

The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



Video cameras in charge rooms
- See page 5

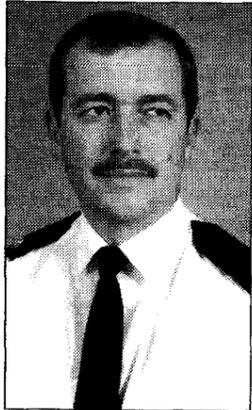
The Newspaper of the Essex Police

October 1994

No 254

Police swoop on 100 homes in countywide crackdown

Blitz on burglars



● Mick Brewer.

Farewell to Essex

THE familiar face of Mick Brewer will no longer be seen among colleagues at Essex Police as he accepts a promotion to Warwickshire, next month.

Mr Brewer will take up the post of Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) on November 17 after 26 years with Essex.

Serving at various divisions across the county he quickly rose through the ranks becoming a sergeant in 1972, inspector in 1974, chief inspector in 1980, superintendent in 1985 and chief superintendent in 1989.

Negotiator

He also spent a four month period earlier this year stepping in the shoes of ACC Geoffrey Markham.

With four commendations to his name, Mr Brewer is also the Essex Police and No 5 ACPO Region's Co-ordinator for negotiators and the force Wildlife Liaison Officer.

Married with a 19-year-old son and 17-year-old daughter, Mr Brewer is 45.

As well as being a keen golfer, he takes a great interest in the environment and in particular wildlife.

Mr Brewer said: "I'm delighted with the promotion and the prospect of a challenging job but will be leaving Essex with fond memories and a little sadness at leaving friends and colleagues behind."

Protection at the sharp end



PUBLIC order trainer Sgt Ian Ellison demonstrates a defensive stance using a side-handled baton, one of two truncheons soon to be tested by Chelmsford officers.

Trials of three stab resistant vests will also start before Christmas.

For full story see page 3.

Mourning the loss of Mick

INFORMATION room staff this month mourned the loss of colleague Sgt Mick Rooney, who died suddenly from a heart attack on the 11th.

Mick, (53), joined Essex Police in 1970 serving in Chelmsford and Harlow before becoming a well liked and respected member of the Headquarters

control centre.

Born in Galashiels, Scotland, he was married to Linda, with three daughters and a son. He lived in Maldon.

Mick's funeral service was held yesterday (Tuesday) at Woodham Mortimer Church. He will be buried at London Road Cemetery, Maldon.

POLICE raided nearly 100 homes across Essex last week as the Force launched a crack down on house burglaries.

More than 400 officers were deployed on *Operation Home Safe*, the first co-ordinated countywide initiative against burglars and handlers.

A total of 77 people were arrested and officers recovered electrical goods, furniture, power tools, bicycles, ornaments and credit cards.

In addition two stolen cars and quantities of cannabis and amphetamines were discovered.

A total of 92 search warrants were executed and a huge publicity campaign swung into action, with television crews, radio and newspaper journalists invited to attend dawn briefings on division. Arrests were made and property recovered in all nine police divisions.

Operation Home Safe was planned as a high profile demonstration of the Force's determination to meet its Key Operational Goal of "reducing the incidence of burglary in people's homes and increasing the detection rate by 10 per cent."

The statistics for the year are already looking promising. For the 12-month period to the end of August 1994, the total number of house burglaries reported was 8,769, down more than 15 per cent on the previous 12 months. And the detection rate for the period stands at 29.4 per cent, on course to meet the Key Operational Goal.

Head of CID Detective Chief Superintendent Ralph

By Jenny Grinter

Barrington stressed that initiatives aimed at tackling house burglaries have been taking place on divisions throughout the year. *Operation Home Safe* had been timed for the autumn because the number of burglaries always peaks during the winter months.

"We hope that by choosing this particular moment to have our first countywide crack at burglaries that we may have taken some burglars out of the system. By making so many arrests, we hope to have interrupted some burglars' activity, he said.

"At the same time we hope the publicity given to this operation will have drawn the public's attention to thinking what they can do to keep their homes safe, and also put in the minds of burglars that we do get intelligence about their activities and we are going to catch them."

INSIDE

New device makes pursuits safer - P4

Cartoon kids say no to drugs - P3

Father of the force dies - P7

FEDERATION NOTES . . . FEDERATION NOTES . . .

Detached beat officer wins council tax case

RECENTLY I attached a valuation tribunal hearing with a detached beat officer with regard to his appeal against his Council Tax valuation.

The detached beat house in question was originally assessed at Band E but the officer, after making representations, managed to receive a reduction to Band B based on the fact that part of the beat house which was a police office had not been deducted for the purpose of

Council Tax.

The officer was still not happy with Band B and appealed on the basis that the house was used for police purposes and there was a disruption to his normal way of living. He asked for a reduction to Band A.

At the tribunal hearing it became apparent that the Police Authority had also appealed for

Band D. However, no one from the Authority was in attendance to put their case. The officer put his case to the tribunal which they accepted and re-assessed the property at Band A.

The above is for the information of any officer in detached beats who has appealed against valuation. If they contact me at the Federation Office I can provide them with details of what was used at this tribunal to achieve such a result.



● By Brian Pallant.

Friendly hotels

HERE is a special opportunity for all readers of *The Law* to sample the excellent facilities, delicious food, warmth and comfort you will be assured of when staying at any of the participating Friendly Hotels and Stop Inns throughout the U.K.

All members of the Federation can stay at any one of the three star Friendly Hotels (excluding London) for only £45.00 a night in a double or twin room or at any of the 5 two star Friendly Stop Inns for only £39.00 on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Not only that, every morning you will wake up to a complimentary mouth watering traditional breakfast, served up by the friendly, efficient staff.

To make sure your weekend is complete Friendly Hotels will also give you a Destination Discount Booklet agreeing you discounts on the local tourist attractions and retail outlets, be it Woburn Abbey and Alton Towers or Supasnaps and Fosters - you cannot say friendlier than that!!

All hotels boast a delicious a la carte menu and either a hot and cold carvery or table d'hote menu. For the more active, why not try out the complimentary health and fitness centres with saunas, solaria and indoor swimming pools to mini-gyms.

To take advantage of this great offer or to make a booking simply FREECALL 0500 91 92 93 quoting ID 1882. Please note that all bookings must be made before March 31st 1995 and that the offer is subject to availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.

Holiday Club

JOIN the Holiday Club and enjoy commission free holidays all year round. Douglas Travel have been providing holidays and travel for some of the country's biggest and brightest organisations since 1981 now offer members of Essex Police the opportunity to join the holiday club.

All commissions which are payable to Douglas Travel as travel agents is rebated to the Holiday Club members.

You can save money on holidays, short breaks, ferry bookings, car hire and overseas holidays.

Unlike the High Street multiples, Douglas Travel rebate all of the commissions which can vary between 10% and 30%. Also those last minute special offers are also subject to commission which is rebated in full to our members.

A special price of only £15 is all that it takes for you and your family to join the Holiday Club. £15 gives you a whole year's membership from the 1st December 1994 to the 30th November 1995.

Telephone the Federation office or see your local representative for your application form. Complete all details and return it to: The Holiday Club, Freepost (GL292), Cheltenham, Glos GL50 1BR.

No stamp required to return your application. All correctly completed applications received at the Holiday Club by the 1st December will be entered in a free draw for prizes which could reduce the cost of that first holiday.

Pay agreement

I HAVE been asked by several officers as to what was the actual amount of money agreed with regard to the different pay scales which were then lifted on September 1 by the 3% pay rise.

