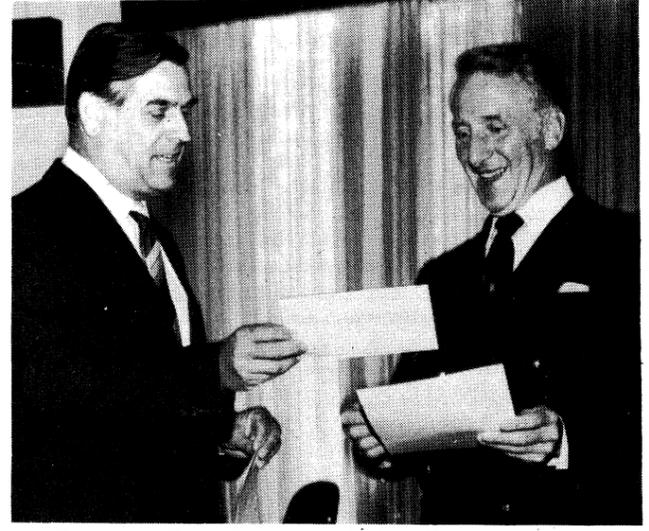
RETIREMENT GALLERY



Chief Superintendent Len White and his wife pictured during a farewell ceremony at Headquarters together with Detective Ch/Supt Roger Richardson.



Head of the Essex Police Dog Unit for many years, Chief Inspector Ian Clarke is pictured at his retirement ceremony at Headquarters receiving a gift from ACC(O) Mr M. Comrie.



Detective Chief Inspector Arthur Hodges pictured on the occasion of his retirement with Det Ch/Supt Roger Richardson (again!). Doubtless, Arthur will now be able to spend more time on his new yacht.



Frank Bell leads the cadets past the inspecting officer.



Grays Divisional Commander Ch/Supt Joe Bird admires one of the gifts presented to him by his colleagues to mark the occasion of his retirement.



Traffic Chief Superintendent Reg Searle receives his farewell gifts from the DCC watched by his wife, Joan, and his successor, Supt Mike Humberston.

Seaxes

by Derek Arber

SOCIAL time is with us again. Our next "not to be missed" event is the "Barn Dance" with dancing to the music of Lumps of Plum Pudding. For the first time ever it has been arranged to hold the dance in a barn, at the Channels Golf Club, Springfield.

This event is followed by our ever popular New Year's Eve Disco at HQ. Tickets for both functions are available from the shop or Committee Members.

The competition scene has been rather quiet of late with plenty of marshalling

but not many events to enter. The next 12 car rally is to be held on November 27, full details available from any committee member.

One notable event of interest is that on Sunday, November 22, Seaxes, together with the FBPMC are marshalling a stage on the RAC rally in the Manchester area. This is a chance not to be missed on an interesting non-spectator stage.

Finally, your free diaries are now in stock in the shop so come along and collect yours now.



Miss Matilda Brown, Special Constable in Chelmsford Division, has recently had the honour of being made a Freeman of the City of London. The ceremony was conducted by the Chamberlain of London and she was proposed by the Deputy Governor of The Honourable The Irish Society, London, Mr Edwin S. Wilson VRD, RNVR.

National Association of Retired Police Officers by Bert Brinkley

AUTUMN BULLETINS

As foreshadowed, the Autumn bulletins have not yet arrived and therefore will be held over for a while in order to conserve postage. The bulletin will contain a full report of the Annual Conference at Southport on September 11. A brief resume was given at the Chelmsford Branch Luncheon on September 19, but sufficient to say there is no change in the annual subscriptions for 1982 which remain for pensioners — £1.80 pa. Widows 48 pence pa. The annual precept to the NEC remains at 40 per cent. A reminder that the Treasurer is Mr H. S. Phillibrown, Dalrymple Close, Chelmsford.

CHELMSFORD BRANCH SOCIAL/LUNCHEON

Seventy members and wives attended the luncheon on September 19 which was held in the Staff Canteen, Police Headquarters and was excellently provided by Mrs Hehn and her staff. Coming so close to the Comrades dinner we can congratulate ourselves on the attendance.

