



### New structure sees reduction in managers

THE SHAPE of Essex Police for the 21st Century has been brought into focus as the first stage of the restructuring programme nears completion.

The new structure sees the number of senior police managers reduced by a quarter to 76.

And while the cost of setting up the new-look Force will be nearly £500,000, it is expected that savings will be available within two years. Start-up costs will be met from within existing budgets.

The reduction in management costs should present the Force with opportunities to put more officers on the beat, to buy new equipment or to employ new civilian staff.

When the 10 new territorial divisions go live on April 1, a layer of management will have been removed. The aim is to achieve a more effective, more self-sufficient unit, able to concentrate on providing a service to the local community.

Every police management post in the new divisional structure has been worked out, and every officer from the rank of Chief Superintendent to Inspector has been allocated his or her role.

The new shape of Headquarters-based operational divisions has also been worked out, and in the next stage of the project other HQ departments will be scrutinised.

For the latest news on the restructuring, look out for a special feature in next month's edition of *The Law*, and a short video from the TV Unit.

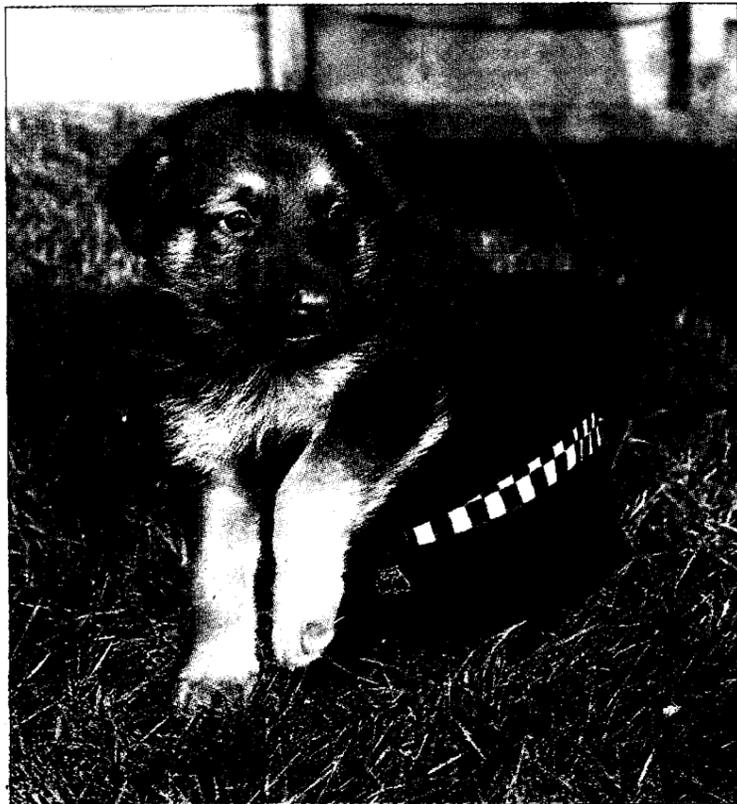
● C/Insp. Steve Nessling got a shock when he read Issue Three of the *In Touch* newsletter last week to find himself listed as the head of CID for the new Braintree Division. Apologies to all concerned, it should have read DCI Mick Payne.

Mr. Nessling will remain in uniform, as one of three chief inspectors for the division.

## 'Excellent' detective works leads to the conviction of a brutal murderer

# The downfall of an 'evil' man

### Carla's bundle of joy



MEET Essex Police's youngest, newest and naughtiest recruit. This cute fellow and his nine brothers and sisters were born to police dog Carla eight weeks ago.

Now *The Law* invites you to enter our special "PICK A PUPPY" competition to choose names for six of the lively litter.

For further details turn to the centre pages.

BRENTWOOD was declared a safer place to live this month when Lawrence Mullins was convicted of the brutal murder of Barry Bradford.

And no one could have happier with the result than Det Supt Malcolm Hargreaves who led the investigation.

Mullins carried out his evil act in the grounds of Highwood Hospital, last March, stabbing Barry several times in the throat and chest, stamping on his head and leaving him stripped from the waist down.

In one of the most bizarre murder scenes experienced by Essex Police, Mullins threw mud over the face of his victim and placed a single daffodil either side of his head.

The team who were to lead the inquiry had nothing to go on, no suspects and no clues.

Said Mr Hargreaves: "The evidence unfolded like a classic detective story. We quickly identified a suspect but had no evidence."

But the evidence swiftly followed.

● A refuse collector who recalled seeing a carrier bag containing a shoe box and trainers, led the FSU search team to the murderer's footwear.

● When Dc Phil Norton, from Grays went to search Mullins' dustbin he spotted him, followed him and was led direct to the murder scene.

● Two police officers saw Mullins by a bridge in Ongar Road on the night of the murder. A blood-stained letter was later discovered below the bridge.

● Forensic experts matched six red fibres found on Mullins' clothes to a pair of red gloves under the body of the victim.

● A daffodil was recovered from the flat Mullins shared with his girlfriend. He had apparently picked it for her while they were out the day after the murder.

● Although Mullins had washed and burned his trainers before discarding them, a smear of blood just a sixteenth of an inch wide was found to match that of Barry Bradford.

Mr Hargreaves said: "There's no doubt that luck fell our way but it's a case of making your luck by the way you

By Kim White

approach the job.

"I had an excellent team. There were no slackers and everyone put in an awful lot of work."

Even so, the jury took five-and-a-half hours to find Mullins guilty of murder.

Some members broke down in tears when they discovered that Mullins had

previously left a 16-year-old girl fighting for her life after a similar attack in which he physically ripped teeth from her mouth.

The girl never recovered enough to give a statement.

On sentencing Mullins, Lord McPherson said: "You are plainly an extremely dangerous man. I will recommend to the Home Secretary that you are imprisoned for many years."

He later awarded Det Supt Hargreaves and DCI Wally Whitehill a commendation to accept on behalf of the detective team.

Speaking after the trial Det Supt Hargreaves said: "I just hope that after re-organisation Essex Police retain the corporate approach to major crime that made this investigation such a success."



CONVICTED: Lawrence Mullins.

## In memory of 'Jimmy'

TRIBUTE was paid last month to a man who served a remarkable career within Essex Police.

James Devlin was second in command of the old county borough force, acting as Deputy Chief Constable towards the end of his long service.

Joining in 1941 as a beat bobby in the town where he was to serve his entire career, 'Jimmy' rose through the ranks qualifying as a legal expert.

Devlin was to become a familiar name in the force as 'Jimmy' worked alongside his brother Harry, who was Acting



Mr James Devlin.

Chief Constable.

Nephew Barry was later to become a superintendent.

In 1961 'Jimmy' wrote the book *Police Charges*.

Police historian Fred Feather said: "That book became the bible of station sergeants across the country."

"I was familiar with it when I was stationed in Hertfordshire before Southend. It was the definitive work in procedure for dealing with and charging prisoners."

Mr Devlin, who was 72, lived in Westcliff.

**INSIDE**  
**New traffic car unveiled — page 3**  
**Animal magic — pages 6 & 7**  
**More officers assaulted — see page 5**

## FEDERATION NOTES...FEDERATION NOTES...

# New survey about 7am start time

OVER the past few weeks, I have had many queries from members concerned about the new 7.00am start time to the Force working day.

At the last Joint Branch Board meeting on January 31, there was a full discussion and it was agreed that, because of the concern from the membership, I, as Joint

Branch Board Secretary, would survey all the Force with regard to whether they would wish to revert back to a 6.00am start.

It was also agreed that, to

give the present system a fair chance, we would wait a complete two months, giving two full shift cycles, before the survey is carried out.

Therefore, the survey will be conducted on March 17. Each Officer will be receiving, through the internal mail, a questionnaire to complete and return back to myself in the Federation office.

I would ask that you take care in completing this questionnaire so that the information can be properly evaluated and that you return it as soon as possible and, hopefully, by March 31.

The reason for this, as you will be aware, is that there will be shift changes in most areas on April 1 and we would like your comments prior to the new shifts coming in.

There will be a full survey of the Force carried out by the Measurement Team in October, after the new shifts have been running for six months and this will cover the

working day and also the new variable shift systems.

The survey that the Federation is carrying out at this time is only with regard to the Force working day.

We have raised the matter with Chief Officers via the J.N.C.C. and they are aware that we are carrying out this survey.

When we have all the information to hand, we will obviously be returning for discussions with Chief Officers at the J.N.C.C. meeting.

It is very important and naturally in your own interests that all members complete the questionnaire and return it to the Federation office so that we can get a true picture of just what you, the members, actually want. It is hoped the questionnaire will be with officers on March 17 but, if any officer has not received one by March 24, would he/she please contact the Federation office at Headquarters, extension 2797.



By Brian Pallant

## Mortgage open day

TO HELP prospective house buyers, twenty-four branches of Lloyds Bank in South Essex will stage a special mortgage "open day" on Saturday, February 26.

Staff will offer general help and information on the bank's range of mortgages to suit first time buyers and existing homeowners, including special fixed rate loans and discount offers.

Branches will be open on 26th February from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

## VARIABLE SHIFT SYSTEMS

WITH regard to the Implementation Package on variable shift systems, the Federation took its concerns to Chief Officers with regard to the clarity of the package. It has been agreed that it will be re-visited by the Project Team and the areas which give concern amended.

With regard to the "slow changeover" (this is where a six hour shift and a ten hour shift are worked to stop an officer having a quick changeover), the Federation has taken full legal advice from its solicitors and a form of wording has been prepared and served on Chief Officers at the last J.N.C.C. meeting.

When this wording has been properly agreed and can be incorporated in the package, then the Joint Branch Board will give their approval to such a system.

If there is no agreement, then there will be no approval from the Joint Branch Board and, therefore, that part of the shift system could not come into being. I will keep you informed of any developments that occur.

## Police and Criminal Justice Bills progress through Parliament

THE controversial Police and Magistrates Courts Bill is proceeding at this moment in time via the House of Lords, having had its first reading in both Houses of Parliament on December 17.

The Criminal Justice Bill, on the other hand, has started its life in the House of Commons.

To assist members in what actually happens with regard to a Bill, I have set out the progress of the Police and Magistrates Courts Bill for you:

**17th December 1993:** First reading in both Houses of Parliament.

**18th January 1994:** Second reading in the House of Lords when speeches were made both in support and in opposition to the main principles. At this time, the debate was restricted to one day and

no amendments were considered.

The Bill then moves on to the Committee stage where it is debated over a number of days and votes taken on any amendments.

This stage offers the best opportunity for amendments to be put to the Bill before it goes to the House of Commons (The Police Federation, via its two Parliamentary advisors, Michael Shearsby and Michael O'Brien, has tabled amendments to the Bill).

The next stage is the report stage where amendments can still be tabled if there was no opportunity to consider them at the Committee stage.

It then goes on to the third reading and, while it is possible to amend the Bill at this late stage, amendments are not normally considered.

The Bill, as amended, then goes to the House of Commons where it undergoes the following procedure:

Second reading: This again is confined to speeches for and against the Bill and is likely to be restricted to one day. The date of this depends obviously on the progress the Bill makes in the House of

Lords.

The next stage is the Committee stage when the Committee considers amendments and any changes that may have been made by the House of Lords.

The Committee comprises 17 MPs, nine Conservatives, seven Labour and one Liberal Democrat, giving a Government majority of one.