The increases were to take account of the areas given up as I highlighted in last month's edition of *The Law* and the one that affects most officers will be a reimbursement of National Health Service charges together with the loss of the half hour overtime in any four occasions of a seven day period.

The Federation Office has a list showing the amounts of money added to each of the existing pay points for constable and sergeant ranks to take into account the above loss.

On some of the scales the constables do not do very well. For example the senior constables' increase to £233 is very minimal compared to the senior sergeants scale of £863.

These comments were made by the Essex Joint Branch Board to the staff side negotiator back in March.

However, as you are aware it was negotiated as a total package and the answer is that there are far more senior constables with 14 years or more service than sergeants and therefore the cost implications of more money at the top end was far greater.

With regard to the criteria for new recruits, if they are over 22 when they join and have completed their 31 weeks module 7, they will move on to the second criteria which will be £16,224.

Those officers who are under 22 will be told when joining which of the two points they will be going on, either £15,192 or £16,224. This is currently being looked at and a decision will be made shortly.

For officers who join prior to August 31, they will assimilate across for the new starting pay for officers on September 1, and when they have completed one year, will be moved to the first criteria point.

Officers appointed before August 31 and are over 22 will assimilate to £16,584.

Inspectors

YOU are aware there has been a

problem with regard to regulations covering inspectors and chief inspectors.

The Federation instigated a judicial review against the Home Secretary and we are still waiting for an outcome.

In the meantime a meeting of the Police Negotiating Board has taken place and they have reached the following agreement subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

Working rests days

THE PNB wishes to clarify the intention of the new agreement concerning the working arrangements for inspectors and chief inspectors.

The intention of the agreement is that the conditions of these officers should be based on the current arrangements for superintendents, including the determination of their position on being required to work on a rest day or public holiday.

Accordingly these ranks cease to be entitled to payment for overtime, and for working on public holidays and rest days, although they should, if the exigencies of duty permit, to be free from duty on such days.

With regard to rest days under new regulation 29A, inspectors and chief inspectors should, so far as the exigencies of duty permit, be granted rest days at the rate of two in respect of each week.

It is an inevitable feature of police work that there will be occasions when, after a rest day has been arranged, an officer of these ranks is nevertheless required to work on that day due to unforeseen circumstances.

In this case, he should in the next 12 months, be granted an additional rest day.

The agreement also provides that he is granted a day in lieu when required to work a public holiday.

The Staff Side have expressed concern that because the inclusive salaries mean inspectors and chief inspectors are no longer directly compensated for overtime there is a possibility that they will be required to work excessive hours, regularly. Both the Official Side and Staff Side agree that such an agreement

would be contrary to the intention and spirits of the agreements.

Halifax Loan Scheme

WE now have to hand up-to-date figures with regard to the above scheme. During the first 6 months of the year applications were received from 164,250 officers of which £97,400 has so far been lent. The average completed loan to date for the 6 months to 31st July 1994 is £4,058.

Application forms with regard to the Halifax Loan Scheme are available from the Federation Office at Headquarters.

Your special Employee Rate is 15.9% APR which will now be further reduced to 13.9% APR when you protect your loan with Payment Protection Plan.

Examples of Halifax Personal Loan Repayment Terms

Unsecured loans £1,000 -

£7,500 No administration costs.

Monthly interest rate 1.095%

APR 13.9% With Payment Protection Plan.

Monthly interest rate 1.240%

APR 15.9% Without Payment Protection Plan.

Paternity Leave

THE Home Secretary has finally ratified a Police Negotiating Board agreement which allows male officers to take two days Paternity Leave six months before the probable date of birth and up to nine months after the birth of the child.

Plain Clothes

THE Home Secretary has approved the Police Negotiating Board agreement to adjust the annual rate of the plain clothes allowance. This is in line with the March to March movement in the male outer garment section of the Retail Prices Index from £252 to £258 and the corresponding hourly rate of 12.6p to 12.9p with effect from the 1st April 1994.

RAC Membership

FOLLOWING recent negotiations, the Police Federation of England and Wales have endorsed the an Employee Benefit Scheme with the RAC.

Details available from the Federation Office.

Zimbabwe visit

THREE senior officers from the Zimbabwe Republic Police have become the latest overseas guests of Essex Police.

In recent months the Force has received police visitors from countries including Swaziland, Sri Lanka, Brunei, Bangladesh, Albania and Russia, all interested in the way Essex Police operates.

The Zimbabwe officers visited last month to talk to senior Essex officers about training, corporate and strategic planning and personnel management - all in the

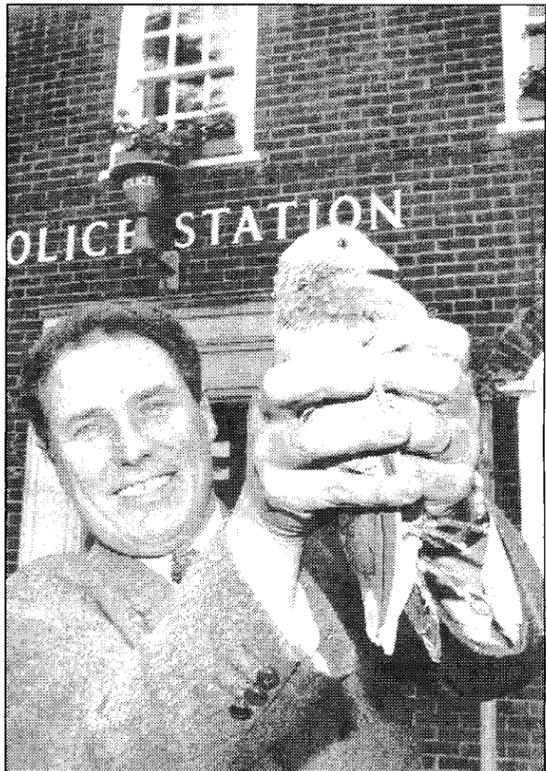
light of their forthcoming restructuring programme.

Their force has 20,000 police officers serving a population of 12.5 million, with a structure similar to the pre-Sheehy English forces.

The officers, including the Commissioner, visited several forces during their two-week stay in Britain, but Essex's record ensured the force was one of the first to be approached by the Home Office for help.

The visitors presented Essex Police with a plaque made from copper mined in Zimbabwe.

Jailbird sent home



● PC Mick Hall points the homing pigeon in the right direction.

POLICE in Witham made an unusual arrest earlier this month, a homing pigeon which had lost its way.

The jailbird was found huddled on the station's back doorstep early one morning. It surrendered into the custody of Crime Prevention Officer Mick Hall, while enquiries were made with pigeon racing associations.

The owner was traced to an address in Ipswich who asked officers to release the bird, once suitably refreshed, to make its own way home.

Essex Police Comrades Association

70th anniversary

Autumn Luncheon

on

Friday, October 28

at 1pm, Police HQ

(bar open from 12 noon)

Booking forms plus £9 cheque to

Dave Jones at the Federation

Office, HQ, by October 24.

Off beat

Air Mail delivery

AN item delivered to Superintendent Mick Hicks through the internal mail last month had him completely baffled - because it was sent more than three years ago!

Addressed to him at the Operational Support Group at HQ (which no longer exists), it had been sent from the Air Support Unit by Inspector Mike Walker in April 1991.

It contained briefing notes for an important meeting regarding the contract for the Force helicopter.

Supt. Hicks said: "This must be a world record for late mail. I can't imagine where the envelope had been because it was clean and unmarked."

He said both officers remembered the meeting and, despite the missing notes, it had been a success.

