



Cautious response to Clarke's proposals

ESSEX Chief Constable and ACPO President John Burrow has welcomed the Home Secretary's announcement this week that Chief Constables and Police authorities are to be given greater freedom over their budgets, and local manpower levels.

But he sounded a note of caution over the appointment by the Home Secretary of the Chairman of the Police authority. "This could represent a dangerous shift of power to the centre bearing in mind the key role of the chairman," he said.

However, ACPO was pleased the Home Secretary had taken heed of concerns about 100 per cent funding and has opted to maintain current arrangements.

"We are also glad to see that locally elected councillors will form a significant part of the newly constituted police authorities, and that the relationship with the local community has not been lost," he said.

"We are interested to hear that, despite constant speculation, the Home Secretary has no specific plans for the amalgamation of police forces, and that he wants a more straightforward procedure for the consideration of mergers. However, we repeat our position that any mergers of forces must be carefully thought through to ensure the benefits outweigh the inevitable cost and disruption to operational policing," he added.

Did you know?

THE 53 dogs working for Essex Police consumed 13,300 tins of food in 1992.

Meanwhile the four Force horses munched their way through 1,460 bales of hay and required 160 shoes.

But the four-legged friends certainly worked hard for their pay with the drugs dogs recovering £2,235,215 worth of drugs in 400 searches and the horses helping to deal with 400 traffic offences, among other tasks.

SPEEDERS EXPOSED

SPEEDING motorists in north Essex now run the risk of their offences being caught on film.

Reinforcing the recent Department of Transport advice, "Kill speed, save lives", new speed detection cameras have been placed in the Colchester, Clacton and Harwich areas in a joint effort by Essex County Council and Essex Police to cut accidents.

Figures show that up to a quarter of accidents in Essex are speed related and that nationally 55 per cent of deaths in 30 mph limits are due to speeding motorists.

The cameras are being put into areas where there are known problems and will provide valuable 24 hour a day enforcement of speed limits.

The equipment uses a radar beam to calculate the speed of a passing vehicle. If a vehicle passes that unit faster than a pre-determined speed, the camera will automatically take two photos one second apart.

The unit will record the vehicle's registration number, the speed, the day, date and time of the offence.

The police will be able to use the photo to prosecute offending motorists who will receive a summons or fixed penalty ticket by post.

Fixed penalties are £40 and carry three penalty points. More serious offenders will get a summons to appear in court where they face a fine of up to £2,000, three to six penalty points and the possible suspension of their driving licence.

David Tuthill, Area

Highway Manager for Essex County Council, emphasised that drivers who are within the speed limit have nothing to fear.

He said: "The cameras are another example of the way in which Essex County Council and Essex Police are working together to reach the Government's target of reducing accident casualties by a third by the year 2000."

It's interesting to note the result of a similar campaign in West London.

The Metropolitan Police tried cameras at 21 locations and between their introduction on October 15, 1992 and February 8 this year, they yielded, on average, 250 offenders each week.

The areas in question have also seen a reduction in fatal and serious injuries of 60 per cent, with a 38 per cent drop in all accidents, and a 46 per cent fall in all road accident casualties.

Chief Inspector Brian Ladd, of Essex Police Traffic Management, agrees that the cameras are a positive addition to equipment already in use against motorists unwilling to heed warnings.

He said: "We are keen to bring about a change in driver behaviour — we don't want to fill the courts or issue vast numbers of fixed penalties."

"Offending motorists must realise that whilst there is a greater risk of being caught in the North East of the county, normal enforcement measures will continue throughout the rest of the county."

Avez-vous a licence for this horse?



CLOUSEAU: poses for his first publicity shot with Pc Caroline Dunn.

I sentence you to 900 days holiday

A COURT clerk, who has refused to take any time off for 28 years, has been ordered to take a holiday whether he likes it or not.

Sixty-year-old Athos Bagatin, from Venice, has about 900 days holiday owed to him.

He told an Italian judge that he likes his work and his sick wife was usually too frail to travel far.

SADDLED with a white horse, Pc Caroline Dunn of Essex's Mounted Section now faces a whole heap of extra cleaning work.

Clouseau (pictured with Caroline above) is the new NEIGHbour to Cardinal, Cavalier and Colossus at the Southend stables.

The seven-year-old Percheron — French heavy horse — replaces Crusader who, at 21, has retired to the International League for the Protection of Horses.

Having previously pulled a carriage, Clouseau is used to mixing with people and traffic and has already proved his steady temperament with his work at recent football matches and seafront patrols.

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FEDERATION NOTES...FEDERATION NOTES

'Mandarins should spend time out on patrol' Angry Fed urges 'Draconian' Clarke to think again

JUST over a year ago the Police Federation was calling for a Royal Commission on the Police Service.

At our Federation Conference last May the Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke responded with an announcement that he was setting up an Inquiry to look at police roles, rewards and responsibilities now known to us all as The Sheehy Inquiry.

At the same time Mr Clarke behind the scenes was looking at police funding and the Tripartite system of control.

The next bombshell from the Home Office is that Mr Clarke was considering amalgamations of Police Forces to make

them more accountable. His proposals on this we are still waiting for.

Then wait for it, just over a week ago Mr Clarke announces the introduction of league tables for the police service to pit police force against police force and therefore to make them more efficient in the Home Office eyes.

How short sighted can you get?

At a time when police forces themselves are going down the line of radical change with the introduction of Service Delivery Standards and the

use of performance indicators for their own internal use we have a Home Secretary actually going live with ludicrous proposals.

I am surprised that a man of Mr Clarke's standing can not see the problems that he will cause by the introduction of such draconian measures.

Perhaps he is being totally misinformed by his mandarins in the Home Office who have, it would appear, no idea of what policing is all about.

Perhaps they should spend time out on patrol at the sharp end to see what policing is all about and the pressures that are being placed on officers already

stretched to the limit.

Perhaps I can spell out to Mr Clarke just what will happen if he does introduce League Tables.

The first thing that will go out of the window is the quality of service being given to the public.

Officers who will also have the threat of the new incapability procedure hanging over them will look to the bread and butter work. This will mean cries of persecution from the public.

The very public that we are trying to give a quality of service to and who we the Service need for support in the fight to reduce crime.



By Brian Pallant

**Give us
your bills
Old Bill**

THE National Federation Secretary, has asked for instances where there are great variations between the rates paid by our members in Police Provided Accommodation.

The recently published rates for Band D properties shows that Essex will probably have about the lowest rate and the highest rate depending upon where you live in the county.

To assist the National Secretary with her negotiations with the Home Office could members please send me details of their council tax bills when they receive them.

This will enable me to assimilate the information before forwarding the best cases to the National Secretary for consideration.

1993 open meeting

AN EARLY note for your diary the above meeting will take place on Monday, 14th June, 1993 at the Marconi Athletic and Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford.

The meeting will commence at 7.00pm and will be of a slightly different format from previous years.

Basically there will not be a closed part of the meeting. The normal update will be given in the open session with the opportunity to ask questions of the Chief Constable, National Federation Members and your local members.

The buffet will then be provided after the meeting and before the commencement of the cabaret.

This year will obviously be an important time for the police service so make a note in your diary now and come along to what is your meeting.

SPECIAL REPORT:— MARRIED COUPLES ALLOWANCE

YOU ARE probably aware that under independent taxation the married couple's allowance of £1,720.00 in this tax year of 1992-93 — automatically goes to the husband. It can be transferred from the husband to the wife only to the extent of any excess balance of the married couple's allowance over the husband's actual income after all other deductions.

There was a change introduced by the Chancellor in his budget last March which was carried through into a Finance Act 1992 which will provide greater choice as from the 1993-94 tax year.

It will be possible from the date for the married couple's allowance to either stay with the husband or be transferred wholly to the wife or be split equally.

It is necessary to look carefully at the relevant incomes and tax positions before taking your decision to transfer or split. If the husband pays income tax at the top rate of 40 per cent and the wife at basic rate of 25 per cent only, or if the husband pays at basic rate and the wife's income is covered by her personal allowance, then no transfer of the married couple's allowance from the husband should be contemplated.

If these circumstances are reversed however a trans-

fer should cut down the overall tax bill.

Married couples who will benefit by leaving the married couple's allowance with the husband need do nothing — the allowance will be allocated to him by the Revenue anyway.

Those couples who find they will be better off with a transfer to the wife or an equal split of the married couple's allowance can obtain a special form 18 from the tax office. If dealt with in good time before April 6, 1993 the Inspector should be in a position to put the new allocation straight into effect from 1993-93 tax year.

There is in fact a leaflet available from the Revenue numbered IR80 and titled "Income Tax and Married Couples" which may be of assistance.

S. V. Foster

George Burrows Group Insurance

George Burrows Group Insurance provides independent financial advice under the Terms of the Financial Services Act and should you wish to arrange an appointment to discuss your own financial planning matters please in the first instance contact the Federation Office.

Discounted fun at Towers and Ffestiniog

Ffestiniog:

ONCE AGAIN discount prices are being offered on the Ffestiniog for 1993 to all members of Essex Police (including all Support Staff).

The prices are:

	Ordinary Fare	Discount Fare
Adult	11.40	7.00
Child	5.70	3.50
Adult and Child	11.40	9.20
Senior Citizen	8.55	5.25

The tickets are only available in advance from Roger Schofield:

Travel Offer, 43 Kildonan Road, Grappenhall, Cheshire WA4 2LJ
Telephone Number (0925) 602760.
Fax Number (0925) 602760.

Surgeries:

Sid Foster from George Burrows Group Insurance will be holding his next surgery in the Federation Office, Police Headquarters on Friday 2nd April 1993.

Any member wishing to avail themselves of this facility should contact extension 2797 for an appointment.

Alton Towers:

The Police Federation are once again offering discount sale of tickets for Alton Towers. The Staffordshire Police Federation Joint Branch Board have agreed to market the sale of the tickets.

This year the admission charge will normally be £13.00 per adult and £9.99 per child (under 4 free).

The discount rate will be 8.75 per adult and 7.50 per child.

The above discounted rates includes a donation of 50 pence which will be equally divided between the two Police Convalescent Homes.

These arrangements come into being on the 1st April 1993.

To order tickets please contact Miss Claire Tuxford in the Staffordshire Police Federation Office:-

Hearn Court, Rising Brook, Stafford ST17 9QN
Telephone Number 0785 42215.

