

The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



Young offenders scheme

- page 3
Letters

- pages 4 & 11
Bone marrow donation

- page 8

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

September 1996

No 275

Police praised after hijack drama

The Home Secretary has already made clear his delight at the successful and peaceful resolution of the hijacking incident at Stansted, but I wanted to add my own personal appreciation.

The smooth handling of the sensitive operation was a great tribute to the professionalism of you and your force, and to their readiness for such incidents.

The ending of the hijack without violence was a great relief, and a considerable success for the police control of the operation. Please pass on my warmest thanks and congratulations to all those involved.

John Major, Prime Minister

AS Essex Police takes stock of dramatic events at Stansted Airport, officers and support staff have been praised for their "high level of professionalism, skill and commitment".

Just eight hours of negotiations were needed to ensure the safe release of 199 passengers and crew aboard the hijacked Sudan Airways Flight 150.

Among the passengers were seven Iraqi men who have since been charged with seizing the aircraft.

Apart from a minor injury, which is believed to have taken place prior to the

By Kim White

plane landing on British soil, no one was hurt.

And this week, Assistant Chief Constable Jim Dickinson spoke of his pride in Essex Police and how all those involved in the operation have been a credit to the force.

He said: "I think we reached the best possible resolution given the circumstances, and the high level of professionalism, skill and commitment that was displayed is a credit to those involved, in whichever task they performed."

Mr Dickinson is not the only one who has given recognition to a job well done.

Letters of congratulation have been sent by both the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, and the chairman of the Essex Police Authority, Mr Anthony Peel has also passed on his praise.

Even the media, often quick to criticise, have described events as a textbook operation reflecting its stunning success in no uncertain terms.

Peaceful

The peaceful resolution of the situation hinged heavily on negotiations with those aboard the plane.

To this end the team of negotiators led by DCI Win Bernard received a special thank you, along with the captain of the flight Mr Abdul Hamid Hidirbi.

Mr Dickinson said: "The negotiations were essential. It would have been inappropriate to make any presumption as to what the ultimate outcome may have been and it was important that we remained in control of the situation."

"Such circumstances can be volatile and change very quickly. Again it is a credit to the negotiators that they were able to maintain such a successful dialogue through the captain ensuring the safety of all concerned."

At a press conference following the release of the final hostage, Chief Constable John Burrow reiterated this praise and said of the captain: "We take our hats off to the pilot of the aircraft who throughout kept a very calm and disciplined approach."

Operation Black Swan, the exercise held in November 1994 to test the police response to such an incident, clearly provided a solid foundation for August's "live" operation.

But while pats on the back are clearly well deserved, Mr Dickinson leaves no room for complacency.

A debrief has already been organised and there are lessons to be learned.

Mr Dickinson said: "Improvements can always be made and the debrief will ensure we identify any such areas. An example of this is that I am fully aware there were officers who were detained on duty for extended periods. I thank them for their commitment but apologise to any individuals who were kept on duty unnecessarily."

Sorry for the delay

DUE to operational commitments during the Stansted hijacking this month's edition of *The Law* was published slightly later than expected.

The editorial team apologise to its readers for any inconvenience.

Names added to Roll of Honour

TWO Essex Police officers have been added to the Roll of Honour, in Headquarter's reception.

War Reserve Constable John William Towers, known as Bill, died while on duty in a road accident on January 26, 1941. He was pushing a body to the mortuary, on a cart at night, and was hit by a lorry.

Constable Rodney John Leake, a patrol motorcyclist, died on June 20, 1996 while on a routine motor patrol when his vehicle was in collision with a lorry.



A moving moment when negotiator DCI Win Bernard and Captain Abdul Hamid Hidirbi met the media. Photo courtesy of Adrian Sheratt, Times Newspapers Limited.

Cleaning contracts put out to tender

THREE companies will take over the responsibility of cleaning Essex Police buildings from October 1, in line with the latest stage of the Compulsory Competitive Tendering programme.

Existing cleaning staff, who are currently employed by Essex Cleaning Services, will be transferred to the new companies under agreed terms and conditions which are no less favourable than at present.

Ocean Contract Cleaning Ltd, based in Luton, has won the contract to clean Police Headquarters and the Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester and Clacton.

The Basildon, Southend and Rayleigh areas will be covered by L & L Cleaning Service, based in Rochford, and the Epping-based AIPS Clean-Brite Ltd has been contracted to clean the Grays and Harlow areas.

Mr Peter Crook, Head of Administration, said: "Every attempt is made to make it a seamless

change. We want to continue good relationships with the staff."

Civilian pay settlement

SUPPORT staff working for Essex Police are to receive a 3% pay rise, backdated to April this year, followed by a further 1% from September.

The settlement follows months of negotiations involving the Police Support Staff Council (PSSC) a new body, including UNISON members, formed to consider nationally, salaries, wages, terms and conditions of service for police authority civilians.

After balloting, the new pay and conditions have been accepted by the unions.

The 17 month deal also includes a half per cent rise in April 1997 with the next pay settlement due in September 1997 and annually thereafter.

I am delighted that this incident was resolved peacefully, and that Essex Police handled it so well.

Their professionalism was in the best traditions of the British Police. Their experience and expertise proved invaluable. Ministers have been kept closely informed throughout.

As the world looked on, their successful handling of this sensitive incident showed the value of effective contingency planning and training.

My warmest congratulations go to the Chief Constable and all those involved.

Michael Howard, Home Secretary

FEDERATION NOTES . . . FEDERATION NOTES . . .

Pay levels checks still on hold

AT the time of going to press, there is still no news nationally with regard to the appointment of an assessor at the Police Negotiating Board who will oversee the pay levels checks for the federated ranks. Once the assessor is appointed, then a contract will be drawn up which will then go out to tender throughout the European community. It is only then, when a consultant is chosen, that the pay levels checks for the federated ranks will commence.

In the meantime, work is still being carried out by the three separate committees nationally and the results of that work will be fed into the national negotiating forum.

The constables' Central Committee have completed Phase I of their work with the Haig consul-

tants and are now moving towards Phase II where the Haig consultants will interview officers with regard to their roles and responses. Given that there was a considerable degree of over-lapping and integration of both roles and competencies throughout the rank, it was felt that evaluation of generic roles could well be more to our advantage than the detailed evaluation of component jobs within these roles.

The generic roles selected for the Phase II exercise are:-

- 1) Beat/Community constable
- 2) Traffic officer
- 3) Detective constable
- 4) Focused constable (e.g Drug Squad, Anti-terrorist Squad)
- 5) Immediate response driver
- 6) Authorised firearms officer
- 7) Accident/Vehicle

investigation officer

8) Family/Support protection officer

9) Crime prevention officer

10) Local intelligence officer

Three or four members performing each of the above roles will be interviewed by Hay for the purposes of drawing up generic roles description which will also take into account the competencies identified in Hay's first report.

Members will be drawn from the same 14 forces who participated in the first Hay exercise. This will enable the Constables' Central Committee to be fully informed with regard to the functions carried out by constables throughout England and Wales prior to the pay levels work being carried out nationally.



● By Brian Pallant
Protection

WE are currently still in negotiations with chief officers with regard to agreeing the personal issue of protective vests for all officers. As soon as agreement has been reached on the type of vest, then it will be phased in as soon as possible with front line operational officers being the first to be issued.

Equality in the police service

ON September 2, a presentation on Equality in the Police Service was given by the Police Federation of England and Wales to an International Police Training Conference at Birmingham.

A presentation by Jan Berry, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Subcommittee and Brian Pallant, Secretary of the Equal Opportunities Subcommittee was to inform delegates from 48 different countries what the Police Federation of England and Wales were doing with regard to Equality in the Police Service.

A new training video was shown as part of the presentation. A total training package is available for purchase to any Police Force or any serving Police Officer at a total cost of £199.

A full summary of the conference will be given in a future edition of *The Law*.

Housing review

THE report of the Housing Review Subcommittee has now been completed and a paper has been prepared for the Police Committee meeting on September 16.

There are certain options available of which, we as a Federation are not fully supportive and will be endeavouring to retain for members the current discount scheme that has been operating successfully for many years.

Specials review is complete

THE Home Office has just released its report on the Special Constabulary which is currently being evaluated. The National Police Federation were represented on the review that prepared this report and the final report does reflect the Federation's efforts to ensure that the Specials did not emerge as an alternative to professional policing.

The review suggests how the Specials should change and reflects things such as:-

High rates of wastage in the Special Constabulary in the 12 months ending March 12.

Only six additional Specials were added to the total strength in England and Wales. In fact 4,525 joined and 4,519 left. At this moment in England and Wales there are about 20,000 Specials in total.

The report calls for arrangements for assessing and developing the individual skills of Specials and for matching individuals to appropriate deployments.

If the report is implemented, Specials will be subject to very similar disciplinary and incapability procedures as regular officers. They will continue to be unpaid and the report recommends repealing the scheme introduced in 1992 to pay bounty. Specials should be paid allowances similar to regular

officers.

The report makes proposals about compensation for death and injury and for sickness payments where Specials are unable to follow their employment because of injury or illness arising from their police duties.

The report calls for more attention to be paid to high wastage but recognises that many Specials do leave to join the regular service.

Surprised

Commenting on the report, the Chairman of the Police Federation Nationally, Fred Broughton said:

"We acknowledge the public spirited assistance the service receives from Special Constables. We are not surprised that there is such a high turnover of Specials because police work is increasingly very onerous and risky. There are fairly narrow practical limits to the amount of such assistance and the contribution that can be made from this source should not be exaggerated. The Specials do not and cannot replace the need for an adequate strength of regular police officers in all parts of the country. We are bound to have reservations about expanding the roles undertaken by the Special Constabulary. The service needs the support in the presence of more uniformed officers on the streets. Employing more Specials in specialised departments will not meet this need and such expansionist notions conflict with the assurances in the report that Specials will not be recruited or used in place of regular officers."

The Federation in Essex concur with the views of our National Chairman and we will be looking to consult fully with the Force with regard to implementation of the recommendations in the report.

Subsistence and refreshment

AS a result of the issue of the Policy Guidelines on the 1st April and the changes imposed by Chief Officers, the Federation have had no alternative but to proceed towards judicial review.

We have many claims from members that have not been met by the Force. Statements have been obtained and an affidavit has been served on the Chief Constable.

We are now in the hands of the Court and I will keep you updated of any progress as soon as I have it to hand.

With regard to the way that subsistence and refreshment are increase annually, you will be aware at the moment that this takes place from 1st April and it is not normally published until June.

Negotiations are taking place Nationally for the increases to be agreed early in the New Year so that they can be implemented on the 1st April of each year in future.

CS spray support

YOU will be aware that the Home Secretary has now given his approval for chief officers to issue CS Sprays for normal patrol. It would appear at this moment that the Force is reluctant to issue the equipment until they have properly evaluated the situation.

