

**A close shave  
for charity - P2**



**Godmother to  
snatched baby - P3**



**Justice for  
Nazi leader - P7**

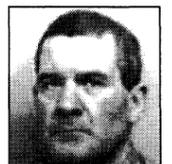
Detectives 'delighted' by verdict after two year investigation

## GANGLAND KILLERS



Jack Whomes

## JAILED FOR LIFE



Michael Steele

**THE gangland slaying of three drug dealers in Rettendon was always going to be a tremendous task for Essex detectives. But with two men starting life sentences for the murders it was clearly not impossible.**

The execution-style killing of Pat Tate (37),

### By Kim White

Tony Tucker (38) and Craig Rolfe (26) by Michael Steele and Jack Whomes revolved around an international drugs deal which turned sour.

It plunged former superintendent Ivan Dibley into the biggest investigation of his career, just four months

before he was due to retire. And the detective who took over the inquiry, Det Supt Brian Storey, said this week, he was both "satisfied and delighted" by the verdict.

More importantly it has sent a message to all criminals that even those seen as "big league" are not immune from justice.

The verdict comes after an investigation and trial revealing some breath-taking

statistics. During the two year investigation a team of about 25 detectives took over 1,000 statements and completed 5,000 actions. During the 21 week Old Bailey trial the Metropolitan Police supplied, daily, 72 officers to provide round the clock personal protection for each and every jury member. The main prosecution witness was in the box, almost continuously, for an amazing 25 days, the

judge took seven-and-a-half days to sum up and the jury took less than five to convict, delivering a unanimous verdict.

It was certainly worth the wait and waiting was something the inquiry team were used to.

Supt Storey explained: "We had an idea very early on who was responsible for the murders and an early arrest may have provided additional forensic evidence."

But there were other risks to consider. The nature of the people involved meant an early arrest could frighten off vital witnesses and also meant the murderers might restrict their criminal activities.

Essex Police chose to sit tight and it paid off.

"We took a calculated risk but we wanted to ensure that we were in the best possible

position evidentially before we made a move," said Mr Storey.

### Forensics

The villains were active and dangerous criminals who were aware of how to cover their tracks and conceal forensic evidence, even down to knowing what clothes to wear. Steele also admitted in court that he believed he was under constant surveillance by both police and customs.

Ironically it was the use of their mobile phones and careful analysis which helped secure their convictions.

Mr Storey said: "Steele's downfall was partly due to the fact that he thought he was untouchable and thought he would never get caught. By biding our time, we proved him wrong."

**continued on page 3.**

## Taking children under their wing



TV's most famous Essex girls were in the county lending their support to an innovative new paedophile education pack. And they weren't the only well known faces. For full story see page 5.

## Good response to TV appeal

AN investigation into sex attacks on teenagers has been given a boost following a reconstruction on BBC's *Crimewatch*.

In August last year there was a particularly vicious rape attempt on two girls in woods in Rayleigh.

Inquiries have led detectives to take another look at some incidents the previous year in the same town. These also involved teenage girls and a man of

similar description.

The release of the new details on *Crimewatch* prompted about 200 telephone calls from viewers and 20 names of possible suspects.

Det Insp Cliff Haines, leading the inquiry, said: "It was a tremendous response and we are very grateful to those who rang in. We are in the process of checking out the information we have been given."

## Close shave helps raise cancer cash

IT was a hairy moment for 11 Clacton officers when they made a bid to raise cash for charity.

Inspired by local cancer sufferer Claire Archer, the team agreed to have their heads shaved in support of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. And the hair-raising feat has raised over £2,000.

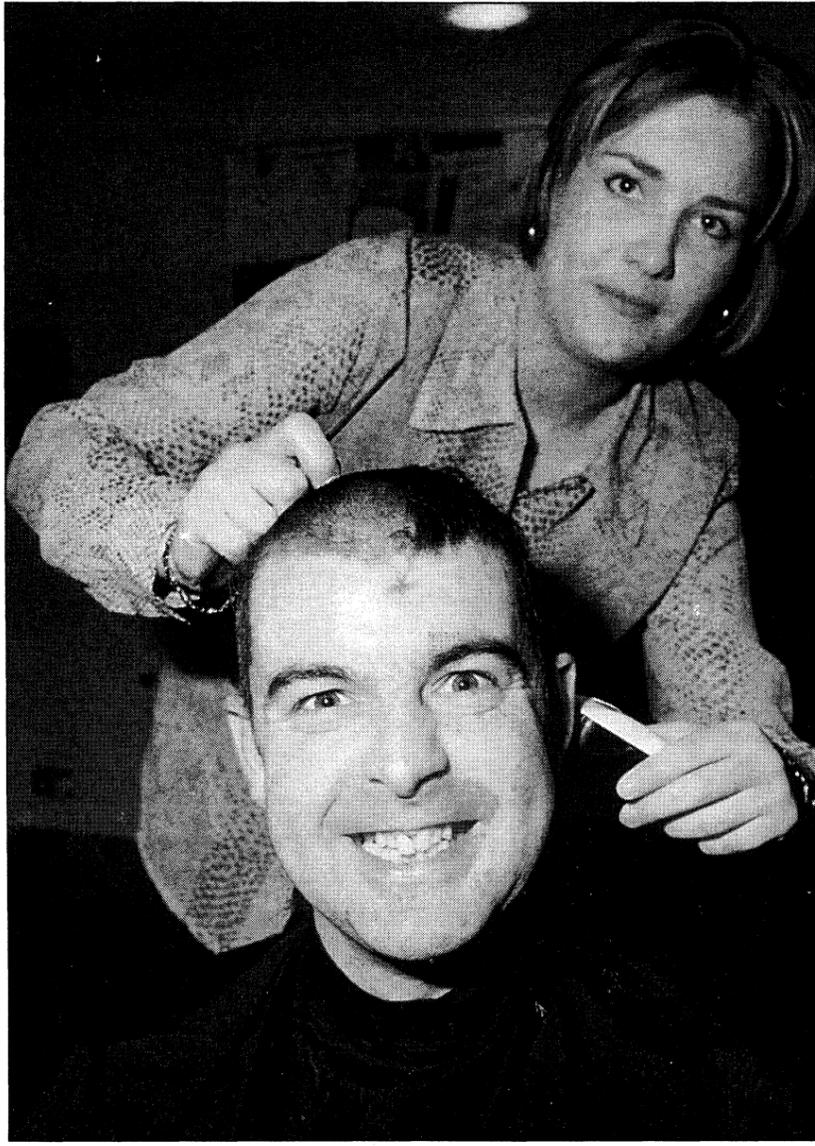
Pc Pat Lane, who organised the event is astounded by the response.

He said: "It was an absolutely fantastic night. Claire, who prompted me to arrange the evening came along on the night and was practically in tears when she saw how much support she was receiving. It was outstanding."

The idea began with the officers on the Town Police Unit pledging their heads. Pc Debbie Simpson, the only woman on the unit wasn't keen on losing her long locks so eight-year-old son Sam stepped in. CID officers then raised about £90 to put Dc Rob Wood's head on the block and Sc Kate Andrews also joined the team. Local businesses donated some great raffle prizes and a last minute boost came when Mellow Radio presenter and news reader John Hyde also got the chop.

The other officers involved were Sgt John Hayter, constables Pat Lane, Andy Bareham, Jules Lawrence, Pete Gerard, Frazer Macrae, Derek Lee and Simon Clarke and Sc Colin Ingram.

When the total amount of cash has been calculated the team intend to hold a slightly less raucous presentation night.



● Pc Pat Lane seems unperturbed at the loss of his locks but it was all in a good cause - over £2,000 for a cancer charity. Photo: Dc Keith Harvey.

## A year of challenges

THANK you to all those members who returned their slips regarding the branch annual general meeting. This year is a year in which we will all face new challenges and things are likely to get worse before they get better.

Our emphasis will be on protecting jobs and terms and conditions of service. Safe, secure employment with favourable working conditions is not a pipe dream, they are included in the universal declaration of human rights. (UN 1948 Article 23.1).

Your trade union stewards on division are there to assist if you have a problem, but you must tell them. You have legal rights to join a trade union and have representation.

Negotiation on our new terms and conditions of service have commenced. A number of major issues have to be resolved before we can make any progress and we have yet to see any flexibility from the management side.

The branch will commence another recruiting drive soon and visits to sections will be the order of the day.

So as a new member who can Unison do for you? Representation, support, welfare, discounts, legal assistance, education etc. You get out what you put in.

Some people join purely for insurance purposes, which is fair enough, but there are other aspects. Some people on principle would never join a trade union but are not adverse to accepting a union negotiated pay settlement. Others have heard all sorts

of woeful tales about unions, haven't we all?

Funnily enough some of my more radical colleagues working in other areas say the same about the

police service. It is just hard to educate them not to prejudge.

A trade union is there for you, you don't have to vote Labour or strike. Things have changed and you have to say.

Membership is open to a support staff, it's a right, and remember they can't depose you.

If you require further information contact Les Robson at the Unison office at police headquarters, or see your local steward.

Excuse me!  
If you want to speak in Unison... speak to me



## Outrageous and biased!

WE have given a cautious welcome to the publication of the Home Affairs Select Committee report on complaints and discipline procedures.

The recommendations raise a number of issues which will need to be discussed.

What was outrageous were the comments made by the committee chairman, Chris Mullin MP at a recent press conference which we believe to be outrageous, unfounded and biased.

In both our oral and our written evidence, there has never been any question of the Police Federation protecting a small minority

of officers who have subverted the system. Indeed, the report makes it clear that administrative delays are the fault of management.

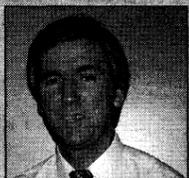
The National Federation has called on Mr Mullin to publicly apologise for the comments made, which I have no intention of repeating.

### New reference for RAC cover

NEW and existing members of the RAC need to quote a new reference number on renewal of their cover. The new reference is GE0145.

### Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



### Mortgage help for new recruits

THE Donnellsons Partnership is offering extra help to probationers thinking of obtaining a mortgage.

There are offers of discounts and cash back incentives normally reserved for those with large deposits to put down. For more information call 0181 789 0131.

## A total of 49 criminal injury claims settled

OUTLINED below is a comprehensive breakdown of the claims Mick Englefield has dealt with on your behalf. I thank him for the excellent work he has done.

