

The

Law

including Essex Police Magazine



Copacabana!
See the show,
meet the cast
- see page 9

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

July 1995

No 261

Housing scheme throws up tax loophole

Tax shock for discount buyers

A RETIRED Essex Police officer has said he would rather go to prison than pay a tax bill for a discounted police house he bought in 1987.

Andy Kerr from Hockley looks likely to face a bill of at least £4000 if the Inland Revenue carries out its threat to charge him tax for the amount between the discount price and the market value of his house at the time of purchase.

Assistant Chief Constable, Charles Clark has personally written to 271 affected officers, many of whom are retired, warning them to expect a letter from the Inland Revenue. In his letter he states the responsibility for payment of the bill lies with the purchaser rather than the Police Authority.

Blunder

But Andy Kerr says he is livid with the blunder and says the whole thing is morally wrong. "It's the principle of it, eight years after buying the house I'm told I have to pay this, nothing was mentioned of any

By Ian Deal

possibility of paying tax when I bought the house. They wanted to get the houses off their hands, a house isn't a perk it's a necessity, why has it taken them so long to come to this decision?" he said.

Andy who was in the service for 16 years, bought his three bedroom semi for £20,250. He now works as a security chauffeur, he is married and still has his son living at home and says he can't afford the bill.

"I don't intend to pay it, I will take whatever it takes to avoid paying, I will even go to prison if necessary. It's nothing more than gross inefficiency all round, it should have been seen as a legal problem by County Hall, no-one can afford that amount of money in one go," he said.

It's likely that other officers could face even larger bills, some could have to pay up to £14,000.

Welfare officer Derek Lee said: "We have received a number of calls to the Welfare Office from people expressing very serious concern and worry at what is likely to happen. It is an amount of money they are unlikely to be able to pay. We are closely monitoring the implications of the financial burdens on police officers."

The question of why Essex Police was not warned of the likely tax implications of the discount



● Morally wrong! Andy Kerr and wife Margaret outside the discounted police house they bought eight years ago which now they may have to pay tax on. Picture courtesy of Peter Davies.

scheme is also being asked by the Police Federation. Secretary, Brian Pallant said: "At this moment in time we are still awaiting legal advice, until we get that advice we don't know which way we are going to turn.

Concerned

"We will be writing to officers to give them details when we are in a position to do so, we will fight tooth and nail to protect our members interests.

"When the letter went out to officers our phones were very busy, I can understand their feelings, they are concerned as anyone would be if they had a letter to say that they may have a tax bill on a property they bought perhaps 10 to 15 years ago in some cases.

"We will be looking to see if the bill should be picked up by the home owners or the Police Authority."

The first indication Essex Police had of the likely tax implications

came from the Sussex force last November. They were looking at starting a discount housing scheme to shift surplus police houses in the county.

Essex Police Financial Services Manager, Alan Golding said: "The Sussex Police Authority treasurer told us they had taken advice from the Inland Revenue that home buyers would be liable to pay tax on any discount they are offered on the sale. This was something that had not been considered by Essex Police when the scheme was set up in the early 80's but I don't think it is fair that the current Police Authority should be held responsible."

Demands

It's believed the selling of police houses was seen as a similar scheme to that of the selling of council housing though it's thought the fact that police officers do not pay rent on the property may have some bearing on the tax demands.

Alan Golding said: "It is very early days, there is lots of water to go under the bridge before anyone will have to pay anything."

Now Alan Golding is working closely with the treasurer of the Police Authority to jointly push forward a number of arguments on behalf of officers.

"No officer should make any payment or admit any liability whatsoever. If anyone receives a letter from the Inland Revenue of has anything which concerns them they can phone me on extension 50800," said Alan.

"Many people have rung very distressed and upset. The Inland Revenue has expressed concern about the effects this news is having on people."

Already the Finance Department has taken over 50 calls from worried parties including several police widows directly affected by the tax ruling.

It's Fun-Day on Sunday

WE'RE counting down the days to one of the county's biggest event of the year - the Essex Police Fun-Day.

As usual the day is packed with displays and side-stalls to keep the whole family enthralled with all the proceeds going towards local charities.

An attraction for the first time this year is polo cross with an appearance by the Essex All-Blacks.

Other displays include free-fall parachuting, formation dancing, music, the Essex FM Roadshow and the Pilgrim Dog Team.

A Battle of Britain fly-past should round off the fun.

Due to the amount of animals involved in this year's event only guide dogs will be admitted to the sports ground.

Charities benefiting from Fun-Day are Little Haven Children's Hospice, BLISS, Essex Voluntary Association for the Blind, Action for Kids, Multiple Sclerosis Society, The Gateway Trust, Home Safety Campaign, Ramsey Lodge, The Essex Autistic Society School, Victim Support, Barry Kennedy Cancer Charity, Friends of Lancaster School, Elizabeth Venture Playscheme, EASBAH, Huw Johnson Club, Dial A Dream, Sporting Chances for Children, RAD, Hargreave House, National Association of Colitis and Crohns Disease sufferers and Teenex Drug Camp.

Programmes bought in advance of Sunday will cost £1, on the day they will cost £1.50. Children and OAPs enter free. Programmes will also be available at the Pensioners' Garden Party on Friday.

The only thing Essex Police can't guarantee is the weather.

For those who want to join in the fun early the Graz Police Band will be performing in the marquee from 8pm on the Saturday, admittance free.

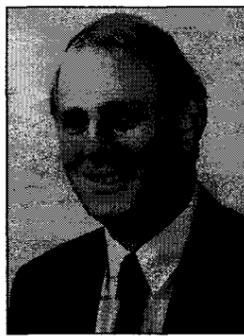
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It has been a difficult year



● By Brian Pallant

Tax changes

ADVICE from Sid Foster, our financial consultant, at George Burrows Group Insurance:

You may have noticed the television and press advertising by the Inland Revenue drawing attention to this new system.

From April 1996, all taxpayers are obliged by law to keep records of their income and capital gains to enable them to complete a tax return.

These have to be kept, usually until 22 months after the end of the tax year to which they relate.

Guidance will be available soon from the Revenue on what sort of records will need to be kept.

According to the Revenue this new system, Self Assessment, will be a more straightforward, efficient and clear way of working out tax. It stresses that it is not of course a new tax.

A new style of tax return will be sent out in April 1997.

claims settled with compensation paid of £699,553.33.

There have been problems with regard to whether we are operating under the new tariff scheme or not. The scheme was introduced last year, but after legal action by Trade Unions it has now been withdrawn and the Government is looking at a new scheme.

This has obviously caused Mick considerable extra work and I would like to thank him for all his good work. It is reflected in a considerable increase both in the CICB claims settlement figure of £56,00 and on the Civil Claims side with an increase of more than double. Finally, in the first quarter of 1995 there were 13 new CICB claims and 11 new civil.

Legal expenses with Hambro

This appears to be working well and gives good advice and service.

525 calls were answered by the Help desk during 1994 covering some 30 different areas. This was an increase of 76 calls.

The major concerns were: consumer disputes - 101, boundary disputes - 35; accident - 30; car crash damage only - 47; matrimonial - 31; insurance - 17; Child Support Agency - 28.

Loan scheme improved

HALIFAX has improved its personal loan scheme and at the same time made it easier for Federation members to apply.

Minimum loan lowered to £500 and maximum raised to £10,000.

Protect loan repayments with the optional payment protection plan and the interest rate drops to 13.9%, 2% below the normal preferential rate.

By calling the personal loan Helpline on 0800 136013, your application will take just a few minutes and the loan can be arranged within hours.

As an added bonus, one year's free membership of Green Flag National Breakdown is included if the loan is used to purchase a vehicle.

For further details contact the Federation Office on ext 54555.

tinue to provide insurance.

4. Weekend breaks. These proved a success in 1994 and the scheme has been extended to include a new voucher scheme covering the Friendly Hotel and Jarvis Hotel groups. Details from Marilyn Carr on ext 54555.

5. Financial advice. Surgeries have been held with free financial advice from Sid Foster of George Burrows Group Insurance. Appointments can be made through the Federation or Sid direct.

6. Group Insurance. Run by George Burrows Group Insurance, I would advise any officer who is not a member, or who does not have his wife insured to contact the office. From renewal, there is the facility for officers retiring to continue their cover, albeit at a reduced rate. Details from Irene Black on ext 54560. The current rates that are payable are: life insurance payable on death from any cause - £77,750; accident insurance - £10,000; permanent total disablement - £20,000; temporary disablement up to 104 weeks, excluding seven days - £10 per week.

Retired officers or members leaving at normal retirement can continue with cover at 50 per cent until the age of 65.

The rates are due for renewal in June 1996. At present your JBB is looking at the problems that the new sickness regulations will bring to members who may have to go on half pay after six months long term sick. We are obtaining quotes with regard to compensation. It may be that we decide to incorporate this within the injury benefit - £13,267.16.

CICB and Civil Claims
MICK Englefield, our Claims Secretary, has successfully recovered the following amounts: CICB claims - 52 claims with a total settlement of £264,931; Civil claims - 41

You can stand for the parish

IN the past, officers have enquired as to whether they can stand as parish councillors. When asking for permission they have always been refused by the Force.

This matter has recently been taken up nationally and, as a result, I am pleased to say that the Home Office has changed its view and relaxed the regulations.

I reproduce for information the contents of a letter recently received from Ian Smith in the Home Office.

"We are content for police officers to become active in parish council issues, including standing for election as parish councillors.

Taking an active interest in parish council issues provides an extra, helpful dimension to strengthening police links with local communities and is very likely to be mutually beneficial to the officer, the community and the police force.

I am aware that Regulation 9 and Schedule 2 of The Police Regulations 1995 have a bearing on this issue, but I take the view that provided a police officer seeking election as a parish councillor does so independently of any political party he or she would not be in jeopardy of contravening the intention of police regulations."

THE Essex Force open meeting was held at the Marconi Club on June 19 with a somewhat disappointing attendance.

However, for those attending there were good speeches from the platform covering a wide range of local and national matters.

The Chief Constable, in his speech, announced that he had agreed to the Federation request to introduce protective batons as a matter of urgency and that the side-handled baton would be issued to all operational patrol officers. The ASP retractable baton would be issued to CID officers and other used in covert operations.

At the meeting, I presented a written report detailed below for those who couldn't attend.