Wee chuckle

OFFICERS in the Information Room had a chuckle when a man reported that a lorry had shed its load of two portaloos on the A12 last month - the caller's name was Mr Flood!

Essex will pilot Street Watch

Essex Police is to set up Street Watch pilot schemes following the Home Secretary's announcement of a Partnership Against Crime initiative.

Mr Howard's campaign spells out ways in which the police and public can join forces, and is based on a three tier approach - Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch and Neighbourhood Constables.

There are already 130,000 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes nationally and it is thought that by the end of 1996 there could be as many as 200,000.

Street Watch is separate from Neighbourhood Watch and is based on local residents regularly walking specific routes, using their eyes and ears to help police and offering support to the elderly and vulnerable.

Finally the idea of Neighbourhood Constables is a variation of the existing Special Constabulary.

They are the same as specials - police-trained, uniformed volunteers with the full range of police powers - except they work in their own neighbourhood.

Assistant Chief Constable, Charles Clark, said: "We fully endorse the partnership. It is a considered, structured and systematic approach to tackling crime and other matters of community concern. We have been developing the areas suggested by the Home Secretary for several months and feel there is much to be applauded in its approach."

"I am concerned that Street Watch schemes do not disturb existing partnerships, nor should they raise public expectations or fears. They should merely be seen as putting some organisation and structure to responsible citizenship."

The first Essex schemes are expected to be piloted in Chelmsford, Thurrock and Colchester.



● **PARTNERS AGAINST DRUGS:** John Liptrot from Royal Mail Anglia (right) hands over the keys to the van, plus an assortment of "Hugs are better than drugs" freebies, to Assistant Chief Constable Charlie Clark at Police Headquarters.

Cartoon kids say no to drugs

TWO eye-catching cartoon characters are helping Essex Police to spread the anti-drugs message to youngsters.

The boy and girl characters, named Fay and Jo, adorn a new Ford Escort van bearing the slogan "Hugs are better than drugs", presented to the Force by Royal Mail Anglia.

The handover was timed to coincide with the launch of European Drug Prevention Week, which started on October 15.

A programme of activi-

ties across the county includes a newspaper supplement and a mass balloon launch.

Visible

Drug prevention education officer Inspector Dave Perry said: "The van will provide a highly visible sign that Essex Police not only endeavours to combat drug-related crime, but is also active within the community in raising

awareness of the threat of drug misuse, especially amongst the young."

Assistant Chief Constable Charlie Clark said: "It is estimated that dealing with the problems caused by drugs could be costing as much as £5 billion a year in Britain.

"The key to the problem is prevention and education, and we need to work in partnership with other agencies to tackle it."

Batons and vests go on trial

By Jenny
Grinter

ESSEX officers will soon be equipped with stab-resistant vests and long batons for a three-month trial.

Two different truncheons - the rigid side-handled baton and the ASP friction lock retractable baton - will be tested to give frontline officers the chance to decide which is most suitable.

Fifty of each type of baton have been ordered and these will be tested by

officers in the Chelmsford Division. Every operational officer in the division will be trained to use both types of baton (a total of three days training) enabling them to compare the two.

Three types of stab-resistant vest ranging from lightweight to full cover will be piloted. The lightweight vests will be tested in the Basildon, Grays and Southend divisions with

officers given the opportunity to wear them at any time.

The two heavier types of vest will be issued to every division, the full cover ones to be deployed for specific threatening situations and the intermediate vests to be carried in response vehicles.

The trials are due to get underway before Christmas, with the aim of identifying

the most suitable equipment to be issued throughout the force.

Assistant Chief Constable Geoff Markham said: "It is with some regret that the Force is to trial this equipment, but the number of assaults on police officers has increased by 49.2 per cent over the past four years.

"It is essential that offi-

cers who face these dangers on behalf of the people of Essex are given suitable protection."

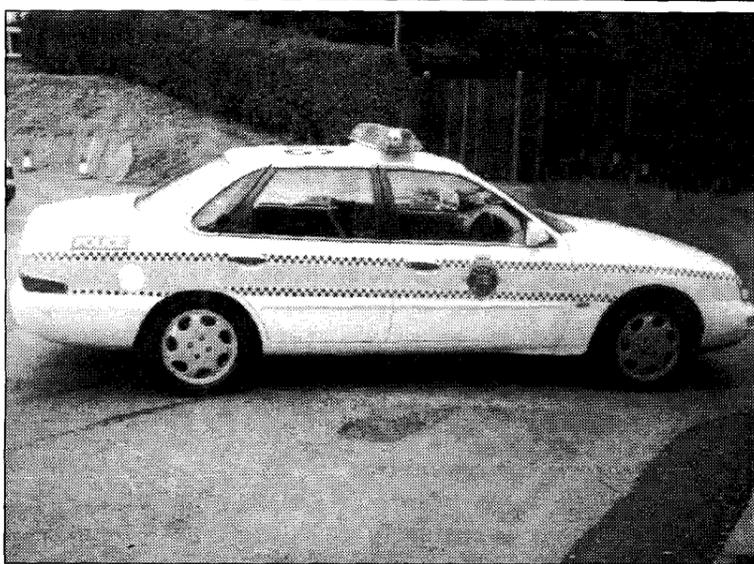
He stressed the force's determination to ensure the right equipment is provided. The results of scientific tests and pilot schemes by other forces have been studied, but the Essex trials are being held to involve our own officers in determining which equipment is appropriate for their needs.

Federation chairman Dave Jones said: "It is important for the officers on the streets to be able to determine what is the best equipment for them to use, rather than those who are not operational making these decisions for them."

"The purpose of this equipment is to enable officers to defend themselves, and when they are faced with confrontational situations, to deal with them without fear."

Pitsea-based Pc Chris Mathlin, 29, who spent five months off work after being stabbed in the back in December 1990, was keen to see the vests being introduced. He believed even the lightweight vest could have reduced his injuries considerably.

New Scorpio on patrol



● **The new Ford Cosworth Scorpio being tested by Essex Police.**

TRAFFIC officers in Essex are to test Ford's latest model, the 2.9 litre Cosworth Scorpio.

Two of the cars, which are only just available in showrooms, have been marked up in Essex Police livery, and should be on patrol by the beginning of November. One will be used by Bocking traffic section, the second will do the rounds of the Force's other traffic bases.

The new model, which replaces the old Granada, is faster, has a fully electronic automatic gear box, air-conditioning and traction control, which will improve handling in bad weather.

The Force is also testing two of the new V6-engined Mondeos, one marked up as a traffic car, and the other, unmarked, is with the Traffic

Investigation Unit.

Both types of Ford will get a thorough test, remaining in force until they have clocked up 100,000 miles.

A new Vauxhall Omega has also been tested on a short-term loan, and it is planned to buy this for use in advanced driver training, replacing a Senator.

Child victim relives rape nightmare

A 10-year-old girl relived a nightmare at Chelmsford Crown Court last week as a man went on trial for her vicious rape.

Ricky Antioch of Long Ridings, Pitsea, is said to have attacked the girl in a Basildon park as she ran to catch up a friend when she was just eight. He is also charged with raping a 13-year-old girl just months later, in May last year.

The court heard how the younger girl was dragged through bushes, stripped below the waist and raped as her attacker told her to keep quiet or be killed.

Months later, a second schoolgirl was approached by a man as she made her way home from school in Vange.

He is said to have held the girl at knifepoint before raping her in undergrowth.

Antioch denies any connection with the rape of the eight-year-old and claims intercourse took place with the older girl with her consent.

The trial is expected to conclude later this week.

