THE CHIEF AND THE COAL PORTS

“This issue of The Law illustrates Essex Police response to problems created in certain small ports in the Colchester Division by the miners’ strike. The ‘spread’ is intended to portray the manner in which the Force have not been found wanting. I have every confidence that tolerance and understanding will continue to be much in evidence.

"As a final note I need hardly mention the whole exercise.

Miners come to Colchester

THE MINEWORKERS dispute has come to Essex, stretching the resources of the Force and lending a public eye to an extent without local precedent. When “The Law” visited Nottinghamshire last month, it was with no thought that there would be similar problems in Essex. Yet here we are with five hundred strikers, their wives and sundry other supporters at our tiny port towns. But still we cope, and still the job goes on!

A feature of their time in Nottinghamshire for many officers was the friendliness of the people. It was almost impossible to walk a street without someone being complimentary. Now the same sort of thing is happening in Essex. For example Mrs June Watson, a resident of Wivenhoe for 20 years, told Sergeant Mike Beaveridge: “They’re marvellous. They’re charming and we’ll miss them when they go.” Mrs Agness Baker, a Wivenhoe resident for 64 years said: “I think they’re wonderful. They make us feel so secure. They are so polite.”

For the opposite point of view, with some difficulty, an elderly gentleman of 82, who asked not to be identified, was found. Having lived in Wivenhoe for 20 years he said: “I don’t like the police. Never have! I’ve got a brother who was a policeman so I know what they’re like.” Then he added with a chuckle: “The beggars used to nick me twice a week in Fulham for getting a bit merry.”

There is the side of the miners to be considered of course, and they have their own axe to grind. This they do long and hard in the press, on television and in their own publications. Nationally however, we’ve come out of it pretty well and it’s largely down to the good humour of the majority of the people involved.

That this is the case is in no small way due to those behind the scenes who have fed and watered the troops on the ground and worked so hard to keep morale high. The same is true of the colleagues who have maintained the everyday role of the Force.

FOOTBALLERS IN PENALTY CLIFF-HANGER

PENALTY SHOOT OUT

The most dramatic scenes in the history of the Force football team resulted from the clash between Essex Police and Merseyside in the semi-final of the National P.A.A Football Competition. It took two games, two lots of extra time and finally a penalty shoot out, to decide who should face the Royal Ulster Police in the final.

‘THE LAW’ AT WIVENHOE

See Centre Pages
POSTBAG

Cycle ride is go!

Dear Readers,

Look up! It’s Superman! Well not exactly – it’s Super Sue and Jean! By the time most of you get round to reading this page before you use it to wrap the fish and chips, we’ll be winging our way up to “see you Jimmy” land, courtesy of Air UK to start The Epic Bike Ride.

But it’s not too late to sponsor us! Elsewhere in this issue is yet another sponsor form. You’re not getting off that easy, those of you who have thus far escaped! Still it’s all in a good cause, and the support we’ve received has been overwhelming. Thanks to your generosity, we’re well on the way to raising £5,000, with more on the way.

My doctor informs me that the Scanner costs something like £30,000 so we will be making a substantial contribution towards it.

As you’re all buying it, we thought you might like to know something about it.

Apparently ovarian cancer is one of the biggest killer of women, because very often it isn’t detected until it’s quite advanced, and it doesn’t prove fatal at that late stage, then it at least means major surgery and chemotherapy (yuk) to effect a cure. The new Scanner will mean that young girls can be diagnosed whilst the disease is in the early stages, and surgery will not, in the majority of cases be necessary. Those of you who remember me waddling about like an over-inflated balloon in the early stages of my illness will agree that if possible, potential victims should be spared this disturbing ordeal. It will be used exclusively on disorders of this kind, whereas the existing scanners are overloaded with routine scans of pregnant women etc.

Scientists are discovering more about the causes of this nasty, indiscriminate disease than ever before, but for now our only hope is to detect carcinoma earlier, so that they can be more easily “zapped” by use of chemotherapy, radium, and more recently, laser.

The ride is now organised down to the last tea stop (bucket of tea and three straws, please) and we can’t wait to start.

