



What the criminals say!

County is faring well in the fight against crime

ESSEX has achieved a better-than-average result in the fight against crime, according to latest annual figures from the Home Office.

Statistics for the 12 months to June show an annual fall of 6.5 per cent in crime in Essex, compared with an average decrease of 4.9 per cent in England and Wales.

The biggest drop was in Gwent, where reported crime decreased by 18.4 per cent, while at the other end of the scale, there was an 11.6 per cent increase in the City of London.

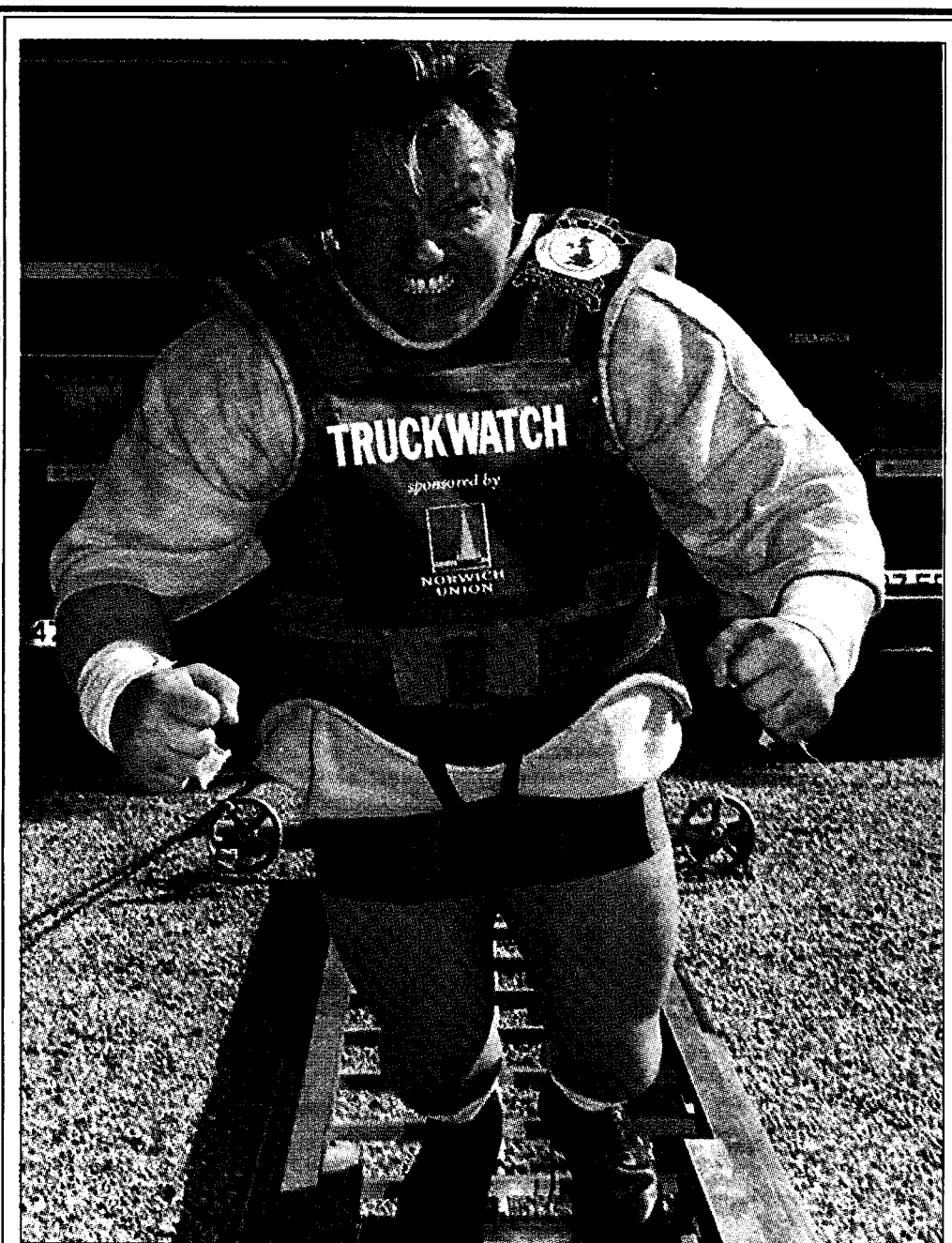
The good news for Essex included:

- Violence against the person down 3 per cent.
- Sexual offences down 12 per cent.
- Robbery down 1 per cent.
- Burglary down 18 per cent.
- Vehicle crime down 10 per cent.
- Fraud and forgery down 10 per cent.

Det Supt Ralph Barrington, head of Essex CID, said: "It is good news and shows we are taking sensible action. We are now being more proactive and using intelligence to target the criminal, with a major effect.

"The drop is the result of a combination of factors. Not only do we continue to work with the public and Neighbourhood Watch, but people are more security conscious and systems such as closed circuit television are having a dramatic effect on reducing crime."

Essex offenders asked for their views on surveillance in a unique research project



Muscular message

STRONG man Dave Gauder pulls two lorries, with a total weight of 30 tonnes, to signify the new muscle behind the fight against truck thefts in Essex.

See page 9 for full story. Photo courtesy of the Essex Chronicle.

CRIMINALS have been asked for their views on town centre security cameras in a unique study by an Essex detective.

And a high percentage have admitted that the existence of cameras would not only have deterred them from offending but also prevented them from becoming VICTIMS of crime.

Peter French, Acting Detective Inspector at Harlow, has just successfully completed a Master's degree in Police Studies, and it's the first time in the UK, and probably the world, that offenders have been asked for their views on surveillance techniques.

A specialist in surveillance and drugs he initially wanted to research technology and training techniques, but was restricted to what he could reveal due to the paper's audience.

Prominent

With the tragic murder of Merseyside toddler James Bulger prominent in the press, and the Harrods bombing still very much in people's minds, he then decided to look at CCTV.

He explained: "I wanted to do something which not only benefited myself but also the job.

"The Home Office, police and individual CCTV companies were all claiming that surveillance of town centres leads to a reduction in crime but no-one had actually researched what the offenders thought."

There were doubts by one large organisation that Peter's research could undo a lot of work which had been carried out, but as Peter pointed out: "How can you make claims that CCTV is a deterrent without asking offenders if it would have made a difference to them?"

Peter had a number of options open to him, including visiting prisons or interviewing offenders in custody at local stations.

However, he finally opted for the Essex Probation Service, which gave him access to three

By Kim White

offices in the county.

Eventually Peter devised a questionnaire for offenders, supplying each office with a sealed secure box, allowing responses to remain anonymous. Even now the identity of those questioned is not known.

However, the crimes they committed are, and these ranged from murder and rape to petty theft and minor assault.



● Acting Detective Inspector Peter French surveyed 400 criminals.

Also wanting to do something to benefit his own territory of Harlow, a town currently trying to introduce a CCTV scheme, Peter also sent 1,000 questionnaires to local residents, distributed through a town newspaper.

The results of both questionnaires make interesting reading. For full details see centre pages.

INSIDE
Healthy issues
- page 8

Miracle escape
- page 3

Letters
- page 4

FEDERATION NOTES . . . FEDERATION NOTES . . .

New election rules delayed

AGREEMENT had been reached by the Federation nationally with the Home Office over changes to Police Federation elections to bring them in line with the Forces restructuring programmes.

However, at the eleventh hour, the lawyers for the Home Office are not in a position to agree the new regulations for the election of male representatives and therefore those elections will be conducted in the same way as in previous years. In Essex, as we still have divisions, this does not affect our representation in any way.

However, new regulations for the election of female representatives will be in force for the new elections and for your information, I explain below their provisions:

Male and female officers will be able to stand for election as their Rank Representative in the Divisional area they are stationed. The nominated person can be proposed and seconded by a male or female officer of that rank; their electorate will be all male and female officers of that rank in the Divisional areas.

Likewise both male and female officers will be able to stand for election as their Rank Representatives to represent Specialist Departments e.g. CID, Traffic, HQ etc. The nominee can be proposed and seconded by either a male or female officer of that rank in the Department; again their electorate will be all male and female officers of that rank in that Department.

There will be one Reserved Seat Women Representative for each Federated Rank (Constable, Sergeant and Inspector) on a Joint Branch Board.

A woman officer can be proposed and seconded for the Reserved Seat Position by either male or female officers of her rank in the Force. Her electorate will be all officers of that rank in the Force.

A woman officer who accepts nomination to stand for the reserve seat vacancy CANNOT stand for election in the Divisional or Specialist Department vacancies.

Elections for Divisional, Specialist Representatives and the Reserved Seat Position must take place on the same day.

Force Elections

The triennial elections for Federation representatives in Essex will take place at 12 noon on Friday 8th December, 1995. Those officers elected will serve on the Joint Branch Board from the 1st January 1996 to 31st December 1998.

Any officer who wishes to be nominated or nominate another officer for a position on the Joint Branch Board, may collect a nomination paper from the Deputy Presiding Officer for their division or department from the 13th October 1995 (a full list of the Presiding Officers is included below for your information.)

When completed by the NOMINATOR, SECONDER and the PROPOSED CANDIDATE, the form must be for-

warded to the correct DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER by the 27th October 1995.

As in previous years, nomination papers will be colour coded that is to say:

Constables Nomination Paper will be Green.

Sergeants:Blue.

Inspectors:Pink.

Please remember that Specialist Officers attached to territorial divisions must cast their votes in their own division/department. I also draw your attention to the article regarding women representation and the ability for women officers to stand for divisional posts and the ability for male officers to nominate or second women officers for the reserve position and also of course, their ability to vote in that election as well.

The list of Presiding Officers are as follows:-

Mrs S.Barley, DAM, Braintree.

Mrs P.Wilton, DAM, Basildon.

Mrs J.Steele, Admin., Chelmsford.

Mrs M.Lomasney, DAM, Tending.

Mr P.Gibson, DAM, Colchester.

Mr B.Sharpe, DAM, Thurrock.

Mrs P.Ellis, DAM, Harlow, Mr I.Lawrence, DAM, Rayleigh.

Mrs J.Jeans, DAM, Southend.

Miss I.Shaw, DAM, Stansted.

Mrs N.Blamey, DAM, Traffic.

Mrs S.Tickner, DAM, MSD (for Operations, FIR, MSD, Personnel, IT & Admin.).

Det Insp D.Madden, CID Operations (for CID).

Mrs S.Spratley, Statistics Officer (for Reserve Women Representatives).



● By Brian Pallant

Sick pay top-up scheme

YOU will all be aware of the changes in sick pay regulations that I have reported previously.

We are now at the stage, from the 1st September 1995, where this is starting to affect serving officers. For some time the Joint Branch Board have been in negotiations with Insurance Companies to secure a deal for officers to recompense them if they are reduced to half pay under these regulations.