Stress survey

A SURVEY about stress in the police service is being carried out by an Essex officer as part of her university degree course.

Inspector Jennifer Mitchell-Gibbs, who is studying psychology at Essex University, is doing the research for her final year dissertation.

She is sending an 8-10 page questionnaire to 1,000 randomly-selected officers of all ranks, through the internal post.

Jenni said, "All replies are anonymous, confidential, and will only be used for university research. The answers won't be disclosed to Essex Police, and will be analysed in such a way that no-one can be identified."

"If you receive a questionnaire please complete it as soon as possible and return it. It only takes about 20 minutes to complete."

Prison break raises £2,000 for charity

THREE Essex Police teams broke out from Chelmsford Prison earlier this month and fled to Spain, Holland and Germany to raise up to £2,000 for charity.

Teams from Laindon Traffic, Grays and Stansted Airport took part in the annual Jailbreak. The event is organised by the Essex Association of Boys Clubs, which receives half of all monies raised.

The aim was to get as many miles from the prison as possible before midnight without spending any money - and all reached their intended destination.

But for the exhausted Stansted team, getting back home was a different matter.

Flight

Pc Steve Daly admitted their effort almost failed to get off the ground when their original flight turned out to be fully booked.

Frantic faxes and calls secured a flight to Alicante in Spain, courtesy of British World Airlines, at the eleventh hour.

But the team of Steve, Pc June Saunders, and Jon Dunning from

Tyred out with pursuits

EVERY Essex Police traffic base is to get the latest device for bringing a swift and safe end to high speed pursuits.

The Force has ordered 14 'Stinger' devices, made up of hollow spikes which are designed to puncture the fleeing vehicle's tyres without causing a dangerous blow out.

The idea is that the tyres take 20 to 30 seconds to deflate, forcing the vehicle to slow down.

The Stinger devices, costing £400 each, pack away into a briefcase-sized carrying case, and come with replacement spikes which can be fitted instantly.

The Stingers should be available in force by Christmas, and every traffic officer will be trained

by Jenny Grinter

and authorised to use them. Initially each of the Force's seven traffic bases will have two Stinger devices.

Guidelines

The device has been approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers, which has issued guidelines for its use. It will be deployed in a pursuit situation on the authority of the Information Room inspector.

Stinger is designed so it can be thrown across the road in front of the speeding vehicle, opening up rapidly in a concertina motion, and can be retracted equally quickly before a pursuing police car or

innocent vehicle runs over it.

The hollow stainless steel spikes then break off in the suspect vehicle's tyres.

HQ-based traffic inspector Dave Howard said: "At present a high speed pursuit often ends up with damage caused to vehicles and with people getting injured.

"Stinger will bring the vehicle's speed down. It is easily handled, can be deployed instantly and removed rapidly, and it is extremely safe.

The device is already in use with some northern forces, and has received favourable reports.

Stansted Airport Cars, soon hit another snag. The return flight was overbooked. They eventually found space on a flight to Manchester.

When the threesome explained their predicament to Greater Manchester Police, the night turn inspector came to the rescue - setting up a relay of traffic cars through nine forces to return them to Essex.

The team hopes to have raised £500. Their chosen charity is the Infantile Hypercalcaemia Foundation.

Meanwhile things went more smoothly for the Laindon Traffic team of Pc John Kettley, Pc Steve Allum and HGV collator Linda Farrell, who travelled by transit van to Basildon's German twin town Heiligenhaus, arriving in time for a beer festival.

The van was loaned by M.J. Scott Transport of Wickford. Anatolia Shipping provided the Channel crossing.

Half of their fundraising total of around £800 will go to the Essex Police Widows and Orphans Fund

The third Essex Police team had reached Africa last year to win the prize for the furthest distance travelled. Pcs Carol Manning and Tony Boughey from Grays and Sgt Peter Redman, now based at Chelmsford, opted for a slightly less ambitious venture this year - but still managed to fly to Amsterdam.

Ford dealer R. T. Rate supplied transport to Gatwick, where Dutch airline Transavia did the rest. The team hopes collect £700, half of which will again go to the Coach House, a home for young physically handicapped people in Grays.

John wins top of the range fax-phone



WINNER of last month's Law competition was Headquarters-based John Hammond, picked from over 170 entries.

Pictured above is the presentation by Assistant Chief Constable Charlie Clark and Chris Grimsey, PR/Events Manager for BT, when John, from Southend, received his prize of a telephone/fax machine.

The top of the range British Telecom package is worth over £400.

Kids face up to real life dangers

Crucial Crew at Clacton

MORE than 700 students spent half a day at Highfields Holiday Park, Clacton, during the latest installment of Crucial Crew.

The object of the exercise was to show junior school children a series of real life situations and illustrate how to deal successfully with each one.

The dangers posed by building sites and railway lines were among the scenarios, while youngsters were taught what to do in the event of a fire and how much cost and time was needed to look after a pet.

Each group, aged between 10 and 12, was briefed before touring the sets and the youngsters were given a 'goody' bag once they'd completed the work.

Organisations involved



included Harwich Lifesaving Society, British Telecom, British Gas, Essex Ambulance Service and British Transport Police.

● ABOVE: A youngster is ticked off for playing on scaffolding in one of the Crucial Crew scenarios at Clacton.

Staging a crime warning

TALENTED pupils from Heddingham Comprehensive School are warning youngsters about the dangers of crime in a joint initiative.

With the help of Basildon Youth Theatre Group and the Halstead Crime Prevention Panel, the boys and girls, all aged 13 produced six short plays which they staged last week.

The idea came from headteacher Sue Anderson, who is a member of the Area Crime Prevention Panel, after a visit from the Basildon theatre group.

Members of the group teamed up with pupils in a series of workshops during which the students

wrote the plays.

Sue is delighted with the result: "The children have shown that they have an excellent perception of right and wrong and the plays pulled no punches. All major crime issues were tackled including joyriding, shoplifting and drugs.

"They fully recognise that peer pressure is one of the major reasons that youngsters get involved in crime and they have a very moralistic view of what should happen to those who succumb."

The school already has a student support group, whereby chosen pupils supply a type of counselling service to colleagues, and with this most recent theatre project it looks probable that a permanent Youth Crime Group will be set up in the school.

Pc Peter Caulfield, also on the Halstead panel, said: "Youth crime costs the taxpayer millions each year and if the messages in these plays get across, then it could make quite a difference to the quality of life in this area."

Kim White

Annual Policing Plan

WORK is underway to produce a draft Annual Policing Plan for next year, setting out the policing priorities for Essex.

The annual plan will be produced alongside the Force's Long Term Plan, which was explained in last month's Law, and will spell out targets for the year, spending proposals, and how the Force intends to measure its performance.

Superintendent Peter

Tanner, who has been tasked with putting together the 1995/96 plan explained, "The responsibility for publication of the Annual Policing Plan actually rests with the new Police Authority, but the Chief Constable is first required to produce a draft.

"The Plan will act as an agreement between Mr. Burrow and the Police Authority as to the policing priorities for Essex next year and, most importantly, will tell the people of Essex what policing services and stan-

dards they can expect to receive."

The annual plan is expected to reflect the Home Secretary's key objectives and the Force's own Key Operational Goals. It will include what finances are expected to be available and proposals on how the money will be spent.

At the end of the year the Chief Constable and the Police Authority will produce a report to show how successful the Force has been.



● Before and after

Bare faced cheek

NOW you see it, now you don't! Old seadog Peter Scott from Rayleigh Marine section lost his head in a charitable moment and agreed to bare his cheeks, and chin, after more than 20 years covered by a bushy beard.