The past 12 months have continued to be an extremely difficult time for the Federation. Over and above national changes we are still undergoing the restructuring of the Force and an increase in the Branch Board from 35 to 44.

Corporate Consultative Group

MEMBERS of the committee continue to meet regularly with the JNCC dealing with matters purely affecting police officers.

Major areas discussed

have centred on the issue of Brightlingsea and the protection of our members on the front line. By that I mean discussions which led to the eventual trials of batons and vests.

Housing review
A SMALL working group was set up during the year to look at the Force housing stock and the present policy on sale and disposal.

A draft report has been prepared, after full consultation, and a final version will be available in September.

Uniform Committee
THE committee are currently looking at changes to uniform in conjunction with the Regional Users Group.

Members Services
OUTLINED are the various services offered and their performance.

1. Loan Schemes. The two schemes with the Halifax and the First Affinity continue to operate well.

Application forms are available from the Federation office.

2. Contents and building insurance. Again many enquiries have been dealt and details are available.

3. Car insurance. Service Line from Chelmsford con-

Sale of police houses

BY now, all officers, both retired and serving, who have in the past purchased a police house under the discount scheme will have received a letter from Assistant Chief Constable Charles Clark.

Can I reiterate to members the views I have already expounded, that I on behalf of all officers affected by this change, have applied for legal advice from the Federation national solicitors and auditors.

To date, I have received nothing in writing. However, I can say that George Hay & Co, the national Federation auditors, are at this moment in negotiations with the Inland Revenue centrally to try and resolve the issue.

As soon as they have a response, I will let you know in a personal letter to all officers affected.

For the information of those officers, if you receive any correspondence or demand from your local Inland Revenue, I suggest you respond to them by explaining that I am acting on your behalf and that you can only respond after receiving my advice.

In other words, if they ask you for any back tax, don't accept liability until such time that we have resolved the issue nationally.

I appreciate officers are concerned by this move on the part of the Inland Revenue, but can I ask that you don't all continue to ring the Federation Office as my staff will not be able to answer in any more detail than what I have given you here.

As stated above, I will respond individually to all officers as soon as I have anything concrete to tell you.

If, however, you are concerned and do receive correspondence from the Inland Revenue, then I will endeavour to assist you further.

The Law OPINION

OFFICERS landed with hefty tax bills after buying discounted police houses must surely have a strong case when it's finally decided who coughs up the cash.

The Inland Revenue is set to recover about £1.5m from back taxes, a consideration not made when Essex Police undertook to sell off its surplus stock.

When dealing with colossal amounts of money, running into millions of pounds, surely it would have been wise to seek specialist advice from the Inland Revenue.

Nothing in life is free.

Officers retired, or looking forward to retirement now face having their savings disappear into the taxman's pot. Thinking they had provided a life of security for themselves and their families their lives have now been turned upside down.

Some may think that the onus was on the house buyer and his legal advisors to ensure no such loopholes existed.

But it's a known fact that moving home is one of the most stressful events in anyone's life, except, perhaps, receiving a brown envelope containing a demand for thousands of pounds.

Officers can't be expected to fund the full amount when they were not entirely to blame for the blunder.

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.



The Essex Police Music Society is pleased to announce:

WE'RE BACK!!

If you are interested, we are organising a Music Society Workshop on Sunday September 3. Don't take our word for it, here is an ideal opportunity to see for yourselves how we put on a show and the work involved.

If you can sing, dance, or are interested in the backstage side of things, and would like to belong to a friendly, and thoroughly enjoyable society, please come along. We are seeking new members to join us. Rehearsals start in the autumn of 1995 for a new show in February 1996



A prickly moment

POLICE called to reprimand a group of children running out in front of cars in Chelmsford were heartened by their excuse.

They were desperately attempting to rescue a hedgehog who was in danger of being squashed in the middle of the road.

The hedgehog survived the ordeal.

Youngster netted

HARLOW officers looking for a missing 12-year-old-boy, who had left a note saying 'gone fishing', eventually found him fishing at a nearby lake.

Seeing the officers the boy ran off, later when he was found again he said he had run away from the officers as he had not got a fishing licence.

Summer sauce

A DISGUSTED lady rang Chelmsford Police reporting a man "letting it all hang out" in a park.

On police arrival the man was found to be sunbathing in his rolled up shorts unknowingly showing his manhood - hopefully not too sunburned.

Given the slip

MEANWHILE crime was rife, or perhaps ripe, in Elmstead this month when police were called to investigate the disappearance of a six foot blow-up banana that had been stolen from a farm. Officers promised the owner they would keep their eyes peeled.

Web of intrigue

A WORRIED neighbour rang Harlow Police when she heard screaming coming from a neighbour's flat.

Police raced to the address to be confronted by two hysterical women who had seen a large spider in the property and were having a screaming fit.

After giving the women advice the two officers took the spider into custody and escorted it from the building.

New batons to be issued

ALL uniformed officers are to have their truncheons replaced with rigid side-handled batons, Chief Constable John Burrow confirmed this week.

By Norman Hicks

themselves and the public when dealing with violent criminals.

Mr Burrow said the fine detail of finance, issue and training is being worked on as a matter of urgency, to ensure the general availability of batons at the earliest possible opportunity.

Essex Police Federation chairman Dave Jones welcomed the decision, which he said followed a Federation survey of the officers taking part in the trial. This had shown 74 per cent of those surveyed to be in favour of the rigid side-handled baton.

An implementation team has been set up to progress the Chief Constable's decision and it is anticipated that the new batons will be in



● Sgt Ian Ellison demonstrates the side-handled baton.

place by the autumn, at an estimated cost of £50,000.

No decision has yet been made over what will happen to the truncheons they replace.

Check your vests

OFFICERS are being warned to check their vests after a constable attended an armed incident wearing a stab vest, believing it to be ballistic.

Fortunately no shots were fired during the operation at Tilbury in which the officer was taken to the scene to identify a target.

But colleagues are being urged to check the vest labels before attending further jobs.

Inspector Kevin Bailey of the Force Support Unit explained: "At a glance the two vests look identical, but officers should check the label inside the cover to ensure they have the right protection."

A REMOTE control traffic cone might seem like a strange concept, but an Essex entertainer feels it's an excellent way to educate youngsters about the dangers on the road.

Joe Goodman, from Southend, first thought of the idea 12 years ago.

He explained: "I was on the road, driving 1,000 miles each week to shows, and like we all do, started thinking about my childhood and what there is for children now."

"All children need something they can relate to like Rupert Bear. While I was thinking this I was looking at a row of traffic cones and wondered why no one had characterised them."

Joe set to work doing exactly that and gradually developed Clive the Cone into a remote control which was featured on television's *Game For A Laugh*.

A record and story followed featuring a workman type character known as Mr Wishbone.

Joe said: "After so many years I decided to marry the idea with a road safety message."

Planning to promote a small toy through garages, it is hoped the idea will escalate and full-scale remote versions can then be marketed.

Joe said: "I've used Clive for years at shows and charity events and everyone loves him, especially the kids. I also feel it's something which is needed. I would like to see children more protected from the dangers on the road."

"I'm as excited about the prospects now as I was in the 80s."

Be Clive Wise



● Entertainer Joe Goodman hopes to educate children in the dangers of the road with the help of Clive The Cone.

Mileage rates

SUPPORT staff using their cars for Essex Police business will be able to claim the same rate for mileage payments as police officers from next April.

The decision to bring the rate into line for all staff was made recently by Policy Group after a year long project, part of which dealt with the issue.

Project Manager, Brian Boon said: "From April 1 next year the engine size bar for support staff car users will be removed placing all staff on the same footing when it comes to mileage claims. For some years police officers have been able to claim a different rate depending on their size of engine where others were restricted to an engine size of no more than 1199cc."

All car users will now be able to claim from three engine categories - 451-999cc, 1000-1199cc and 1200-1450cc.

Drivers on protected rates of mileage, who joined the scheme prior to 1 November 1993, may face a reduction in the amount they are paid per mile from April 1. They will join other car users who joined since then, who are paid on the new scheme rate. Further details are available from HQ Finance, extension 50809.

Jeweller shot in bungled robbery

A JEWELLER was shot dead as he bravely tried to tackle armed robbers in Billericay this week.

Two men with at least one sawn-off shotgun tried to bundle three people into a back room of Sparklers in the High Street.

During a struggle the gun was discharged and one man in his 30s later died at the scene.

The robbers made off empty-handed discarding a brightly coloured baseball cap.

Another vital clue is a large red American car seen to speed off from a nearby car park shortly after the shooting.

Any officers with intelligence which might help solve this cold-blooded crime should contact the Incident Room at Billericay.



Here to support not intimidate

I WRITE in relation to the two responses from Peter Durr and Pc Addison on the ongoing saga of police officers wearing uniform to attend courses at the Training Centre.

As a civilian for the past eight years at Southend, I don't mind that they wear uniform, we have entered an organisation that wears uniform as part of their job.

Perhaps I am not the right person to comment on this, due to being married to a police officer and the daughter of a detective, but come on, where will this end?

I agree with Ken Baptist (who I know) that these

Laid back 'A' Division

I REALLY must take exception to your Opinion column in the June edition when you describe your organisation as "macho and old fashioned".

Where did you get this idea? Where have you been? Certainly not out on 'A' Division.

There are times, thank goodness, when we are progressive to the point of being ridiculous and laid back to the degree of being horizontal.

Your opinion can only be based on the limited experience of the writer.

Brian Higgleton
Finchingfield

people who feel intimidated should not be working for the police force. We civilians are here to support the police officers in any role, whether out on the street, in an office, or in a classroom.

Let them go on wearing the uniform, which they should be proud of and I for one am proud to be civilian in this establish-

ment and would never feel intimidated by a police officer in uniform.

How does a police officer feel about being the only one, in uniform, in a classroom environment with all civilians, should they be allowed to feel intimidated?

Tracy Harman
Southend DPU

Heartfelt thanks

I HAVE always been proud to be a member of Essex Police but I believe it is not until times of adversity that one really appreciates the family-like quality of the Service.

Following my surgery and nearly five weeks in Broomfield Hospital, my wife Pat and I, were overwhelmed by the support and good wishes from friends and colleagues throughout the county.

We are particularly grateful to the officers of the Dog Unit and Chelmsford Town, who provided transport for Pat to and from the hospital.