The next stage is the report stage with a similar focus as to the House of Lords where amendments are only considered if no previous opportunity to debate the issue.

The third reading is normally just a formality and no amendments are considered.

The Bill then, if amended by the House of Commons, returns one again to the House of Lords for their consideration before it becomes an Act of Parliament.

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill, which started its life in the House of Commons on 17th December, will obviously go through the same principle as above but in reverse, ie, House of Commons first then the House of Lords and then back to the House of Commons.

The Federation, once again through its Parliamentary advisors, has tabled many amendments to this Bill.

## P.N.B. update

NEGOTIATIONS are still proceeding in the Working Groups of the Police Negotiating Board and, at the moment, I have no news as to what the likely outcome will be.

Because what has been negotiated is a total package, then obviously it will be unwise for our negotiators to up-date on what the position is until agreement has been reached.

Rumour control is that many of the items will eventually end up going to arbitration and, in fact, the month of March has been put aside to deal with those matters that need arbitration so that decisions can be given to the Home Secretary by his deadline date of April 3rd 1994. Hopefully, we will have some concrete news by the March edition of "The Law".

## Injury claims top £500,000

By Mick Englfield  
Claims Secretary

1993 has again been a busy year for the claims submitted by members of the Essex Police Force, for both Criminal Injuries Compensation claims and civil claims submitted under the Federation Fund Rules.

Criminal Injuries Claims settled in 1993 have increased from 53 in 1992 to 63 in 1993 with a total settlement figure of £208,585, an increase over last year's settlement figure of £115,095.

At present, there are 81 CICB Claims in various stages of progress, a slight decrease from last year's total of 102. This is a result of the increase in the minimum award in 1992.

There are 20 claims in preparation for appeal, a slight decrease from last year's total of 27.

Civil claims settled in

1993 — total 45, a slight decrease from 1992's total of 51. But the amount of compensation paid to members increased from £82,067.47p to £339,818.58p.

The total number of Civil claims at this time stands at 93, a slight increase from last year's figure of 92. The vast majority of these claims are handled by the Federation Solicitors, Russell Jones and Walker of Grays Inn Road, London.

The CICB 29th Annual Report for year ending March 1993 has yet to be published however, a Government White Paper on changes to the Criminal Injuries Scheme was published in December 1993.

This was as a result of a review implemented by

the then Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke.

The Paper states that the aim is to provide a better service to victims.

The Federation nationally has opposed the proposals with representation being made to the Home Office.

But from the content of the White Paper, it would appear that little regard has been paid to our views.

The main points which affect our members are:-

1) Compensation will no longer be assessed on the basis of common law damages.

2) There will be 25 tariff levels. This means that the award will only reflect the pain and suffering. There will be no separate payment of loss of earnings and of any expense incurred.

3) The new scheme will apply to applications lodged on or after 1st April 1994. Cases lodged before April 1994 will be cleared by the Board under the current Rules.

4) The time limit for making an application will be reduced from three years to one year.

5) The minimum award of £1,000 will remain the same.

6) A new Appeal system will be introduced in which I quote, "In order therefore to discharge or clear frivolous or vexatious appeals, the appeals panel will be empowered to reduce any reward already offered by a national amount to cover the administrative costs of a time wasting appeal."

The Appeals panel will be independent of the CICB and Secretary of State.

Those then briefly are the changes being introduced at a time of considerable change.

## The Law OPINION

IN HIS new book *Blood Relations*, journalist Roger Wilkes takes a balanced approach to the Bamber case and certainly has not aligned himself to the camp which continues to proclaim Jeremy's innocence.

It is no surprise, however, that Essex Police are not shown in a very good light. The ease with which senior officers were duped into believing Bamber's story, while missing crucial clues makes embarrassing reading.

A potential wealth of forensic evidence was never gathered from White House Farm and, in the end, the Crown had to rely heavily on the evidence of Bamber's ex-girlfriend Julie Mugford.

No-one would dispute the fact that mistakes were made, and that the Force deserved at least some of the bad press the case attracted. But the important thing is that lessons were learned.

Procedures changed, and new policies for investigating suspicious deaths were put in place. In the eight years since that disastrous day, the Force has taken giant steps forward in the investigation of major crime.

What better example than the way evil Lawrence Mullins was brought to justice for the cold-blooded murder of supermarket worker Barry Bradford?

The inquiry team started off with no leads and no obvious suspects but the thoroughness with which the investigation was carried out and the dedication of each officer was a stark contrast to the days of Bamber, with a commendation well deserved.

Team work seems to be the key to success in major investigations.

Any future changes to the Essex Police structure should be mindful of this.

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

## Cuddly toys raise charity cash



● Graham Martin and Elizabeth Dawson of Essex Food Services hand over the £285 to Jeanette Poston, representing the Gurney Fund for Police Orphans.

SALES of 500 cute and cuddly Christmas toys have helped raise £285 for police orphans.

The bunnies, bears and bulldogs were sold at Police HQ by Force caterers Essex Food Services in the run-up to Christmas.

Earlier this month, the proceeds were handed over to senior welfare officer Jeanette Poston, representing the Gurney Fund for Police Orphans.

Back in November, a donation of £15 was also made to the Children in Need appeal.

## ESSEX POLICE BAND

presents  
**ANNUAL EASTER  
EGG CONCERT**



at Marconi Club Chelmsford  
on Friday 25th March  
at 7.30pm

Admission by ticket with an  
Easter Egg

Tickets available from Bill  
Brightmore, Band Secretary,  
Chelmsford Traffic

## Offbeat

### KIM'S ON RED ALERT

AN URGENT assistance call from a standby police unit parked up near a march through Colchester set the adrenalin-flowing on control earlier this month.

As the anxious controller's voice crackled through the radio in the Force Support Unit bus, asking if everyone was OK, the source of the problem was quickly spotted - press officer Kim White had her foot resting on the 10-9 button!

### STUCK ON YOU

A MOTORCYCLIST who crashed while being pursued by Essex officers had a sticker on his fuel tank which read, "You are not going to get NICKED and you are not going to have an ACCIDENT".

### TAXING PROBLEM

A SHARP-EYED Basildon officer tried to stop a left-hand drive car with Italian numberplates - for having no tax disc!

And a man in Epping reported his Metro car had just been driven off by a thief. When he called to his wife to ask her the index number, he realised she had just left for work - in the Metro!

### I SWEAR

A WORRIED Canvey woman finally rang the police because her next-door neighbour was continually banging on the wall and yelling obscenities. Officers found the red-faced neighbour unsuccessfully trying to put up shelves and shouting angrily at himself.

### RUNNING INTO TROUBLE

RED-FACED Inspector Kevin Doyland fell foul of the new Residents Parking scheme around Police HQ when he stopped off outside the Force Sports Shop to nip in for a new pair of trainers.

Quick as a flash, one of the wardens landed a £20 ticket on his Ford Escort, leaving him vowing to run faster next time.

### 0 OUT OF 10 FOR OBSERVATION

A SHARP-EYED WPC from Epping was out in the area car with a Sergeant one icy evening when the Sergeant spotted what appeared to be an RTA. The WPC said there was no need to stop as there were several people looking under the bonnet and it must be a breakdown.

The Sergeant stopped the car and replied curtly, "They're looking under the bonnet because there's a tree sticking out of it." The embarrassed WPC begged the Sergeant not to tell anyone...

# A question of guilt?

YOU'VE seen the film, got the T-shirt and now it's time to read the book. Just when we all hoped Essex Police could put the notorious Jeremy Bamber case down to experience, along comes journalist Roger Wilkes with a 350-page book on the White House Farm murders.

Like lemmings, officers and civilians alike will no doubt be queuing up to familiarise themselves with the latest twist in the saga.

Those expecting "Blood Relations" to champion Bamber's fight to clear his name will be pleasantly surprised, as Wilkes is at pains to remain impartial. It may be a whodunnit, albeit with only two suspects, but he leaves readers to make

up their own minds.

In fact, the book makes a compelling read. Wilkes has an eye for detail, and in writing a good story is careful not to turn a real-life tragedy into a cheap drama.

He has researched the Bamber's complicated family background, and the case itself, thoroughly.

The result is an absorbing book both for those with no

knowledge of the case and for those who remember it all too well. The latter may dispute some of his material, but it would be harsh to question the open-mindedness of his approach.

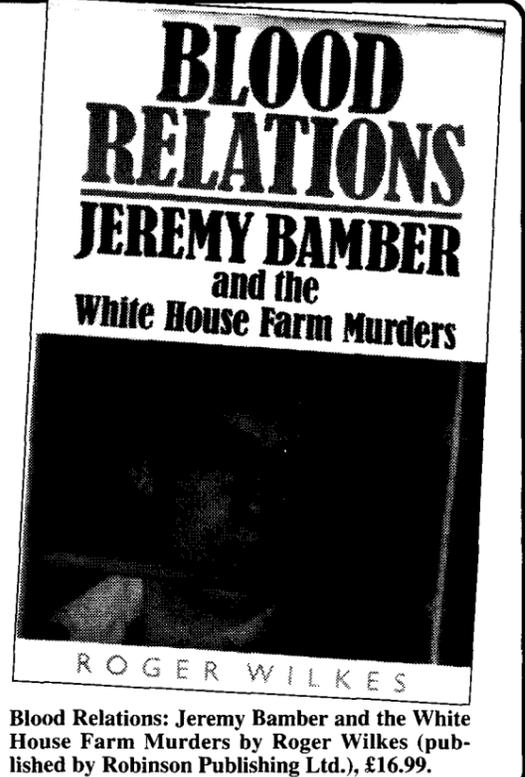
While, inevitably, Essex Police are not shown in a particularly good light, former Det. Sgt. Stan Jones is portrayed as the hero who stood up to his bosses, never wavering in his belief in Bamber's guilt.

As a retired officer Mr. Jones agreed to go on the record and be interrogated. For those still serving, the official decision was not to cooperate with the book

because Bamber's complaint against the Force and his attempts to appeal were still live..

The book, like the court case and Bamber's attempts to win the right to appeal, delves into the complicated forensic evidence of the blood found in the silencer fitted to the murder weapon.

The debate will go on. As Wilkes himself points out, only Jeremy Bamber can ever know what really happened when five members of his family died in the Georgian farmhouse in Tolleshunt D'Arcy on that summer night eight years ago.



Blood Relations: Jeremy Bamber and the White House Farm Murders by Roger Wilkes (published by Robinson Publishing Ltd.), £16.99.

## 'New Salesman' exercise tests counter-terrorist plans

# Airport hijack drama

TERRORISTS seized control of a Dublin-bound aircraft preparing for take-off from Stansted Airport, overpowering two armed police officers and taking their weapons.

Fortunately this terrifying scenario was only an exercise but, with Stansted rapidly developing into a major international airport, emergency plans to deal with a terrorist incident have to kept up to date.

In Exercise "New Salesman", nearly 200 Essex officers worked through key questions about what action they would take at critical

stages of the developing incident.

And Essex became the first Force to test lower ranking officers by running the counter terrorist training exercise on four different days.

Previously, other Forces running "New Salesman" desk-top exercises have staged a single presentation.

The exercises form part

of a national programme co-ordinated by the Home Office, in which police forces bid to hold either table-top, or real-life exercises in which resources are actually deployed, and in some cases the Cabinet Office becomes involved.