Local officers and members of Peter's band Rayleigh Brass chipped in with £150 to persuade him to face the moment of truth.

The money went to Peter's chosen charity, the Little Havens Children's Hospice Appeal. Meanwhile Peter's colleagues report that the beard is back!

Fear of crime survey

HALSTEAD Crime Prevention Panel is to conduct a "Fear of Crime" survey in the town and surrounding villages.

The aim is to examine the public's perception of crime, and identify community concerns, before the panel sets its objectives for 1995.

Questionnaires will be available from the panel's exhibition stand which will be visiting various locations, or via Halstead Police Station.

Improve careers with new structure

THE ESSEX POLICE Restructuring Project has completed its recommendations following its review of police posts at Headquarters and sergeants' posts throughout the force.

The proposals are due to be implemented over a three-and-a-half year period, overseen initially by an implementation team of Inspector Lesley Chilcott and Moira Green.

Following the project's review of HQ, a reduction in police posts has been recommended. A combination of civilianisation and management reductions is proposed, which would reduce the number of chief inspectors, superintendents and chief superintendents by 13.

This would be in addition to senior police posts on divisions identified for replacement in the first phase of restructuring, leading to a 40 per cent reduction in senior police posts over the implementation period.

Opportunities

The aim is to reduce unnecessary layers of management and ensure police skills and powers are being best used. The recommended changes provide the opportunity to improve career structures and development opportunities for civilian staff.

However, it is suggested that a fundamental review of the force's civilian structure also needs to be carried out, but not before April 1998, when the current proposals should have been implemented.

This also allows for major projects such as the force's integrated computer system (EPICS) to come on line, which will have a significant impact on process units and CID administration offices.

As the management structure changes, the effects on first line managers of reduced numbers of senior posts will be carefully monitored, as will the force's overall command capability under the new structure. The size of command teams is also an area for continuous review.

The Restructuring Project's extensive review of the role and deployment of sergeants throughout the force has led to a small increase in the number of sergeants posts being recommended, with the emphasis being on the operational role.

The restructuring programme will be reviewed every six months to take account of influences such as new legislation.

Happy 25th birthday

TWENTY-FIVE years ago this month Princess Anne officially opened the Essex Police Cadet School.

After six years of planning the building, at police headquarters, was ready to open, heralding a new era of cadet training. Now that era is at an end, with the last cadets finishing their training in July this year.

But the future of the Essex Police Training Centre, as it is now known, looks secure, with more than 200 different courses on offer and 68,000 days of training given each year.

Before the Cadet School was built, cadets were attached to the station nearest their homes and training was at best haphazard.

The new facilities, which took the first intake of 16-year-old boy cadets in September 1969, were dominated by the six-storey dormitory block. The residential school was to be their home for the next two years.

Their programme included 20 hours education each week, plus adventure training, games and drill. Girl cadets at that time continued to work at the nearest police station to their homes, but spent two days a week at college and one at the Cadet School.

The building itself has changed little in the last 25 years, apart from the building of the Local Emergency Centre, which doubles up as an extra seminar room.

By the early 1970s it was in regular use for police training, and became the Force Training School in 1978.

It now has nine classrooms, plus the Interview Development Unit, which accommodate on average 150 students - both police and civilian - per week. There are 94 bedrooms, which are in regular use.

Courses range from one-day to five weeks with probationer training, sergeants' development, and computer training figuring strongly.

There are now 24 trainers, plus a further 20 at the Driving School and 11 in firearms training, which also come under the Training Centre



● Princess Anne tours the Essex Police Training School, not much older than some of its cadets.

Videos to be introduced into charge rooms

Cameras in custody

By Jenny Grinter

VIDEO recording is to be introduced in the charge rooms of some of Essex's busiest police stations.

Cameras will eventually be installed in the custody suites of all PACE-designated stations in the county in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Conversations

These will provide protection for custody officers as well as suspects by recording all conversations and activity in the charge room.

Although a national specification has not yet been produced, installation of equipment in selected Essex stations will start in the current financial year.

A range of options has been considered, from one camera covering the charge desk - which would leave blind spots - to covering all areas up to the doors of individual cells.

The Force has opted to introduce sufficient cameras to cover the entire charge room, excluding cell corridors.

Cover for areas where fingerprints and breathalyser readings are taken is also under consideration.

Which stations will be the first to go live has not yet been finalised, but money is available in this year's budget to equip at least three stations.

Senior officers have recommended starting with the busier stations.

Video monitors are already in place at Colchester, Braintree and Grays but these systems require upgrading to meet Royal Commission requirements before recording goes live.

In addition to initial work in charge rooms to fit cables and mountings, decisions have still to be taken regarding upkeep of equipment and storage of tapes.

Several other forces have already introduced video recording in custody suites.

After a pilot scheme in Staffordshire in 1989, custody officers themselves recognised the benefits and asked for the cameras to be made permanent because they improved the behaviour of prisoners and made their job easier.

Letters

Adjusting to retirement

MAY I through your columns thank all friends and colleagues who very kindly contributed to my retirement gifts and hope that all who attended my party enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

After a lovely holiday in Canada, it's now back to reality. My dog Strachan cannot understand retirement and keeps trying to practise on my arm!

Thank you all once again - and keep the paperwork to a minimum.

Colin Ball.

Thanks for the support

MAY I take this opportunity of offering my sincere thanks to the overwhelming number of police colleagues who attended John's funeral.

The children and I drew great comfort from such support on what was, for us all, a very sad occasion.

The police service represented such an important part of John's life and he would have been so proud and honoured to see so many former colleagues present.

It was touching to see so many people, some of whom had travelled some distance, to say their good-byes to John.

I must mention special thanks to George Florence, a personal family friend, for such a moving tribute in his address at the church service.

My thanks also to the many people who have telephoned and written with messages of sympathy and support.

Maureen Clark,
Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea.

Shield trials

OVER the last six months 125 shields have been carried in response vehicles and the public order unit at Headquarters now have the task of reviewing its success.

To complete the review the unit needs feedback from those officers who have either used the shields or deployed them.

A short, informal report stating the date, time and brief circumstances of the incident will suffice. It should be accompanied with comments as to whether the shields were of benefit, whether the officer felt safe etc.

The idea is to examine whether the shields should be available on all patrol vehicles.

Send your reports to Sgt Ian Ellison or Sgt Malcolm Ding at Headquarters or fax it on 2831.

Protection from bogus callers

A SAFFRON Walden constable has launched a new scheme aimed at protecting the town's elderly from bogus callers, writes Jenny Grinter.

Safecaller was devised by Pc James Reeves-White, who joined the force less than three years ago.

Vulnerable

The scheme encourages vulnerable people to ring the local police station if they doubt the identity of a caller claiming to be from the telephone, gas, electric or water authorities.

A directory of representatives from these utilities, plus a 24-hour contact number, is held at the police station, so police can quickly verify if the caller is genuine.

The scheme was launched last month at Walden Place, a warden-assisted complex of 28 elderly people's flats in the town.

It is being publicised to elderly people's groups, and *Safecaller* stickers bearing the police station number are available from the district council offices. These were sponsored by local company UTP.

If *Safecaller* proves a



● A SAFER PLACE: Pc James Reeves-White introduces Walden Place resident Mrs Doreen Culver (75) to the *Safecaller* scheme.

Safecaller scheme will help elderly to know whether callers are genuine

success, it is hoped to run the scheme in other areas.