THE LAW OPINION

ANYONE who reads of the appalling level of crime affecting the county's churches on page five cannot fail to be outraged by the statistics.

During 1992 there were 519 reports of burglaries, 298 thefts, 269 reports of criminal damage, 16 reports of arson and 43 thefts from motor vehicles. Is nothing sacred? It would seem not.

Sadly it seems bolted church doors, replica church furniture and mesh-covered stain-glass windows will become the norm if our religious artefacts and treasures are to survive into the 21st century.

But it need not be so.

According to Pc Ashdown, many ministers concentrate so much on the spiritual interests of their church they don't see the reality of crime. They are not alone. How many of us are so wrapped up in our own lives we fail to notice what is going on around us?

Perhaps we are too busy to get involved, or believe it's not our problem. Perhaps, as Detective Superintendent Michael Gamble writes on page seven, we are caught up in the warped philosophy that says 'grassing' (ie telling the truth) is more despicable than the offence itself.

Someone will always know what is going on. How can whole church roofs disappear unnoticed? Someone knows who buys and sells fourteenth century pews to Germany or the United States.

It's up to them, and us, to watch out, to speak up, to grass.

Or one day perhaps our lives will be as empty as our churches.

The Editors would like to make it clear that the views expressed in this opinion column reflect those of the Editors and not the Chief Constable or any other member of the Essex Police.

Reunion lunch

PLANS are already well underway for the next **Policewomen's Reunion Dinner, which will be held at Essex Police HQ, Chelmsford on Wednesday October 6.**

Before the meal, diners will have the chance at a sherry reception to look around the new Force Museum, which contains a whole host of fascinating displays and exhibits from Essex Police's past.

The cost of the meal is £10 and it will be a 6.45pm start for the 7.45pm meal. All details can be obtained from Do Jean Seager at Rayleigh CSB.

Invites will be sent to all previous attenders, but please update Jean if a change of address has occurred, or you would like to attend for the first time.

The Essex Police Choir

and
Bedfordshire Police

Folklore

in concert at

**Christchurch,
New London Road,
Chelmsford**

7.30pm - Saturday 17 April 1993

Admission £2.50

Tickets obtainable from Roger Grimwade
Press Office Headquarters 0245
491491 Ext 2457

or
James Dace, Moulsham St,
Chelmsford
and members

Off Beat

Bridal Frown

Officers called to a domestic in a Colchester hotel got a taste of married life at its best this month.

The frisky groom was chasing his new bride Laura around the room when her dress ripped and her temper soared.

And as Essex officers attempted to calm the newly weds down, the fire brigade turned up on blues and twos in response to a fire alarm activation.

It seems that the couple's bridesmaid and her boyfriend had gone to assist with the upset when the door to their room had locked behind them.

The bath running in their room had promptly overflowed into the electrical system setting off the fire alarm and causing the ceiling to collapse at a cost of £30,000.

The blushing bride said after the event: "We can laugh about it now. Fortunately we weren't asked to foot the bill and we certainly had an unforgettable honeymoon."

Bed Girl!

But it's not just the antics of the young that are a cause for concern as one 83-year-old proved.

Essex Police were alerted when the lady disappeared from sheltered housing wearing just a nightdress.

After an extensive search she was found safe and well tucked up in bed with the gentleman down the hall.

The Bells the bells!

Another elderly lady telephoned Westcliff Police complaining about noisy bells.

She went on to say that she would leave her front door open for the police because she was DEAF.

Blind Drunk

Meanwhile a gentleman in Pitsea caused a stir when he stood screaming in the street that his eyes were hurting.

On arrival officers found the old boy had had a few too many, lost his glasses and thought he'd gone blind.

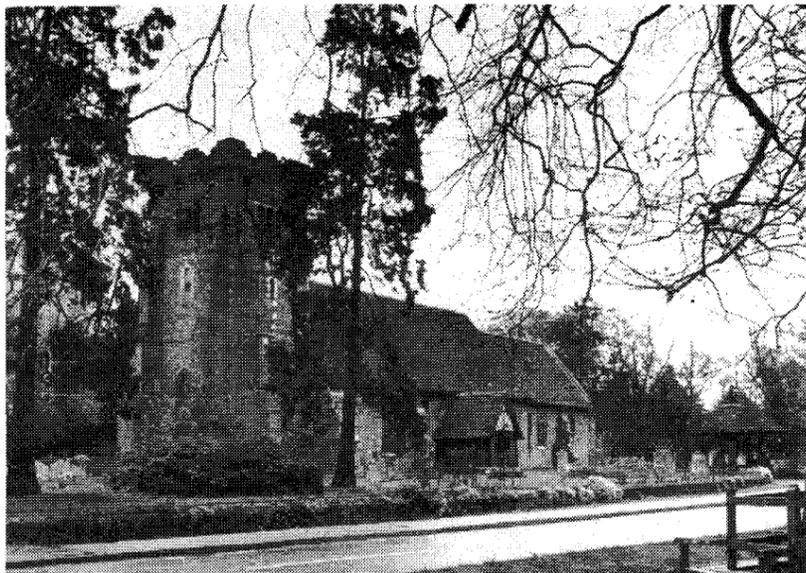
Curtains for Loo

On now to some unusual thefts in the county with one brazen criminal stealing 13 beds from Runwell Hospital, while one woman walked into the Cricketers Public House and stole the curtains from the ladies loo.

But the thief with the conscience has to be the one who broke into a house in Chelmsford and swapped one television for another.

Essex Police's sermon to halt spiralling church crime

The Gospel according to Essex Police



A typical Essex Church — this is All Saints at Springfield, Chelmsford, but now the fight is on to stop our religious heritage disappearing for good. Picture courtesy of the Essex Chronicle.

CLERGYMEN and women all over the county will be hearing the gospel according to Essex Police this month as the Force launches a major crackdown on the spiralling problem of Church Crime.

CRACKDOWN ON



CHURCH CRIME

motor vehicles.

Not until officers carried out a wide-reaching survey of crime against the county's churches in 1992 did anyone realise just how bad the situation had become. The figures are staggering.

Arson

During 1992, there were 519 reports of burglaries at churches in the county, 298 thefts, 269 reports of criminal damage, 16 reports of arson and 43 reports of thefts from

And the figure may be even higher according to Architectural Liaison Officer Pc Tony Ashdown, from HQ Crime Prevention who said he believed many churches are not reporting all of their crime to the police.

Anything of value is being stolen, from stain glass windows to carved wooden seats and peg tiles. It is believed many are stolen to order, ending up in the United States or Germany.

But with some church furniture dating back to Cromwell, Pc Ashdown says it is impossible to put an antique value on the items stolen.

"All the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company can do is insure items for their replacement value with a modern equivalent. Most of these items are one-offs and are irreplaceable," he said.

To give one measurable example, damage to stain glass windows at Church of England buildings in Essex over the last nine months amounts to more than £32,000.

Wardens

But Essex Police are determined to halt this disturbing trend and over the next few weeks as many as 600 ministers and church wardens

have been invited to attend one of three mammoth seminars being held in the three Arch-Deaconry areas at Epping, Colchester and Thundersley aimed at tackling the problem.

The Clergy will hear presentations on risk management and physical security from Essex Police, advice on preventing arson attacks from the Essex Fire and Rescue Service and will also hear a presentation by The Ecclesiastical Insurance Company, which covers church buildings.

Spiritual

"Many ministers concentrate so much on the spiritual interests of their church they don't see the reality of crime," said Pc Ashdown. "we will be encouraging them to

think about how to lessen the risk of becoming the next victim.

"But we will make it clear the ownership of the problem is not solely the police's responsibility it should also be the clergy's as well.

"A major part of this will be involving the local community. Even those people who do not attend church very often feel a strong sense of outrage when their local church is burgled or vandalised.

"Therefore we will be encouraging churches to get to know their neighbours and to make it clear the crime problem is here today. It might have been unthinkable twenty years ago to have burglar alarms on churches but today it is a reality."



AN unprecedented revolution has taken place this month with Essex Police spelling out its commitment to quality of service by launching its first five Service Delivery Standards.

Thousands of officers and support staff countywide have attended the SDS road shows — the first time in its 152 year history the Force has attempted to bring all its members together in so short a time.

At the very first People, Policing and You presentation, held at the Essex Show ground, the Chief Constable, John Burrow, made it clear how importantly Essex Police views the introduction of the standards, which will eventually embrace all aspects of police work.

Newsworthy

A more questioning, more demanding society, with the Police's shortcomings more newsworthy than the routine good work of day to day policing, meant it was now necessary to spell out the standards of service the community can expect, Mr Burrow explained.

"The Standards of Service delivery we have launched are not just words, but standards we must all sign up to, each one of us, if you the individual are to meet the demands of the Police and the demands of the people we serve," he said.

The first five Service Delivery Standards to be launched cover the five main areas of police work — Crime, Traffic, Public Order, Public Contact and Community Affairs.

Accidents

On Crime, Essex Police has laid down its standards for the treatment of people suspected of committing offences. In the Traffic category, the first standard covers the way the police deal with injury road accidents.

Public Order covers how the force deals with victims of racial harassment, Public Contact tackles responding to calls and correspondence and the first Service Delivery Standard in Community Affairs covers Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (cot deaths).

It is expected new standards will be launched at the rate of around one every six weeks.

New face at The Law



THE LAW extends a warm welcome this month to Kim White who has just joined the editorial team of your favourite Police paper.

Kim, 24, began working for Essex Police last month and is employed as one of the Force's press officers based at Police HQ, Chelmsford.

She joins The Law after a long career in newspapers, first as a deputy sports editor and then as Associate Editor of the Harlow and Bishops Stortford Citizen.

Following that she worked as Associate Editor for the Guardian, Gazette and Independent Group.

In 1991 she won an award from the GCI Group for the best single-handed contribution to the papers for her efforts in introducing desktop publishing.

Kim joins existing Law editors Jenny Grinter and Paul Dunt and can be contacted at the Press Office on Ext 2450.

Car thieves can't dodgem

CAR thieves can expect a bumpy ride when Essex Police launch their countywide "Operation Dodgem".

The crackdown on car thieves get underway on April 1st, and will involve high profile stop checks, undercover observations, and circulation of crime prevention posters and advice.