Words never seem adequate but our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has written, telephoned and visited. The warmth and kindness shown to us over these last months, has been a great comfort and has certainly sustained us both through a difficult time.

My surgery appears to have been successful and following a period of therapy I hope to return to work as good as new.

Many thanks once again and best wishes to all concerned.

Pc Dennis Oliver
Sandon Dog Section

Front page news

WITH regard to Ian Deal's article "Gay officer helps on inquiry", the quote from DI Currell says: "It's not about being enlightened or politically correct, it's about dealing with the murder of a man", etc.

If that is correct (and it probably is) then why is this splashed across the front page of the paper, why not just get on with it as in other investigations. If you will pardon the pun, is it such a big deal?

Pc John Anderson, Harlow Traffic

LAW Letters

What's all the fuss about

AS a police service, we have continually faced criticism and verbal harassment from certain publications belonging to political or extremist groups. Many of the opinions expressed within are biased, ill-informed or both.

I was, however, surprised and rather incensed to find the latest attack coming from the front page and editors opinion column of our very own newspaper *The Law*.

The comments made against the force as a whole was quite outrageous and, more importantly, generally unfounded.

To the editors and certain senior officers, it would appear that all police officers busy themselves daily by ridiculing and bad mouthing gay officers.

That is, of course, when we are not picking on ethnic minorities or sexually harassing females.

Doesn't it seem strange that as soon as a new politically inspired cause

comes to light it just happens to be rife within the force.

I understand that *The Law* is circulated to non-police personnel such as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. What must they think of this police service when our own publication hurls abuse at us in such vociferous fashion?

To my knowledge, most gay officers within this force are well accepted and respected, purely because they do not harp on about their sexuality and just get on with the job. It is as simple as that.

It seems that the only people who consider gay officers to be "different" are the staff at *The Law* and senior officers who chose to comment within the article.

We had standards

I MUST express displeasure at your Opinion column, which denigrates those who have gone before.

Strange as it may seem to you, the majority of officers lived up to the high standards set by previous chiefs and treated everyone without fear or favour, etc.

We saw no need to count the number of children or make of car and so were not interested in anything other than the facts.

Which brings me to the point that male homosexual practices were, until recently, criminal in some circumstances and that we had to enforce the law.

Despite what you say, I take the view that the force (sorry service) is simply doing what it has always done - made the best possible use of available resources to try to solve a murder. This is nothing new.

I close with the brief comment that I was heartened to see that Mr Baptist and Mr Addison are proud to be seen in their uniforms, albeit in the face of adversity.

The sooner the plunge towards the lowest common denominator is halted, the better.

Roy E. Bracey
Pines Road
Chelmsford

Accuracy blip

Your article on the centre page of the June issue is not entirely accurate. It is claimed that in 1967 the *Alert* was brought to enable Essex Police "to recommence marine patrols" they having been discontinued in 1947 following the amalgamation with the Colchester Borough Police.

That statement is correct insofar as it relates to the northern part of the county but the Essex Police Marine Section is considerably older having been instigated with the launch of the original *Vigilant* in the late 1950s to patrol the Thames.

E. A. Peel

If we are all "equal" why was there the need for a front page article about 'Andrew's' quite logical selection to the investigation team in the first place? You made the fuss we didn't.

As for Andrew's comments about how the service has built up mistrust by mounting operations against the gay community, is he saying that they should be above the law?

For his information, we also carry out operations against the heterosexual community, many who have 2.4 children and a Volvo, but are still break-

ing the law. There can, as we are often told, be no discrimination.

To conclude, members of this service are far more broad minded than they are given credit for and most are quite happy to work with people from every spectrum of the human race.

What they desperately need at the moment is to be left alone to do an increasingly difficult job often made more difficult by continual harassment from within its own ranks.

Pc Malcolm Fish
Ockendon
Dog Section

Nothing to boast about

I FEEL certain that quite a number of retired Essex Police officers must feel embarrassed at the headline in *The Law* for June.

Even if you do have "queers" (anything not normal or abnormal or queer) in the force there is no need to boast about it by headlining it.

I notice in the editorial that a subtle apology is made. Even if the Force was "old fashioned" as suggested, it did at least have the respect of the public, which it does not have now.

I note also that the Critical Incident Debriefing dept seems to be crying out for more so-called stressed officers to contact them.

Apparently this is to keep the department in a nice little warm office instead of real police work.

When I joined in 1937, our instructor, Inspector Wombwell, made it quite clear that we should encounter many things alien to our previous lives, and we did, and took it as part of the job, no namby-pamby counselling like there appears to be now.

Thank God I have retired, without the aid of wet nurses which apparently are part of the force now.

I am not bitter, just ashamed that the higher positioned officers have allowed this to develop.

Ex-Sgt W. H. Feeke
Suffolk

RIGHT TO REPLY

The network of trained debriefers is mostly made up from serving operational officers who have to fit their debriefing role into their already hectic modern policing schedule.

Sgt Feeke was very fortunate to survive his 32 years in the police service but times have changed together with laws, attitudes and the support of the courts towards the police and if we are to survive we need to change as well.

In the 1914-18 War when soldiers couldn't take the horrors of war anymore they ran away from it - they were shot for cowardice and desertion. Now before going to Bosnia they are given training and preparation beforehand and psychologically debriefed afterward, offered support so they can still function. Is that a step in the wrong direction?

Pc Derek Lee
Welfare

● Letters continued from page 4

Homophobic comments abound

IF THE homophobic comments made by some officers at my station are anything to go by *The Law* postbag must be full this month after the headline "Gay officer helps on inquiry".

I'm sure some of these letters will also reflect the anti-feelings still evident in the service. Comments the article provoked makes me wonder how some officers can possibly carry out their duties in communities that consist

of people of all races religions and sexualities.

It seems all too common for officers to stereotype the term "gay" with other things and forget that gay people are not only in all walks of life but at all levels of the service, throughout the country and just as any other officer carries out his or her duties professionally, impartially and is no different to anyone else when at work.

I have no doubt that this letter will produce further

comment and I except that everybody is entitled to their own opinions but in these days when it is unacceptable to discriminate against people for their race or sex surely the same should apply to sexuality.

As a final thought if you called for assistance and a gay officer arrived to your aid would you send them away?

Sgt Chris Atkins
Chelmsford

Why so secretive?

Right to reply

I write in relation to your report in *The Law* (June) regarding the appointment of a gay officer on the murder inquiry team.

Throughout the front page report and another report on page 2, this gay officer was praised for being so open about his sexuality, but he was only ever referred to as Andrew, whilst other officers on the inquiry were referred to by rank and surname.

Was this anonymity *The Law's* decision or Andrews? Not so open perhaps as you make out.

Sgt Swann
Harwich Police

EVEN though Andrew is openly gay in the service, the decision to hold back his surname was made by the murder investigation team.

The tabloid press have plagued Andrew in his earlier years at Essex Police and it was felt we had a duty to withhold some of his personal details to avoid any repeat of this.

Detecting a hiccup

The 1994/95 Chief Constable's Annual Report shows that "a total of 37,975 offences was detected and this represented an overall detection rate of 37.5 per cent, an increase of 5.7 per cent over the preceding 12 month period".

The previous 12 month detection rate was 34,772 of 109,469 substantiated offences which is, of course, 31.76 per cent giving rise to the reported 5.7 per cent increase highlighted.

However, even despite a significant reduction in substantiated offences at 101,271, if the actual percentage increase in detections achieved is calculated by comparing the actual increase in the detections for the years 1993/94 to 1994/95 (3203/34,772) it will be seen that an increase of 9.21 per cent has

been achieved not the 5.7 per cent as the report tends to suggest.

When so much emphasis is placed upon statistics in evaluating police performance, it is pleasing to note a substantial reduction in the crime figures but to then compare percentages to demonstrate performance rather than stress the actual percentage of detection performance seems to me to be disservice to the officers who work hard at producing the detection figures.

Let every officer and their civilian support staff be proud of announcing to the world at large they efforts have resulted in an increase of 9.21 per cent detections over the previous year.

Robert Cordery
Fraud Squad

Thanks for help at a sad time

MAY we through *The Law* thank everyone who sent us cards, letters, flowers and offers of help and support, following the sudden death of our dear 12 year old daughter Leanne.

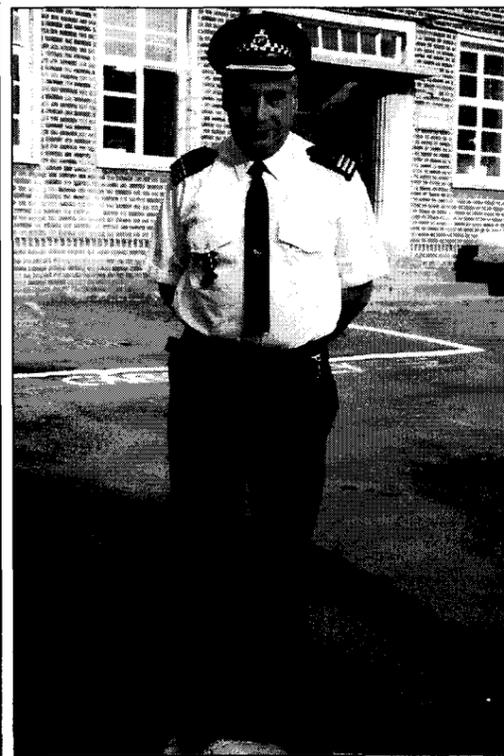
On Thursday, April 27, Leanne died in the Intensive Care unit at Southend Hospital, following a short and sudden illness, which she bravely fought.

My wife Dee, our nine-year-old daughter Nicola, and I were overwhelmed by the amount of friends and colleagues who attended Leanne's funeral, and we were very

grateful for all the beautiful floral tributes that were sent. Special thanks to Pc Jim Haldane and Pc Ian Jefferies, who were the Mounted Police Officers who stood at the crematorium gates.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Sgt Paul Hemmings and Wendie from Welfare for all their help and their continuing support. Also a big thank you to Insp Rod Barrett, my colleagues at the Mounted Section and everyone at Southend for their help, support and patience.

Pc Ashley Richardson
Mounted Section, Southend



● Divisional Officer Tony Butcher is awarded the MBE.