Pc Reeves-White said: "It is notoriously difficult for residents to find the correct telephone number in the directory

in order to contact the company that a caller claims to represent. Faced with the prospect of keeping the caller waiting impatiently on the doorstep, many simply allow him or her to enter without challenge.

"By calling the police station number on the sticker, which can be prominently displayed, the resident will be connected to an Essex Police employee who will quickly check the credentials of a caller.

"The scheme has obvious crime prevention benefits as well as providing a useful and reassuring service to the community."

Major makes debut at airport



● Picture courtesy of Stansted Airport Ltd.

IN THE week the Government launched its *Partners Against Crime* initiative, Prime Minister John Major seized the opportunity to be photographed with Beat Supervisors Chris Gould and Mick Turrell of the Essex Special Constabulary.

The Harlow-based officers were on duty at Stansted Airport for Mr Major's visit last month, when he presented a gift to the one millionth Air UK passenger using the airport this year.

Despite the proximity of his Cambridgeshire constituency, it was the Prime Minister's first visit to Stansted to see the new terminal.

The visit came two days after the launch of *Partners Against Crime*, which promoted the Special Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch and the controversial Streetwatch scheme.

A better response for Epping and Ongar

CHANGES in the way Essex police officers are deployed in the Epping Forest area are being introduced at the end of the month in a bid to provide a better response to incidents throughout the section.

Although there will be no overall change in the number of constables policing the area, the redeployment will provide increased cover for Nazeing and Roydon.

The changes are being introduced as a result of the Force restructuring in April. This brought into the Epping section all parts of the Epping Forest District Council area policed by Essex (the Waltham Abbey area is the responsibility of the

Metropolitan Police). Previously Nazeing, Roydon, Sheering and Matching were covered by Harlow Police.

Subsequently a six-week study of the distribution of crime and the numbers of incidents attended by police in the section showed that half took place in Epping, a quarter in Ongar, with the lion's share of the remaining quarter being in Roydon and Nazeing.

Clearly with 20 uniformed constables based at Ongar and just three covering Nazeing and Roydon there was a need for change, but without weakening the traditionally strong policing presence in Ongar.

Have you got a grievance?

EVERYONE should now be well aware of the Essex Police grievance procedure. What you may not be aware of is that there is a network of advisors across the county to lend an ear.

No matter how formal or informal the grievance any of the advisors can explain to you the best avenue to take to settle it as early as possible and in a way that best suits you.

In all there are 17 advisors in the network and anyone with a grievance is not bound to choose one from their division. A police officer can also seek advice from officer or civilian and vice versa.

The force is in favour of the grievance procedure which is fully backed by ACPO. It is in fact Home Office directives which pre-empted the network.

And anyone using its facilities can be guaranteed confidentiality.

One advisor Val Fitz-John, from Harlow explained: "Each time we are approached we have to submit a form to Ian Watson, Equal Opportunities Officer. But the form is purely for monitoring purposes and doesn't in any way identify either the person complaining or the person they're complaining about.

"Just knowing what the problem is gives Ian Watson the chance to identify any patterns or consistent complaints."

The network is worked around the needs of the complainant who can choose to see an advisor face to face, via the telephone, in or out of work time.

By the end of this month everyone should have received further notification of the network in their payslips.

Advisors

Christopher MacIntosh - 2754
Ellen Collen - 2838
Ian Lodge - 2753
Katharine Sale - 2526
Lesley Chilcott - 51076
Stephen Warwick - 2752
Wendy Welham - 2759
Jacqueline Cheer - 3922
David Birkett - 3222
Margaret Ginn - 3502
Susan Jenkins - 4622
Frank Holden - 4508
Mark Schofield - 4522
Tim Enstone - 4861
Christine Thomerson - 5505
Trevor Williamson - 5693
Valerie Fitz-John - 5658

Don't deprive officers of protection

PUBLIC order officers are being deprived of vital protective equipment because colleagues have failed to return unused kits.

Restructuring from six to 10 divisions means the lists of level 2 officers have altered. But some 45 kits are now outstanding, likely to be with officers no longer on the lists.

The public order unit has no budget available to replace the equipment and with each kit valued at £300 it is essential they are returned.

Anyone in possession of public order equipment should return it via their liaison officer on division or direct to Sgts Ian Ellison and Malcolm Ding at Headquarters.

N.A.R.P.O. Notes by Doug Rampling

AS predicted conference passed a motion to increase annual fees as from the January 1, 1995, to £10.80 per year for full membership. However the rate of precept paid by branches will remain at 40%.

There was considerable debate on the subject of finances before the motion was passed and it was pointed out that to produce the proposed new style magazine the sum of £60,000 would be needed.

A motion to increase subscriptions to £12 was defeated and a motion seeking to find less expensive conference venues was carried.

A full report will appear in the next national bulletin.

Christmas Get Together

CHELMSFORD Branch shall be holding their usual pre-Christmas get-together in bar and main dining room at Headquarters on December 2.

The buffet will be on the same lines as last year and the price will remain at £5.50 per head.

Christmas Social

COLCHESTER Branch are holding their Christmas Social on December 16 at Colchester Police Station and have extended an invitation to Chelmsford Branch for some 10 or so couples to go along. If you would like to go please let me know.

Sally Line Ferries Discount

THE 15% discount offered by Sally Line to NARPO members can only be obtained by Telesales through Going Places Direct Telephone: Stockport 061 474 7575 or Peterborough 0733 311311. These numbers are only ones currently available and any previously published numbers should be disregarded.

IPA News by Gordon Oakley

WE would like to thank the members of the choir for the continued response for our appeal for cakes on Fun Day and thanks to you all for helping.

Diary Dates:

November 3 - Quiz night at Grays Bar, starts at 8pm.
December 9 - Christmas Dinner at Lantern Restaurant, Elm Road, Leigh at 7.30pm for 8pm. Please call a committee member if you are coming as we have to finalise members.

A working retirement

FORMER Colchester divisional commander Robin Blackmore retires this month after 30 years service with Essex Police to pursue his involvement in development work with young people and adults.

Chief Superintendent Blackmore, 49, has headed the North review team since its formation under the Force's restructuring earlier this year. He had previously served as head of Colchester Police since September 1992.

Mr. Blackmore's police career started in Harlow in 1964. His links with Colchester, where he has lived for the past 25 years, were forged when he studied for a degree in social studies at the University of Essex for three years.

Returning to the Force as an inspector, he served both in uniform and CID at Colchester, before transferring to Special Branch at Harwich port.

He became head of Special Branch, based at Headquarters, on promotion to

Retirements

ESSEX Police extends its good wishes to the following officers and support staff who are retiring:

- Sgt **George Campbell**, Brentwood Traffic, 31 yrs (16.10.94).
- Sgt **Peter Parkman**, Rayleigh Traffic, 33 yrs (28.10.94).
- Sgt **Bernard Yeulett**, Crown Court Liaison, 30 yrs (30.10.94).
- Sgt **John Breen**, HQ CSB, 30 yrs (13.11.94).
- Pc **Caroline Crouchman**, HQ CID, 6 yrs (9.10.94).
- Pc **David Keenan**, Southend, 30 yrs (11.10.94).
- Pc **James Pearce**, Driving School, 30 yrs (16.10.94).
- Pc **David Sawford**, Harlow, 29 yrs (7.10.94).
- Pc **Sylvester McMahon**, Colchester, 23 yrs (6.11.94).
- Pc **John Miller**, Stansted Airport, 25 yrs (31.10.94).
- Veda **Gurnett**, Crown Court Liaison, 12 yrs (6.11.94).



● **Robin Blackmore.**

Chief Inspector in 1979. Two years later, he was promoted to become sub-divisional commander at Chelmsford.

