



**Pupils collect prizes - P5**



**New stars in Roadshow - P6**



**Teenagers are commended - P8**

## Plan to take us forward to 2000

CHIEF Constable David Stevens has met with senior managers of the force to debate the challenges ahead and the future direction of Essex Police.

The two-day workshop at Danbury Park Concentration Centre concentrated on developing a mission statement, discussing the major issues facing Essex Police and developing methods of working, to ensure full consultation and prompt decision-making.

The workshop represented a step towards re-writing the Essex Police Long Term Plan.

A further two days are planned at Wivenhoe in November, which will consider the force objectives and targets for 1999/2000.

Further details will be published in *The Law* in due course.

## Charges in rape inquiry

A LANDSCAPE gardener has been charged with three counts of rape during one of the most intensive joint investigations Essex Police has seen.

Operation Catchment originally involved both Essex and British Transport Police but now includes Metropolitan Police.

It followed the rape of a 25-year-old woman in the car park of Brentwood rail station in 1992 and a second attack on wasteland near South Bermondsey rail station in March this year.

During the course of the investigation a third woman

● Continued on page 2.

## Essex at forefront as new measures come into force

# TEAMS TARGET YOUTH CRIME



● Sgt Rennie Chivers gets in some practice.

## Needle match

FOR Rennie Chivers, it's a seamless transition from Police officer to tailor.

The Colchester sergeant is so good at sewing his skills have earned him a place in the national finals of the Dressmaker of the Year contest.

His competition entry, a waterproof ski top, will be judged in the finals at the Birmingham NEC on Friday, October 9.

And for the lucky winner, a stitch in time will mean nine nights in Toronto.

**ESSEX Police is at the forefront of moves to tackle youth crime.**

The Government this month announced new powers to tackle youth offending and to prevent young offenders spiralling into a cycle of crime.

Local curfew schemes for children under ten came into force throughout England and Wales on October 1, in a move which allows local authorities to deal with unsupervised children of this age out on the streets late at night.

Other new measures to tackle youth crime will be piloted in nine areas of the country.

Essex Police is already doing a lot of work in terms of tackling youth crime and is one of the lead agencies in the Youth Offending Implementation and Planning Group.

This is a multi-agency group, comprising police, probation, education, health, social services, Crown Prosecution Service, magistrates and groups such as alcohol and drugs services.

Together they are aiming to create a number of youth offending teams next year, possibly in the Spring, having been working together on the issues since April this year.

Such teams are one of the measures being piloted by a number of forces - not including Essex - for 18 months.

The Government has set a deadline of April 2000 for the youth offending teams to be fully operational nationally.

It is felt that the ground-

**By Norman Hicks**

work being done in Essex already will better prepare us for the 2000 deadline and give the county teams the opportunity to learn from the experience of the pilot areas and, if necessary, adapt the Essex scheme accordingly.

Insp Jacqui Cheer, of Essex Police Community Safety Department, who is working with colleagues on the ground breaking project, said: "There are a number of measures which can be used to tackle the problems of youth crime, but in our view it is important to first identify the causes."

"We believe that, through the multi-agency approach of youth offending teams, this will be achieved. It is then and only then that other measures should be considered."

The project team feel there would be little benefit in implementing schemes which provide only a temporary solution to the problems of youth offending, or which serve to push the problems to other areas.

● Continued on page 2.

## New fund launched

MORE than £2 million has been paid into the new Investment Funds, introduced by Police Mutual, in the first two months.

The first investor, Sgt Gerald Clark of Avon and Somerset Constabulary, was congratulated by Mark Sedgley, Operations Manager of Investment Services.

Anyone wanting further information regarding the new Investment Funds can telephone the inquiry line on 01543 305303.

## Rape charges

Continued from page 1. was raped as she walked home from Royal Albert Docklands Light Railway on September 21.

Four days later a man was arrested and subsequently charged with all three attacks.

Anthony Chandler, who is 40 and from Waterloo Gardens in Romford, has also been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

## Driving safety home



MOTORISTS from South Woodham Ferrers and East Hanningfield Neighbourhood Watches took part in a recent drivers' safety evening.

The event was organised by Carol Sullivan, service manager of Dovercourt in South Woodham Ferrers and held at the Ford garage showrooms.

Dovercourt technicians gave demonstrations on everyday vehicle maintenance and safety checks, including changing a wheel,

checks on oil, coolant, tyre pressures and fuses, and more.

Insp Nick Banks from Chelmsford Police Station gave advice on personal safety, car security, and what to do when your car breaks down. He was declared the star of the evening for his demonstrations of self defence techniques.

ABOVE: One of the Dovercourt technicians shows service manager Carol Sullivan how to change a wheel.

## Essex takes lead over youth crime

Continued from page 1. "Through the involvement of the youth offending teams we hope to ensure that all subsequent schemes, such as curfews or parenting orders, are only implemented if they are likely to prove effective in the long term," said Insp Cheer.

The measures to be piloted outside Essex include:

- Final warning scheme - repeat cautioning will be abolished and replaced with a statutory final warning scheme

- Parenting orders - to help and support parents to control the behaviour of their children, requiring parents to attend counselling and guidance sessions

- Reparation orders - to make young offenders face up to their crimes and the consequences. This could involve writing a letter of apology, apologising in person, cleaning graffiti or repairing criminal damage

- Action plan orders - a short intensive programme

combining punishment, rehabilitation and reparation.

Announcing the measures, Home Secretary Jack Straw said: "In the past, young offenders have been left to wreck their own lives and cause havoc in communities. These new measures will radically overhaul the system that allows this to happen."

### Adolescents

Chairman of the Essex Police Federation Joint Branch Board, Sgt David Jones, echoed the views of national chairman Fred Broughton, when he said: "The real and potential troublemakers are not the under 10s, they are the adolescents who hang around street corners and roam neighbourhoods committing petty and not so petty crime and harassing people."

- Deputy Chief Constable visits China to share expertise on youth policing - page 3.

- Mentoring scheme for young offenders - page 5.

# Pension plans rejected

EVERY rank has dismissed pension proposals outlined in the consultation paper which would significantly reduce the protection afforded to officers who carry out one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs in society.

"The wholesale rejection of the proposals shows how shameful they are. They seek to destroy not only the safety net for dedicated officers but the benefits for police widows, widowers and dependent children," said Fred Broughton, Chairman of the Police Federation of England & Wales, which represents 126,000 police officers up to and including the rank of Chief Inspector.