P.P.H.A. — FLATLETS

Members will have received the circular from Dick Pamplin of the NEC

setting out the new scheme which replaces the old lottery in the hope that the idea of subscriptions would be well supported both by pensioners and the Regular Police if the scheme is to go ahead. During the period the lottery has been in existence (approx six years) only £11,000 has been raised, which includes donations from Branches to get the Fund 'off the ground'. It is obvious that the progress made was very slow and something had to be done if the scheme had to be put on a firmer and more lucrative basis. Hence this appeal to all pensioners and Regular Police for their full support. Dick Pamplin made a very impassioned speech at annual conference and delegates were impressed by the interest he had taken in getting the pamphlets printed and distributed.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE — SOUTHPORT

Two important motions came before Conference, firstly the NEC were asked to resist interference with the principle of index linking of pensions and obtain adjustment for those pensioners who retired after November 24, 1980, who will receive an abated retail prices index pension based on overpayment made on November 24, 1980. Secondly, Conference deplored the detrimental effect to pensioners over 60 years and under 65 years who become unemployed, of Section 5 of the Social Security No 2 Act of 1980, which came into effect on April 1, 1981 and urges the NEC to obtain amendment to, or withdrawal of this iniquitous Section of the Act. This is in respect of a 'means test' and no payment of unemployment pay is made where the applicant is in receipt of a public service pension.

The preserved Rate Widows Pension was always in the front line of

HARLOW section led by Regional Chairman, Craig Bailey visited us at Headquarters on Thursday this week, together with a group from Ahlan in Germany. They did the usual rounds, and met Mr Stone in the bar, where all good tours of Headquarters finish.

Harlow also had a dinner dance at Gilbeys on October 31, which I know was well attended, and hopefully we will have more news of that in the next issue.

Dick Jones' attempt at having a day out a short while ago was thwarted not only by the weather, but by the coach firm as well. However the coach firm are trying to make amends, and let's hope that the weather will be kinder to them this time, down in Clacton.

Now to the other end of the county. Chico Bates at Southend has asked me to tell you that visits to the aircraft museum have been re-negotiated, whether for one person or a group, the price is 50p per person.

Chico also has some new items for sale, first of all, some figurines, a Policeman, or a Yeoman Warder, or a Guardsman,

discussion. Our Parliamentary Advisor, John Blackburn, is endeavouring to obtain the signatures of 100 Members of Parliament to force a full debate when Parliament re-assembles. MPs generally are very sympathetic towards the plight of these widows and he is hopeful that something will really come out of the debate.

SAGA

You will know from our bulletins that SAGA is organising an exclusive Police Pensioners Cruise scheduled to depart on February 25, 1982 for 13 nights. Branches have been asked to advertise the cruise as far as possible among members. Apart from 'extras' such as the three free excursions there will also be 'one in 21 persons' goes free offer on the cruise. Anyone can organise a party of 21 which is open to pensioners, wives and friends and



all standing 3½in high, mounted on wooden bases. These at £1.50 each. He also has some handcuff cufflinks, gilt colour, 85p per pair, and silver plated teaspoons with a Police Helmet topping the handle, £1.25 each. All these are suitable for foreign visitors. Chico can be contacted direct on Southend 612174.

At Headquarters, the first meeting of the winter has come and gone, and all future meetings will be held on the second Friday of each month, so if anybody wishes to join us, please do so.

Ron Groves and Mick Stanbury have now joined us as committee members, and will give some much needed assistance at socials and dances. The first outing of the winter will be a meal at the Rivenhall Motel, and this promises to be well attended.

further information can be obtained from SAGA HOLIDAYS, 119 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2BN. Tel 0303 30288. I am sorry that I cannot undertake the task of organising this cruise but it should not be difficult to find a party leader from those interested. Good luck!