I am pleased to announce that at the Joint Branch Board meeting on Monday, 2nd October 1995, a new scheme to cover officers who find themselves in this situation was agreed. The scheme will be a bolt on the present Group Insurance scheme run by George Burrows Group Insurance as follows:

The cost per officer will be £2 per month which will give £100 per week, tax free, if they are off sick and are reduced by the Force to half pay. This payment will be available for up to 6 months whilst the officer is on half pay only.

The Joint Branch Board agreed that the easiest way to introduce the scheme would be to put all members currently in the Group Insurance scheme into the new scheme. It is hoped this will commence on the 1st November 1995 and full details will be available in due course.

If any officer does not wish to participate, please let the Joint Branch Board Secretary know in writing.

Members will still be able to continue their present cover in the Group Insurance Scheme.

The negotiations have been based on a substantial number of officers taking up the offer, if this is not forthcoming and the Insurance Company withdraw the offer, then we would have to negotiate on a personal not group basis.

If the scheme is successful, then we will consider, in the future, any requests from officers who would like more cover.

Worrying change

SINCE 1964, victims of violent crime have been able to claim redress for their injuries from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

In 1994, the Government announced its intention of drastically amending the Scheme, in order to reduce its current and projected future costs. The Criminal Injuries Board was to be abolished and in future cases would not be decided on the basis of calculating the actual losses suffered by a claimant, but according to a fixed tariff of payments for specific injuries.

The Home Secretary's decision was challenged in the Courts, and the House of Lords ruled that he had acted illegally. The amended scheme was set aside and in May 1995 the Government published the Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill. If this is passed, a new scheme will take effect from 1st April 1996.

THE CHANGES

The Bill provides for a standard tariff for injuries, loss of earnings (in certain cases), care costs and structured settlements. These proposals are a considerable improvement in the Government's original ones, but they remain inflexible and do not treat victims as individuals, with vastly different needs and circumstances. The sums prescribed in the new tariff for the more serious injuries are considerably lower than what would have been awarded by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, which has been able to assess compensation on the basis of civil law damages.

Those who have been subjected to the worst violence stand to lose the most. In our view it is wrong to say that exactly the same amount of compensation shall be paid to a young person who has been blinded in a criminal attack as would be paid to

an old person with an identical injury. A flexible tariff or "banding" system would be far more effective than the fixed tariff proposed by the Home Secretary, but the Government has so far rejected all proposals for a fairer system.

The Government proposes to impose an overall limit on awards of £500,000. Whilst this is double the sum it proposed originally, in practice it will affect a very small number of cases (seven in 1994) involving the worst injuries, such as paraplegia. This "cap" is unnecessary and unjust and should be removed from the Bill.

The right of appeal will be greatly reduced. Whilst a tariff scheme might be suitable for simple cases, we believe that those involving fatalities, permanent disablement, and serious injuries should continue to be assessed on the basis of common law damages.

Law Opinion

Turning the tide of crime

THIS issue of *The Law* contains some hard and heartening evidence of progress in the battle to reduce crime.

As annual statistics from the Home Office confirmed a 6.5 per cent decrease in Essex's crime toll, there was ample proof from different parts of the county of the determination that exists to maintain this welcome downward trend.

This includes the growth of local authority closed circuit television on the streets, the launch of crime prevention initiatives Truckwatch and Ringmaster, a section Neighbourhood Watch conference attracting 200 volunteer co-ordinators away from their normal Saturday morning pursuits for four hours, and 400 people joining the waiting list to become Essex Special Constables.

The most important aspect of these initiatives is that each one involves committed participation from people outside police ranks and reflects a spirit of partnership with officers on the front line. The support which exists among the vast majority of the public is an asset which should never be under-estimated or under-valued.

As Chief Constable John Burrow said at the launch of Truckwatch, there is no single reason for rises and falls in crime. It is a complex scenario, with many influencing factors.

But a willingness by the public to invest their time and, through their councils, their money in crime prevention is certainly a plus point. It may not address the cause, but, as victims of crime would confirm, society is entitled to take steps to reduce the effect.

The fact that the peaceable majority once noted by commentators for its silence is standing up to be counted by way of positive, lawful action, taken in conjunction with the police, offers hope that the welcome turn in the polluted tide of crime will continue.

● *The views expressed in this column are those of the editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Chief Constable or any other member of Essex Police.*

More money for Specials

ESSEX Specials are hoping to benefit from extra Government funding.

The Home Secretary has announced that an extra £4 million is being made available, in line with Government policy, to increase the number of Specials across the country from 20,000 to 30,000.

The new fund will make grants directly to forces which make the best case for them and where local support is greatest.

Chief Constable John Burrow said: "Essex Police will respond positively to this initiative and will bid for a proportion of the money in order to develop further the Special Constabulary across the county.

"The current strength of the Special

Constabulary in Essex is 650, which is one of the highest in the country.

"The Specials perform an invaluable service in assisting regular officers and their contribution to policing is widely acknowledged."

Following a national recruitment campaign last year, there is a waiting list of 400 would-be Specials in Essex.

The Association of Chief Police Officers has also welcomed the additional funding.

Announcing the extra investment, Home Secretary Michael Howard said: "There is no better way of helping the police crack crime than becoming a Special.

"They put people power right into the rank and file of the police."

Off beat

Constable ploughed down by getaway car Miracle escape from hit-and-run

Changes in alarm policy

● WHEN police were alerted to loud banging in a house in the early hours, the first officers on scene requested back-up.

But before the second car could arrive, the officers discovered it was just 'Thumper' up to his old tricks again in a cage in the back garden.

● One information room operator couldn't believe what he was hearing when he dished out advice to a stranded motorist on the M11.

The man and his wife had 'overheated' and requested the RAC.

To ensure the couple's safety the HQ controller advised them to make their way up the embankment, to which the man replied: "I'll try and drive my car up the hill."

● Wheelie bins were the source of at least two requests for police last month.

One shocked resident in Chelmsford discovered a vagrant using his bin as a bed, while another spotted an orange refuse container bobbing down the river with 'a leg hanging out of it.'

On closer examination all was revealed, it was simply a floating shoe.

● TV's Mr Motivator was less than amused when he tried to film one of his famous keep-fit regimes in Colchester.

Police were called to remove a drunken man and woman intent on joining in the fun.

But the exertion was obviously too much. Minutes later they were leaning over a nearby bridge giving passing motorists a rather unpleasant shower.

● Another unwanted visitor took the form of a fox which wandered into Colchester's Rose and Crown Hotel bar and refused to leave.

The manager had told the fox that the bar was closed and he eventually left before police arrival apologising for causing any problems. He claimed he had simply been looking for his mate Basil and should have been in the Flying Fox on the Harwich Road.

● Concern grew for the driver of an International Rescue van who had broken down near the Wakes Arms roundabout in Epping, in the early hours.

When the RAC man arrived he found the van but no trace of the driver.

A search of the surrounding area revealed all. The driver had wandered into the woods for a call of nature and got lost. He was eventually attracted by the lights on the police vehicle.

BLOODIED and bruised, but unbowed, PC Dougie Pyatt faced the media gathered round his hospital bed and spoke of his narrow escape from death at the hands of a hit-and-run driver.

By Peter Laurie

PC Pyatt (32) was hit by a getaway car and thrown into a garden while he and colleagues were observing suspected vehicle thieves in Colchester.

It made him the 107th Essex Police officer to be assaulted on duty this year.

He was admitted to Colchester General Hospital, suffering from facial cuts and severe bruising.

"I didn't see the car," he told reporters. "I can't remember it hitting me. I must have blacked out. I can vaguely remember being in the ambulance."

He is keenly aware, however,

that his wife and three-year-old son came close to losing him and he is counting his blessings that he will be around to greet the arrival of his second child in February.

PC Pyatt, who has eight years' police service - the last two in Colchester - is also grateful for the cards and messages he has received from friends and colleagues.

The brown Volvo getaway car was later found burnt-out at nearby Ardleigh.



● Reliving his narrow escape from death - PC Pyatt in Colchester General Hospital. Photo courtesy of the Evening Gazette.

New face in UNISON

A NEW face is manning the UNISON office at Headquarters as Brentwood traffic warden Terry Storey is elected welfare officer for civilian UNISON members.

After long term illness a member, and their partner, or carer may be eligible for a stay in a convalescent centre and, in a case of financial hardship, may be entitled to a reduced or free place.

Financial help in the form of a grant or loan can also be made available to members, their dependants and retired members.

The system is totally confidential and anyone wanting advice should contact Terry on 54995. He is based at Kingston House and mans the office between 8am and 9.30am each day.

Seatbelts save lives

THE driver of this Royal Mail truck walked away with no more than a headache when his vehicle was involved in a collision on Ongar Road, Chelmsford in September.

The truck left the road and hit a concrete post as it ended up in a ditch after the 5am accident.

In the opinion of the traffic officers who attended the scene the driver almost certainly owes his life to the fact that he was wearing his seatbelt.

Handy ammunition to police officers wanting to get home the message that seatbelts save lives!



● The wreck of a Royal Mail van after a collision in Chelmsford. The driver's seatbelt saved his life.

Calls for young musicians

THE Essex Police Junior Band is sending out a clarion call for more members.

The band, formed 18 months ago, is keen to perform at concerts, but needs more young musicians of school or college age who have reached the Associated Board of Music grade five standard and can spare one hour each Wednesday evening for practice at Police Headquarters, Springfield, Chelmsford.

No family connection with Essex Police is necessary.

Conductor PC Peter Butterworth can be contacted at Danbury Police Station on 01245 222166 or messages can be left for him at South Woodham Ferrers Police Station on 01245 320333.

A white helmet reunion

SOUTHEND Police Club is holding a Christmas buffet for former Borough officers on Thursday, December 21. And a drink on the house is promised to anyone wearing the Southend white helmet of old.

The event will take place in the Club Room, from 12 noon until 3pm. Names to club secretary Mike Robertson.

Stepping out for the elderly

PC Brian Pallant, Essex Police Federation secretary, is to take part in a 100-mile walk from Plymouth to Falmouth to raise funds for St Martin's Home for the Elderly, Southend, accompanied by Essex Special George Cook and Martin McGrath, secretary of the Port of Tilbury Police Federation.

A NEW initiative aimed at reducing the huge amount of police time wasted on false intruder alarm alerts has been adopted by Essex Police.

Policy revisions recommended by the Association of Chief Police Officers have set a target of reducing these calls by an annual 10 per cent for four successive years.

Essex Police has agreed to adopt the recommendations, with the inclusion of some minor deviations.

Operators

A major plank in the new approach is endorsement of the use of additional equipment which will allow central station operators to see or hear activity within the premises or, alternatively, to enable them to plot the progress of an intruder by a series of signals from different detectors.

Calls to police from these systems will be referred to as confirmed alarms and the response will, in most cases, receive priority over signals from conventional systems.

Warning letters will continue to be sent after four false calls, but in future, once a warning has been issued, any call received during the next three months is likely to receive only a routine response, unless the call is confirmed. Alarm systems will continue to be subject to a withdrawal of response after seven false calls.