The current proposals would radically worsen pension benefits for new recruits and also serving officers who have been

## Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



paying their pension contributions in good faith with a reasonable expectation that benefits, including those related to ill-health and injury, would not be reduced.

Police officers would have to work an extra five years to be eligible for just a half pay pension with a lump sum, rather than two thirds pension with a right to commute that.

### Hazards

New recruits, whose average joining age is 24, would find it virtually impossible to accrue even half pay pension by retirement age under the new proposals.

The plans would also significantly diminish the status of the police pension which, it is argued, should not be compared to most public sector schemes whose employees do not encounter the same hazards and whose pension schemes are not comparable with the police.

The present scheme reflects the unique nature of policing where duties are regularly

undertaken in all weathers and during unsocial hours. Policing involves a greater risk of assault or injury than virtually any other profession and the combined demands take their physical and mental toll.

Medical retirements, as a percentage of total retirements, have already reduced in England and Wales by around 20 per cent in eight years. If, through improved management of medical retirements, this level could be achieved and sustained throughout the UK, the cumulative savings over 25 years would be around £1.25 billion against the £350 million cost of the proposed scheme over the same period.

A two-tier system already exists with entrants joining since 1994, having lost housing allowance allocated to other officers and suffered a reduction in the rate of starting pay. The service believes that worsening pension rights as well would be extremely damaging for morale as such inequalities would prove a hothouse for resentment.

The 1994 changes have already proved divisive and damaged morale with officers in the same rank doing the same job being paid less. That lesson should have been learned already.

It is feared that the proposals to reduce pension rights for the police could also affect recruitment level and lead to fewer high calibre entrants.

In a very competitive professional recruitment market, you could forgive high quality recruits, including graduates, for choosing significantly safer professions with equally good pension schemes if the current proposals are implemented.

The review also includes proposals which would penalise the families of police by dramatically reducing the levels of spouses' pensions by around 25 per cent, making their levels of income lower than most UK pension schemes.

The police service expects that officers who take risks in the performance of their duties deserve to be able to do so in the knowledge that their families will be properly provided for in the event of a fatality.

Altogether, the proposals are nothing short of outrageous. What is being offered is second rate pension scheme for a first class service. Our officers deserve better.

## Good Co-op rates

CO-OP Loans are still offering good rates and first class service. If you are thinking of borrowing, give them a ring. I appreciate some other companies might be cheaper, but check the hidden costs. It's your choice at the end of the day. Telephone 0800 591 683 and quote reference 791/225 Essex Police Federation to claim your privilege rate.

## Barclays Bank offer

BARCLAYS Bank are offering £20 if you open an account with them.

Barclays at Work has been launched to give employees the chance to qualify for a monetary incentive when applying for a Barclays bank account.

As well as a quick and efficient account opening process, benefits of the account include a free debit card for use in shops and cash machines; 2,000 branches throughout the UK; over 7,100 cash machines in the UK; Barclaycall Telephone

Banking; access to a full range of financial services, and as an added bonus, you can receive £20 in your account if your application for a Barclays bank account is approved.

Simply call into any of the participating branches at Braintree, Burnham-on-Crouch, Chelmsford High St., Coggeshall, Chelmsford Moulsham St., Danbury, Dunmow, Great Baddow, Halstead, Kelvedon, Maldon, Southminster, South Woodham Ferrers, Tiptree and Witham.

## Deal of the month

THE Mobilefone Group are still offering free new phone, call 0800 006000, quoting Police Federation, for the deal of everything.

If you are looking for a

new phone, call 0800 006000, quoting Police Federation, for the deal of the month.

## Essex to trial Ford's latest model

ESSEX Police will shortly take delivery of two of the very first Ford Focus cars.

Kitted out in full force livery, the vehicles will be evaluated on behalf of Ford's development team.

Both cars will be used on division as front line response vehicles during the trial, which is for an indefinite period.

### Patrols

The new Ford Focus has been designed to replace the Ford Escort, currently used on division for second-line response and patrols.

The Focus is described as smaller than the Ford Mondeo - the current first-line response vehicle - but with more cabin space.

# Deputy Chief Constable takes expertise to Far East

# China law week spotlights youth

**THE Deputy Chief Constable is taking his expertise on youth policing issues to the Far East this week.**

Charles Clark has flown out to China for British Law in China Week, which is looking at law and human rights issues.

Its aim is to increase knowledge and understanding of China's legal system for British delegates, while providing a greater understanding of the British legal system for the Chinese hosts.

The week has been organised by

### By Alyson Mountney

the British Council, the Great Britain China Centre, and the Chinese Ministry of Justice.

Mr Clark led an ACPO working group which last year developed and published a report entitled Reducing Anti-Social and Criminal Behaviour Among Young People.

In China he is speaking at a seminar on youth justice with academic Roger Hopkins-Burke, from the Scarman Centre, and David Kelbie, Sheriff of Aberdeen.

### Opportunity

Before leaving for China, Mr Clark said: "My contribution is going to be on children and young people as they relate to criminal justice issues and

policing, how the UK deals with children and young people as victims and witnesses, and as offenders.

"The thing that excites me most about it is the fact that what I consider the best policing - in the world - British policing - is having an opportunity to put forward its case on juvenile justice issues to a culture and country that's very different to ours.

### Experiences

"If we can help others by our hard bitten experiences over many years in this arena, I think it will be enormously rewarding. It's a chance to stimulate thought in a completely different culture and regime, among academics, police officers, and officials from Government departments.

"Once we make these links, there's always the possibility of keeping them up."

Mr Clark, a member of the ACPO

Crime Committee, was the ACPO representative on the Audit Commission's national working group which published the influential report, *Misspent Youth*, last year.

He represents ACPO on the Youth Crime Group for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. He was also a member of the NACRO working group which published a report early last year on *Remanding Boys Under 15 Years To Prison*.

### Justice

He is a member of a national multi-agency group overseeing the development of the new youth offending teams. He is currently chairing a national working group for ACPO seeking to identify best practice in relation to restorative justice techniques.

## Review success means changes to talkthrough

RESTRICTIONS on the use of the talkthrough facility on personal radios will now become permanent following a successful two-month review of radio use.

The review was set up by the FIR working practices group and was prompted by concerns about the effectiveness of personal radios, with some officers reporting that they were unable to get through to FIR controllers at the first attempt.

During the two-month period, which ended on September 1, officers were encouraged to recognise the limitations of their personal radios and get the best out of them.

Another aspect was the use of talkthrough, which enables officers in a division to hear each other talking on personal radios.