So thank you (in advance) for helping us to help others, for without you, we might as well stay at home!

Cheers

Sue Watts
Jean Seager

WPCs

Dear Sirs,

There has been a lot of press recently about women police officers not being used in Nottingham on the picket lines, some of which is due I think to the fact that their male colleagues are apparently earning a fortune in overtime, but some senior officers have said that women may be more of a hindrance than a help.

I am a WPC and though I like to consider myself capable of dealing with any incident I am sent to or that I come across, I must agree that in general female officers are not physically built to help tackle the average police officer and the police officer and the police officer and the police officer and the police officer. I think this puts women in a difficult position as it only adds fuel to the fire that women cannot be equal in the police force.

Personally believe that WPCs can be equal in all aspects of the job except physical strength, and on many an occasion their very weakness has proved to be their strength.

I know that many of my male colleagues do not agree with me, and that is why I prefer to remain anonymous.

However, I would be interested to know the opinions of other officers both male and female, and I’m sure The Law would oblige if anyone cares to reply.

Name and Address

Fan-belt

Dear Editor,

Would the person who left his fan belt for my attention, please note that it is ready for collection.

D/Superior Force Training School

Thank-you

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Saturday Club of Charnwood Men cap, may I use your paper to sincerely thank some Essex Police officers. Inspector Mike Frost from Chelmsford has sent me £50 from your men on the picket lines in Nottingham, for our mentally handicapped children’s toy library.

Mike has long been a friend of our Saturday Club but it is this sort of unexpected donation which makes so much difference to us. It is also good for people like me who sometimes worry about what the police are up to, to see a side of you that can easily be missed in situations such as we now have in the Midlands.

Again, my sincere thanks to you. I believe that those involved in collecting the money will know what I mean if I “swear” that they took the “right” course of action.

Dr Ray Meddis
for Charnwood Men cap

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Dear Editor,

Letters to
The Law,
Force H.Q.,
Chelmsford

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Dear Editor,

I am writing to you a concern that has been in my mind for some time about the way in which the police deal with the public.

Miners leader Arthur Scargill gave a prime example of the technique on the BBC Radio 4 “Today” programme on May 10. Asked “Is there anything you can do to help the members of your ship, men who are being driven to acts of suffering considerable financial hardship and violence?” Mr Scargill’s answer was “I will do what I can to help the members of my ship.”

This is a real example of the way in which the police deal with the public. They are often asked to take action against their own colleagues, and they do so in a way that is often unfair and unjust.

It is a concern that I have been thinking about for some time, and I think that it is important to raise this issue in the public spotlight.

I hope that you will take this letter into consideration and give it the attention it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

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Dear Editor,

I am writing to you to express my concern about the way in which the police deal with the public.

I have been following the recent events in the Midlands, and I am concerned about the way in which the police are dealing with the miners and their supporters.

It seems to me that the police are often too quick to use force and to make arrests, and that they are not always careful to respect the rights of the public.

I think that it is important for the police to be held accountable for their actions, and that they should be made to respond to the public in a fair and just manner.

I hope that you will take this letter into consideration and give it the attention it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]
"THE LAW" is on the look-out for readers with unusual hobbies. One such is Sergeant Mike Barry of the Force Support Unit. Like many Essex officers over the past few weeks, he has been out on the "picket lines" at Wivenhoe. Away from the rigours of his job however, he looks after and breeds birds of endangered species.

During his 18 years' service Mike has experienced many facets of police work including the joys of a country beat at Rowhedge. He was firearms trained in 1972 and in 1981 became a firearms training instructor. Now he spends his working hours helping divisional officers as only the Force Support Unit can — today it's a public order problem, tomorrow it's hours in a ditch on a crime observation!

The other side of Mike Barry lives in a modest semi in an Essex village, has a large garden in which he keeps eleven beautiful raptors (birds of prey) in airy enclosed aviaries. These include Common buzzards, Kestrels, Tawny Owls, Barn owls, and Bengal Eagle Owls.