OBITUARY

Although not a police pensioner he did serve for 10 years in this Force and I felt that quite a number of people knew him in the Insurance world where he started the company of S. V. Rogers & Co, Railway Street, Chelmsford. Stan Rogers joined this Force on March 9, 1929 and there are six members of that class 'still batting on'. He died in September at his home at Hockley, Essex. Our sympathy goes out to his widow. There are no children of the marriage.

Market Place

FOR SALE: Canvey Island, detached three-bed house, gas c/h, garage, mostly double glazed, large kitchen/diner, split-level cooker, £24,995. Contact John Pratt, tel Canvey Island 683116.

FOR SALE: Witter tow bar for Triumph 2000 MkII, complete with electrics etc, as new, £220. Contact PC Smart at Dunmow or tel Dunmow 3878.

FOR SALE: Citroen CX2000, 1976, R reg, tax and MoT, 35mpg, £1,000 expected. Contact PC 579 Parker at Grays or tel Tilbury 77496.

For Sale: Stanford-le-Hope, Semi-det house, 5 beds, 2 baths, lounge/diner,

kitchen/diner, garage, d/glazing, c/heating, carpets, curtains. SLH 71977 evenings, Mrs Abercrombie.

FOR SALE: 1981 W reg Honda Express Deluxe Moped, very low mileage, excellent condition, £200 ono. Contact PC Upton at Hadleigh CSB or tel Rayleigh 743248.

FOR SALE: Front door fully glazed, £10; Flavel Debonair gas fire in wood surround, three burners, £20. Contact Insp Goldsmith at Grays or tel Billericay 53342.

FOR SALE: Chelmsford, three bed end terrace, close to town centre, £23,000. Contact WDC Goldsmith,

Epping 72211 or Chelmsford 57757.

FOR SALE: Mirror 16 dinghy, road trailer, new launch trolley, new cover, new self bailers, nice boat, £380. Contact PS J. W. Goding, at Walton-on-Naze or tel Clacton 27983.

FOR SALE: Mevagissy modern detached bungalow, superb sea/country views, three bedrooms, large lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garage, established gardens, £32,950. Contact PS284 I. Barneston at Chelmsford ext 269.

FOR SALE: Golf clubs, half set, £35, bag £75, trolley £12, will separate. Contact PC636 Clancey, at Southend or tel Southend 548738.

FOR SALE: Little Thurrock, 1973 spacious three-bed terraced house, cul-de-sac position,

adjacent to school, one mile town centre, rear access and garage, 100 per cent mortgage possibility, £24,500. Contact DCI Southgate at Brentwood RCS or tel 0375 891108.

FOR HIRE: Twin deck disco unit, microphone, traffic and rope lights, sits on its own stand, will supply DJ and records, £20. Contact PC 1956 A. Grocott at Basildon or tel South Benfleet 53748.

FOR SALE: Motor cycle screen 'Highway', small, universal fitting, did cost £26, ideal for small bike — £15 ono. Contact Pc Pearmain at Grays.

FOR SALE: 1975 Morris Marina 1.8TC, red, black vinyl roof, wired for towing, low mileage, cloth seats, radio, etc, £1,000. Contact Dc Gurney at HQ, CDU, or Tel: Chelmsford 63389.

THIS is your FREE small-ad service. Please use this form as we regret that ads cannot be accepted over the phone or on plain paper. Send your ad to "Market Place", The Law, Police HQ, Chelmsford. Thank you.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE — ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank Station

Home telephone Signed

Federation Notes



CAR ALLOWANCE

AT the Police Negotiating Board last week, I understand that agreement was reached on an updating of Car Allowance to take account of increased petrol prices since the last rise. This increase will not be to the liking of many, if not all of us in receipt of the allowance, since it only takes account of the April and August increases. From April 1981, the average increase is 0.7 pence per mile, from August 1981, the average increase is 0.5 pence per mile.

These figures relate to the NALGO rates of mileage on which ours are based, and which resulted from an arbitration award made in August this year. The full rates will be published shortly.

