

The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



Review of the last 12 months
- see centre

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

January 1996

No 267

Cleared of breaching lorry ban

MAGISTRATES at Harwich have acquitted Assistant Chief Constable Geoffrey Markham of two charges of breaching a lorry ban at Brightlingsea in January last year.

In a private prosecution brought by protest group BALE (Brightlingsea Against Live Exports), Mr Markham was accused of allowing a convoy of livestock lorries to enter the port after 11pm on Friday, January 20, 1995, in breach of an Essex County Council bylaw, prohibiting heavy goods vehicles from driving through the town between 11pm and 7am.

Pleading not guilty to alternative charges of causing and permitting such a breach, Mr Markham told the court his over-riding concern on the night had been for public safety.

Faced with a volatile, often hostile, crowd of up to 3,000 protestors, who had blocked the main road into the port for four hours before the ban came into force, Mr Markham said he had had no alternative but to order the convoy to continue its slow progress towards the wharf, where it was due to unload its cargo of sheep onto the MV Caroline.

Any move to turn the convoy around or divert it out of Brightlingsea would have been fraught with danger for both the protestors surrounding the vehicles and for the 300 officers, who were escorting the four lorries.

Announcing the magistrates' verdict, Mr Rod Essery, presiding, said: "We find that the only safe course of action open to you was to move the lorries forward and that you acted reasonably and in proportion to the circumstances."

The court awarded the defence costs out of public funds.

Mr Markham said at the end of the three-day trial last month: "I am pleased the magistrates have vindicated my actions and those of officers under my command on that night."

"We have said from the outset, our primary concern was to ensure public safety and the court has accepted that, in those circumstances, we had no other choice but the one we made."

New partnership in the air

THE prospect of an air support partnership between Essex Police and neighbouring Cambridgeshire Constabulary will take an important step forward this week.

By Peter Laurie

If it proceeds, it could be the forerunner to a police air unit involving forces across the South-East.

The Essex Police helicopter, which came into service in 1990, has been called to major incidents in Cambridgeshire, but there is no obligation to provide this "good neighbour" support.

The most notable example of cross-border airborne assistance was the recapture of two escaped IRA prisoners from Whitemoor Prison, Cambridgeshire, who were located in the darkness by the Essex Police helicopter's thermal image camera.

Now Cambridgeshire is keen to get its own helicopter.

Lack of money has frustrated this objective, but the Home Office has said it will this month consider bids for grants from forces who are willing to become part of a police air support consortium.

The strategy under discussion involves one Essex helicopter and a second for Cambridgeshire coming under the wing of

a formal, joint force consortium. It is envisaged that initially one would be hired — as the Essex helicopter is at present — and the second would be bought. The longer-term, cost-effective aim is to buy both. Assets and liabilities would be shared equally by the two forces, but this pooling would not include the helicopter bases.

Little Richard's big day

WHEN Essex Police advertised for recruits last month, one application stood out. It came from Richard Allerton... aged five.

Richard, from Heybridge, Maldon, wrote to the Chief Constable, stating: "I am 5 years and 7 months old. I saw your advert in the newspaper for new policemen and I want to be one when I am 18. Please can you put me on your list?"

The letter was passed on to force public relations officer Fred Feather, who identified young Richard as a bright lad to keep in mind for the future.

Fred replied: "Your writing is already very good. Keep working hard at your lessons and I am sure you will get what you want."

As a reward for his interest, Richard was invited to Maldon Police Station as a guest of honour. His visit attracted representatives of local newspapers, radio and television, who all featured his special day.



Richard meets Maldon constables Sue Tyler and Len Bickford.

The budding bobby had a ride in a response car, slammed the cell doors, practised filling in a report form and made a quick foot patrol outside the station.

His verdict: "I like the police because they

help people, put naughty people in prison and drive nice cars."

And judging by the warm reception Richard received from the officers at Maldon Police Station, the fondness was mutual.

The consortium proposal carries benefits in terms of both operational effectiveness and good house-keeping.

Two helicopters would enable Essex and Cambridgeshire to extend routine air cover and both aircraft could be deployed to a major incident in either county.

On the financial front, it is estimated that the consortium approach would bring total savings of at least £60,000 a year on the cost of providing two independent helicopter units.

Essex Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Geoffrey Markham said: "If we can achieve an increased service at a reduced cost, I will be very pleased."

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FEDERATION NOTES . . . FEDERATION NOTES . . .

Pushing a case for front-line policing

OUR joint Branch Board has been concerned for some time about the reduction in Essex Police officers.

The establishment figure for Essex was 2,950 officers on March 31, 1995. However, when on April 1 Police Authorities became stand-alone bodies, Chief Constables were in effect given their own budgets and no longer had to maintain an establishment figure. The restructuring of Essex Police during the last 18 months has resulted in a proposed establishment figure of 2,931 officers. To make matters worse, at the end of October Essex Police was 35 below this.

Your Joint Branch Board has at every opportunity raised the matter with the Chief Constable and the Police Authority.

With the announcement of additional funding for the police, which will give Essex extra officers over the next three years, our concerns were that we would be merely making up the numbers not replaced during the last 18 months.

We have again raised this matter with the Chief Constable through our negotiation machinery and chairman Dave Jones has written to the Prime Minister. A copy of this letter went to David MacLean, Minister of State for the Police, all Essex MPs, Richard Boyd, Chairman of the Police Authority and our own Chief Constable.

We will continue at every opportunity to push for additional resources for front-line policing and to resist with all possible vigour moves for further civilisation of posts where it will have a detrimental effect.

Dave Jones's letter to the Prime Minister:

Dear Mr Major
When I heard your announcement at the Conservative Party Conference earlier this year that you were prepared to pledge this government to providing sufficient funds to recruit an additional 5,000 Police officers in England and Wales over the next three years, I felt that perhaps at long last the Police Service was to be properly valued by our politicians. I hoped that the ravages of the Service that seem to have been started by Kenneth Clarke when he was Home Secretary, were perhaps at last coming to an end.

Whilst politicians are often prepared to talk about the amount of additional funding given to the Police Service since 1979, what they tend to forget is

the tremendous increase in workload over the same period. This has been partly brought about as a result of increased responsibilities due to legislation, and partly as a result of the crime wave that has continued, until fairly recently, to show an increase year on year.

Certainly the officers I represent in Essex have had more and more to do, with less and less time to do it in. Our Officers are finding that there were just not enough hours in the day. Because of the continuing cuts in overtime budgets they are putting in more and more of their own time and receiving no financial reward for their hard work.

Time and time again the message that has come to me is that those Officers need additional colleagues to help and support them in their fight on the streets. It was for these reasons that I therefore welcomed your announcement.

As time went by however, I found that some of my initial euphoria was beginning to dissipate and the more I discussed it with colleagues from the Police Federation the more I perceived the difficulties in your words being translated into actions. Up until the 31st March, each Police Force had an establishment figure agreed with the Home Office. In Essex that was 2,950 Officers in total. When on 1st April 1995, Police Authorities became stand alone Authorities and were no longer under the umbrella of the County Council, Chief Constables were in effect given a one line budget and no longer had to maintain their establishment.

Because Essex has been undergoing a process of restructuring during the past 18 months, it now has a proposed establishment figure for Police Officers of 2,931. The argument is that we have stripped out some of the unnecessary management posts, and kept the establishment level for constables the same. Unfortunately this does not seem to take account of the fact, that the work that was being undertaken by those 19 people from other ranks still has to be done by somebody. In many cases work has gradually been pushed down the ladder, until eventually it rests with the rank of Constable. To make matters even worse, because of various reasons, at the end of October this year Essex Police were a total of 35 under their new proposed establishment figure.