The aim of the campaign is two-fold: to cut the number of car thefts in the county, and to increase the detection rate for these crimes.

Stolen

In 1992, a total of 11,557 motor vehicles were stolen or taken without consent in Essex.

Grays-based Supt. Michael Todd, who is co-ordinating the campaign, said, "This cam-

aign will bring together crime prevention and operational policing.

"We are trying to target both the motorist, with a message about car security, and the thief, with the message that we will catch him or her. Our aim is to try to significantly reduce car theft throughout Essex."

Initiatives

Each police sub-division will have its own co-ordinator, with initiatives targeted at the problems in that particular area, for example, railway station car parks may be highlighted in one area, shopping centre car parks in another.

Mr Todd said "Operation Dodgem" was the first joint action plan involving every sub-division in the force. The aim, he said, was to prevent car crime rather than displacing it into another area of the county.

Campaign

The campaign will be evaluated in June, comparing the number of thefts and detection rates with the previous year, and collecting data on the number of vehicles stop-checked, and the number of arrests as a result.

During the campaign, crime prevention officers will be promoting the Force's "Sold Secure" scheme, which works in partnership with the motor trade to fit security devices to cars at the point of sale.

Vigilantes 'still a possibility'

I note MR K. Page takes issue with the views I expressed in the January edition of *The Law*. Some five years ago I wrote the script for and presented a programme on Channel 4 dealing with the increase of crime, and what could be done about it. I suggested stronger measures were needed, otherwise we could see a backlash from the public and emergence of vigilante groups — which no one really wants unlike what seems to be Mr Page's interpretation of my letter. What I advocated in the letter was quote: 'properly vetted patrol groups to work hand in hand with the police'.

Incidentally, Central Television requested I fax them a copy, and the subject was debated on TV. Mr Page might like to know that to the question, Do you want vigilantes: the response by public 'phone in was 82% saying yes with only 18% saying no.

Prior to this I was invited to sit on a panel debating rising crime, and to the request for viewers to record their opinions on whether we are too soft on criminals, the 'phone in was for follows: 52,627 said we are too soft, only 1,035 said we are not.

The following week I joined another TV discussion debating the attitude of the law towards protecting one-

self and property against intruders. Overwhelmingly it seemed those on the panel advocated having a go. Such a response is not a surprising reaction to the stupid laws which prevail at the moment on how far we the law abiding citizen can go towards defending themselves.

At no time did I hear anyone say they would keep their "head down". We live in a savage society — which needs equally stern measures to counter it, instead of the denunciatory platitudes along with hand-wringing that usually follows each horrendous crime.

Mr Page would appear to presume I am without military service, or have never

faced threatening situations. He would be wrong. At well over 60 I am no hero, but would like to think I would have done more than he suggests. No one in their right mind goes looking for trouble, but sometimes it seeks you out, and one has to make a stand.

I sent a copy of my January letter along with the acts from television debate to Ron Hadfield Chief Constable West Midlands, for his perusal, as the Chief Constable has been most outspoken insofar as a Victims Charter; so the reply I received was most encouraging. Until our blinkered politicians take notice of such advice tendered by someone who has first hand knowledge of the crime problem — then the gradual emergence of vigilante groups from the ranks of a seriously aggravated British public, remains a very distinct probability.

ALEX JENNINGS
Fernlea Road,
Burnham on Crouch.

REMEMBER THE WOMBLES IN FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

IN REFERENCE to Mr A. Jennings letter (the January issue of *The Law*), proposing the raising of properly vetted patrol groups from the general public to assist in crime prevention, I would like to offer some comments.

I lived and worked in Rhodesia during U.D.I. where the Police were hard put to cover their responsibilities and relied a great deal on volunteers.

Those of us who could manage to fit in duties in the rural and bush areas joined the Police Field Reserve, whilst those whose age was over 55 were used to patrolling urban areas, shopping malls, car-parks, parks and leisure places.

They were quite affectionately known as the

"Wombles". Where they scored was in fact that they carried no weapons, knew the areas that they patrolled in and were on foot.

The other great thing was that they had radio communication equipment linked to the local police station and could summon the official police units, they also enjoyed a rapid response from those units.

Their age was a factor in their favour, the criminal did not view them as a physical threat but more as

a professional hazard to be avoided, and their rapport with the public led to a drop in petty crime.

The patrols were of short duration, a couple of hours per group but at random times and places, by drawing from the reservoir of volunteers several patrols a day would be operating in a specific area.

It all boiled down to local knowledge, quick communications with the police and their quick response.

E.F. Pearce,
Neighbourhood Watch
Co-Ordinator,
South Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea

MEMORIES FLOOD BACK FOR DOREEN

OPENING the centre pages of February's *Law*, faded but not forgotten memories came "flooding" back. Looking at me was my then young 29-year-old husband Pc 785 Ken Ranson - top left hand picture standing in the water.

Close bonds were formed among the six police families living in Jaywick, all those years ago, and the friendships continue today.

Sadly, some are no longer with us. Others reading this copy like myself, must have had a particular memory stirred. I certainly did! My best wishes to all Ken's colleagues of the time who did such sterling work. Also to the wives, who quietly supported them behind the scenes.

Doreen Ranson,
Etherred Road
Westgate
Thanet
Kent.

Cricketing history as Pc captains Empire

YOUR entertaining feature on police athleticism struck a chord with at least one rough old bundle just returned from a distant reunion where, a la Byron's Childe Harold "bright the lights shone on bare women and frail men." Erratum.

Substitute "fair women and brave men." One veteran proved to be a classmate not encountered for decades.

We dug deep into a mine of memorabilia for tales of derring-do on the old greensward: of dropped catches and mismatches, of Doug Andrews LRAM on the podium conducting the massed choir in the homeward bound coach.

And we recalled the time in World War II when a young Essex constable captained the full might of the British Empire Cricket XI (sic) West Indians included. No kidding I swear.

Pc Norman Hills was a cricketing star of the first magnitude with every shot in the book, some of them reminiscent of Ranji himself.

He left the service early.

What, I asked my comrade, would authority have done with him were he in his prime today? Made him Asst Commissioner? Just right in these benighted Nineties, eh?

He lowered his pinta asses' milk slowly. A smile dawdled across his classic features like an arthritic caterpillar on patrol. "Better'n that," he muttered. "Nutt'n less than a Major billet at Number Ten." And he winked.

Ralph Jones

LAW Letters

"What is happening to the Police"

Don't send women officers out alone!

IT WAS certainly rugged at Canvey Island in the floods of 1953 but everything was kept simple and all went well and the police did a wonderful job.

Unfortunately comparisons between those times and the present cannot produce a true picture but there were also assaults and murders of policemen in those days.

I do agree with you however that forty years ago the attack on Kirste Snellgrove could not have taken place.

I cannot think of a senior officer of those days who would have allowed an eight stone policewoman to attend to a situation alone at night, in circumstances such as these.

Sheer courage is no substitute for foolhardiness. Like the late great Judge, Lord Edmund Davies, I haven't the slightest doubt that women police can only have a lesser part in the present day police force and one of the duties to which they are not fitted is patrolling alone at night, which is the greatest form of crime prevention which exists and is now hardly ever practised.

FIGHT

I say this, remembering those three great stalwarts of years ago, Vera Bayliss, Molly Barton and Peggy Sandford who I would have trusted with my life and safety if no other protection were available.

I would have preferred a fourteen stone policeman

The long arm of The Law

THANK you very much for printing my letter in *The Law* concerning my mother ex WPC Betty Harcourt. The response from those that knew her (and my father - ex Pc 285 McNally), has been absolutely overwhelming.

I didn't realise that you had used my letter until I received a phone call from mum's ex colleague, Pc Henry Illingworth, whom I hope to meet soon.

LETTER

Tuesday's post brought a warm letter from one of the other girls in the picture that you printed of mum. Her name is Molly Rand and she joined on the same day in December 1941.

The next day brought a letter from ex-sergeant George Reid and his wife Joan. They were our neighbours at Hadleigh where Sgt Reid worked with my

father.

No sooner did I start my replies to those letters, than I received another phone call in response to my request. This time it was from ex Pc "Floaty" Turner who, like ex Pc Illingworth, was another colleague of Mum's at Southend Borough Police.

I didn't ask "Floaty's" phone-number so do drop in or phone me again "Floaty"!

Thank you all once again for your kind reminiscences. On this occasion, the long arm of *The Law* reached out and touched readers scattered all over the country.

Mary Mills
Birkin Close
Tiptree
Colchester.

Corringham Friends

MY HUSBAND Mr Arthur Long, died last September. I still receive your paper and I would still like to keep in touch with Essex news.

I'd like through your paper to give my best wishes to the friends Arthur made at Corringham Police Station.

Mrs Long
Norfolk Terrace
Kingsthorpe Hollow
Northampton

behind me if it came to a fight. When I see such small policewomen today in confrontation situations on the streets I just wonder what is happening to the Police?

Likewise the same applies to small policemen. The strength of any team is only equal to its weakest link and such weaknesses invites more assaults.

Over the past years the police force has suffered from a series of gutless Home Secretaries, since Chuter Ede in the late forties. Let us hope that Kenneth Clarke is strong enough to redress the balance.

AWARD

There is one certainty however in which we strongly agree. If another tragedy such as 1953 occurs the public will not find the bobbies and policewomen of today lacking in courage given the proper leadership.

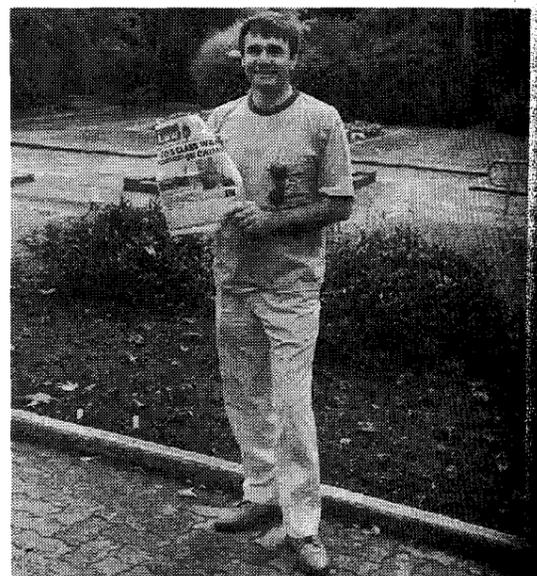
I would again refer to Miss Snellgrove and her outstanding courage. In 1941 I was also badly beaten up when a young uniform beat officer in the course of arresting a man in similar circumstances to this young lady.