Honoured for service to Essex Police

A LOVE for helping the community has earned 'special' Tony Butcher the honour of an MBE.

Mr Butcher, Divisional Officer for Harlow, joined the Specials back in 1958 and hasn't looked back since.

Having worked in Hutton, Brentwood, Billericay and Grays, he also continues with his full-time occupation as a sales consultant in the aviation industry.

Encouraged to join by a friend the 58-year-old says: "I just enjoy the work, getting involved and helping the local community."

Highlight of his career was just last year with his involvement in Operation Black Swan at Stansted Airport.

He said: "I was chosen

to lead the Harlow division in the operation and was given the task of manning the outer security cordon. Obviously working in the aerospace industry made it closer to my heart, but the time we spent up there was great."

Mr Butcher admits that the letter he received saying he had been nominated for an MBE for services to Essex Police came as a complete shock.

He said: "I had no idea I had been recommended and I was totally elated when I found out."

Strange visions in Laindon

OFFICERS from Laindon could not believe their eyes recently when they were called to investigate the sighting of a UFO above the town.

Pc's Nick Morris and Karen Harwood were told to attend an address when a worried man rang the station reporting a strange object in the sky. "I thought it was some crank call, the caller's wife had woken-up and seen a strange object and eventually persuaded her husband to ring the police," said Pc Nick Morris.

But when the officers arrived they were amazed at what they saw. With the aid of binoculars they could clearly see the mysterious object. "It looked exactly how you would expect a five-year-old child to describe a UFO. It was saucer shaped with a dome on the top with brilliant red lights going round the outside. It was jerking about unnaturally quickly nothing at all like a helicopter or anything similar", said Nick.

Investigations

"Until I saw this I was very sceptical when it came to UFO sightings but I could have sat there all night watching it," he said.

West Drayton were unable to explain the presence of the object and further investigations have so far been unable to account for the UFO.

Officers who are called to such incidents should keep a note of details relating to the sighting including date, time and duration of sighting, any description and details of witnesses. Information Room should be notified immediately.

TV takes to the skies

LIVE television pictures of major incidents can now be broadcast back to commanders from a camera positioned on the Essex Police helicopter.

A company in Buckinghamshire, Telemetry Consultants Ltd, have agreed to provide the equipment on a trial bases until the end of July. The offer of the trial came after the company learned of the successful use of the Essex helicopter when IRA prisoners escaped from a prison in Cambridge recently.

Pc Alain Heaysman from HQ Communications Technical Support said: "The results of the trial so far are very encouraging, I am sure the force would benefit from the system in many ways particularly gold or silver commanders dealing with a major incident."

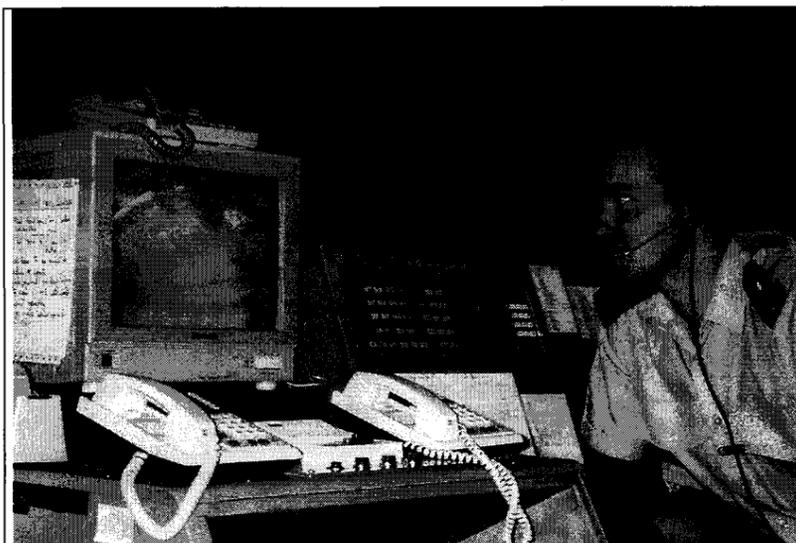
The system, which uses a line of sight microwave link, has the capability of beaming back clear pictures, from anywhere in the county, to a receiver on the roof of police headquarters in Chelmsford.

Alain said: "It is a natural discretion to have a microwave link installed on the helicopter, it makes it even more useful and worthwhile."

A digitally encoded signal solves any security problems and there is also the facility of a dedicated audio channel for communication to the Information Room.

Information Room Sergeant, Steve Robinson said: "I couldn't think of anything better. It instantly puts you on the spot as if you were there, it makes it easier for important decisions to be made as to what resources to call to the scene. The recent fire on Southend Pier would have been an ideal situation where it would have been of use."

Alain Heaysman acknowledged that some people would see the equipment as an expensive gimmick: "It's not the sort of thing you will use every day but it will be useful on the right occasion."



● On the receiving end. Information Room staff test out the equipment currently on trial at Chelmsford.



● Constables Stephen Card, John Pheby and John Taylor as TCP.

Three country policemen continue to entertain

NO-ONE back in 1989, when constables Taylor, Card and Pheby first sang in the local junior school Music Festival, would have believed that they would have still been together in 1995.

In December, Assistant Chief Constable Jim Conlan accepted a cheque for over £1,400 which they had raised with their evenings of Music, Words and Wit.

John Taylor leaps into the air during the Floral Dance, John Pheby is a bit of a 'drag' but the ladies love him and Stephen Card delves into the meaning of life with his sketch about a miner and a judge.

In May this year the trio were guests artists for the seventh successive year in the same Music Festival which launched their 'career'.

As Lieutenant Colonel Taylor, Group

Captain Card and Read Admiral Pheby they led the audience in a sing-along to commemorate 50 years of peace.

Thanks to the efforts of 'TCP' and their Flanders and Swann songs, they have not only helped raise money for police widows and orphans in Essex, but have helped local schools, village hall roofs, WIs, church restoration, horticultural societies, Inner Wheels and a scout band.

In November they have two whole evenings to themselves in Castle Headingley and they will be joined by Derek Lee, tenor (Force Welfare Officer), Mark Wojcik, jazz guitarist (Chelmsford Scenes of Crime) and civilian Dennis Wood.

John Pheby says that if he wins the lottery he will hire the Palladium.

Putting smiles on faces



HAPPY faces at the children's ward of Colchester General Hospital tell it all.

Colchester Police Sports Club (which also includes Tendring) has just handed over £3,000 worth of equipment to the ward, including two combination television-video units and 30 video films, after a year of fund-raising for the project.

Club secretary PC John Bolingbroke, pictured right, treasurer Sgt Keith Beechener, left, and assistant treasurer Pat Hazeltine, second right, handed over the equipment to Sister Lynda Pearce and some of the children on the ward.

Other equipment presented were a breast pump and two tympanic thermometers.

Money for the equipment was raised from various events during 1994, including £1,300 from a carol concert at Colchester Charter Hall, featuring the Essex Police Band and local school choirs, £550 from the hospitality tent at Colchester Cricket Week and a number of raffles.

The club is already busy fund-raising for its 1995 nominated charity, the Malcolm Sargent Home for children with cancer, at Jaywick.

Intelligence

CHANGES in technology and the backing of a professional team has given the Force Intelligence Bureau greater power in the fight against crime.

Sitting at the heart of Essex Police Headquarters, FIB keeps a close eye on crime in the county and beyond. A colossal amount of information is held on several large computer databases which could be the key to solving a crime. By just making a simple call to the department a great deal of time and hard work could be saved by the investigating officer.

By Ian Deal

But it is a two way process as FIB officer Det Sgt Pat McCarthy explained: "We have an incredible amount of information here that we glean from various sources but we can never have too much. If an officers turns up some interesting intelligence then I urge them to contact us so we can hold that information centrally where everyone can get at it."

Every corner of the department floor is occupied with someone tapping at a keyboard or studying data to help find a match for a suspect. All serious crimes are looked at closely and if there is a good description or unusual method involved there's a chance that a match could be found.

Suspect

Office Manager, Lyn Paton was able to show a recent example of a less serious crime where an officer had been given a good description of a shoplifter. A distinctive tattoo on his left hand was pointed out by the shop assistant. Lyn keyed the information into the suspect database - in seconds the computer suggested five names, one of whom was later proven to be the man responsible.

Lyn urged more people to make use of the facility: "We can have the best system in the world but if no-one uses it it's a waste of time," she said.

Lyn and six civilian members of staff support police officers working on the various 'desks' in FIB. Their other duties include inputting intelligence from various sources including IRIS crime reports and CID 61 forms. They are also responsible for carrying out research on particular crimes, performing subscriber checks in cases of malicious phone calls etc. and dealing with Crimestoppers related work.

In all there are seven different areas within FIB where intelligence is gathered and fed out:

Drugs Desk - Dc Mark Heard - ext 52432. Assistant - Denise Cockett - ext 52465

A mountain of information relating to drug related crime is held here including a list of the top 50 drug suppliers in the

Essex. Data is passed on to the Drug Squad and anyone else who requires it such as the drugs wing of the Regional Crime Squad and Customs and Excise. Mark is able to establish current drug trends and can give advice on the different types of drugs in circulation.

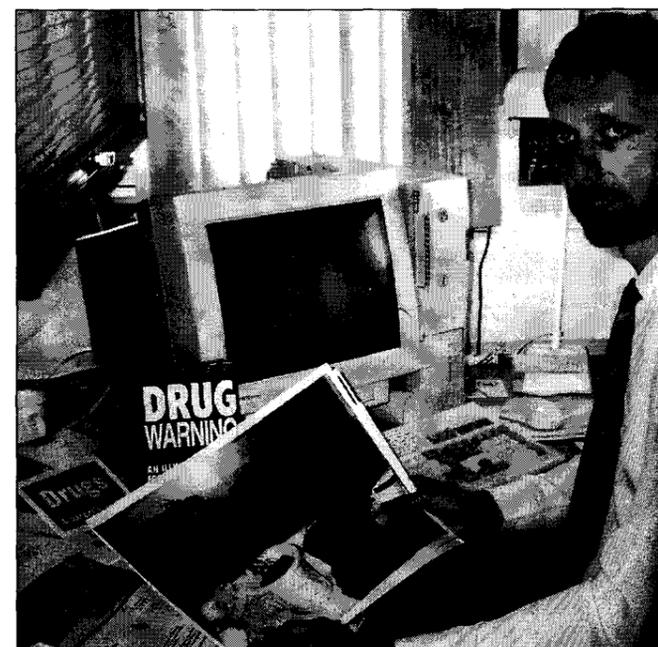
Antiques, Robbery and Media Desk - Dc Ernie Carr - ext 52435. Assistant - Jo Thorne ext 52442.