SALE OF POLICE HOUSES

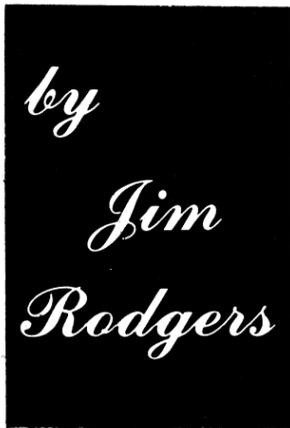
WITHIN the past few weeks the occupants of all Police Houses have been sent an envelope containing three or four pamphlets regarding house purchase savings schemes, offering services related to the discount sale of Police Houses.

The fact that you have received one does not necessarily mean that your particular house is one of those which it is intended to dispose of, since these lists have not yet been fully prepared. However I can report that agreement has been reached within the Standing Advisory Committee on the new Housing Policy, which will be placed before the Police Committee on the 30th November, 1981. By the time it is presented the lists will be complete and will be published. The houses for disposal will not all be declared surplus at the same time — it would be a senseless exercise to flood the market since many of our colleagues would experience difficulty in obtaining finance, and many Building Societies would be unable to assist due to lack of funds.

The reason for sending the pamphlets out was to jog those officers who have not heeded the messages sent out over the past two or three years through this column. If you are still undecided — or are spoilt for choice — a further Building Society, the Huddersfield and Bradford (shortly to change its name to the 'Yorkshire') have also offered beneficial assistance, so if you want details, drop me a line or leave a message by phone.

MATERNITY LEAVE

The problem which arose from the publication of Force Order A1228, has been resolved, and published in Force Order A1326. This gives the officer the facility to request to continue duty for a further three months from the date of confirmation of Pregnancy, and subject to the availability of suitable jobs within easy reach of her home, the request will be sympathetically considered.



TAXATION OF TELEPHONE ALLOWANCES

A RECENT circular from the Joint Central Committee indicates that the Inland Revenue are continuing their close scrutiny of all allowances pertaining to the Police. It appears that where police installed telephones are used, the Taxman is trying to say there is a taxable benefit for the officer who is reimbursed for police usage of the phone. To my knowledge this has not affected anyone in Essex as yet, but I would be interested to hear if anyone gets a hint that they may be under scrutiny in receipt of telephone allowance. Especially so, if it can be shown that 'police' usage exceeds 'private' usage of the phone by a considerable amount.

FEDERATION ELECTIONS

THE annual elections take place on December 16, 1981, for Police Federation representatives, so that nomination papers will be distributed within the next week or so. This is the time of the year when your reps know whether or not they have been doing their job properly or not — or rather whether you think they have, or not, as the case may be.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

BY Royal Proclamation Monday, December 28 this year has been declared a Bank Holiday in place of Saturday, December 26.

At the Police Negotiating Board the Staff side attempted to obtain an agreement that Police Officers who perform duty on the traditional Boxing Day should be compensated for Bank Holiday working, arguing that there are precedents for this to be done, from previous years, the last being Christmas 1976. They were unable to achieve this facility, and Home Office Circular 91/1981 applies, with all its attendant anomalies. Officers who are off duty on the Saturday will have the benefit of the traditional Boxing Day with their families — and because they will probably be working on the Monday, will also benefit from the double time payment for that duty. Those who work on the Saturday, will be paid normal rates of pay, and in all probability will be off on the Monday, without any real benefit from this bureaucratic nonsense.

It seems to me that our negotiators should take a firm stand and resolve the situation for the future. It is brilliant to think that the decision is aimed at looking after Bankers — who don't work on Saturdays anyway — so they reap benefit from the extra day off work, without any real consideration for those who have to provide twenty four hour a day cover, seven days a week, twelve months of the year.



SINCE THE last band notes appeared in The Law, the band has undergone a very busy period indeed.

In fact since last October, the band has undertaken 23 engagements, ranging from small pass-out parades such as the recent one we undertook at the Ashford Police Training Centre, to large prestigious concerts like the one in October this year when we played together with the Irish Guards band at The Cliffs Pavilion, Southend.