The criminal injury claims settled in 1997 totalled 49, a decrease on last year's total of 60. This, I believe, is as a result of more claims being decided by clerks on behalf of the Authority, as opposed to QCs, the outcome of this being more of our members appealing those decisions. At this moment, there are 34 appeals in various stages.

The total amount of compensation paid to our members in 1997 by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority was £118,885.00. At the present time, there are 83 claims in varying stages of progress.

On the civil side, 39 claims were settled in 1997, the total amount of compensation paid to our members being £454,910.84, an increase on last year's total of £299,928.11.

The total number of civil claims outstanding at this time is 101, a

slight increase in last year's total of 98.

The Conservative Government set up an inquiry chaired by Lord Woolf to look into the way that civil litigation was conducted in this country. The Government had the preliminary view that litigation was too slow and too expensive and was, therefore, not delivering to the consumer the justice, through the courts, they were entitled to expect.

When the Labour Party came to power in 1997, one of the first things they did was to appoint Sir Peter Middleton to conduct a review of the review to ensure that the suggested reforms would actually work in practice and would be cost effective. As a result, the Labour Government has now warmly embraced all the reforms and most of them are scheduled to take effect in April 1999.

The main reforms are as follows:  
**A unified rule book** - Under the new proposals, we will have a unified set of rules for both High Court and County Court.

**Fast track** - There will be three systems for dealing with litigation through the cCourts. These will be the small claims track, fast track and the multi track.

Small claims will be those that have a value of up to £5,000, except in personal injury cases where the upper limit will be £1,000.

The fast track will deal with cases from £5,000 (£1,000 for personal injury claims) up to £15,000. The fast track is designed to be exactly that - fast. It will take cases from the issue of proceedings to trial in 33 weeks. However, the biggest problem about fast track is that there will be a fixed costs regime. There will be a costs ceiling, no matter how much work solicitors have to do on a case.

**Multi track** - The multi track will deal with claims above £15,000. Personal injury cases will go into the multi track if they are of substantial value or complex.

**Funding of personal injury Litigation** - At the moment, there are a number of different ways in

which plaintiffs can fund personal injury litigation. The principal ones are institutional support (from bodies like trade unions and the Police Federation), legal aid, legal fees insurance and conditional fees.

**Conditional fees** - This is the 'no win - no fee' basis of funding that was introduced some two years ago. What happens is that the solicitors acting for an individual agree that, if the claim is taken on and fails, they will charge the plaintiff nothing by way of legal fees. The plaintiff will have taken out an insurance policy at a cost of some £150 at the outset of the claim and that insurance policy will pay his own solicitor's out of pocket expenses (medical fees, court fees, etc.) and the defendant's solicitor's costs and disbursements. The insurance benefits only arise once proceedings have been commenced however. On the other hand, if the claim is successful, then the plaintiff will have his solicitor's costs paid by the defendants in the

normal way. However, his solicitor will charge him a success fee expressed as a percentage of the costs he receives from the defendants.

The success fee will be higher if the solicitor agrees to pay all the disbursements from the commencement of the claim to its finalisation. Some solicitors may also agree to pay the insurance premium.

At first sight, conditional fees may be seen as providing access to justice for those who could not otherwise afford to fund litigation. The individual may still have to fund all the disbursements as the claim proceeds and will then lose part of their damages by way of success fee.

**The Federation's scheme** - If the claim is viable and has reasonable prospects of success, then the Federation will back the claim. They will pay all the disbursements as they arise and, in the unlikely event of the claim failing, they will pay the defendant's costs and disbursements.

# Guilty verdicts in triple murder trial

**continued from page 1**  
 "How long the message will last, I don't know. But the message is that no matter how professional you are or think you are, and no matter how well you have planned your crime, or think you have, you are not immune. A meticulous investigation and, of course, a few lucky breaks, can make even these crimes solvable."

Labelled a "one-witness trial" Mr Storey admits that the key prosecution was of

vital importance to the investigation.

He said: "I always thought we would have enough to make an arrest and not necessarily enough to convict. We had a lot of information from the public, but very little co-operation from those close to the victims because of the nature of the crime. The key was getting someone, who knew what went on that night, to talk."

"The investigation relied heavily on us using a full

range of policing skills. The only way to combat these professional criminals was to use every aspect of policing available and the outcome is a tribute to all of those involved, not only within Essex Police but within the other agencies who assisted us such as HM Customs and SERCS and we thank everyone involved no matter how small their role."

It is not the first time Essex Police earned such a result. Another lengthy

inquiry, known as Operation Max, led to the conviction of Jason Vellor and his gang who headed a drugs and torture regime in Essex. And just 24 hours after the Rettendon verdict, two members of the neo-Nazi group Combat 18 were convicted of murdering Christopher Castle in Harlow, during a battle for leadership.

**For the full story of the Combat 18 trial see centre pages.**

## Study aids for promotion exams

**YOU should have your noses to the grindstone if you're planning to take your exams for sergeant and inspector promotion this year. But as daunting as the task ahead may seem, there is help at hand.**

Every divisional headquarters now has a computer-based training package available to assist in your studies, with Tendring carrying two, one at Clacton, the other at Harwich. Entitled ICAL Ospre, the package can be run on the EPICS training computers.

If you want to use the package contact your divisional Development and Training Officer. Any other queries should be referred to Rose Lewis at on ext 56139.

## Ban on handguns extended

OVER 300 Essex gun owners are being asked to hand over their weapons during the second phase of the Government's ban on handguns.

Last year the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 outlawed handguns above .22 calibre. Phase 2 gives registered owners one month to surrender all small calibre handguns.

Essex has 356 certificate holders covering a total of 514 guns. This phase began on February 1 and will run until the end of the month. The nominated collection point for Essex is Billericay Court House in Billericay High Street.

Owners can surrender weapons between allocated times or by appointment and will be compensated by the Home Office for all firearms, ammunition and ancillary equipment handed in.

Any weapons not surrendered by February 28, unless subject to an exemption, will be deemed as illegally held and could lead to 10 years imprisonment for the owner on conviction.

### Offbeat

AN elderly man in an electrically powered wheelchair found himself in a precarious position when its power failed on a busy road in Basildon. By the time we arrived a kind driver had loaded the wheelchair and the pensioner into the back of his Transit van and given him a lift home!

In Hutton, we helped a panicking woman stuck in her own flat (the door was on a deadlock) and police in Southend used a car jack to free a man, worse the wear for drink, who had got his legs jammed between iron railings.

Unfortunately, it happens to the best of us. While patrolling the beach hut area of Brightlingsea, a ground car became bogged down in mud. One of our four wheel drive vehicles came to the rescue - only to get stuck too.

Finally, it's better to be safe than sorry... we were happy to reassure a member of the public who had confiscated what looked like an illegal substance that it was, in fact, a minute amount of mud.

## Top team set up to tackle the Millennium computer bug

# Beat the bomb

**A TOP level group has been set up within Essex Police to look at how the so-called "millennium time-bomb" could affect operational policing.**

Organisations all over the world are having to take action now to avoid their computer systems crashing at the start of the year 2000. The problem arises because many systems have not been programmed to cope with the year change to "00".

Essex Police has been planning for the end of the century for some time. A force-wide search has already been completed by the Information Technology and Corporate Support departments to highlight systems which will need checking.

Organisations all over the world are having to take action now to avoid their computer systems crashing at the start of the year 2000. The problem arises because many systems have not been programmed to cope with the year change to "00".

But they have identified that the potential impact of the "millennium timebomb" across Essex could place a greater demand on

**By Alyson Mounthey**

operational police resources as well.

In theory, a computer's misinterpretation of the date could affect all date-operated computer systems, including alarms, traffic lights, utility supplies, street lamps, lifts, and even modern in-car systems.

Although it is not police responsibility to make sure other organisations have checked their systems, the

force has to be prepared to deal with the potential chaos which could occur if a system of great public significance crashes.

A project group headed by the Chief Constable, and including the Assistant Chief Constables, has been set up to liaise with other organisations and utilities in the region. The aim is to find out what plans are in place across the county, so there can be greater co-ordination if something goes wrong.

ACC(O) Geoffrey Markham said the police service had to

be prepared for maximum operational response - hence the need to cancel leave for operational staff for the new year period.

"What we must do is hope for the best, and plan for the worst," he added.

Meanwhile, the audit of Essex Police's internal computer systems is moving towards completion. The IT department's next step is to tackle areas of higher risk by making systems compliant with the year 2000, and testing them to make sure they will work.



● Sally Dunne poses for a proud family picture at the Hawthorne's Basildon home. Photo: The Mirror Group.

## Baby snatch officer asked to be Godmother

**THE officer tasked with looking after the family of baby snatch victim Karli Hawthorne, has been asked to be the child's Godmother.**

It was Pc Sally Dunne's first time as a family liaison officer

and one she will never forget. Karli was taken from Basildon Hospital one afternoon in December, when she was just hours old.

Although she was traced by Essex Police and reunited with

her parents the next morning it was a traumatic wait.

Sally sat with the family throughout the ordeal and has visited them on a number of occasions since.

Sally said: "I was extremely

touched when they asked me to be Godmother."

No date has yet been set for the Christening and in the meantime Sally is helping Karl, Tanya and baby Karli settle down in their new home.

# Law letters

Send your letters to:  
The Law, Press Office,  
Police Headquarters,  
PO Box 2, Chelmsford,  
Essex, CM2 6DA.

## Saved by the nick

### An Ode to the Men in Blue

I had been out with my children  
to Cambridge for the day;  
But on my return home,  
a mad driver chose his skills to display.  
As I dodged him, I was faced with the pile up ahead;  
I thought that was it - my cards had been read.  
My life flashed before me as I tried in vain to halt;  
I was having an accident - it wasn't my fault.  
I thought of my children - would they die in my car?  
The distance was tiny but the minutes seemed far.  
I came to a stop and all was alright;  
But noticed some smoke, was my car set alight?  
I sat in the middle of the M25;  
Everyone crying but all still alive.  
I signed to a driver for the help that I needed;  
I comforted the children and with this man pleaded.  
He kindly pushed my car to the hard shoulder;  
I felt so alone and wished I was older.  
I needn't have worried when the cops were on scene;  
They took my son, Jamie, and made his face beam.  
He was suffering shock but they wouldn't have that;  
In the cop car he went and he confidently sat.  
He tried on the cop hat and felt he was safe;  
Transformed into superboy from a poor little waif.  
My two girls were cold and frightened with me;

So they were invited to the cop car  
because the coppers could see.  
The heating put on, the girls now felt OK;  
The cops gave me a phone to call the AA.  
The children now settled I could relax with my grief;  
And they both very kindly gave me relief.  
They joked and they listened  
and they waited in the cold;  
When the children were restless  
they never would scold.  
So a poem I've written to thank those two cops;  
They should be promoted to the cops of the tops.