Theft of antiques and works of art is big business in Essex. Ernie will often help reunite recovered stolen property with its rightful owner with the assistance of the Art Loss Register Computer Database and trade magazines.

Serious armed robberies are studied closely too by Dc Carr, he attends a monthly robbery conference at New Scotland Yard where often incidents from outside the county can be linked to the same suspect.

He also liaises closely with media organisations responsible for producing programmes such as *Crimewatch UK*, *Crime Monthly* and *Anglia Crimestoppers*. If a TV reconstruction of a serious incident such as a rape, armed robbery or murder would help with your inquiry contact Dc Carr.

Burglary and Indecency Desk - Pc Jon White - ext 52433. Assistant - Glenn Palmer - ext 52441.



● Dc Mark Heard, head of the Drugs Desk.

Here burglary trends. Recently Jon was able to track down burglaries that had taken place in Suffolk and Cambridge. You will see Jon at a conference where something has come up. Usually often because of an advance copy of the auctioneer's catalogue.

Jon also has the responsibility of gathering intelligence on agency offences in Essex and neighbouring counties. Every month a conference in London is held where information from other forces are able to identify outstanding offences.

Experience

Travellers Desk/Horse and Carriage Pc Tony Ashkettle - ext 52442.

With six years experience, Tony Ashkettle is a valued member of the travelling community. He works with liaison officers from other forces, the Council and over the years has developed a good relationship with their families. Tony is responsible for official sites and an information service used by travellers. He is often called to go out to a site to provide information when police, DSS or Customs and Excise call to carry out an inspection.

National Lorry Load Desk - Pc Walker - ext 52436 - Pc Verdin - ext 52473.

Essex is part of a national network that investigates the theft of

Police - the key to solving crime



● Office manager Lyn Paton.

The unit works closely with Interpol as much of their work involves monitoring importation of drugs, firearms and immigrants from the continent. Intelligence is

also gathered on the steadily increasing trend of lorry hijacks, nationally there were over 50 such cases reported last year.

Prison/BT Liaison and EPI Desk - Dc Roy Fox - ext 52430

Dc Roy Fox is in touch with our two local prisons at Chelmsford and Bullwood Hall, Hockley and is at hand to help with any problems or enquiries relating to them.

With more and more people using mobile phones the opportunity of fraudulent use increases and Roy has a responsibility for liaising with BT and other cellular phone providers. Finally the familiar EPI bulletins which circulate Essex Police also come under the responsibility of Dc Fox.

Cheque and Credit Card Squad - WDC Maggie Hendy - ext 52434 - Assistant - Ian Carrington - ext 52443.

This newly formed unit staffed by three detective constables, deals with all aspects of Cheque and Credit Card fraud and works closely with all the major banks and building societies in the country. Essex is a vulnerable county because of its proximity to London where a large amount of fake cheques are printed. Last year over £240 million was fraudulently obtained from counterfeit credit cards in the UK with a similar amount reported for cheque fraud.

The officers stress they are willing to visit police stations to explain how they can be of help to officers dealing with related enquiries.



● Terry Lack.

Keeping an open door policy

AFTER nine years as an SOA at Basildon and juggling his social life around the shift work, Terry Lack has now joined the army of nine to fivers and he could not be more delighted.

For it means Terry has now realised a long held ambition to become the full-time Branch Secretary Unison rep for Essex Police.

Currently there are about 400 to 500 members of the Union and it's Terry's responsibility to let these, and potential members, know just exactly what benefits they can receive.

Financial

In fact, Terry has bravely stated that his door is never closed and he is ready to help, assist and advise any member who may need help with financial, health or any welfare-related problem.

Terry took up his post at Headquarters on January 25th and says he has never been busier:

"It's so important for members to know that they can reach me easily now, during office hours. Previously when I was working shifts, I was difficult to get hold of and the last thing that people want when they have a problem, urgent or otherwise, is to have to leave a message on an answer phone. If I'm not here I've got a deputy - Mike Wade - who works on B shift in the Information Room.

"Of course, Terry Storey our Welfare Officer is always available as well and he works at Brentwood as a Traffic Warden. He's a great support to me and is very experienced in dealing with a wide variety of welfare concerns.

"Basically, you name it, we can sort it out and if we can't we know someone who can! We often find we can be of particular help with legal problems, which can be a minefield to most people and we can assist in conveyancing, will making and mortgages. We can give advice on personal loans, insurance, holidays, career training and even give discounted prices for National Breakdown.

Support

"Anyone can come and talk to me, be they a member of Unison or not - I feel I'm representing all the support staff in the Essex Police."

If you have any matter you would like to discuss with Terry, he can be reached on extension 54995 or alternatively, the following have been elected as stewards for their Divisions and can be contacted through the normal channels: Karen Murphy, Basildon; Elizabeth McAuthrie, Rayleigh; Lee Robson, Harlow; John Smithson, Harlow; Brian Nubbart, Colchester; Bert Malseed, Chelmsford/Braintree; Bernard Iley, Southend.

Campaign to re-open police post succeeds

RESIDENTS of Eastwood, near Southend-on-Sea have their own police post again.

Originally a police station in the days of the old Southend Borough Constabulary the post has since been used as an opticians among other things.

The building, in Rayleigh Road, has now been completely refurbished and was opened in a ceremony in June, performed by Essex County Councillor and borough councillor Nora Goodman.

Local beat officer Pc Pat Foster says the post will re-establish an important link between Essex Police and the local community.

She said: "It will mean that both myself and Alan (Pc Alan Gunn) will spend less time travelling between our beat and current station at Leigh and spend more time patrolling our patch. We will be back in the heart of the community that we serve."

As well as the beat officers there will be two part-time volunteer, special constables working from the post.

It will initially be open to take enquiries from the public for one hour every evening. Alternatively the public can contact the station by ringing 01702 528069.

Speaking at the opening, Assistant Chief Constable Charles Clark praised those who had campaigned to reopen the post and called on local people to provide special constables.

He told residents: "The post will be able to open for longer hours only with your help."



● Beat officers Alan Gunn and Pat Foster proudly turn the sign to open at the Eastwood Police post.

Getting away from it all

If working for Essex Police leaves you stressed out and in need of a break, why not take advantage of a discount break in the heart of the West country.

Owner of Millslade Country House Hotel in Devon, Mrs Eddy Frewer, is offering all officers and support staff a generous discount to stay in her 18th century country house hotel.

Set in 10 acres of grounds with the bubbling waters of the East Lyn river flowing by, what better way to get away from it all?

Quietly situated in the unspoilt village of Brendon, it also has an enviable reputation for the quality of its food, prepared and cooked by renowned chef Simon.

Menus offer an extensive choice using purely fresh local produce.

There are six double bedrooms with private facilities.

Eddy is offering Essex Police three days break at just £99. The price includes room, breakfast and Table D'hote, based on two persons per room.

For bookings or further information telephone 01598 741322.

Report claims police work can be reduced

A HOME Office review of police core and ancillary tasks has concluded that there is little scope for the police service to withdraw completely from large areas of its current work.

However, 26 areas were identified where police effort could be streamlined or reduced, with consequent benefit to police officers, in terms of time and money saved.

A separate review of traffic policing confirmed the continuing importance of police involvement in this work and did not recommend any fundamental changes, such as the creation of a separate force to deal with traffic matters.

The report stresses that none of the recommended changes would alter the nature of the police service offered to the public.

Areas where the review team feels change could be considered

By Norman Hicks

include police responsibility for gaming, betting and liquor licensing; the serving of summons; execution of warrants (other than search or current offence warrants); children absent from children's homes; found property; stray dogs; noise pollution; policing public events; immigration escorts across the country; crime prevention; escorting abnormal loads; broken down or abandoned vehicles; roadworks or obstructions; traffic patrols and traffic paperwork.

ACPO president John Hoddinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire, commenting on the review, said: "This is an important document

which marks the first major review of tasks undertaken by the police since the Royal Commission in the 1960s.

"The latest review contains a number of helpful proposals on property, dogs, licensing, summons warrants.

"The review sets out 26 proposals and there remains considerable work to be done to take them forward.

"We intend to watch the detail of any transfer of responsibility very carefully.

"We will also want to work together with both the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to develop the good practice emerging from the cost-effectiveness studies," he said.

Conference hailed a success



● Christine Matthews.

THE first ever National Civilian Staff Development Conference has been held at Essex Police Headquarters, and has been declared a huge success.

Representatives from forces all over England and Wales attended the event to share ideas and initiatives in staff and career development.

Essex Police Staff Development Officer Christine Matthews said: "The appointment of staff development officers is still quite a new thing in many forces."

"The conference gave many people the chance to share experiences and expertise and tap into valuable knowledge."

Nearly 20 forces were represented on the day and all were invited to outline any good or bad issues they were facing in their organisation and explain any initiatives they had planned for the future.

The afternoon saw a presentation by Dr Val Morris, from Bramshill College, who provides advice to staff development officers nationally.

Chris Matthews said: "Dr Morris is very committed to the issue and saw the conference as a very important progression in staff development matters."

It is now hoped to hold a conference every nine months with the next one scheduled for October 4, in Norfolk.

Christine Matthews said: "There has been a lot of interest shown by other forces who were unable to attend.

"I have also been sent many letters of appreciation from people who did attend the conference which is very positive."

TV show provides crime leads

OVER 100 calls were received when BBC's *Crimewatch* featured two Essex crimes on its last show of the series.

As well as the Simon Shannon murder in Clacton and an armed robbery in Stanford Le Hope it was to feature the serial rapes on women in Colchester, Wickford and Chelmsford.

The day before the showing a man was arrested and later charged with the rapes.

The robbery took about 75 calls as a result of the programme and Ds Graham Carter, leading the investigation said: "We receive a lot of information and have three or four very good leads we are currently following up."

Less calls were received for the murder inquiry team but they did receive some worthwhile information.