In 1983, he was seconded to the Police Staff College, Bramshill, where he helped promote management skills across a range of national courses and was involved in the development of policing objectives.

He then served as deputy divisional commander at Colchester, and after spells at HQ, Basildon, Chelmsford, and six months as Acting Assistant Chief Constable, he returned to take charge at Colchester.

Mr. Blackmore currently runs the local support group for NCH Action for Children and is a member of Rotary International, the Association of Management, Education and Development (AMED), St. Georges Chapel at Windsor Castle and Henley Management College.

He will now become further involved in development programmes for young people and adults through this network which includes work with schools, colleges and associations.

Oldest pensioner dies aged 95

EX-CHIEF Superintendent George Hodges, believed to have been the oldest Essex Police pensioner, died earlier this month at the age of 95.

Born in London in 1899, Mr. Hodges joined Essex County Constabulary in 1920 after serving with the London Rifle Brigade in Belgium and France during World War I. He retired 35 years ago.

Mr. Hodges served with Essex Police for 39 years, taking responsibility for all war duties within the force during World War II.

By then a Superintendent, Mr. Hodges dealt with the organisation and training of Air Raid Wardens, and was also responsible for communications. Later he wrote a book

about bomb damage in the county.

Mr. Hodges' second wife Dorothy was the Force's first woman Chief Inspector, and head of the women's police department. A portrait he painted of her hangs in the Essex Police museum.

Mr. Hodges' flair for administrative work was recognised early, and after two years as a beat constable in Chelmsford, he was appointed to the clerical staff at Headquarters.

That was in 1922, when the total establishment at HQ was ten police officers and one civilian (a cook). Mr. Hodges was one of four constables tasked with keeping force records and dealing with correspondence.

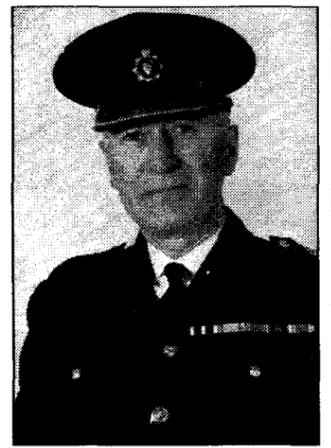
As war approached, Mr. Hodges was selected to go to

Gloucestershire for training in air raid precautions and, on his return, travelled around the force complete with his smelling bottles and protective clothing to train others. He was awarded the merit badge for his "exceptional initiative and ability" in organising this training.

After the war, Superintendent Hodges took charge of all training at headquarters, rapidly replacing classroom lecturing with demonstrations and other visual means.

In 1951 he was promoted and took charge of administration. Shortly before he retired his distinguished service was recognised by the award of the Queen's Police Medal.

Mr. Hodges was also chairman of the Essex Police Magazine Committee.



● **Mr George Hodges.**

Obituaries

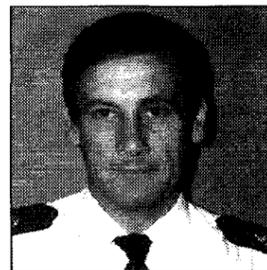
THE Force extends its sympathies to the families of the following officers:

Ex-Sgt Henry Bennett, from Norfolk, who retired in 1966 and died 20.9.94 aged 77.

Ex-Pc Norman Self, from Thundersley, who retired in 1967 and died 16.9.94, aged 71.

Ex-Pc Walter Glenn, from Thorpe Le Soken, who retired in 1986 and died 9.7.94, aged 63.

Ex-Lawrence Fletcher, from Corringham, who retired in 1975 and died 22.7.94, aged 72.



● **Roy Giddings.**

OFFICERS were shocked this week by the sudden death of Roy Giddings at his Maldon home.

Roy, an Inspector until his retirement in April this year, was a well-respected member of the force.

Having joined in 1963 he worked at several divisions across the county earning promotion to sergeant in 1971.

Just seven years later he became inspector and couldn't have been happier when he was made section

commander to his home town.

During his 30 years service he received three commendations and was well known for his specialist knowledge in licensing law.

In fact he had set up a consultancy providing advice on this and other matters shortly before he died.

He was also one of the first officers, along with Pc Lloyd Brown, to ever be shadowed by a journalist and reporter out on patrol, back in 1974.

In his spare time he

enjoyed shooting, walking and other outdoor pursuits.

Friend and colleague for 18 years, Ch/Insp David Hull, said: "Roy was a very private man but had a good sense of humour."

"Living and working in the same area he became a very good community police officer and was both well liked and well respected throughout the town."

Roys leaves wife Pamela, better known as Liz, and three sons.

His funeral was held on Monday at St Mary's Church, Maldon.

Market Place . . . Market Place . . .

CARAVAN Tourer Swift Danette, 1984, sleeps five, includes awning, 250 miles total, excellent condition, £3,000. Contact Chris Labbett on 0992 575791.

CHILDREN'S 11+ and English tuition, friendly, small class, from 7yrs onwards. Contact Margaret on 0245 265987.

FORD Capri Cabaret 1600, Y reg, MOT, blue metallic, good condition, £500 ovno. Contact Sgt Seymour on 0245 491491, Ednet 2736 or 0268 696915.

GOOD quality dried flower arrangements made to order. Also table arrangements for weddings, retirements etc. Good prices, contact Debbie on 0621 840110.

HITACHI Colour TV. 21 inch, perfect working order, one owner from new, £45. Contact DI Phil Mellon on 0279 641212, Ednet 5551.

LANDROVER Series 2A, diesel, 1972, short

wheelbase, truck cab with canvas tilt, long MOT, good condition, £1,295 ono. Contact Ds Bull on 0206 762212, Ednet 4439.

LEARN French easily using left and right brain. Accelerated learning tapes (12) in case with handbooks. Virtually brand new. Cost £90, accept £55. Contact maureen Scollan on 0376 516548.

NISSAN Micra 1.0 LX, 5 door, white, excellent condition, 1992 'K', low mileage. Used as second car, £5,800. Contact 0245 460306.

ONE bedroom corber house in Stanway, Colchester. Own garden two parking spaces, gas heating, close to shops, easy access to A12, £39,995. Contact Pc Youngs on 0206 822082.

SOMERSET Character cottage, self catering. Tastefully furnished. Short breaks, mini breaks, two nights.

Edge of Exmoor, one-half miles from coast. Two persons £25 per night, Four persons £40 per night. Contact Marie Milnes on 0984 632194.

SUN LAMP, full length, 6ft folds away for easy storage, £60. Contact 0245 460306.

SUNBED. Curved top and bottom, 18 tubes double, pine wood frame, timer, £275.

Contact 0702 522493.
TENERIFE Playa De Las Americas. Luxury Apartment 25.11.94 to 2.12.94, all facilities, well run club. Overlook beach, £300. Contact Mike on 0245 362784.
YAMAHA Clavinova CPL250 digital piano, as new. Cost £1,000, take £450. Tel: Mick Franklin on 0621 840110 or 0245 320333.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed

Team hooks second place

A TEAM of six anglers representing Essex went to Nottingham last month and three days of practice saw the team mastering the river and finding methods that would catch us fish on the day.

For Dave Creighton-Smith, FSU this was completely new as he had never fished the river before, and after his initial shock at the size and power of the river, was starting to get to grips with it. Wednesday practice found the river rising due to the rain and it rained solidly all day and night.

On Wednesday evening we attended Nottingham University for a forum presented by the England Team Manager, Dick Clegg. We were greeted with bad news that the river was up two-and-a-half feet and still rising. He told us the normal heavy methods would not work and it would be down to scratching for small fish in a slack water you could find.