The aim of the exercises is to familiarise senior officers with contingency plans for dealing with a terrorist incident, to increase their understanding of the roles of Government departments, and to create awareness of the sheer

scale of operational requirements, as well as the outside resources available.

Ds Guinan-Browne, who prepared the scenario, pointed out that within months of the last full-scale exercise held in Essex, at Shoebury, the Force was plunged into dealing with a real-life hi-jacking of a Tanzanian airliner at Stansted. The experience gained from the exercise proved invaluable.

As well as involving superintendents, chief inspectors and inspectors, Essex Police decided to gain maximum value from the 'New Salesman' exercise by inviting crew members from the Armed Response Vehicles and firearms trained officers based at the airport to take part.

### Interesting

"It went very well," said Ds Guinan-Browne. "The Pcs found it very interesting, particularly to find out what would be happening at Government level."

"In a table top exercise like this, they get to see much more of the overall picture"

In addition to Essex officers there were observers from 18 other forces including one representative from New Zealand.

The majority of these officers were in the process of preparing similar exercises to test their own forces.

The Essex New Salesman planning team, made up of Supt Bob Good, Insp Steve Smith, Pc Wendy Welham and Ds Guinan-Browne, started their preparation work back in August.

Planning is underway for a full scale exercise to be held in Essex later this year.

## Bobby dazzler!



TRAFFIC officers patrolling the county's motorways will be donning their shades this week as the Force's dazzling new "Battenburg Cake" police cars takes to the road.

Scientifically-designed for its high-profile markings, the traffic car has been nicknamed because of its colourful blue and yellow check livery.

Essex is one of eleven police forces nationwide chosen to trial the new markings on the motorways for a six month period.

The highly visible and easily identifiable "Battenburg" design is being tested with a view towards introducing a national standard livery for police motorway patrol

vehicles.

Research has been carried out over the last four years on behalf of the ACPO Traffic Committee to identify a suitable standard livery.

One of the main aims is to enhance the safety of both police officers and members of the public at the scene of accidents.

In addition to the large blue and yellow side checks, the car is marked with red and yellow chevrons on the back, and has a yellow blind fitted to the back window.

During the trial period, which officially starts on March 31, drivers will be quizzed about their reaction to the new design. The crews will also be asked to evaluate its effectiveness.

The Essex car, a new Ford Granada, will operate out of Harlow and Brentwood Traffic garages, patrolling the M11 and M25.

Other forces trialing the new livery are Cambridgeshire, Metropolitan Police, Surrey, South Wales, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Tayside (Scotland), Thames Valley, West Midlands (Central Motorway Group), and Wiltshire.

## TV unit breaks new ground

THE Essex Police Television Unit broke new ground with its fully dramatised video production of a terrorist hijacking at Stansted Airport for Exercise "New Salesman".

To make the action-packed video the team had to line up a real aircraft, and film dramatic scenes involving police and military marksmen on the airport tarmac, as well as negotiations in the control tower, without disrupting the normal flow of passengers and flights.

The TV unit also held auditions and recruited ten actors, but unlike your normal television dramas, it all had to be kept to a budget of £4,000.

Video director David Tyler said, "To keep costs down, it was very tightly scheduled with only four filming days. This meant there were occasions where we could have done with another take, but we had to move on."

David said Essex was believed to be the first Force to use a fully dramatised video scenario during a "desk-top" counter terrorism training exercise. It featured a roadside stop-check and incident room scenes, as well as the airport-based action.

The TV Unit was overwhelmed by more than a thousand applications after advertising the ten acting roles through a London casting agency. Actors who had played in The Bill, Between the Lines, Beadle's About and Grange Hill were among the 30 interviewed.

Making the 20-minute video on such a tight budget meant calling in a number of favours, not least from British World Airlines who provided the plane, had it towed to an empty stand, had the air bridge linked up and removed seats to make room for the cameras.

Other assistance came from Anglia TV and BBC Essex who helped to provide realistic news broadcasts, and focus attention on the enormous demands of the media at a terrorist incident.

In a hectic few weeks over the Christmas period, TV Unit manager Marc Berners scripted the entire drama from the exercise brief, while David Tyler organised shooting schedules and equipment, which included hiring tracking equipment for moving camera shots.

Filming took place during the second week in January, editing the following week, with little time to spare before the first day of the exercise on January 26.



The camera crew shoots a dramatic scene as the terrorists pounce on the two policemen.



## Unequal equality

THE LAW last month featured a Home Office Equal Opportunities Award. The Essex Police Opportunities statement would be unable to qualify while it blatantly allows one very unequal policy to continue.

As I understand it, serving police officers are prohibited from applying for civilian jobs within the service, unless they resign first.

However, there are some jobs (due to be civilised) for which police officers will always be better qualified and more able than their civilian counterparts.

The policy makers must wake up to the fact that by making it hard for officers to apply for civilian posts, there is a good chance that they will not get the best person for the job.

Until then how can we claim that our opportunities truly one equal and non-discriminatory?

P. CAULFIELD,  
Castle Hedingham.

## No restraints in hooliganism

MAY I make some comments on my suggestion that all police officers will have to be armed.

My argument was that because of the many extraneous jobs created by the politicians we no longer see our streets protected by foot patrolling policemen. As a result, crime, vandalism and sheer unlawfulness is rampant. There are no restraints in hooliganism.

I see no other means of restoring law and order other than by bringing back the foot patrol. Under present day conditions could he carry out this job with-

out means of self protection.

Great Britain is now a member of the European Community where the policemen of every other country are armed for personal protection. Why should this country be the odd one out?

Phil Pewsey has raised the question of the cost of arming the police. Does it really matter? Surely the question should be - Will it save the life of a single policeman?

I wonder what would be the reply to Mr Pewsey's question by the ghosts of the London policeman murdered.

post.

Whilst one must appreciate the volume of work dedication necessary to prepare a book for publication, I must confess that I feel that *The Essex Police* by John Woodgate was by far more interesting and readable than *Sworn to Serve*.

I found that reams of notes and references that interspersed the main body of the book quite distracting and I was surprised to find that in a book of 160 pages, 43 were devoted to appendices and the index - more than 25 per cent.

In conclusion may I point out that I have no intention of publishing a book, neither have I served with or even met either author. My comments are founded

solely on a personal appraisal of the two publications. John Woodgate won hands down.

K. REVELL,  
Digby Road, Corringham.

## Right to reply. . .

Thank you for the chance to respond to another letter from Mr Revell, the first one being printed in 1985 when he took exception to me as a 'bitchy female', reviewing Mr Woodgate's book on the Essex Police.

Just for the record, my research into police history began before 1970 when I was awarded a Diploma in local history with a dissertation called *The King's Peace: Studies in Essex Police History before 1889*. A copy was deposited in the Essex Record Office and used by Mr Woodgate, although he chose not to follow accepted academic procedure and acknowledge any of his sources.

Surely Mr Revell can see the potential for an index to help trace particular points? My publisher's contract actually required me to produce an index, but in any case I consider it a vital part of any book intended as a source of information.

I'm sorry Mr Revell found the notes and references distracting, but as a general reader he should have ignored them - that is why they are at the end of the chapter.

He might recall that one reason I criticised Mr Woodgate's book was its inclusion of columns of figures within the main text.

Mr Revell is entitled to his own opinion on the merits of both books.

The preface to *Sworn to Serve* suggests there is no such thing as definitive history - every piece of research or reminiscence adds something to our overall knowledge of policing. I am sure that others will soon update and revise both my book and Mr Woodgate's.

-Maureen Scollan.

One other point raised by Mr Pewsey is the emotional suitability of some policemen to carry a gun. My reply would be that he should certainly not be a policeman if he could not use a gun to save his own life.

Is there now a faint glimmer of hope for the future in hearing President Clinton saying that all persons convicted of crimes of violence for the third time will be locked away for the remainder of their lives. A strong decision indeed.

RON SEWELL,  
North Street, Maldon.

## Arm officers or lose the war

I WAS happy to hear, through your letters page, that Ron Sewell is still alive and kicking and is as keen as ever to see the war against the 'ungodly' achieve a little more success.

His views about arming the police, are shared by many of us retired officers.

The arguments raised by Phil Pewsey against patrolling officers, and CID detectives being armed, are flimsy in my view.

It is a debate that will become more and more fashionable, and there is no doubt that, as a member of the EC, our police will be armed sooner or later.

Until we have a riot squad, a third force, or some other way of dealing with riots, strikes and public disorder, the British police officers will continue to be, what they have become, front line fighting troops. Ask them whether they would prefer a gun to a pathetic, but ever so traditional piece of wood with which to do battle.

GEORGE P. RAVEN,  
ex-Colchester Supt.

## Welcome back

MAY I congratulate Mr Jim Dickinson on his award of the Queen's Police Medal and welcome him back to Essex Police.

MRS JEAN PALMER,  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Co-ordinator.

## Missing names

AT Christmas I was given the book *Sworn to Serve* by Maureen Scollan.

On page 84 there is a reference to two women being employed as police patrols but no record of their names.

My sister Dora Jordan (2478) and Mrs A.M. Wilson (2164) are the missing names. My sister joined in 1918 and appointments were terminated 31.10.1919.

The book mentions that the two ladies are shown in a photograph of Romford Police in 1918.

The respective numbers of 2478 and 2164 appear in my sister's notebook which her daughter has.

MR P.A. JORDAN,  
Northants.

## Thanks!

●MAY I say a big thank you to all my friends and colleagues who wished me well on my retirement after serving 30 years.

I transferred to Essex in 1966 when I was posted to the Grays division, where I remained for all my service.

During this time I made a lot of friends and it was lovely to see so many of them at my retirement party at Grays Police Station on January 14 - a big thank you to everyone - especially Grays Scenes of Crime.

DAVE JONES,  
Silverdale,  
Stanford-le-Hope.

●I WOULD like to thank the Chief Constable and members of the Essex Force for the beautiful floral tribute sent for my husband James David Devlin who died suddenly on January 21, 1994.

I would also like to thank the serving officers for their representation at the funeral by an honour guard and two mounted police, and all his old colleagues who also attended.

My husband was proud to serve both in

I AM writing to thank you for the kind tributes that were written regarding my husband Maurice Brazier. He was a smashing man, hard working, very particular, extremely sporty and 'mad'.

He has left a great void in our lives and such a mixture of emotions, he was a super-optimist and fought his illness determined not to be beaten by it.

In so many ways he achieved this, and I know he has affected many people by the spirit he showed.

The children and I intend to be as positive as he was and as cheerful. We can but try.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all Maurice's police colleagues and to all his civilian friends, they have been amazing in their support, their prayers and their encouragement. Life would have been very different without them.

The people of Essex have a wonderful force protecting and working for them and they should be rightly proud of them.

Maurice was proud to be a policeman and we are very proud of him.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped raise £1,500 in Maurice's name for Little Havens.

If there is ever anyone else who needs any help I would be very pleased to support them.

DIANA BRAZIER,  
Station Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

the Southend-on-Sea Force and Essex Police for 30 years and it has been of comfort to myself and my two daughters to know he was remembered with such respect and affection.

MRS B.C.DEVLIN,  
Mannering Gardens,  
Westcliff.

●I WOULD like to thank the Chief Constable, ACCs and all police officers and staff, both serving and retired, for the wonderful support given to me on Cecil's death, and for the lovely flowers, letters and donations received.