As far as we are concerned as a Federation, the spray has been trialed in 13 forces throughout the UK and the Home Secretary having seen the results of these tests has approved their issue. We will therefore be supporting at the earliest opportunity the issue of this equipment to all operational officers.

Reunion of training centre staff

A REUNION is planned next month by The Staff Association of the Police Training Centres serving the North East District, including the present centre at Aykley Heads and the former centres at Newby Wiske Hall, Pannal Ash and Dishforth.

All former members of staff are invited to the function, on October 11 at the Durham Police Training Centre. Full details are available by writing to The Secretary, The Staff Association, Durham Police Training Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TT, enclosing an SAE.

Some overnight accommodation will be available and it may be permissible to park caravans on the centre. Anyone with any inquiries should contact Anne Alderson on Durham (0191) 386 1366, ext. 134.

Practical experience



● A student helps in a practical demo during an industry day. *Photo courtesy of Keith Brown.*

ESSEX Police was among 14 organisations who helped give 221 year 10 pupils from The Greensward School in Hockley a day to remember at an Industry Day organised by the school.

Deputy Headteacher, Mr Jim Fuller, said: "Year 10 students were able to take part in a programme of practical activities throughout the day, thanks to the support given by a number of local companies.

"Essex Police, Essex Rangers, the Army, Central Hairdressing Academy, Finesse Model Agency and Writtle College were among the organisations that took part in the event, which proved to be a great success.

"As a Technology college The Greensward School has good links with local businesses and this type of event is an example of how we reinforce those links to the mutual benefit of our students and the firms concerned."



ESSEX POLICE MUSEUM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

2.00pm

in the

CONFERENCE ROOM POLICE HEADQUARTERS

If you would like to attend or help in any way with the work of the museum, please contact the curator Fred Feather on extension 50770.

Offbeat

WHEN Trumpton rushed to a fire alarm activation at Epping Police it wasn't quite the major incident they expected.

In fact all they found was a rather red-faced constable who had burned his toast.

● **Another incident which turned into an anti-climax was in Southend when police were called to Sainsbury's for a man hiding a knife in a bag of peas.**

On arrival it seemed that the offending item was in fact a potato peeler which was still in its wrapper.

● **NO month would be complete without a round-up of animal antics and this month the furry and feathered friends seemed intent on taking revenge on the boys and girls in blue.**

Firstly there was a constable at Brentwood, innocently sitting in the control room when a cat wandered in a viciously bit her on the hand.

Then there was the officer from Colchester who was called to Maldon Road to deal with peacock strutting its stuff in the road outside the zoo.

Having found the peacock, she attempted to arrange for its capture when she suddenly announced across the radio waves that she was now surrounded by chickens. Those birds do stick together.

CPS ground rules

A RECENT research project carried out by the Crown Prosecution Service has shown that a large number of police officers are still unaware of the contents of the Code for Crown Prosecutors, despite previous circulations to all police forces.

The code provides the ground rules against which the CPS must reach a decision over whether to prosecute or discontinue a case, and also provides the criteria for what constitutes "Public Interest".

Without a working knowledge of this document, officers will have difficulty in establishing which cases are likely to be brought to a successful prosecution and what factors must be present if a prosecution is to be undertaken.

Additional copies of the code have now been distributed to all divisions and all officers should ensure that they familiarise themselves with its contents.

Decision on CS spray still to be made

ESSEX Police will not be making a quick decision on equipping its officers with CS sprays.

Following successful trials by 16 forces in England and Wales, the Association of Chief Police Officers has approved the hand-held incapacitant spray, with support from Home Secretary Michael Howard.

It is now up to Chief Constables to make their own decision.

Essex Police was not involved in the street trials.

ACC (Operations) Geoffrey Markham said Essex would give the matter detailed consideration before the Chief Constable reached a conclusion. He expected the consultation to continue until the end of this year.

If adopted, the CS cannisters were unlikely to be introduced before next spring.

Essex Police Federation support the spray becoming standard equipment, said secretary Brian Pallant, although he would have preferred pepper to the CS substance.

Pressing on after a lively start

LIFE in the Press Office should be a breeze for the three new members of staff who have already helped handle one of the most major incidents in Essex in years.

Just weeks in to the job Ruth Collin, Alyson Mountney and Helen Cook were all involved with the hijacking at Stansted airport.

But with plenty of media experience under their belts, being thrown in the deep end has left them unperturbed.

Press officer Ruth (25)

emerges from a radio background having spent the last four-and-a-half years at BBC Essex in Chelmsford, while Alyson (25) is completely new to the area hailing from Telford.

Her background is in newspapers with the last three years spent with the Shropshire Star.

Helen (38), who works Monday's and Tuesday's, assisting the other full time officers, is no stranger to the emergency services. For 10 years she worked as a press officer for the London Fire Service.



● New recruits in the press office - Ruth Collin, Helen Cook and Alyson Mountney.

Tours of prison to educate young offenders Youths get a taste of the hard life

GRAPHICAL accounts of prison life along with a tour of strip cells and punishment blocks are part of a new scheme to encourage young criminals in Chelmsford not to re-offend.

Known as the Prison Encounter Scheme, juveniles eligible for a caution are taken on a tour of Chelmsford Prison and told, in no uncertain times what they face if they continue to break the law.

And with just three out of 25 juveniles having re-offended it seems to be doing the trick.

Treatment

The tour, which needs the permission of the parents, takes about one-and-a-half hours. Sgt John Watts, from Chelmsford, along with a prison officer takes two youngsters into the reception area after a search. They are introduced to the booking-in procedure before being shown the exercise yard and the medical centre where they are told about the treatment for drug offenders.

Next stop is the visiting area

By Kim White

where it is explained to them what they will be putting their friends and relatives through.

Last, but not least is the strip cell and 'A' block - the segregated punishment block. Throughout the tour they are given realistic but graphical descriptions of prison life, of bullying, drugs, and the renowned "pecking order".

Sgt John Watts explained: "We find it very effective just talking to them and telling them what it's like. We do use strong language but have the permission of the parents to do so.

"I have had nothing but total support from the parents and the kids have been very positive in their feedback."

Following the tour the youths will return to the police station where they will receive their formal caution.

Divisional Commander

Superintendent Bob Ward who agreed to trial the idea, is also pleased with the results to date.

He said: "It's an excellent scheme which has, at the moment, proved its worth. It will be interesting to review it again in 12 months to see if the lads who have

gone through the scheme have re-offended."

Sgt Watts now hopes to open the scheme up to other divisions, enabling them to bring their young offenders (male only) to Chelmsford for a tour. Anyone interested should contact Sgt Watts on Ednet 60746.

Frontline women on six part television show

ESSEX police officers are the stars of a new six part TV series which captures the difficulties and dangers they face in their daily working lives.

Fair Cops looks at policing the county through the eyes of nine front-line women officers, including a dog handler, traffic officer, shift inspector and member of the mounted section.

The series, which is currently being shown on Anglia TV and Carlton, sees Essex officers dealing with drug offences and drink drivers, stolen cars and shoplifters as well as assaults and drunkenness.

Filming started late last year, and the production team accompanied Essex officers at all hours of day and night on routine patrol, in response cars and on motorway patrol. Events they filmed included at Southend United football match, a drugs raid and a co-ordinated national crackdown on wildlife offences.

Fair Cops is currently being shown on Anglia TV and Carlton on Tuesdays at 7.30pm, and is due to be shown on Meridian early next year. The

series is produced by Essex-based Media Futures Ltd.

The nine officers featured are: PC Caroline Mitchell (Rayleigh), PCs Jo Reynolds and Mel Koya (Westcliff), PC Hazel Harley (Southend Proactive Unit), PC Sue Allen (Southend High Street Unit), PC Sam Owen (Brentwood Traffic), PC Lesley Rosenwold (Chelmsford Dog Section), PC Kirsty Snellgrove (Mounted Section), and Inspector Jenny Mitchell-Gibbs (G Division - Harlow, Epping and Brentwood).

Assistant Chief Constable Jim Dickinson said: "We were happy to co-operate with this series, because it is important for the people of Essex to see how the police work and the variety of incidents they deal with in helping to keep the community safe from crime and nuisance.

"Our women officers perform exactly the same duties as their male colleagues and it would be a bonus if the series encourages more women to join the police service."

Chief gives backing to fitness scheme

TO show his commitment to a fitter force, Chief Constable John Burrow took to the saddle and tested the new Essex Police fitness equipment.

Having signed up to the Look After Your Health Campaign it was felt that all officers and civilians in Essex Police should be given the opportunity to have a health and fitness assessment.

The 20 minutes programme comprises of blood pressure, height and weight, body fat and water percentages, a puff test, grip test and a stamina test, described by Mr Burrow as "very straightforward and painless".

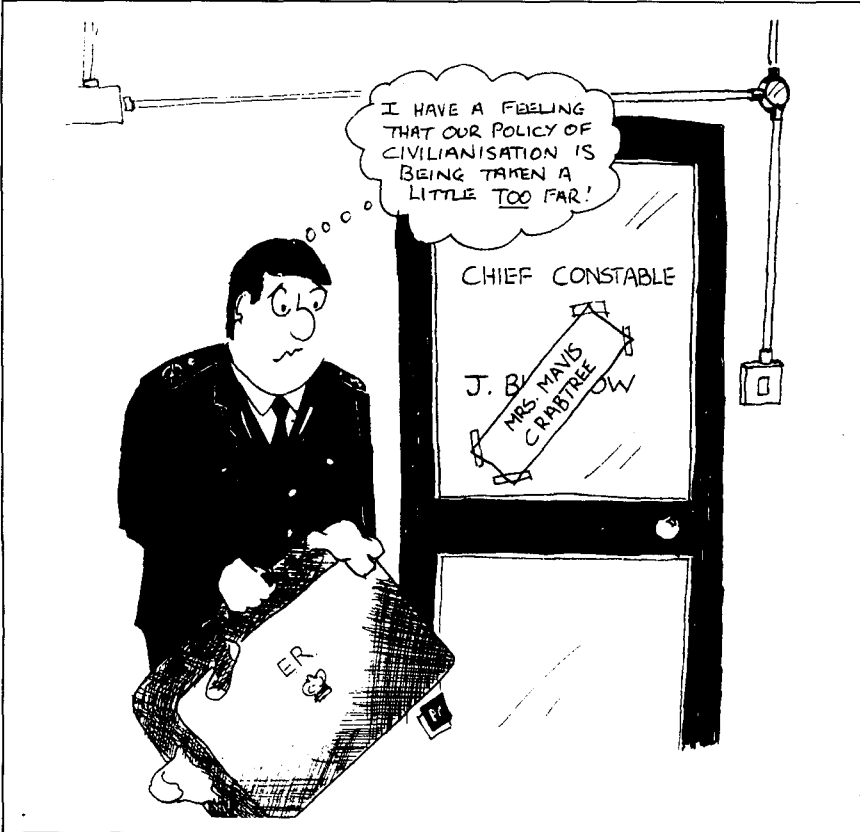
Following the tests, each candidate will sit down with a physical training instructor and discuss a personal fitness programme which will be sent to them in booklet form.