Mother and step-son convicted in drug trial

A MAN and a woman, who conspired to supply drugs used by youngsters on the rave scene, were both convicted at Chelmsford Crown Court in June.

In the complex case 40-year-old Jennifer Barnett from Laindon and her step-son Barry Barnett (31) were found

guilty of conspiring to supply half a million temazepam capsules. The defendants alleged the capsules were being exported to a buyer in India who was never traced.

The capsules, which can retail on the rave scene for £7 each, are usually injected by drug users - the results can be catastrophic with many people having limbs amputated.

Chelmsford CID officer, Dc Terry Earl, said: "The case has been very hard work and very complicated.

"I'm pleased the jury understood what was quite an involved case."

The maximum sentence for supplying temazepam, a Class C drug, is five years.

Sentencing is expected later this month.

Musical winners

MRS Joyce Manning, from Ipswich and Mr Ronald Bearman, from Chelmsford, will both be guests at the International Police Music Festival after winning last month's competition in *The Law*.

Each wins two tickets to a venue of their choice (see advert opposite).

GREAT VICTORIA POLICE CHORUS
THE ESSEX POLICE CHORUS
THE ESSEX POLICE BAND
ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE CHORUS
FOLKLORE FROM BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

INTERNATIONAL POLICE MUSIC FESTIVAL




GRAND CONCERT

TO BE HELD AT:

THE CHARTER HALL, COLCHESTER - 20th JULY 1995
(BOX OFFICE - 01206 766660)

THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, BRENTWOOD - 21st JULY 1995
(BOX OFFICE - 01277 262616)

THE CLIFFS PAVILION, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA - 22nd JULY 1995
(BOX OFFICE - 01702 351135)

ALL TICKETS £5.00 PARTY BOOKING CONCESSIONS

CONCERTS START AT 7.30 pm WITH
THE ESSEX POLICE BAND PLAYING
AS YOU ARRIVE FROM 7.00 pm

Festival Sponsors:

Anglia Polytechnic University Countryside Properties PLC
Essex County Council Arts Unit Colchester Borough Council
Brentwood Borough Council & Southend Borough Council

Cycling against the clock

DETECTIVES and uniformed officers from Basildon braved the June heatwave to compete in the London to Brighton Cycle race.

They joined 18 members of staff from Alders of Basildon, who also supplied the transport for the bikes.

And it was a battle against the clock as they all wanted to make it to Brighton in time for the Rugby World Cup match.

Prison escorts change hands

PRISON escorts are now in the hands of Group 4 Security Services Limited.

The contract to transport defendants from prisons and police stations to court was put out to tender and Group 4 took over the job on July 1.

Climbing to great heights



● Cliff Roomes, Nick Cohen, Steve Milborne, Terry Adams, Paul Ashworth and Rob Trigg proudly pose at the top of Ben Nevis.

POLICE divers raised a stack of cash when they took on the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge, in June.

The six walkers - five divers and one civilian - conquered Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell in under 24 hours to help EASBAH for sufferers of Spina Bifida.

Local companies including Ford, WaveTech, and Britvic sponsored the group supplying vehicles, food drink, clothing and communications as well as cash.

It was a real personal challenge for all those involved, none of whom are experienced climbers.

The amount raised has not yet been totalled. Diving companies, suppliers to Essex Police have donated gifts to be raffled off including specialist watches.

The final figure will be printed in *The Law* when it is known.

Crime scheme is given new name

AS a charity organisation Crimestoppers has become a victim of its own success.

With each year bringing record results, the cost of the scheme is rising and income is beginning to fall behind expenditure.

As part of its strategy towards the year 2000, Crimestoppers will be polishing its image with the first step to change its name.

The trustees have agreed that the name Community Action Trust should be dropped and simply known as Crimestoppers Trust.

This name was formally launched in June.

It is important that officers are aware of this change so they can continue supporting the scheme.

Performance versus goals

DATA showing how well Essex Police is performing against goals laid down in the Local Policing Plan, will now be published frequently in *The Law*.

Figures are supplied by the Management Support Department which can help with other details if required - extension 51040.

Assistant Chief Constable Jim Dickinson said, "It is important that we keep a close eye on how we as an

organisation are performing - targets in the Local Policing Plan show what we aim to achieve and the monthly published figures will give a good indication as to how we are progressing."

Representatives

Information from the data is discussed at quarterly review meetings chaired by the ACC together with Review Team members, and representatives from the Police Federation.

Figures are analysed and areas of good and bad performance are highlighted. Any areas of apparent concern are then discussed with the relevant divisional commanders.

Long Term Plan and Annual Policing Plan 1995/96

This plan and the annual report of the Essex Police Authority will be subject of a public meeting held at

Wakering Memorial Hall,
Wakering
on
Monday, July 10
at 7pm

You are cordially invited to attend this meeting which will follow on from the Consultative Committee. This will allow you to meet the committee and other representatives

★ Win ★

Mix with the West End stars

★ Win ★

THEATRE fans who book tickets for the West End production of *Copacabana* could not only have their tickets paid for, but also get the chance to go backstage and meet the cast.

This month *The Law* has joined forces with Applause to bring you discounted tickets and a grand prize draw.

You can experience the passion of the *Copacabana* as Barry Manilow's hit song comes to life in a lush musical extravaganza starring Darren Day.

Fifteen specially written songs plus the classic title tune power this all singing, all dancing show from the art deco world of 1940's New York to the tropical intrigue that was Havana nightlife.

Follow Lola's quest for stardom and her passionate affair with Tony the bartender, who has dreams of his own.

Meet Rico, the suave, yet villainous, owner of Havana's Tropicana nightclub who

promises to make Lola a star - for a price.

Applause are offering readers of *The Law* cut price tickets for August 15 and 16, at just £17.50 instead of the usual £25.

The name of every customer who answers a simple question will be put into a hat.

If they are pulled out, they will win two tickets, with complimentary drinks after the show and a chance to meet the cast and have their programme signed.

Application must be received by July 28 and should be sent along with payment and a self-addressed envelope to **The Law Theatre Office, PO Box 177, London WC2B 5ED.**

Cheques should be made payable to Applause Ltd.

If you want to be entered into the prize draw enclose a postcard with your name, address and telephone number and the answer to the following question.

What is Lola's profession in *Copacabana*?

HIGH VISIBILITY POLICING

Increase amount of time spent by uniform constables outside to at least two thirds of duty
No data yet available

BURGLARIES

Increase annual detection to over 30% by March 1996
Year to May 1995 - 31.2%

VIOLENT CRIMES

Increase annual detection to over 77% by March 1996
Year to end of May 1995 - 76.8%

REDUCING ROAD ACCIDENT CASUALTIES

To reduce death and injury on the road to 6,838 by March 1996
Year to May 1995 - 8,607

CRIME PREVENTION

To reduce specific crimes to 4% below projected trend

Domestic burglaries from 7,565 to 7,262
(Year to May 1995 - 8,724)

Other burglaries from 15,747 to 15,117
(Year to May 1995 - 13,207)

Vehicle crime from 22,235 to 21,346
(Year to May 1995 - 24,363)

Violent crime below 5,781
(Year to May 1995 - 5,326)

Drugs - to be set

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

Increase the number of special constables
Year ending March, 1995 - 64.3% of agreed establishment - 674
Year to May 1995 - 63.9% of agreed establishment - 670

BARRY MANILOW'S...

COPACABANA
THE MUSICAL

Popular Dc dies

Former HQ Fraud Squad officer, DC David Rogers, has died at the age of 50.

At the time of his death from cancer at Addenbrookes Hospital in May, he was serving with the City of London Fraud Squad, which he joined in November 1992.

Before his transfer he served with Essex Police at Colchester, Saffron Walden, Dunmow and HQ Fraud Squad, building up a reputation as a man of high standards and principles, who was meticulous and dedicated in his work, as well as being a good "team" player.

A late joiner to the police service, when aged 31, David had earlier been a skilled cabinet maker and life assurance salesman.

A month after completing his probationary two years he attended and successfully completed a CID selection course and was con-

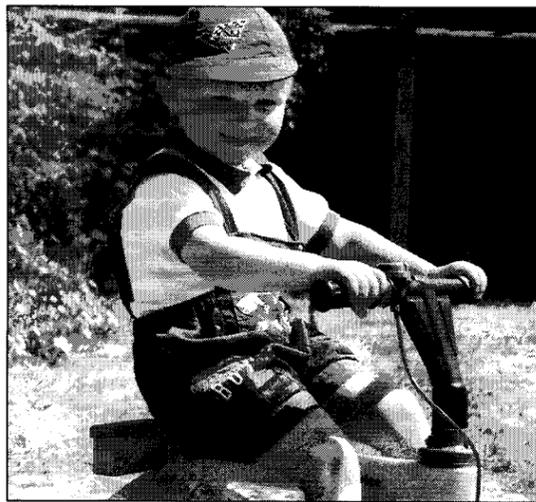
firmed as a detective constable, based at Saffron Walden, in December 1978.

He quickly showed a flair for fraud cases and his first commendation from the Chief Constable was for a protracted investigation into an alleged computer fraud at Stansted in 1981, which read: "for his enthusiasm, energy, intelligence, grasp of detail and ability to communicate."

While at Chelmsford, from 1985 to 1992, he travelled to New Zealand, where he earned praise from the prosecutor for his professional conduct in connection with an extradition request and he was twice commended by Crown Court judges for his work on complicated fraud cases.

A funeral service took place at Thaxted Church. David leaves a wife, Chris and children Matthew and Louise.

Terry is back on bike patrol



● Wheely great! Terry takes his new bike for a spin. Picture Heather Watts.

YOUNGSTER Terry Barratt was distraught when he had his police lookalike pedal bike stolen by heartless thieves, after leaving it parked outside his home in Clacton.

But now the smile is back on his face after the HQ Press Office came to the rescue and publicised the terrible deed. It was then that a caring listener to local radio station Essex FM heard of three-year-old Terry's plight.

The lady, who comes from Benfleet sent the money for a replacement - unfortunately a police trike could not be found - so now Terry is under cover and is keeping an eye on the community from the top of his red and yellow mountain bike.

Terry's father said: "Terry is thrilled with the bike it was very nice of the lady. I was surprised I didn't think anything would happen, a lot of people have been very kind."