It is a rare thing to meet such kind people. I would like to thank you both for helping us all and turning a nasty accident into an adventure for my children. May you continue your good work and my thoughts are with you.

Jennifer Marchant, Danielle,  
Jamie and Carla.

HARLOW Traffic received this literary letter of thanks following a road accident on the motorway. The two officers who dealt with the accident, on October 30, were constables Darren Potts and Paul Fisk. The letter from Mrs Marchant inspired Insp Brian Taplin to respond in kind:

Your ode was most welcome  
it brightened their day;  
To be so appreciated, in  
some small way.  
My knights (in blue and  
white armour) do daily toil.  
But to assist a fair maiden  
(and 3 kids) brings a smile;  
It's the better side of life,  
makes their job worthwhile.  
No promotion, extra pay or  
bonus I'm afraid;  
Just your letter of thanks  
and their day is made.

# ... in rhyme!

## Thanks for the great send-off

MAY I take this opportunity to thank all friends and colleagues with whom I worked in Essex Police during the past 20 years.

The support and friendship given to me was greatly valued and, fortunately for me, made the time enjoyable.

I have been both surprised and amazed at the number of retirement cards and good wishes received, the superb gifts and the bouquet presented to Brenda. All are very much appreciated and will remind me of over 42 years enjoyable police service.

I would like to thank all those who attended on the Friday for a celebratory drink and made it a memorable occasion.

Once again thank you for everything and good luck for the future.

Maynard Cartledge  
Personnel

I WOULD like to thank all who contributed to my gifts on my retirement. It made me very proud to have been a part of the Essex Police force.

I would also like to thank my friends in the Information Room, for the hard work they put in, in order to make the evening such a great success.

Further thanks are due to my friends, who were able to attend, many from great distances, and faces that I haven't seen for many years.

All my gifts will be displayed with great pride, when I finally move to my new home in Sunderland.

The evening was a very emotional one for me, especially when Sue and Clive Swift's young daughter played *Auld Lang Syne* on the bagpipes. Well done Becky, and thank you very much for making the evening so memorable.

Finally, thanks are due to Mr Markham, who was so kind and caring in his remarks.

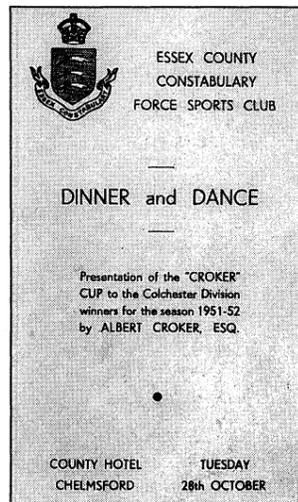
I wish all of you good luck and happiness in the future.

Eve Gordon  
Chelmsford



## Croker Cup Memories

ABOVE - Members of the winning Colchester team.  
BELOW - Mr French's invitation to the dinner dance.



WHILST sorting through some old papers recently, I came across this photograph and some documents which I thought might be of interest to other readers.

Colchester Division were the first winners of the Croker Cup, in the season of 1951-1952. To mark the occasion members of the winning team and other representatives of the division were invited to attend a dinner and dance at the County Hotel, Chelmsford, hosted by Mr Croker, his wife and family.

Shown in the photograph from left to right are: Pc George French, Pc Taffy Bateman, Chief Constable Peel, Admin Insp Norman

Wood, Mr Croker, Sg David Purvis, Assistant Chief Constable Crockford, Pc Wag Turvey, Colchester Divisional Commander Supt Phillibrown and Pc Jock McGhee.

The ranks are the ranks which were applicable at the time.

I am sure that a lot of retired members would have happy memories of the time we competed for the Croker Cup in those early days. Maybe some of the modern day participants would be interested in a small part of the history of the Cup.

George French  
Colchester

More letters page 10

## Bring your skills to the fore

WITH the last of the Christmas pudding finally eaten and no more turkey curries to face, what awaits the adventurous winter golfer?

Temporary tees, winter greens, courses closed and your drives only travelling 175 yards instead of the usual 260 yards on soggy fairways.

Well all is not lost, what better way of cheering yourself up than looking forward to spring golf and summer golf on some excellent golf courses with good company and at very reasonable prices.

All you have to be is a member of the now, well established, Police of Essex Golf Society - PEGS.

I would very much like to see some of police women golfers joining PEGS. You will be made very welcome, so please, existing members, if you know any women golfers in your section or

division, encourage them to join our society now and together with your help we will have an excellent golfing season.

I am very much looking forward to being your 1998 captain and take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and healthy year.

Remember, if you are playing any winter golf, and anger does become you on the course, the famous Tommy Bolt once said: "Always throw your clubs ahead of you, that way you don't have to waste energy by going back to pick them up."

If you want to join PEGS please contact Nick Padmore on 01992 561212 or myself at Braintree on ext 63840.

Look forward to seeing you all during the year.

DS Keith Davies  
Braintree

## A moment of Horseplay

I REFER to the letter in last month's edition headed *A messy problem* concerning a complaint of a police horse ridden by a female rider defecating on the public highway. Were I a police horse, I too would

be concerned if my rider behaved in such a manner.

Couldn't she wait until the end of her shift?

B.E. Smith  
Brentwood

## Visit makes a Special impression for Minister

HOME Office minister Alun Michael MP made a flying visit to Stansted Airport during national Specials Week - and left Essex impressed with its Special Constabulary.

Mr Michael was welcomed by Chief Constable John Burrow, Supt Allan Taplin, and Specials Commandant Alan Hill.

During his visit he met Specials based at the airport and Harlow, who were manning a travelling exhibition in the main terminal building to promote Specials Week.

Mr Michael told *The Law*: "I'm impressed by the relationship between the Specials in Essex and the regular police officers that I've met. I'm impressed with the confidence that they show. There's a nice feeling of responsibility about the officers."

"Clearly the Chief Constable and the senior officers value the contribution that the Specials can make and it seems to fit in with the general idea of a high quality police service serving the local community."

The aim of Specials Week was to highlight

the "special contribution" made by volunteers, and also to encourage new recruits.

"We also want to get across to families, friends and employers that this work is valued," said Mr Michael. "Very often the skills and the leadership ability that develops through the experience and training of being a Special Constable can actually pay back, and make an increased and positive contribution to a person's day to day work."

People from all walks of life, including professional people, labourers and mums were welcome volunteers, said Mr Michael.

"If you can cope with the tantrums of a toddler and the difficulties of teenagers, you're probably the ideal person to be out there helping to keep order on the streets," he added.

Every division in Essex Police was visited by the travelling exhibition, or a video wall display featuring a promotional video made by the TV Unit, to highlight Specials Week in Essex.



●The Chief Constable greets Mr Michael at Stansted. Photo: Mid Anglia Newspapers.

IN February last year a major recruitment campaign to find 180 new police officers for the county was launched by Essex Police and staff began the move into the new FIR building at HQ.

### Points from the past

#### Five years ago...

The first 'Crucial Crew' initiative was launched in Basildon to teach youngsters about personal safety and crime prevention and Pc Kirste Snellgrove was recovering from a brutal attack with a baseball bat while on duty in Rayleigh.

#### Ten Years ago...

Supt John Papple, Sub-Divisional Commander of Grays Division, was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Years Honours list.

#### Twenty years ago...

*The Law* commemorated the very first numbers selected by the 'Mini Ernie' machine for the force lottery. The draw was started by Lady Nightingale at Rayleigh police station.

#### Twenty five years ago...

The first steps were taken towards an Essex 'Task Force', based in Chelmsford and planning permission was given for a 73,200 sq ft extension to police headquarters.

# Getting to grips with new disorder bill

**THE procedures for dealing with crime are set to see some significant changes with the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Bill.**

And the national legislation, which comes into effect in July, will mean some fairly intense work for Essex Police over the next couple of years.

Stemming from two

**By Kim White**

consultation documents - Morgan Report 1991 and Getting To Grips With Crime 1997 - the Bill aims to address offending behaviour and reduce crime in two ways.

Firstly it requires forces across the country to create statutory multi-agency partnerships. Secondly it looks to make improvements within the criminal justice system.

Each division within Essex will

need to form 'leadership groups' comprising the divisional commander, Chief Executive of the local council and a representative from Essex County Council.

Supt Peter Sheldrake explained: "The idea of the leadership groups is to work with different agencies to develop a strategy for dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their particular areas."

Once these groups are in place there is a timetable for other recommendations of the Bill to be implemented.

Changes will include a new national cautioning policy, a fast track system requiring youths to be put before the courts quicker and

remove the defence of 'ignorance' among 10-14 year old offenders. A further recommendation is the introduction of youth justice and offenders teams who will work with family units to help prevent offending and re-offending, coupled with a reform of the Youth Courts.

Mr Sheldrake, said: "All the divisions need to actively partake in work with agencies locally and form leadership groups. But the youth side is still being looked at centrally and there is no great rush. It will be slowly and carefully planned and managed."

And whilst there is a great deal of work involved in meeting the requirements of the Bill it bodes

well for the future.

"At a time when there is less time, less money, less resources and an increase in the demands on policing, there is a need for us to work in partnership with other agencies and to become more focused," said Mr Sheldrake. "If all the partnership work comes together, it should substantially reduce our workload in the future."

The Audit Commission has already visited Essex Police and a number of other forces to establish where we are with our community contacts and our identification of good practice. It will no doubt return in the future to measure our success.

## Celebrities help Essex child project

SOME famous faces were in the county last month lending their support to an innovative new paedophile education pack.

*Broken Trust, Shared Feelings* is a new video-based initiative to raise awareness of paedophile behaviour among children aged 11 to 14.

It has been devised by the South East Essex District Child Protection Committee with the assistance of the Essex Police Television Unit and the Essex Child Protection Committee.