Reponse

Members of the public reporting activation of 'audible only' systems will, if the call is to get an immediate response, be expected to give additional information which suggests an offence is in progress.

Police will no longer be vetting alarm companies as a matter of routine.

Companies installing remote signalling systems monitored by central stations for police response will first have to be inspected by an organisation acceptable to ACPO. These currently are the National Approval Council for Security Systems (NACOSS) and the Security Systems Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB).

ACPO estimates that 25 per cent of all police responses are alarm-related - the vast majority of them false calls.

Last year, 1.1 million false calls were reported from remote signalling systems; 22,288 of these calls were in the Essex Police area.

The force's intruder alarms adviser, Stuart Bowman, said: "We are telling the alarm industry we are receiving far too many false calls and these are inhibiting our ability to respond to other incidents."

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Letters

Ten second response throws new light on Essex policing

I WAS very surprised to read in the September edition of *The Law* that the target of Essex Police for answering 999 calls is 10 seconds.

I have only been retired for 18 months and I know that things were changing rapidly but I can't help wondering what sort of patrol cars you have now.

I was an area car driver for 28

of my 30 years but can honestly say I never achieved your present target once.

I thought the reason I don't see many policemen around in Essex any more was the fact that they are all either at Brightlingsea or sitting in police stations transcribing taped interviews.

Now I know different, they are

all travelling so fast I just don't see them.

Ex PC Dave Rose
Cambridge

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: For those who have fallen for Dave's tongue in cheek quipp, the article was, in fact, talking about the answering of the telephone and not the arrival of a car.

"Them and us" still exists

WHEN I saw your sarcastic cartoon (September) I felt I ought to write about the "nice safe jobs" that some of the Essex Police support staff do, for example traffic wardens.

For eight hours a day, the ever-willing traffic warden faces Joe Public, having the task of informing motorists where and where not to park and keeping the highway clear.

This is one of the most dangerous occupations I can think of, because we are talking about man's most precious possession - his car. When a traffic warden issues a fixed penalty ticket there is a chance that World War III is about to take place.

Traffic wardens are even-tempered souls with thick skins and warm hearts. They pound their beats vigilantly, helping the elderly, disabled and anyone else they meet. They don't have the luxury of sitting in a warm police car. They battle on through rain, hail, snow and the occasional heatwave.

The traffic warden is on the front line of the streets, where anything can happen.

So the little man depicted in your cartoon may as well stay in bed. If he isn't able to continue as a police officer, he stands no chance of being employed as a traffic warden.

Your cartoon depicts the old "them and us" situation as still existing, which is something Essex Police denies.

Sandra Cotton
Traffic Warden Controller
Rayleigh Division

A cryptic note of thanks

TO the friends who telephoned me over the past few weeks to update me on "current affairs" I extend my thanks and gratitude.

The "property" in question was not worth keeping.

Mike Ainsley
Colchester

Stressing the point too much

I HAVE been following, with some interest and a lot of puzzlement, the correspondence in *The Law* concerning stress. I've talked it over with other pensioners and we agree things ain't what they used to be.

Maybe we did hide our feelings as Jennifer Mitchell-Gibbs suggested - but did it do us any harm? We all underwent stressful incidents but that's not the same as suffering stress. Three years in Cyprus during the terrorist antics wasn't a picnic, but all I ever got was a severe sun-tan plus the effects of too many water-melons.

Obviously it depends on the individual, but perhaps people can cope better than the experts would have us believe.

We had short, sharp stressful incidents - like sitting in the back seat on an Advanced Refresher when the driver went for an impossible overtake.

You knew your heart was still work-

ing because you hear it hammering, wanting to get out and walk.

The stresses of the job were accepted and forgotten once behind us. I think that's the key word - forgetting. We didn't brood - we found our own ways of relaxing and getting it out of our systems.

One night in Romford in 1959 I was skulking round the backs, trying to keep out of trouble, when some officious member of the public took it upon himself to tell me there was a man going berserk with an axe in the market place.

I managed to capture him and take him to the station. I can't imagine Don

Mummery's face if I'd said "I don't think I'd better go back out, Skipper, I feel a bit stressed."

He would have exploded all over the patrol sergeant's office and delivered one of his non-publishable one-liners.

It's only 10 years or so ago that I found myself staring down the muzzle of a 9mm automatic, which rapidly assumed the proportions of a field-gun.

OK, I was petrified at the time, but it seemed pointless to worry about something that might have happened and didn't.

Had I been offered counselling, would I have taken it? If I had, I would have been more stressed, finding out that the incident was regarded as harmful to me. I may be wrong, but I can't help feeling it is possible to make

mountains out of molehills.

The more you persuade someone that harm can come from bottling up feelings, the more he is likely to feel there is something fundamentally wrong with his make-up.

Of course stress hits different people in different ways, but perhaps we old 'uns learned to deal with it with no detriment to ourselves.

Don't let us try to change people too much. Use counselling if it is clearly needed, but don't wheel people in willy-nilly. Leave them the chance to develop their own characters, their own remedies in their own space and time.

We learned in the school of hard knocks and survived.

Ex-PC Tom Morrison
Braintree.

A medal received with style

HAVING just read the September issue of *The Law* and the letter from Derek Morbey about collecting his Police Long Service and Good Conduct medal from the shift in-tray, my experience was quite the reverse.

The Chief Constable was good enough to have the medal sent to the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption here in Hong Kong and my family and I were duly invited to a small presentation ceremony hosted by the Commissioner at which I was presented with the medal this month.

Despite the fact that I am a seconded officer eight thou-



● John Shanahan is presented with his medal by the Commissioner, in Hong Kong.

sand miles from my home force, both my family and myself took great pride in the presentation of this medal to me.

By the way, for anyone interested I am returning to the force in 1997 - before the handover.

DS John Shanahan
Hong Kong

Trauma of cycle patrol

THERE is no need to consult the force historian about the counselling needs of the Finchingfield officer, as suggested by Dave Rose.

I am neither unwinding, nor am I seeking counselling. This does not, of course, mean that I am not suffering from stress.

All of this apocryphal hyperbole about bulging saddlebags could so easily lead to an internal investigation or (much more traumatic) the reintroduction of the rural cycle patrol.

Pc Brian Higgleton
Finchingfield

Interesting but obvious

FIRSTLY can I say that I found the article "truth about stress" by Insp Mitchell-Gibbs, in the September issue of *The Law*, extremely interesting.

Of course, without the benefit of having a Bachelor of Arts degree in anything I was astounded to find that I actually understood what I was reading, probably because at one point I was reading my autobiography. I was amazed to find that Insp Mitchell-Gibbs was writing about me, yes me, and to my knowledge we have never met.

Well she must be writing about me I thought - "minor everyday hassles caused by workloads, shifts etc". Of course, the worst of these is "etc" which would appear to cover anything not covered under workloads and shifts such as home life, social life, still life and this is your life.

There I go, good old black humour, must be time for a smoke and a drink by now, not that I really need to smoke or drink, it's just that social thing you know. There I go straight into denial only good old aggression left.

I will admit to a little cynicism creeping in. It is quite clear that Insp Mitchell-Gibbs has had to put a lot of hard work into obtaining her BA.

I just can't help thinking that even without the benefit of a BA I knew this. I just needed to be human, to have lived a little and seen a lot.

Once more I congratulate Insp Mitchell-Gibbs on her article and her BA, but one last thought, cynical though it may sound. If we recognised that much of the problem is "caused by the organisational or management structure" what are they doing about it?

It's commendable in these days of man power shortages to be able to release people for three years to University, but what are we doing with all the knowledge.

Pc Steve Buscall
South Woodham Ferrers

Letters

contd

Help Minnie find Molly

I AM hoping that *The Law* can help me to trace my mother's sister.

My mother, Minnie Martin (nee Mynard) is the widow of policeman 436 John Martin, known as Jack.

Her sister, Maureen Ivy Cousins (Molly) was born on March 28, 1921, and married Harry B. Cousins, who was also a policeman. He retired around March, 1968, and they emigrated to Australia. When he retired, he was serving in the Metropolitan Police at Romford. Their two children, Jill and Roderick, emigrated with them.

The last time we heard from them was 1983. My mother heard that Molly and Harry had separated and she had returned to England with another ex-policeman.

My mother is now 81 and not in the best of health and it would be lovely for her to make contact again with her only sister.

Mrs Ann Mills
Kirby Cross

● If you can help Mrs Martin please contact the press office and we will pass on any information.

Devon beats Grays any day

IT was with amazement that I read the letter from Bryan Sharpe (September Law) in praise of Thurrock.

I served in Grays Division from 1951-54 and 1964-76 in the scenes of crime department.

Grays has been known over the years as the penal colony. The area, including Tilbury and Purfleet, was dirty and infested with rundown housing, much of it inhabited by people who were anti-police.

The proximity of Rainham Marshes and the large number of chimneys resulted in smog and the muck descended on your car, washing line and curtains.

I recently revisited the area and didn't see anything to change my mind.

Oh to be living in glorious Devon!

DC Head
Tavistock, Devon.

Where we lead, others follow

I WAS pleased to read of the success of Saffron Walden's Milk Watch (September Law). However, schemes such as this are not new.

As crime prevention officer at Witham, I have been involved in Dawn Patrol for the last two years and, yes, our milkmen even have mobile phones which have been sponsored by parish councils. Our milkmen have been successful in reporting numerous suspicious incidents, which have been dealt with quickly.

Two years ago, the scheme attracted wide media coverage, including a feature on BBC television.

Why has it taken so long for others to realise the excellence of this crime prevention initiative? It's nice to think that where we lead, others follow.

Mick Hall
CPO, Witham.

CPS adopts new teamwork system which will aid police service

NEW working practices based on closer teamwork have been adopted by the Crown Prosecution Service in Essex.

Integrated team working will be fully implemented next month in the CPS's Chelmsford office, which handles Essex Police's court cases and provides advice on prosecutions and charges.

It promises the police a streamlined, speedier service which will reduce delays in the progress of a prosecution.

Under the old working method, files were passed along the line between different sections at the CPS office. Lawyers, crown court case workers and administrative staff all worked in separate units.

The new scheme brings their desks

together in integrated team clusters, enabling them to deal more quickly with a particular point. Each of the county's five teams is headed by a lawyer and case workers previously restricted to crown court work will now also deal with prosecutions to be heard by magistrates.

Another benefit is the sense of teamwork and ownership the new arrange-

ment will give staff, according to CPS North Essex Branch Prosecutor Philip Jones.

He added: "The staff are very keen and have warmed to the new arrangement. I hope to see a marked improvement in our service."

At the same time, a new computer system called SCOPE has been introduced for case tracking.

Is HQ measuring up?

Peter joins press office



● Peter Laurie.

FORMER editor and newspaper director Peter Laurie has joined the Essex Police Press Office.

Peter spent 25 years with Essex County Newspapers, which is now being offered for sale.

He edited three Essex weekly newspapers before spending seven years as editor of the Colchester-based Evening Gazette and went on to become editorial director.

His experience also includes working in public relations as a media director.