I was awarded the Merit Badge.

With her outstanding devotion to duty would this award not be a fitting tribute to this young policewoman?

Ron Sewell
North Street
Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

World-wide circulation



The Law reaches the parts other papers fail to reach!

SUE and I emigrated to Australia in 1981 having both served in the Essex Police.

We keep in touch with a number of friends in the Force including Sue Bishop, who sends us *The Law*. I had the privilege of being the Bishop's Best man when they married.

Sue and I thought you might be interested in knowing your superb publication is read so far away. The photograph was taken of me reading an edition of the Royal Botanical Gardens, in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia's southern-most state.

John and Sue Pigg
857 East Derwent Highway
Risdon Cove
Tasmania
Australia 700

THE LAW welcome letters from all our readers. Please address them to:
The Editors, *The Law*
Essex Police Press Office, Police HQ,
P.O. Box No.2,
Springfield,
Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 6DA.

Cop Capers

Detective puts his foot in it

AS A detective grappled with a drunk at a Bristol police station his socks started to play Jingle Bells.

Dc David Stearman-Smith decided to wear the novelty socks — a present from his wife Kate — to work.

But onlookers doubled over with laughter as the jolly tune chimed from his feet while he and the job fell to the floor.

Embarrassed David, a detective constable with the British Transport Police, said: "I haven't worn them to work since."

Explain that to the tax man

ON THE subject of drunks, police in Italy came in for a shock when they escorted a tipsy tramp home.

Cosimo Pastore (61) was taken back to his ramshackle farmhouse by cops to make sure he came to no harm.

But as they tidied his lumpy bed, eight million pounds in cash, shares, cheques and property deeds fell to the floor.

Police in Taranto said: "He's got a lot of explaining to do to the tax man."



An original Essex constabulary helmet plate.

TO BADGE-collecting gurus it's the equivalent of the Holy Grail. A find so rare Essex Police Museum curator Fred Feather has never met anyone who has ever seen one before.

Thought to be as dead as the dodo, Fred was almost lost for words when an original example of the Essex Constabulary's first PC's Helmet plate turned up at the Force Museum recently.

As a man who didn't believe one existed Fred cradled the precious brass object in his palm as if it were made of diamonds. Then he explained why the badge's survival is so extraordinary.

"We really didn't think there were any of these left and it's only a quirk of history and one officer's short service with the force that saved it," said Fred.

The original PC's Police

helmet plate was introduced in the 1880's and was made in brass, but some time in the early 1890's the decision to bronze them over was taken, so they could not be seen at night.

The death of Queen Victoria in 1901 saw a further change to the original. Her crown was snipped off the top and Edward VIIth's soldered on. Most of those to make it through to the 1990's are bronzed and snipped.

But that was before the Force learnt about Pc 226, Frank Waylett, who could not have imagined the part his service was to play in history when he joined the

HATS OFF TO FRANK

A rare piece of police history is unveiled thanks to 19th century Pc

By Paul Dunt

boys in blue in 1888, after previous employment as a draper's assistant.

During his time with the Force he certainly saw much of the county, serving in Colchester, Stansted, Grays, Brentwood and finally Braintree. From his records it is thought he was well-skilled and valued in administration.

However in 1891, he resigned and later joined the Eastbourne Borough Force and then after transferred to the Mets. But by leaving Essex in '91 his badge survived being bronzed and snipped and was handed down through the generations, finally coming to his grandson.

"He knew it was rare, but he didn't know how rare," said Fred, who has an early example of the original

Sergeant's helmet plate in the museum, which was finished in silver. But this too has had the crown snipped off.

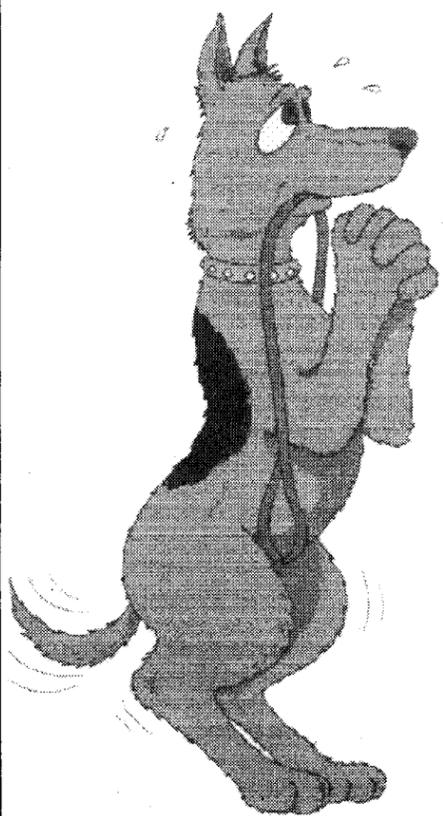
"The only other place I can think of where there might possibly be an example of this badge is in the Kent Simm Collection, built up in the 1930's by the former DCC of Southend-on-Sea and which is the country's foremost collection of Police badges," he added.

But the badge's rarity doesn't mean it can't be enjoyed in the future. There is the chance it may be loaned to the museum and Fred is examining the possibility of having facsimile copies made to sell for museum funds.

Meanwhile the badge in question is being looked after at a secret location!



Pc FRANK Waylett could not imagine the part his service was to play in history.



WANTED: One police dog

IT'S a dog's life in Essex Police.

Essex Police is searching for a German Shepherd suitable for training as a police dog.

Pc Barry Barlow of the Thorpe Dog Section is looking for a replacement for his present dog Ben who at seven-and-a-half is about to retire and live with a couple near Colchester who have four acres of land for him to roam.

Pc Barlow needs a 12 month old male German Shepherd to take with him to Surrey in April for 13 weeks of training in police work.

Driving force behind cash boost

THREE exhausted Essex policemen completed a 1,571 mile round-Britain drive to raise thousands of pounds for the Mid-Essex flying doctor service.

The "Tour de Force" team finished the sponsored journey in under 40 hours, arriving back in time for a celebration celebrity dinner at the Hilton International Hotel at Stansted Airport.

Racing legend Bob Champion was the star guest as the event piled in the cash for

MEDICS (Mid-Essex Doctors Immediate Care Service).

Pcs Steve Pike from Stansted Village, Arthur Croxford from Harlow and Geoff Knight from Saffron Walden set off from Stansted on February 25 driving a four-wheel drive Vauxhall Frontera.

Their non-stop journey took them to all 18 regional ambulance HQs on mainland Britain, as far afield as Newcastle, Edinburgh, Liverpool and North Wales.

The crew encountered appalling weather in the North, with five hours of blizzards which reduced their

speed to 20 mph.

Although they were aiming for a record-breaking drive, the three Pcs stuck strictly to speed limits — but still managed to get stopped by police in Yorkshire.

Pc Pike said, "We got pulled in the early hours. They had had a spate of thefts of four-wheel drive vehicles, so they gave us a tug to check what we were up to."

Fortunately the team were soon on their way, splitting the journey into two-hour shifts of driving, navigating and sleeping.

They were backed-up by a support team in a Saab 9000, supplied

and driven by the owner of Stansted-based Continental Cars, Derek Freeman. Sgt Dick Chaplin of Stansted and Warrant officer Les Scott from Carver Barracks made up the back-up crew.

The team hope to have raised more than £7,500 towards the cost of five high-tech monitors, which attach to a defibrillator to give an instant printout of a patient's heart condition.

The vital monitors cost £1,700 each, but the three Pcs are planning a quiz night and disco to boost their fundraising total before the appeal ends in May.

Violent clashes as saboteurs are turfed off p Hiring hunt stewards places the Force in legal confusion

POLICING fox hunts is becoming increasingly difficult as the hiring of hunt stewards puts the Force in the centre of a legal wrangle.

Case law from 1893 implies that any saboteur or animal rights activist who ventures onto land, including public footpaths and bridle ways, is a trespasser.

Members of the Essex Fox Hounds are using this civil law to remove hunt saboteurs and other protesters from public rights of way.

And the fact that 250 demonstrators turned up on January 23 to break up the hunt at Stagden Cross is, to Essex Fox Hounds Chairman Paul Dixey, proof that the stewards are a success.

To the Force it meant 26 arrests, five injured officers and a need to call in reinforcements.

But until the 1893 law is tested where does it leave our officers? Do they intervene when a steward is using "reasonable force" to remove a protester from a public footpath, or do they just keep a watchful eye for a more serious breach of the peace?

Force Liaison Officer for hunts, Superintendent Bob Good said: "What we have is two opposing factions who both passionately believe in their interests. We've got the huntsmen who believe in their right to follow a traditional sport. We then have the saboteurs who passionately believe in their right to protest and we certainly wouldn't deny them that right."

"We do our best to hold a line between those two parties to uphold the law as it stands. That's not an easy task because there is no specific law that deals with fox hunting. It means dipping in and out of various pieces of legislation."

Fox hunting has become an emotive subject.

Not only is the Force faced with an uncertain law, it is faced with the

task of remaining impartial while applying that law. Said Mr Good: "It is absolutely essential in our view that the police act impartially and implement the law as it currently stands."

"It would be naive of us to think that officers do not have their private thoughts and beliefs on fox hunting but they have got to set those aside and the professional police image has to come through."