The project is to be formally launched on a regional and national basis next month, following a successful pilot in the Southend area.

The initiative, which also involves Essex Social Services and the county's Education Department, has already won an Enterprise Award from Community Care magazine.

*Birds of a Feather* stars Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson are the presenters of the video, which is being produced and directed by the Essex Police Television Unit.

At the filming in Chelmsford, Linda said: "As parents of five children between us, we think it's very important that children are made aware of the dangers they face."

*Crimewatch* presenter Jill Dando is also taking part in the video. Her filming took place at Rainsford School in Chelmsford with some students taking starring roles.

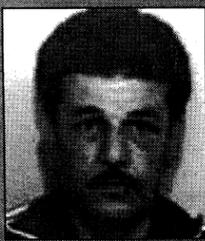


● Jill Dando chats to students at Rainsford School in Chelmsford.

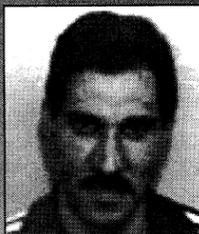
# Keeping pace with change is essential for

# Preparing for the unexpected

By Alyson  
Mountney



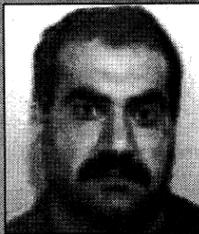
● Mohamed Mehsen.



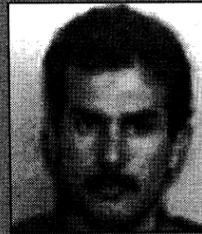
● Maged Najl.



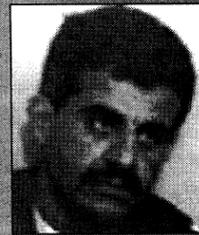
● Adnan Hoshan.



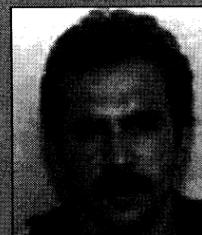
● Mustafa Abdulhussin.



● Saheb Abdulhasan.



● Saheb Aboud.



● Sabah Nagl.

**T**HE evening of the 1996 August Bank Holiday was supposed to be a quiet time, a time for people to relax after their extended weekend and prepare themselves for the return to normality.

But somewhere in the skies above, a Sudanese airliner had been hijacked. And as it landed at Stansted Airport, hundreds of officers and support staff in Essex Police braced themselves for a tense vigil. It was anything but normal.

Thankfully, the outcome was peaceful. The six Iraqi hijackers were

convicted at the Old Bailey in November and sentenced to a total of 38 years in prison. Two weeks ago, a seventh Iraqi was found guilty of conspiracy to hijack and jailed for two and a half years.

### Benefit

For those few hours when the airliner stood on the runway, there was no telling what would happen. But it was a well rehearsed police operation, with the benefit of the experience of previous incidents and exercises, which swung into action to bring the hijacking to an end.

Essex Police has one department which is more familiar than most with this kind of major incident. Part of the operations division, Contingency Planning has many roles. The nature of much of its work is dynamic,

constantly evolving to keep pace with change.

If the department can be summed up in one sentence, it would have to be that its function is to face up to the non-routine, the unexpected, and even the unthinkable.

This is a job which can be done in isolation. Contingency Planning manager Ken Ferguson and the department's current four staff - Sgt Dan Elford, Martyn Lockwood, Barry Hilton and Eddie Clarke - are in constant and close liaison with other agencies and emergency services in the region.

The bulk of the work revolves around keeping the force's Emergency Procedures Manual, and the Manual on Terrorism and Allied Matters, up to date. Copies of the Emergency Procedures Manual, which is a guide to the handling of major incidents and disasters, are kept on every division.

For a county with one of London's main airports, a major port, a nuclear power station and gas and chemical



● The hijacking at Stansted Police was well rehearsed.

installations, a considerable number of plans for major incidents are needed. Plans also exist for potential emergencies at Essex's two prisons, and two water treatment plants.

As well as covering the where and the what, major plans also cover the "who" of an incident. Command and control needs to be managed, forward control and rendezvous points need to be set up, and there has to be liaison between all the agencies linked with the scene of the operation.

These are normally other emergency services, county and district councils, commercial organisations, and other agencies involved at the scene, for instance rail authorities or the Environment Agency.

Mr Ferguson says: "We spend much time consulting with all the agencies likely to be involved in these incidents and try to ensure that, in the event of the unthinkable happening, we are as well prepared as we can possibly be."

"We also spend a lot of time looking at the generic approach to incident handling and the associated documents provide a framework so people will understand how we will organise at any scene."

The Major Incident Logistics Development Unit - MILDU - has recently come under the umbrella of Contingency Planning. This is an in-force organisation, consisting of officers in non-operational roles, who can be called out to provide specific support to a major incident.

They provide back up under the headings of catering, transport, reception and deployment of officers and staff arriving at the scene, briefing, management of the Local Emergency Centre,



● An explosion on board a passenger ferry was the scenario for Operation Marinex held at Harwich. Photo: East Anglian Daily Times.

## Contingency planning



... was the real thing but thanks to Operation Black Swan, two years earlier, Essex  
*Essex Chronicle Series.*

... communications and  
 ... most recently, setting  
 ... Casualty Information  
 ... facility.

... exercises are another  
 ... aspect of planning  
 ... major incidents. Operation  
 ... Swan, a counter-terror-  
 ... exercise at Stansted air-  
 ... November 1994 involv-  
 ... the hijacking of an airlin-  
 ... ved valuable experience  
 ... real event.

... Contingency Planning has  
 ... involvement in planning  
 ... es, although major  
 ... es such as Black Swan  
 ... exception because their  
 ... sational requirements  
 ... yond the department's  
 ... lity. In those cases,  
 ... se planning teams are  
 ... lly appointed by the

### Explosion

... exercises at Bradwell  
 ... ar Power Station and  
 ... ch port are just exam-  
 ... of the many which fall  
 ... the department's  
 ... Contingency Planning  
 ... the Essex Police link  
 ... of the Operation  
 ... ex exercise at Harwich  
 ... March, where the sce-  
 ... was an explosion on  
 ... a passenger ferry.

... Ferguson says:  
 ... es such as Black  
 ... do give you the chance  
 ... your procedures, com-  
 ... ations, resources and  
 ... lly all aspects of plan-  
 ... There will always be  
 ... ms revealed in exercises  
 ... result in the modifica-  
 ... and improvement of

... the real event, those  
 ... es have enabled many  
 ... ssues to be implement-  
 ... examined, resulting in  
 ... erally improved opera-  
 ... t's far better to learn  
 ... lls during an exercise  
 ... to be exposed in the real

... event."

... Exercises are also useful in  
 ... confronting the "it will never  
 ... happen" attitude, he adds.  
 ... "There's also the bonus of cre-  
 ... ating the awareness in peo-  
 ... ple's minds of the possibility  
 ... and likelihood of these types  
 ... of major incidents occurring.  
 ... Of course, when it actually  
 ... happens, that's the time  
 ... you're thankful you put that  
 ... time and effort into your  
 ... emergency plan."

... Liaison with other agencies,  
 ... is as ever, the key. "The worst  
 ... thing would be to sit in isola-  
 ... tion and write a plan which  
 ... would look great on paper, but  
 ... be a disaster on the day. And it  
 ... does make a huge difference if  
 ... someone who is known to you  
 ... walks through the door during  
 ... an incident. You know you can  
 ... trust each other."

... Another vital function of the  
 ... department is operational  
 ... planning. This includes what  
 ... is commonly known as "sup-  
 ... port calls," a facility for pro-  
 ... viding back up resources for  
 ... major events when the divi-  
 ... sion does not have enough  
 ... personnel to help out. Once  
 ... notified by the division,  
 ... Contingency Planning will  
 ... ring around the county to get  
 ... enough officers.

... This may be for an airshow  
 ... or football match, fox hunt, or  
 ... in cases where more officers  
 ... are needed to move on a group  
 ... of travellers. Specially trained  
 ... officers who can be called on to  
 ... help search a crime scene for  
 ... evidence, or look for a missing  
 ... person, are another aspect of  
 ... this service.

... Operational planning also  
 ... involves liaison over visits to  
 ... Essex by members of the  
 ... Royal family and other VIPs.

... Although the Environment  
 ... Agency has now taken on  
 ... much of the Police's tradition-  
 ... al responsibility for issuing

... flood warnings, Contingency  
 ... Planning still has total  
 ... responsibility for the prepara-  
 ... tion of both tidal and river  
 ... flood plans for Essex Police.

... Memories of the 1953 floods  
 ... at Canvey and Jaywick, which  
 ... resulted in devastation and  
 ... loss of life, are never far away  
 ... and even today, flood plans  
 ... are a great focus of attention.

... Mr Ferguson adds:  
 ... "Although the floods are still  
 ... strongly in our minds, a great  
 ... deal of flood prevention and  
 ... sea wall work has been taking  
 ... place along the coast of Essex.  
 ... The other big improvement is  
 ... the technological ability to  
 ... predict tides and weather. It's  
 ... vastly superior to 40 years ago  
 ... and people should take com-  
 ... fort in those facts."

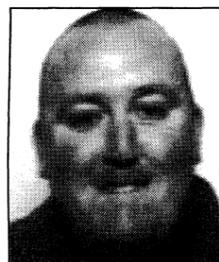
... It is difficult to sum up the  
 ... overall role of a department  
 ... when its many roles include  
 ... things most people would  
 ... never even think of. One  
 ... example is planning for a tem-  
 ... porary mortuary, a county  
 ... facility which would come into  
 ... operation in the event of a  
 ... major disaster.

... The department is also  
 ... planning for its own future,  
 ... and hopes to develop a com-  
 ... puterised planning facility  
 ... which enable them to provide  
 ... accurate and current informa-  
 ... tion to all personnel within  
 ... the force.

... But on the whole, it has to  
 ... respond to the same external  
 ... influences as the rest of Essex  
 ... Police. Plans constantly need  
 ... altering - as Mr Ferguson  
 ... says, "Something happens  
 ... somewhere that makes you  
 ... think again."

... No-one can predict what  
 ... will happen at a major inci-  
 ... dent, and no plan can be set in  
 ... stone. But it does help to be  
 ... prepared for the unthinkable.

# Life for neo-Nazi 'cowards'



● Charlie Sargent.