Keepers of raptors are registered to ensure that the birds are not ill used. Mike's interest is in the conservation of the species and so in breeding. The problem is that with the exception of the Kestrels, the birds tend to be so much alike that they can be difficult to sex — though they can presumably tell the difference! Nor is it easy to provide the conditions for them to successfully produce offspring. Mike says "Experimenting can take years but if in the end young are reared, then it is all worthwhile."

The Kestrels produced three chicks last year and Mike believes that they have again heeded the call of spring. He also has high hopes of his buzzards producing the flutter of tiny wings before too long. Charity workers, conservationists, youth leaders, Christians — isn't it amazing how much police officers resemble ordinary people?

THE LAW would like to know of anyone we might feature here. Ring us on HQ Ext. 406.

**Medal for PC**

PC John Cousins of Ongar has been awarded the Epping Forest Council Police Medal for Community Service. The presentation was made by Chairman Mr F. Limer at a recent council meeting. Receiving the medal for his devoted services to the people of Epping Forest district, John said "It's an honour which I accept on behalf of the Essex Police."

The award reflects the esteem with which John is regarded by both colleagues and the public.

**Colchester Police Sports Club**

present a

"CARIBBEAN EVENING"

to be held at

156 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, Cavalry Barracks, Colchester.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 8.00pm to 1.00am

Dancing to "TRINITY STEEL BAND"

Tickets £4.75

from: Maria Green, Colchester 574444
ext. 291; Bob Needham, Colchester 842553;
and Ray Finch, Colchester 570843 ext. 24.

**Chelmsford Hospice Appeal**

'MAD MONK' DISCO

at Marconi Sports and Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford.

Ticket £3.00 (including buffet).

from:- John Woods at Chelmsford Police Station or Jackie Merrison, H.Q. ext 512.

**Woman Special’s bravery trophy**

WOMAN Special Constable Ruth Hamilton-Russell of Chelmsford Division has been awarded the Norman Dooley Trophy for bravery and tenacity is assisting a Regular colleague to arrest a violent prisoner.

On an evening in April, 1983, Ruth PC 444 Graham Ferris of Melbourne Park Police Station to execute an arrest warrant. The man slammed a door violently on to the male officer's hand and attacked Mrs Hamilton-Russell causing injury to her arm and back.

The ensuing struggle lasted several minutes, during which both officers played their part in making the arrest. Constable Ferris later commended Ruth for her courage, saying that the arrest would not have been possible without her help.

Ruth receives the trophy at the Special Constable's Muster Parade.

**DOUBLE YELLOW LAUGH LINES**

"DON'T Even Think of Parking Here" reads a sign recently put up in the streets of Manhattan by New York City's Department of Transportation. The idea is to try to discourage New York's errant motorists from illegal parking, with a smile! What more — it seems to work!

Another reads "No Parking, No Stopping, NO KIDDING!"

Maybe we should issue Traffic Wardens with baggy trousers and red noses (who said nobody would notice any difference?)

Have a nice day.

Chief Superintendent Charlie Harper, President of Grays Police Recreation Club, presents a cheque for £712 to the Grays NSPCC Lady Chairman Mrs Jennifer Caughton. The money was raised from a lottery run by Sergeant Peter Spenesley for the Club. It promoted a lot of local interest and received a good press. Everyone benefits from events like this.

Thank-you Grays!
THE Olde Worlde charm of Wivenhoe is the backdrop to a twentieth century drama, as demonstrators object to coal imports and Essex Police officers strive to allow ordinary people to go about their everyday affairs.

If we believed some of the reports, the Chief committed more men than the total Force establishment — and then some! Tis true, we borrowed a Unit from the Mets for one day and Suffolk helped out on other days but one ill-informed report spoke of 3,000 men! We should be so lucky!!

WELFARE PROBLEMS

Nevertheless the people who were deployed created a huge problem in terms of accommodation, welfare and feeding.

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Hey Sarge! What do I do if this lot cuts up nasty? PC Graham Pinder meets up with a group of Kent miners’ wives, supporting their husband’s cause. Photos courtesy of Colchester Evening Gazette.

This picture must high-light one of the major problems in policing the pickets. If we used only our shortest officers at least they’d be able to see the lorries.