Also available is a computerised dietary analysis and stress counsellor.

PTI Simon Halford promises that the whole scheme is strictly confidential and in the unlikely event that a health problem is discovered, suitable advice or a referral will be given.

Mr Burrow said: "It's essential that everyone take advantage of the new equipment, particularly police officers. It's a case of them being aware of their physical fitness and taking the necessary steps to stay healthy.

"Sickness can impact heavily on resources available. Essex Police has an impeccable record and this sort of awareness programme can reduce incidents of sickness even further."



LAW Letters

I take my hat off to the Specials

AS a retired police officer, I have read the letters being exchanged in The Law and would love to speak about several matters regarding the Special Constabulary officers, with whom I have served in general.

For the first seven years of my service I was a constable in uniform and on many occasions on winter evenings I have stood on what used to be lovingly known as "chicken checks" at Christmas, usually when it was pouring with rain and possibly only two regulars and four or five specials in attendance.

There were never any complaints from the specials regarding this type

of duty and I found them always to be full of good humour when giving up their nights to serve the community.

Secondly, I was a uniform sergeant for two years stationed at Basildon where the shifts were about 10-12 in size and on a Saturday or Sunday night I used to be extremely grateful when possibly six specials would report for duty with a night shift, mainly in the town centre for "disorderly behaviour patrol".

You see it was not unusual for there to be up to six probationary constables on shift and when you look at the special constables, mature

men, mainly ex-forces with medal ribbons on display, I used to be pleased and quite often used to take them aside and whisper in their ears "look after the regular with you tonight" knowing that the specials would not see them come to any harm.

This is a true story and I take my hat off to the Special Constabulary for the hours during which they serve the public for almost non-recompence and wish them every success in the future.

Long may they be part of the Police Service.

Brian Searle, Holland-on-Sea

Surprise send-off

I WOULD like, through The Law to express my thanks and appreciation to all my colleagues and friends who attended my retirement party on July 26.

In particular I would like to thank Chief Inspector John Soanes, who traced three of my former Royal Navy colleagues, who joined with me at HMS Ganges in 1952 and who I had not seen or heard from in over 40 years. They were surprise guests at my party and helped to make the evening something special.

My wife and I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the nice gifts and flowers which were presented to us.

Finally I would like to say that after 30 years in "the job" I know I will miss my colleagues and friends still serving and wish them all the best in the future.

Pat Slegg
Braintree

Equal pension rights for co-habitees

ACCORDING to a recent TUC report it is estimated that of 3.1 million public sector workers, which includes serving police officers, who pay into their pension schemes, almost 220,000 are unmarried partners, many with children.

Current Government rules prevent common-law spouses of public sector workers from receiving a spouses pension.

This in itself is a discrimination against common-law marriages. The rules also affect single officers living with parents, on their own, or lesbian and gay officers.

The Police Federation supports the TUC campaign for a change in the law which would bring public sector pension schemes in line with many private sector schemes, which do provide pensions to co-habitees.

The Police Federation agrees with the TUC that the provision of benefits to such partners will recognise the change in social attitudes towards marriage and co-habitation.

The Police Federation has submitted a formal claim to the Police Negotiating Board for an adult dependants pension.

The claim seeks provision for the payment of a pension to an adult dependant of a serving or retired officer equal to the pension that would have been paid had the partner been married.

As things stand at the moment if you are a single serving or retired officer, then when you die your pension dies with you. You are not allowed to name a beneficiary.

If an officer who is single has dependant children under the age of 16, or they are still in full time education, then there is some provision for them, but whether this would be sufficient for the officers partner to maintain the family household is debatable.

Regardless of what efforts the Police Federation make at national level, it could be some time before any changes come into being as The Police Regulations 1987 is an Act of Parliament.

Starting with Essex I would like to carry out a survey of serving and retired police officers, throughout the police service, to find out just how many officers are affected by the current rules in relation to police pension regulations.

If you are currently single then you are affected by this ruling now. I believe that a reaction by "grass roots" police officers to this current Government ruling would be

an effective way of demonstrating out displeasure and disagreement with it, and hopefully speed up the required change to stop this blatant case of discrimination continuing any longer.

If this affects you and you would like to do something constructive about it, I would like to hear from you.

Pc Steve Wynn
HQ FSU.

Bark of thanks

WE WOULD like to thank the officers who took part or assisted in the Essex Police Dog Unit display at the Fun Day this year.

These officers helped at very short notice, some were rest day or on nights.

A good day was had by all, in particular one German Shepherd who appeared to be very excited at all the goings on.

Constables Lesley Rosenwold
and Phil O'Connell
Sandon

Behind the times

HAVING read Ron Irwin's letter concerning the Special Constabulary in July's issue, I thought it expedient to put pen to paper in advance of the deluge of correspondence you will, no doubt, receive.

I have known Ron since the early 1960s, when he first arrived before the hallowed portals of the Southend Borough Constabulary Headquarters. A staunch Federationist, he has always felt the post of special constable posed a direct threat to the advancement of benefits for the regular officer.

During my service I was responsible for the supervision of special constables at divisional and sub-divisional levels and directly concerned with the selection and subsequent training programme through the force training school.

Ron is behind the times when referring to training, in that special constables now work to achieve standards by stages, making them proficient both theoretically and practically in the performance of their duties.

As for being "zealous carriers of a uniform and a danger to themselves etc . . .", could this not also be accredited to a minority of regular officers?

It is unfair to tarnish the reputation of the majority for the behaviour of the minority - something we continually strive to impress upon the general public.

I agree that, politically, successive governments have used and abused the position of special constables, but it is to their credit that members of the public are still willing

to volunteer their free time without that all too familiar cry "what's in it for me?"

Don't condemn Ron out of hand. His comments, although harsh are said with the interests of the regular officer foremost in his thought.

I respect his opinion and his right to hold it - I just don't happen to agree with him.

So, come on Ron, in your twilight years, there is a great need for the special and regular officer to work together in the modern police force, so give them your support.

Remember, in the wilds of Suffolk it is more than likely that the special constable is all you'll have available - now there's a thought!

Ray Law
Leigh-on-Sea

A grand tribute

I WOULD like to thank all of our friends and Tom's colleagues for their kindness and support throughout my husband's illness.

The large number of people who attended the funeral was a tribute in itself to the high regard in which Tom was held by police officers both serving and retired, friends and his family. Tom would have been so proud.

Tom was a man of great presence and integrity, the void that he has left in our lives cannot be filled.

Joyce Brook
Shoebury

Keep the suggestions rolling

WHEN I was a serving officer doing a course at Bramshill I can vividly recall being given a lot of time to "reflect" by the lake there - it's not true that I spent time fishing.

Now nearly 12 months have gone by since I retired, I've definitely had a lot of time to "reflect" and yes I admit I have now spent a lot of time fishing.

One of the things I would therefore suggest to those replying in last month's issue to Ron Irwin's letter on Specials is not to take life, or more importantly, the job too seriously, because believe me there's a lot more

to life outside the job once you've left it.

Being the "serious" individual I am, however, let me please convey the following message - what a pleasure it was over the last five to 10 years to witness the innovative schemes and ideas the police service, especially in Essex, come to fruition. I see they're still rolling off the production line and long may this continue.

Can I therefore join in the fun and make a suggestion too. How about treating an officer's 30 years service as an operation which at its conclu-

sion requires a briefing.

I'll add no further at this stage because of potential patenting but I think there could be some surprises. If senior management are interested in this suggestion please call me for further details. Mind you you'll have to catch me when I'm not fishing.

Jack Baldock
Rayleigh

**More letters
on page 11**

Cameras lead to massive drop in burglary

THE first six monthly review of Chelmsford's new CCTV security system has excellent news for residents and visitors to the town centre.

In the first six months, 66 people have been caught on the cameras committing crime and arrested. Of these, 25 were committing damage, 13 were responsible for assaults and 12 for theft.

In the same period, the area covered by the scheme has seen a massive 52 per cent drop in burglary and a 45 per cent drop in reported assaults.

This, together with a 26 per cent drop in shoplifting and a 17 per cent drop in the theft of pedal cycles, is most rewarding, say the partners responsible for installing the scheme, Chelmsford Borough Council, Chelmsford Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and police in Chelmsford.

Stop searches and subsequent arrests for drug dealing and illegal possession have also gone up by 63 per cent in the CCTV area, with police officers now able to be more proactive in enforcing the law against drugs misuse.

Superintendent Bob Ward of Chelmsford Police hailed the figures as: "Most gratifying; an excellent start upon which I hope we can now build, especially as the scheme was only partially operational for the early months."

Private escorts review is favourable

ESSEX Police has developed a good working relationship with Group 4 Court Services Ltd in the first 12 months since the security company took on the contract for escorting prisoners.

Although the transition has not been without its teething problems, on the whole the force believes the changeover has gone smoothly, with Group 4 giving a satisfactory level of service.

Essex Police was the first force in the East Anglia region to go live. Chief Inspector Peter Blois, police liaison officer for the service, says the other forces were able to learn from Essex's role as the lead force.

"They were very keen to be aware of what sort of guidelines we were giving our force and other officers regarding the service. They certainly benefited," he said.

Commenting on the first 12 months, Chief

Inspector Blois said: "On the whole I would say it has been a very successful and smooth transition. If you look at some of the difficulties that have been experienced in other parts of the country, and they have been well publicised, we haven't had anything like that."

"We always expected that there would be teething problems, so the areas that have come up didn't necessarily surprise us. In the first 12 months the working relationship between Group 4 and ourselves has developed into a very good one."

Difficulties experienced in the first year were mainly due to the contractors, the police and prison officers becoming aware of what was expected from each other. But others, for example the question of who houses prisoners overnight if they are delivered after a court cut off time, need to be discussed at a national level.

Ch/Insp Blois added: "There's been nothing major. It's developing awareness of what the contract does and does not cater for as far as the responsibilities of Group 4 and Essex Police are concerned."

"I think some of the other difficulties have arisen because the whole country hasn't gone live at once. Different areas of the country are at different stages so that can be a little bit confusing when you have got a prisoner that has been arrested in another part of the country which is not necessarily covered by a contracted out service."

The 12 month review concludes that policies and operational guidelines have proved appropriate. The teething problems which have been identified are being considered at a national level with the Home Office Monitor and contractor, and do not require any further action from Essex Police.

Essex pioneers Special schemes

THE report of the Home Office Special Constabulary Working Group, published last month, has been welcomed by Essex Police, which has already pioneered many of its recommendations.

The Parish Special Constables scheme, recommended by the working group and piloted in Hockley two years ago, is being introduced to several other areas of the County.

Essex also pioneered the tutor constable scheme recommended in the report and has already addressed many of the issues relating to recruitment and training highlighted by the working group.