● Martin Cross.

**AGAINST a backdrop of threatened witness intimidation and violence, Essex Police has successfully secured the conviction of two murderers.**

The stabbing of Christopher Castle in Harlow in February last year, seemed on the surface no more than an argument which had got out of hand.

### Executed

But it quickly emerged that those involved were warring factions of the neo-Nazi group Combat 18, and the 28-year-old 'gopher' had been executed in a deep-seated dispute over leadership.

Essex detectives faced a huge and complex task if there were to uncover the truth and the agreement by William Browning, another Combat 18 member, to become the main prosecution witness, held the key.

Chelmsford Crown Court heard how Charlie Sargent (37) had been the head of Combat 18, which takes its name from Adolf Hitler (A = 1 in the alphabet, H = 8).

But dealings with the lucrative neo-Nazi music trade coupled with rumours that Sargent had become a 'grass' for the security services led to Sargent being expelled and former henchman, Browning taking over.

In an attempt to end the feud, Christopher Castle, a

### By Kim White

fringe member who was trusted by both sides, agreed to act as go-between. The deal was that he would return some plating tools to Sargent at his girlfriend's bungalow in Harlow and, in exchange, Sargent would hand over C18's membership list along with some money and various CDs. In the meantime Sargent made arrangements that whoever turned up would be 'maimed' to teach Browning a lesson.

Castle was stabbed in the back with a 12-inch kitchen knife by Sargent's closest friend and political ally, Martin Cross (35), who was also a leading figure in the neo-Nazi organisation Blood and Honour. He stumbled from the bungalow into the arms of Browning, who was waiting outside. When Browning demanded to know what had happened, Sargent and Cross allegedly replied: "He's a casualty of war, let him rot."

On the witness stand, however, Sargent, no longer a skin-head and wearing studious specs, portrayed himself as the voice of reason saying it was Browning who was "the anarchist".

The jury thought differently taking just a few hours to reach a guilty verdict. Sentencing Sargent and Cross to life imprisonment Mr Justice Gage described the murder as "vicious, violent and cowardly".

He added: "You Cross, stabbed him in the back when

his attention was turned away. You Sargent, were the prime instigator of this attack. As members of Combat 18, you seemed to think you were entitled to go outside of the law, I regard you both as very dangerous men."

As the two were led from the court, Castle's childhood sweetheart, who had remained quiet throughout the trial, lunged hysterically at the dock, and had to be restrained by police officers.

Outside the court a cordon of officers had to be formed across the street to keep members of the two factions apart as they left Chelmsford faces hidden from the media by balaclavas and Chelsea scarves.

Det Supt Steve Reynolds, who headed the inquiry, told a press conference: "This investigation was completed against a background of internal political divisions within Combat 18 and the continual threat of witness intimidation and further violence."

"Despite the considerable difficulties posed by these factors, the investigation team did not once lose sight of the need to bring to justice those responsible for Christopher Castle's murder."

"Today's verdict is a credit to the investigational way in which the investigating officers pursued this inquiry and is a signal to those, who choose to live by their own distorted code of violence, that such behaviour will not be tolerated by the community at large."

## Essex keeps its safe reputation

THE reputation of Essex as one of the nation's safest counties has been confirmed in the Audit Commission's Annual Performance Report on police services for 1996/7.

Only four of the 37 English police areas covered in the report had a lower number of crimes per 1,000 population during the 12 months than the 64.6 in Essex. The national average for England and Wales was 85.1. And during the three years from 1993/4 to 1996/7, the number of crimes per 1,000 population fell by 12 per cent in Essex.

Essex down, the figures also show Essex to be well below the national averages

for the incidence of violent crime and household burglary.

Essex recorded 3.9 violent crimes per 1,000 population against a national average of 5.8 offences.

There were 13.9 burglaries per 1,000 households in Essex, while the national average was 24.4.

This was achieved despite lower than average spending on police in Essex (£100.35 per head of population against a national average of £109.11). But the Metropolitan Police had more stations open to the public than the 117 in Essex.

Essex Police solved 70 per cent of the violent offences it recorded, but the county's detection rate for all crime was

slightly below the national average. Essex's detection rate of 27 per cent for all crime compared with a national average of 29.8 per cent.

Assistant Chief Constable (Designate) Charles Clark, said: "The Audit Commission's confirmation that Essex is one of the nation's safest places is welcome news. A wide number of measures have contributed to this, ranging from targeting known criminals to the installation of closed circuit television cameras in town centre sand community support initiatives."

"Essex Police is committed to maintaining the county's safe reputation and to detecting more offences."

## Road tragedies

FOUR people lost their lives in a series of road crashes in Essex, last weekend.

And in a separate incident a car travelled the wrong way up the M11 for 25 miles, causing five accidents.

Luckily no one was seriously hurt. The car was finally stopped by Cambridgeshire Police.

A 79-year-old man from Norfolk was arrested and bailed pending further inquiries.

Two 20-year-old men died and 10 other people were injured in a three car collision on the A130.

Birthday celebrations turned to tragedy on the A12 when a 29-year-old man fell from the back window of a moving mini-bus and died.

A motorcyclist died following a collision with a car on the A13 near Orsett.

## Initiative gives clearer understanding of community safety

# Seven points to success

**AROUND 200 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators from the Rayleigh area have received extensive training in a divisional initiative.**

Entitled Seven Points to Success, the programme covers what to do in the case of suspicious people, abandoned cars, home security, malicious tele-

**By Alyson Mounthey**

phone calls, bogus callers, suspected criminals and updating keyholders.

DS Chris Jones of the Rayleigh Crime Management Unit led a series of training days, which highlighted help and advice, and responding with the correct action.

Each co-ordinator who

attended the programme received an information pack and a new bookmark, produced in association with local estate agent Connells, listing all local contacts and telephone numbers.

Divisional operations manager Chief Insp Dave King said: "This is a great opportunity to support Neighbourhood Watch in the division, and will go some way to support the Government's drive to raise the awareness of NHW."

"I am delighted at the response from the co-ordinators in the division, who

without their support, not only in this venture but throughout the year, the achievements and success of NHW would not be so high profile.

"Such a response shows there is a willingness to increase the profile of NHW activity and a drive to support the police."

The co-ordinators who have received training will now spread the message among the 20,000 NHW members in the Rayleigh division.

The initiative has received high level support from the Chief Executive of the NHW

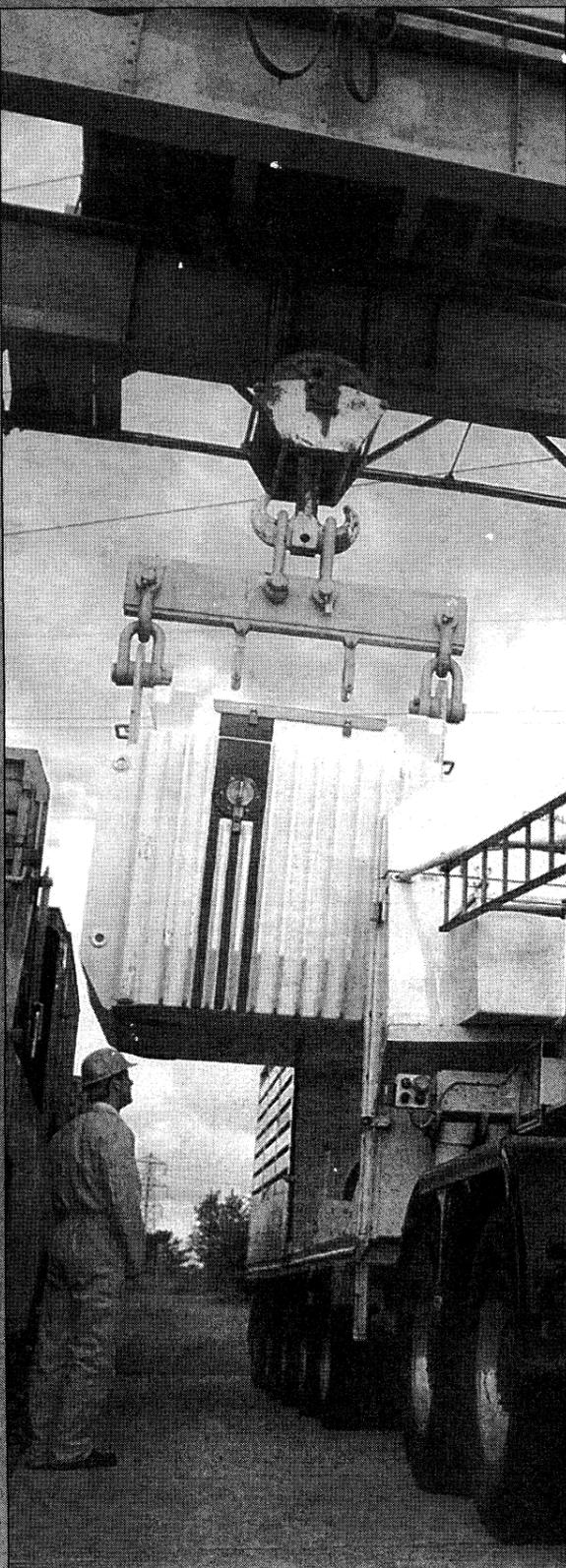
Association, Sue Yoxall.

She said: "Training is fundamental to the development of NHW into making it an effective and powerful tool in preventing crime and building stronger and safer communities."

"Training also gives police and NHW's a clearer understanding of the roles they can play in community safety."

"Training is the key focus for NHW in 1998 and what Rayleigh division is achieving with these training days will make a difference to NHW activities in the area."

## Tested by nuclear incident



WHAT weighs about 50 tonnes (the equivalent of two fully loaded articulated lorries), has walls of forged steel, at least 35 cms thick, and has been shown to survive the impact of a locomotive travelling at 100mph? This answer is, of course, a nuclear flask, writes Helen Cook.

A flask exercise, code-named Ambassador, was held at Southminster railhead and was designed to test the emergency liaison arrangements between the organisations taking part. They were Magnox Electric (Bradwell Power Station), Essex Police, BTP, Essex Fire & Rescue, Essex Ambulance, Essex County Council, Maldon Council, Railtrack and English, Welsh and Scottish Railway.