When the announcement was made at the end of last month on Police funding for 1996/97, I was disappointed to see

that for the second year running, the allocation to Essex was below the national average. I am aware that Chief Officers in Essex have said that once inflation and unavoidable growth are accounted for, Essex Police will face a very difficult financial year. Part of the Essex Press release in relation to the announcement on Police funding for next year stated "The Chief Constable and the Police Authority are committed to maintaining the number of Officers available for street duty, but there is little likelihood of any significant increase in Police Officers."

How does this statement accord with your announcement for funding of 5,000 extra Police Officers over the next 3 years, and indeed with the statement that the Home Secretary made when announcing Police funding? He said "The Police Service will be able to afford an extra 1,000 Officers across the country next year." How can I ensure that as far as Essex is concerned your comments and those of the Home Secretary will come to fruition?

I am aware that at least one Chief Constable from another force has already said publicly some several weeks ago that it was his budget and he would determine how and on what it should be spent. This may or may not be on extra manpower on the streets. How can I ensure on behalf of the federated ranks in Essex and particularly on behalf of the Constables that the additional money will go where you have promised it should go, namely to 'bobbies on the beat.'

The reply from Richard Boyd, Chairman of the Essex Police Authority:

Dear Mr Jones
A short note to acknowledge the copy letter sent to the Prime Minister. The strategy panel of the Police Authority will recommend, with the Chief Constable's support, that we plan to recruit 28 additional officers next year. This will involve compensating the budget by reductions in planned spending elsewhere. However, we are committed to increasing manpower and will continue to seek ways of achieving this.

Finally, I note that the expenditure, by Government, on the announced 5,000 extra officers is the proportion 1,000 (next year) 1,500 (following year) and 2,500 in the year following the next general election - assuming that takes place at the "last minute".



● By Brian Pallant

No rise in our legal insurance

I HAVE been in negotiation with our brokers C.E. Heath Ltd concerning renewal of our legal expenses insurance scheme with Hambro from February 1.

The insurance company had requested an increase in premium of 10p per member per calendar month to cover for the increased use of the helpline during 1995 and anticipated increase in legal costs.

After discussion, they agreed to our proposal not to increase the premiums for the next 12 months and for a review to take place at the end of 1996.

The insurers have promised to provide an up to date summary of cover and I will have copies made for your Federation representative and will reproduce the details in *The Law*.

Tax comes into focus

THE Inland Revenue is now regarding spectacles provided to officers by the police as a taxable benefit and is seeking to reclaim on previous applications.

It has agreed, however, to waive back claims before April 6, 1995. Essex Police has acknowledged the tax benefit stance and is prepared to accept the offer. My inquiries show we are being brought into line with other forces.

Law Opinion

Much more than a flight of fancy

THE prospect of a joint Air Support Unit for the neighbouring police forces of Essex and Cambridgeshire is as soundly based as it is exciting.

The two forces are going into this week's discussion on the plan highly enthusiastic about it coming to fruition and determined to formulate a case that the Home Office will accept and reward with the cash to make it possible.

The addition of a Cambridgeshire police helicopter to form a joint unit with the Essex chopper has the twin benefits of cost-effectiveness and increased operational strength.

And, in the longer term, the consortium could be expanded as a result of other forces in the South-East coming in with their own aircraft.

The value of having air support is difficult to quantify absolutely. But for the past five years, Essex Police has kept faith with the investment.

Long may that continue. For the white Essex Police helicopter which has become a familiar and reassuring sight in the skies above the county gives the upholders of law and order a distinct advantage over the criminal.

It also makes road pursuits less dangerous by tracking getaway vehicles from above and minimising the need for nose-to-tail car chases.

Additionally, it provides a humanitarian service when it is used to search for people who are lost and in danger.

There is a good story to tell behind most of the 7,438 missions it has flown since its inception in July, 1990.

In publicity terms, the highlight was the recapture of two escaped IRA prisoners in darkness in Cambridgeshire.

More typical of its worth was the spotting and tracking of two men making off from a robbery on a motorcycle at 100 mph. They were followed to London, where the Metropolitan Police helicopter took over and the pair were arrested.

Then there was the horse rider who was thrown and lay injured in remote countryside until the Essex "eye in the sky" made contact and airlifted the casualty to hospital.

When it comes to spending public money, every pound has to be justified. The service given by the Essex Air Support Unit suggests it represents a good return and is ample vindication of its formation.

It also sends a strong signal to the holders of the public purse about the wisdom of this form of investment in striking a telling blow against crime.

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



A buoyant bonus

THE RNLI added cash to its coffers when Halstead Specials decided to do their bit for charity.

The group, led by Melanie Harvey-Kirkwood, took part in the annual Gosfield Raft Race, on Gosfield Lake, and raised £227 through sponsorship.

They then decided to donate it to the local

RNLI, unaware that Braintree Inspector Malcolm Oakey, centre, was its chairman.

Malcolm said: "Any money given to the RNLI is amazingly useful as it is funded entirely by donations, with no Government assistance."

"It was a happy accident that the Specials chose the RNLI and we are very very grateful."

Tax relief efficiency

TREASURER Terry Spelman's negotiation with the Inland Revenue has confirmed it will deal with tax relief for subscriptions en bloc and adjust tax forms accordingly.

You will be receiving a new tax code form which should set out relief back to April 1994. In future, this will be automatic, so there is no need for officers to make individual claims to the Tax Office.

Changes are put on hold

WITH regard to the changes to the Police Discipline/Performance Procedure, it was anticipated that these would come into effect on April, 1996.

However, because of the prolonged negotiations and the difficulty that such a timescale would cause in respect of training implications under the new procedures, the Staff Associations raised their concerns with the Home Office. A provisional timetable has now been put forward by the Home Office for 1996.

That formal and informal talks should continue to take place until June, 1996, on the proposed

guidelines and regulations subject to the agreement by the Police Training Council Executive. A National training package could then be developed by September, 1996, and then delivered to Forces thereafter, prior to the implementation of the new procedures, probably on April 1, 1997.

I must stress that this is not the official policy, but is an indication of what might be the outcome of discussions with the Home Office Ministers. We are awaiting further information on the results of the Home Secretary's deliberations on the outstanding issues which the Federation nationally has raised.

I will keep you informed fully of any further developments.

Points from the past

INTRODUCING a new column which will give readers of *The Law* a flavour of Essex Police's recent history, taken from back issues.

Have times changed all that much or are today's issues mere echoes of what the force was coping with in the 1970s and 1980s?

Read on and draw your own conclusions.

25 YEARS AGO

THE Chief Constable announced the appointment of 48 additional civilian staff to relieve police officers, primarily in the time-consuming process of court preparatory work.

A constable from Hadleigh wrote to *The Law* demanding firmer action against "loud-mouthed hooligans."

He commented: "Like most other police officers, my opinion is that these morons should be dealt with in a firm way by the police, backed up by the courts."

"Surely by taking a tolerant attitude the police force is going to create a situation which will be a cause of frustration to the officers who have to deal with the increasing number of tearaways."

10 YEARS AGO

THERE was a feature on the new Incident, Resource and Information System (IRIS). It explained: "The heart of the system will be the logging of incidents at a terminal, rather than on paper." An IRIS training team was about to be set up at Police Headquarters.

A comment column referred to Home Secretary Douglas Hurd's pledge to put extra money behind law and order. According to media pundits, it raised the prospect of an extra 1,000 police officers nationwide.

The Law columnist described this as a drop in the ocean, representing only 24 additional officers per force.

FIVE YEARS AGO

THE new £400m Stansted Airport was featured, along with the extra responsibilities it placed on Essex Police. The 35 police officers covering the airport were to be increased to 49 to cope with the surge in passengers.

The Essex Police Driving School was preparing to stage its 400th advanced course, bringing the total number of drivers trained at this level to 5,673 since the centre opened in 1937.