Essex Police has introduced a new structured approach, involving a clearly defined programme, which sets out the recruit's progress from an initial recruitment open evening, through a selection interview to an induction course and final attestation into the Special Constabulary.

A major recruitment programme is currently under way in the county to increase the number of Specials from 650 to over 1,000 by 1998, following the successful bid by Essex Police for Government funding earlier this year.

Chief Constable John Burrow, commenting on the working group report, said: "We welcome the opportunity it affords to give reassurance to the Special Constabulary and to the public that we in Essex take the recruitment, training and deployment of our Specials very seriously. "As volunteers they provide a valuable service to the community and carry out their duties - in support of their regular colleagues - in a highly professional manner."

Home Office Minister David Maclean launched the working group's report on August 15, when details of a further £6 million of Government funding for Specials was also announced.

Essex will be submitting a bid for some of this funding, to further improve recruitment and training of Specials in the county.

Fighting back against domestic violence

A 30 PER cent increase in the number of arrests is driving home the message that domestic violence is unacceptable.

From April 1995 to 1996, 1,272 people were arrested for domestic violence, compared to 890 the previous year. Figures have been rising steadily over the past three years, with 492 arrests in the year up to April 1994.

The rise in arrests reflects the commitment of Essex Police in dealing with domestic violence in a positive manner, with protection and support for victims and a tough stance against perpetrators.

It also appears that as the arrest rate rises, the number of reported incidents decreases, fuelling the hope that Essex Police is starting to achieve the twin aims of responding

well to reported incidents and taking action to prevent crimes of violence from occurring in the first place.

Commenting on the figures, Head of CID, Detective Superintendent Ralph Barrington said: "Arrests are up, and we hope that our positive action will start to have a real impact on domestic violence."

"The important message is that it is force policy to take positive action and be supportive. The number of arrests shows this is happening, and we hope the arrests will bring down the number of incidents of domestic violence."

Initiatives have been introduced in recent years to address the problem of violence within the home and to

By Alyson Mountney

give victims an increased level of support.

Domestic Violence Liaison Officers have been appointed in each division, and other measures, such as imposing conditions on perpetrators' bail to protect their victims, further demonstrate the Force's proactive approach.

This has coincided with the change in social attitudes over the past 20 years. Now, domestic violence is seen as an unacceptable problem rather than something which should be kept behind closed doors.

Detective Superintendent Barrington added: "Much is being done. Victims of domestic violence are potentially repeat victims, so it is most important that we take appropriate action."

He added: "There have been changes made in the crime reporting system to enable the identification of the proportion of violent crime which can be attributed to domestic violence, so we get better information."

Until recently, there has been no way of identifying the part domestic violence plays in statistics for violent crime. But with every officer now being asked to identify, on crime reports, whether a violent incident is domestic, figures should give a clearer picture.

Tendering timetable continues

AS the responsibility of cleaning police buildings is taken over by private companies, the planning process continues for other services which are due to go out to tender in the future.

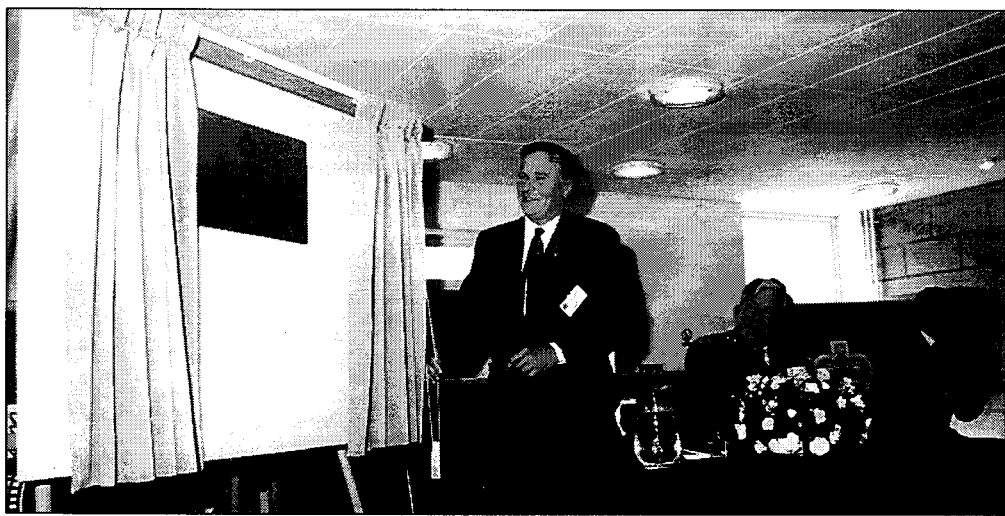
Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT) is Government legislation, designed to ensure that the public gets value for money, which Essex Police and other public authorities throughout Britain are obliged to follow.

Essex Police is working to a rough timetable which is aimed at putting some legal, construction and property, and personnel services out to tender in the year 2000. Under the plan, some Information Technology services would follow in October 2001.

However, this timetable could be subject to change depending on factors such as the outcome of the next General Election. But planning ahead for CCT must continue and has already proven to be valuable.

Commenting on the future planning, head of administration Mr Peter Crook said: "It will be an interesting and valuable exercise to evaluate where we are now and establish where we have to be."

New station for Harlow



A "magic" day out

THE sun brought out the crowds as this year's Three Nines Fayre with up to 5,000 believed to have visited the one day spectacular at Bata's Recreation Ground in East Tilbury.

At the last count the fayre, one of the biggest events of Thurrock's calendar, had made around £6,500, described by the organisers as "quite an achievement". Profits will go to the Emergency Services Benevolent Funds and local charities.

Attractions included the Tigers Motorcycle Display Team, the Essex Dog Display Team and the Heart of England Falconry Display.

A real life emergency led to the last minute cancellation of the 999 Major Incident display when a fire service tender taking part in the exercise was called away.

But overall the event proved a major attraction for the crowds on a baking hot Sunday in August, with the response said to be "magic" by the organisers.

TWO years of hard work and a £2.5m investment has resulted in a new police station for Harlow Division.

At the grand opening of the new building Chairman of the Police Authority Councillor Anthony Peel, described it as "a fine station" as he unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Other speeches were made by Chief Constable John Burrow and divisional commander Superintendent Lee Weavers, while the audience included local majors and Joan Hurley, one of the first women police officers in Essex.

The new building has been carefully designed and constructed to take the station into the 21st century. It is almost double the size of the original and includes a new witness room, identification suite, parade rooms and cells. The reception area includes a secure booth allowing members of the public to speak to staff in confidence.

Supt Lee Weavers said: "The new station is a major investment in the town and its police. Staff and officers are delighted with the new facilities - this station is a station to take us into the next century."

Open to the public

RESIDENTS served by Dunmow Police Station were brought up to date with today's policing at the station's first open day for three years.

Since its last event to mark the 150th anniversary of the station, the oldest active police station in the Force and the first to be purpose built, Dunmow has been transferred from Harlow to Braintree division and the Community Safety section has been launched.

Inspector Martin Reed of Dunmow police station said: "In three years there have been so many advances in policing, I thought it was time to have another open day to let the community know what we are doing."

The event was officially opened by Assistant Chief Constable (Support) Charles Clark and was attended by local dignitaries.

Attractions included displays by the Dog Section, Traffic Section and Community Safety Section, and a selection of classic police vehicles.

ESSEX POLICE CHOIR AND GUESTS

present

Concert for a September Evening

Saturday, September 28 at 7.30pm

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
Rainsford Road, Chelmsford

Tickets £4.00 Concessions £2.50

From: HQ Extension 50011,
choir members or on the door

Negotiator never lost hope

"CAPTAIN, before I ask you to come out, can I just say we think you've done a marvellous job. And I think we owe you a large milkshake."

These were some of the last words exchanged between negotiator DCI Win Bernard and Abdul Hamid Hidirbi, captain of

the Sudan Airways flight hijacked over Egypt.

And even after eight hours of tense negotiations DCI Bernard was able to remain "politically correct" and not offend the captain's religious principles by offering him alcohol.

It was followed by another touching moment as the two men came together for a press conference and DCI Bernard said of Mr Hidirbi "he is a very brave man".

But the captain denied he was any kind of hero, telling the media: "I'm just a normal pilot. All I had been trained to do is remain calm, cool down the situation and try to gain the trust of the hijackers. I didn't have time to feel for myself."

Hidirbi also spoke of his admiration for the professionalism of Essex Police saying: "You only read of such perfection in books - as fiction. But in

reality their handling of the situation was unbelievable."

He added: "Mr Bernard is a credit to his country and the aviation business."

Throughout the negotiations, DCI Bernard never lost hope even though he only made direct contact with the alleged hijackers towards the end of the siege.

Mr Hidirbi was clearly the vital link and quickly became "like a seventh member of the team".



● DCI Win Bernard.

The unsung heroes

A MEDIA star overnight, DCI Win Bernard may have played a crucial role in the release of the hostages of Flight 150, but the unsung heroes of the negotiating team shouldn't go without a mention.

In any incident of this kind there are six negotiators each with their own essential part to play. Within the negotiating cell at Stansted, Inspector Steve Smith, from the airport, Inspector Steve Tutton, from Rayleigh, and Inspector Tony Payne, from Thurrock, backed up DCI Bernard.

Based at the airport police station was Chief Inspector John Coyle and liaising with Gold Command at Police Headquarters was training centre Superintendent Peter Durr.

Each and every one stayed in constant contact throughout, discussing the situation and advising

on tactics.

Ch/Insp John Coyle said: "As a negotiating exercise it went very smoothly in a sense that the hostages were unharmed throughout their time at Stansted. I am also confident that had Tuesday thrown up a worse scenario we would have been able to handle it."

But he admits that training exercises such as November 94's Black Swan are worth their weight in gold.

"It's ever so easy to get a sense of reality in a role play and you can very effectively recreate an incident. Obviously there was an awareness on Tuesday that it was the real thing and there is more of an edge to the situation but the mechanics are the same and the training is of immense value."

The fate

WHEN Flight 150, a Sudan Airways Airbus, took off from Khartoum en route to Amman in Jordan, the passengers and crew on board had no idea of the ordeal they were about to face.

Less than two hours into the flight, as the jet cruised over Egypt the peaceful flight is believed to have turned into nightmare.

Exactly what happened during the next 17 hours is evidence which can only be revealed in court, but all indications are that control of the plane was seized by a number of men whose ultimate goal was residence in Britain.

After spending some time on the ground in Larnaca, Cyprus, the 310 Airbus was refuelled and took to the air again - destination Britain.

It touched down at 4.28am and in less than half an hour, specially trained police negotiators had made contact with the



**Report by
Kim White
Photos: Essex
Chronicle Series**

plane's captain.

Initial reports revealed a crew of 13 with passengers comprising of Sudanese, Iraqis, Palestinians, Syrians, Saudi Arabians and Jordanians.