The scenario was that a stolen car had crashed into the side of a flask carrying nuclear fuel and the three car passengers (dummies) are thrown clear as the car caught fire. It was then up to the emergency services and other organisations to swing into action and at the same time liaise closely with the other representatives.

Essex Police's involvement was limited to three areas: policing arrangements at the scene; FIR - principally for notification procedures and a press officer role at the scene.

Contingency Planning Manager, Ken Ferguson, said: "This was an opportunity to exercise our emergency arrangements and whilst this type of emergency is extremely unlikely to occur it provides us with a chance to examine our plans and make beneficial changes".

He said that the exercise had highlighted some problems especially with communications and notification, and the organisations involved will be reviewing the National Emergency Plans with a view to clarifying call out arrangements.

● A nuclear flask is loaded back on to a Magnox lorry after an emergency procedures test.

## A vocal year ahead

DECEMBER was a very busy time for the choir members with concerts at the Moot Hall in Colchester, the URC in Maldon and the Assembly Room at headquarters.

The Colchester and Maldon concerts were in aid of local charities while the one at HQ was for local pensioners who were also treated to tea and mince pies by the Friends of the Choir.

Both of the charity concerts were very successful in terms of funds raised and we have been asked to repeat them for Christmas 1998.

It's set to be a busy year with eight concerts already confirmed. The first of the season is on Saturday, March 28 at Belle Vue Baptist Church, Southend.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and further details together with ticket prices can be obtained by contacting Mrs Jeanette Pool on 01702 337485.

In May we move just along the coast to Leigh-on-Sea where on the 16th we

pay a repeat visit to St Aidan's Church for a concert in aid of the BUST appeal whose patron is Lady McAdden. Again, details of ticket prices can be obtained from Mrs Norma Heigho on 01702 522360.

On the social side the Friends of the Choir have organised a quiz night at the Sports and Social Club at HQ on Friday, April 3, to raise funds for choir activities.

Further details can be obtained from John Eady on 01245 223095.

There are still a number of vacancies in the choir. Although our soprano line is up to strength we would like to hear from any other singers who have some experience of singing in a mixed choir.

Membership is basically open to anyone who is connected with Essex Police.

If you would like to know more about the choir's activities please give our secretary Jenny Young a call on ext 50015.

Bill Fancourt

## What's new in policy

SPEED limits of 20mph are to be introduced in residential areas, outside schools and near playgrounds. Issue 2/98 includes details of the procedure for enforcing the new limit.

Also included in this issue are details of new procedures for requesting time off for Police Federation training, and the introduction of wheel clamping at Headquarters.

Issue 3/98 contains some minor amendments to the policy on the issue of CS Spray, and guidance concerning the legal liabilities of Police Authority Staff involved with outside organisations.

Vehicle owners/keepers now have to make a statutory declaration that their vehicle is kept off the road to be exempt from vehicle excise duty. This issue also contains more details of this.

For more information contact John Johnson at Headquarters Force Publication Unit.

## The balance of good health

### WHY EAT HEALTHILY?

HEALTHY eating helps reduce the risk of developing many conditions such as heart disease, cancer, constipation, obesity and tooth decay.

By eating a good variety and balance of foods, taking regular exercise, not drinking too much, and not smoking at all, you can give yourself the best chance of living a fitter and healthier life.

### HOW TO EAT HEALTHILY?

- Enjoy your food
- Eat a variety of foods
- Eat plenty of foods rich in starch and fibre
- Don't eat too much fat
- Don't eat sugary foods too often

### Health Check

- Look after the vitamins and minerals in your food
- If you drink alcohol, keep within sensible levels
- Eat the right amount to be a healthy weight

### GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

THERE are five main food types required to provide the body with its essential nutrients. It is important to eat some foods from the first four food groups every day.

It is also important to vary the foods chosen from each group to get a mixture of all the different nutrients needed to maintain our health.

Foods in the fifth group

add variety to our diet but should not be eaten too often or in large amounts and should not replace foods from the other groups.

- Bread, other cereals and potatoes
- Fruit and vegetables
- Milk and dairy foods
- Meat, fish and alternatives
- Fatty and sugary foods

### ENJOY YOUR FOOD

IT'S important to enjoy food. To eat healthily you don't have to give up any of the foods you enjoy most. However, some foods should not be eaten too often or in large quantities if you want to be sure of enjoying good health.

A date for your diary is National No Smoking Day on March 11.

## Fund eases families' distress

THE Essex Police Support Staff Benevolent Fund paid out more than £10,000 to police employees last year, it was reported at the AGM.

Although the total number of claims was down by six on the previous year, the fund still helped 31 people. The £10,119 paid out was divided between 17 loans totalling £8,512 and 13 grants totalling £1,607.

The fund is a charity which depends on monthly subscriptions of 50p from support staff. The

subscription has stayed the same for the last three years.

It was set up in 1975 for all civilian employees and former employees "to alleviate poverty, distress and suffering." The initial fund was started by a donation from the Essex Police Benevolent Fund, which still makes a substantial contribution every year.

Grants and loans from the fund help employees with everything from travelling expenses to visit a sick relative in hospital, to payment of bills. But there are no hard rules

about what is eligible and every claim is treated individually and in total confidence.

Bob Coxon, force welfare officer and Honorary Secretary of the fund, said: "Lots of people can't afford a bill of £50, but they will all have a different reason for not being able to pay that bill. Everybody's circumstances are different."

Anyone wanting further information should contact their divisional representative or the welfare office on 58604.

## Hazchem offence revealed during roadside checks

ESSEX Police stopped 74 vehicles in Operation Mermaid, a multi-agency national lorry safety operation held last week.

The Essex stop-checks were carried out on the M25 near the Dartford River Crossing. Vehicles were escorted to the Granada Services parking area at Thurrock.

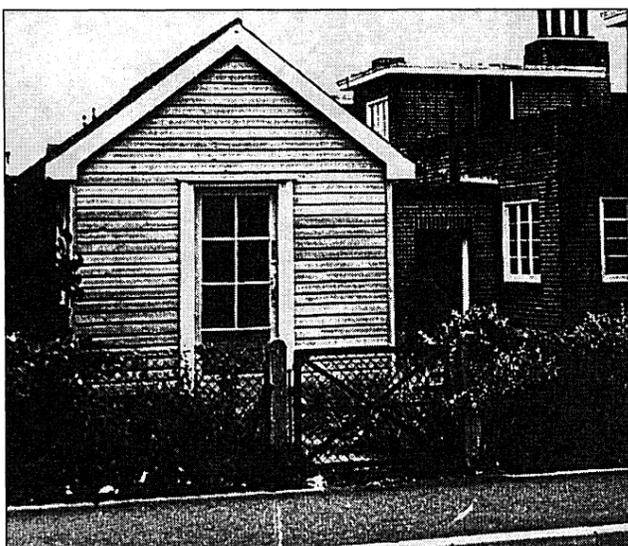
Altogether there were 26 tachograph offences, and one driver was committing

a hazardous chemical offence.

Seven drivers had worked excess hours, two had no excise licence and three had no operator's licence. Six vehicles were overweight and ten had mechanical defects.

The offences were dealt with by way of taking the lorries off the road temporarily, cautions and reports for prosecution.

## Laindon's new police station is officially opened



# All mod cons at new home

● Left: The CID office at the back of the old police station in Victoria Road.

FOLLOWING years of "temporary" accommodation, Laindon finally has a specially-built police station of its own.

The state-of-the-art station, which was handed over ahead of schedule in September, was officially opened by the Chief Constable and Councillor Bill Archibald, chairman of the local Police and Community Consultative Group, and Police Authority member. Home to the Laindon

By Alyson Mountney

beat officers, it boasts up-to-date facilities, including a soundproof interview room, a fully-equipped gym and a conference room.

The new station also accommodates Prosecutions and the tape librarian from Basildon police station, creating more office space at the divisional HQ.

At the opening ceremony, the Chief Constable recounted the history of Laindon police station,

which began life as a purpose built station, only to be subsequently closed.

Two "temporary" sites - one in a house which was going to become a home for the elderly, and one in a collection of demountable buildings - followed.

Mr Archibald added: "I am sure it will serve the people of Laindon well. It will give them back, I think, a sense of community."

The new station was bought by Essex Police on a design-and-build basis, via Suon Ltd. The entire project cost around £1.7 million, partly offset by the sale of the old site.



●Councillor Bill Archibald, Chief Constable John Burrow and divisional commander Supt Dennis Sheppard with the unveiled plaque at the new station.

## Traffic forum to become an annual fixture

ISSUES ranging from policing roadworks to cycle events were discussed at the second inter-force Traffic Management Conference at Essex Police Headquarters.

Representatives from Hertfordshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Kent County Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police attended the event, which was pioneered by Essex in October 1996.

It is now intended to make the conference, aimed at traffic management practitioners, an annual fixture to establish best practice in the drive towards road casualty reduction.

The conference was chaired by senior traffic management officer

Brian Ladd, with those present appreciating the opportunity to discuss issues and compare experiences.

Among the topics under consideration was the safety of cyclists taking part in events on major routes.

Concern was expressed over a lack of consultation about planning applications for major developments which would have an impact on surrounding roads. Officers in Essex are now working towards closer liaison over these issues.

Further discussion involved policing roadworks to ensure the safety of drivers and construction workers, the legal processes surrounding road closures, and the decriminalisation of parking offences.

## Drivers in the clear

EAGLE-EYED drivers in Chelmsford passed the test at the weekend in a joint project between Chelmsford Traffic Unit and opticians Dollond and Aitchison.

A total of 340 motorists took part in Operation Clear Vision II - and took the statutory test of being able to read a number plate at 20.5 metres (25 yards). Officers were delighted to find that nobody failed the test.

Of those 340, 258 drivers volunteered to take the further eyesight screening offered by Dollond and Aitchison.

A total of 49 had eyesight defects identified and were recommended for a full eye test.

Operation Clear Vision was first held in the Thurrock division in November. Its aim is to raise awareness of the importance of regular eye tests for drivers to improve road safety.

Every week nearly 30,000 learners have their sight tested as part of their driving test. However, they are then able to drive on the roads for up to 53 years and many may not be aware that their sight has

deteriorated.

Head of Traffic, Supt Doug Adams, said: "We were particularly impressed and greatly encouraged by the response from the public to this initiative."

"Some of those who took the test had come into Chelmsford particularly to take advantage of this opportunity and that shows a very responsible attitude."