We played at the usual regular engagements; the Pensioners' Garden Party, the Annual Specials parade and the hospital's concerts we have each Christmas in Colchester, and our regular concert at Brightlingsea which we all enjoy attending.

To call the Brightlingsea audience enthusiastic would be a vast understatement and Pc Pete Chilvers, who organises the event each year does a splendid job of it.

It's nice to know that the old tradition of having bands playing in the London Parks is being maintained and in the

Summer we played to tourists both in the gardens at Westminster Abbey and at Alexander Palace.

The Special Constabulary this year celebrated its 150th anniversary and we played at commemorative parades for both our own force and Cambridgeshire Police. Both engagements took much the same format, the main difference being that the Cambs Specials were marched through the town to the Cathedral Service and back whereas our own troops were inspected in the shopping precinct in Chelmsford and then made their own way into the Cathedral for the service.

I've already mentioned the concert with the Irish Guards at the Cliffs Pavilion. The special problem we faced there was

one which we had not encountered until earlier, this year when we had a visit from the RUC choir; that of security.

You may recall that on the Saturday prior to the concert, the Irish Guards were the target for a terrorist attack at Chelsea, where a nail bomb exploded as their coach was passing. This incident forced us to change our attitude towards the concert. What was to have been an evening of pleasant music in a relaxed atmosphere suddenly became a security problem for our Support Unit, we were playing with a band which was obviously high on a list of IRA targets.

I would like, on behalf of members of both bands, to express our thanks to the support unit people

involved for the professional, and I'm pleased to say, successful way in which we were all looked after.

What an indictment on our society: we weren't holding a political rally or demonstration, we were merely giving a musical concert and for that we needed the sort of protection that until only two or three years ago would have been unheard of on the mainland.

Award

Every year at the band AGM, a trophy is awarded to the band member who, in the opinion of a committee specially set up for the purpose, has devoted something special to the band. Not only playing ability, but other factors such as turn out and attendance are considered, and this year the Alston Trophy was awarded to a particularly deserving player, ex WPC Wendy Norton.

The picture shows Wendy receiving the cup from Mr Comrie, and what makes her so deserving is that she left the Police three years ago to have a baby. Since then she has had another one, yet I could count the number of practices and engagements that she has missed since then on one hand. That is real dedication although her kids think their Grandma is really their mummy!

There is a little sad news to report. At the time of writing this, the band does not have a Bandmaster.



Wendy Norton receives her trophy.

PADDLING FOR CHARITY



Lined up for the start, and not looking too worried about it all.

A TEAM of lads from Dunmow added an unusual and dampening dimension to the sponsored event business last month.

Not content with the usual running, walking and swimming bit, they got hold of four canoes and paddled out of Dunmow heading for Chelmsford.

The river Chelmer isn't exactly the Great Colorado, but the 13 mile trip was tough enough to make the quartet earn the £800 they raised for the Essex Cancer Scanner Fund.

It took eight hours on average with the participants tired and wet but happy at the end of it all.

Constables Ian Pryke, Neville Deal and Ian O'Sullivan all from Dunmow, made up the crew which was captained by Sergeant Mick Barry of the Support unit.

Geoff Broom retired in October this year and at the moment the committee are in the process of appointing his successor. Since he became Bandmaster about five years ago, Geoff has taken the band to bigger and better things and he will be missed by all of us.

Finally, if you've read down as far as this then you must have some interest in the band so why not come along and see us any Wednesday evening at the assembly hall at HQ.

Everyone is welcome and we know there are a number of brass musicians in the force. If you're one of them, you really don't know what you're missing by not being a member of the band. Apart from the public relations aspect, there is a tremendous 'Esprit de Corps' within the band, everyone thoroughly enjoys it or they wouldn't be playing in the band so even if you feel your ability is limited we would be pleased to see you.

Police of Essex Golf Society



Essex winners of the Surrey Shield at 5 Region PAA Championships at St Albans.