Safety conference

TWO hundred delegates from leading businesses and local authorities across Essex attended a Community Safety Conference at Police Headquarters.

Chief Constable, Mr John Burrow, said that, in any league table of crime, Essex is in the bottom half and falling.

"If we are to maintain that trend to provide a safe environment in which to live, to retain a quality workforce and encourage inward investment, we must work together," he said.

He announced the setting up of the Essex Police Community Safety Department, headed by Superintendent Andy Hayman.

Further details about the department's aims can be found in the next issue of *The Law*.

Beyond the call of duty

POLICE officers at Basildon responded like Good Samaritans when an 81-year-old bedridden man telephoned from his home for help two days before Christmas.

The social services carer who looks after him had taken ill suddenly and he was left in a quandary.

Help arrived in the form of constables Tony Buckley and Nick Morris, whose brief was to check on the well-being of a vulnerable pensioner.

Touched by the old man's plight, they stayed to cook him a lunch of soup, boiled potatoes and toast.

Then, their attention turned to keeping up his spirits.

Finding that his radio battery was flat, they put on a plug so that he could play it from the mains and moved his television into his bedroom.

Social services were contacted to confirm that its normal service would resume.

But to ensure that all was well, Sgt Ray Hill called at the man's home later the same day and made him a cup of tea.

Said Pc Morris: "We felt sorry for him. We did that bit extra because in the future it could be one of us in need of help."

Pc Buckley added: "It was simply an act of human kindness to a person less fortunate than ourselves."



● Constable Nick Morris and Sgt Ray Hill - kettle at the ready.

Medical centre benefits from horse ride

TIPTREE Medical Centre has been presented with a portable defibrillator from the proceeds of Sgt Martin Piper's sponsored horse ride through the village.

The ride raised £4,561. Children In Need received £2,800, the Ada Cole Memorial Stables, near Nazeing, £1,500 and the surplus bought the defibrillator.

Drop in drink drive figures

THE Essex Police campaign against Christmas drink-drivers was rewarded with a sharp drop in the number of positive tests.

Across the county 4,526 drivers were tested between December 18 and January 1, with a total of 83 proving positive.

Knife amnesty backed

THE DELAYED arrival of knife deposit bins to 16 Essex Police stations did not hamper the launch of a month long knives amnesty - people handed weapons in over counters.

The campaign launched by the Daily Mirror Newspaper Group and due to finish on January 20, has the full backing by senior members of Essex Police and ACPO.

Head of Essex Police CID, Det. Supt Ralph Barrington said, "I hope people use the amnesty as an ideal way to dispose of dangerous knives. With the recent tragic murder of Philip Lawrence it's very much in people's minds."

See next month's edition for results.

By Norman Hicks

The number of positive tests showed a 35 per cent reduction on the same period the previous year, although the number of drivers tested was also down by some 11 per cent.

The campaign, backed by Government-sponsored TV adverts showing a young man left severely disabled after a drink-driving accident, was launched in Essex on December 1.

In the first half of the month, before the start of the national campaign on December 18, there were 2,811 breath tests conducted across Essex, with 51 proving positive.

Despite signs that the Essex Police and national campaigns were getting the message across to motorists, head of Headquarters Traffic Division, Supt Des McGarr, said he was disappointed that many drivers had still decided to risk their lives and the lives of others on the road by flouting the law.

He said: "We are pleased at the overall

reduction in the number of positive tests in Essex. It shows that our sustained campaign is getting the message across.

"However, it is disappointing that many drivers have still chosen to act irresponsibly by drinking and driving."

For the first time, as part of the campaign, Essex Police set up a 'Hotline' to help put a stop to persistent drink-drivers.

The Crimestoppers number was used to help gather intelligence on persistent offenders. Manned between 8am and 6pm each day (with an answerphone for out-of-hours calls), the 'Hotline' was run in conjunction with the more traditional vehicle checks.

'Live' drink-drive incidents could be reported via the 999 system.

Campaign co-ordinator Chief Inspector Roger Anderson said the 'Hotline' had been a big success.

He said: "It created a substantial amount of interest and resulted in a number of arrests, with a number of enquiries yet to be finalised."

Huge response to recruitment drive

ESSEX Police is working its way through 3,800 applications in response to last month's recruitment advertisement for trainee constables.

From this huge response, 200 will eventually join the force as probationers.

One-third of the applicants are from outside Essex, due to the decision to advertise in newspapers in neighbouring counties and London.

Ian Watson, Essex Police resource management personnel officer, said: "The campaign has been a great success. It does look as if we have achieved the quality and calibre of applicant we were seeking."

The sifting process began with an initial judgment based on the quality of applicants' response to the advertisement.

That left 3,000 in the running and all were sent an application form.

Candidates who move to the next stage will undergo the Police Initial Recruitment Test, the Essex Police Dictation Test and will have to pass a physical test.

Shortlisted applicants will then be called for interview and, if successful, will be invited to join the force, subject to the results of a medical examination, character vetting and references.

Essex has 2,930 police officers and during 12 months about 120 leave. The new intake of 200 recruits should accommodate establishment needs into 1997.

The successful candidates from the current selection will be phased in gradually between March and September and will spend two years as probationers.

Cash raised for Leah appeal

CHELMSFORD Division's Christmas dinner and annual draw raised £341 for the appeal in memory of Essex teenager Leah Betts, who died after taking Ecstasy.

Gas trials discussed

THE issue of CS gas sprays as part of police officers' routine equipment is to be discussed on January 18 by ACPO.

A renewed call for police to be equipped with an incapacitant spray of CS gas or pepper was made this month after serious attacks on his officers.

Following initial tests it is expected that ACPO will give the go-ahead to proceed with full field trials.

Air Unit

Continued from page 1

IT is hoped that the Essex-Cambridgeshire consortium proposal will be firmed at a meeting between the two forces on Thursday (January 11). Essex will be represented by Assistant Chief Constable (Support) Charles Clark and police authority officials. On the table at that meeting will be a draft contract and management structure for the consortium and criteria covering the performance and use of two helicopters.

"Our hopes are high that the meeting will be successful," said Mr Clark.

If agreement is reached, the next step will be to put a formal proposal to the Home Office in the hope of attracting funding, ideally for the purchase of two helicopters.

A target date of October this year has been set for the lift-off of the consortium.

The prospect of expanding the consortium to form a police air force covering other counties is less likely at present. Discussions have also taken place with Suffolk, Norfolk and Kent, but they did not share Cambridgeshire's enthusiasm.

However, Essex Police Authority has agreed that investigations into the future involvement of Suffolk and Norfolk should continue.

Mr Markham said that a partnership between Essex, Cambridgeshire and a third force might offer more versatility, with perhaps a fixed wing aircraft joining the complement of two helicopters.

The annual budget for the hired Essex Police helicopter is £600,000. Since its inception in July, 1990, it has flown 7,438 missions. It has been directly involved in 210 arrests and assisted in another 404 arrests.

Essex Police Band

and

Essex Police Choir

will be holding a concert

at

Westcliff Theatre, Clacton

on

Sunday, February 18

beginning at 6.30pm

Tickets, priced £7.50 are available from the Box Office

on 01255 421479.

All proceeds to the RNLI (Clacton branch)

THE year began with an event which few need reminding of - Brightlingsea. **JANUARY 15** was the first day of 10 months of animal export convoys and protests. Trouble flared from day one, and as emergency contingency plans were set up divisions across the county found themselves under immense pressure from manpower shortages.

The upheaval couldn't have come at a worse time as the Government announced its police budget plans which saw Essex facing cuts of up to £5m (eventually restricted to £3.5m). Chief Constable John Burrow admitted the "service provided will suffer" but vowed to "strongly challenge" the decision.