The first hostages came down the steps at about 6.25am - less than two hours after the plane had landed in Britain. Mainly women and children they emerged from a door behind the cockpit and walked slowly



● Chief Constable J. Sayah fronts the media as the

down a mobile staircase.

As the hours elapsed more were released in batches of

The only request made during negotiations with Essex Police presence, at the airport was Sayah, of the Iraqi Association and individuals from the United Nations and Red Cross.

When Mr Sayah arrived the pledge was honoured and came to an end. It was now

Remarkably calm in the circumstances all the hostages were taken to a reception area on the tarmac where statements were taken.

Put up for two nights in the airport, passengers were eventually released in England by the same pilot as Hidirbi.

In addition to seven Iraqis who were seized with the aircraft, six were initially arrested and questioned. Two women, along with two young children, were later released by the police without charge but were held by Immigration officers.



● The fire brigade was one of many organisations forced to play a tense waiting game as police negotiators attempted to bring events to an end.



STRONG support from other organisations was an important factor in Essex Police's successful handling of the Stansted incident. Particularly evident was the close co-operation from Stansted Airport staff at all levels. The operation demonstrated the soundness of contingency planning between the police and the airport.

Stansted's third hijacking incident ends peacefully

It is not the first time Stansted has been the centre of an international drama.

The seizure of the Sudan Airways Airbus is the third incident of its kind in Essex in 21 years.

In 1975 an unemployed television engineer Saeed Madjd used a toy pistol and imitation dynamite to take control of a British Airways jet from

Manchester just minutes before it was due to land at Heathrow.

Demanding to be flown to Paris, the 40 passengers were allowed off at Heathrow and Madjd was duped into believing he would be helped to France if the jet flew via Stansted.

Instead there was a reception committee of armed police and troops and Madjd was jailed for seven years.

In 1982 a Boeing 737, owned by Air Tanzania, with 99 passengers on board, was seized on an internal flight.

First taken to Nairobi in Kenya, it also made stops at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Athens, before landing in Essex.

After a gruelling 26 hours on the tarmac the passengers were released and the hijackers surrendered.

Quick response under pressure

THE minute it was clear that Flight 150 was headed for Britain, it was all systems go for Essex Police and the Information Room's 'B' shift who took the initial brunt of the incident.

Not only did the operators need to initiate the emergency plan and begin calling out a number of officers and support staff, there was an influx of telephone calls, mainly from the media.

Fortunately it was a reasonably quiet period of the night for emergency 999 calls and Pc Steve Farmer was quick to create a Major Task Incident and open up the SOPS command room.

But congratulations to all the staff, who were not only under immense pressure for nearly two hours but also, in some cases, dragged from their beds at an ungodly hour.

of flight 150

Where would be without a plan?

HIJACKINGS may, fortunately, be few and far between, but when they happen everyone is hopefully clear on his or her role in the emergency plan.

And without such a plan where would we be?

It can't be ignored that the work carried out by Ken Ferguson and the rest of the contingency planning department is vital.

Constantly updating and amending the terrorist and emergency procedure manuals, Ken and his team are

also responsible for arranging support calls and mutual aid from bordering forces.

Mr Ferguson said: "We are very pleased with the result but can see areas that need attention. There is always room for improvement. When we have formally debriefed we will be aware of any problems and lessons which can be learned. There is plenty of work still to be done."

First live job went off without a hitch

LITTLE can be said of the involvement of Special Branch in August's hijacking because of its sensitive nature.

However, it is the first time that a specially trained group of Special Branch officers from seven forces have assisted one another in a "live" incident, and DCI John Soanes says: "it went brilliantly".

The other forces involved were Hampshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Kent, Bedfordshire and Cambridge.



● The world's media congregated close to the emergency vehicles RVP with a distance but perfect view of the Sudanese aircraft. While television companies went live on the hour, motorcycle couriers waited patiently to rush rolls of photographic film back to London newsrooms and one national newspaper went as far as hiring a truck and building some scaffolding to get a better view.

Awarded for bravery

FOUR men from Thurrock have been rewarded for their bravery by Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

In the first incident, neighbours Stuart Smith and Ray Chick from Thames Crescent in Corringham went into a burning house to rescue an elderly woman.

The fire started with an explosion at a property in Thames Crescent at 7 am on the 6th October 1995. The men managed to rescue Mrs Iris Eves from her home and gave her first aid until the emergency services arrived. Sadly, Mrs Eves died four days later.

Presenting the award (a certificate from the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire), Essex Police Divisional Commander for Thurrock, Superintendent Bob Good said "I'm delighted to honour the bravery of these men in this way. Undoubtedly their actions saved Mrs Eves' life on the day". On receiving the award, Mr Smith and Mr Chick said they were very proud to have been honoured for their actions.

In the second incident, friends Kevin McNamara and Nick Tonks from Aveley rescued several people from cars at the scene of a road accident on 18th February 1995. The two cars involved in the

By Ruth Collin

accident were both on fire and the two men attempted to control the blaze before rescuing a total of three people from the vehicles. This included one of the drivers whose leg was trapped.

The two men (both aged 20) were presented with the Giancarlo Tofi Award for Courageous Actions at the Scene of a Road Accident. This is a Europe-wide award established by the Tofi family, whose son Giancarlo was killed in an accident.

Presenting the award, Superintendent Des McGarr of the Essex Traffic Police Division said "I find it immensely reassuring to know there are people like this who respond instinctively in times of crisis to help others". Receiving the awards, Mr McNamara and Mr Tonks said "All we can remember is hearing the driver scream 'help me, help me' - then instinct took over and we just did all we could".

All four presentations were made at the Thurrock Police and Community Consultative Group meeting in August.



● Courageous actions at the scene of a serious road accident led to awards for Nick Tonks and Kevin McNamara. Pictured here with Head of Traffic Superintendent Des McGarr.

Beating the burglars

POLICE in Rayleigh division have launched a 10 point plan to crack down on house burglaries in the Castle Point and Rochford District Council areas.

Police hope it will reduce the number of houses broken into while increasing the number of offenders caught.

The measures involve CID officers dealing with all house burglaries, with Scenes of Crime officers attending every burglary to search for evidence. New procedures have also been introduced to

enable early identification of trends.

Stopchecks have also been stepped up in vulnerable areas, with Rayleigh's Cycle Squad already intercepting known house burglars in the area. Hi tech police alarms installed in homes which are possible targets have also led to two burglars being caught.

Residents are also being urged to help in the crackdown by reporting suspicious behaviour immediately, contacting police or Crimestoppers in confidence.

Minding your coppers

Moneyspinner is coming

EVERY year, thousands of police officers take the opportunity to top-up their investments with the Police Mutual with a new savings plan. And every year, when the maturity cheques arrive, thousands of officers enjoy the benefits of having taken out a plan in the past.

Around about now you will be receiving your own Moneyspinner application form. Use it to claim your share in the Society's future success. And don't forget that civilian support staff and adult children of officers can now join the PMAS.

Remember, the Police Mutual exists only for the financial welfare of its members. With no shareholders and no salespeople, no one can benefit from the success of your Society but you.

Contact your PMAS Authorised Officer for further information or write to Police Mutual Assurance Society Limited, Alexandra House, Queen Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6QS.

The Police Mutual Assurance Society Limited is an incorporated friendly society regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

Officer gives life to Leukaemia patient

A CHELMSFORD-BASED Scenes of Crime officer has joined a small but select group whose bone marrow has been used to give patients a new chance of life, writes Alyson Mountney.

Detective Constable Stephen Armson-Smith took the plunge and decided to register with the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust two years ago. He was persuaded by a feature in *The Law* and a moving poster campaign.

Only a year after he joined the register, Stephen was found to be a match with a Leukaemia patient in Germany. But it was not until June this year that the patient decided to go ahead with the operation.

With barely a month's notice, Stephen underwent the simple process of donating his bone marrow as the first step in a potentially life saving operation. The procedure, where bone marrow is drawn off the hip bones using a hypodermic needle, requires a two night stay in hospital.

Although he was warned by the Trust that he could feel tired for around a week after the operation, Stephen says he made a quick recovery. "I found that apart from a very slight backache, I felt fine," he said.

"I would say to other people, go ahead and do it. It's not as bad as it sounds and you could save somebody's life."

A father of three, 40-year-old Stephen says the thought of someone else's child growing up without a parent was a great motivation. His wife Victoria and children Claire, aged 13, Peter, aged seven, and five year old Andrew have given him



● Dc Stephen Armson-Smith.

their full support.

"They're pleased that I've managed to help someone out. Of course there was concern prior to it - with a general anaesthetic there's always a slight risk," he added.

All he knows about the recipient of his bone marrow is that he is around 40 years old. But through the Trust, Stephen can receive updates about how the patient is progressing.

Paula Sunshine, the Trust's area appeals manager for Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, said the chances of finding a successful bone marrow match was around 50,000 to one.

"With only 270,000 people on the register you've got just over one in five chances to find a match. To find a match is brilliant. Stephen was only on the register for around 18 months and usually people are on the register for quite a long time. Some people never match anybody," she said.

The Trust was set up by Shirley Nolan,

whose son Anthony died in 1979 aged just seven. Anthony suffered from Wiscott-Aldrich syndrome which left his immune system unable to fight infection.

He was given hope when the first successful bone marrow transplant using marrow donated by a non-family member was performed in 1973. But with no donor register, no match for Anthony was ever found, and Mrs Nolan vowed that no other child would suffer a similar fate due to the lack of a suitable donor.

A miniature read

INCH High Publications of Steeple Bumpstead has produced two 1/12th scale, fully readable books with an Essex Police theme.

The small business is run by Elaine Howard, wife of the village policeman.

The first book is entitled *The Bobbies of Bumpstead* and gives details of every bobby who has been stationed in the village from 1840 to the present day. This volume measures just one inch and comes in a boxed sleeve.

The second book entitled *The Chief* contains pictures and biographies of all the Chief Constables of Essex. Just 50 numbered copies have been produced.

This book measures just 3/4 inch high. Profits from the sale of *The Chief* are being donated to charity.

Copies are on display in the force museum, but anyone wanting to place an order at £5.95 for *The Bobbies of Bumpstead* and £6.50 for *The Chief* should send cheques payable to E.S.Howard through the internal mail to Steeple Bumpstead or direct to Elaine Howard at 14 Chapel Street, Steeple Bumpstead, Suffolk, CB9 7DQ.



Pay deal accepted

UNISON'S ballot result was ten to one in favour of the proposed pay deal. The ballot which closed on July 26th had a 46% return (higher than average for a postal ballot) 7,679 voted for the package with 730 voting against.

The deal is worth 3.6% on pay, there will also be an end to the second class status of manual workers.

All support staff will be on the same single status including a 37 hour week by 1 August 1997.

The agreement is specially for Police Support staff and protects both national and local negotiations on pay and conditions. Key rights and entitlements will be retained in a simplified form.