THE Society held its autumn meeting at the Warren Golf Club on Friday, September 18, which was attended by 28 players in all including three guests. Winners of trophies as follows:

The Barry Price Cup was won by Keith Southgate with a net score of 68 — runner-up with a net 70 was Paul Kreyling.

Wiener of the Three Meetings Challenge Shield with a net total of 218 — Bob Hayes and the runner-up, also with 218 — Tom Jones.

The Two J's Cup was won with a combined total of 64 points by Fred Nicholls and Ron Irwin. Runners-up with combined total of 63 points were Joe Freeman and Richy Griffiths.

The Captains Prize (best all day handicap score) was won by John Woods with 135.

The best all day scratch score was 155 which was returned by George Meek.

NB Both John Woods and Fred Nicholls have been cut by three shots. Keith Southgate has been cut by two shots.

I believe a very enjoyable day was had by all and despite the changeable weather the golf was of a high standard.

The Annual General Meeting was held during the evening and a brief resume follows: New captain, R. Cameron, vice captain, Paul Kreyling.

All existing offices remained unchanged. New vice president Mr W.

Burke, manager of Warren Golf Club.

The Fixture List for 1982 will be extended where possible.

Members subscriptions and contributions to match expenses remain the same, ie £3.00 and £4.00 respectively.

All home matches will be played at the Warren next year. However, by popular demand the three society meetings next year will be held at three different venues (to be arranged).

Finally I conclude by saying that PEGS has completed its most successful season ever and standards continue to improve. I look forward to your support once again next year — good luck and good golfing to each and everyone of you.

The Road Runners

WITH what was the best team performance by Essex Police runners for many years the road running squad took sixth place in the national police ten miles championships in Surrey in September.

Leading the team home Chris Turner, Colchester, took his best placing in a national event, 8th, and carved over 2 minutes off the force record for the distance. Andy Down, sharper than for several

seasons, was 9th.

Len Perrott, Canvey, was within seconds of the previous record taking 27th while Chelmsford's Barry Daymond was well under the hour off only a month's training. S. Pearmain and

B. Greenfield also completed the course. There were 144 finishers making up 20 teams.

To take a top six placing a clear 50 points ahead of the 7th team is just the start Essex need to the winter season which will end with the national police cross country championships being held at Danbury.

FENCING FOR FUN

THE SPORT of fencing is beginning to make a name for itself in the ranks of the Essex Police through the participation of WPC Teresa Sewell of Rayleigh Police.

Although Teresa has not represented the Police at the sport, it not being a recognised sport, she has steadily climbed the ladder of success in outside competitions.

In June this year, Teresa

entered the Wickford Team event and throughout the weekend she fought in 27 bouts gaining a total of 23 victories. From this success she went on to even greater heights when, in July, she entered the Essex County Team event and won the competition. The success of this victory is heightened by the knowledge that she had to fence through two prelim rounds of seven fencers, a semi-final of five

and final of six.

July also saw Teresa competing in the Norfolk Open when, in reaching the Final she beat Miss Hoad, who is categorised as No 2 in the country.

Teresa has now been invited to train once a week with the Salle Paul club in London, which is where all the country's top fencers including our Olympic representatives train.

CRICKET REVIEW

DURING the 1981 season the Force managed to actually play just nine matches, having the remainder called off through inclement weather. Of the nine, we won five and lost four. The victories included a double over neighbours Suffolk; the first game reduced to 25 overs because of rain, went to the very last ball. We gained victory having lost fewer wickets. Scores: Essex 96 for 3, Suffolk 96 all out (Dave Wilkinson 4 for 24).

In the match played at Martlesham the weather was as lovely as it had previously been awful. We toiled in the sun to make 139 for 4 thanks to a dour stand between Fred Nicholls and Dave Wilkinson the former being 28 no and the latter 65 no. A good performance against some fine bowling. Unfortunately for Suffolk, their batting was not in the same class and Alec Lockyer ripped through their batting with as fiery a spell of bowling as I've seen this year. He turned in figures of 5 for 13, a splendid performance for a player who is only occasionally, County standard. Mention must be made of the other man wicket take† on the day, Nigel Grainger (4 for 13).