On a happier note, Insp Dave Perry received the Queen's Police Medal for his role in drugs education. Specials Commandant Tom Rodgers and lollipop lady Irene Anderson also appeared in the honours list, both receiving MBEs.

Two traffic officers were injured when a French lorry driver had a heart attack and ploughed into the back of the vehicle parked on the hard shoulder. Fortunately they weren't seriously hurt but part of the M25 was closed for several hours as fire crews cut the dead Frenchman from the wreckage.

Review by Kim White

AFTER a year of intensive training, Essex Police was thrilled to welcome six new recruits on board - the canine kind. A grand passing out parade in **FEBRUARY** marked the start of a career for six German Shepherd puppies, the first specially bred by the force.

A woman was found dead in her bed in Southend, having been bludgeoned with a blunt instrument. To date the horrific attack on Julie Norman remains unsolved.

In sport, the Essex Police men's hockey team made sporting history when they reached the finals of the nationals for the first time in their 14 year existence.

AS the cost of Brightlingsea continued to rise, **MARCH** saw another emergency plan swing into action when 24-year-old Karl Wilson was kidnapped and held to ransom. A complete news blackout was ordered and specially trained officers were drafted in. After a 19-hour ordeal, Mr Wilson was rescued, reasonably unharmed, and two men were later charged.

Chelmsford Chief Inspector Dennis Rensch, made history after one failed attempt, by trekking 700 miles across the Sahara Desert for charity.

Meanwhile golfers in Woodham Walter watched in horror as a World War Two plane crashed into a field killing the pilot and leaving his son seriously injured. There was further tragedy when crime prevention sergeant Ken Dodd lost his fight against cancer.

THE new Police Authority took over responsibility, in **APRIL**, for providing a police service in the county, comprising 17 members made up of councillors, magistrates and independent members. Among its powers was the right to decide the number of police officers around the county.

Essex fared well in the first national report of the Audit Commission comparing levels of performance against other police forces. Crime levels were continuing to fall, detection levels increasing and response times to incidents were of a high standard.

In the meantime officers were trying to get their minds and mouths around the new 37-word caution.

Speed cameras set up on the Esplanade in Southend, caught 2,051 motorists breaking the limit during the first nine days of operation, including one travelling at 81mph through a 30 zone.

Tragedy struck in Witham when three young children were killed in a house fire. The inferno engulfed the family home as two six year-olds and a two year-old toddler played in an upstairs bedroom. A fourth youngster escaped by jumping from a window.

Plane crash leaves one dead

March 1995

Trouble flares at small Essex port during animal rights demos

January 1995

A **MURDER** investigation was launched in **MAY** after vicar's son Simon Shannon was found dead in his Clacton home. Essex Police then took the unprecedented step of appointing a gay officer to the inquiry team in a bid to obtain clues about the killing of the homosexual.

Essex burglars felt the sting when officers carried out countywide raids during the national Operation Bumblebee. Warrants on 68 premises resulted in 35 arrests and the recovery of stolen goods worth about £10,600.

Chelmsford Town celebrated after being awarded the top Home Office grant to introduce CCTV into the town. Their successful bid won them £100,000.

Barnaby the miniature Shetland, was reunited with its owners after five years, thanks to Essex Police and the local Horsewatch scheme. The pony was recovered in Basildon.

IN JUNE Essex became the force in the country to have an employee paid for by their drug dealers. Dawn Johnson's Headquarters was financed by money and assets seized from dealers under the Drug Trafficking Offence Act.

Tilbury saw two nights of riot with police in riot gear called to protect an elderly man after a mob tried to burn down his home. The violence erupted following an allegation of rape against an 11-year-old girl.

A Maldon man was charged following an investigation into the rapes of two women and an indecent assault of a third. All the victims were mental health patients.

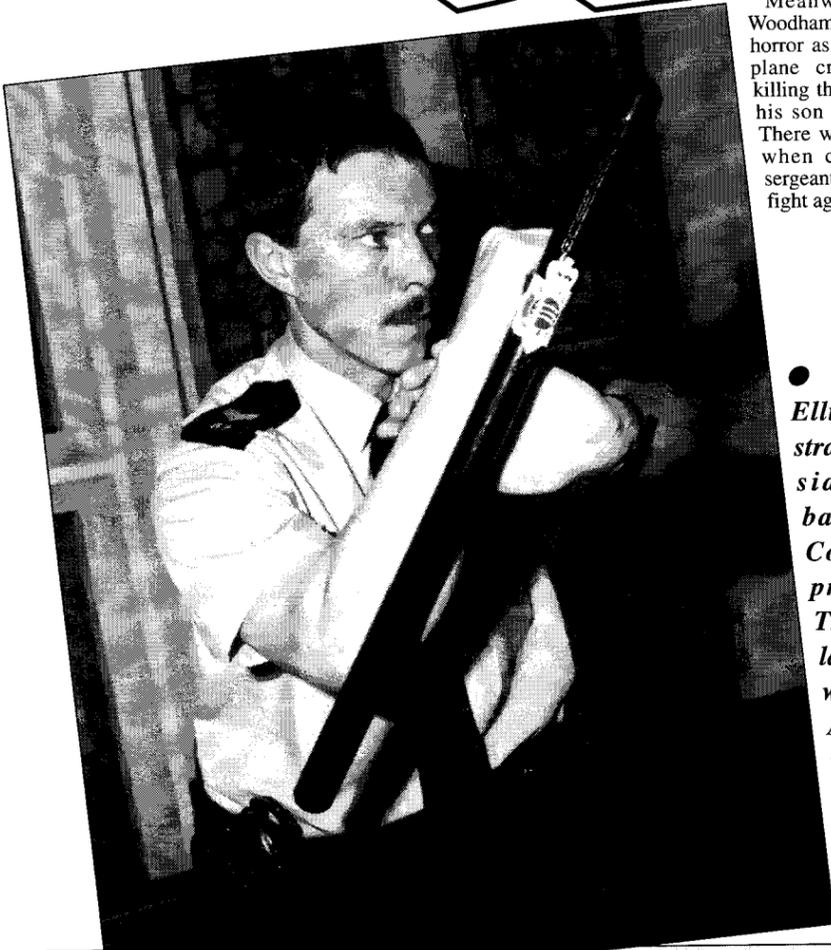
Essex became one of the first forces in the country to take aboard the "dog camera". The system enables officers to sit inside a building as the dog wearing the camera on his back searches it.

A group of Essex officers took to the water in an extraordinary bid to raise money for charity. The men paddled from Switzerland to Southend arriving tanned but exhausted on Tree Island after their original destination - Southend Pier - burned down half way through their trip.

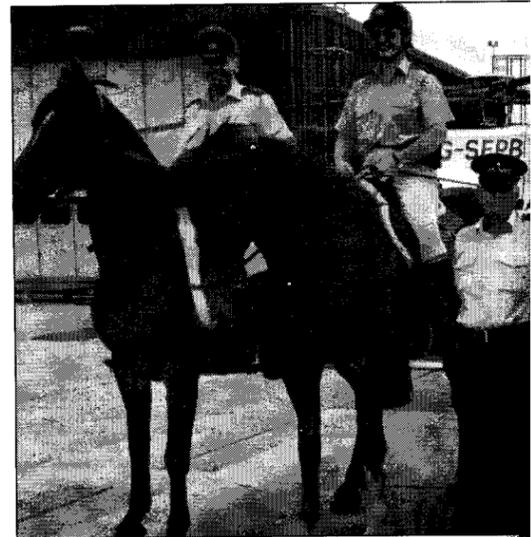
Stolen pony found after five years

May 1995

● Six German Shepherd puppies, specially bred by Essex Police pass out after a year's intensive training.