Said Peter: "As a journalist I enjoyed a good rapport with Essex Police and I hope to make a positive contribution in my new role."

ESSEX Police is looking at ways of improving its performance through new documents known as Service Level Agreements.

Everyone will remember the launch, three years ago, of Service Delivery Standards, aimed at showing the public what standards of service they can expect to receive from the police.

It has since been suggested that territorial divisions also need a clearer understanding of the services offered by departments and divisions at Headquarters.

After a great deal of discussion it was decided that these should adopt the nationally accepted name of Service Level Agreements.

Insp John Meggison, of MSD, said: "Service Delivery Standard is a name recognised only within Essex and a distinction needs to be made between these, which are for the public domain, and Service Level Agreements which are

internal agreements."

Each agreement produced should encourage a clearer identification of the 'customers' needs and greater accountability of those providing the service.

Insp Meggison stresses, however, that SLAs are not to be seen as a bureaucratic exercise.

"In some cases merely engaging in discussions about the nature of the service provided may be sufficient to improve levels of service accountability.

"We won't be asking people to go off and produce an SLA even if a department's annual plan suggest that one is produced. An agreement may only be provided when there is a particular problem area between the customer and the provider."

The SLA programme will be the overall responsibility of Policy Group Sub Group on performance.

By Kim White

Milking the success

SAFFRON Walden Crime Panel's offensive against the area's criminal fraternity is continuing, with the announcement of the first results of the Milkwatch scheme and the launch of several new initiatives.

Under the Milkwatch scheme launched in August, Walden Dairy milkmen, are encouraged under the scheme to report anything suspicious they may have seen on their rounds.

To date they have reported 21 incidents in the town and surrounding villages, saving a life and finding a nine-year-old missing child in the process.

If the success continues, it is possible the scheme will be extended throughout the rest of the Uttlesford district.

A new initiative, Shopwatch, will bring the Chamber of Trade and the Crime Panel together in an effort to promote communication between retailers, and to enable them to warn each other of the presence of suspects.

Details will be circulated shortly by the project leader, Frank Casey, to the area's leading stores and those with a recurring theft problem.

Stolen goods identified

VICTIMS of burglaries in the Brentwood area had the chance to view unidentified property recovered from Operation Sapphire and other similar investigations, during a five-day roadshow in Romford.

Operation Sapphire is an investigation into a large number of burglaries in the Essex and Metropolitan Police Districts, which has been running at Brentwood Police Station since April this year.

During this investigation a large quantity of jewellery has been recovered and placed on display at Brentwood, Rayleigh, Southend and Grays Police Stations, with many items being identified as stolen property as a result.

The Romford roadshow took place in September at an empty town centre shop, attracting 9,500 visitors over five days, with 51 burglary victims identifying 127 items of property.

Four defendants are currently awaiting sentence in connection with charges relating to Operation Sapphire.

Crucial lessons

HUNDREDS of youngsters took a step into the 'big wide world' this month in another successful Crucial Crew week in Clacton.

The idea of Crucial Crew is to introduce schoolchildren to every day problems, and how to solve them.

First aid, what to do in the event of a fire, and what not to do on building sites and railway lines, are among the workshops held at Highfields Holiday Park.

The scheme is aimed at being educational but fun, with two sessions held each day of the week for a different group of students.

A clean sweep

LAINDON dogs swept the board at this year's dog trials, with handlers from the division taking the top three slots.

Pc Dave Frost, Sgt Bill Prowse and Pc Colin Elsegood not only took 1st, 2nd and 3rd. They also walked away with awards for the best criminal work, search and track respectively, and the team trophy.

Colchester constable Phil Passfield took 4th place completing the winning line-up.

Assistant Chief Constable Jim Conlan presented the awards at a ceremony at Headquarters, along with a number of other certificates and trophies for other feats.

Retirement

This year's dog trials also marked the retirement of Inspector Rod Barrett, who has worked with the Sandon section for the past 26 years.

The presentation was, in fact, Rod's last duty with Essex Police, and three cheers from the audience marked the occasion.

Mr Conlan expressed his sincere thanks to both Rod and the rest of the dog section for the support they provide Essex Police.

He said: "I believe we have the largest number of dogs and handlers in country and a lot of crimes are detected as a result of the dog section's commitment."



● Constables Dave Frost and Colin Elsegood, with Sgt Bill Prowse with their four-legged friends and their host of awards at this year's dog trials. Photo by HQ Photographic.

Dog trials without Jack

ONE familiar face missing from this year's dog trials was that of Laindon dog Jack.

Unfortunately Jack had to be put down after vets discovered a tumour above his lung.

The tragic loss for handler Phil O'Connell came just months after reaching the nationals in York. He had previously scored the highest marks in the regional trials.

Jack, aged seven, had been with Phil since a pup. He also has a spaniel, Casper.

Paul clinches place in famous flower show

GARDEN designer Paul Spracklin, seen last month in *The Law's* retired officers feature, has won the chance to display his talents in next year's Chelsea Flower Show.

Writtle College, where Paul did his training, is allocated a spot at the show each year and past and present students compete for the privilege.

A design for a sub-tropical jungle garden - Paul's specialisation - won him the prestigious place.



● Jack demonstrating the dog camera earlier this year.

of confidence

By Kim White

Report clears police of heavy-handing tactics during protests

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Constable's statement

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about their lawful business.

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has day-to-day command of the situation on
has been subject to much personal criticism,
direct instructions.

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e report of Commander Luckhurst and his
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to ensure these are addressed.

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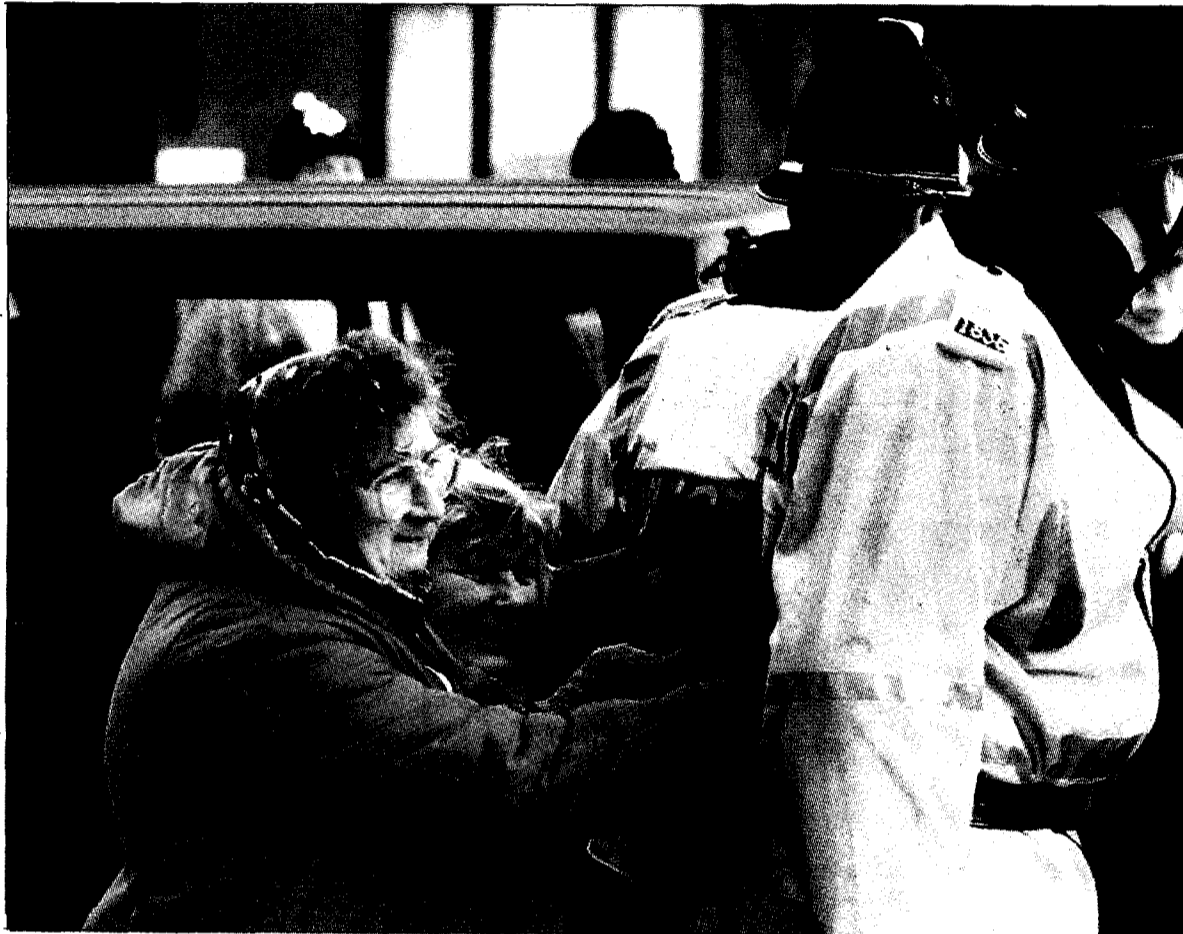
anks to those officers who over the past nine
rformed their duties at Brightlingsea to the
l standard to which the public of Essex are

report and the confirmation that the actions
taken by Essex Police were justified.

He also accepted that certain areas are
"worthy of review". Non-detachable
numerals have already replaced the Velcro
epaulettes which posed problems during
protests.

Mr Burrow said: "The overt wearing of
arm and leg guards was perceived as sinister
by protesters. In response
research has been initiated to
identify equipment which
would be worn under uniform
without discomfort."

Stressing the need to allow
both the legal trade of animal
exports and the protesters' right
to freedom of speech, Mr
Burrow added: "Without
compromising this stance the
Essex Police will continue to
seek ways of working with the
community to establish
improved relations."



One of the more light-hearted scenes at Brightlingsea later in the year. Photo courtesy of Evening Gazette.

Complaints regarding policing methods

While many telephone calls and letters were received during the first week of the Brightlingsea protests, in the main these related to the policing methods used to control the daily demonstrations. There were 29 formal complaints relating to the conduct of individual officers.

Many of those raising concerns were doing so as a result of seeing footage on television, footage which was later criticised by Commander Luckhurst as being "manipulative".

Each complaint was investigated under the supervision of Commander Luckhurst and Mr Linbert Spencer of the Police Complaints Authority.

Of the 29 one is still subjudice following the arrest of a protester. Of the remaining 28, three were withdrawn and 13 were informally resolved.

Full investigations were conducted in relation to the remaining 12. In seven no officers could be identified by the complainant, from video footage or from the extensive enquiries made. In four cases officers were identified and interviewed. In a further case, the complainant did not provide the necessary co-operation and as a result none of the complaints were substantiated.

Some of the protesters did complain of injury. In the main these were slight and were consistent with a public order situation.

Assistant Chief Constable, Jim Dickinson, responsible for Complaints and Discipline, attended the County Hall presentation and again welcomed the conclusions of Commander Luckhurst who said: "A total of 29 complaints presents a different picture than was painted at the beginning of this dispute when there were suggestions that over 200 people had recorded grievances against the police."