Until the review began, three divisions had the provision to be on talkthrough all the time, due to the historical belief that this could overcome poor reception on the UHF channel in some areas.

Technically this is not the case, and not only is permanent talkthrough against Home Office guidelines, it can clog the airwaves and make it more difficult to get through to a controller the first time.

But it is recognised that the facility is vital in some instances, such as calls for assistance, pursuits and major incidents, so from now on it will be used where necessary.

Supt Bob Ward, chairman of the working practices group, said the review had proved successful.

"It's been generally accepted that the radio system has improved as a result," he said.

"We would like to thank everybody for their participation and assistance in the trial."

He said there had been some concern about the handling of one incident during the trial, but lack of talkthrough was not felt to have been the main cause of the problems experienced.

## No red rags, please



**BIRDS of a feather flock together. At Police HQ Complaints and Discipline Department, the gathering instinct is more bovine.**

**Sharing an office there are Det Chief Insp Graeme Bull, left, and Ds Tony Bull.**

**The partnership is working well, but the pair are denying that when retirement beckons they plan to set up business together in a china shop.**

A BENFLEET woman phoned to report "a man in silver flying through the air". A quick check with Air Support Unit was able to

### Offbeat

reassure the caller that she had witnessed a micro-light aircraft in the skies above her home!

**BOCKING** Traffic officers were able to help a motorist on the M11 who used the emergency phone system to report that she had broken her glasses while driving her BMW towards London.

A quick repair job was effected and the lady went happily on her way.

**A RAYLEIGH Burglary**

**Roadshow turned up a surprise find for one woman who had been burgled two years ago.**

**"That's my gold crown," she cried, pointing to an item which had been logged as "a coffee bean".**

A TOMMY Cooper look-alike, wearing nothing but his underpants and a hat was reported by a Shoeburyness woman who had spotted him walking along Royal Artillery Way, Southend. Despite an area search, there was no sign of the underdressed pensioner. He'd disappeared. . . just like that!

## Anti-speed campaign catches 11,400

ESSEX Police's September anti-speeding campaign netted a total of 11,432 speeding drivers.

Officers from traffic units all over the county used the latest technology - including, for the first time, mobile speed cameras - to detect motorists breaking the legal speed limit.

Traffic cameras were activated 4,125 times and 7,217 drivers were stopped at the roadside. Of those stopped, 5,666 were given warnings, 1,319 were issued with a fixed penalty ticket and 232 were, or will be, issued with a summons.

Officers also targeted speeding motorcyclists following a rise in the number killed or injured on the roads. Altogether, 169 were caught speeding, with cameras activated 38 times and 131 stopped at the roadside.

Insp Tony Rayner of Headquarters Traffic Division said: "This illustrates Essex Police's commitment to tackling speeding drivers, who are a major cause of death and injury on the roads."

# Law letters

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

## Europe: a few home truths...

FRANK Card states that David Hurrell contradicts himself against the EU (June) on the law. Rather than express subjective opinions, the following facts may assist in clarification.

The European Court of Justice ruled recently that pension benefits can be claimed back to April 8, 1976. The ECJ and the EU, under Articles 177 and 189(3) of the Maastricht Treaty possess supreme powers to over-ride national law, as necessary. The UK cannot apply national law in such a way that it complies with EU law.

Information from the Office of National Statistics reveals that, since 1973, 145,000 directives/laws (currently 80 per month) have been imposed on the UK. Parliament cannot repeal them.

EC 6th directive will extend

VAT to food, children's clothing, newspapers, books, new houses and public transport. In the UK these are zero rated, but will be harmonised to Europe, where up to 25 per cent VAT is levied.

### Deficit

If the UK Parliament cannot determine our taxes/laws, then it is redundant because it is part of a federalist state, now being described as the European Union of the Social Republics (EUSR), which explains why Mr Hurrell considered the EU as a form of communism.

As for the so-called EU benefits, it is also revealed that before the UK joined the EEC, we had a manufacturing trade surplus with Europe. It is now an accumulated deficit of £144 billion - the EU needs us more than we need them - but a £97 billion surplus with the rest of the world.

The EU has no money. Last year UK taxpayers paid the EU £10,000 million, but received back only £6,000 million, which is then called Euro money.

The balance of £4,000 million was redistributed to foreign EU member states.

Ireland received £2,000 million. This enables an Irish pensioner couple to receive £140 per week, compared to a UK couple's £103. They also get unlimited free travel, free TV and telephones, gas and electricity allowances, good clothing and residential care without the need, unlike 40,000 UK elderly last year, to sell their homes.

### Fuel

If the UK scrapped paying the £10,000 million, it would pay for our 170,000 UK elderly in residential homes; give every one of our ten million pensioners an increase of £1,000 a year; cut tax by 12p

in the £ or build a new hospital every week. Do your readers agree that charity begins at home?

It was only because UK taxpayers paid the EU £400 million less last year that Gordon Browne has given us some of our own money back as a £20 fuel allowance

As for the single currency, Frank Field, chairman of the Parliamentary Social Security Committee, produced a report which describes it as a "pensions time bomb", because it would lead to a single taxation system and UK taxpayers would fund social benefits, listed as 19 per cent of GDP for the UK; 98 per cent for Italy; 113 per cent for France and 139 per cent for Germany, costing £1.2 trillion a year, increasing our national debt from £5,000 to £30,000 per head of UK population.

Walter Ablett,  
Chelmsford

## ...And while we're on the subject

REGARDING your correspondent's letter (A Euro contradiction, *The Law*, September 98), I suspect the parallel Mr Hurrell hints at between the EU and communism is drawn from the view that, with a federal union, each nation is reduced to a mere vassal state.

Coupled with this and so often overlooked, we can be dictated to by a body of eurocrats in Brussels.

In 1991, just prior to the EEC members' meeting in Maastricht, I was one of ten people fortunate enough to be chosen throughout Britain to take part in a TV programme, featuring MPs and other celebrities on a panel which put the issues of the single currency, sovereignty and defence before the viewing public. All issues were strongly debated.

For myself, I have always been opposed to the concept of European unity. After all, we had EFTA (European Free Trade Association), so why tie ourselves in with a more complex system, along with the diktats that went with it?

In my opinion, such a tie-in was a betrayal of the Australasian faction which had supplied us with a wealth of bargain foodstuffs for ages.

The EU, as I see it, is nothing more than an updated rehash of the medieval Hanseatic League, which was followed by the Merchant Adventurers.