"Bicycle Bobbies" on the Picket Lines — Sergeant Terry Hymas with his Support Section of Colchester Division Neighbourhood Beat Officers.

One of many coal boats to berth at the sleepy port of Wivenhoe, since the dispute began.

Left: Despite a large number of lorries carrying coal from the Essex ports, stocks are still very high. The size of the lorries used has caused some problems and brought complaints from the locals.

Right: — "Where Have All The Transits Gone?" — Every Division in the County has been short of personnel carriers since the start of the miners dispute. If you’ve lost a transit, try Wivenhoe Football Club!
THE HEADLINES

"The Law" unfortunately missed a photograph of 6 foot bobbies on chairs for babies at Millford School where the first egg was set up. Then Wivenhoe Football Club came to the rescue and the operation moved to their club room. Many thanks Wivenhoe FC!

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Thanks also to the staff from Headquarters canteen who, with the cheerful assistance of ladies from just about every department, set to and provided countless packed meals. And let's not forget the mobile canteen team, who smiled from morning to late afternoon, providing up to 200 hot meals an hour.

The question is, will Wivenhoe ever be the same again?

Pat Collins from HQ Data Processing happily 'processing' bread and butter pack-ups! Pat usually makes her bread and butter number crunching statistics.

Crime Prevention find their vocation! Sergeant Terry Parker and Pc Lionel Lee 'charming' at Wivenhoe Football Club after the daily picnic.

Smiling Sonia Kenan
Seals Sarnies

Headquarters Ladies pressed into sandwich making service for Police Officers and their "Guests". Up to 1000 packed meals a day were provided to feed both officers and others from the demonstrations.

- mouths watering with anticipation of breakfast, Essex officers queue for bacon, egg served with a smile of course. What a shame we had no space for the "after" picture!

Bacon, Eggs and Bangers scintillatingly served from the Force mobile Ritz by the seemingly never tiring catering staff. Pictured here: Walter Lionel Lee with John Edwards, Elsa Mueller and Florrie Hamilton.
SPECIALS LAW

Hi, I'm Jan Williams a special constable based at Braintree for 2 years. I used to be reading past issues of "The Law" that very little was said about us, so it's been suggested that we have our own collection.

Now this is where I need your help. I'm looking for new material that I can use to put in this new column. It's your chance to say the things you want to say, so, serious or funny, get cracking and get your items off to me via the internal mail to Braintree Station that will save you a 16 pence stamp.

Your reward, your name in print in the newspaper of the month.

At the sitting this month, some of us are in the final stages of training for the Salter and De Revenew Course to be held along with the Muster Parade on May 20. Only 3 divisions.

Insp M. Frost, HQ CRO, Chelmsford, Harlow, £182.73. Consolation prize PC James, Saffron Walden, £730.93; 3rd prize PC Wylie, Clacton; £36.55 each; PC Wylie, Braintree; £50.00. All officers from the Suffolk group.

For details PC Bob Harlow, Southend 522982.

What a nice reaction we had to our article on using a small micro to keep your finances in order. If you decide to get involved, ring me on 525696 during a weekday afternoon and I'll point you in the right direction. I have some specimen spreadsheets here which I'll send you.

Computer Progress

Rather than dish out advice this month, I thought it might be interesting if I sketch out how we progressed from a dining room table and two brown folders to the computerised association we have today.

It all started when a company provided us with a Sinclair Spectrum and software which we took to peoples houses to show them on TV what the various rules are. It can also work out their financial planning for the future.

From there we moved to a BBC computer where we did research which another company was kind enough to provide us for. That machine keeps scores of letters and forms on disc so we can send the right letter to the right person without having to employ a secretary. It also keeps all our records with their details and sorts them in any order we like. We use a large spreadsheet to keep the business and private accounts, so we can compare our last years accounts at the touch of a button.

With arrival of our mortgage specialist, we developed a system which matches up a lender to a proposed borrower. Now we feed in the details of the clients and ask the computer for a list of likely lenders out of perhaps 40 or 50 in the sources, and it puts them in order of interest rate.