He added: "Much credit is due to those within the Essex Force Complaints and Discipline Branch who were charged with the early responsibility. The method adopted at the outset provided an opportunity for many people to discuss their concerns and in doing so contributed to an identification of those cases where a more in-depth examination was necessary."

● Unnecessary force was a frequent accusation levelled at police officers at Brightlingsea.

Claims of protesters being picked up and thrown off the road, punched, elbowed and trampled led to a general view that the police were "out of order".

Video footage clearly showed officers pulling and pushing protesters during the dispute as they attempted to remove people from the road.

Whether or not the actions were reasonable was the basis of Commander Luckhurst's investigations.

He was fully aware that the majority of Brightlingsea residents had never taken part in major demos in the past and they were shocked to find that police officers would lay hands on them for whatever reason.

Injuries did occur but Mr Luckhurst considered these were consistent with individuals being involved in a melee and were rarely the subject of a claim of deliberate infliction by police officers.

To uphold the law physical contact was required and in such encounters slight injury is inevitable.

In conclusion Mr Luckhurst said: "I am satisfied that at times a few officers became frustrated at the determined resistance of those taking part and became a little too zealous in their actions. However, I am equally satisfied that this was very much the exception rather than the rule."

Protective clothing

MISSILES thrown during the first day of demonstrations at Brightlingsea, led to a decision by Assistant Chief Constable Geoffrey Markham, for officers to wear NATO helmets for protection.

Arm and leg guards were also used, with advice from public order trainers that it be worn under the uniform.

For a variety of reasons, including discomfort, many officers wore their equipment overtly, a issue of concern by residents, not used to seeing officers in "riot gear" in their tranquil town.

It is an essential role of supervisors and chief officers to ensure the protection of their subordinates and while it may have been an "unpalatable" sight for residents, Commander Luckhurst pointed out that any such decision must always be "an operational one" based on information available at the time.

He said: "I am satisfied that senior officers, in deciding to order personnel into protective equipment, had little option in the circumstances given and had they not done so and the situation had deteriorated they could not have quickly reversed the decision."

Officer identification

OFFICER identification was another bone of contention among protesters at Brightlingsea with many allegation of officers deliberately covering their faces and not wearing shoulder numerals.

Mr Markham's briefing during the first week addressed the issue of numerals.

He said: "No officer will be deployed without his or her collar number on their outer garment. There will be no excuses. I will have no disguising of individual identities."

TV footage included in Mr Luckhurst's presentation depicted examples of detached epaulettes, one epaulette, and a protester holding onto an epaulette.

Mr Luckhurst concluded that the number of officers who went on duty without identification were "very much a minority and probably came about through negligence".

Further footage showed officers wearing balaclavas under both normal helmets and NATO helmets, and while the weather was cold, there were cases of officers covering their faces just prior to engaging with protesters.

Mr Luckhurst saw no justifiable reason for this action and, in fact, described the effect as "a sinister image that was neither necessary or desirable".

He did, however, accept that the problem was swiftly addressed and guidance was issued at subsequent briefings.

Building bridges

IT was always acknowledged that the demonstrations at Brightlingsea had the potential to impact on the good relationship that existed between the community and Essex Police.

To this end continued efforts have been made by the Tending Division to work with the community throughout the period of the protests.

Early moves were made not to involve local-based officers in demonstrations to enable them to continue community policing.

Examples of initiatives taking place include work with the school's Youth Action Group, the revitalisation of Neighbourhood Watch and a prominent role by police in the town's Golden Victory Day.

Protesters claim a "whitewash"

PROTESTERS at Brightlingsea have branded Commander Luckhurst's report a "whitewash" and feelings have been running particularly high since its unveiling.

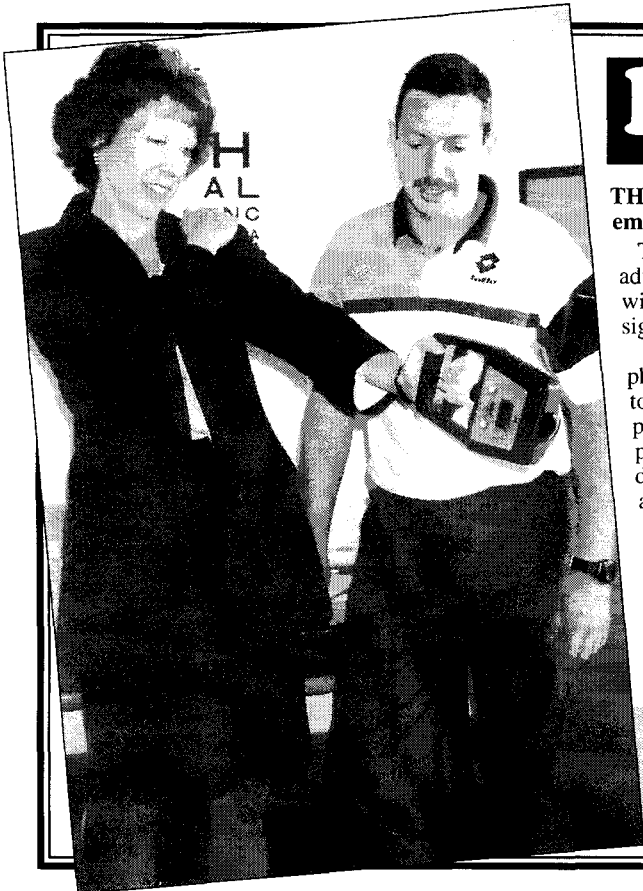
Chief Constable John Burrow, felt Brightlingsea residents should have the opportunity to hear the outcome at a second identical presentation within their own town.

This took place at Brightlingsea Community Centre, one week after the presentation to the

Police Authority.

Assistant Chief Constable Mr Jim Dickinson said: "It is regrettable that the presentation was continually interrupted by a number of individuals who were not prepared to listen to what Commander Luckhurst had to say."

A lengthy question and answer session took place which enabled those attending to address their questions to the Chief Constable.



Healthy advice

THE first in a series of Look After Your Health roadshows for Essex Police employees took place at Braintree Divisional Station.

The accent was on dispensing advice in a friendly, relaxed manner, with not a finger-wagging matron in sight.

Force occupational health and physical training staff were on hand to offer colleagues a range of simple, painless tests covering blood pressure, lung function, carbon dioxide levels, vision, grip strength and height, weight and body mass.

The tests were followed by a brief personal consultation offering any necessary advice on leading a healthier life.

There was also a display of advisory leaflets on a wide range of health topics for visitors to

take away.

The next roadshow will be held at Police Headquarters on Wednesday, October 25, from 9.30am until 4pm, next to the snooker room on the first floor.

It will then be repeated during the next 12 months at divisional stations on dates which will be advertised on noticeboards.

The programme is being run by the force's Look After Your Health Committee. Its chairman, Supt John Rhymes, said: "With personal commitment and organisation there really can be a positive effect on people's lifestyle and health."

● **How's that for strength? Braintree divisional property officer Niki Cox takes the grip test with physical training instructor Pc Simon Halford.**



● **Braintree assistant divisional manager Liz Brown has her blood pressure checked by occupational health advisor Ashley Dodds, with local Look After Your Health Committee member Sue Barley looking in.**

Changes to safety at work laws

CHANGES in the law - to apply the provisions of existing Health and Safety at Work legislation to police officers - are set to be introduced nationally from next year.

The Home Office proposal will also provide for police associations to be regarded as trade unions and, as such, may appoint safety representatives from among their members.

In anticipation of this the Chief Constable, Mr John Burrow, has arranged for meetings with the Police Federation and Unison representatives, to discuss and consult on both the existing and proposed health and safety arrangements.

Legal duties

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 imposes a number of legal duties on employers, the self-employed, employees, suppliers and owners of premises, to ensure that their workplaces are safe and offer no risk to health.

The Act has four basic aims:-

1. To ensure the health, safety and welfare of persons at work
2. To protect persons, other than persons at work, against risk to health and safety arising out of, or in connection with, the activities of persons at work
3. To control the keeping and use of dangerous substances

4. To control the emission into the atmosphere of noxious and offensive substances.

The duties of employers under the Act are, so far as is reasonably practicable, to provide a workplace that is safe and without risks to health.

As well as providing a safe workplace, safe equipment, safe systems of work, safe working environment, the employer must provide adequate supervision, training, instruction and information to employees.

The Health and Safety at Work Act also imposes a duty on all personnel to take reasonable care of his or her own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by his or her acts or omissions.

Where civilian staff are employed for police purposes, Police Authorities have the same responsibilities under the Act as any other employer.

However, Section 53(1) of the Act defines employees as individuals who work under a contract of employment.

Police officers are "appointed and attested" and are office holders, rather than employees. As such they are not currently protected by health and safety legislation.

However, where health and safety applies to civilian staff, police officers

By Norman Hicks

have been able to benefit from any improvements introduced as a result of the 1974 Act and any regulations made under it.

The Police service therefore applies the law to police officers in a spirit of voluntary co-operation and all efforts are made to ensure our police premises comply with our legal obligations.

The Home Office is now committed to applying the law to police officers, with Chief Constables being regarded as employers for the purposes of the legislation, which it is anticipated will be in place next year.

National joint working groups have been established to examine the health and safety implications for police work.

These groups comprise operational police officers, force health and safety advisers and representatives of the police associations.

Implications

They have been tasked with giving special consideration to applying health and safety to operational police duties and will issue guidance on how police forces can comply with the legislation and the implications for Local Police Plans and force objectives.

The guidance will take account of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, which are aimed at improving health and safety management and which require employers to assess the risks to health and safety of employees and of anyone else who may be affected by work activities.

The culture of discipline and the well-established hierarchy of responsibility and accountability of Essex Police should enable the management of risk to

be achieved with relative ease.

However, operational police duties always involve an element of risk which is not easy to predict and control.

Account should therefore be taken that ensuring health and safety as far as is reasonably practicable is fundamental to the Health and Safety at Work Act. Many activities can achieve these reasonably practicable standards of control.

It must be emphasised that the primary responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of employees rests with line management.

Our Force Health and Safety Policy defines and allocates these responsibilities. Copies of the policy are available in all divisions and departments or from the Health and Safety Unit in the Training School, on extension 58630.

Uniforms of the future

POLICE officers are being invited to contribute to a national review of uniforms and equipment design for the 21st century.

A project headed by West Yorkshire Assistant Chief Constable Bill Hughes is aiming to achieve a national corporate image for uniforms and make equipment such as radios lighter and easier to carry. A national standard for uniforms would allow central purchasing, saving an estimated 30 per cent in expenditure.

Budding designers, civilians included, are invited to send their ideas to Mr Hughes at West Yorkshire Police Headquarters, PO Box 9, Laburnum Road, Wakefield WF1 3QP.

Reducing repeated crimes

UK police forces are being invited to send delegates to a national briefing conference on a pioneering scheme set up in West Yorkshire to reduce "repeat victimisation" crime.