I was quite overwhelmed by the splendid attendance at his funeral, and I know he would have been so proud to be remembered in this way. Thank you, one and all.

JOYCE JONES,  
Colchester Road,  
Holland-on-Sea.

●PLEASE extend my thanks and appreciation to all friends and colleagues for their gifts cards and good wishes on the occasion of my retirement.

I have enjoyed my 30 years service and hope to keep in touch with all the friends I have mad in this time.

REG LITTLE,  
Outwood Common  
Road,  
Billericay.

FOLKLORE FROM BEDFORDSHIRE

THE ESSEX POLICE CHOIR

THE BOXED METHODIST SILVER BAND

Silver & Blue

An evening of Musical Variety

7.30pm Friday 25th March

PRINCES THEATRE

CLACTON-ON-SEA

Tickets £3 from the Box Office.

Licensed bar applied for.

## Awarded for live-saving act

THREE officers, who risked their own safety to rescue a semi-conscious, drunken man who was hanging over the outside rails of a multi-storey car park, are to be commended by the Chief Constable.

Pcs David Parkin and Stephen Brown and special constable Paul Barham showed 'professionalism and courage' when they rescued the man some 25ft up in a car park in Brentwood.

Other officers to be awarded at a ceremony on Wednesday are Special Constable Danielle Prior, Pc Sarsfield, Pc Mark Hall, Cadet Shaun Heckles, Pc Gary Challis, Sgt Andrew Cullers, Pc Graham Dye, Pc Neale Gleeson, Pc Richard Adams, DCI Philip Mellon and Dc Russell.

## Best person for the job

WHEN Pc Roy Bates placed an advert in the local paper for a School Crossing Patrol in Southend, he was astounded by one of the replies.

It read:

"I write with reference to your advertisement in the Standard Recorder, dated January 25, 1994, for the post of Lollipop Lady.

It occurs to me that I am entirely suited to this position, having had a wide experience of standing on street corners and talking to strangers.

I have, however, not been gainfully employed for the past seven months due to spending this time in an Alcohol Abuse Centre. Nevertheless, the good news is that I have now virtually dried out.

To assist me in the position for which I am applying, I am pleased to report that I have my own lollipop. Same will, of course, be placed immediately at your disposal for use as you see fit."

Pc Bates is still trying to get the Southend Traffic Warden office to own up.

## Drugs and property seized in successful county raids

# All aboard the carrier

**THOUSANDS of pounds of drugs and stolen property have been recovered by police officers this month after several successful raids across Essex.**

Thurrock officers took part in 'Operation Gemma', which was set up to detect active burglars, handlers and thieves. Nearly 300 offences were detected after 10 search warrants were executed in the Thurrock and Grays area. Property recovered included five thousand pounds of car radios and an amount of suspect documents.

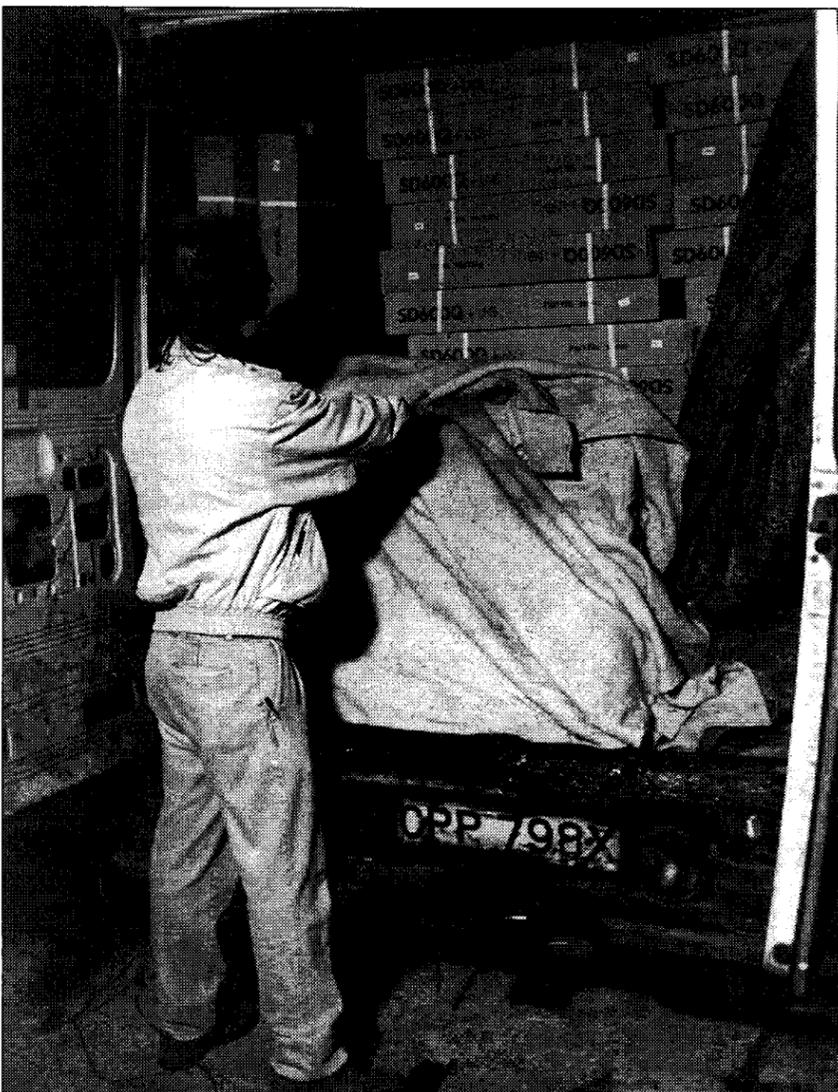
### Recovered

In Chelmsford 'Operation Wellington' swung into action, there officers recovered property believed to have been stolen from a lorry at the Watford Gap Service Station at the beginning of February.

Several properties in the Boreham area of Chelmsford were searched. Around £100,000 of Amstrad TV's, Satellite Dishes and decoders were seized, six shotguns were also found.

Car boot sales did not escape either as Benfleet and Canvey Officers together with representatives from Trading Standards and The Federation Against Copyright Thefts toured several sites. 500 video tapes were confiscated including counterfeit Disney tapes and copies of well known films such as 'The Exorcist' and 'The Fugitive'.

And it was standing room only at the cells in Harlow Police Station for 'Operation Linda'. As a direct result of information received from the public from previous operations a total of 21 search warrants were executed on addresses in the



A Chelmsford detective unveils a haul of satellite and TV equipment. Picture: Fred Hammerton, Essex Chronicle.

Harlow area, 17 of which had positive results. £20,000 of drugs were found including 3 kilos of Cannabis, a quantity of Amphetamine Sulphate and Ecstasy Tablets. An amount of computers, radios, driving documents and antiques were also recovered.

Acting Detective Sergeant Mick Clark from Harlow said, "the main benefit from this type of operation is that it proves the link between crime and drugs." He added, "we have to act on information received from our informants and the public, it simply can't be ignored."

**There was a young policeman called Bob**

After a recent talk to the Women's Institute in Canvey, Schools Liaison Officer, Pc Bob Sheridan was asked to judge a limerick competition.

Below is a selection he found particularly amusing.

There was a young policeman called Bob who each day was heard to sob:

"As hard as I try to get in the WI I'm just the wrong shape for the job"

□ □ □

There was a young policeman called Bob who got fed up with his job.

He needed more pay so became a DJ and now he's the local heartthrob.

□ □ □

There was a young policeman called Bob who is frightfully good on the job.

Wrongdoers fear him but ladies cheer him Have you seen the size of his . . . feet!

## Video technology exhibition

THE Police Video Unit of Greater Manchester is hosting it's third Video Technology Exhibition on Tuesday, March 22 at GMB National College and Conference Centre from 10am.

Members of the police unit will be on hand to discuss training issues including interviewing on video and evidence gathering.

Officers from Essex wishing to attend, or wanting more information, should contact Dc Ian Jakeman, Force Video Technical Officer on 061 856 2667.

## A punch in the face for justice

THE defeated Commons vote on the death penalty for murderers of on-duty police officers will not of helped heal the scars of 256 officers who were assaulted in Essex last year.

The Dixon of Dock Green image seems to be fading all the time as officers face

up to a more violent Britain with only their trusty truncheon as the first line of defence.

Assaults on officers have risen slightly in the last few years. 1990 saw 190 cases compared to 209 in 1992 and then the jump to 256 last year. Cases of assaults where firearms were used totalled just two.

The recent case of Metropolitan Police Officer Derek Robertson, called to a post office raid and subsequently stabbed to death, has again brought the issue of arming police officers to the surface.

One assaulted officer from Saffron Walden, Sgt Alan Welham, has strong views on the issue. Earlier this month, while off-duty, Alan confronted a group of noisy youths who were shouting obscenities in a residential area of Great

Dunmow. He was punched in the side of the head causing him to fall and fracture his right tibia.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Alan told *The Law*: "Had I been on duty and armed, my weapon could have been taken off me and used against me" he added "I have serious reservations about the value of arming the police."

Other assau.s in the last month range from a prisoner spitting at an officer in Harlow and two officers being punched in the mouth at Chelmsford, to an officer from Bradwell who, while leaning through the window of a car attempting to remove the ignition key, was dragged for 10 yards backwards at high speed.

It's questionable what could have stopped these assaults, would they have place if the officer had been armed?

Wrap you brain round this month's brain teaser by studying the circled letters.

Several of the letters can be used to spell the word MITRE. How many ways can this be done.

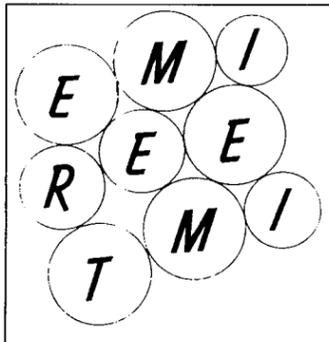
Each letter is to be regarded as different and once a combination of letters has been used, it cannot be re-used in a different order.

This month's trivia question asks what 'musophobia' is the fear of?

The answers to last month's questions are:

- 1) 92. The value of the symbols on the top line reading from left to right are 24, 20, 14 and 32.
- 2) Incense.

## Mindbender



### Essex Police Volunteer Support Group

Sue: (0787) 477874

Tony: (0279) 454984

# Anim

**T**EN tiny puppies have become Essex's naughtiest recruits. The patter of 40 paws for the Force, which has never bred i

Born to three-year-old Carla, who came to Essex from the Metropolitan Police as a puppy, the 10 tiny terrors will be groomed to become the police dogs of the future.

Carla has already proved her worth as handler Sgt Paul Probyn's faithful companion for the last two years, while the father, Duke, is a recently retired Met dog with 15 healthy litters to his name.

Now *The Law* is launching a special competition asking readers to choose names for six of the cuddly canines - and we want all the names to begin with the letter A.

Two of the pups have already been named - Jo-Ann, in memory of WPC Jo-Ann Jennings who was killed in a road accident while on duty four years ago, and Abraham, named after recently retired former dog handler Supt. Mick Abraham.

Two more puppies will be named by children from the local Riding for the Disabled group - leaving four bitches and two dogs to be named by Law readers.

Remember the names need to be appropriate for police dogs!