As far as a single currency goes (Heaven forbid), once the bulk of our gold reserves are under lock and key at Frankfurt, or wherever, our destiny - i.e. sovereignty - can be controlled by fiscal policies by others.

My fear is that any referendum prior to the concept of joining the single currency may well be fudged, in so far as being fully explained to the British people.

We have been a member of this so-called exclusive club since the mid-1970s and, so far as I can see, we have been saddled not only with hassle, but all the disadvantages, with precious few, if any, advantages that went with it.

Alex Jennings,  
Burnham-on-Crouch

## Heartfelt thanks

ON behalf of my family and myself I would like to thank everyone who sent flowers and kind expressions of sympathy on the occasion of my husband Charles's death.

Also those who supported me over the past few months of his illness.

Sheila Petty-Mayor,  
Southend-on-Sea

See page 10  
for more  
of your  
letters

## Remembering friends

I READ the last edition of *The Law* with great shock and sadness. I refer, of course, to the reported sudden and untimely death of Pc Bob Foster.

I suppose I thought that 30 years in the Job had taught me just about everything about the frailties and uncertainties of human life.

How wrong can one be. This was even more unbelievable because Bob's passing was not due to some obvious terminal illness or horrendous accident, but it seems was just a pure sudden death of a person who was very conscious of his own physical fitness.

I first met Bob when he

### ON behalf of the Chernobyl Children Life Line I would like to thank all who made the day at Corringham Police Station a really enjoyable day.

As you know, the police in Belarus are feared. So it was a great experience for them to come close to the British police.

They went home with many happy and lasting memories of Thurrock

and, hopefully, better health.

Once again, many thanks from the hosts of the Thurrock Link,

Jean Lindsay,  
Link Chairman,  
Corringham

joined the then Harlow Division, as Detached Beat Officer at Littlebury, whilst I was stationed at Saffron Walden.

I found Bob a very likeable chap and very easy to get along with.

Later on, when he moved to HQ, I would still bump into him during my occasional visits for various courses or routine training days.

He always had time for a chat and a joke about past times.

On one occasion I recall attending HQ for training in arrest techniques. Bob enjoyed using me as his guinea pig, inflicting his own brand of extra strong holds.

There were no hard feelings, just painful ones and we ended the day with a good laugh.

I will remember Bob with affection and trust that my few feeble words will bring some small comfort to his wife and family, to whom I extend my sincere sympathy at this difficult time.

I was also saddened to read of the death of ex-Pc Stan Miller, who was the first senior constable to accompany me on my initial tentative days in Romford, back in the dim and distant days of the early Sixties.

(Ex-Pc) Dave Rose,  
Linton,  
Cambs

# Thanks from Chernobyl

## Friends' support

BOB and I would like to thank all friends and colleagues who have supported us, by thought, word or deed, over the tragic loss of our son Matthew.

Nothing in life can prepare you for such a devastating event and, as parents, we have had to perform the ultimate act of love and complete our son's life circle for him.

This circle was made slightly more tolerable knowing that everyone involved with our family, either on the day of his accident or since, have done their utmost to act in a caring and professional manner.

Thank you to everyone, especially Pc Darren Potts and Jean Manders for their kindness.

Carol and Bob Fielding,  
Chelmsford

## Tributes for Derek

I WOULD like to express a sincere thank you for all the floral tributes, donations and cards of condolence received in relation to the passing of my dear husband Derek Thompson.

Derek would have been extremely proud at the atten-

dance of so many ex-colleagues and friends at his funeral. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and will be very sadly missed.

Pearl Thompson,  
Shoeburyness

## Keeping it in the family

IN 1972 ex Sgt Harry Bearman, Dan Burg, and his wife Harriet walked from their son's house to All Saints' Church, Springfield, where they were married, as part of their diamond wedding anniversary celebrations.

Ex-Insp Ron Bearman, HQ Traffic and his wife Kay, fol-

lowed by also celebrating their diamond wedding, on September 17, 1998. Because the church in which they were married in South East London is no longer there, they in turn walked from their home to Springfield Church as part of their celebrations.

I am the third generation, but sadly never made it to be in the force, but having been in the environment since a youngster, I know my father would be delighted to see this item in *The Law*.

Pete Bearman,  
Cormorant Walk,  
Chelmsford

Still  
time to  
take  
part in  
project

# Warning signs for children at risk

**MORE than 500 delegates attended this year's Essex Child Protection Committee conference, held in the Pavilion at Essex Showground, Great Leighs.**

The theme was Substance Misuse and Child Protection, and the conference's aim was to raise awareness among those working with adults with drug or alcohol problems of the dangers to their children as a result.

There is a strong link between drug and alcohol abuse and child abuse and neglect.

## Drama

As part of the conference, England's international award winners Eyewitness Theatre Company performed *One Mad Rush*, an awareness raising drama workshop on drugs and drug use, showing the effects of different drugs, which drugs are dangerous and some basics about the complex drug laws.

It centred on the moral dilemmas for professionals who encounter drugs and drug taking in their working lives.

In a second drama workshop, *Where's Jamie?*, also performed by Eyewitness, the complex issues of parents with a history of substance abuse and the dilemmas and difficulties of multi-agency working were addressed.

During the conference Eyewitness performed *One Mad Rush* for an invited audience of young people over 13 currently being looked after by Essex County Council and their carers.

Before the start of last month's conference Helen

Brown, ECPC training and development co-ordinator, said: "One Mad Rush seeks to break down the professional barriers that have been created through legacy and tradition over a number of years. The scenarios that Eyewitness perform are very entertaining but will provoke discussion and help in the drawing up of recommendations that ECPC can use in the future."

"Drugs today are now more widely available, and more and more people are using them. A lot of what people

## By Tina Starling

learn about drugs tends to be what they pick up from friends and often throws up more questions and worries than answers. Since the emergence of the rave scene taking drugs and going out has become a big part of youth culture."

She added: "We would like all young people, especially those being looked after by the local authority, to have enough information to remain safe".

ECPC draws on expertise and experience from a number of sources. Its members come from a variety of organisations including acute and community healthcare trusts, health authorities, social services, police, education, probation, district councils and the NSPCC.

Its aim is to promote and develop protection for the children of Essex by co-ordinating the work of the agencies and to raise awareness of child protection issues within the community.

The Eyewitness Theatre Company has become a

leader in the field of staff development in health and social services provision. In May the company won the International Theatre Festival in the USA.

The winners of the 1998 annual awards for innovation within child protection services in Essex were presented with their awards during the conference.