Hunting is a lawful sport, but there is sufficient potential at

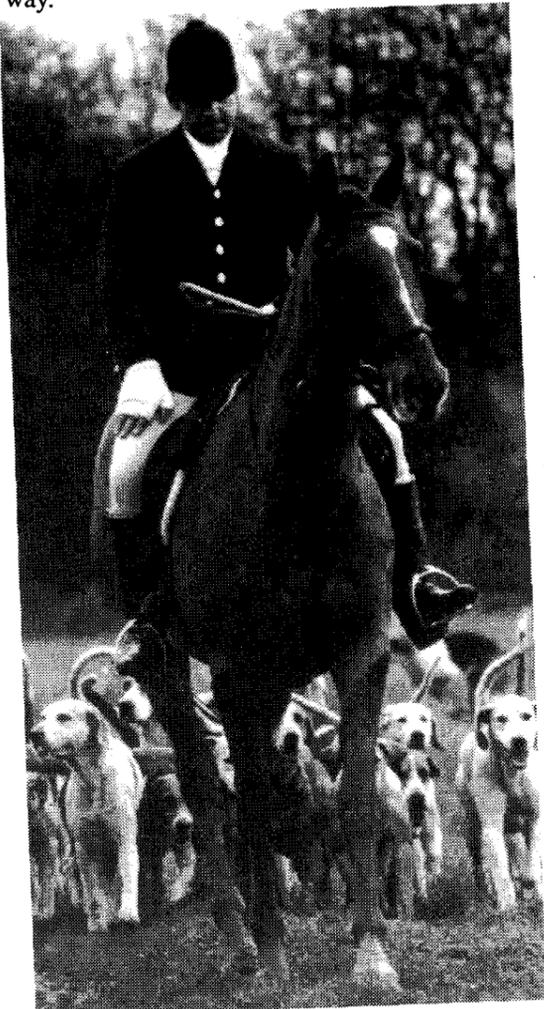
regular hunts for serious injury. There has been at least one fatality of a saboteur in the country, a situation Essex doesn't wish to face.

And it seems the introduction of stewards has done nothing to eradicate the likelihood of such an event. If anything stewards have become a focal point for demonstrators and police presence has probably increased rather than reduced.

Mr Good explained: "The initial thoughts were that we would be

able to reduce our manpower if stewards were successful. In the event that has not yet proved possible and I don't think it will be possible for the foreseeable future."

A recently published Essex Police policy document makes it clear that the Force responsibility is to keep the peace and to allow the hunt to carry out its lawful pursuit of hunting and to allow the demonstrators to



HAPPY HUNTING? Horse and hounds trail the Essex Countryside (Photo credit: Guardian - Gazette and Independent Newspapers).

'We think the police act extremely well and we are greatly indebted to them'



Stewards stand guard as a masked saboteur cont

Mer (P)

carry out their pro in a lawful way.

Said Mr Good: 'far as intervention concerned, it is an that is very diffic The 1893 case tend say that these peo could be trespass The landowner or agents have the righ remove trespass from the land. would step in wh any violence is used.

Public rights of way



of the Essex Fox Hounds set off on another day's hunting. Credit: Guardian - Gazette and Independent Newspapers).

"Our basic duty is one of keeping the peace and preventing people getting injured from whatever side."

So far the policy has worked and huntsman Paul Dixey showed his gratitude to Essex Police when he said on a recent BBC programme: "We think the police act extremely well and we are greatly indebted to them,

particularly for the amazing performance they put up at the battle of Stagden Cross when 30 of them kept a cordon protecting us from the protesters."

It seems the only solution to the current policing problem is for the law to be tested by those involved, the huntsmen and the activists.

Some will argue that

a judgement made in 1893 is not fitting for the circumstances of 1993, the hunts, however, would argue to the contrary.

Trespass is a civil matter that needs to be tested in a civil court and until such time as the 1893 case is amended, overturned or, indeed, upheld, Essex Police will continue to find itself in a very tricky position.



ates a public footpath (Photo credit: James Miller).

DETECTIVE'S PLEA FOR PUBLIC HELP IN FIGHTING CRIME

AT last the public at large, the media in general, and even politicians have come to the conclusion that crime and its consequences are a serious threat to the very fabric of our society.

But it has taken the violent death of a very young child to force this very real problem into the minds of ordinary people.

I have read and listened to numerous excuses and reasons as to why certain people offend against their fellow citizens.

Occasionally, I have heard of the effect crimes have on victims but invariably the talk is about the treatment of offenders.

Whilst I accept that there can be social circumstances which may occasionally cause an individual to break the law, it is my experience over the last 25 years dealing with offenders that the vast majority are greedy, some are downright evil, and some perverted.

Invariably those who are evil and perverted commit atrocious crimes and sufficient police resources coupled with public support leads to a successful prosecution.

The police do not yet get the same level of public support where the greedy offender is concerned.

It would seem that non-violent crime is not considered a priority to members of the general public unless they are affected by it.

Have we now reached the stage where breaking into property and stealing is an acceptable part of life?

If this is the case then I predict that the increases in crime will continue throughout the nineties.

Already insurance premiums are sky high and will no doubt continue to rise as claims

BY
DETECTIVE
SUPERINTENDENT
MICHAEL
GAMBLE

are made.

In this respect crime affects us all economically but there are additional areas such as the fear of crime, and the effect that it has on the quality of people's lives, which must be borne in mind when considering the real cost of crime.

Hundreds of thousands of radios, cassettes and video recorders are stolen every year. Where do they go? Somebody must buy them.

Buying stolen property is not getting a bargain it's a crime. The property did belong to someone. There is always a loser.

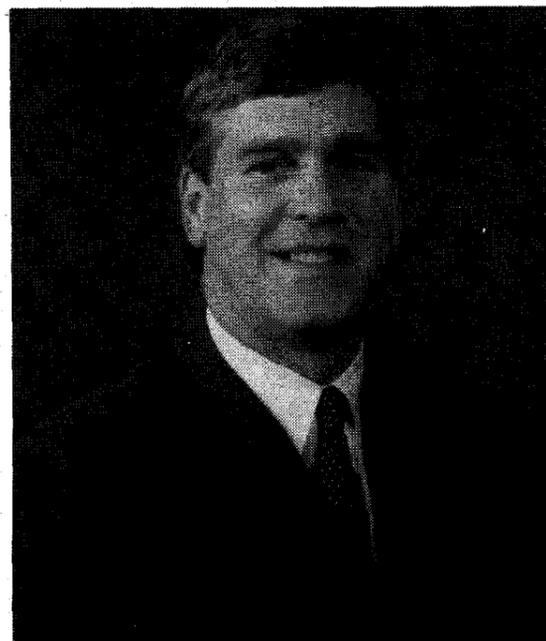
It would appear that the majority of the public are sick and tired of the ever-increasing tidal wave of crime and I believe the time is right to take advantage of this mood.

The police need public support. We need to be told who is committing crimes, who is buying stolen property.

The only way victims can be properly compensated for their loss is when the offender is caught and prosecuted.

The very words "grass" and "informer" have an uncomfortable sound to them, but why should acting as a responsible citizen by passing information about crime and criminals carry a greater stigma than that of a thief?

It is an unfortunate reality that on occasions people witness or have knowledge or suspicions of criminal activities, but



Detective Superintendent Michael Gamble.

if it doesn't affect them they comfort themselves with "it's none of my business so why should I do anything?"

I can accept that in some cases you will never conquer the fear of retribution and that there is a certain bond among thieves (I would never grace the relationship by using the word honour) and that the likelihood of them passing information is remote.

ORDINARY

It is the ordinary folk who have the knowledge of criminal activity that I ask to stand up and be counted and tell the police what they know.

Make no mistake it is a war and the police cannot and should not be expected to fight on their own and then be criticised for losing.

The concern caused by the murder of James Bulger must not be lost in the muddle of whys and hows. People who offend must be caught and that's the job of the police and the citizens of this country.

The treatment of the offender, and the reasons for offending, I am sure will be discussed long

and hard and I will leave it to greater minds than mine to come up with the answer.

But to stop them offending again the discussion must look at the value of the deterrent.

The Eastern Bloc, in progressing its freedom under the influence of the West, is struggling against escalating crime rate.

Saudi Arabia, which is also developing along Western lines, is not suffering from increasing crime and retains corporal punishment.

To the Western world these punishments seem draconian, but they illustrate the point that deterrents tend to work whereas some of our social remedies have been found wanting.

Perhaps the time has come to shift the balance between punishment and rehabilitation.

And if offenders are seen to be punished — rather than in the public's eye, let off — then perhaps more people would be encouraged to get involved by reporting what they know.

Chorus Lines

WHAT a hectic month March has been with April looking to be even busier.

We kicked off on March 9 with a photocall at Headquarters with photos being taken of the whole choir, sections and individuals in all permutations of dress ranging from full concert uniform to shirt sleeves.

This was followed by a dash to Witham for 9pm when we entertained the ladies of the Womens Institute who were holding their regional meeting.

The weekend began with a full house concert in Danbury Parish Church on Saturday, then to Tiptree at 2pm on Sunday for a marathon recording session in St Luke's Church.

REQUIEM

At 7pm we adjourned to the 'The New Times' for a well deserved meal and were joined by our spouses who must be in grave danger of becoming choir widows or widowers.

As we enter April there are two performances of Maunder's 'Olivet to Calvary'. The first is on Palm Sunday, April 4, at St Peter's, Prittlewell and the second on Tuesday April 6 at Braintree Baptist Church.

The latter will also be the first public performance of Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Requiem' in an arrangement by a local man the late Frederick Roerig.

GUESTS

Then it's final rehearsals for our concert at Christchurch, New London Road, Chelmsford on April 17 when we shall be joined by our fellow travellers to Canada 'Folklore' from Bedfordshire Police and also a series of guests including Derek Lee from the Essex Police Musical Society, the 'Singing Policemen' from Hedingham and the Braxted Singers.

The concert will also include an organ solo by the church organist, Keith Kent. Tickets are available from choir members or James Dace Ltd at £2.50.

Officers measure up for arrival of new police uniforms

New look for a model Force



New uniforms will be smarter.

THIS IS the look to take Essex Police well into the 21st century with new designs tailored to give officers of both sexes much more flexibility of movement.

The new uniforms, now being issued, also provide fewer opportunities for suspects to grab hold of items of clothing, such as epaulettes.

Outfits

Purchasing Manager, Ian Steele, said although the uniforms do not look much different at first glance, they are a great improvement on the old-style outfits.

"The most noticeable change is in the type of cloth, which is slightly lighter and of a much smarter quality," he explained.

Action pleats have also been added to jackets to give greater ease of movement and

epaulettes have now disappeared from tunics, he added.

Problems

"Epaulettes were always a cause of problems and many officers had sown them down on the old-style uniforms anyway. The new design recognises the problems and they are now attached in a similar way to collar badges."

For male officers, the new uniform has also seen a standardisation of jackets — all ranks now have the same design, which means those of Inspector rank and above will lose their belts and rifle cuffs.