The German Shepherd pups came along as a late Christmas bonus for delighted officers at Sandon dog section, weighing in at between

14oz and 1lb 5oz. The puppies are rapidly growing and were allocated to the dog section.

Three of the pups are named after the dog section's former handlers Steve Hutley, Dave Rudd and Howard and Paul. They grew up with their new handlers.

Meanwhile Carla is back to her normal police duties. Dog Section hopes he is back to his normal police duties. The programme is caused by a naughtiness.

With another year, Essex will produce a second generation. But if Carla's puppies produce a second generation, it will be important, but v

to supplement the good quality available. Mr. Barrett hopes to supplement the good quality available.

He pointed out that Duke has

## Unique college course provides an insight into policing

# Students combine police skills with studies

By Jenny Grinter

AN EMPHASIS on fitness and outdoor skills as well as practical experience such as First Aid and pre-driver training dominates the unique PVC course, which gives college students an insight into the police service.

Although far less well-known than their counterparts the cadets, PVC students have been working

with Essex Police for more than 16 years, and many have gone on to join the Force.

PVC is the Police Vocational Course, believed to be the only one of its kind in the country, and run in partnership with Chelmsford College of Further

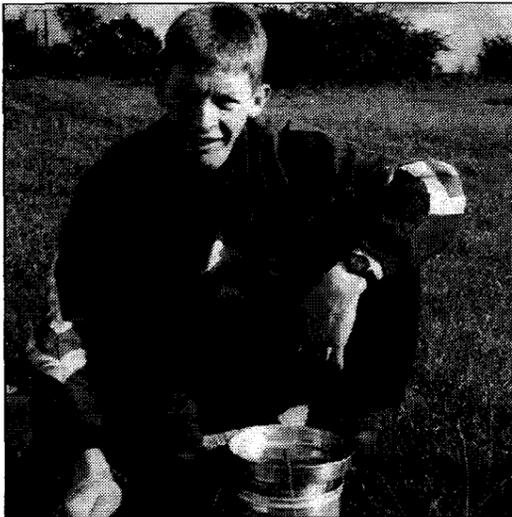
Education.

The students study for either GCSE exams or A levels, alongside their four-and-a-half hours a week of timetabled police activities, and can take either a one-year or two-year course.

As well as learning self-defence, orienteering and camping skills, the small group of between 10 and 18 students is given an introduction to public order training and departments such as crime prevention and scenes of crime.

In addition, the students spend two hours each week on work experience, including working in front offices and control rooms of the county's police stations, attending court and going on patrol with the traffic wardens. As with the cadets, some of this time may be spent working in old people's homes or children's homes.

PVC trainer Pc. Wendy Welham, herself a former



**SUPERCOOK:** Ben Bartlett cooks up a delicious dish of noodles during last year's camp at Thetford.

student of the course, said, "It gives them an insight into the work of the police. Those that apply to join then know what they are applying for."

### Camping

The PVC course demands considerable commitment from the students, with regular week-end camping expeditions to Dartmoor, Derbyshire and Snowdonia as well as more local camps at Danbury or Thetford. The students are also encour-

aged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Last year, the Essex PVC students proved their worth by winning the Bedfordshire Police-organised "Luton Challenge", a gruelling orienteering-type competition against cadets and volunteer cadets from other forces.

Last summer they also worked closely with the Essex Police cadets to stage a Display Day featuring marching and gymnastics displays.

### Academic

Second-year PVC student Sarah Manning, who is studying for A levels in Biology and Sociology, said that while she hoped to join the police eventually, her academic qualifications would give her something to fall back on.

Some of her contemporaries plan to go on to university, before applying to join the police as graduate entrants. At a time of little recruitment and vast numbers of applicants, the students are encouraged to gain experience working in other jobs before applying to join the service.



**BACKPACKER:** Nicky Hall finds her way using map and compass.

## Challenge Africa!

**YOUNG** explorer Sarah Manning has been selected to join a six-week camping expedition to Zimbabwe to carry out scientific field-work in the bush.

Sarah, who is a second-year student on the Chelmsford-based Police Vocational Course, was selected from nearly 400 applicants throughout the UK to join the British Schools Exploring Society project.

But winning a place on the youth project was only the start of the challenge. Now she needs to raise £1,975 towards the cost of the expedition.

Sarah is due to fly to Harare in late July, after completing her A level studies, and will join youngsters from Zimbabwe at one of four lowland sites to carry out conservation and other scientific studies.

The explorers will also undertake an adventure phase including climbing, trekking and water activities.

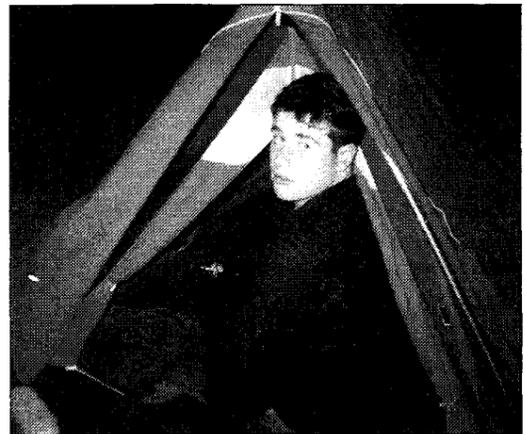
### SPONSORED

Sarah has already started organising a variety of challenging sponsored events to raise her contribution to the cost, which will include a trek across the Three Peaks in Snowdonia, a canoeing expedition, a sponsored abseil and a fund-raising barn dance.

But she needs to find sponsors from local businesses or community organisations to help her reach her daunting target.

Already she has started posting hundreds of letters to Essex businesses asking for assistance. She hopes to return in September with sufficient material to give talks and slide presentations about the work, and has also offered major sponsors a copy of her written report about the trip.

Any readers who can help Sarah with her fund-raising challenge are invited to contact her c/o The Police Vocational Course, Essex Police Training Centre, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA, or by phoning Pc. Wendy Welham on HQ extension 2759.



**INTENT:** Barry Eldred prepares for a good night's sleep.



**CLASS OF '93:** The second year PVC students with their police tutors. Sarah Manning is in the middle row, third right.

### Pick a puppy

LAW readers are invited to take part in our "Pick a Puppy" competition to name six of Carla's tiny terrors.

We are looking for four girls' names and two boys' names - and they must all begin with the letter A.

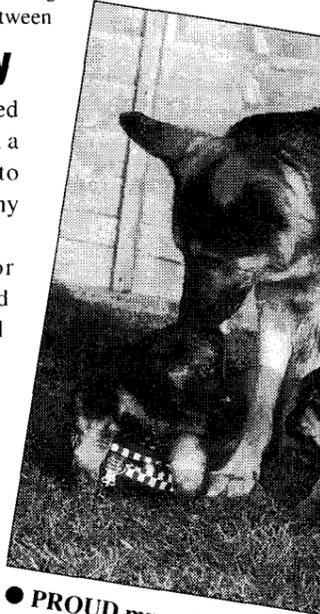
You and your family can submit as many names as you like, but bear in mind that the pups are destined to become working police dogs.

We need your entries by March 9, so hurry and get your thinking caps on.

Our six lucky winners will receive a photograph of their puppy, and an invite to the passing out parade later in the year when the successful members of the litter qualify as fully fledged police dogs.

Send your entries to "Pick a Puppy" competition, The Law newspaper, Press Office, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA.

The winners will be announced in the next edition of The Law.



● **PROUD** mum Carla with tw

### Oh deer, wh

A **TERRIFIED** Muntjac d crashed through a window last month.

Local officers sprung into action when a household dialled 999, reporting a creature was smashing everything in its path.

Apparently, the wild deer had been drinking from a water butt in Powers Hall End and fell in.

In its panic, it smashed through a window in nearby Rosebay Close. Within minutes, the animal ran off again.

The officers eventually tracked it down and handed it into the custody of a local farmer, who safely released it back into the

# al crackers

## Fined for barn owl sales

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Mark Needham and  
Colchester) and Pc.  
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from Basildon.



● ONE of the Porky pair pictured with Pc Hugh Conerney.

**PORKERS** Pinky and Perky tried their best to escape the long hand of the law when they went on the rampage through Colne Engaine.

But it was the boys in blue who came up trumps taking the pot bellied pair into protective custody.

The Vietnamese duo went for a wander earlier this month but they couldn't outsmart Pcs Hugh Conerney, David Whalley and Peter Page.

Fast on their feet, armed with makeshift leads made out of bomb tape, the three Halstead officers eventually cornered the noisy pets,

## Police bring home the bacon

scooped them into riot shields and transported them to the station kennels in two cars.

The pigs were later returned to their owners, but not before Essex Radio DJs, Holmes and McCoy, succeeded in playing a prank on the Trinity Road station.

In the guise of a pea farmer from Stisted, Holmes rang to claim back his property - Karl and Kitty - asking the police to tend his pets just a few more days as he was too busy to pick them up.

He also dished out a few handy tips such as distinguishing between male and female depending on whether the tail curled clockwise or anti-clockwise, and advising officers not to bend down and tie shoelaces while Karl was in the room.

A certain sergeant, who will remain nameless, didn't appear too amused at the leg pull.

AN unemployed Essex man has been fined a total of £200 for possessing, ringing and selling barn owls.

John Willett pleaded guilty to six charges at Saffron Walden Magistrates Court, last month.

It was in the summer of 1992 that Willett of Duddenhoe, part exchanged some Chinchillas and Chipmunks for two unringed barn owls.

A year later the two owls bred and hatched seven chicks.

One died shortly after. Willett then purchased some rings from the British Bird Council intending to sell the chicks. However, the chicks had grown and he was unable to fit the rings so he split the rings before putting them on the birds.

He then advertised them for sale in a weekly paper and a Patrick Creek got in touch with Willett.

The court heard that the living conditions were atrocious with the nestbox deep in slurry and rotting food and the chicks caked in mud.

Mr Creek purchased two of the birds cleaning them up and taking photos of them. It was then discovered that the ring had been cut.

After the matter was reported to the police, the court heard how a search warrant was obtained under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and

officers from the police and RSPCA went to Willett's address.

They discovered two Barn Owls in a cage too small for them to outstretch their wings. Both had split rings on their legs.

In addition to the fines (4 x £50) Willett was ordered to pay £44 costs and a forfeiture order was made on all the birds, 8 in total.



● WHISPER - one of the owls Willett sold on.

Wildlife Liaison Officer from Great Dunmow, Pc Wright, who lead the investigation, was pleased with the outcome of the case and extends his thanks to Duncan McNiven (RSPB) and Inspector George Wells (RSPCA) for their valuable assistance.



er litter.

## a palaver

used chaos when it  
a house in Witham

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ayed into a garden in  
pond. But it slipped

ie window of a house  
police were on their

it down in a garden  
a local vet. Several  
on later, the deer was

## Watch out! There's a Humphrey about

CLACTON Police thought it was a tall story when a woman phoned at 3am to say she had a runaway donkey in her hallway.

But Diane Truscott's tale was true. She had woken with a start when she heard a tapping sound like a woman's stilettoes, followed by a knock on her door.

Her fright turned to disbelief when she discovered cheeky Humphrey on her doorstep.

The donkey nudged his way into the hallway of Mrs. Truscott's Tyler Avenue home, where she fed him chocolate biscuits while she waited for the police.