The most common question being asked is "when do I get the money?" At the time of going to press the answer is unavailable.

Subscriptions increase

DETAILS of the new subscription increase will be with the forthcoming Unison magazine. For all but the lowest paid workers (who have a decrease) there will be increased. It is unavoidable, essentially the services are costing more to provide. Some services particularly legal are more in demand as some of you are aware. Budgets are a problem for everyone these days!

999 strike ban plan

NEWS that the Government may be considering moves to "outlaw" industrial action in the emergency services has been condemned by Unison's General Secretary Rodney BICKERSTAFFE. He said "The Government must have taken leave of their collective senses if they believe denying basic human rights that are enshrined in International law has any place in our Democracy". "Paying proper wages to the hardworking people who staff our Public Services, and treating them with respect, is the way to prevent disputes".

Unfair equality limit challenged

THE Government is challenging a Court of Appeal decision that the two year qualification period for unfair dismissal claims is in breach of the European Union Equal Treatment Directive. It has appealed to the House of Lords and a ruling is expected in the Autumn.

European working directive

THE proposed Directive on working time was agreed at European level. Member states have until 23rd November 1996 to transpose the directive into national legislation. It means that for the first time the UK will have to introduce legislation on regulating hours of work and holidays. There is virtually no statutory regulation of working hours in UK. Staff affected will include Public Service workers, long hours workers (48 hours plus) shift and or night workers.

The Government has already challenged the legal basis for the directive arguing that hours of work are not a Health and Safety issue and should not have been introduced under 118A of the Single European Act. However the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice rejected this claim on 12th March 1996. Although the opinion is not binding, it is likely to be upheld when the full court rules later this year. The final opinion is expected in September.

Representation

All members are reminded that they have representatives on the Corporate Consultative Group, Health & Safety Committee, and the various P.G. Sub Groups. Additionally you have representation on the Regional Police staff Sector panel and Regional Local Government Panel with Unison. Remember you have a say, you are part of the Union as much as any of your Branch Executives.

Fun Day lottery winners

PROVING just how famous the Essex Police annual Fun Day has become, even Elvis won a prize in the lottery, while some entries came from as far afield as Hong Kong and America.

But it was Chelmsford's Mr Goodall who had the top ticket with the winning number of 1381 and has jetted off for five days in Prague complete with free entry to a Michael Jackson concert.

More good news is that the Fun Day has raised a record amount of cash for charity totalling over £40,000.

Other lottery winners were as follows: Two 1st class tickets for Eurotrain Paris or Brussels, Claire Turnidge (ticket no 4755); 21" Sony Colour Television, David Fairchild (4146); two return Air UK tickets from Stansted to Milan, Joy Hallett (6441); bottle of Whiskey, Lee Wai Hong (9216); bottle of Champagne, Nina Burgess (2961); Mizumo golf bag, David Whiteley (6826); giant teddy bear, Nichola Bryant (7371); case of California wine, David King (3761); six pairs of golfing socks, Chamy Lok (9221); three silk ties, Vincent Duffy (6826); giant basket of fruit, Joan Sirett (1216); case of Italian wine, Mrs Vella (0316); cut glass crystal vase, Fran Levett (11001); sports holdall, Mr R. Tozer (2156); giant food hamper, Mrs Bonnett (5086); whole lamb (deceased), Roy Barrett (4786); meal for two at Pizza Hut, Phil (4735); meal for four, Cathleen Schendelmeier (13591); mini cruise for two from Harwich to Hamburg, Jon Butcher (5676); bottle of gin, Mr S. Ward (0181); case of beer, Wayne Reed (2306); six pairs of golfing socks, Jay (4326); £15 Marks and Spencers voucher, Jan Hawkins (9246); gents wrist watch, Elvis (4706); bottle of whiskey, Peter Seaman (5351); Konica A4 camera, Neville (2506); sports umbrella, Jeanette Thomas (1961); giant cuddly pig, Terri Fawey (9386) and giant teddy bear, Richard Cable (3896).

Congratulations to all winners and grateful thanks to everyone else who participated.

Swap your home and see the world

If you fancy a holiday with a difference and one that won't cost you an arm and a leg have you thought of house swapping?

Karen Parker, the wife of a former Met police officer and current serving fire officer, has set up such a scheme purely for members of the emergency services.

It all came about when she and her husband Ken went on holiday to Spain. The couple met up with an American firefighter and his

wife and they decided they would swap their homes and cars for a fortnight. The holiday went down a storm.

Karen, at the time, was working as a dealer in the City and wanted to start up a business at home.

House swapping holidays seemed like the ideal opportunity.

Although the business has only been running a few months, Karen can already offer locations in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, with others across

Europe and South Africa in the pipeline.

At the moment there is no cost for joining the holiday club. However, from January 1997 there will be an initial joining fee of £40 followed by an annual subscription of £25.

Basically anyone interested will chose a country and a state or area within that country, from the current list. For Data Protection reasons details of the two parties involved will only be exchanged once the choice has been made.

From thereon in it is up to the holidaymakers to organise their trip.

Karen does, however, has links with both a travel agent and insurance company which will give discounts on air fares and legal backed travel and medical insurance to members of the emergency services.

Anyone interested in the scheme should send a SAE to Karen Parker, 40 Riverside Way, Kelvedon, Colchester CO5 9OY and she will send you full details.

Drugs camp spreads the word

A TOTAL of £2,000 confiscated from drug dealers in Essex helped to fund two summer camps for crusading youngsters.

Around 80 teenagers who took part in the Teenex camps, at Wicken House Residential Study Centre near Saffron Walden, will now go on to spread the anti-drugs message to their friends in a bid to reverse peer group pressure.

Inspector Dave Perry, head of the Drug Education Unit and camp co-ordinator, said the youngsters, aged between 14 and 17, had developed self esteem and confidence as well as learning vital information about drugs.

Success of savings plan

THE need to ensure that Essex Police gains maximum value for money from its budget expenditure has never been more paramount.

The success of its operational activities depends upon the force having fully trained personnel with the appropriate, equipment and efficient support services.

A Value for Money Strategic Sub Group of Policy Group, led by ACC (Support) Charles Clark, keeps a close watch on how we allocate resources, to make sure that wastage is eliminated and optimum benefits are gained.

Financial Services Manager Alan Golding, who is programme manager for the VFM sub group, said verifiable and factual savings of £5,768,500 have been made in the past two years, representing real money savings which will be saved each year from now on.

This figure includes £1.02 million saved on force restructuring and £3.53 million in budget cuts for 1995/96.

Further cuts of £685,000 were made for the current financial year and, as with last year's, were made following recommendations by a multi-disciplinary working group of officers and after wide consultation within the Force.

A saving of £165,000 for operational equipment - including protective vests and batons - has been achieved by better use of the central purchasing function.

A further £150,000 has been saved by the civilianisation programme.

Mr Golding said: "A number of posts have been recognised for civilianisation and the plans in the forthcoming years will achieve further savings at the earliest opportunity.

"In order to achieve actual budget savings, this civilianisation is pre-

dominantly simple transfers of responsibilities from a police officer to a civilian."

Purchasing and supplies budget savings of £100,000 will be made through better value for money being obtained in purchasing and continued careful selection.

Travelling and mileage budgets were cut by £100,000 for 1996/97, with a further £200,000 in savings set to result from changes in nation-

By Norman Hicks

ally agreed mileage allowances.

Budgets for subsistence allowances for all staff have been reduced by £70,000 to be achieved through better management.

Further budget cuts of £50,000 for premises and a similar amount for fleet running expenses have also been made.

A focused savings plan is now being developed.

Other examples of where savings

have already been produced include the creation of a vehicle repair business unit (saving £165,000); new contracts for computer maintenance (£70,000), BT equipment maintenance (£37,000) and purchasing services (£27,500); building rates (£15,000) and utility bills payments (£15,000).

Other cost cutting results

AS well as savings in financial terms, the VFM Sub Group has also sanctioned a number of initiatives and examples of good practice, many of which resulted in staff time savings, creating more policing time.

The Criminal Justice Department, for example, reviewed the working practices of police liaison officers in one Crown Court area, to include the preparation of pre-trial documents.

As a result new working practices were implemented at all sites late last year. One police constable post was not replaced on retirement and it was decided an extra police constable post at the new Basildon Crown Court was not required.

Changes in working practices for the prosecution units has led to six posts being identified as suitable for civilianisation.

The Marine Section of Operations Division reappraised its need for capital assets and reduced the boat fleet from three to two,

thereby generating capital income from the vessel sold and reducing the annual maintenance and running costs.

The Dog Section restructured internally, setting up a section for A Division (Braintree) to increase efficiency, cut response and travelling times and reduce travelling costs.

The dog section has also set up a puppy breeding programme.

Extra income has been generated by a review of the scale of fees for minor accident reports and the purchasing manager has confirmed that introduction of a computerised stores function has reduced stock levels and will create further savings in years ahead.

Stansted Airport has agreed to fund additional officers in that division, following a review of policing charges.

A new telephone system for filtering out candidates not required for interview,

following two recruitment campaigns in December and February has increased efficiency and led to savings in postage, paperwork and staff time.

The process for recording injuries and assaults on officers on duty has been streamlined.

A saving of £110,000 has been made on forensic science services, following a review of the assessment criteria for submission of SOCO material for forensic examination.

The second round of tendering for catering has led to further annual savings of £100,000 plus.

The new Community Safety Department has been tasked with a number of relevant issues, notably partnerships models, sponsorship, income generation and extra Government funding for Specials (see feature in August Law).

Shopping for safety advice



● Constables Ray Williams and Max Bacon issue community safety advice from their new town centre base.

AN empty shop in Basildon's Eastgate Centre was transformed into a community safety advice centre in a new initiative by Essex Police and Basildon District Council.

The project, which opened for nearly a week in August, was the first time the police had joined forces with the council and other agencies to open a one stop shop offering help on everything from home security to drugs education.

Headed by Chief Inspector Alan Hurley of Basildon Division, the initiative followed the launch of a community safety partnership between police and the district council earlier this year.

Also actively involved were the Beacon Trust, which provides drugs education

and counselling, and the Shade Project, which targets young people with information about sexual health and drugs awareness.

Staff from both agencies were on hand to answer any queries from visitors, and had access to a private room for confidential counselling at the back of the shop.

Advice on community safety was given by Basildon officers Pcs Ray Williams and Max Bacon, and district council community safety officer, Ken Venables.

PC Williams, one of the crime prevention officers who helped to organise the initiative, said it was hoped the project could be repeated if there was a good response from the public.

Computer project will save millions

THE major Information Technology development projects have been reassessed and a finance plan produced for each project.

They show the force the actual costs and real money benefits of the projects over the coming years, as well as other benefits, especially savings in staff time.