The Biteback initiative, launched in Huddersfield last October, to prevent victims of burglary and other crime being hit again involves refocusing resources to offer vulnerable people greater protection.

Figures show that 44 per cent of all crime is committed against just 4 per cent of the population.

Since the launch of the Huddersfield campaign, there has been a drop of almost 25 per cent in burglaries.

The one-day Biteback conference is being held at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield, on Friday, December 1.

Application forms can be obtained by telephoning Huddersfield Police at 01484 436714.

News in brief

● A REUNION for past and present Essex Police driving instructors attracted 110 of them to the new headquarters sports club.

They were welcomed by senior instructor Insp Mike Carter and visit-

ed the driving school, where they saw a photographic display.

● THE new chairman of the Police History Society is Commissioner for the City of London Police William Taylor.

Ringling the changes in crime

A COMPUTERISED alert system which streamlines crime prevention has made its Essex debut in Brentwood.

The system, called Ringmaster, works from a computer-telephone link at Brentwood Police Station and sends messages to the 650 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in the section.

Instead of phoning round on a "pass the message on" basis, Ringmaster enables the crime prevention co-ordinator at Brentwood to dictate the information once into a microphone linked to the computer.

Then the Ringmaster software automatically dials the telephones of everyone programmed into it and plays them the recorded message. If there is no reply, it will call back at pre-programmed intervals until the telephone is answered.

The £5,000 kit has been provided by insurer General Accident and Brentwood Borough Council is meeting the running costs.

The council is already the front-runner among Essex local authorities in providing another crime deterrent - closed circuit television.

The launch of Ringmaster was attended by Brentwood Mayor Valerie Fletcher, who said it was another example of the borough's Neighbourhood Watch slogan: *Crime doesn't flourish in a community that cares.*

Essex Police was represented by Harlow Divisional Commander Supt Lee Weavers, who praised the council's strong partnership with the force.

This is reflected by crime statistics which show that during the past four

By Peter Laurie

years, there has been a 46 per cent reduction in household burglaries in Brentwood section. During the same period, the detection rate for this offence has risen from 16 per cent to 34 per cent.

Once Ringmaster is bedded in, it is planned to extend it to support other crime prevention initiatives in Brentwood, such as Shop Watch, School Watch, Horse Watch and Pub Watch.

Meanwhile, as the nights pull in, Harlow Division is repeating its Autumn Breaks crime prevention campaign this year, making people aware of the simple measures which can be taken to protect their property against burglars.



Ringmaster is also on the way in Braintree Division, where it is undergoing trials. It is hoped to introduce it to Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in the division later this autumn.

● Mayor Valerie Fletcher, Supt Lee Weavers, David Sallnow, representing sponsors General Accident, and Barbara Waltham launch Ringmaster

Tracking truck thieves

DAVE Gauder's strong man feat (see page 1) took place at the launch of Truck Watch in the county by Transport Minister and MP for Epping Steven Norris.

The scheme involves details of stolen trucks being passed to a fax bureau and relayed to members for their drivers' attention.

The Essex initiative, organised with the Road Haulage Association,

Freight Transport Association and insurer Norwich Union, is the final link in the Truckwatch chain in East Anglia. It already exists in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire and, as well as recovering stolen vehicles, has brought reductions of up to 50 per cent in truck thefts.

Since January, more than £17 million worth of trucks and loads have been stolen in Essex.

Chief Constable John Burrow told the launch presentation: "This scheme has the full support of Essex Police."

The force's Truckwatch co-ordinator, Sgt Neil Seymour, said: "Drivers taking part will provide us with extra eyes and ears, in and out of the county."

More than 100 Essex truck operators have already joined or indicated they wish to take part.

Marine marking

MARINE Unit officers made their presence felt on dry land at the Essex Boat Jumble Sale at Great Leighs - the premier event of its type in Southern England.

They manned a crime prevention caravan to offer advice on Marine Watch and boat registration and provide a UV property marking service.

A second team of officers visited every stand and checked the serial numbers of items for sale, using a direct link to the Police National Computer and the Marine Unit's own local intelligence base, or carried out a UV lamp scan. One outboard engine, believed to have been stolen three years ago in Hampshire, was recovered.

Visitors were pleasantly surprised and reassured by the high profile police presence - evidence of Essex's stance against marine crime.



● Pictured (l-r) are Essex Police Truck Watch co-ordinator Sgt Neil Seymour, Chief Constable John Burrow, Transport Minister Steven Morris MP, Norwich Union's Albert Mills and National Truckwatch Chairman Graham Houghton. Photo courtesy of John Adams Photography and Video Services (Colchester).

In the running for dedication awards

FIVE Neighbourhood Watch volunteers from the Essex Police area are in the running for awards for dedication and enthusiasm.

They have been shortlisted for the 1995 Neighbourhood Watch Southern England Medal, sponsored by insurer General Accident and organised by crime prevention charity Crime Concern.

The Essex nominees are the Rev Chris Bishop, Stansted Airport Watch; Mrs Lynette Clancy, Tilbury and Corringham; Mr Geoffrey Ireland, Great Badow; Mr Peter Jeffrey, Witham and District, and Mr Michael Philpott, East Hanningfield.

Gold medal and commendation winners will be announced on November 6.

● THE third annual Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch Conference drew an audience of 200 co-ordinators from the section and brought praise from both its chairman and Chelmsford's Deputy Mayor.

Group chairman Geoff Ireland described it as a "most enlightening, informative event" and his words were echoed by Deputy Mayor Mrs Janet Potter, who is also Watch co-ordinator for Galleywood.

There was a strong Essex Police presence, including speakers Assistant Chief Constable Charles Clark and Chelmsford Divisional Commander Supt Bob Ward.

Mr Ward said: "It was helpful for me and was part of a consultation process we are committed to in the division."

New legal course

POLICE personnel can now increase their legal knowledge and the professionalism of their case papers through a new low cost training package.

Following consultation with ACPO the new scheme is modelled on training already used for casework officers in the CPS. It has been produced as a partnership between National Police Training and the Institute of Legal Executives.

Police officers and civilians involved in the preparation of files will now be able to obtain the same qualifications as their counterparts elsewhere in criminal justice.

Stage 1 is aimed at police personnel on file preparation and successful completion of the course and exam is equivalent to 'A' level standard leading to a Certificate in Criminal Justice (File preparation).

Stage 2 is designed for file managers and anyone involved in decision making relating to prosecution files. This stage is set at degree standard and leads to a Diploma in Criminal Justice Administration (File Management).

Each course is based on distance learning with a qualified tutor on hand for advice.

Although there is an obvious target group, any officer or civilian within Essex Police can undertake the course, albeit in their own time and expense.

Force funding is not available but the cost of the course has been kept reasonably low with Stage 1 at £143 plus VAT and Stage 2 at £188 plus VAT, and payments methods are flexible.

While the aim is to complete each stage within a year, ILEX Tutorial College does accept personal difficulties and allows up to two years for each part.

Inspector Lionel Thomas, of the Criminal Justice Department explained: "I think it will be a course of great benefit. It gives everyone a chance to be more professional in the way they submit files while increasing their legal knowledge."

For more information on the courses and how to join contact Insp Thomas on 54984. Enquiries with regard to payment methods should be referred to Richard Norrie, Director of Studies at ILEX Tutorial College on 01234 841010.

ESSEX POLICE

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Featuring the Bands of

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(School of Music, Deal)

ESSEX POLICE

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Wednesday, November 22, 1995

Programme commences 7.30pm

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The Box Office on 01702 351135

Essex Police HQ (Wendy Holden)
on 01245 491491 ext 51510

N.A.R.P.O. notes

THE annual conference, held in Manchester on September 8, sprang no surprises. Fourteen motions and two emergency motions were debated.

The motion from NEC to increase the amount of precept payable by branches from 40 per cent to 45 per cent was carried by a majority of 18. This increase will come into effect from January 1, 1996.

There will, however, be no increase in members' annual subscriptions. It simply means that branches will have less money in their accounts for local use.

Two motions suggesting that NARPO should consider holding biennial conferences, instead of annually, were defeated. However, a motion asking the NEC to consider holding the conference on a Friday and Saturday, when hotel rates are considerably cheaper, was carried.

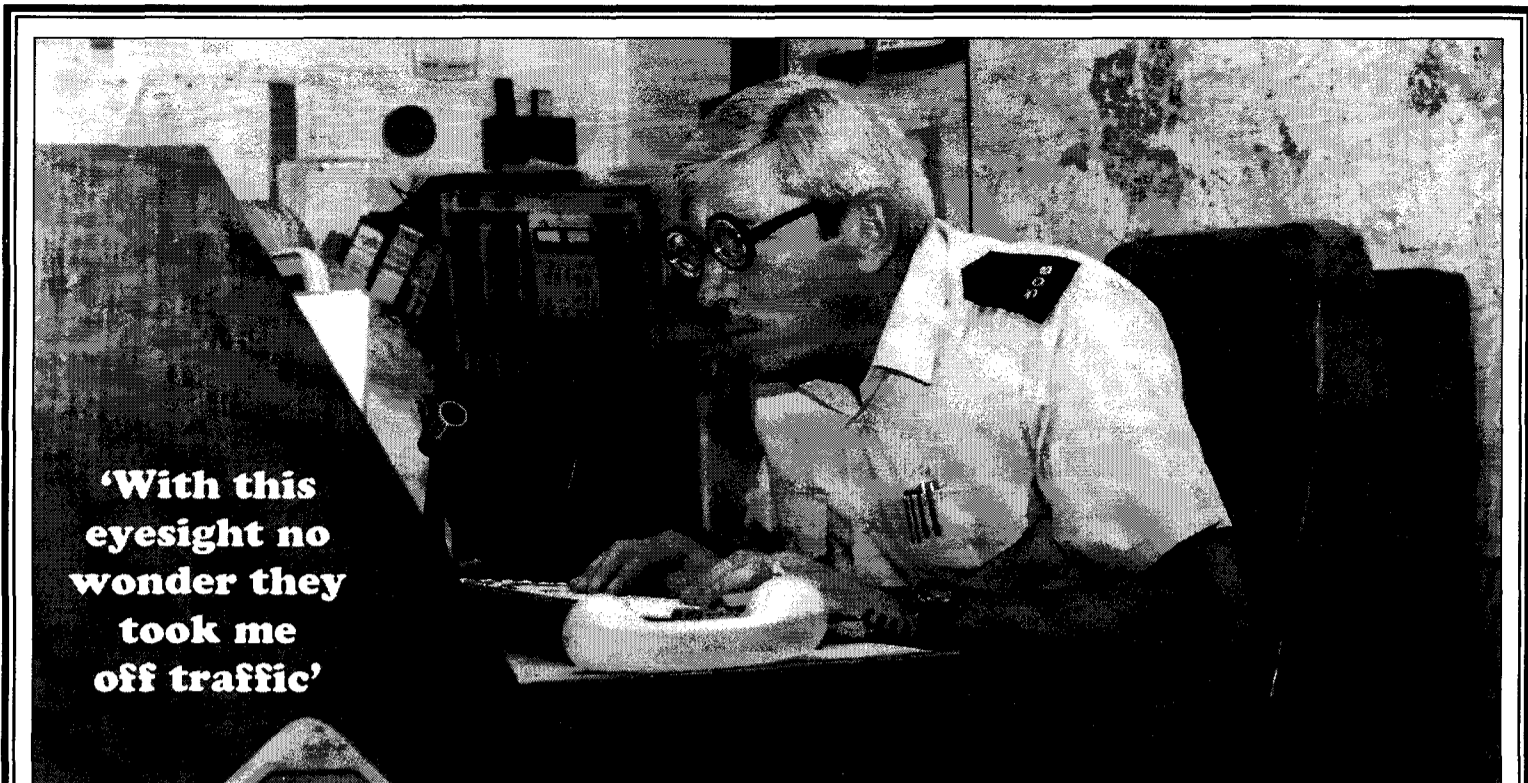
Les Male (West Midlands) and Peggy Sandford (West Surrey) were re-elected to the NEC for the Southern region. A full conference report should appear in the next NARPO News.