● Sgt Ian Ellison demonstrated the rigid side-handled baton at a County Hall presentation. The baton was later replaced with the Arnold which was deemed to be and easier to manage.





● **Officer Mike Hammond was injured when protestors at Brightlingsea hurled paint-filled eggs.**



● **Essex became one of the first forces to trial the WOLVES system - a video camera worn by police dogs during house searches enabling officers outside to gain a dog's eye view.**
 Jack, who posed for the photo session sadly died later in the year.

WELLER Julian Shone was shot dead in Y as he tackled armed robbers attempt- to raid his shop in Billericay High Street. e men were eventually arrested and ged.

Essex played host to singers Canada, Hong Kong and fordshire when the police staged the second annual rnational Police Music val.

x demands for thousands ounds landed on the door- s of many shocked offi- . The bills were sent to ne who had previously hased a police house er the discount scheme, y of whom had since d. After months of nego- ons the Inland Revenue lly dropped the charges.

Chief Constable John ow announced the cement of all truncheons with the rigid handled baton. This decision was later ked and the Arnold baton was intro- d to all uniformed officers. e annual Fun Day at Headquarters saw ll-time record attendance of 20,000 and ed cash for local charities totalling st £40,000.

PROTESTS at Brightlingsea continued with an officer being stabbed in the back during an AUGUST demonstration. Pc Pat Lane was fortunately not seriously hurt.

A 72-year-old widow hanged herself following a burglary at her Clacton home three years previously. Her daughter told police: "She never got over the shock and lived in fear from then on."

Essex Police was commended for its "most impressive" crime performance by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Record breaking Fun Day
 July 1995



● **Keeping unwanted visitors to Epping Forest at bay are a team from Essex Police, the Metropolitan Police and the Corporation of London. Photo courtesy of Guardian/Gazette and Independent Newspapers/**

Photo courtesy of Essex County Newspapers



● **Tragedy struck when Leah Betts died from an ecstasy tablet taken at her 18th birthday party.**

IN SEPTEMBER Essex Police was vindicated of "strong arm tactics" at Brightlingsea in an independent report conducted under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority.

Two young boys and their father were killed on the way to a football match at Southend when their car collided with an articulated lorry. The accident happened on the A130 at East Hanningfield and renewed calls for a new bypass to be built. Only the mother of the children survived.

Just one week after receiving a bravery award from Essex Police, Barry Madle died as a result of injuries he received during a shooting. Mr Madle was working as a security guard when he was gunned down outside a supermarket in Great Dunmow during a robbery.

Essex joined forces with the Met to tackle rural crime in Operation Countrywatch.

Table tennis enthusiast Julie Gowen became the first police civilian in the country to play in a PAA competition. The debut came following a long-awaited change in the rules which had previously banned civilians.

A GUNMAN dressed as a clown and carrying a bunch of flowers walked into a Billericay hospital in OCTOBER and shot a patient. The 26-year-old victim, who was being treated for acid burns to his face, received a wound to his shoulder and was put under 24-hour armed guard.

After 10 exhausting months, shipments at Brightlingsea were suspended and policing in Essex returned to normal.

In a unique study by detective Peter French, criminals were asked for their views on CCTV. The figures were released in this month and a high percentage of the offenders said that they would not have committed crime had CCTV been in existence.

A Colchester constable had a narrow escape at the hands of a hit-and-run driver. Pc Pyatt was hit by a getaway car while observing suspected car thieves.

NOVEMBER was marked by the tragic death of Leah Betts who collapsed at her 18th birthday party after taking an ecstasy tablet and later died. The publication of a photo showing her rigged up to a life support machine, brought an influx of information to police about drug dealing in Essex, and a flood of letters of sympathy to the distraught parents.

Essex tested its response to a nuclear emergency during a three day exercise codenamed Griffin. The idea was to see how Nuclear Electric would work with local and national agencies in the event of a radioactive release from Bradwell.

A search for a body in a field in Wethersfield revealed nothing after several days. Information had been received via the Metropolitan Police that the murder and burial of a young child had been witnessed in the field a number of years before.

The TV Unit based at Headquarters once again received national recognition for its monthly in-force news programme Focus. The team were also praised for a video called Drawing The line which defined the responsibilities of police drivers, particularly during pursuits.

● **Constable Doug Pyatt had a narrow escape when he was hit by a stolen getaway car in Colchester as he observed suspect thieves.**

THREE known criminals were found dead in a Range Rover in Rettendon in DECEMBER. Tony Tucker, Pat Tate and Craig Rolfe had all being shot in the head at point blank range.

Essex Police took its partnership approach a step further linking up with leaders of local commerce and industry during a Community Safety Conference. In an on-going programme a special department is looking at ways in which partnership and sponsorship can aid key areas of the police force.

Several Southend residents were evacuated after a fire at a warehouse which release a cloud of potassium cyanide.

Five-year-old Richard Allerton shocked Chief Constable John Burrow when he wrote applying for a job. The letter came during a recruitment drive which attracted 3,800 applications for about 200 jobs.

Shipments at Brightlingsea may have stopped but the aftermath was still obvious as Assistant Chief Constable Geoff Markham was taken to court on two charges of breaching a lorry ban. After a three day private prosecution Mr Markham was acquitted when magistrates agreed he had acted in the interest of public safety.

Nation shocked by teenage drug death
 Nov 1995



A privilege to have known him

I WAS very sad to read in your columns of the death of former sergeant Robert 'Bob' Hills.

I am assuming this was the officer who spent several years on the HQ Driving School.

If so, I was privileged to have been instructed by 'Bob' on both my advanced and advanced refresher training.

I enjoyed every minute of those two courses in Bob's company. He was an immaculate and conscientious instructor, a credit to his position and the Essex Police.

He had a wonderful sense of humour which relaxed many a shattered nerve.

I will not forget 'Bob' Hills. I am certain his expertise enabled me to attain and sustain a Class 1 driving grade and to complete 30 years service as a regular patrol car driver without once being involved in the dreaded Polacc.

Ex Pc Dave Rose
Saffron Walden

Law lottery

I HAVE no idea as to the cost of the running and the printing of *The Law*.

My following suggestion will no doubt cause an uproar from all the contributors to the Force Lottery, or maybe not.

I was always putting my foot in it as a serving officer, as many an old sweat will agree.

How about doing a "Virginia Bottomley"? Make the top prize of the lottery £1,450 and the second prize £950.

This would only make a loss of about £100 to the winners and would be an income to *The Law* every month?

It may be a small drop in the ocean as to the amount required as

they say "every little helps".

I can hear roars of disapproval as the only benefit is to *The Law*.

It would, however, be a pity to lessen the quality of *The Law* which may happen if nothing else can be done.

I would do a bungee jump to help raise money but I am now of age and must keep taking the tablets.

Joe Kreyling
Selwyn Road
Southend

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Unfortunately for legal reasons Joe Kreyling's suggestion is not possible, but may I take this opportunity to thank you all for the various suggestions for cutting productions

costs on *The Law*.

While some are a little obscure, any ideas are most welcome so please keep them coming. Also if anyone has any suggestions as to the content of the newspaper please forward them on.

Kim White.

Cyclists don't get away with murder

I HAVE just read the letter from Phil Pewsey of Southend in the December issue of *The Law* about the apparent lack of action taken over pedal cycle offences in that area.

I have been targeting these offences for several months in

the Braintree area and have reported over 40 cyclists for unacceptable behaviour, including two on a cycle, riding on footpaths, no lights at night and failing to stop at traffic lights.

Most of these have gone to, or are awaiting court. I have been well supported by my supervisors over this as cycle behaviour had deteriorated badly over a period of time.

Since then, such behaviour in my beat area has improved immensely.

One male adult offender was reported for no lights and pleaded not guilty. He failed to appear and was found guilty in his absence.