Jackets will also have a central vent rather than

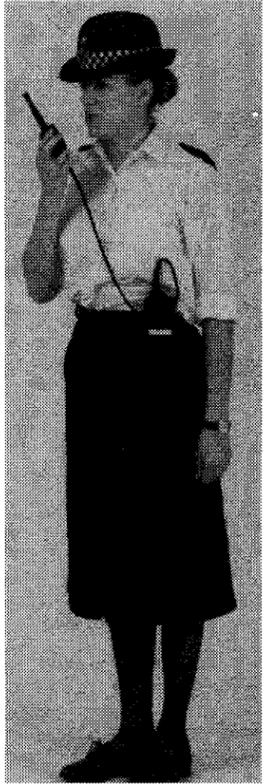
side vents, which should allow them to fit better around equipment such as radios and other instruments.

The women's uniform has been restyled in consultation with the Police Women's Federation Conference. Skirts now have pleats at the front and back to overcome restrictions in movement and a pocket has been introduced on the skirt to take the full-size police truncheon.

Obsolete

Although the new uniform is now standard across No. 5 region, Force's individual characters will be retained through independent badges and helmets.

"We hope to have everyone with new sets of uniform by the end of the summer," said Mr Steele. By 1996, the old-style uniform will be obsolete.



New style skirts will have pleats at front and back.

Have you got the recipe for a success?

IT'S nearly time for the Law's Healthy Choice Recipe judges to cogitate, contemplate and consider who has won our mouth-watering competition — but before they do here's one last chance to enter.

The closing date for entries has been extended to April 8, so there's till time to get your healthy recipes down on paper and send them to *The Law*.

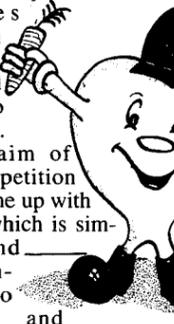
The aim of the competition is to come up with a dish which is simple and inexpensive to prepare and doesn't mean living on lettuce leaves.

We've already had some tasty suggestions, but more are still needed and there's a chance to win a £50 meal for two at a local restaurant if your culinary choice gets

the vote from the judges. Entries so far include treats such as Cottage Bake and Bean and Pasta casserole.

The winning dishes will be cooked by the Force caterers, Essex Food Services and will be served up in style at a special lunch.

So what are you waiting for? Jot down an original healthy recipe for a starter main course or dessert (or all three if you like) and send it to The Editors, *The Law*, Press Office, P.O. Box 2, Press Office, Headquarters, Springfield, Chelmsford CM2 6DA.



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH NEW CUFFS

ESSEX Police are getting a grip on the problem of controlling suspects who violently resist arrest with the introduction of a revolutionary new handcuff.

The Force is leading the way with the introduction of "Quik-Kufs" next month.

Already widely used in the US, "Quik-Kufs" are being hailed as an effective defence item, which should reduce the risk of officers being assaulted and injured when making arrests.

The new-style handcuffs, which have a rigid handle to reinforce the chain, should not present a greater risk of injury to the prisoner, and importantly, may even reduce the risk.

From mid-April, Essex Police will embark on a programme to replace all current issue handcuffs with "Quik-Kufs", a programme which will take some two years to complete.

Every officers will receive a full day's training before being issued with "Quik-Kufs", and must pass a practical and theory test before using them operationally.

Officers from Southend, Colchester and Basildon will be the first to train with the new handcuffs, and some 500 uniformed officers should be using them by the end of June.

Trainer Sgt Ian Ellison said "Basically Quik-Kuf is a con-

trol and restraint device, which should increase the efficiency of officers to protect themselves."

Quik-Kufs were trialed by the Metropolitan Police, but Essex will be one of the first provincial forces to introduce them.

Because of the handle's rigidity, the new cuffs work almost as soon as an officer snaps them onto a wrist. They employ leverage techniques to control the prisoner and it is hoped they will increase officer's confidence when making arrests.

Any bright ideas for Fun-Day?

PREPARATIONS are already underway for the Force's annual Fun Day which this year is being held on July 11 at Police HQ, Chelmsford.

If any one would like to help out before, or on the day, or has any bright ideas for new or unusual attractions, for stalls, sideshow or arena events, please get in touch with your divisional representative as soon as possible. They are contactable at the following stations:

Central: John Stonehouse (Braintree), North East: Bob Finch (Colchester). South: Gordon Nesbit (Basildon), North West: Roger Howlett (Harlow), South East: Graham Stubbs (Southend), South West: John Newberry (Brentwood), Training School, Steve Bright (Training School), Management Services: Ian Kennedy, (HQ MS).

Comrades meet up at last!

IN CONTRAST to the failed attempt in February, the Annual General Meeting held on 8th March was very well attended.

Members agreed to hold the Spring Buffet on Saturday 8th May 1993 and that the ticket price will be £7.75.

The Autumn Luncheon will be held on Friday 15th October 1993 and tickets will be priced at £9.00. Why not note these dates in your diary now!

Didn't know you could attend? The Association is for all regular members of Essex Police who have served at least ten years with the force. So you see it's not exclusively for retired officers, far from it.

Members would like to see more serving officers attend the functions.

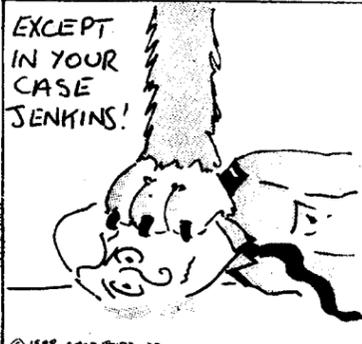
If you would like to look up a few friends and reminisce on days of former glory or bemoan the imponderables of the present day, why not check out membership details with Bob Needham HQ 2799.



HE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE MASTER.



EXCEPT IN YOUR CASE JENKINS!



Human rights mission is great success

East meets the West

Breakaway

TWO weekend breaks are on offer for Law readers.

The first is to Delft, Holland, from May 7 to 9 with bed and breakfast in twin room with private facilities. Bookings by April 2.

The second is to the Rhine Valley, departing July 2 and returning July 5. This is three nights half board.

Further details from Chris Willcock on 0371 874570 or 'A' shift Information Room.

DESPITE criticism over recent years, it is reassuring to see that developing East European countries are still looking to the British Police Service as a role model.

Returning from a human rights mission in Romania, Deputy Chief Constable Peter Simpson explained: "The British Police Service is held in very high regard. There was a lot of debate and discussion on policing and it was quite encouraging that I've been asked to send papers and documents to the Police Academy on community policing."

The trip to Bucharest earlier this month followed a series of successful presentations with the United Nations in Albania last year.

It was in Albania's capital of Tirana that Mr Simpson saw poverty at its height and although Romania clearly faces problems in development "it appears to be in a more stable and economically viable situation."

The mission took the form of human rights presentations to an audience of about 50, who were, in the main, senior

tutors and professors from the Police Academy in Bucharest.

Mr Simpson said: "We were received with great courtesy and the hand of friendship was certainly extended to all of us."

Unfortunately due to horrendous weather conditions, with four days of snow and temperatures of -10 degrees, travelling around the country was restricted.

"Although we did get to see something of the city of Bucharest, we did not have an opportunity to visit the Police Academy," said Mr Simpson. "However, they certainly appear to have a very comprehensive police training programme."

● Following on from the success of Mr Simpson's human rights missions, three senior police officers from Albania will be paying a week-long visit to Chelmsford on April 5.



A typical Romanian church. INSET: Deputy Chief Constable Peter Simpson

Safety Sunday

A SAFETY and security event is being staged in the car park of Colchester Leisure Centre on Sunday, March 28 from 10am.

The event has been organised by Pc Mick Hewitt of Colchester's Traffic Management and Crime Prevention officer Pc Mark Harvey.

Safety Sunday was originally spawned as a result of a caravan check by West Midland Police in which 72 of 87 caravans were found to be defective — some dangerously.

Backed by Colchester's borough council and Crime Check, the idea was then expanded to cover all aspects of safety and security for bicycles, cars, vans and caravans, with FREE advice and safety checks for all visitors.

There will be someone on hand to talk about motorcycle training and even homeowners get a look in with advice on fire safety, crime prevention and property security coding.

NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

A RECENT memo at headquarters got up the noses of the force nicotine brigade promoting Lynda Barkway of Management Services to put pen to paper.

The memo pointed out that, despite a no smoking policy in the lavatories, dog ends were still appearing on the floor or down the loo and it asked staff not to light up in the recently refurbished ground floor toilets.

Lynda's reply read:

From smokers around Police Headquarters
This heartfelt remark comes to you
We most of us don't feel so desperate
We have to light up in the loo
Us smokers are clean living people
With only this one minor stain
On otherwise first rate good natures
We honestly aren't such a pain
Despite all the constant reminders
Of what terrible people we are
We really can't see what our crime is
There must be worse persons by far
We don't bash around dear old ladies
Or lower the tone of the Force
By spitting or upsetting children
We're never seen kicking a horse
We haven't yet gone in for murder
Or mugging, bank robbing or theft
And though you might think to the contrary
There are still quite a few of us left
So live and let live we implore you
After all we won't ostracise those
Who smell, or pass wind or eat garlic
Or bully and tread on our toes
So please let's encourage good feelings
Between us and the saintly smoke free
We're not such a bad bunch of sinners
And after all fresh air is FREE



Women's safety

THE British Association of Women Police is organising another training day to be held at Tally Ho, Pershore Road, Birmingham at 10am on Sunday, April 25.

There will be two lectures available, one on fraud and counterfeit goods, the other on personal safety.

The cost of the day is £6.50 for members (including those who join on the day) and £9 for non-members. A buffet lunch is included.

Interested? Simply write to Jenny Gillings, 82 Sunningdale Avenue, Holbrooks, Coventry CV6 4BZ with cheques payable to British Association of Women Police.



A crucial education

HUNDREDS of Basildon schoolchildren have been learning how to keep safe and save lives, thanks to the town's pioneering "Crucial Crew" scheme.

Youngsters from 21 schools were the first in Essex to take part in the action-packed programme, which staged real-life situations for the ten and 11-year-olds to deal with.

In a challenging one-and-a-half hour session, the children tackled fire, an unconscious patient, a gas leak and faced up to stranger danger.

The police staged a theft from a car, highlighting common failures to take adequate crime prevention steps, and teaching the children about reporting crime and giving accurate descriptions.

Crucial Crew ran for two weeks at Fryerns School in Basildon, and nearly 1,000 youngsters from the area took part. It was organised by Basildon Community Safety Group.