## Award

The award, which is made by ECPC, is the group's way of celebrating good practice and innovation in children's services in Essex.

The winning project was Essex County Fire and Rescue Service's (ECFRS) "Juvenile Firesetters Scheme". The NSPCC was highly commended for its Essex Child Witness Support Project.

The ECFRS scheme was introduced to deal with children and young people who have a tendency to play with matches or lighters or deliberately start fires. The judging panel felt it was a dynamic and innovative project and embraced the Fire Service's duty to protect children in the widest sense.

The project received a financial award of £200, collected by Sub Officer Andy Taylor, of ECFRS Community Education Unit.

## Support

The Essex Child Witness Support Project introduced by the NSPCC provides support to any young person who is required as a witness in the Crown Courts in Essex. The judging panel felt this scheme was a very close runner up and it was awarded a discretionary award of £150, collected by Maggie Pryce, project leader.

The scheme has broken new ground in gaining judicial agreement to its volunteers actually accompanying the link room. This is clear indication that the scheme has achieved a high level of esteem in legal circles.

## Road safety poster prizes



**SCHOOL children who took part in the Road Wise scheme earlier this year have collected their prizes for designing the winning posters in a road safety competition.**

The four Year 8 pupils of Ockendon School collected their prizes from Chelmsford-based art suppliers Hussey and Greaves, joint sponsors with Daler-Rowney Fine Art Materials.

The two-day Road Wise project in June was organised by Essex Police Traffic Division, in partnership with Thurrock Road Safety Department and Ockendon School, to drive home the road safety message to Essex youngsters ahead of the school holidays.

It included a visit to Essex Police HQ, where they tried out the skid pan and received road safety instruction, as

well as visits to Arena Essex motor-sport centre - where Alan's School of Motoring gave them a driver's perspective on road safety - and the Ford Motor Co crash centre at Aveyley.

Back in the classroom, the 120 pupils who took part in the project were given cycling proficiency training and taken part in drama classes, as well as the road safety poster design competition.

The winning posters will be used by Essex Police to promote campaigns against speeding and drink-driving.

●Pictured (left to right) are: Ockendon School art teacher John O'Dowd, pupils Kate Smerald, Emma-Jane Sleator-Rollins, Mark Sherman and Annabelle Thorpe, together with Peter Harrington, assistant manager of Hussey and Greaves.

## Mentoring scheme for young offenders

RETIRED police officers are just the kind of people Essex Social Services are hoping District Council and Tendring District Council are hoping to recruit to make their pilot scheme Mentoring for Young Offenders succeed.

Covering the Harwich and Clacton areas, the project aims to reduce crime by giving young people aged 16-17 an adult who will befriend them, build a trusting rela-

tionship with them and who will help them find alternatives to criminal behaviour.

The adult will provide additional contact for young people on a programme co-ordinated by Essex Social Services youth justice team, therefore limiting freedom but offering support.

David Gower, youth justice worker, said: "Police officers know the problems caused by

young people to themselves and others. A consistent mentor, able to work alongside the youth justice team could make the difference and break the offending cycle and encourage a more responsible way of life."

If the pilot proves successful, the scheme could be used throughout Essex as a way of delivering community safety and the Crime and Disorder Act objectives.

Anyone who is keen to get involved in the scheme will need to be interested in working with young people, motivated to prevent crime, willing to participate in selection and training and be police checked.

Expenses will be paid for those involved in mentoring.

If you would like more information, contact David Gower on 01206 573188.

## Alarming results

A SURVEY conducted by Essex Police during a driver fatigue seminar last month produced some alarming results.

Of 119 drivers surveyed, 66 per cent admitted having felt themselves doze at the wheel more than twice in the past year and 15 per cent said they had done so more than ten times in 12 months.

The message being given at the

seminar, held at the UCI Cinema, Thurrock, that tiredness at the wheel kills.

The seminar, organised jointly by Essex Police, road safety organisation Brake, Volvo and Commercial Motor magazine, explored current thinking about mental and physical effects of fatigue on driver abilities and examined the most effective techniques for reducing the risk of fatigue.

# Inquiry opens into gun death

by Kim White

**ESSEX Police found itself leading a major joint investigation with Suffolk after one man was blasted to death with a shotgun, and a man and woman were seriously injured.**

And when the person believed to be responsible was found wounded by armed officers and later died, a decision was made to invite the Police Complaints Authority to oversee an independent inquiry into his death.

Events unfolded at about 8.40 on the evening of Wednesday, September 9, when officers were called to the report of a shooting in Pleshey Road, Ford End, a village on the outskirts of Chelmsford.

Martin Cass, a 23-year-old man, had been shopping with his girlfriend Jane Smith, and her two children, and had just arrived back at her home in Pleshey Road. Before they made it inside the house, Mr Cass was shot in the head and killed instantly. Miss Smith ran for cover at a neighbour's house but was also shot, suffering serious neck and shoulder injuries.

The gunman escaped, but early reports suggested he might be John Piccolo, the former boyfriend of Miss Smith.

As the search began news reached Essex that John Piccolo's son Darren had been found shot and seriously injured in a car stopped in Suffolk. Officers watching John Piccolo's house in Dallinghoo had seen the car arrive containing two women, and then saw it leave a short while later with a man on board. Once safely away from the house it was stopped and the third victim discovered.

The women in the car were John's daughter and mother. Also on board was his four-year-old grandson.

The help of the media was sought to track down the gunman and ensure public safety. At a press conference a photo and description of John Piccolo was issued.

While detectives from Suffolk and Essex liaised over background information and traced key witnesses, armed officers responded to possible sightings. To ensure a thorough and co-ordinated approach, Det Chief Supt Lee Weavers was appointed the officer in overall command.

Work continued throughout Thursday and new information led police to appeal for sightings of a red Mercedes.

As the evening drew in at least three calls were made by members of the public who believed they had spotted the vehicle near Ingatestone. Armed officers made their way to the village, saw the car and made an armed challenge.

The officers report hearing a shot and seeing a man slump forward in the car. They discovered John Piccolo in the driver's seat with a head wound, and rendered first aid. Despite their attempts Mr Piccolo died in Oldchurch Hospital the following day.

Darren remains in a critical condition at Addenbrooks Hospital, and although said to be improving, has been unable to talk to police.

Work is currently underway to provide detailed information to the coroner.

The PCA investigations continue but a statement issued the morning after events at Ingatestone read: "There is currently no evidence to suggest that a police firearm was discharged."