The fine was £100 and costs of £115. This is a more severe punishment than many received for burglary.

These offences are an opportunity for any officer on patrol to make an impact on general standards in public. Other members of the public love to see offenders punished.

Geoff Saunders
Braintree

Sorry but it's nothing new

READING the current edition of *The Law* reminded me of two pieces of advice given to me over 60 years ago by a grandfather.

The first was that I would really know I was growing old when my knees began to give out.

And he was always fond of saying "Son, you can be sure of one thing. There is nothing new in this old world of ours. It's all been tried before."

Reading the Truckwatch report on the theft and abandonment of £18,000 worth of newsprint, Sgt Neil Seymour claimed that the scheme was only seven weeks old.

This brought back old memories. Perhaps I should remind Sgt Seymour that such a scheme was implemented in the 1950s and ran for at least a decade.

The co-ordinator from the Haulage Association was a man named Brown, an enthusiastic and energetic individual, who co-operated with Jack Barkway, the superin-

tendent, who co-ordinated the police forces from East Anglia.

Particulars can be found in the minutes of the district CID conferences held at Ipswich and Norwich.

In those days it is probable that such a load would already have been found by a Traffic car crew or a beat constable.

The knees? Ahhh that reminds me I want a bottle of embrocation from the chemist!

Ron Sewell
North Street
Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

Thank you

THANK you very much for the flowers sent to my husband's funeral. It was most thoughtful and much appreciated.

Sylvia Winterflood
Sandleigh Road
Leigh

Look at the real reason

YOUR correspondent in last month's *The Law* conveniently ignores the reasons why cyclists use pavements.

Yes, it is illegal. Yes, it is a menace. Yes, they should use lights. Yes, pedestrians can be injured.

Colchester Cycling Campaign encourages cyclists to ride lawfully in all respects while we continue to lobby for a comprehensive network of cycleways.

This will make pavement riding in many areas an inexcusable offence. It will also restore a choice in personal transport that, sadly, has been eroded by successive Governments pandering to the road lobby.

Many people have no car, and a bike is the most convenient form of personal transport. Others choose to cycle for reasons of finance, health and environmental principles.

More people cycling will help to relieve traffic jams, pollution etc.

Ride a bike yourself (yes, even if you haven't done it for years) and see what you think of:

- one-way streets blocking the best route from A to B (made because of problems caused by cars).

- speeding cars passing inches from your right elbow.

- roundabouts designed only with motorists in mind.

- mediocre performance and running costs of some battery cycle lights (the new LEDs excepted).

- feeble sentences handed down by the courts after fatal accidents. Equate a car with a gun with the safety catch left off, and imagine the punishment then.

For the record, about three pedestrians die each year as a result of an incident involving a pedal cycle. Far more are killed by cars - and a lot of these are innocently going about their business on the pavement.

Finally, any officer wanting advice on cycling issues can contact me on 01206 549754 (evenings).

Will Bramhill
Maidenburgh Street
Colchester

LAW Letters

A most apt response

MAY I commend Dave Jones, Chairman of the Police Federation, for his most apt response to the incredible letter from Bob Russell, prospective parliamentary candidate - Colchester Liberal-Democrats.

He states that the police enforcing the law is all very well - but implementing it at Brightlingsea does nothing to help police-community relationships.

He then implied that if the police

disagree with the law, then they should not implement it.

Mr Russell expresses concern that Brightlingsea has been financially costly, but omitted to mention the cost to police officers who were injured by law-breakers.

It was solely those engaged in illegal activities with their demonstrations who are responsible for wasting a reported sum of £2.5m, thereby diverting this money and manpower away from the criminal

activities against human beings.

If Mr Russell wishes to influence the police and the public may I suggest he leads a campaign to obtain a refund of the wasted £2.5m from the pockets of the demonstrators, rather than the pockets of the police and the public.

Walter Ablett
Torquay Road
Chelmsford

Equality HAS gone too far

ON the front page of the November issue of *The Law* at the top right hand corner you ask the question: "Has equality gone too far?"

Of course it has!

That Pankhurst woman has a lot to answer for. She should have been stopped.

Dave Hurrell
Carlton Avenue
Westcliff

Weighty problem

IT was a case of third time lucky when Brentwood Traffic police decided to check weights being carried by vehicles on the M25 by the Dartford Crossing.

On the first occasion, the operation coincided with the French public services strike and traffic from the Kent ports was light.

At the second attempt, temperatures plummeted and the Thames-side weighbridge froze up.

Undeterred, the third operation was set up jointly with Customs shortly before Christmas, when 23 vehicles were checked. Seven were found to be overweight. One of them, a 7.5 ton lorry carrying newspapers and magazines, was found to be two tons over its safe load.

The check also netted one vehicle being driven with a broken windscreen and another with no road fund licence.

Vetting service is 10 years old

FOR 10 years, a team at Essex Police Headquarters has worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure the public's well-being, writes Peter Laurie.

It is a low-profile operation which is not the stuff of police dramas and few people ever see. Yet the mission is never-ending and one which produces vital information on which the safety of children depends.

The 10th anniversary celebrant is the Essex Police Disclosure Unit, set up in 1986 to provide a vetting service on people applying to work with children and in other posts which demand a stain-free character.

Since its inception, under a Home Office national directive, the unit has vetted 250,000 names. The annual total for 1994 alone was 30,658.

Its work falls into two categories — vetting people who will have specific access to children and miscellaneous checks on candidates for other appointments, ranging from police and Post Office employees to magistrates, jurors and Victim Support Scheme volunteers.

The crucial task of safeguarding young people means the vetting applies to applicants for work which will give them substantial, unsupervised and regular access to children under 16 or those under 18 who have special needs or are in local authority care.

While the unit is dedicated largely to the public service, it extends its vetting to people who want to work in registered private children's homes and playgroups.

The depth of the inquiry depends on the type of work the applicant is seeking.

The most comprehensive check includes five different lines of enquiry:

- The Police National Computer (convictions record).

- The PIRS Photographic Image Retrieval System (photographs of people who

have been arrested and records of minor offences and cautions).

- The Disclosure Unit's own indecency file.

- Liaison with the police local intelligence officer in the job applicant's home area.

- Advice from the police Child Protection Unit.

Residential social workers and foster parents are subject to all five enquiries. Teachers and nurses in children's wards are among those who undergo the first three checks.

Other occupations which bring enquiries by the

Disclosure Unit are those where there is local authority licensing involvement, such as taxi driver and club door supervisor.

The Disclosure Unit, which is part of the Essex Police National Computer Bureau, has a staff of five, two of whom work part-time. Its head, Rosie Durr, said: "The satisfaction of this job is knowing that someone is not going to be given a position which would put others at risk."

But the unit's work does not end when someone under scrutiny is judged fit for a position of public trust. Their subsequent conduct has to be good.

That is why Mrs Durr and her closely-knit team are keen that police officers should give them a 10th anniversary token - a promise never to forget, to keep them informed of people who work with children or in public or local authority-licensed occupations and are convicted of an offence or cautioned.

These occupations include barrister, civil servant, dentist and doctor. Government legislation demands that their convictions are reported to their employer and professional body.

It is a subject the Disclosure Unit aims to get onto the syllabus at the Essex Police Training Centre.

Meanwhile, officers who want to know more and need a copy of the full list of relevant occupations can contact Mrs Durr at Police Headquarters,

Obituaries

ESSEX Police extends its sympathies to the families of the following former support staff who have died.

Mr Arthur Skingley, from Chelmsford, who joined the police force in 1968 serving as a handyman at Headquarters, and retired in 1984. He died on December 18, aged 75.