These plans are updated regularly and, as an example, the Essex Police Integrated Computer System (EPICS) project will provide over the eight years from 1996/97 to 2003/04 net opportunity benefits in staff time savings of £29.364 million.

In other words, although the major IT projects have a cost, there will be a benefit to the community resulting from their imple-

Obituaries

ESSEX Police extends its sympathies to the families of the following police pensioners who have died.

Ex Sgt Arthur Grover, who joined the police service in 1941, serving at Southend. He retired in 1971 and died on August 21 aged 74.

Ex Pc Ronald Wade, who joined the police service in 1930, serving in Leigh, Shoebury and Southend. He retired in 1955 and died on August 15, aged 87.

N.A.R.P.O. notes

ONCE again the conference season approaches and I note that this year there are some 14 motions for debate.

It appears to me that the one motion which will command the longest debate is the one seeking to separate National from Branch subscription level.

This would mean in effect that the amount of subscription would vary from branch to branch according to the amount of cash required locally.

There is also a motion to stop NARPO staff at NEC office from promoting any sales of goods or other services other than those relevant to NARPO, i.e. sale of diaries, ties, plaques etc.

The old chestnut of seeking to obtain more places for retired officers at the Police Convalescent Homes has again reared its head. Whilst I applaud the motion I cannot see us gaining much ground.

Doug Rampling

POSITION OF SOCIAL SECRETARY

AT the last AGM Vera Bayliss stood down as social secretary. Her task was to arrange for the annual bowls match between retired and serving officers. We are now seeking the services of a retired member who is interested and experienced in bowling who would be willing to take up this post. Please give me a ring you know the number.

DINNER DANCE

THE Southend Branch annual dinner will be held on Thursday, October 24 at 7.30pm for 8pm at the New Arlington Rooms, London Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

The menu is: Salmon and asparagus, noisette of lamb with apricot stuffing with fresh seasonal vegetables, profiteroles or cheese biscuits with fresh fruit and celery, and coffee and mints.

Priced at £15 (members) and £17.50 (guests) payment should be made to the secretary on the night. Entertainment is by Syd Uren and it's optional black tie dress. Carriages for midnight. Names please to the secretary on 01702 74754 by September 19.

Brian Taylor

EARLY on August 16, a coach set off from Police Headquarters for a four day weekend in Northumbria and Scotland. Our destination was for Alnwick in the North East of Northumberland, seven miles from the coast.

On our arrival we were booked in at the White Swan Hotel giving an opportunity before dinner to look around this ancient town with buildings dating back to the 12th century, including Alnwick Castle which is the residence of the 12th Duke of Northumberland.

The following day we took our coach to Edinburgh for sightseeing

I.P.A.'s trip north

and shopping and early evening we assembled at Edinburgh Castle to watch the Tattoo. The poet Robert Burns was this year's special theme, with a pageant re-enactment of Tom O'Shanter to mark the bicentenary of his death.

There was a brilliant and colourful display by the traditional massed pipes and drums of the Scottish regiments, including the Royal Hong Kong Police band. The US Army drill team performed an elaborate bayonet and rifle spin display.

Other countries were present including Zulu Warriors, all members of the South African Police Service, they gave an excellent display of war dances.

The next day we visited Bamburgh on the coast with its well known castle. In the churchyard is the grave of Grace Darling, heroine of a famous rescue off the coast in 1838.

We travelled along the coast line to the fishing village of Craster famous for its kippers. Here in The

Jolly Fisherman Public House, we had lunch. Later returning to our hotel.

The following day, Monday, it was time to make our way back home, stopping at the Bass Brewery at Burton-on-Trent, where lunch had been arranged by our member Frank Joslin.

We eventually arrived back at HQ about 7.30pm after a very pleasant and enjoyable four day weekend. Many thanks to our Social Secretary Dick Giggins, Frank Joslin, our coach driver Ian with Sheila for making it all possible.

Fred Dysor

Navy pals spring retirement surprise



STALWART crimebuster Dc Pat Slegg has retired after 30 years in the force. And his retirement bash brought a few surprises when three of his long lost Royal Navy pals made an appearance. Ron Brettell, Tony Apps and Ken Gray are pictured giving Pat a well-deserved send-off.

Retirements

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

Supt Peter Tanner, Northern Review Team, 25 years (29.9.96).

Sgt Ronald Holloway, HQ SOC, 30 years (8.10.96).

Sgt Alan Barrett, Colchester, 27 years (8.9.96).

Sgt Michael Chilvers, Chelmsford Traffic, 35 years (23.9.96).

Sgt David Murrells, Seconded to NCIS, 30 years (11.8.96).

Sgt Joan Sage, Rayleigh, 31 years (17.11.96).

Dc Joseph Freeman, Colchester SB, 29 years (9.9.96).

Pc Ian Batkin, Saffron Walden, 25 years (25.8.96).

Pc David Barnett, Colchester, 14 years (22.9.96).

Pc Stephen Parfrey, Chelmsford, 30 years (30.9.96).

Pc Ian Simmons, Tilbury Traffic, 21 years (15.9.96).

Final call for luncheon party

THIS is a final reminder that the Comrades' Association 72nd Anniversary Autumn Luncheon will take place on Friday, October 11 at Police Headquarters, commencing at 1pm.

The bar will be open from 11.30am to 3.30pm. Please ensure that your booking forms, together with a cheque for £9.50 are sent to Dave Jones at the Police Federation Office, Headquarters,

to arrive no later than Monday, October 7.

Unfortunately, for administrative reasons, any bookings after this date cannot be included in the final numbers.

Those attending are reminded that there are parking restrictions in several of the streets surrounding the Police Headquarters

Market Place . . . Market Place . . .

BLACK and white television, portable, new condition, £30. Contact 01245 256545.

BOOKS, business studies, latest editions, half price. Were £20 each. Economics, marketing, management and organisational behaviour. Contact Steve Pearman at Grays or 01277 633929.

CARAVAN accessories for sale, Bulldog hitchlock, £20, Scott stabiliser, £15, low watts electric kettle, £10, double step £10, door extension mirror, £5 etc etc. Contact D. Newbury on 01255 677434.

CARP fishing equipment. For sale £650 the lot or will sell separately.

Contact Clare on 01245 491491 ext 53380.

FOR SALE. Spacious two bedroom flat, allocated parking, communal garden, quiet location, Flowers estate, Springfield, £34,000 ono. For details contact 01702 292607.

HOUSE for sale in Colchester. Three bedroom terrace, walking distance from town centre, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen with split level, carpets and curtains, good decor, £51,000. Contact Karen Callaby on ext 10390 or 01206 576407.

IRISH Wolfhound puppies. The gentle giant with a wonderful temperament. Due end of October from established breeder. Contact 01206 738179.

ISLE of wight cottage to let, sleeps six, pets and children welcome, idyllic setting, one week available 22.9.96, one week available 20.10.96 and out of season. £80 per week Sunday to Sunday. Contact J. Neagle on 01279 437560.

RAYLEIGH Pioneer trial mountain bike, 21 Alivio twist grip gears, 21"

frame, eight months old, as new, £160 (half price).

Contact J.Pardy on 01621 818345.

RENAULT 11GT2X, 1700cc, silver, 'F' reg. 1989, fsh, MOT, taxed, new tyres, stereo, good condition with sunroof, £1,100 ono. Contact 01206 271550.

SUSUKI Samurai, 1300cc jeep, soft top, 'M' reg, two year warranty, fsh, metallic blue, alarm, immobiliser, towbar, stereo, beautiful condition, only £5,995. Contact 01206 271550.

SWALEDALE, Yorkshire Dales. Two bedroom 17th century cottage in Reeth. Weekly rates for winter bookings from £100 for police and support staff with 10% discount at other times. Excellently furnished and equipped, ideally situated for hiking, cycling or sightseeing. Traditional features include real fire, beamed ceilings etc. Sorry no pets or smokers. For more details contact Supt P.McKay on 01924 202501.

WANTED, trailer, 12 cwt, 7ft, overrun brakes. Contact Sgt David

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOXbo.

Name and rank

Station.....Home Tel.....

Date.....Signed.....

I Send your advert to *The Law*, Press Office, Police Headquarters.

FOLKLORE EVENING

ASSEMBLY HALL,
POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

Saturday, September 14 1996, at 7.30pm

'FOLKLORE'

from Bedfordshire Police

offer an evening of laughter and song

Limited tickets available.

Price £5 includes a Ploughman's Supper.

Bring your own drink

Tickets from:

Roger Grimwade: ext 53103

Norman Eastbrook: ext 52253

Jenny Young: ext 50011

Extending Irish hospitality

ON a recent visit to Dublin in company with DCI Dick Madden, we took the opportunity to visit a former colleague, Vincent "Paddy" Duffy and his wife Pat, who now live in County Wicklow.

Longer serving members will remember Paddy, not only for his skills and expertise as a very capable officer and scenes of crime sergeant, but also for his quick wit and sense of fun, and as the lover of a practical joke.

Shortly after retiring Paddy decided to return to Ireland and has found another hobby, that of oil painting, specialising in sea scenes of the rugged Irish coastline around his home. Meanwhile Pat spends time tending the park-like garden of their bungalow, which she would be justified in charging an admission to view.

The only down side is no regular contact with former colleagues and friends.

For those visiting southern Ireland, I can assure you a 100,000 welcomes will be extended to you, and should anyone wish to take up this offer, contact me and I will forward Paddy's address to you.

Det Supt David Bright
Ext 52001/30113

Sick of high handed attitude

I AM a Special Constable, having completed 30 years police service, in which I have served in five forces and two countries.

I have walked beats - rain, hail or sun. I have driven and ridden in cars, motor cycles and pedal bikes. I have laughed, cried and experienced all types of emotions, served with some great blokes and some idiots. All in all, I have thoroughly enjoyed every day and took everything that has been thrown in my direction.

I'm sure I speak for all officers of my ilk who, in our unassuming ways, just get on with the task in hand. To us all I raise my glass and say to you "Here's to us, who's like us".

Getting back to my euphemism, who has heard of Special Nurses, Special Firemen or Special Army. Of course you haven't they have a proper title - AUXILIARY - and that is exactly what the Special Constabulary are. I am up to here with their high handed attitude to those who direct criticism at them, behave yourselves. I've had it for years, it comes with the job.

In March this year, I wrote to the main unions concerning some industries in this area and offered to supply 100 (sic) people to go to their premises and work for nothing. With the exception of one company, they didn't have the courtesy to respond to my suggestions. The one that did reply stated they would stage an all out strike should such a venture be considered.

To the correspondents in August's issue

- Mr Wright and Mr Hunt - I say give me a break, you may be cosy and smug in your attitudes, but from where I stand I see the constables' rank under constant attack from all sides because all organisations are having a nibble at our structure.

Let's face it, when did you last see an auxiliary employed in a sergeant's role, or in an inspector or above's office, or even being involved in a murder enquiry or fatal accident. How stupid of me these are all specialist positions (aren't they?).