After almost a year of planning, "Crucial Crew" was hailed a huge success by



The Essex Police stand.

children and teachers alike, and was a triumph for community co-operation.

The Rev Robert Springett, Chairman of "Crucial Crew", said, "The real success of the scheme has been the way it has brought so many different groups together, from the police and services, to voluntary groups and commercial organisations.

"It is a real community effort, and one which will benefit the community. It shows us what can be achieved if we work together."

Ben Rixson and Daniel Kemp from St Margaret's School, Benfleet, echoed the experience of many of the youngsters. "When you see it on TV and videos you think it

looks easy," they said. "In here, you panic and don't know what to do."

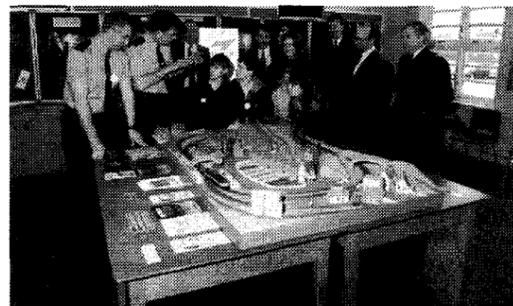
That may explain why some youngsters went off with a stranger, or ran back into a smoke-filled room to answer the phone as they tackled the "Crucial Crew" challenges.

The children faced nine different sets, including a room set up as a Marks and Spencer store to tackle the realities of shoplifting. Other sets tackled electrical safety, the dangers of railways and road safety.

Kingswood School headmaster Martin Sadler, a member of the steering committee, said, "It was cost effective, the children had a smashing time and the message reached them because they were doing things and not just listening."

By taking the messages to heart, he told the children they could help make Basildon a better place to live.

A "Crucial Crew" scheme will be run in Epping during the Spring and teachers are clamouring for another in Basildon for the hundreds of disappointed children who missed out on the heavily-subscribed scheme.



The British Transport Police display.

Keep-fit at Southend Fit bunch working off lunch

**Mick Thorp invites you
to join the Southend Police
Club Keep-Fit section:**

WE STARTED life at Southend Police Station a few years ago. A number of officers joined our ranks including officers of senior rank, obviously trying to keep their bodies in shape.

Whether they succeeded or not I don't know. What I do know however is that the Gym Mistress left two years ago to have a baby.

Unfortunately she couldn't come back. I am led to understand that a number of the male officers attended because of her?

From there the numbers dwindled until Ann Thorp decided to take on the task of being the Gym Mistress, although not qualified, she did a fabulous job.

However, we did then find another instructor, Sue Clancey who is qualified. She holds a Keep Fit Association Teacher's Certificate.

Things looked up as the numbers increased again and we carried on meeting at Southend Police Station until the hall was used by various different departments during refurbishment.

We were banished to Rayleigh Police Station three times.

Unfortunately for some reason or other the numbers attending started dwindling again, and haven't really picked up although we are back from Rayleigh. So:

*If you're feeling fat and flabby
Or you're feeling less than happy
And lethargic with no wit
Come and join us at KEEP FIT*

*Come along for a laugh and a natter
If you can't keep up it doesn't matter
Men and women in a bunch
Working off that great big lunch*

*We work our bodies stretch those feet
In the end we feel quite beat!
Every Thursday round about eight
Don't worry if you're a little late*

We are a friendly bunch and enjoy our exercise, which normally consists of a warm-up, stretching exercises, aerobic workout and cooling down section.

We welcome members of both sexes — we are not posers! A tracksuit or leggings and T shirt are very acceptable dress.

Come and try us out — it will improve your stamina (and possibly your chances of catching those elusive suspects, the bus or the kids!)

Get those flabby bodies down to Southend Nick on any Thursday. Between 8.00pm and 9.00pm. The cost is only £2. For that you get an hour of fun, you can then relax upstairs in the bar, so that you've got something to work off next week.

Any more information contact either Ann Thorp on Southend 613210 or Mick Thorp at Rochford Police Station, Ednet 6378.

Kliskey and Ainsley triumph again

Chelmsford are cross-country champions



Mike Kliskey surges on to victory.



PAA National Cross Country Championships. Minehead 31.3.93

Entries are now closed for this event.
**SEPAA Half Marathon Championships. Elmbridge,
Surrey 2.5.93**

Entry forms are attached for those who have not already entered. Please return completed forms to me together with a stamped addressed envelope by the 18th April. Entry fees for Essex Police competitors will be paid by the Force Sports Association.

Wickford 10 Miles 9.5.93

This is not a Police event but if you fancy a pleasant country run with a beer and sandwich afterwards at my place then please let me know and I will send you an entry form.

**Essex Police Athletics Champs. 19.5.93. and SEPAA
Regional Athletic Champs. 9.6.93**

If you are interested in either of these events please contact Laurie Rampling, Scenes of Crime, Grays, for details.

SEPAA Cross Country League 1992/93
The final placings of the Essex Police runners are as follows. A total of 136 men and 42 women competed during the season.

5th Mike Kliskey 25 pts; 16th Len Perrott 74 pts; 19th Andy Down (V40) 110 pts; 31st Barry Daymond (V45) 154 pts; 41st Dave Palmer 193 pts; 45th Roy Kebbell (V45) 206 pts; 62nd Paul Cakebread 270 pts; 65th Chris Turner 179 pts; 66th Lance Williams (V45) 286 pts; 79th Laurie Rampling (V45) 320 pts; 82nd Peter Bryan 327 pts

86th Kevin Rowe 335 pts; 88th Ian Jennings 338 pts; 89th Paul Hooks 340 pts.

Essex Ladies:
4th Moira Ainsley 16 pts; 11th Liz Boothman 74 pts; 12th Alison Stewart 98 pts.

In addition to the above 9 men and 3 women competed in less than 3 races.

I have not yet received the results of the SEPAA Championships held at Maidstone on the 10th March but I am sure you all enjoyed the gently undulating course.

By Roy Kebbell

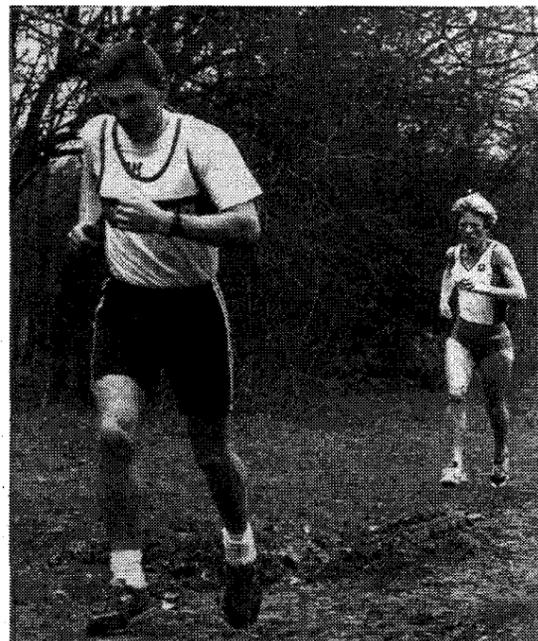
A CLOSELY fought contest between large teams from Chelmsford and Southend at the Force Croker Cup Cross-Country Championships held at Danbury on March 7 went to Chelmsford by the narrowest of margins.

Chelmsford are to be congratulated not only on staging the event for the first time in many seasons, but also on mustering sufficient support to topple the might of the former holders of the trophy.

Colchester, who were more depleted than usual, were third.

Individual honours went to Mike Kliskey (1st man) who managed to shake off a determined challenge from both Mick Bond and Chris Turner who were second and third respectively.

An impressive run from Barry Ansell (5th overall) won him the first veteran prize ahead of yours truly who was tenth overall and



The race is on at the closey fought event held at Danbury.

second veteran. Moira Ainsley was unchallenged in the women's race leaving the other ladies far behind.

For full results, see Force Sports Association news (below).

If you have any news

please let me know. In the meantime keep up the training and try to encourage those errant runners to turn out again for the Force. The prospects are looking better for the squad now than they have been for several seasons.

A hearty swim at Benfleet

Benfleet officers will be splashing out for charity on April 3 when they take part in a sponsored swim to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Around six officers as well as friends and family will be taking the plunge at the Runnymede Pool between 6.30pm - 8.30pm. If you would like to sponsor them, please contact Sgt Ted Travers on (0268) 756221.

Schools, firms, groups and clubs are all invited to enter the swim for this vital cause. The British Heart Foundation Shield will go to the school, club or group raising the most sponsor money.

Entry and sponsor forms are available from: Mrs Joyce Alen, 7 Hayes Barton, Thorpe Bay, Southend on Sea, telephone (0702) 585819

FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION...FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION...FORCE SPORTS

No 5 REGION P.A.A. SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The No 5 Region P.A.A. swimming championships were held at Benfleet on Sunday 28th February 1993, with the following success:

Mens 4 x 25m Individual Medley, 2nd Paul Eveleigh, Basildon

Ladies 50m Butterfly, 2nd Angela Simmons, Benfleet

Ladies 50m Backstroke, 2nd Lynette Smith, Halstead, 1st D. Sandgrove

Mens 50m Breaststroke, 2nd Philip Whitehead F.S. U. H.Q.

Mens 50m Freestyle, 2nd Paul Eveleigh, Basildon.

Mens 4 x 50m Medley Team, 1st Philip Whitehead, Brendan Cox.

West Mersea, Paul Eveleigh and David Mathlin, Laindon.

Ladies 4 x 50m freestyle and ladies 50m medley.

1st Essex.

D. Sandgrove, Angela Simmons, Lynn Smith and Angie Hack.

As a result of the above Essex were the top overall team.

CROKER CUP FOOTBALL

North East 1, Central 3, 1 Croker Cup point to North East.

In accordance with the Essex Police Sports

Association rules, North West have claimed the match against South East and South West have claimed the game against Headquarters.

No Croker Cup points will be awarded to either South East or Headquarters.

Semi Final draw, matches to be played before 30th April 1993.

South v Central, North West v South West.

FORCE SPORTS SHOP

The Force Sports Shop situated in the Kingston Hostel at Police Headquarters, is now being approached by more of the bigger names to stock their equipment. Recently accounts have been opened with

SPEEDO, Henselite Bowls, View From (who have taken over from NIKE as the official sponsors of the Great Britain athletics team for the next five years). MUSTO sailing and outdoor equipment, SCHOL, Hummel (who stock the latest Essex cricket shirt).