"I would encourage any drivers not to neglect their eyesight and seek professional help to ensure that they are safe to drive."

## A tribute to Gordon after long illness

I WOULD like to thank all members of Essex Police, both serving and retired, for their messages of sympathy, floral tributes and donations after Gordon lost his long battle against melanoma cancer.

Thank you, also, to those who were able to attend Gordon's funeral on January 13. At present over £800 has been collected from family, friends and colleagues, and this money will go

to the Dunmow District Nurses Fund and the Oncology Ward (Ward 6 West) at Charing Cross Hospital where Gordon received such excellent treatment.  
**Molly Thake, Great Dunmow**



## A privilege to represent Essex

THROUGH the columns of *The Law* I would like to thank all the colleagues with whom I have worked during the past 30 years. My Scenes of Crime role over the past 10 years has enabled me to work with many throughout the county, as well as HQ personnel, and I have enjoyed the support and friendship afforded to me. It has been my privilege to

represent Essex at National Scientific Support Conferences which report directly to ACPO Crime Group. The annual returns published by that body have consistently shown Essex to be a leading force in the scientific area, an achievement that has only been attained by the dedication of all staff and especially those whose primary role is scenes of

crime work. I would like to say a very sincere thank you to all those who attended my farewell gathering and for the gifts presented to Gill and myself on that occasion. Finally, best wishes to you all for the future and may the value of science continue to enhance investigations in the years ahead.  
**Trevor Crosby, Chelmsford**

## An evening to remember

MAY I take the opportunity through *The Law* to thank all my friends and colleagues, including Ben and Karen in America and Jack and his wife in Australia, for their lovely gifts, cards and good wishes received on my retirement after 26 very happy years working in the Federation Office at police headquarters in

Chelmsford. Many of my friends I didn't meet personally but spoke to them over the telephone. Thank you for your geniality, it made the days brighter. I would also like to thank everybody who came to my retirement party. The company included

three ex Joint Branch Board secretaries and their wives, together with Terry, the present secretary, and his wife. It was a wonderful evening which I will fondly remember. Thank you once again and I wish you all the best for the future.  
**Irene Black Chelmsford**

AS a result of the success of the last wine tasting we will be holding another evening on March 11.

It will be at The Pipe of Port in Southend again with the same format - tasting a number of wines with the guidance of a Master of Wine. This will be followed by a meal. Full details are available from John Johnson or myself, Gordon Oakley.

We would like to see as many members as possible at our AGM at the Southend Police Station bar at 8pm on Monday, February 16.

Also the Challenge Evening against the other Essex branches has been arranged by Mid Essex at the clubhouse at headquarters on March 13. We need a few more 'indoor athletes' to compete in the Shove Ha'penny and darts etc.

**Gordon Oakley**  
South East Essex Branch  
THE December dinner and dance in the Sports and Social Club was a great success for the second year.

The New Year's Eve visit to the Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton also proved very enjoyable, despite the mini hurricane.

The line dancing team were particularly impressive and we hope that their backs have recovered in time for the AGM.  
As this was the second year

## I.P.A.

we have been to Brighton we need to find another venue for 1998. Any suggestions?

Our AGM is the next meeting and will be held on Friday, February 13 in the Sports and Social Club. The meeting starts at 8pm, so come along and tell us what events you would like to see us arrange this year as well as providing some feedback on what we did in 1997. The bar will be open.

In March, again in the Sports and Social Club, on Friday 13, we are planning a games evening and have invited members from the North East and South East.

It's some years since we had this type of 'at-home' event so try and come along and support us.

The annual IPA church service at the Tower of London, which this year will be held on Sunday, July 19, will also include a boat trip on the Thames and buffet.

The cost of the day will be in the region of £9.50 per head. If we have enough interested we will try to arrange a coach from HQ.

More details later, but if you're interested please contact a member of the committee to book your places.

**Bill Fancourt,**  
Mid Essex Branch

# Roy's 30 year run is over

**CORONER'S officer, PC Roy Kebell, is throwing a retirement party to mark a career spanning more than 30 years.**

He retires on March 6 having worked as coroner's officer for Basildon, Thurrock and Brentwood for the last 20 years of his service.

He will be celebrating with a party at Basildon Police Station on Friday, February 27.

All friends and colleagues, particularly runners who have competed with him for Essex Police since 1968, are welcome to attend the celebration, which starts at 8pm.

Five constables with nearly 150 years' service between them retire within the next month.

First to leave are Pc Peter Pointing of Tendring Division who retires on February 7 after exactly 30 years' service, and Pc Gordon Brown of Harlow,

## Names in the news

who retires on the same day after serving exactly 25 years.

On February 8, they are joined by Pc Donald Goldsmith of Chelmsford, who has served nearly 31 years.

Pc Ralph Young, based with the Headquarters driving school, retires on February 22 after more than 32 years with Essex Police.

Pc Ernest Foulds, who had a double career with Essex Police, retires on March 2 following 30 years' service. He first served with the force from 1967 to 1970, and was reappointed as an officer in 1972.

Three more officers also retire this month. Pc John Trebox, of Brentwood Traffic, brings his Essex Police career to an end on February 15 after 28 years. Joining him on the same day is Pc David Dawes of Community Safety, with 26 years' service, including nearly two years' service

with the Metropolitan Police.

Pc Heather Cane, based at Fir, retires on February 22 after 18 years' service.

**OBITUARIES**  
FORMER Pc Peter Cooper, who worked as a civilian at Headquarters after his retirement in 1980, died aged 69.

During his career with Essex Police, which began in 1952, he served at Chelmsford, Traffic, Headquarters, and the Training School.

## Comrades' annual meeting

THE annual general meeting of the Comrades' Association will be held in the Chief Constable's Conference Room at police headquarters at 11.30am on Monday, March 2, and all members are welcome to attend.

I would like to remind all readers that membership of this association is open not only to all retired officers but also to serving officers with 10 or more years' service.

The annual subscription is only £1 and the association would particularly welcome an increase in the number of serving officers.

If you would like further information, please contact David Jones at the Federation Office on 01245 491491 ext 54501.

His funeral took place at the Anglian Church, Hall Street, Chelmsford. He leaves a widow, Jill.

Retired Pc Cyril Pinch, who served at Chelmsford and Headquarters from 1928 to 1960, died at the age of 90 on January 25.

His funeral will take place on February 11 at 11.30am at Ipswich Crematorium.

Dennis Mays, a Special Constable for 25 years died in January.

Dennis, who spent his whole time policing Witham, rose to the rank of inspector. He was 66 when he died on January 3 and leaves a wife and a son.

## BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX


Name and Rank .....

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

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

1986 Fleetwood two berth caravan. Electrics, shower etc, excellent condition, full touring equipment, include awnings. Kept undercover, £2,500. Contact Mr J Smith on 01206 250134.

**ALGARVE.** Two bedroom apartment, sleeps six. Fifteen minutes walk from sea. Swimming pool on complex, £150 pw anytime. Contact Brian Spiers on 01268 558211.

**BEAUTIFUL** Florida home in quiet location for rent, four bedrooms, sleeps 10, own heated pool and only 15 minutes from Orlando attractions. Contact 01621 850957.

**CARAVAN.** Trophy 4 berth, vgc, non-smokers, double-glazed, mains electrics, full awning, also with many extras, £2,700. Contact Sgt King at Bocking Traffic on 01255 503149.

**CORNWALL,** Polperro. Chalet, sleeps 4/5. All mod cons, on pleasant site with heated indoor and outdoor pools. Club and all facilities, £70 to £245 pw. Contact

## Market Place

Craig Bailey on 01279 653570 or 01279 832837.

**FLYING** from Stansted? Personal car parking service for police and support staff. New for summer 1998, secure undercover parking available upon request. Contact Sgt Steve King on 0956 890857.

**HIGHLAND** holidays, b&b and eve meal in beautiful Scottish Highlands. Ensuite, shooting, fishing, walking, skiing and bird watching or relax in Austrian style home. A 20% discount for police personnel past and present. Call Andrew Nunn on 01479 841717.

**NISSAN** Sunny 1.4LS, 5 door hatchback, red, 'H' reg, two owners from new, low mileage, £42,475, very economical, £2,700 ono. Contact B. Pritchard on 01268 699924.

**NORFOLK,** Hemsby, holiday chalet, sleeps 4, close to sandy beach and Broads, site facilities include heated swimming pool, from £65 to £205 pw. Contact 01268 756169.

**PHILIPS** FCD285 midi hi-fi system with speakers FM/MW/LW, turntable, CD player (single) immaculate condition, £60 ono. Contact Sgt Chris Brown at FIR on 55054 or 01245 354802.

**POLZEATH,** Cornwall. Static holiday home with all mod cons, six berth self contained within five minutes walk to sandy beach. Ring for bookings, most dates available.

**PSION** 3c 2 meg, palmtop computer with several months warranty. Cost £299 new, accept £199. Case suitable for uniform use also available, complete with

PACE legislation and other force procedures if purchased by a police office. Contact Steve Currell on 01245 491491 ext 51012 or 01893 232950.

**SOUTH** of France. Large mobile home with toilet and shower on luxury site between St Tropez and Cannes. Fitted with microwave. Barbecue, sunbeds etc. On a site with two swimming pools, restaurant, half court tennis and disco. Prices from £100 per week. Contact Stewart Calligan on 01430 441709.

**YORK** wide stance weight bench, £25. Shoei lawson replica motorcycle helmet. Cost £400, 2 years old, accept £80. ZX10 Tintal flip screen, brand new, £25. Contact Michael Spink on 01371 831323.

**WANTED.** Wooden wendy house or shed for conversion. Youngster needs a good home. Contact Pc Mike McSweeney at Newport Traffic on 01799 521711.

# Sport and Leisure

## Badminton

SOUTHEND'S Pc Carl Chinnery has been selected to represent the British Police at Badminton.

He will compete against Scotland in Glasgow on February 17.

## British bowls

CONSTABLES John Anderson and John Stewart from Harlow Traffic and Headquarters FIB have both been selected to represent the British Police at Bowls.

They face the Scottish Police on Thursday, March 5 at Ardrossan, Scotland.

# Daily fitness options

THERE'S a new fitness class starting this week and with a different class nearly every night there's no excuses. In fact, on Thursdays you now get a choice of three, with different times and levels to suit you all.