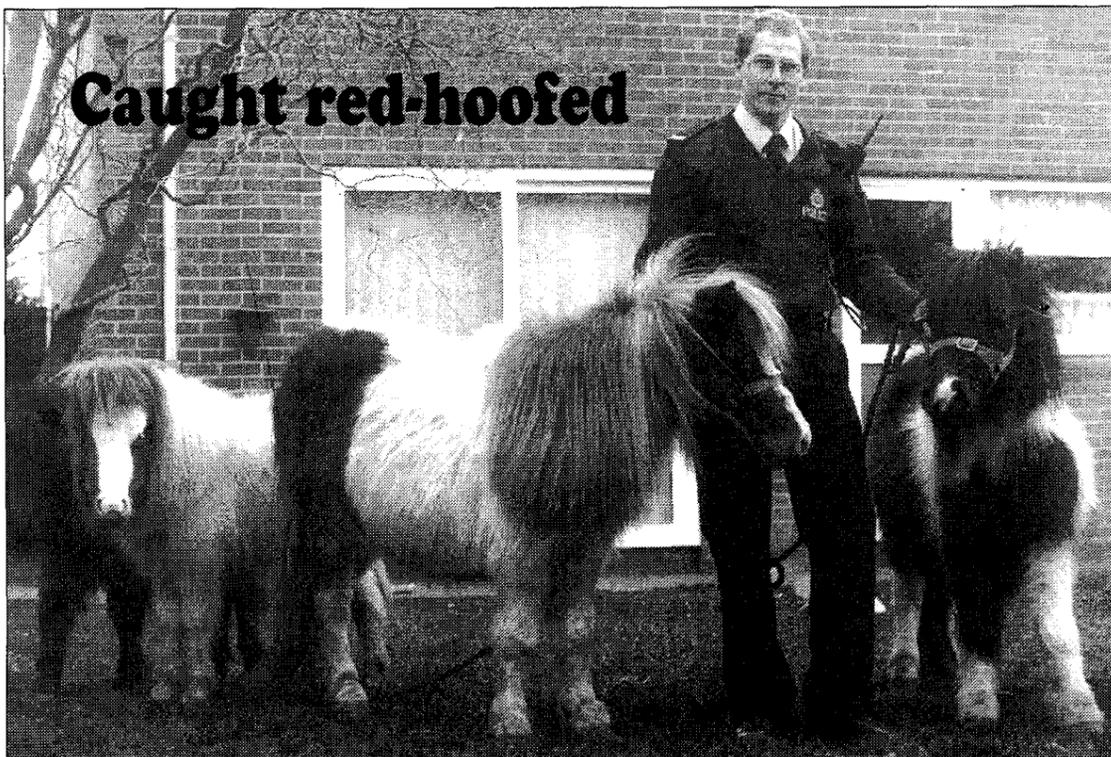
Mrs. Truscott looked on in amusement as a passing taxi driver helped two officers to arrest the runaway. "It was hilarious - I was standing out in the road in my dressing gown and everybody was chasing around after him," she said.

## Saved by a whisker

**TWO** Holland-On-Sea Officers came to the rescue after police received a call reporting a distressed cat stranded on a roof.

Gallant PC Steve Cross and PC Phil Roe braved rainy and cold conditions, commandeered a ladder from the house next door and fearlessly enticed the soggy moggy to safety.

The grey tabby, named Kizzie was placed in the warmth of the officers patrol car. Kizzie then helped police with their enquiries and her owner was found. A police spokesman said it had been a furry good public relations exercise.



● PC SIMON Keightley with the tiny tearaways.

Picture courtesy of Essex County Newspapers Ltd

Hot-hoofed ponies ran straight into the hands of the law when they made their escape from a field in West Bergholt.

The terrible tearaways were from a group of 13. But four of the

fugitives were spotted in Colchester Road by John and Joan Snowling.

When their dog started going frantic, the couple looked out of the window and saw the deserters on their driveway.

But when local bobby Pc Simon Knightley arrived on the scene the runaways were soon rounded up and taken back to his garden for safety before being transferred to the Colchester Garrison stables.



# Shift workers voice their views on the new start times

# Document for disaster?

Those who chose to bury their heads in the sand and ignore the well-publicised project for the past 12 months have forfeited the right to start whinging now.  
*The Law Opinion, January 1994*

## More concerned with Sheehy

WE REFER to the opinion column in the January edition of *The Law*.

Neither of us can recall ever having been so offended by anything we have read in your pages as we were by your final paragraph.

Has it occurred to you that during much of the life of the Shift Systems Project, police officers were more concerned with Sheehy than a small piece in your pages?

While you carefully disassociate your views from the Chief Constable et al, your publication reaches beyond serving police officers and support staff.

Your opinions are received by an ever-widening readership of non-police personnel. To attack serving officers in this way is disgraceful and unforgivable.

From the moment that there was a proposal to advance by one hour the start time of the Force working day we canvassed the views of our members and have reflected what we see as the majority view. Shift workers tell us that they do not want the change.

The Shift Systems Project Team point to the two surveys which each showed about 75 per cent of respondents in favour of a change from a 6am start.

It should be pointed out that the original survey, some two to three years ago carried out by the Essex Police Federation was clear-

● I must point out to you how your comments in the Opinion Column of last month's *Law* have upset many officers.

The information you have been given about the way the new working times came about is obviously wrong.

A short time after the Shift System Project team was set up a questionnaire was circulated to all officers. This contained quite a few ambiguous questions based around shift working. No one expected any answers given to be written in stone.

Officers were expecting that from replies submitted our project team of experts would draw up various systems to be studied more closely and voted upon in a fair way involving all shift workers.

There then followed a lengthy period where it was said by the team that anyone could make contact with them on an individual basis.

At this stage as nothing had been put forward by the team, I assume most officers took the view that there was nothing to discuss.

This is obviously the reason why so few officers made contact with the team. Individual comments on any issues affecting the shift workforce are rarely of use.

It would then seem that a percentage of officers were actually spoken to individually. Only those spoken to know what questions were put. Once again it was not thought that those replies would be written in stone.

We were then suddenly told of the change to 7am to 3pm etc when the majority of shift workers had no chance to comment.

Surely you can understand that many officers would feel very unfairly treated and justifiably so.

I am not aware of your position or if you have ever worked shifts. I feel very disappointed you should take such a hard and fast view on this subject when it is obvious you have only heard one side of the saga.

I hope if you are ever treated unfairly you will not comment.

Pc Dave Rose, Saffron Walden.

## I WRITE with regard to the current debate to the Force working day and the new proposed shift systems.

In front of me I can see two documents. The first is The Statement of Common Purpose, the second is the Implementation Guide from the Shift Working Party. The two appear to be in conflict with each other. I quote from the statement:

".....and to be seen to do all this with integrity, common sense and sound judgement. We must be compassionate, courteous and patient acting without fear of favour or prejudice to the rights of others."

Fine words. It is a great pity that the Shift Working Party did not study them before producing what can only be described as a document for disaster.

The Working Party are obviously blissfully unaware of the damage that has already been inflicted on shift workers by the uncertainty that has been going on for the past two years with regard to new shift working patterns. In view of Wivenhoe, most were under the impression that real consultation would take place on a new and better Forcewide Shift System.

We were all wrong. The expertise and judgement of the men and women of this Force was not even sought, even worse, those who have complained have been given short shrift by the 'experts' of the Shift Working Party.

I am at a loss to see how losing my long weekend a month working three different shifts in one week, finishing at 0700 (if I can) and returning to duty at 1700 to again finish at 2300 prior to Rest Days can be good for me.

By not canvassing shift workers on a proper basis, I fear that the Working Party has got it badly wrong.

If a true study were to be made on the wishes of shift workers, it would be found that a huge majority would still prefer to work the shift pattern we were adhering to. It may not have been

perfect, but it was a 100 per cent improvement on what we have now.

Morale in this Force is at an all time low and riding roughshod over the wishes of the vast majority will only serve to push it lower.

We had an individual ballot on the issue of which colour shirt to wear. Was that more important than the wishes of the so far unheard majority with regard to their future working conditions?

Pc J.E. Toms, Newport Traffic.

## ODE TO EARLIES

I hate earlies, I really do,

Though I love to finish at the stroke of two,

There's just one thing, I'm not alive,

When I've got to get up at quarter to five.

# Yes - we are indignant

I REFER to your opinion column in the January edition - yes there are indignant voices being heard around the county regarding the moving of shift start times to one hour forward.

Instead of dismissing these voices should not you, and others in the Essex Police Service, be asking why there are so many?

Yes, I agree that 450 people were surveyed, however only 60.22 per cent of those surveyed favoured the later time and not 73 per cent as you suggested.

This percentage actually equates to 271 people - out of a total of over 1,100 shift workers.

The 73 per cent figure was reached by adding on figures taken from a different survey carried out by the J.B.B. in 1991.

You need not be a mathematician to see that this is not a majority by a very long way although a statistician may be able

## What is your preferred start times in relation to shifts?

	%	Number
A) 06.00, 14.00, 22.00	27.11	122
B) 07.00, 15.00, 23.00	60.22	271
C) 08.00, 16.00, 24.00	12.66	57

Shift Systems Survey results published in *The Law*, August 1993

● I WAS very angered and disgusted to read the Opinion in this month's *Law* regarding shift patterns.

How can anyone suggest that just because people remain silent they forfeit the right to complain. That is downright insulting.

To suggest that officers were invited to express their views is really a nonsense, as how can you express a view on something when the details are not known?

To put it in perspective, the project team asked for comments and ideas about shift patterns.

I personally tried to contact the project team in September to find out what was being proposed but could get no reply to the telephone, and when I spoke to a project team member at the Federation open Meeting I was told the matter was still being researched.

How can you give an opinion on something you haven't seen yet? The questionnaire asked officers if they prefer a later start to early turn - of course they would. But an assumption was then made, wrongly in my view, that officers wouldn't mind a later start on other shifts.

Why didn't the team publish the proposed shift in October, when they were finalised and whilst the team were still sitting? They would have got a better response.

Instead we have been given a Hobson's Choice of five shift systems with the rider that if we cannot agree locally the 'continental' system will be adopted anyway. So much for the consultation that the Wivenhoe process was supposed to give us.

Sgt Gary Coxhead, Mistley.

● WITH regard to the new shift start times and the editorial comment in the January *Law* - please consider the following analogy:

The DVLA at Swansea announce that for a year they are considering European and British Legislation and invite comments.

At the end of the year, the DVLA announce, without any warning or consultation, that all British motorists will now drive on the right and all new cars will be made left hand drive.

Can you imagine the uproar at such a high-handed move?

This is what has happened to us in Essex. What should have happened is that the project team, having completed their deliberations, should have circulated (together with payslips for example) the option to start each shift one hour later.

Then, if officers were too apathetic to respond or if they voted for the change, we could then suffer in silence.

The day we "forfeit the right to whinge" is the day empowerment and the Essex management culture dies.

Sgt Adam Thomas, Thurrock.

There will be extensive consultation with the shift workers of the Force....but in the meantime, any member of staff who would like to comment on or discuss the project, is encouraged to contact the Shift Systems Team.

*The Law*, May 1993

● I WAS incensed by the arrogance of the comments that you made in your editorial, *The Law Opinion*, in respect of the new shift working hours.

In giving everybody the benefit of your biased opinion you have failed to take into account some very important facts.

You stated that of a cross section of people canvassed, 73 per cent were in favour of the changes.