## New stars in roadshow re-launch



**TOP** Children's BBC presenter Kirsten O'Brien has joined the 2 Smart 4 Drugs team for the award-winning roadshow's third year.

The flagship initiative - a partnership project between Essex Police and Essex FM - uses music, fun and excitement to attract the attention of youngsters, and delivers a strong anti-drugs message.

Last year it was highly commended in the Government's Tackling Drugs Together awards.

The roadshow has now established itself as a prime feature in drugs education, and has attracted major sponsorship this year from Sainsbury's, Eastern Group and Essex Rotary Clubs.

### Leaflets

2 Smart 4 Drugs will be performing in ten schools to nearly 5,000 youngsters between now and Christmas.

Sainsbury's will be backing up the message with leaflets aimed at parents available in supermarkets where the roadshow is being held.



● Top - The full line-up of stars in this year's 2 Smart 4 Drugs Roadshow pose for the cameras.

● Left - Chief Constable David Stevens with some of the stars in the roadshow during a break in rehearsals at HQ.

## Kirsten and co tell pupils they are 2 Smart 4 Drugs

Kirsten O'Brien is co-hosting the show with Essex FM presenter and roadshow regular Paul Lovett.

Taking part is upcoming Westcliff group Skandal, singer Adam Austin, the

Chain Reaction Theatre Company and the Essex FM Street Dancers.

Independent research carried out for Essex Police last year concluded that youngsters were more receptive to

the roadshow approach because they did not feel they were being lectured at.

The research adds that the drugs message is "much more likely to hit home when put across in this way."

# Blackmailer caught by good teamwork

WHEN security manager Paul Bovingdon was jailed for six years for attempting to blackmail his employers, it brought to an end

one of the most successful and far spread Essex Police operations undertaken in recent years.

Although employed by parent company Bass Charrington, the 49-year-old Yorkshireman chose as his target Chelmsford based softs drinks manufacturer Britvic, part of the Bass Group.

On Tuesday, March 31 this year, a tetra pack of Robinsons apple juice, spiked with a harmless food dye injected through the foil straw hole of the carton, arrived in the post, addressed to Britvic managing director Stephen Davies at the company's Broomfield Road headquarters.

It was accompanied by a written demand for a substantial amount of money, with the threat that refusal to pay up would result in further contamination of the company's products.

## Contact

Det Supt David Bright, the Senior Investigating Officer in charge of the subsequent inquiry, said the problems posed by this first contact were not limited to the threat against Britvic.

"What we had to consider then wasn't just about catching the offender, it was also the degree of danger to which the public could be exposed," he said.

"The drinks being targeted are drunk by children more than anybody and we had to consider whether or not the product should be cleared from supermarket shelves across the country.

Essex Police  
and new  
National  
Crime Squad  
forge  
successful  
partnership

"A number of serious operational and policy decisions had to be made and, throughout, these were made in conjunction with and with the full support of the aggrieved company, which was a tremendous plus factor in the progress of the investigation," said Mr Bright.

A second letter, also posted in York, arrived at Britvic Chelmsford a week later, confirming the previous package and alerting Mr Davies to expect further contact to be made by phone.

Two calls were received, on April 20 and 21, from phone boxes in Yorkshire, followed by a further letter, which arrived on April 24, setting up delivery of the money demanded for Tuesday, May 5.

Said Mr Bright: "The new National Crime Squad, formed the day after Bovingdon's first letter to Britvic, provided us with tremendous support from the first day, as well as making a little bit of history as the first operation taken on by the national squad.

"Over a five week period, the demands on Essex Police and the Squad were considerable, especially taking into account that this was a covert inquiry.

"Although the blackmail demand was made to a national company at its depot in Chelmsford, inquiries were conducted throughout East

Anglia, the Midlands, north of England into Scotland, as well as within the Metropolitan Police District," he said.

"On the day of the arrest 152 officers were involved, making it probably the biggest crime operation that Essex has had for some considerable period of time."

It was also the first product contamination demand Essex Police had investigated for a good many years and, although experienced detectives, led by Det Supt Bright, were used on the inquiry, they were grateful to be able to tap into the relevant skills and expertise of the National Crime Squad officers during the investigation.

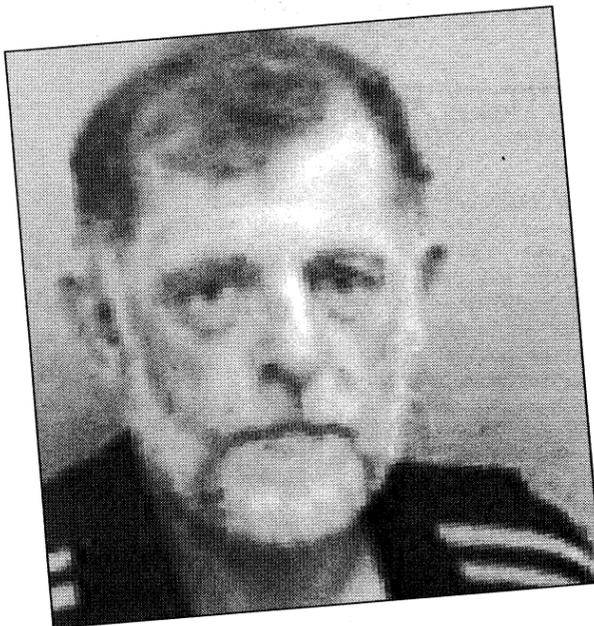
## Support

"We were also blessed with outstanding support from Britvic, right up to the chairman at Bass, Sir Ian Prosser. It was an excellent team effort. I could not have wished for better support," said Mr Bright.

Detailed arrangements were made by Bovingdon for the cash drop in a series of phone calls from public kiosks in Yorkshire and Scotland in the days leading up to May 5.

These included the provision of two mobile phones, to enable the blackmailer to make direct contact with the

**By Norman Hicks**



● Blackmailer Paul Bovingdon

courier and give him instructions on the route he was to take.

The first contact was made outside a roadside restaurant on the A64 at Tadcaster, when the courier was called on one of the mobile phones and told to drive towards Oxtun village.

He was told where to find his next instructions, which were typewritten and directed him to a remote lane, where he would find a five bar gate at the entrance to a very large area of scrubland.

The bag containing the cash was to be dropped over the gate and left for collection. The courier was to leave via the A64 and await a further call that the money had been retrieved.

"The officer who took on this task was working in total darkness, in an unfamiliar area, which was thick with vegetation and brambles," said Mr Bright.