Thursday morning at the university found policemen from all over the country searching lawns and flower beds for big Lobnorns which Dick Clegg had said would be the only hope on some of the sections.

Scratching

"Tab" Bud Hunter arrived back to say he had drawn Peg No. 21, more or less in the middle and with three Met Police Teams on 20-19-18 we knew we had a lot to do.

The river came up another 2 feet during the match and the Essex Police team stuck to scratching for small fish, as we arrived back at the minibus we started to add up our points, just one failed to catch which gave us an extra 37 points to add on.

A total of 60 points, average 10 points a man in the conditions was excellent. Tales from all sections came back with lots of blanks, and many disappointed anglers.

We arrived late at the presentation evening and the meal had started, there was quite an excitement amongst the team as we asked everyone we knew how they had got on.

The individual results came first with Graham Garnham (Colchester) 5th place overall, it was a good start.

The section results were next with Graham again going forward for second in his section.

The team results were the biggest surprise with Essex coming in second, the first time a south east police team had done so well. The winners were South Yorks with 51 points.

A brilliant performance in very difficult conditions, a canal next year, who knows we can only go one better.

The team consisted of: Tab Hunter (HQ Traffic), Phil Brochen (Westcliff CID), Steve Adams (Benfleet), Dave Creighton-Smith (FSU), Graham Garnham (Colchester) and myself Alan Diver (Halstead).

The thrill of the chase



● The Capri driven by Andy Ewings. Picture courtesy of Steve Jones.

Dangerous sports seem to be growing in popularity. Last month we saw a team of Essex officers braving the element in a gruelling yacht race. This month we see Benfleet constable Andy Ewings travelling at break-neck speeds around Brand Hatch in a Capri.

Andy is just coming to the end of his first full season as a semi-professional in the British Touring Cars Group 1.

Drivers in this class use vehicles as close to a standard road car as possible with all vehicles built before 1983.

Andy's personal choice is a 1982 Ford capri 2.8 injection in which he reaches speeds of 145 to 150mph.

He first became interested in the sport several years ago when he visited a local rally cross.

Andy explained: "The next week I went to see the Saloon Car Cup. I had a Capri at the time and decided to give it a go."

And his one regret is the cost. With race entries about £100 each time and four tyres lasting just two races it all starts to add up. Throw in the oil, fuel, cost of support vehicles etc and there's little change from £13,000 each season.

Races vary from about 20 to 30 miles to 150 miles with Andy doing most of the driving. On occasional races the driving is shared with friend Martin Dolan. But it isn't Andy who takes all the glory.

He said: "It's not down to my driving ability. A lot of it's down to the strength

By Kim White

of the car which is why I have a crew of 10 people each a specialist in his own right."

As a response driver in the force he obviously has an advantage but says the techniques do differ.

He explained: "The main difference I have found is the steering. Racing you hold the wheel at a quarter to three and don't let go at any time. You also brake and change gear at the same time.

Serious injuries

"I have taken a couple of traffic men to Boreham and as I approached bends they would be braking in the passenger side and I wouldn't be braking until four seconds later. They didn't seem very comfortable.

"The only advantage from police driving is learning to keep the car smooth."

Thankfully Andy hasn't suffered any serious injuries although he has been known to crash.

With one race left this season on the 23rd Snetterton he is already looking to next season and raising more sponsors.

Among his current sponsors are Capri Sport, Leda Suspension, Demon Tweeks, Mobil 1, The Engine Tuner, Dunlop Motor Sport and Quest Mead.

If anyone knows of a company or individual that would like to help out financially or through services and equipment, contact Andy at Benfleet Police Station.

Force Sports Association

Force lottery

THE result of this month's lottery is as follows:

£1,500 Christine Baars, HQ ECRO, £1,000 Sgt Micheal Beale, Chelmsford Traffic, £500 Walter Thurgood, Personnel, £300 DS Ian Setevenson, RCS Brentwood, £200 Pc Stephen Rombaut, Rayleigh Marine, £100 Ch/Supt John Ryhmes, HQ.

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes: Pc Alan Shelley, Tilbury, Pc David Outtridge, Rayleigh, Sally Elvin, Harlow, Jill Kerton, Chelmsford, Pc John Batchelor, Southend, Pc Rodney Walker, HQ, Ch/Insp Paul Adams, HQ, Lois Baker, Harlow, DS David Gilbey, Southend, Pc Matthew Garratt, Colchester, Jenifer Freeman, Clacton, and Traffic Warden Teresa Parkinson, Westcliff.

Squash selection

PC Jason Foster, Harlow, was selected to represent the British Police in a Quadrangular Squash Tournament against the fire service, army and Navy.

Bowling discount

GX Superbowl, Widford Industrial Estate, Chelmsford, are offering all members of the Sports Association special rates for 10-pin bowling.

These are daytime £1.50 per game including shoes and evening £1.75 per game including shoes.

Members wishing to take advantage of this must get a compliment slip, available from the Force Sports Secretary. The facility is for members only and not open to families.

Shop closure

THE Force Sports shop will be closed between November 8 and November 23 due to sports secretary Chris Jacob being away.

National wrestling

THE PAA National Wrestling Championships will be held on November 12 at Southampton. Any officer wishing to enter contact the sports secretary.

Freshwater angling

THE Croker Cup Freshwater Abgling championships will be held on November 9, at Brook Hall Fishery, Tiptree. Teams of two per division. Additional teams may enter at their own expense. All entries to Pc Robert Hunter, Chelmsford TRaffic, before November 1.

Croker cricket

THE Croker Cup Cricket final was held at Wickford last month between Southend and Harlow, won by Southend. Six Croker Cup points to Southend, four to Harlow.

Sea Angling

THE National PAA Sea Angling Championships were held at Colwyn Bay, North Wales last month.

The team event was won by Essex. This consisted of Sgt Anthony Moore, Pc Clive Skingsley, Pc Roger Cockett, an DC Leslie Blackburn. Pc Cockett also came runner up in the individual event.

Race walking

THE Croker Cup Race Walk scheduled for November 6 has been postponed due to operational commitments.

Walking to victory

DUE to clashes with other events, sickness and family commitments the running section were only able to field three instead of the four required for a team in the PAA 10 mile races in Humberside last month.

Alex Vowles went off fast and kept up a good pace. Ian Jennings started more slowly but then linked up with a faster moving group and worked his way through the field to overtake Alex in the final part of the race. Ian finished 110th and Alex 112th.

Brian Murnaghan started well but his left foot lost all circulation at seven miles.

The competitors were treated to the sight of Brian, with his shoe off, beating his foot back to life. He recovered well and finished in a creditable 147th place.

The walking section were able to field a full team consisting of Denis Sheppard, Steve King, Paul Warriner and John McCabe.

The walk started in a gale force wind and driving rain but the weather improved after about half-an-hour.

The team split naturally into two pairs with Denis and Steve racing each other near the front leaving Paul and John to help each other round further back. Denis managed to establish a one-and-a-half minute lead over Steve and finished second. Steve took third place.

Paul and John were joint 6th to clinch the team prize for Essex. John was third veteran. This means that Essex won prizes for 2nd and 3rd places, 3rd vet and 1st team - not a bad result.

THE LAW

The Law was edited this month by Jenny Grinter and Kim White. Published by Essex Police HQ, Chelmsford. Tel: 491491 ext 2450/2453 Printed by The Essex Chronicle Series, Westway, Chelmsford.

Next Issue

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