Another system we provide the last 52 weeks performance figures for about ten different investment companies, and prints the result in graph form on a letter heading — that one was designed and perfected by a 14 year old schoolboy during his maths lessons positively makes me feel old!

City Link

We use PRESTEL, linked through the British Telecom system to the city business information service, and we also link into a major insurance companies quotation and policy store service, to be able to give good sending for messages after hours to insurance companies, so that they get these things in the morning — it's cheaper than a stamp and much more reliable!

Finally, there is a fringe TELETEXT which provides main city information and review after hours.

Next month, I believe I shall have to say something about pensions as I hear the Government is about to change the rules about tax free commutations — I hope I'm wrong.

MONEY MATTERS by TW

FOR SALE

POLPERRO, CORNWALL, modern holiday chalet on pleasant site. All mod cons, sleeps 4. Heated pool, club.

D11 6ft gate-legged table, 364447.

FOR SALE

BRUGGY DOUBLE, complete with rain canopy. Twin beds. £295.00. Full carpentry, cooker, fridge, heater, hot water system. £1,200 each.

SAILCARE TENTATIVE 1982 model, self containing electric, £595.00. Buyer collects, £5.00.

BEDFORD AUTO SLEEPER "K" reg. Good condition. £43,000 only.

For details PC Bob Harlow, Southend 522982.

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 "The LAW, Police HQ, Chelmsford. Thank you.

Market Place

LEATHER JACKET size 42, £30. Garden strimmer, £6.

OFFERS Win with CUMMINGS Information Room "D" shift, or Chelmsford 461214.

ELECTRONIC ORGAN.

Two keyboards. Foot pedals. £45.00. Serviced.

One of these should be your idea of fun. Perhaps they heard a rumour being put around by a certain Inspector, that the Chelmsford Division were training three teams and the best team would be entered. Well you know the story, say, never believe what an Inspector says — well not this Inspector anyway.

Well, I will be getting in touch with The Bosses etc to get this spot going. Please don't be afraid, get pen and paper and let me hear from you about your Division.

by: Jan Williams
Rent allowance

SINCE the last issue of The Law, there has been some information received, which I immediately put out to the Force on teleprinter. This has resolved some, but quite clearly there are still gaps in the information being supplied by the Official Side of the Police Negotiating Board.

The first meeting of the Arbitrators will be about the 30th/31st August 1984. One cannot publish a result much before the end of September or early October, and then it will be necessary for the Home Secretary to publish a new form of these required to sleep in a specific location. In such cases all hours shall be counted as duty hours except for a period not exceeding 8 hours in every 24 providing that in respect of that period:

1. proper sleeping accommodation
2. the officers are stood down from immediate operational availability and, according to the particular circumstances, are allowed reasonable freedom of movement while remaining in contact in case an emergency arises.

The words “in contact”, were replaced by “contactable” at the request of the Staff Side and the Police Negotiating Board agreed providing that the agreement would be interpreted with goodwill and commonsense.

As I personally saw the agreement, there are four elements to its compilation:
1. six hours duty, and a period of 8 hours for sleep
2. providing proper sleeping accommodation is provided, and
3. the officers are stood down from immediate operational availability, and
4. are allowed a reasonable freedom of movement.

The Joint Central Committee Secretary agreed that 16 hours duty will be paid and the Police Negotiating Board agreement on officers held in reserve away from their normal place of duty, should be further defined. He was loathe to commit himself to a definition, but under questioning would agree to the term defined as set out below.

PNB Agreement

The PNB agreement is thus worded:

“This agreement applies to officers held in reserve away from their normal place of duty. It is required that they are to be paid as duty hours except for a period not exceeding 8 hours in every 24 providing that in respect of that period:

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As a sample of the advice we have in the office the last heading is, followed by the following:

“If you and your wife’s joint earnings, excluding investment income, are sufficiently large eg £23,800 or above, it may pay to file this election which must be submitted within 12 months of the end of the relevant tax year. This results in your joint earned income not being aggregated into the higher rates of tax. (The 40% band starts at £15,401), but the penalty is that the husband loses the married man’s allowance, which is substituted by the single person’s allowance. You must, however, ensure that your interests are properly looked after by APL. Rep. We are now involved more and more in the Working Parties which seem to abound in the Service and this requires members of the highest calibre possible.