"He had no idea if he was going to be attacked and I believe he showed exceptional bravery and great professionalism in carrying out this particular role."

The drop area was surrounded by police officers, some undercover, others in back-up vehicles nearby. West Yorkshire Air Support Unit helicopter flew over the site and in so doing located

Bovingdon using a thermal imager.

When he was arrested he was wearing Army combat type clothing and his face was blackened. He had with him a telescopic night sight and mobile phone.

At first he claimed to be badger watching, but was in possession of the bag containing the ransom money. He later admitted his guilt.

"Bovingdon was knowledgeable about the area where the drop took place and he was skilled in Army surveillance techniques. More importantly, he was a company employee, with responsibility for Bass security in north east England and Scotland.

"This meant we were dealing with someone of that knowledge and skills, who knew all about police procedure with regards to product contamination threats," said Mr Bright.

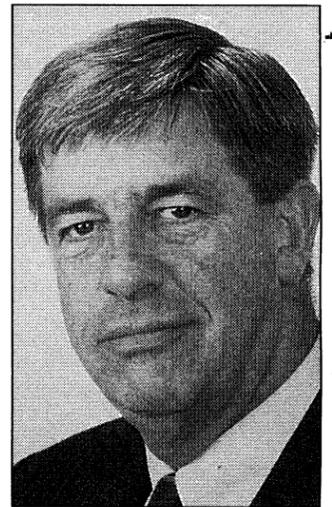
He praised the skills, professionalism and dedication of all officers involved, especially those who manned the special areas of operation during the five-week period, the West Yorkshire ASU crew and Essex Police Press Office staff, who managed to keep the operation out of the public domain, even though some in the newspaper world had gained knowledge of the investigation in its early stages.

"I would like to give my personal thanks to all those inside the force and the media who maintained silence about this inquiry. Without their co-operation the investigation would have been seriously jeopardised."

His Hon Judge Benjamin Pearson, jailing Bovingdon for six years, told him he had committed a serious breach of trust against his employers and that companies such as Britvic, selling products for human consumption are entitled to the courts' full protection.

## Praise

Praising the police officers involved in the investigation, Judge Pearson said: "In my judgment this amounted to a very skilful and very sensitive investigation of what was an extremely serious offence, for which the consequences could have been disastrous.



● Det Supt David Bright

"The investigation required the employment of very large numbers of police officers and police resources generally.

"It necessitated enormous organisation, skills and a very high level of professionalism," he said, adding that he was "pleased to commend the officers concerned".

Further praise for the officers involved on the investigation came from senior personnel both at Britvic and Bass.

Sir Ian Prosser said: "We were very pleased with the excellent relationship that developed between my organisation and Essex Police and I am very grateful for the support given to us throughout the entire duration of the operation."

Britvic managing director Stephen Davies added: "I would like to record my thanks to Supt David Bright and all of his team who worked with us at Britvic on the recent blackmail case concerning the threatened contamination of Britvic products on supermarket shelves.

"I was very impressed and encouraged by the co-operation, commitment and dedication of all the police officers involved, combined with their professional expertise, the easy manner in which we were able to work with them and all of which led ultimately to a successful prosecution and satisfactory conclusion to this case."

**'I am very grateful for the support given to us throughout the entire duration of the operation'**

**Sir Ian Prosser,  
Chairman of  
Bass  
Charrington**

## Inquiry re-opens into Jamie's death

ESSEX Police have reopened their investigation into the death of Jamie Collins aged 24 who died following a night out in Southend two years ago.

Jamie was found unconscious behind Brocketts nightclub.

There were many people around who may have witnessed something but have never come forward.

Detective Supt Lee Weavers said: "We are reaching out to people hoping they realise the enormity of what has occurred. This terrible tragedy has scarred the family, which has a baby at the centre, for the rest of their lives."

In an effort to establish the circumstances leading up to his death his family made an emotional appeal for help at a recent press conference.

Jamie did not live to see his daughter Jamie who appeared at the press conference.

Following that a number of new people came forward but detectives are still anxious to trace the writer of an anonymous letter sent to them shortly after the relaunch of the inquiry.

## AGM

ESSEX Police Museum annual meeting takes place on Tuesday, October 13, at 2.30pm, in the Conference Room, at Headquarters.

Anyone wanting to attend or help in any way with the work of the museum is asked to contact the secretary, Martyn Lockwood, on extension 50294.

# Teenagers' wise actions praised

**THREE** teenage boys who acted wisely and sensibly when they came across a woman trapped in her car in rising flood water have been awarded Chief Constable's Commendation certificates.

On April 16, 1998 police were called to an "elderly lady stuck in car, water coming into car" in Mill Road, North End, near Dunmow.

On arrival the police officers were met by the three boys, Jamie Redworth, 15, Terry Wiffen, 16, and Ashley Lawrence, 15, all from Felsted.

The three boys had discovered the car in a remote location and while one boy stayed with the woman, offering reassurance, the other two boys went in separate directions to raise the alarm.

This resulted in two calls enabling the police to pinpoint the exact location of the car.

### Submerged

The boys directed Police to where the car had tried to pass through flood water on the road and in the middle of the water, which spanned about 500 feet, the front of the car had become submerged in about three feet of water.

This caused the electrical systems to cut out, the central locking to activate and the electric windows to lock, so the woman was trapped inside the car.

Pc Chris Smith and Pc Perry Lands, based at Chelmsford Police Station, waded through the flood

### By Helen Cook

water and were able to release the boot catch and help the woman to safety. She was very cold but otherwise uninjured.

The commendations have been awarded to the boys for their initiative and actions. The boys also spent the day visiting the Driving School, Air Support Unit, Museum, Dog Section, Armoury and other departments.

At another ceremony Dc Nigel Perry, Epping, was commended for his professional ability, skills and thoroughness displayed during the investigation of a complex case relating to the high-jacking of a Sudan Airways Airbus at Stansted Airport on August 26, 1996, involving 198 passengers and crew.

Dc Christopher Winstone, Braintree, has been commended together with other officers for the high degree of professionalism and commitment displayed during the investigation into a triple murder at Rettendon on December 7, 1995.

Two men were convicted at the Central Criminal Court on January 20, 1998 and each sentenced to three terms of life imprisonment for these murders.

The same two men, together with one other, were sen-



● Jamie Redworth and Ashley Lawrence with Chief Constable David Stevens. Terry Wiffen was unable to attend. Photo: HQ Photographic

tenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 4 1/2 to 8 years at the Central Criminal Court on March 4, 1998 for conspiracy to import controlled drugs.