However, this figure has no credibility unless you also publish exactly who was canvassed and what percentage of the total number of shift workers this cross section represented.

It was also wrong to ballot only a cross section.

Recently this Force found the time and means to canvass everyone on the colour of our shirts.

But it has made no effort to formally obtain the opinions of individuals on a subject which is set to change our daily working lives for

to prove that it was.

Yes, I also agree that Personnel were invited throughout to express their views but was it really the intention for the majority of Essex Police shift workers to contact the Shift Systems Project Team individually with their comments or to discuss the matter without ever seeing any proposals or any other update as to the Project Teams final submissions?

Surely not. When would they get the time to do any work on the project? How then were shift workers expected to comment or discuss the proposals to some meaningful purpose?

Such updates and proposals are common within Essex Police (consider the FIRS Brochure and the Service Delivery Standards folders). This was undoubtedly the responsibility of the S.S.P. team and once they had failed to do this then the federation had a responsibility to ensure that their members were fully informed, although I have ascertained that even they were not fully aware that the deciding vote for this change was taking place and had to be finalised on the day that it was.

"Decisions on a subject as important as shift patterns can never satisfy everyone". I am glad you acknowledge this decision as important but you then go on to say that those who have 'ignored' the project, forfeited the right to whinge now.

This implies that had I said anything before I would have been whinging. This has an altogether authoritarian feel about it. You cannot therefore dismiss this as whinging.

It is essential that the management team, right up to the Chief Constable listens to my views, and the views of everyone else affected by this because I am part of the very foundations of the 'Quality of Service' campaign which covers every aspect of what we do as a service, and certainly covers project teams and federation officials.

Pc Hennessy, Southend Police Station.

the rest of our careers.

In your editorial you branded those who had not followed your articles on the shift changes as ostriches, accusing us of burying our heads in the sand with no right to whinge.

We have every right to whinge. We, the ostriches of this Force, feel that we were not adequately and formally told of the changes as our rights as an employee should dictate.

*The Law* is, at the end of the day, an informal newsletter and it is not our responsibility to search through its pages to discover what changes are being suggested.

It is the responsibility of our employers to properly consult the workforce on such important changes.

The force is wrong to have introduced this new system without properly taking into account the feelings of individuals. You should support us not condemn us.

Pc Gentile, Colchester Traffic.

**LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT****Knights of the road**

THE International Law Enforcement Agency Motor Cycle Club, known as Blue Knights, has been in existence since 1974.

Originally founded in America to combat adverse publicity in respect of motorcycling, it has now grown into a major charity fund raiser throughout the world with 'Chapters' in countries ranging from Australia to Norway and from Hawaii to Switzerland.

The total world membership now exceeds 15,000

In November 1992, the membership of Blue Knights (England) II stood at 21. In just 12 months this has increased to 63.

The aims of the club have not changed - to promote motorcycling, to enjoy the company of those with a similar interest, and to provide funds for our chosen charity, The National Holiday Fund (a group dedicated to providing holidays in Florida for the terminally ill or handicapped children).

**Schedule**

Every year each chapter hosts an International Rally and below is the European Ride Schedule.

APRIL 1 - 3: Mont St. Michel - hosts France II;

APRIL 22 - 24: Walworth - hosts England III;

MAY 9 - 15: Monaco - hosts France IV;

MAY 13 - 15: Bad Honnef - hosts Germany I;

MAY 20 - 22: Murrhard - hosts Germany IV;

JUNE 10 - 12: Lahr/Schwarzwald - hosts Germany II;

JUNE 17 - 19: European Convention - hosts Suisse I;

JUNE 24 - 26: Lanaken - hosts Benelux I;

JULY 8 - 10: Redmire (Wensleydale) - hosts England II;

JULY 29 - 31: Falun - hosts Sweden I;

JULY 31 - AUG 5: Maine - hosts BK International (USA);

AUG 11 - 14: Sprotze - hosts Germany III;

AUG 26 - 28: Hollenfels - hosts Luxemburg I;

SEPT 2 - 4: Epen - hosts Benelux I;

SEPT 23 - 25: New Forest Hampshire - hosts England IV.

Every member of the Blue Knights is entitled to attend any of these rallies.

All these events are ridiculously cheap, with a promise of some severe socialising as a bonus.

Blue Knights (England) II have organised 'ride-outs' every Sunday so it does not matter what shift you work, there is always something going on.

It is immaterial what type or size of bike you ride, if you enjoy it why not make the most of organisation formed and dedicated to that aim.

For any further information contact Dave Knight (President) on 0279 641212 ext 5691 or Dick Greaves (Regional Director) at HQIR.

**Peddalling for pounds**

This year, why not take up the challenge of participating in a long distance cycle ride and help raise cash for the NSPCC.

Over the August Bank Holiday you have the choice of a one day-ride from London to Portsmouth or a three day ride from London to Paris.

There is also a choice of cycling routes of either 65, 80 or 100 miles per day.

And there's a special incentive for police officers with a special prize awarded to the police team raising the most sponsorship.

Both rides leave Central London early on Sunday, August 28 and wind their way through the scenic countryside of Surrey and Hampshire to Portsmouth.

Transport for riders and bikes will be available for those wishing to return to London.

Those on the Paris ride catch the overnight ferry to Caen and on day two cycle through the beautiful Normandy countryside to Rouen.

After a night in this medieval town the next day takes the riders to Paris and a welcome party.

The final day is free and can either be spent exploring Paris or Rouen before catching the ferry back to Portsmouth with transport back to Central London arriving late on Thursday, September 1.

Money raised by the event will go towards supporting the NSPCC's vital work with children and families.

It costs just £15 to enter the Portsmouth Bikethon and £230 for the London to Paris ride which includes medical and mechanical backup, insurance, refreshments, marshals, accommodation and ferry transport.

Events organiser, Alison Kenny, said: "These rides have in recent years developed strong links with the police force."

"The rides are marshalled by members of the

Bedfordshire Police Motorcycle Club and two years ago Chris Brown, a Kent officer, raised the magnificent sum of over £2,000."

Anyone interested in joining the event should contact the NSPCC Bikethon Hotline on 0234 340335.

Cycle from London to Portsmouth or Paris and raise cash for kids

**Force Sports Association****P.A.A. JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

THE P.A.A. Judo championships will be held at Liverpool University on Monday 19th September 1994.

This event is open to all serving police officers and cadets. Anyone who requires any further information, please contact the Force Sports Secretary.

**CROKER CUP COMP - 1993**

REFERENCE PB 28/29 dated 17 January 1994. Several of the events between south and Headquarters have been mixed up.

Theses should be as follows: **Rugby:** South 0, HQ 2, **Sea Angling:** south 2, HQ 1, **Snooker:** South 5, HQ 1, **Swimming:** South 2, HQ 1, **Table Tennis:** South 1, HQ 2.

This puts Headquarters 5th on 29 points and South 6th on 28 points.

**ESSEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB TICKETS**

THE Force Sports Association has again purchased two Executive Suite tickets for all Essex first eleven fixtures for this year.

The intention this year will be to allocate these tickets on a day basis, (rather than last year, when they were allocated for all four days of the match).

Each member will be given both tickets which will allow you to take one guest free and two further guests upon payment of the appropriate charge.

To use the Executive Suite you must be dressed "smart casual". Jacket and tie is preferable, please note jeans, shorts (for men) and T-shirts are not permitted.

A draw will be made at the beginning of the season to allocate these tickets, similar to the Ipswich Town Football tickets and this list will be published to all interested persons.

A supplementary charge of £5 will be made on these tickets. Any persons interested in being included in this draw, must submit their names in writing (telephone messages will not be accepted), to the Force Sports Secretary, at police Headquarters, before Friday 25th March 1993.

**HOLIDAY INNS OFFERS**

HERE'S a chance to enjoy a remarkable "get away from it all" bargain whenever you like during 1994.

Essex Police Sports Association has teamed up with Holiday Inns to offer up to 50% off normal room rates at any of the following hotels: Aberdeen £44/49, Edinburgh £39/59, Newcastle £44/49, Sheffield £39, Leeds £49, Manchester £49/59, Leicester £39, Warrington/Chester £29/34, Nottingham £39/44, Cambridge £49/59, Telford £34/39, Birmingham £44/49, Reading £49, Bristol £49/59, Maidenhead £44, Ashford £29/34 plus the following London hotels, Brent Cross £44/59, Heathrow £49/59, Kensington £79, Mayfair £99, Kings Cross £59/69, Sutton £44/49 and Gatwick £39/44.

Whether you want to visit the Highlands or Hadrian's Wall, the Peak District of the Fens, there's a hotel waiting to welcome you and your family. Prices start at only £29 per room per night (for 2-3 people sharing a room) and the offer is not confined to specific days or times of the year.

It is available at weekends, seven days a week, throughout July, August and September and at other times subject to availability (including Bank Holidays). It ends only on December 30.

One phone call is all it takes to stay in style at the hotel of your

choice.

Enjoy spacious rooms, each with private bathrooms, double beds, TV, phone, coffee and tea making facilities.

Most of the hotels also offer superb leisure centres too. For reservations just call 0895 449 533 and quote Travel and Leisure Club/Essex Police Sports Association special rates.

Reservations for Monday - Thursday inclusive must be made three days before arrival.

Some hotels have high/low seasonal rates - the first rate is high, the second low. Seasonability differs between hotels.

**FORCE LOTTERY**

THE result of the February lottery is as follows:

£1500 Cons 1768 Peter Stevens Rochford;

£1000 Cons 1446 Leslie Jennings Stanway Traffic;

£500 Cons 2213 Jason Boots Stanway Traffic;

£300 Mr Michael Wade Headquarters Information Room;

£200 Cons 595 Robert Boyle Tollesbury;

£100 Cons 1385 Christopher Dicks Brentwood Traffic;

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes:

Cons 549 Keith Brookes of Roxwell, Cons 2140 David Ellis of Littlebury, Sgt 905 Paul Davey of Headquarters Information Room, Cons 2521 Patrick Whitehead of Corringham East, DCons 1345 Dominic Graham, seconded staff, Cons 1608 John Walsh of Burnham on Crouch, Mrs Stephanie Gosling of Harwich Port, DSgt 1819 Graham Carter of Corringham, DCons 1717 Keith Marsh, seconded staff, DCons 1753 Kevin Watson of Headquarters Crime Ops, Sgt 1315 Peter Smith of Colchester, and Cons 1438 Philip Cane of Headquarters Information Room.

**Saffron Walden Police Station Division/Sub Division H.Q. 1885 - 1994**

Police, civilian and retired members of the force together with their guests are invited to join us in commemorating our change in status brought about by the new force structure

**Grand Dinner Dance**

Saffron Walden County High School

Saturday 7th May 1994

7.00pm

Tickets £20

The Waldenaires Dance Band  
Licensed Bar  
Charity Raffle

All profits to M.E.D.I.C.S. (Flying Doctor Service)



Tickets available by contacting  
PS Schneider or PS Tuffin on  
0799 513232 extn 5806  
(Tickets are limited so please reserve them now!)

**LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT**

# In memory of Maurice

**T**HE 1994 Nutrasweet London Marathon takes place on April 17 and, once again, among the 30,000 plus throng will be the force marathon team.