Home Counties

Moving on, in the Home Counties Cup we started very well, playing Mets F Div in the 1st round. They batted first and really struggled to 49 all out of approximately 35 overs, Dick Argles taking 2 and 5 and John Stonehouse taking 3 for 8 in eight overs. Four and a half overs later the game was over, that man Errol Greene getting 38 not out of 50 without loss.

Poor F Div wondered what on earth had hit them. In the next round we faced Div and rattled up 232 for 7 main scorer Lorrie Austin 67, Paul Gammon 52 no and Dick Argles 43. Another fine bowling performance saw

by John
Stonehouse

Q out for 74, Main wicket taker John Stonehouse with 4 for 17. In the 3rd round, the tables were reversed. Essex elected to bat first which proved to be their downfall. On a treacherous track we were shot out for 63 and J. Div took their time and made it with seven wickets to spare, but not too many overs.

In the other matches we lost to Kent in the PAA 1st round.

Against Chelmsford we made 171 for 8, Errol Greene 75 and shot them out for 88, Errol taking 3 for 15 and John Stonehouse 2 for 11.

The biggest scoring match of the season was played at Felixstowe. Essex 238 for 5, Lorrie Austin 111 no and then somehow or another, for reasons which are best not put to press, Felixstowe made 241 for 8, the winning shot coming off the fourth ball of the last over. A creditable 3 for 12 from Bob Kettle.

Honours

For the season John Stonehouse finished up with 15 wickets, Errol Greene 8, Dave Wilkinson 7, Alec Lockyer 5, Nigel Grainger 4 plus notable contributions from all other.

In the batting honours Errol Greene scored 215 in five innings for an average of 53.75, Lorrie Austin 213 from six innings for an average of 53.25, Dave Wilkinson 158 from six innings for an average of 39.50.

Divisional Scene

The Courtauld Trophy reinstigated on Divisional request resulted in a win for Colchester. In the final against Southend played at HQ, the scores were Southend 113, Colchester 115 for 1. A fine knock of 79 from Lorrie Austin ably supported by Jerry Morgan and Lance Williams.

In the six-a-side Sir John Nightingale Trophy also played at HQ on a gloriously sunny September day, four divisions decided that they would rather work, leastwise they didn't turn up. HQ did let us know but what excuse Harlow, Grays and Rayleigh had I just don't know. Thanks for nothing — please have the courtesy to withdraw officially in future.

Darkness

Those divisions that did participate were all drawn against each other in a hastily revised draw. Once again at the end of the day it was the all round strength of Colchester that proved the winner, this time playing Chelmsford in the final. Scores, Colchester 61 (5 overs), Chelmsford 54. Wally Appleby produced a double wicket maiden in the final — SOME FEAT. However Colchester's bowling and the darkness proved too much even for the valiant efforts of Ray Collings. With the points secured in this competition, Colchester also wrapped up the Croker Cup.

Poor Rugby Start

THE RUGBY scene is looking a little disappointing at the present time, especially considering the successes of last season which it was hoped we would be able to repeat. However, it's early days yet and the team members are determined to give of their best and to turn the tide.

In the National PAA competition, Essex were drawn against Norfolk at Norwich. On a cold, windswept day, Essex went

down 8-0 despite a good effort by the whole team. Essex had a try disallowed by the ref, who claimed he was unsighted and with 20 minutes to go the scoreline stood at 0-0. John Bowman was then involved in a collision which left him concussed and having to leave the field. After that the Essex pack seemed to lose its cohesion and Norfolk jumped in to score two quick tries.

In the other matches

Essex have played five, lost four and won one. It is this disappointing sequence which the team is so desperately trying to overcome. It's difficult to put a finger on the problem, but it could well be due to the new rule introduced this season of the player having to release the ball as soon as he is tackled. It may well be that once the players have adjusted to this rule their play will start to flow again.

The Law

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