So to the supervisors in this force, look over your shoulder, the auxiliaries have decimated our rank, yours could be next.

A.G. Boa
Landon

Out of order!

HAVING read Ron Irwin's letter and the replies, he is obviously out of order in his comments.

He certainly could not have had very much contact with the Specials when he was on the beat.

The only Special we had at Leigh in 1951 always turned up on a Sunday morning to patrol the old town and any other duty that the early shift sergeant gave him to do.

He didn't have the training that the Specials are fortunate enough to have now, but he got on with the job.

I believe that Ron must have thought

Where are the rest of the 30's team?

I HAVE heard from Adelaide that ex Pc Jock Bowie (Grays) with whom I joined and have been corresponding, has sadly died.

This prompted me to wonder whether perhaps those chaps who

joined before World War Two, when the Force was so much smaller and most of us met one another somewhere along the line, might be interested to know of those who "signed on" in February 1935 and are still jogging along in their 80s.

Dick Coe (Chelmsford), Stewart Hodgson (Somerset), Gordon Holliday (Suffolk), Sammy Langford (Great Baddow), Don Mummery (Writtle), Ken Watson (Chelmsford), Jack 'Eddie' Woodards (California) and myself (Springfield).

We had celebrations for our 25th, 30th and 50th anniversaries of joining and were organising our 60th but unfortunately it did not materialise, however we still have hopes of another get-together.

Ron Bearman

Specials are nothing new

I SOMETIMES get the impression from reading The Law that some seem to think Special Constables are a new retrograde trend.

The picture I have sent shows Specials just after the first World War. The caption reads "the organisation of the Special Police in Walthamstow was first-rate. Walthamstow people were always ready to give their service to such organisations."

Eric Naylor
Thundersley

Moved on to pastures new

I WOULD like to thank all those people in the Force, and those outside such as watch groups and councils plus the public and press who have supported me. In particular over the last 12 years whilst working as Chelmsford Crime Prevention Officer, I have had tremendous support.

It was great to see so many at my leaving "do" in particular sergeants from my early days with the force, Ron Underwood and Terry Horton plus Malcolm Jones who I joined up with in 1966.

Thanks all for the wonderful gifts.

Last, but not least, surprise surprise, I now work for a local security company and can offer special prices on alarms to police officers, police civilians and watch group members, just phone 01245 362362 or mobile 0385 595201 quoting The Law.

Ray Stannard
South Woodham Ferrers

LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT**Force lottery**

THE result of this month's Force Lottery is as follows:

£1500 Insp Moira Melanie Koya, Southend;
Owers, Braintree; £1000
Christine Claypole, Robertson, Clacton; £200
Headquarters; £500 Pc Pc Brian Arnell, Southend;

£100 James Collyer,
Headquarters.

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes:

Ds William Marr, Basildon; DI Lorenzo Austin, Harlow CSB; Lydia Odell, Moulsham Lodge; Ivor Montgomery, Pensioner; Pc Clive Harding, Mayland; ACC James Dickinson, Headquarters; Ellen Collen, Headquarters; Charles Pollington, Colchester and Lynn Plunkett, Corringham; Sgt Richard Ager, Rayleigh Traffic.

Croker cup

ATHLETICS: The Croker Cup athletics were held at Grays on Wednesday, August 14 with the following results:

1 Southend, 12 points
2 Basildon, 10 points
3 Braintree, 8 points

4 Chelmsford, 7 points

5 Harlow, 6 points

6 Thurrock, 5 points

7 Colchester, 4 points

8 Headquarters, 3 points

Tendring and Rayleigh were not represented at these championships and will receive no Croker Cup points.

BILLIARDS: Basildon beat Chelmsford. One Croker Cup point to Chelmsford.

CRICKET: Semi Final Thurrock beat Harlow. 8 Croker Cup points to Harlow. Thurrock will now play Headquarters in the Final at the Essex County ground on September 5, starting at 1pm. Admission will be free.

Sports pavilion

WITH immediate effect the lounge bar in the

Sports Pavilion will be open every Saturday for the sale of soft drinks, tea and coffee. This will coincide with the opening hours of the Force Sports and Leisure shop, which is 1000hr to 1600hrs.

Sports and leisure shop

THE Force Sports and Leisure shop will be closed on Tuesday 17th September 1996.

Chris Jacob

Lifesaving squad scoop third

ESSEX Police Lifesaving Team made a splash by scooping third prize in the national police championships in Liverpool.

The team of five qualified for the finals of the Police Athletic Association Arlington Cup at a regional heat earlier this year, and finished third after two days of competitions, including a team incident at Salt House Dock in the city.

Team members were PC Sarah Wadforth

of Braintree, PC Sarah Pike of Halstead, PC Pat O'Toole of Harwich, PC Mel Bainbridge of Westcliff, and PC Sue Payton of Leigh. They were trained by PC Phil Dodd of Castle Heddingham and Diane Kedge, lifesaving trainer and mother of Sarah Pike.

Other events in the contest included a rope throwing exercise with a 12.5metre length of rope, and a swim and tow competition, designed to test lifesaving and resuscitation skills.

LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT

Essex Police hockey squad travels over the border for three day tour

Top marks for enthusiasm



TRAVELLING north of the border to do battle with the best police teams in the country were the Essex Mixed Hockey squad who took part in the National Tournament at Edinburgh.

Essex went with an enthusiastic team, but although they only conceded five goals in the whole tournament they were only able to score two. Too many 0-0 draws was the downfall.

However, the first game was against their old adversaries Cleveland, who were still smarting from the Essex success at Christmas when they clinched the Cleveland Invitation Trophy.

Cleveland went at Essex with a vengeance but a superb defence, marshalled by Bob Ward, kept a clean sheet. It was a shame that the attack led by Vic Murphy was snuffed out. The result - 0-0.

The next game for Essex was against the hosts, Lothians and Borders first team, a very strong squad. However, Essex again held them at bay result in another 0-0 draw.

The third game was against the eventual runners-up, South Yorkshire, and again Essex took them to the last few minutes when Yorkshire scored twice. Result 2-0.

Angie Noakes was unlucky not to score in this contest following two good shots.

The next match was against newcomers Grampian, who were put on the back foot by some enthusiastic attack, especially by Tony Manze, Nicola Parker and Nicky Morley, supported by Vic Murphy.

Unfortunately the result was once again 0-0.

The last qualifying game was against Greater Manchester with the new star goalie for Essex, Geordie Tyson. He played an absolute blinder keeping out some tremendous shots as the defence folded under constant pressure.

A lucky deflection was the only was Tyson was beaten resulting in a 0-1 final score.

Now in the lower play-offs, Essex fought on with Tina Bailey and Teresa Lucas as star players. The first play off went to penalty flicks with the whole team having to take a penalty.

Even the Essex driver who had only gone on to the pitch to retrieve an injured player's stick, but happened to be wearing a tour shirt, was forced by the referee, despite his pleas, to take a shot. Imagine his surprise when he flicked the ball past a bewildered keeper to earn Essex a 1-1 draw.

The last game was against Grampian who, like Essex, were languishing at the bottom of the league.

In this game Nicola Parker was the heroine with an impressive goal early on.

Unfortunately the Essex keeper slipped up at the end allowing Grampian to sneak



● New goalie Geordie Tyson played "an absolute blinder" against Greater Manchester.

a 1-1 draw.

Not the best performance from Essex but the team did make a lot of friends with their enthusiasm and continued effort.

Katy Payne, who guested for a delighted Cleveland team, returned to Essex for the last game and was unlucky not to score.

Bob Ward had the additional honour of replying on behalf of the guests at the Presentation Dinner and complimented the

hosts

on a superbly run tournament where hockey was the winner.

The Essex team may not have swept up the trophies in Edinburgh but it was a different story when a couple of weeks later they travelled to Sheffield for the National Men's and Ladies Police Hockey Tournament.

For full details of their success see next month's edition of *The Law*.

A family affair

IN the Essex Police Bowls championships the singles competition for the second year running produced a family affair with Brian Taplin (Harlow Traffic) drawn against his brother Alan (HQ) in the first round.

The highlights of the day were a quarter final match between Clive Anthony (Clacton) and Brian Taplin. Clive found himself 4 - 18 down at one stage but fought back to square the match 20 - 20. Brian, however, is a master of the driving shot and saved the game with accurate drives before clinching the game with a spot on removal of the jack into the ditch, a semi final between John Papple (Basildon) and Peter Brown (Stansted Airport) was all but over when Peter held four shots at 17 - 8, John delivered a perfect final wood which took the jack away and back to save the game, then proceeded to win end after end, dropping just one more shot, to finish the victor 21 - 18, the final, between John Anderson (Harlow Traffic) and John Papple, was a tight game but in the closing stages John Anderson came on strongly to end up the champion for 1996.

In the pairs event at Falcon Bowls Club there was a wealth of good bowling leading to the semi finals between the pairing of Ray Howard and John Pheby (Steeple Bumpstead and Great Yeldham) against John Anderson and John Stewart (Harlow Traffic and HQ) where the village bobbies went down, and Brian Lee and Peter Brown (HQ and Stansted Airport) verses the Taplin brothers. Against the odds, the family pairing went down putting the underdogs in the final, they could not keep up and saw their dreams of glory dashed by the more experienced pair.

John Anderson goes onto the regional finals as the singles representative as well as the pairs champion with John Stewart.

Trouble-free triathlon

CHELMSFORD Traffic sergeant Peter Bryan, secretary of the EPSA triathlon section, competed in the first international police triathlon in Biibao, Spain.

He was one of seven British competitors, representing three forces - Essex, Cleveland and Durham - to make up the British team, which finished fifth overall.

Pc Rob Wilkins, of Cleveland, finished as first veteran to cross the line at the end of a gruelling course in the mountainous area, notorious for the terrorist activities of the Basque separatist movement.

The competitors were the guests of the Basque Police - formed only 15 years ago - and they were accommodated in the "anti disturbance (public order) barracks" in Bilbao.

"There was not any trouble while we were there, although there was a demonstration by 20 or 30 sympathisers on the finishing line," said Peter.

"Some of the Basque police did not take part in the event, because of problems with being recognised and targeted by the protesters at a later date."

During their visit, the British contingent went to a village festival in the mountains, which attracted hundreds of revellers and went on until after dawn.

"Even though they had been drinking all through the night, there was no trouble, just high spirits," said Peter.

Sporting diaries available

The Force Sports Association have produced a number of diaries, commencing on 1st August 1996, to incorporate a winter sporting programme.

These diaries contain several useful bits of information, including the current rules of the Association, rules re time off for sport and rest day rota for 1997 - 1998. They are free of charge to any member. They will be issued on a first come first served basis and will not be issued in bulk to individuals. They are available from the Force Sports Shop.

Circuit training

Every Wednesday
at 5.15pm

Headquarters gymnasium

Free for sports
association members

Contact Simon Halford, EPTC

THE LAW

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