● Vera Bayliss reports that the annual bowls match against serving officers, at the Falcon Club, Chelmsford, resulted in a win for the serving officers, who were this year's hosts.

A special "well done" goes to Alan Taplin, who became captain for the day in the absence of Brian Taplin.

It was a great pleasure for everyone to meet up again and the pensioners look forward to next year's match.

Thanks goes to Falcon for allowing use of their facilities.



'With this eyesight no wonder they took me off traffic'

STAFF at Chelmsford say a fond farewell this month to controller Bill Crowhurst, after 30 years with Essex Police.

Bill's other work has included stints with Complaints, Traffic, Southend,

Grays and Colchester.

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

Ch/Insp Richard Griffiths, HQ Complaints, 28 years (31.12.95).

Insp Rodney Barrett, Sandon Dogs, 31 years (14.10.95).

Dc John Cockburn, SB Harwich, 27 years (11.10.95).

Pc John Kinnell, Basildon, 30 years (8.12.95).

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

CARAVAN. 4-berth Sprite Musketeer, 1981, fridge, cooker, hob and grill, porta-potti. In excellent condition. £1,500. Gas bottle and battery also. Contact Hazel Bloom on 01255 476518.

CITREON 2CV6, 1986, red, new roof, exhaust, tyres. Many new parts, wax oiled, beautiful, must sell, full MoT, taxed. £1,050. Contact Gary Heard on 01376 562026.

FIAT Uno 45, 1988, full MoT, 6 months tax, vgc, new tyres, exhaust etc. £1,450 ono. Contact Paul Gridley on 01245 471673 or at Chelmsford Traffic.

FOR SALE, four bedroom detached house, Kirby-le-Soken, near Frinton-on-sea. reduced to £62,000 for quick sale. Contact Kevin Maleary of Thorpe Traffic on 01255 861455 or 01255 422876.

FOR SALE Rayleigh Girls or ladies small wheeled, three speed cycle, fold-up with car-

rier and stand, excellent condition, £38. Contact Federation Office on 54504.

GROUND floor, 2-bedroom flat at Eastwood, electric heating, garage, £37,000. Contact Wendy Ruggiero on 01702 529671 or ext. 30620.

HOLIDAY Cottage in France, between Bordeaux and Toulouse, sleeps four, fully furnished, two mountain bikes available, set in beautiful countryside, medieval hilltops, bastide villages and chateaux. Swimming, walking, bird watching. £150-£250 per week dependant on time of year. Contact Clive or Doreen on 01245 350215.

HONDA CB580, 1980, classic bike, black, restored, with photo history. £1,500. valuation from owners' club £950 ono. Contact Paul Gridley on 01245 471673 or at Chelmsford Traffic.

MAKE your own concrete posts, slabs and gravel boards. Motorised trembler table and moulds. £180. Contact Chris on 01245 257743.

PIANO. Churchill upright, fully reconditioned, excellent condition. £375 ono. Contact Yvonne Brown on 01206 211110.

SEMI-DETACHED bungalow at Eastwood. Two bed, Economy 7 heating, long garden, parking space, was £43,000. Some modernisation needed, hence now £39,995 ono for quick sale. Contact Phil Pewsey on 01702 467377.

SWALLOW pram, push chair, carry cot, combination navy and white, two sets rain covers, carry cot stand and cosy tub, washable covers. £150 (cost £428 new). Contact D. Edwards on 01376 328799.

THREE-bedroomed house, part furnished, cul de sac position, immaculate throughout, at Harlow. Contact Marion Parr on 01279 862508.

TWO Stanley Gibbons stamp albums containing hundreds of stamps. £25 each or £40 for both. Contact Peter Janman on 01206 395290.

VAUXHALL Nova, 91 H, 1.0L, white, full service history, very clean, 50,000 miles, taxed, MoT till December. £2,500 ono. Contact G. Tappenden on 01787 460347 or 56142.

YAMAHA PSR-400 electric keyboard, pitch, bend, tempo control, midi compatible, 99 voice, drum pads etc, stand, case, headphones boxed. As new, music books, £285 ono. Contact John Hills on 01376 512692.

Tribute to popular bandmaster

THE conductor who showed the Essex Police Band that facing the Press can be an enriching experience has died.

Jim Bearman, who retired two years ago as Essex County Newspapers' crown court reporter, was Essex Police Bandmaster from 1974 until the end of 1976. He trained as a journalist after retiring from the Royal Marines as a military bandmaster at the age of 40.

The skilled contribution he made to the Essex Police Band is remembered well by musicians he conducted and his arrangements live on in its repertoire.

John Waddington, a founder member of the band, said: "Jim's professionalism as a military bandmaster was a great asset and he was popular with everyone."

It was under Jim's baton that the band played to its biggest audience, when it performed at an Ipswich Town v Liverpool match before a capacity crowd of more than 25,000 at Portman Road.

Natural courtesy

Dressed in a ceremonial frock coat, he was an imposing figure with the conductor's baton in his hand. Away from the rostrum, he was the epitome of Gentleman Jim - a warm, unassuming man whose natural courtesy and respect for others won him many friends.

That admiration was evident at Chelmsford Crown Court, where proceedings were delayed in his memory while Judge Peter Greenwood extended the court's sympathy to the Bearman family. Jim's wife, Barbara, was senior usher at the court until her retirement.

Jim, who lived in Braintree, died aged 65 while on holiday in France last month.



● **Jim Bearman.**

● Former sergeant Bob White, who for many years ran the force diving section, died last month following complications after a heart attack.

Aged 66, Bob joined Essex in 1969 having spent 22 years in the Navy. By 1971 he was head of the police divers and remained there until his retirement in 1985.

Operations manager, Chief Inspector Doug Adams, fondly recalls his "sense of humour and saltiness". He said: "Bob was probably the greatest influence on my life. He was my supervisor for many years and it was Bob that originally sparked my interest in diving."

Bob leaves a wife Jean, two daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

● Essex Police also extends its sympathies to the families of the following police pensioners and staff who died:

Ex-Inspector Reginald Karsten, from Clacton, who joined the Police Force in 1936, serving at HQ, Chelmsford and Clacton, and retired in 1966. He died on September 4, aged 80.

Mr George Whitaker, from Stifford Clays, who retired from Essex Police, as a civilian driver at Grays, 13 years ago. He died on September 8, aged 79.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed

New signing scores two

ESSEX Police Men's Hockey Club unleashed a powerful new strike force on highly-fancied Devon and Cornwall in the first round of the PAA men's national competition.

Although Essex reached last year's final, visitors Devon and Cornwall were tipped to win because of their consistently better performance in other competitions.

New signing Mark Potter made his PAA debut for Essex and his side quickly put on the pressure, taking the opposition by surprise.

A strong scoring partnership between Potter and Graham Lawrence clicked into gear. Lawrence scored three goals and Potter grabbed two. Each time one scored, the other had a hand in the build-up.

The final score was a 5-1 victory for Essex and it was only a momentary lapse in concentration that allowed Devon and Cornwall to sneak a goal past Paul "The Cat" Maleary.

Great performances by Gary Franklin, John Evans and Andy Cryne added to the sweetness of the victory celebration in the new pavilion at Chelmer Park, which, like Marion's marvellous food, was a splendid advertisement for coming to Essex.

Fish for entry

SEA anglers have until November 24 to enter the Croker Cup match, to be fished on December 1.

Boats will leave Bradwell Marina at 7.30am in teams of four anglers. The entry fee is £75 per team. Entries and cheques, payable to Essex Police Sports Association, should go to PC Skingley at the Rayleigh Marine Section. (Ednet 36810, mobile 0850 706072).

Pike starts season on scoring form

THE start of the Essex Police football season was delayed by the effects of the long, hot summer on the Headquarters pitch.

Two tough pre-season friendlies were played at Braintree and Heybridge with a creditable draw and odd-goal defeat against strong opposition. With 20 different players tried in the two games, the commitment and quality was encouraging.

The first team kicked off their season at home to Hatfield Peverel. Heavy rain made the surface tricky, but the Police gradually settled down, saving their best for the second half.

Darren Pike broke the deadlock and netted an excellent second goal, while Julian Beacher finished the game with the third.

The reserves experienced a mixed start to the season, with a defeat, a draw and a win.

Away to a strong Mountnessing side, the Police went ahead with a Darren Pike goal. Police goalkeeper John Walker made some excellent saves and Roy O'Hare scored a spectacular goal from a free kick, but this was not enough and Mountnessing were deserved 4-2 winners.

The next match was away to Hatfield Peverel and ended goalless. The Police struggled to find any fluency

and only fine goalkeeping by John Walker ensured they came away with a point.

At home to Barnston, the reserves enjoyed one-way traffic for the first 20 minutes and created some good chances before going ahead through Cliff Haines. They then eased off and allowed Barnston to equalise, but Police's Gerry Stopher rifled home the winner for a 2-1 victory.



● Fortifying the over-40s... the Braintree divisional champions.

Vets are victors

HAPPY captain John Stonehouse paid tribute to his veteran-packed Braintree side as it beat Southend to win the Essex Police Divisional Cricket Final.

"With an average age in excess of 40, I normally look to hide half of them," said Stonehouse. "But today they fielded like teenagers. It made all the difference."

Played at West Bergholt,

Southend won the toss and elected to bat. Mick Benning went quickly, caught behind off Dave Stock, and skipper Paul Bates soon followed, falling to a blistering caught and bowled by Stonehouse.

An inspired over by Andy Spink reduced Southend from 64-3 to 64-6. However, thanks to a solid 61 from Martin Hall and Graham Stubbs's textbook 23, the 45 overs'

play took Southend to a respectable 159-9.