You can start the week with a complete body workout at Tracy's circuit training. Held between 5pm and 6pm in the gym at headquarters the class is mixed and for all abilities.

Tuesdays are with Derek and concentrate on the legs, bums and tums. Held at Chelmsford Police Station between 5.15pm and 6pm this class is a gentle approach to body toning.

It's back to Tracy on Wednesdays with an aerobics class aimed at the beginner,

from 5pm to 6pm. Simple low impact choreographed moves can be adapted for the fitter or more advanced participant.

Thursdays sees the launch of a new Step and Tone class between 5pm and 6pm in the gym at headquarters. For beginners it's a great way to burn off the calories and like the Wednesday aerobics can be adapted for higher impact.

Staying in the HQ gym between 7.15pm and 8.15pm you can enjoy aerobics with Derek. It's loud, it's fun and you will sweat.

And if that isn't enough you can move on to Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre for an advanced step class not for the faint hearted. This is also with Derek and is between 8.30pm and 9.30pm.

Some of the classes are free, others have a small charge and with the step classes reservations are advised.

For more information and bookings contact Pc Derek Sewell on 01245 514076 or Tracy on 01245 491491, ext 52231.

## In the swim

THE Croker Cup Swimming Gala was held at Basildon with the following results: 1 Southend (12pts), 2 Harlow (10pts), 3 Colchester (8pts), 4 Braintree (7pts), 5 Basildon (6pts), 6 Headquarters (5pts) and 7 Rayleigh (4pts).

## Back in the medal stakes

THE roller-coaster results of the Essex runners continued at the penultimate league fixture held in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Paula Bradley's highest finishing position, one ahead of sister Lucy, coincided with excellent debuts by Jane Chapple and Collette Hallett, resulting in a 2nd placing for the ladies, and putting them right back in the challenge for medals.

With a low men's turn out the 'A' team managed to retain 5th but it left the 'B' squad short of a fourth scorer. Super vet, Roy Kebell, responded with a superb display and, with the help of Steve King and Pete Bryan, kept the 'Bees' in 3rd place.

The final league race in Horsham in Sussex will also be Roy's last before retiring and what better to finish with a trophy.

Anyone wishing to support the squad and the celebrations in Sussex should be at the Essex Police Training Centre, the allocated coach pick-up point, at 11am on February 12.

**Future fixtures:**  
February 22 - SEPAA half marathon in Camberley.

March 12 - SEPAA Championships in Wimbledon.

March 25 - National PAA Championship in Leeds.

## Five nations swing back into action



Essex Chronicle representatives Stewart Rawlings and Anne Fitzgerald accept a cheque for £2,000 on behalf of PARC from Supt Paul Stanley, former officer Keith Southgate and Pc Tony Kitching. Photo: Essex Chronicle Series.

GAY Paris is the venue for this year's European Golf Tournament and an Essex Police contingent is being sought.

It is the 8th year in the competition's history with golfers from France, Holland, Denmark, Finland and Essex meeting up annually to take to the greens and raise cash for charity.

This year's event takes place between Saturday, May 2 and Friday, May 8 and will probably take in three French courses.

If you are a golfer of any standard and wish to be considered to play, complete

the application form (below) and send it to the address indicated. You should enclose a deposit of £100 which will be returned to you should you not be selected. Cheques should be made payable to Essex Police Golf Tours.

Your application will be considered with all others and the successful entrants will be notified in good time. The final cost of the trip is under discussion and successful candidates will be notified of this in due course.

For further information contact Supt Paul Stanley on 01268 775533, ext 35100.

AN adventure playground for disabled children has had a £2,000 cash boost thanks to Essex Police golfers.

The host force of the European Police Golf Tournament nominates a charity to gain from the proceeds.

Essex chose PARC (Play and Resource Centre), a cause also supported by the Essex Chronicle Series.

Set up by a group of parents with disabled children, it aims to create a centre and adventure playground on the Essex Showground site in Great Leighs.

During the four day golf tournament there was a chance to pocket £20,000 for PARC through a hole-in-one competition. Unfortunately no-one succeeded in sinking a ball into the dedicated hole, despite some near misses.

However, the teams did raise £2,000 and this was handed over in a special cheque presentation to editorial director of the Essex Chronicle Series, Stewart Rawlings.

This year the tournament will be held in Paris (see story left).

## Game on!

THE No 5 Region PAA Indoor Games Championships were held at Sittingbourne, Kent with a number of successes for Essex officers.

Dc Jim Couzen, from Westcliff, won the billiards competition.

Winners in the darts event were Harwich Pc Susan Jenkins, for the ladies singles award, and constables Maureen Chaplin and William Burns, from Rayleigh and Southend, for the mixed doubles.

Table tennis saw Chris Jacob as three time winner in the mens singles, veterans singles and veterans doubles. He doubled up with Sgt Peter Layzell, from Burnham, for the final award.

All winners will now represent No 5 at the nationals in Norfolk, in April.

### EUROPEAN POLICE GOLF TOURNAMENT APPLICATION FORM

FULL NAME.....

GOLF HANDICAP.....

STATION/DEPARTMENT.....

PREFERRED VENUE.....

Return your completed form to:  
SUPT PAUL STANLEY, RAYLEIGH POLICE STATION.  
Entries to be returned no later than February 28, 1998. This event does not attract time off for Force Sport. The successful applicants will be identified by the tournament committee, whose decision is final.

## Saturday February 14

### HQ Sports Pavilion

**8pm**

**Bar and Refreshments**

**Tickets on sale NOW**  
**£5 each**

**Available from:**  
**Shirley (FSEL)**  
**ext 50666**  
**fax 59665**

**Cheques payable to:**  
**Essex Police HQ**  
**Sports & Social Club.**  
**Send them to FSEL**

*Sport and Leisure*

# Out of the cup - but didn't they do well!

THE battle to reach the finals of the PAA Cup is over for Essex Police Rugby Club.

Due to injury and flu, Essex Police went up to Northants with a greatly weakened side and in the end Northants were far too strong winning 44-0.

After the first five minutes it appeared that Essex were going to give a good account of them-

selves. However, with 20 minutes gone they found themselves 22 points down and the game by this stage was lost.

Although Essex battled well, and for the last 15 minutes of the half secured good possession, they were unable to convert this into points.

The further loss of Jim Hayter consolidated their injury problems and reduced their options in

the line out. The second half was a similar scene with Northants starting the stronger of the two sides and adding a further 22 points to their haul. The last 15 minutes of the 2nd half saw constant Essex pressure but again unable to convert the points. Northants won 44-0.

Captain, Rube Zaggar, said: "Whilst we may not have won, with a full strength side it would

have been nice to see what the result would have been.

"Obviously it was a disappointing result but it is the furthest the squad has ever got in the history of the competition, and we look forward to next season with optimism. We are not beaten yet."

The squad has expressed its thanks to all of those who have shown their support throughout the season so far.

## Wine, dine and talk football

FOOTBALLERS past, present, or even future, are invited to an end of season dinner dance in May.

The Essex Police Football squad will host the event on Friday, May 15, at the headquarters sports pavilion when the Player of the Year will also be announced.

The occasion begins at 7pm for a 7.30pm sitting and for a cost of no more than £20 you can enjoy a three course meal and a full evening's entertainment.

Anyone interested should register their names and £5 deposit with Supt Doug Adams of HQ Traffic.

The squad travelled to Oxford City's ground last month to take on Thames Valley Police.

Having beaten them 10-1 earlier in the season it was clear Valley would field a stronger side.

An error early on put Valley one goal up. From then on it should have been Essex's game as onlookers lost count of near misses.

The second half saw more pressure from Valley resulting in another goal.

The Essex consolation finally came from Steve Crane, after confusion in the box and a number of lost chances.

## Fought into third place

FENCER John Sones fought his way into the last four of the Eastern Region Epee Championships in Norwich last month.

The sergeant from the headquarters Traffic Management Unit entered the direct elimination part of the competition in 14th position, after the first seeding.

He made it to the final four after winning three bouts each to 15 hits. He was finally knocked out by fellow Colchester and District Fencing Club member Simon Laight who went on to win the competition. John Sones was presented a trophy for third place - not bad for a veteran!

## Police band wins lottery grant and is ready to recruit

# Search for young blood



● In a few years time Richard Butterworth (6) might be big enough to play an instrument. In the meantime can you help?

**SIX-YEAR-OLD Richard Butterworth knows he is too young to tackle a tuba but posed for this photo as a pledge to help his father find someone who can.**

The long and successfully established Essex Police Band has won a lottery grant of about £67,000 which has given them the cash boost needed to start a Youth Section.

The money will in fact buy new instruments for the main band but it means all the old instruments, which are still in excellent condition, can be used for the younger participants.

Peter Butterworth and Deborah Milton have tasked themselves with

**By Kim White**

finding a group of brass players, aged up to 19, to form the band. There are no formal entry requirements but a short audition will be necessary.

Rehearsals will be held at police headquarters each Wednesday between 5.30pm and 6.30pm and regular attendance will be expected.

Peter explained: "We are fighting against a number of other bands who have been granted lottery money and are trying to start Youth Sections so we know it is no easy task. But our aim is to encourage and develop the musical ability of local youngsters, giving them the opportunity to meet and rehearse a wide variety of music, ranging from light classical to pop and rock."

So if you are a budding brass player or know someone who is contact either Peter on 01245 223661 or Deborah on 01245 354060. You don't have to be connected in any way to Essex Police.

# News from the sports association

THE Force Sport and Leisure Shop will be closed between Friday, February 20 and Monday, March 16, as will the Force Sports Office.

The shop will be open again after this date during the usual hours: 12 noon to 2pm Tuesday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays.

Each year the Essex Police Sports Association makes two awards to a member or group of members who, in the

opinion of the management committee, have made an outstanding contribution in the service of sport, and an outstanding performance in sport.

Nominations for this year's awards have to be submitted in writing, along with a brief pen picture of the candidate, stating the reasons for the application to the Force Sports Secretary, no later than Monday, March 16.

As the holiday time is coming round again,

a reminder that all members of the Essex Police Sports Association are being offered from Thomas Cook Travel Agents, in Chelmsford High Street, half the normal commission on any currency and travellers cheques purchased.

They will also buy back any unused currency, commission free, if £100 or more was originally purchased.

Compliment slips are available from the Force Sports Secretary.



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