This year they will 'do battle' in aid of the Essex Children's Hospice at Southend, one of the county's biggest ever fund raising projects, and very close to heart of our dear departed friend Maurice Brazier.

Maurice, who bravely ran as part of the team in last year's marathon, in the middle of his personal fight against cancer, was determined to be with us in the 1994 event to raise funds for this project.

**By Laurie Rampling**

Although he can't be with us, I am sure he will be with us in spirit, willing us every step of the way.

The team will dedicate this year's efforts to Mo's memory and it is hoped that some sort of lasting dedication or memorial to Mo can be made at the centre when it is completed.

The appeal was launched last November by the Adult Hospice, Fair Havens, and has the support of it's president, Sir Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend East, who has in turn notified all other Essex MP's about the project to give it a countywide appeal.

Sponsorship forms will be circulated very shortly and it is hoped that every officer will be in a position to make some small contribution.

The team has yet to be finalised, but team managers Allan Barley and Laurie Rampling, hope to announce the final line-up in next month's Law.

## Negotiate

Prior to the main event the team will negotiate tricky hurdles at Hastings on March 31 and Reading on April 10 for the respective half marathons, with other assorted events locally.

It is also hoped that two fund raising activities, in conjunction with Woolworth PLC, can be organised at Lakeside, West Thurrock and Southend, sometime in April.

Last year's London Marathon winner, Eamonn Martin, joined in the fun, once again, by giving up his valuable time to promote the team's efforts for the Evening Echo, with a little bit of impromptu training at Gloucester Park. (see picture).

The Echo's efforts are being masterminded by Maurice's good old friend, Jon Guy, the paper's Chief Crime Reporter, who will also be running with the Essex Police Team.

Regular updates on the Hospice Appeal, will appear in the paper



● Winner of last year's London Marathon, Basildon's Eamonn Martin, with the 1993 police team.

and anyone wishing to contribute can either contact Laurie Rampling at Grays, Allan Barley at Chelmsford or the Evening Echo offices.

Looking further forward, the Division Athletics Championships will be held at Thurrock Harriers Stadium, Grays, on Wednesday, June 1 and a new trophy will be dedicated to the memory of Maurice, when the winner of the Veteran's 200 meters event will also receive the Maurice Brazier trophy.

Maurice won this event at Harlow in May last year, prior to him being taken ill. With trophy, his memory will live on.

## Fitness fun



FITNESS fanatics will be pleased to hear that aerobics sessions are now being run at Colchester Police Station.

Classes are every Tuesday evening between 7pm and 8pm.

Anyone interested should contact Ann Garwood on 0206 762212 ext 4343.

## Angling for a PAA place

THERE will be a sea angling competition to be held on Southend pier on Thursday, April 28.

This is to assist in selecting teams for the forthcoming No 5 Region PAA Championships being hosted by Essex Police.

Booking-in time will be 11.30am to 11.45am for a 12.30pm start.

Those interested should contact Pc Skingley at Thames Marine Section at Rayleigh on 0268 775533, Ednet 6687.

## Cricket cancelled

THE proposed Force cricket tour to Zimbabwe has had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Tour manager Bob Miller wishes to thank those officers who did respond, especially those who were going to support the tour.

A domestic tour is now being considered by the committee, details of which will be circulated as soon as they are available.

## Have a smashing time for charity

Every fancied a bit of banger racing? Now's your chance.

On Sunday, May 22 between 6pm and 10pm the Metropolitan Police Motor Club is sponsoring the 3rd annual Emergency Services Banger Race at Wimbledon Stadium.

The event is in aid of the Sara Marie Foundation, a charity which aims to send terminally ill or seriously ill children on a holiday of a lifetime such as seeing Father Christmas in Lapland.

The last two years have raised a total of more than £9,000.

Every driver will drive in two

heats. The first eight from each heat will take part in the final. Everyone will get a chance to compete in the destruction derby.

There will be trophies for heat winners, final winners, destruction derby winners and the best dressed car.

All drivers must be members of one of the 999 services but civilians in the service are welcome.

Anyone interested should contact Pc Mick Dunckley on 081 246 1784 or 081 868 4696.

**Accidents happen**

No doubt every police officer in the course of his or her career considers the possibility of being injured on duty.

Most would think of it in the context of violent prisoners or armed confrontations, but not all injuries are caused in quiet such dramatic circumstances. And when the bruising goes down and the pain fades away there's times when you just have to look back and laugh.

Here are three examples of such accidents in the last month.

A Harlow WPC nursed a tender cheek, neck and shoulder caused by colliding with another officer during the practice run of a drugs search.

A bruised knee was the injury of a traffic sergeant from Rayleigh. While driving one of the patrol cars, the Vascar unit decided to jump out of its dashboard mounting. And where better to land?

Last, and by no means least, was the misfortune of a Benfleet DC. During a thorough house search, said detective had checked the loft. Unfortunately he hadn't checked that he had secured the hatch properly and it reopened hitting him in the face.

A number of bruises and scratches will ensure he never makes the same mistake again.

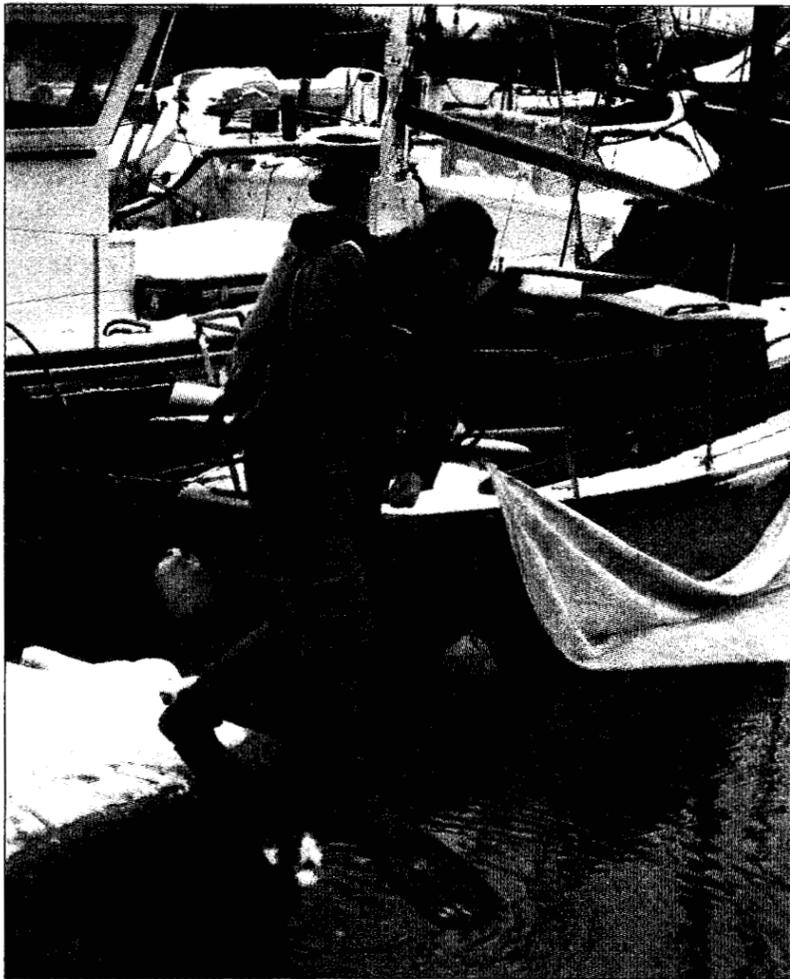
**Anything Goes has gone - for now**

Due to illness the latest Essex Police Musical Society presentation of *Anything Goes* has been re-scheduled.

The Cole Porter musical will now be staged between Monday, October 10 and Friday, October 15.

Tickets will be re-issued so keep an eye out for advertisements.

Essex agrees to pilot new 'specials' scheme

**Pounding the parish****Business as usual**

● Pc Steve Milbourne takes the plunge.

AS snow fell thick and fast over Essex last week, the Force Support Unit divers were undeterred and didn't dare miss their regular Tuesday training session.

If you were cold, imagine how the unit felt several feet under in the icy waters of Heybridge basin.

But it wasn't quite business as usual for our intrepid explorer C/Insp Dennis Rensch when he spotted the 3 inch white blanket.

Due to the adverse conditions he was unable to make the journey from his Brentwood home to Chelmsford Police Station.

Let's hope the weather improves before he takes off to the Arctic next month.

Meanwhile newly appointed press officer Ian Deal spent the day issuing warnings to motorists via the media on how to drive in icy conditions.

Rather ironic as just a few hours earlier, on a 2am call-out, the same Mr Deal had lost control of his Vauxhall Nova, mounted a roundabout and had a close call with a traffic sign.

Fortunately press officer, car and road sign all remained intact.

Essex has agreed to be one of 20 police forces in the country to pilot a Parish Special Constables Scheme, following a recommendation by the Home Secretary.

The scheme is for rural areas and Southminster and Hockley were selected for the launch which took place on Valentine's Day.

The officers will be introduced to their respective parishes at the next parish council meetings where they will discuss their role in the community.

**Minor crime**

It is envisaged that as well as attending future parish council meetings they will also visit neighbourhood watch groups, give crime prevention advice, help provide victim support and deal with incidents of public order and minor crime.

The two special constables who have volunteered for the schemes both have full time jobs. They will be patrolling regularly, at no cost to

the parish, and hope to forge links between the community and the police.

Hockley constable, Stephen Judd, aged 19, works as a property manager for a firm of surveyors in Southend.

He lives in the Hockley area and hopes this new role will involve him more with the community, particularly its elderly residents.

The Southminster parish will be taken on by Lyn Barclay, who lives in the area with her husband, also a special constable, three children and an assortment of dogs and cats.

She works as a checkout operator in Maldon.

The scheme will be evaluated in six to 12 months time and if it has proved a success, will be expanded countywide.

**Smile, you could be a CCTV star**

YOU may remember that last month Basildon schools joined forces with Essex Police to cut crime and protect pupils in a pioneering SchoolWatch scheme.

Prior to that a close circuit TV system was installed at Fryerns School.

Although it's too early to reveal the success of SchoolWatch, Fryerns have reported a 54 per cent drop in crime since the cameras were rigged up with staff and pupil morale on a high.

To help promote CCTV in schools, town centres, car parks and garages, crime prevention officers in the area decided to design their third 'Free Poster'.

This time you don't receive a free ride in a police car or a free record of the criminal kind.

The message is clear, commit crime and get caught on camera.

**The power of the press**

Essex Police and the media teamed up to give victim support volunteers an insight into police/press relations in the county.

Det Supt Malcolm Hargreaves, based at Headquarters, DCI Roger Eason, of Chelmsford CID and Fred Hammerton, Deputy News Editor and crime reporter for the Essex Chronicle, told the Chelmsford victim support section that there was generally good co-

operation between the two groups.

It was acknowledged that the facilities supplied by the Essex Police Press Office, such as press conference, in addition to the general 'open' policy the force has adopted, reduced the need for reporters to 'doorstep' victims and relatives for major crime stories.

During the meeting Mr Hargreaves and Mr Eason generally praised the media for their help in publicising

appeals.

They agreed is was invaluable assistance and often led to vital information being received from witnesses.

The victim support meeting was part of an ongoing training programme for support volunteers who counsel victims of crime.

They have already heard from the Crown Prosecution Service and Coroner's officer as well as been told about post traumatic stress.

**THE LAW**

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