There will be additional personal relief for children. Age Allowance: Housekeeper relief: Widows: bereavement allowance: Life Assurance relief: Mortgage interest relief:

Auditor’s advice

AS promised some time ago, now, we have available to us in the Federation Office advice from our Auditor on various aspects of Income Tax. This is in the form of a précis of the more common enquiries that he has received over the year. He has expanded his knowledge to Brian Pallani and so the latter may be able to answer your queries off the top of his head. If not then he will address your problem to the professional, and relay the answer to you, Brian’s extension is Force Headquarters 398 or 386.

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Single and Married persons allowances

Wife earned income allowance:

Additional personal relief for children

Age Allowance:

Housekeeper relief:

Sons and Daughters services:

Widows bereavement allowance:

Life Assurance relief:

Mortgage interest relief:

Deeds of covenant:

Pension Contributions:

Election for Separate Assessment of Wife’s earnings.

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Another motion relates to the provision of a uniform Cash Book for Federation Funds. This is becoming a necessity because of the large sums of money being handled through Branch Board Treasurers’ offices.

A further motion relates to the travelling allowance for officers on Regional Crimes Squads and Motorway Patrols, both of which categories have an increasing affect within this Force.

Seconded Officers rights and entitlements need to be standardised, in order to protect members who give their services to. Some facility away from the Force Area, and for members generally.

We have proposed that a Training School be set up to train Federation Representatives for the future. It has become increasingly obvious of late that your representatives are becoming more and more involved in things related to the good functioning of our Force, and that a professional approach has to be taken to ensure that your interests are properly looked after. It is also becoming more and more in the Working Parties which seem to abound in the Service and this requires members of the highest calibre possible.

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FOOTBALL REPORT

The Force football team have just failed to reach the final of the national PAA Football Competition. Having travelled to Merseyside and drawn 3-3 after extra time the replay at Police Headquarters ended with Paul Gamman and Roy Scanes to hammer home the scores. A brave challenge from Phil O’Connell and there was Roy Scanes to hammer home the scores. And so to the penalty shoot out for the run and have made it to the final. Three times they hit back to level the scores with goals from Stewart Gamman and O’Connell, and it was Essex who looked the stronger in the closing stages. Mention must be made of man of the match, Mick Allen and goalkeeper Bob Scanes who both produced superhuman efforts.

In the first game the Merseysiders proved the better team but the enthusiasm and fighting spirit of the Essex team pulled them through. Three times they hit back to level the scores with goals from Stewart Gamman and O’Connell, and it was Essex who looked the stronger in the closing stages. Mention must be made of the Essex team did themselves proud. A defensive error after ten minutes let in Essex for an early goal but from then on it was Essex who produced the best football and came close to scoring on several occasions. Phil O’Connell was tormenting the Merseyside defence with his speed, watch. The atmosphere was electric.

To the dismay of the supporters the goalkeepers now and a brilliant save to shoot. It was all up to the Essex team who produced superb displays. But there was still more to come. On the domestic front the Force manager John Rhymes was thanks very much, you were great, and on behalf of the team I would like to mention the Merseyside team and in particular Secretary Geoff Swinnerton who not only made us so welcome in Merseyside but also made it a pleasure to be part of such a sporting occasion down here. We’ll look forward to seeing you again.

Send your sports reports to The Law at Haw

Southend Cricket Week

Once again Essex Cricket have been kind enough to offer this Club an opportunity to sponsor a marquee for the Southend Cricket Week at Southchurch Park, Saturday 7th to Friday, 13th July inclusive. We intend to provide refreshment and catering services as before. Teams for the championship match on 7th, 9th, 10th and 12th July are on 8th Glamorgan. Championship 11th to 13th Lancashire. Ticket prices this year £2.50, weekdays £1.25. This is an ideal opportunity for you to entertain friends and to return hospitality. Ticket requirements to Brian Taylor, Secretary, Southend Cricket Club.