All sadly missed

CIVILIAN Ronald Bryant died last month while serving as a traffic warden at Corringham. He first joined Essex Police in February 1982. Mr Bryant, aged 60, leaves a widow, three daughters and one son.

Last respects were also paid to former Special Gordon Austin BEM who died on June 3. Mr Austin was Section Officer for Dunmow having served with Essex Police for 25 years.

Gladys Turner, former matron at Southend died on June 6. She retired from Essex Police 12 years ago.

Police pensioner Reginald Carter died on May 17, aged 86. Mr Carter joined the Force in 1947 serving his 21 years at Epping.

Caught hook line and sinker



● Caught out. Steve collects his award at Two Tree Island, Leigh On Sea from Geoff Markham.

MARINE officer, Pc Steve Rombaut, thought he had got away with the fuss of a attending a ceremony to collect his long service medal.

But the bashful officer was not to escape the prestigious award recognising 22 years good service and conduct. Assistant Chief Constable Geoff Markham caught up with him recently when the Essex Police team of canoeists returned back from Switzerland on their charity fundraising trip.

Steve, an ex-traffic motorcyclist, has worked on the Marine Section for 12 years on the launch Vigilant III, based at Rayleigh.

He said: "I love the job and the fresh air. The people I work with and meet are a good bunch too. I got caught out good and proper, I didn't expect all this fuss."

Steve lives in Southend and is married with two grown-up children.

Market Place... Market Place... Market Place... Market Place...

AKAI modern looking turntable, good working order. £25. Contact Ian on 01376 516436.

ALACRITY, 19ft, 3/4 berth sailing cruiser. Refir 1994, heads, stove, aluminium spars, outboard, seven sails, trailer, echo sounder bilge keel, laying Maldon. Ideal family boat, £2,750. Contact Supt Lee Weavers on 01621 850957.

ALGARVE, Portugal. Two bedroom apartment, sleeps six, patio

with barbecue, swimming pool on complex, from £80 to £200 per week. Contact Brian Spiers on 01268 478134.

AVONDALE Mayfly S.E. 1989 caravan, two berth, electronic fridge, oven, four ring hob, shower, blown air, cassette loo, full electrics, radio, porch awning, excellent condition, alarmed, £4,750. Contact Graham Sargent on 01702 293143.

BAILEY Senator 2000 luxury twin axle big two berth caravan. Full awning new. All mod cons and all the accessories you'll ever need, £5,500. Contact Ian Frakes on 01621 776520.

BMW 521, auto, 1982, 'X' reg, fully electric, low mileage, full service history, rear head rests and seatbelts, new exhaust, £1,695 ono. Contact Dave Williams on 01255 861663.

CANOES. Two brand new discovery 380 canoes, £110 each. Contact Dc Keith Gurney on 01245 351594 or 01245 491491 ext 52160.

CARAVAN, Eccles Topaz 1987, two berth, green Isabella awning, flushing toilet, hitchlock, spare wheel, very good condition. £3,500 ovno. Contact Pc Bell on 01621 778006 or ext 55815/6.

CARAVAN, 1984, Lunar Clubman 390, two berth, shower, three way fridge, other acces-

sories, £2,750. Contact S. Cleaver on 01245 443291.

CARAVAN for sale, CI Europe 455, five berth, includes awning and everything needed to get away. Giving up. Only tow-bar required, £995. Contact Sgt King on 01255 503149 or at Colchester ext 10142.

FOR sale. Commodore C64 cassette computer with handbook and 27 games, £40 ono. Contact Sgt Bessent on 'B' shift on 01245 491212.

DOG bed. Large blue heavy duty pvc, as new £10. Contact Pc Bell on 01621 778006 or ext 55815/6.

DINING room table and four chairs. Meredew - walnut, chair covers gold regency stripe (still in polythene). Table seats 6/8 persons (when extended), as new. £495. Contact Pc Bell on 01621 778006 or ext 55815/6.

FLAT to let, one bed, gas central heating, fit-

ted kitchen, bedroom. Parking space, close to Witham railway station, available mid August. Contact Chris Irvine on 01376 550921 or ext 52932.

GUITAR. Fender bullet, electric, good condition, £95. Contact Lewis Twitchey on 01376 562545.

HOUSE to rent, Braintree, three bed semi, fully furnished, immaculate throughout, garage, conservatory, quiet location, £400 per month. Contact Lorraine on 01245 491212, ext 60741.

STATIC six berth caravan, Polzeath, Cornwall, five minutes walk from sandy beach, self-contained, colour television, most dates available. regret no dogs. Contact 01375 846704.

TECHNICS Ex20, electronic organ, excellent condition, £475. Contact Keith Gurney on 01245 351594 or 01245 491491, ext 52160.

THREE bedroom detached house, North Springfield, Chelmsford, £72,500 ono. Contact Tom Boland on 01245 451 203.

TWO bedroom first floor flat, quiet cul-de-sac, Newland Spring, Chelmsford area. contact 01245 442597.

VW BEETLE, 1200 'J' reg, long MOT, restored bodywork, good condition and mechanical order. £1,600 ono. Contact Ian Mower on 01376 516436.

VAUXHALL Cavalier 2.0gli, 1991, 'H' reg, usual extras, immaculate, full service history, high mileage, blue, £4,000 ovno. Contact Lorraine on 01245 491212, ext 60741.

VAUXHALL Cavalier, 1.8l, 'K' reg, diamond black, electric windows, central locking, sunroof, 1 year MOT, 36,000 miles, one owner, excellent condition £6,690 ono. Contact Dc Barry Taylor on 01621 816597 or ext 11150.

Retirements

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

Supt Peter Nevitt, Review Team, 31 years (31/8/95).

Sgt Peter Handscombe, Tilbury Traffic, 30 years (13/8/95).

Sgt Eugen Winter, Essex Police Training Centre, 33 years (1/9/95).

Pc Edward Lester, Southend, 30 years (14/7/95).

Obituaries

ESSEX Police extends its sympathies to the families of the following police pensioners and former staff who died:

Ex-Insp Sidney Smy, of Clacton, who joined Essex Police in 1926 working in Romford, Brentwood, Canvey Island and Clacton. He died on 21/4/95 aged 93.

Ex-Insp Frederick Jauncey, of Bristol, who joined the Southend Constabulary in 1916. He died on 1/4/95 aged 78.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank
 Station Home Tel
 Date Signed

Buxton's bowled out

GENTS of Essex CID Cricket Club were entertained at Stock CC by Essex FM presenter Roger Buxton's XI.

Roger elected to bat and were bowled out for 146 runs. Simon Payne and Tony Bull inflicted most of the damage with fine batting accompanied by some excellent fielding.

The police opened the batting nervously and found themselves 1 for 3.

Graham Hancock came to the rescue with a half century. With two wickets to spare the detectives edged home with an unbeaten partnership of Simon Payne and a captain's innings by Phil Mellow.

Afterwards with Roger Buxton receiving a club tie and becoming an Honorary Member of the Essex CID Club.

The next fixtures for the team are all in July. Roger Buxton's XI have a return match on July 19 at Fenners. July 23 is against Royston at Fenners and July 26 is at Felsted School.

Sam wipes the board

WHILST doubts still linger over this year's Force Track and Field Championships, due to a little matter called Brightlingsea, life in the fast lanes has to go on and the Regional Championships, held in Welwyn, provided some competition for our serious athletes.

Once again the sad face of inter-force sport was very evident, with competitors numbers being well down on previous years.

A great shame because the venue, the Gostling Stadium, provided a superb venue, and the hard work of the Hertfordshire team and their organisation was excellent.

I only hope that we can witness an upturn firstly at Portsmouth next year, and Thurrock in 1997.

As for the competition itself, our little band of 10, 50 per cent down on the original selection, acquitted themselves superbly to give eventual winners, Hampshire, something to think about.

The awesomely brilliant Samantha Barr following on from her triumphs in all last seasons competitions, including the European Police Championships, once again destroyed the fields in the ladies 100, 200 and 400 metre events.

She also found time to help our ladies team to victory in the 4 x 100 metres relay, with Tanya Payton, Sue Payton and Sue Harries, a win we all hope they will repeat in next month's Nationals in Birmingham.

Sue Harries also recorded 3rd places in the 100 and 200 metre events but proved a 'golden girl' herself by easily winning the ladies long jump.

Tanya Payton comfortably won the ladies javelin and picked up 2nd place in the shot putt, while namesake Sue did her bit for points in the ladies 400 and 800 metre events, as well as running the second leg of the relay. Tanya also popped up for 3rd place in the ladies long jump.

Final results

1	Hampshire	194 pts
2	Essex	120 pts
3	Surrey	102 pts
4	Kent	77 pts
5	Sussex	41 pts
6	Herts	34 pts
7	Thames Valley	33 pts

For the men, Damon Bainbridge and Paul Cakebread completed a one-two in the mens 200 metres with times of 24.9 and 25.2 seconds respectively, and almost did the 'double' in the 100 metre event, having to settle for 2nd and 3rd place, instead with times of 12.1 and 12.3 respectively.

Mick Bond cruised to comfortable victory in the mens 5,000 metres in a time of 16.11 minutes having warmed up with a second place in the mens 1,500 metres in another excellent time 4.38 minutes.

Steve King once again won the mens 3k walk in a time of 15.03 minutes, and later found the energy to join up with Bainbridge, Cakebread and Bond for the mens 4 x 100 metres relay, and 4 x 400 metres relay, where they finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

What your money can buy

MONTHLY subscriptions to the Sports Association includes:

1. Use of the Force Sports and Leisure shop where most of the top brands (Reebok, Aidas, Puma etc) are stocked, many at 33 per cent off High Street prices and some as much as 50 per cent off. This shop is well used by most members who are currently spending in excess of £12,000 each month. It is open Tuesday to Friday, 12 noon to 2pm and between 10am and 4pm on Saturdays.

2. Able to participate in the Force Lottery, with monthly prizes in excess of £4,000.

3. Exclusive use of the Executive suite at the Essex County Cricket Ground for all Essex cricket fixtures.

4. The facility to hire a Sony High 8 Video camera at a cheap rate.

5. Discount of 5 per cent off all items at the Curry's Superstore in Chelmsford.

6. Discounted hotel prices at most of the top hotels in the country and some abroad.

7. Discount of 10 per cent off Sealink sailing and holidays and 15 per cent off Sally Line sailings.

8. Cheap rate travel insurance with General Accident, including a clause if Annual Leave has to be cancelled or you have to appear in court.