Mrs 'Des' Smith nee Reeve, who joined the police force in 1966 as a civilian working at Brentwood, later working at the Chelmsford Courts' Office. She retired in 1984 and died on December 6, 1995.



● The Disclosure Unit team, left to right, Sue Morgan, Tracey Gardiner, Sandra Andrae, Sandra Dermott and Rosie Durr.

Retirements

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

Pc David Outridge, Rayleigh, 30 years (6.2.96).

Pc Michael Greenslade, Walton-on-the-Naze, 27 years (6.1.96).

Pc David Richards, Corringham, 30 years (28.1.96)

Driving force behind police school dies

FORMER Superintendent Eric Postons was sadly featured last month in The Law's obituary column, but the history of Eric's police career should not go unmentioned.

Eric was around at a time when there was no such thing as a Traffic Division. At the time, in the early 30s, Essex had eight motorcycles which were in fact attached to CID.

But then it was decided to form a traffic department and Eric Postons was brought

along as a sergeant to run the show.

It was at this time that Lord Cottenham had produced a manual on driver training and Eric was nominated to go to Hendon and learn this new technique and also learn how to go about starting a driving school.

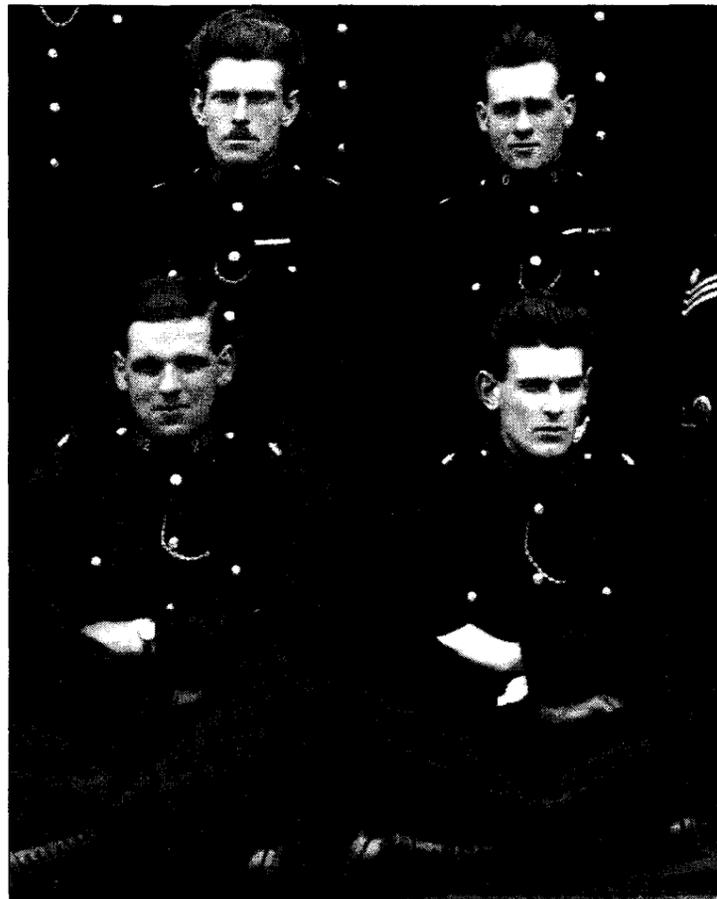
As an experiment the Metropolitan Police, Durham, Hampshire, Lancashire and Essex were designated as areas in which driving schools were to be introduced and Eric covered himself with glory becoming responsible for the current driving school, the intro-

duction of the Skid Pan and of the then driving technique.

As a result he rose swiftly through the ranks and became a familiar name, and a man who will no doubt be sorely missed.

One man who served on Traffic for 28 of his 30 years in the police force was former Inspector Ron Bearman who worked for Eric.

Ron said: "He was a very fastidious and accurate man who believed everything had its place. That was without a doubt the secret to his success."



● Leader of the driving school - former Superintendent Eric Postons (front right). Pictured behind him to his left is Eric's brother Norman when they were both constables.

Market Place . . . Market Place . . .

1990, G reg, Ford Orion equipment, alarm, electric windows, central locking, spoiler, alloys, tinted etched windows, radio 2007 graphic amp, £3,200. Contact Pc Simpson on 01245 323707.

ESCORT XR3i, 1990 (G), 53,000 miles, taxed to March, MOT to April,

remote alarm, unleaded, heated front screen, usual refinements, £2,500 ono. Contact Pc Bill Hawes on 01708 728014.

FOR SALE. 1986 Montego Estate, MOT December 96, tax to May 96, diesel, £950. Contact 01245 491491 ext 52022.

HONDA 250cc Superdream, taxed, test-

ed, backbox, screen, excellent running order, £350. Contact Sgt Tillman on 01255 16180.

HONDA Prelude, auto, 1985 (C), 67K miles only, fsh, electric windows, sunroof and aerial, alloys, new tyres, battery calipers, discs, pads, excellent for year, £2,700. Contact 01279 815324.

TRAINING equipment. 150kg in weights ranging from 2.5kg to 20kg with Weider multi-purpose bench, bars, collars, £105. Contact Sgt Bray on 20106.

TROUSER press, Corby. Still boxed, unwanted gift, £50. Contact Kevin Rowe on ext 58141.

YAMAHA FZR100 EXUP, H/90, Mot Oct '96, tax Feb '96, 24K, vgc, too fast for me, £3,200 ono. Contact Sgt Adam Thomas, on 01375 73125 or 0956 325484.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed

LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT**Force Sports Association****Force lottery**

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

£1,500 Pc Gary Lees, Bures; £1,000 Ch/Insp Brian Mead, Basildon; £500 Dc Robert Sloan, Colchester; £300 Dc George Roberts, HQ SB; £200 Ds Ronald Holloway, Harlow SOC.

The following were Christmas hamper winners:

Marie Knowlden, Basildon; Pc Russell Abbott, Rayleigh Traffic; Hazel Eatly, HQ; Pc Michael Jones, Southend; Sheila Beaney, HQ; Pc Geoffrey Cousins, Southminster; Dc Martin Oakley, Wickford; Gillian George, Thurrock; Pc Keith Dryland, Kelvedon; Pc Brian Jeapes, HQ; Pc Robert Cox, Stansted Airport; Carole Lloyd, Rayleigh; Elizabeth Preston, Canvey Island; Sgt Russell Bush, Basildon; Sgt Jacqueline Seal, Southend; Gloria Hart, HQ; Pc Leslie Snowden, Grays; Pc Joanne Lindfield, South Ockendon; Moira Green, HQ; Pc John Newling, Rochford; Dc Steven Terry, Brentwood RCS and Patricia Rigby, Colchester.

Sea Angling

THE Croker Cup Sea Angling Championships were held at Bradwell on Friday, December 1, with the following results and Croker Cup points: 1 Rayleigh - 12 pts, 2 Chelmsford - 10 pts, 3 Colchester - 8 pts, 4 Braintree - 7 pts, 5 Southend - 6 pts, 7 Headquarters - 4 pts, 8 Thurrock - 3 pts, 9 Harlow - 2 pts and 10 Tendring - 1 pt.

Football

HEADQUARTERS beat Basildon 3-1 with 4 Croker Cup points to Basildon.

Health Club

THE Essex Police Sports Association has arranged for its members to obtain a 10 per cent discount for membership to the Courtlands Health, Fitness and Leisure Centre, Thorpe Bay, Southend.

The centre has nine squash courts, two tennis courts, snooker table, outdoor heated swimming pool, sauna, sunbeds, hairdressers, health and beauty clinic and Nautilus Fitness Centre, which includes all the latest fitness equipment.

Any member wishing to take advantage of this offer must obtain a compliment slip from Chris Jacob.