At the moment the turnover is approx. £10,000 per month in equipment and leisure wear. So a lot of members are taking advantage, but some still come into the shop, and state they did not know it existed. The shop is open Tuesdays - Fridays 12-2pm and Saturdays 10am - 4pm. Although Chris Jacob is sometimes away at meetings and cannot open,

Mick Ashton then tries to open for him. But to save you a wasted journey, please telephone Ednet 2718.

* PENN, BROWNING & PHOENIX GOLF SHOES.

FORCE LOTTERY

£1500 Cons Bruce Brown Chelmsford Traffic; £700 Cons Jane Goldsbrough Clacton; £300 Cons Alison Smith Rayleigh; £200 Cons Jeremy Hill Maldon; £200 Insp Ivor Montgomery, Chelmsford Traffic; £100 Jill Kerton Headquarters.

The following will receive £500 consolation prizes:

Cons 1455 Alan Diver, Halstead, Mr Kenneth Radley Headquarters, Mr Keith

Wilkins, Pensioner, Sgt 1116 Ashley Seymour, Harlow, Cons 1783 Duncan Horner, Rayleigh, Cons 1390 Derek Hill, Laindon Traffic, Cons 3101 Kay Cummings, Chelmsford, Cons 172 Stephen Bentley, West Mersea, Cons 906 Terrence Astbury, F.S.U. Headquarters, June Hallgarth-Watson, Harow, Cons 3031 Julie Bull, Headquarters, Michael Wade, Headquarters.

CROKER CUP CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1993 Croker Cup cross Country Championships were held on Sunday 7th March 1993, at Danbury, with the

following result:

Mens: 1st Cons 970 Michael Kliskey Air Support, Headquarters; 2nd Cons 171 Michael Bond, Colchester.

Ladies: 1st Cons 3057 Moira Ainsley, Colchester; 2nd Cons 3298 Susan Payton, Southend.

Veterans: 1st Insp 4180 Barry Ansell, Southend; 2nd Cons 1447 Roy Kebbell, Billericay.

Overall Result: 1st Central, 6 Croker Cup points; 2nd South East, 4; 3rd North East, 2; 4th South, 1; 5th North West, 1; 6th Headquarters, 1.

South West did not enter a team in these championships.

LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...

Dedication is what you need!

by Laurie Rampling

WITH the 1993 'Nutrasweet' London Marathon just around the corner on April 18th, yet another celebrity has joined forces with the Essex Police Marathon team, to promote this year's 'appeal' on behalf of the Essex Police Cancer Unit Fund, and Southend Scanner appeal.

Entertainer Roy Castle of television's 'Record Breakers' fame and himself a recent 'victim' of the disease, lent his support to the appeal at an impromptu get together at his Gerrards Cross home recently.

Disease

Roy was full of encouragement for the lads, and formed a special bond with our own Maurice Brazier, who has himself successfully fought the disease, and I'm delighted to report has this week, been given the continuing 'all clear' at his three-monthly check-up by the unit.

When asked by the consultant 'how he felt' Maurice was quick to reply: "Well, on Monday I ran 15 miles, Tuesday I swam a mile, and on Wednesday I ran another 6 miles, so I'm feeling a bit tired!"

Fitness has been Mo's way of fighting his problems, and long may he continue to do so, proof of the man's courage, and the Southend Unit's effectiveness.

This will be further amplified when he lines up with the team at Blackheath on April 18th.

Injury

Unfortunately missing from the team will be Essex and England Cricket Captain Graham Gooch, who returned from the recent India tour with a knee injury which



Entertainer Roy Castle gives the boys in blue a resounding send-off. Picture courtesy of *The Evening Echo*.

threatens to rule him out from the start of the 1993 season.

Graham will however continue to support the team efforts, and is genuinely disappointed at missing the big day. He will hopefully join up with the lads at Blackheath prior to the start for promotional purposes.

Bolster

Funds have started to 'roll' in and *Evening Echo* reporter Jonathan Guy another guest member of the team covered the appeal in a recent full page article in his newspaper, which will hopefully further bolster the fund.

This is very much a charity appeal with a personal viewpoint with many of our friends and colleagues affected in some way by the work of the Southend Cancer Unit, because as you know apart from Maurice, we have had the sad loss of Bill Minks and Peter Walker, within the last year.

If you haven't already

sponsored the lads, please give some thought to doing so. Any donation no matter how small will be gratefully accepted.

You can also make your contribution direct, at any branch of Barclays Bank to the 'Essex Police Cancer Unit Appeal' Account number 21170023 Sort Code 201995. or Essex Police Cancer Unit Appeal c/o Southend Evening Echo, 18 Clarence Road, Southend SS1 1AN.

Should you require any further information regarding the appeal do not hesitate to contact me at Grays Scenes of Crime (Ednet 7-4872) or Allan Barley at Chelmsford Licensing (Ednet 7-3596). Thanking you in anticipation.

Steam

Finally, the expected line will be as follows: Inspector Barry Ansell (Southend); Det Inspector Maurice Brazier (HQ); Pc Allan Barley (Chelmsford Town), Det Sgt Grahame Hadley (Tilbury), Pc Joel Henderson (Tilbury), Ps John Newberry (Brentwood), Pc Steve Wynn

ther information please contact Cons Michael Hall on Ednet 2429 or the Force Sports Secretary.

WEST END SHOW AND ROYAL TOURNAMENT

The Force Sports Association have got tickets

for the Royal Tournament on Wednesday 21st July 1993, good seats including coach from Chelmsford are £11 each. Also on Wednesday 15th September 1993 at the Dominion Theatre, London, Grease, starring Craig McLachlan (Henry in

(HQ), Pc Phil Smith (HQ), Pc Roy Scanes (HQ), Pc Dave Andre (Southend), Pc Karl Oldfield (Chelmsford), Ps Lance Williams (Colchester), and Dc Laurie Rampling (Grays). Pc Mark Britton (Southend) and John Guy of the *Evening Echo*.

Also running under their own 'steam' are the following: Dave Starr (Southend), Mick Benning (Southend), John McCabe (Colchester), Ian Rayner (Chelmsford Town) who is running on behalf of the unit, and Billy Clarke from HQ.

Good luck to all of them, and to all those other members of the force who are also venturing the 26.2 miles.



They're off: The competitors in the Croker Cup Cross Country Championships head off into the mud. But who triumphed? Full report—page 11

Dave is 100 times a Starr

WHEN it comes to running marathons, one Southend Sergeant is a real Starr. For when Sgt David Starr dons his running shoes and a Batman suit in London on April 18 he will be clocking up his 100th marathon in just eight years.

And what makes his achievement even more impressive is that for the past 14 years he has been an insulin-dependent diabetic.

But Dave, who works at the Southend High Street Unit, admits he was not always so fit:

"I first decided to run a marathon after watching the London one on Tv. I saw that a lot of people were as overweight and old as I was, so I thought if they can do it, so can I. I decided to prove it to myself."

In 1985, aged 33, he took part in his first full marathon — the London Marathon — to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital and he hasn't looked back since.

"I got the bug, I suppose," he explained.

He certainly did. Since that first run he has also taken part in many other fund-raising events including an 80-mile run on the South Downs and a mammoth fund-raiser for Children in Need from John O'Groats to Land's End.

"I don't know where

Northern raid for Blue Knights

by Dave Knight

IMBER Court Sports and Social Club in London was the venue for a most enjoyable meeting of Blue Knights. — England II.

Despite the horrendous weather over 20 members together with their partners turned up and enjoyed a three course carvery meal followed by a lively and fruitful meeting.

The 'Logo' for the club was finalised and has now gone off to the artist for production of club goodies, which will include an embroidered patch, and T shirts etc.

It was also agreed that on the 4th Sunday in every month, there will be a 'meet'. The first on 28th March, will be at Brands Hatch, to coincide with the motorcycle racing.

The April Venue is at Walworth Castle in Durham, followed in May by an 'extraordinary' barbecue at Crosshills Surrey.

Looking further ahead, a 'Northern Raid' is planned for September to a converted railway station at Redmire, in the heart of Wensleydale. There is only accommodation for 18 so advance notice is essential.

The International Itinerary is as follows: 14-16 May — Germany 1 in Bonn. 20-23 May — France 2 in Paris (500+ attended last year).

I'll go from now, I'll probably concentrate on marathons I haven't done before. I'm thinking about Berlin next," said Dave, now 41.

BLUE KNIGHTS



ENGLAND II

28-30 May — Germany 4 in Stuttgart.

11-13 June — Germany 2 in Lahr. 25-27 June — Benelux 1 in Zutendaal.

16-18 July — England 1 in North Wales.

23-25 July — Sweden 1 in Ratvik (only for the rich).

13-15 August — Germany 3 in Sprotze.

20-22 August — Belgium 1 (venue to be decided).

27-29 August — Luxemburg 1 in Hollenfz (European President's Meeting).

3-5 September — Benelux 1 in Epen (There are a few of us already going).

These dates are above and beyond those we arrange on a local basis. With the formation of England 4 in the new year, we lost our elected president who now runs it. So, after much debate and arm twisting, yours truly has taken on the responsibility of 'El Presidente' with Dick Greaves from Harlow Traffic, inheriting the typewriter.

If you want to know more, give me a bell.

Meanwhile it seems possible other armchair athletes may be bitten by the bug when Batman dashes across their TV screens on April 18.

FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION EXTRA...

CROKER CUP RUGBY SEVENS

The date for this event has had to be changed from Wednesday 28th April 1993 to Wednesday 7th April 1993, starting at 11.00hrs at Police HQ. Anyone who requires fur-

ther information please contact Cons Michael Hall on Ednet 2429 or the Force Sports Secretary.

WEST END SHOW AND ROYAL TOURNAMENT

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for the Royal Tournament on Wednesday 21st July 1993, good seats including coach from Chelmsford are £11 each. Also on Wednesday 15th September 1993 at the Dominion Theatre, London, Grease, starring Craig McLachlan (Henry in

Neighbours). Top range tickets £23. There are only a limited number of tickets for both shows. First come, first served. Any member of the Force Sports Association interested please contact Sgt Peter Layzell at Burnham Police Station.

THE LAW

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