9. Discounted holidays and flights abroad with club Excel, including a minimum 12.5 per cent off all Virgin holidays.

10. Very good discount with crusader holidays for both their British and Continental holidays.

11. Discount off travellers cheques and foreign currency at Thomas Cook.

12. Discount of 15 per cent from all Dale Hire and sales centres in Essex.

13. Up to 70 per cent discount off electrical equipment to the trade at City Electrical Factors Ltd.

14. General discount at GX Superbowl, Chelmsford. Daytime £1.50 per game, night time £1.75 per game (inclusive of shoes).

Plus many new bargains being arranged for members including discounts at Golf and Leisure Clubs in the county, cheap Christmas breaks to New York or Boston and cruises at less than half the brochure prices.



● Essex Police team: Steve King, Mick Bond, Laurie Rampling, Damon Bainbridge, Paul Cakebread, Tanya Payton, Samantha Barr, Sue Harries, Sue Payton.

Force Sports Association . . Force Sports Association . .

Force lottery

THE result of this month's lottery is: £1,500 - Brian Simpson, Clacton; £1,000 - Christine Parr, HQ; £500 - Pc Christopher Howell, Stanway Traffic; £300 - Pc Brian Jeapes, HQ; £200 - Sgt Keith Palmer, Newport Traffic; £100 - Insp Graham Gurnett, HQ.

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes: Sgt Christopher Vale, Leigh-on-Sea; Pc Graham Lawrence, Benfleet; Sgt Joan Sage, Rayleigh; Ds Deidre Nowell, Colchester; Joan Lochhead, Rayleigh; Pc Reginald Hooper, Southend, Ds Peter Rawlings, Rayleigh; Angela Michael, Colchester, Pc Robert Taylor, Wickford and Pc Richard Homan, HQ.

County cricket

MEMBERS of the Sports Association are welcome to attend the Southend Police Sports Club hospitality marquee at Southchurch Park, Southend between July 22 and 24 for the Essex County Cricket Festival.

Ladies football

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Police have a ladies football team that plays in their local league. They would like to arrange friendly

fixtures against other police forces and ultimately try to develop women's football as a recognised PAA sport.

If any member of the Association would like to be responsible to try and organise an Essex Police Ladies team, could they contact Chris Jacob.

Mediterranean cruise

FOLLOWING the success of the recent Mediterranean Fly-Cruise organised by the Association, another one has been arranged departing on September 23.

The cruise will take holiday-makers from Genoa, Barcelona, Ibiza, Tunis, Palermo and Capri.

The price will be £399 plus insurance and Air Passenger Duty. This includes return flights from London to Italy, transfers to and from port, seven nights cruise, sharing two berth accommodation, full board, all meals, all taxes, service and port taxes and free destination folio.

The brochure price is shown as £1,100.

These prices have been reserved for any members booking before Monday, July 10. Enquiries via Sports Secretary on 58888.

Five Lakes golf

THE Association has recently negotiated for its members to enjoy discounts at the newly opened Five Lakes, Golf and Country Club in Tolleshunt Knights, Maldon.

Full golf membership costs £280 (normally £550) and five day £220, inclusive of joining fees and green fees. You must have handicaps of 24 or better (male) and 36 or better (female) to obtain full membership.

Joining fees for full membership to the leisure facilities normally costs £125 with an annual subscription of £475. Association members can join for £100 with an annual subscription of £280. Children under 18 pay £125. Off peak the joining fee is the same with an annual subscription of just £222, children £95.

Included in your joining fee is a complimentary sports bag and one hours treatment in the Spa. Other facilities include indoor and outdoor tennis courts, squash courts, snooker room, sunbeds, treatment rooms, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi, fitness assessment and hair-dressing.

There are limited spaces and anyone requiring further information should contact the Sports Secretary who has compliment slips and membership forms.

Best result for years

TENNIS enthusiasts achieved their best result for the past 25 years in the Regional PAA Lawn Tennis Tournament held in Hertfordshire in June.

Natalie McIntosh (Wivenhoe) overcame the disappointment of last season's tournament when, whilst well placed to win the singles and mixed doubles competitions, she snapped her Achilles tendon.

Having only recently recovered and playing again, she won the ladies singles title, winning 7-5 6-2 against Sussex in the final.

In the ladies doubles competition she was partnered by Nina Fletcher (Harlow) and was again successful winning the final 6-3 6-2. Sussex were again the opponents.

In the mixed doubles competition Nina Fletcher was partnered by Mark Wheeler (Southend). This pair had won the event in 1992 and were once again successful beating Kent 6-2 6-3 in the final.

Partial success was achieved in the mens veteran doubles. A drop in the qualifying age from 45 to 40 allowed Alex Draycott (Maldon) to enter where, partnered by Stu Bowman (HQ CPR), the pair reached the final where they were runners up to Sussex losing 7-5 6-4 in the final.

We were represented in the mens singles by Nick Treadway (CDU) who also took part in the mens doubles where he was partnered by Mark Wheeler.

They were beaten in the first round by Kent who went on to win the event. Nick also lost in the first round of the mens singles to Sussex.

The South East region is accepted as the strongest in PAA tennis circles and the winners should do well at the National Tournament which is to be held at Wimbledon in September.

Pedal power
RICK Matthews, a constable at South Ockendon, peddled to victory in the Metropolitan Police annual Mountain Bike Championships.

Held in Aldershot, the race consisted of three laps of a tough four-mile off-road course.

Ultimate challenge



● The bronzed canoe team are welcomed by Red Cross workers and relatives at Two Tree Island.
Photos courtesy of Les Brand.

THE intrepid police canoeists received a heroes welcome when they arrived at Two Tree Island, Southend after paddling an amazing 1,200 miles from Switzerland.

Pc Spud Edwards, Ds Chris Hadley, Pc Pete Gerard and civilians Kevin Dann, Doug Parson and Pete Clapp set off on their ultimate challenge at the beginning of June.

Having already raised over £20,000 in past year's canoeing the Thames and the British canals, the team decided this year to go European.

But the trip was not without its harrowing hitches.

On arrival in Switzerland they discovered that torrential rain had flooded the river and the Civil Defence authority had closed it off to all traffic.

Pc Gary Dean, who organised the event and provided land support said: "It was pretty horrendous, there were trees sailing past us at 20mph and not just little trees, trees from the Black Forest."

In a swift change of plan, the group crossed the border into France where they took a parallel canal covering the same route.

At the first point in Germany the Rhine was still closed but the authorities were so impressed with their endeavour and the standard of their equipment and organisation, they agreed to let the team continue.

Destination

The dangers were obviously increased as changing currents took them to speeds of 15mph. At locks the men had to carry the canoes often miles around the flood waters before they could begin paddling again.

Unbeknown to the team, while they were tackling the elements, Southend Pier, their ultimate destination for a champagne reception was going up in a puff of smoke.

Two Tree Island was quickly named as an alternative finishing point and about 60 people including chief officers and local dignitaries were there to greet them with balloons, champagne and Scottish pipes rounding off the celebrations.

All the team looked extremely well and tanned, albeit tired and glad to be on solid ground. Blisters and fatigue were the main ailments of the trip.

But it has all been worth while with a huge amount of cash (still to be totalled) raised for the Essex branch of the British Red Cross, celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Back-up crews included Ds Steve Hunt, Dc Adrian Sharpe and Supt Dennis Shephard.

Storm over sports funding

A ROW has erupted among police sports enthusiasts after nine sections were refused financial backing for not having a representative at the annual meeting.

Athletics, freshwater angling, boxing, ladies hockey, rugby, sailing, swimming, skiing and squash are all listed in personnel bulletins (pinks) as not represented.

But section secretaries have slammed the decision saying it is an insult to the people who give up their spare time to organise sports activities.

The suggestion was originally made last year, allowing ample time for letters of apology or replacement representatives at the meeting.

But athletics head Laurie Rampling claims finding a replacement is "easier said than done". April's meeting was in fact put back two hours at the last minute. Had it been at the designated 2pm he could have attended but put back to 4pm clashed with other work.

Athletics events are nearly all PAA so will not be affected by the decision, as PAA will be financed but Laurie still feels "it's out of order".

He said: "Some section heads just can't get there because of their duties, especially with Brightingsea.

"I can understand why other secretaries are uptight about it. They put a lot of their own time into running their sections and then get told they can't have any money. I know the committee has a job to do and has to control finance but this is one step too far."

Other secretaries also feel that the Sports Association is becoming far too "business orientated".

Head of the rugby section Mick Hall said: "The

By Kim White

Association has grown too big for its boots and forgotten the reason it existed - for the benefit of the members. A lot of people put more in to sport in this county than is financially accountable.

"The way I run my rugby club we ensure we are as little burden to the Association as possible. Insurance and affiliation fees are all we feel they should pay."

Although the suggestion was made last year, Mick claims no formal reminder was issued.

He said: "If such a monumental decision was being made it would have been courteous to write to the section secretaries or phone them up, not just leave them to read about it in the Personnel Bulletins."

Responding to the complaints by section heads, Sports Secretary Chris Jacob and treasurer Dick Soward reiterated the fact that the motion was first suggested at last year's AGM.

It was felt that as nearly £40,000 of sports club

money was being requested by the sections they should at least be able to get one representative to one meeting.

This was circulated to secretaries by way of minutes and a formal reminder.

At this year's AGM a vote was taken with only one member going against the motion.

Said Chris Jacob: "Officers of the club made the decision that we would still honour PAA costs and also that two sections had a legitimate reason for not being able to attend.

"If members felt that aggrieved, in our rules they are perfectly entitled to call an Extraordinary General Meeting and have the matter re-discussed. No one, as yet, has asked for an EGM."

Allegations that the Association had "grown too big for its boots" were also refuted.

Chris explained: "We disagree with this completely. In Essex we have about 4,000 full members with only about 500 of these actively participating in sport. If it were not for all these other members paying their subscriptions the sporting sections would not be able to get the funding they get."

Football training begins

PRE-SEASON training for the Force football teams will start on Tuesday, July 18.

The season will start at 6.30pm and players are to meet in the changing rooms adjacent to the

Traffic Block at Police HQ.

The club is always looking for new places players and anyone who is interested will be made very welcome at training.

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