Croker Cup

AT the end of 1995 the Croker Cup table looked like this: 1 Braintree 69.5 pts; 2 Rayleigh 65 pts; 3 Southend 64 pts; 4 Harlow 56.5 pts; 5 Chelmsford 56 pts; 6 Colchester 54.5 pts; 7 Headquarters 45.5 pts; 8 Thurrock 38 pts; 9 Basildon 26 pts; 10 Tendring 26 pts.

Indoor games

THE No 5 Region PAA Indoor Games Championships for 1996 will this year be hosted by Essex. They will be held independently at different locations and dates.

For the first time these championships are open to both police and civilian members of staff, provided that they are members of the Essex Police Sports Association.

The billiards and snooker competitions are to be held at Shoebury Snooker Centre on Tuesday, January 23.

The darts competition will be held at Southend Police Station on Wednesday, January 24. Events include mens singles, ladies singles, mens doubles, ladies doubles and mixed doubles.

The table tennis competition will be held at Essex County Council Table Tennis Centre, Chelmsford on Thursday, January 25, with mens singles, ladies singles, mens doubles, ladies doubles, mixed doubles and veteran singles.

All events will start at 10am sharp and you can only participate in one sport, for example you can't play billiards and snooker.

The closing date for entries is Friday, January 19 with no late entries accepted. Anyone interested in any of the events must let Chris Jacob know in writing.

Mike makes it through the mud

THEY slipped, they slithered and squelched, cheered on by a huge crowd of enthusiastic supporters, standing in comparative comfort on the promenade.

The Maldon Mud Racers - all 132 of them - many wearing fancy dress, few of them prepared for the cruel shock of the near-freezing waters of the River Blackwater on a foggy New Year's Day, but all of them with hearts as big as a Hogmanay hag-

gis.

Last year's winner, PC Mike Kliskey, of Essex Air Support Unit, was beaten into second place this year by 17-year-old Brentwood School pupil Elliott Jackson, who lived up to the name of his Maldon Mudskippers team with a blistering performance in the treacherous conditions.

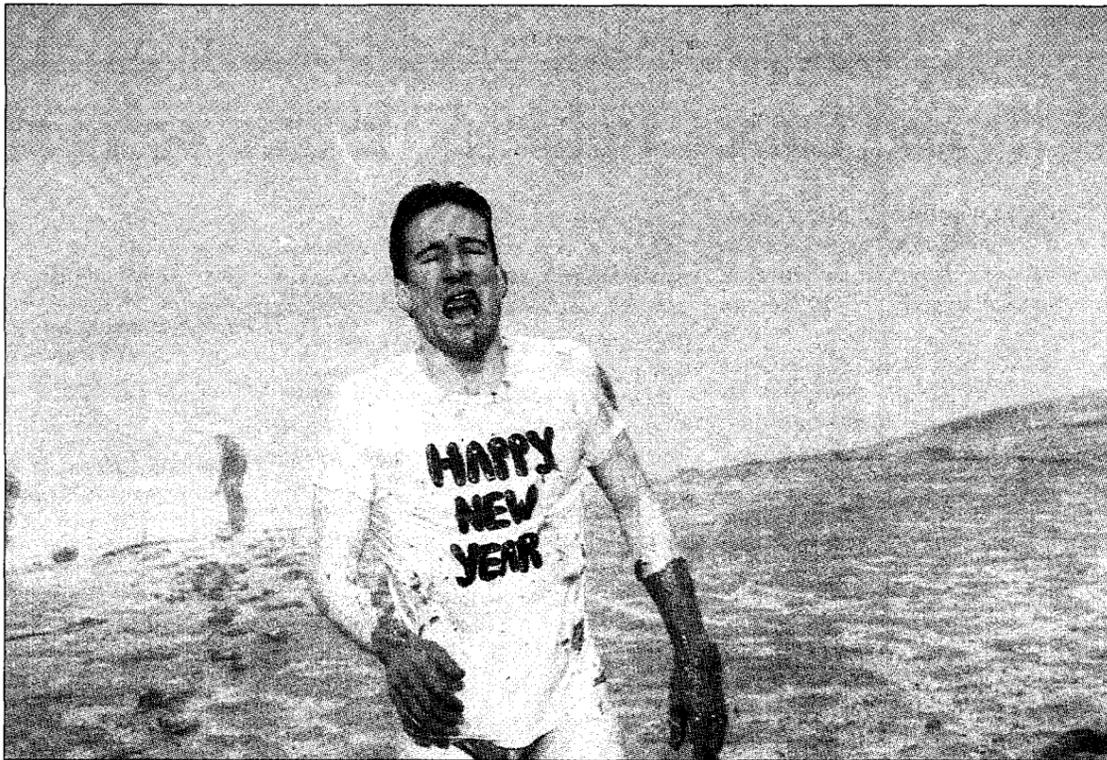
PC Kliskey was one of a seven-strong Essex Police team, who all completed the course and helped to boost the funds of local charities, including Maldon Hospice and the King George's Fund for Sailors.

"Lookers Land-Rover of Chelmsford sponsored me individually to the tune of £100 and I would like to

By Norman Hicks

thank them very much for that," said PC Kliskey.

Other Essex Police team members were: PCs Paul Purkiss (Ongar), Paul Hooks (Harlow), Paul McFayden (Harlow), Matt Brooking (Rayleigh) and Alan Barley (Chelmsford) and WDC Angie Scothern



Mike Kliskey comes home second, following his victory last year.

Photo courtesy of Essex Chronicle.

Running scene

DESPITE running a faster time than in last season SEPAA's Cross Country League, Mick Bond was unable to beat Mabon of Surrey on the demanding Oxfordshire course.

Mike Kliskey was next home for Essex in 7th place while other Essex Police placings were less impressive although Andy Down and Paul Purkiss had a tussle with Andy just edging in front by 3 seconds. Their respective positions were 45th and 46th.

With Martin Gormley and Chris Turner both missing the 'A' team finished well down in 7th place.

The ladies were poorly represented with only Sue Payton (11th) and Liz Stephens (17th) bothering to make the trip.

The third race of the season was held on home ground at Gloucester Park, Basildon in which the Essex men managed to field two full teams despite the late withdrawal of Mike Kliskey through injury. Full results will be available later.

The next fixture is for January 18 - the fourth and penultimate league race of the season at Southampton.

Fun fitness schedule to rid of those pounds

WANT to shed those Christmas pounds or is your New Year Resolution to get fighting fit.

Coroner's Officer Derek Sewell can help with his schedule of classes for 1996.

Every Tuesday evening between 7pm and 8pm you can take part in step aerobics at Chelmsford Police Station. This is swiftly followed by an 8pm to 9pm step and tone class (which is a touch less complicated).

Each class costs £2 for Sports Association members and £3 for non-members.

Completely free of charge for Association members is the aerobics session on Thursdays at Headquarters Training Centre gym.

This is a good all round work out and costs just £2 for non-members.

All classes are taken by fully qualified RSA instructors.

Every golfer's dream

EVERY police golfer wants to play in an international competition, especially in glorious weather on one of Europe's top courses. And the Confederation of Golf Societies can make that dream come true.

The qualifying rounds for their unique competition, the TransEuropean Cup, start in April, and it gives society golfers throughout Europe the chance to qualify for the grand final in Portugal.

The qualifier is four-man teams playing a stableford competition, with the best team total clinching a sought after place in the sunshine.

Posters should be on the main notice boards of each division but for more details you can contact Jane Chandler, on 01753 892270.

● **GOLF enthusiast Mike Charles clinched the 'Player of the Year' title at his local club in Great Hadham, beating 600 other sports men and women.**

Mike, a constable at Hatfield Heath, was presented with the trophy after finishing in poll position, scoring the highest number of points during the monthly medals played from October to September.

Next Issue

FEBRUARY

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