Braintree had an unhappy start, with Jerry Morgan out for one, but solid batting by Dave Murthwaite (30) Richie Buckland (19) Paul Nicholls (30) and Stonehouse (63 not out) brought a comfortable victory, with seven wickets and nine overs to spare.

Rallying call for Butler's team

CHELMSFORD Traffic patrol officer Andy Butler will again be competing in the annual Network Q RAC Rally, which starts on November 18.

Andy has successfully completed the gruelling rally twice before and is aiming for a top position this year.

He will be using a Vauxhall Nova GSi, meticulously prepared by Colin Adams, of Police HQ Workshops, the team's chief mechanic. Paul Gridley, of Chelmsford Traffic, is also in the service team.

During the four-day rally, the car will undergo the punishment of four years' normal driving, using four sets of tyres, two sets of brakepads and at least one replacement gearbox.



● Andy Butler, Paul Gridley and Colin Adams.

FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Boxing

PC Daniel Stoten, of South Ockenden, has been selected to represent the British Police against the Army on October 30 and the RAF on November 16. Both tournaments will be in London.

Power plus

THE British Police Bench Press and Powerlifting Championships take place on Sunday, November 19, at the Tyseley Heath Fitness Gymnasium, Birmingham. EPSA members requiring more information should contact the sports secretary on ext. 58888.

Croker Cup

Football: Tendring beat Thurrock (1 pt to Thurrock).

Table tennis: HQ beat Basildon (4pts to Basildon).

Darts: Tendring beat Rayleigh (4pts to Rayleigh).

Billiards: Southend beat Tendring (4pts to Tendring).

Snooker: Southend beat Harlow (4 pts to Harlow).

Golf: Croker Cup golf held at Stisted ended: 1 Braintree (12 pts) 2 Southend (10) 3 Colchester (8) 4 Harlow (6.5) 5 HQ (6.5) 6 Thurrock (5) 7 Chelmsford (4) 8 Rayleigh (3) 9 Basildon (2) 10 Tendring (1).

Croker Cup badminton will be held at the Chase Sports Centre, Prittlewell Chase, Southend, at 10am on Wednesday, October 25.

Pavilion

WITH the new sports pavilion at HQ now open, EPSA members can hire the function room free of charge for weddings and other events. Maximum capacity is 120 (80 for a sit-down meal) but there is space to erect a marquee. There is a returnable damage deposit of £50. Contact the secretary on ext 58888.

Force lottery

THIS month's results:

£1,500 PC Andrew Jones, Brentwood; £1,000 Moira Playle, HQ; £500 PC Richard Gardner, Southminster Marine; £300 PC John Lock, Newport Traffic; £200 Dennis Jennings, HQ Garage; £100 Pamela Hagon, Colchester.

£50 consolation prizes go to PC Ian Howitt, Grays; DC Stephen Myall, Seconded; PC Timothy Rees, Clacton; DC Mark Tegerdine, RCS Harlow; PC Lea Osborne, Halstead; DC Mark Pickett, HQ; Insp Gary Skull, Epping; Jeanette Thomas, HQ; Sgt David Salmon, Colchester, and TW Bernard Hley, Westcliff.

Bowls

THE final was held at Colchester, when Colchester (12 Croker Cup pts) beat Rayleigh (10 pts).

Snellin saddled with yet another victory

GRAHAM Snellin (Saffron Walden) has become the first rider to achieve four successive victories in the Police Athletic Association 25 Mile Time Trial National Championship.

But the competition turned out to be closer than ever before, ending in a dead heat.

The Essex cycling team of Snellin, Mike Kliskey and Mick St Leger faced the tough challenge of a strong wind and temperatures in the 80s on the Yorkshire course.

As reigning champion, Snellin was last of the 60 riders to start. The first Essex rider on the course was St Leger, who showed signs of a return to form with a time of 57 mins 45 secs for sixth place.

Kliskey, whose recent

form made him a medal contender, produced a personal best time of 56 mins 20 secs, which put him in second place for a time, until local favourite Pete Moynihan, a later starter, stormed home with a time of 55 mins 59 secs to go to top of the board.

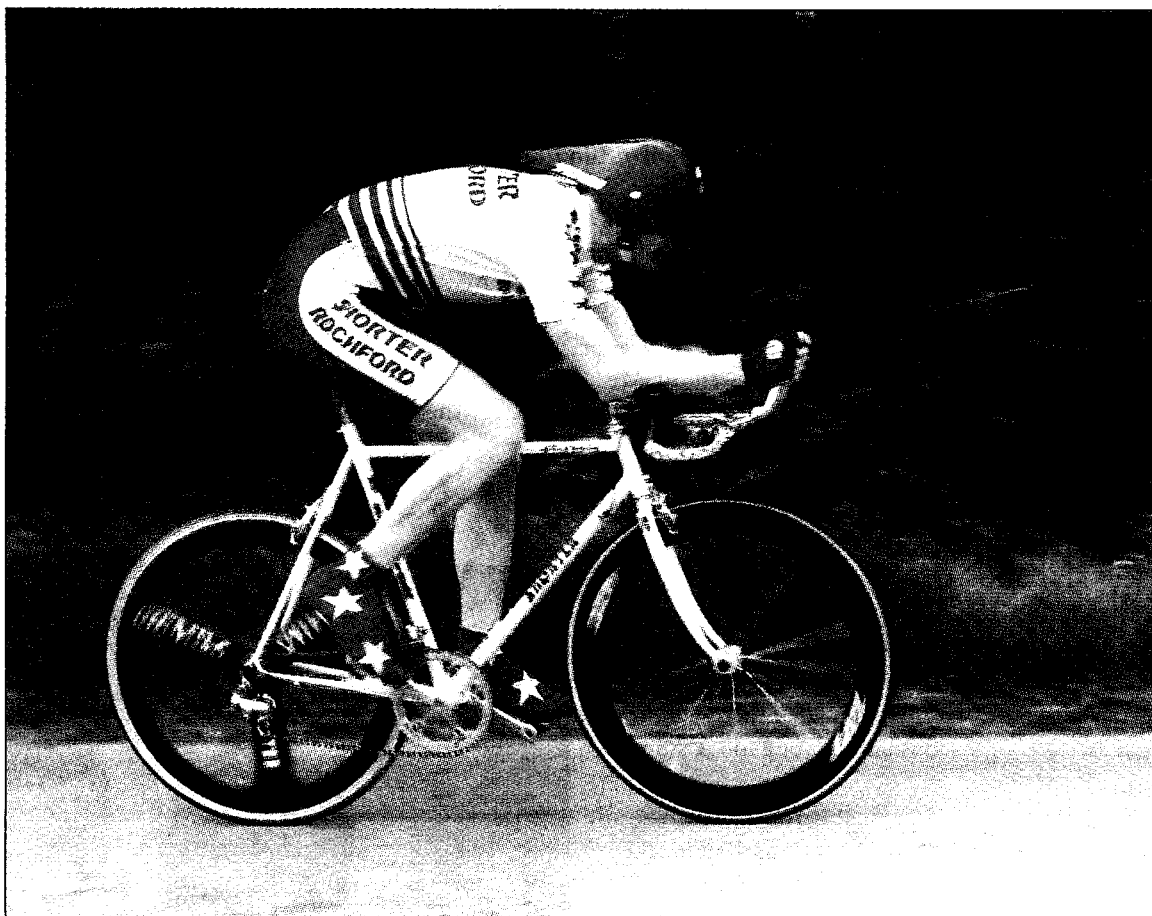
Snellin, who started 20 minutes after Moynihan, checked his watch as he crossed the finishing line and thought he had hit 55 mins 59 secs.

After an anxious wait, the results board confirmed this time and a dead heat for first place between Snellin and Moynihan - another first in the history of the event, leaving the organisers to get a second

winner's plaque engraved.

Essex confirmed its dominance of short distance time trialling by finishing clear winner in the team competition for the fourth time in five years. Mike Kliskey's fourth place also earned him one of the category awards.

Graham becomes first cyclist to take the title four times



Dive into a great discount

DIVING enthusiasts or anyone keen on trying their hand at the sport, can now do so at a specially reduced price.

The going rate for a full course, including equipment, is usually about £350. But Benfleet constable Russell Hough has secured a special rate of £149 for members of Essex Police.

The course is held at Lakeside in Thurrock

with £99 covering a full course, with fees and equipment. The additional £50 is for registration and the course manual.

Although Russell will be taking some courses, other instructors will be participating.

Anyone interested in signing up should contact him on 01245 322826 or look out for posters placed around the county's divisions.

Stars turn out for charity golf

THE sun shone and the stars turned out to raise funds for a worthy cause at a charity golf day organised by Southend CID, Mecca Bingo and hosts the Hanover Golf Club, Rayleigh.

Twenty-five teams entered the tournament and were joined by celebrities who included former football stars Jimmy Greaves, George Graham and Trevor Brooking, Lee Dixon (Arsenal and England) John Jensen (Arsenal and Denmark) and Mickey

Hazzard (Spurs).

The line-up also included former England cricketer Trevor Bailey and Southend United manager Ronnie Whelan and assistant Theo Foley, together with team members. World badminton champion Thomas Stuer-Laridsen also participated.

Teams of four played a stableford competition, with a 3/4 handicap allowance and the best two scores on each hole counting.

The winners were George

Graham and the Westcliff Sporting Club trio of Peter Blythe, Roy Nesbitt and John Humphreys, with 84 points. Runners-up were the Southend Police team of Steve Reynolds, Ian Clark and Peter Donovan with Ronnie Whelan, who scored 82 points.

George Graham won the celebrity prize with 35 points.

After the day's golf, dinner was followed by entertainment by local radio presenter Roger Buxton and comedians Ian Irvine and Joe Goodman.

There was also a draw and auction, bringing total proceeds to £8,470 for the appeal fund for three-year-old James Beckwith, who was disabled in an accident in Southend.

● **Graham rides like the wind to finish top in the PAA 25 mile time trial, clocking 55 mins and 59 secs.**

Hills pose no threat to Mick

ESSEX'S Mick Bond finished third in the Police Athletic Association National 10 Mile Road Championships. He finished in a time of 55.12 on a hilly, demanding course.

The first fixture of the new season in the South East PAA Cross Country League will take place on Wednesday, October 25, at Welwyn Garden City. There will be a five mile run for men and a two-and-a-half mile event for women.

Transport will leave the Headquarters Training Centre at 2.30pm. Newcomers will be welcome and no pre-race entry is required.

Fixtures

An Essex Police team has been entered in the East Anglian Cross Country League for 1995/6. The men's courses are up to six miles and the women's up to four miles.

The fixtures are: October 11, RAF Marham; November 8, RAF Neatishead (road race); November 22, RAF Marham (to be confirmed); December 6, University of East Anglia, Norwich; January 10, RAF Coltishall; January 24, Bury Racers; February 7, RAF Honington; February 21, Thetford AC; March 6, RAF Honington.

If you are interested in taking part in the league, or any other athletic event, contact Roy Kebbell through internal mail at the Coroner's Office, Basildon Hospital or telephone 01268 593770.

Next Issue

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