Pc Philip O'Connell, Harlow has been commended with other officers for his actions on January 1, 1998.

### Dispute

Following a domestic dispute in Brentwood the father of the woman involved suffered a heart attack.

The officers undertook heart massage and mouth to mouth resuscitation and kept the man alive until the ambulance arrived. He was conveyed to Oldchurch Hospital, but unfortunately died later.

Dc Terence Lambert, and Dc Robert Kidd, Westcliff have been commended for their prompt action in dealing with a child aged eight months who had suffered head injuries after falling downstairs.

The child had stopped breathing, turned blue, and was being shaken by her hysterical mother in an attempt to revive her.

The officers calmed both parents, took the child, and Dc Lambert resuscitated her resulting in her full recovery.

Pc Andrew Gladman, Harlow Traffic, along with another officer has been commended for his professional and compassionate approach to supporting the families of

those killed in a triple road death at Chadwell St Mary on June 29, 1997.

Pc Paul Restarick, Grays and Pc Joanne Barry, Stansted Airport have been commended for the professional and compassionate way in which they handled bereaved relatives at Basildon Hospital following the same fatal crash at Chadwell St Mary.

They volunteered to conduct a viewing of the badly disfigured bodies of young children killed in the crash.

The actions facilitated the wishes of grieving relatives in the most distressing circumstances.

## The healthy guide to looking after your back

WITH injuries ranging from pulled muscles to slipped discs, it is estimated that more than half the population will suffer from back pain at sometime in their lives.

For some back problems are disabling and agonising, while for others there may be only mild, occasional discomfort.

The back contains the spine, which supports the whole body and is in use 24 hours a day - even when you are asleep.

The spine consists of several small hollow, stacked bones called vertebrae, divided into 5 groups: cervical (neck), thoracic (chest), lumbar (lower back), sacrum and

coccyx (tail-bone), which in addition to providing support also protect the spinal cord. Between each vertebra are a number of flexible 'shock absorbers', called intervertebral discs, which help the spine to bend in different directions and which can suffer damage - often referred to as a 'slipped disc'.

Back pain can be caused in a number of ways. These include poor posture, lack of exercise, badly designed seating; sagging mattresses, extended periods of working in fixed positions, poor workplace design, poor car seat design, excess weight, lifting or carrying heavy objects incorrectly, pregnancy. Kidney infections, osteo-

porosis or arthritis can also cause back pain or discomfort.

If you suspect your back pain is a sign of something serious, or if it is unusually severe, then consult your GP.

Try to maintain good posture at all times. Avoid rounding your back and slumping. Try to avoid hunching your shoulders and tensing your neck when angry or stressed.

Excess bodyweight only adds to spinal stress. Take regular exercise - walking or swimming are best.

Make sure your chair correctly supports your body. Avoid over-soft or bucket-shaped seats.

Placing a small, firm cush-

ion at the small of the back gives vital support. A good supportive mattress is essential.

It should allow some absorption of the hip and shoulder.

Housework can put a great strain on backs. Learn to take frequent breaks between chores. Organise cupboards so that everyday items are easy to reach. In the bathroom, kneel down to clean the bath and toilet.

When making beds always kneel rather than stoop. Try ironing sitting down.

Clothes which restrict mobility can cause back pain. Tight jeans in particular can cause considerable back stress. High heels are likely

to cause poor posture.

Back strains can easily happen when getting in and out of the bath, so consider buying a non-slip mat or grip rail to put inside it.

At work, to avoid the increasingly common problem of back, neck and wrist pains, make sure your chair is at the correct height and take frequent short breaks to move around and stretch your muscles.

While shopping, carry heavy goods in two bags, splitting the weight between each arm. The ideal way to carry luggage is in a well-loaded rucksack or in two cases.

Pregnancy and child care often bring on long-term

backache. The rules are the same as for lifting any item.

For further advice and information contact the Occupational Health Department.

As a result of recent directives from the Health and Safety Executive, employers are now required by law to avoid hazardous manual handling operations as much as possible.

Forester Health is a health scheme for all Essex Police employees. Family cover starts at £9.10 per month, which includes up to 32 private physiotherapy treatments for each eligible family member per year.

## Throwing down the car crime Gauntlet

**BASILDON** Division launched a crack down on crime recently with an initiative called Operation Gauntlet.

High visibility policing in areas where crime was shown to be high led to up to twenty four offences, including uniform, CID, traffic and the mounted section, being drafted into particular areas to target criminals over a three week period.

Stop checks have produced results with a number of arrests, a stolen motor vehicle recovered and numerous penalty tickets issued.

Supt Dennis Sheppard who was keen to send the message 'Don't come to Basildon to commit crime', is very pleased with the initiative and residents worried about crime have welcomed the high visibility policing.

## Scribes needed

**FOCUS**, the Home Office publication dealing with police practice and research, is seeking contributors for its next issue.

The editorial team are willing to consider articles on a range of subjects, but would particularly welcome contributions on the implications of the Crime and Disorder Act, sexual violence and drugs, traffic policing and vehicle crime, serious crime and the use of psychological and forensic techniques, non-technical use of IT in police forces, youth crime, and organisational and management changes in the police force.

Topics for inclusion must be relevant and timely. Anyone who is interested in contributing should contact PRG liaison officer David King on ext. 51008.

## Brass band workshop

**ESSEX** Police Band is planning a brass workshop later this month and they are on the lookout for more youth players.

The workshop will be at Police HQ on Sunday, November 15 and will last all day.

If you are between grades 3 and 8 brass musicians and you would like to go along, contact Peter Butterworth on Chelmsford 223661 or Deborah Milton on Chelmsford 283162.

Although more youth players are needed, there is no age limit for those wanting to attend the workshop.

# Discipline rules set to change

**by Norman Hicks**

A **WORKING** Group has been set up, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, to examine new Police Personnel Complaints and Discipline Procedures and how they will be implemented within Essex Police.

A guide and training package has been provided by Training Support, Harrogate - a division of National Police Training - based on draft Home Office guidelines, the final version of which is expected to be sent to forces later this year.

New procedures relating to Misconduct (based on the present complaints procedure) and Unsatisfactory Performance will be introduced nationally in April next year.

The aim of the new Unsatisfactory Performance procedure is to strike the right balance between protecting the rights of the officer and having a modern and effective personnel process.

### Standard

Acting Supt Ray Newman, of Complaints and Discipline, said: "At the present time, if officers fail to meet the standard of behaviour expected of them, there is no formal system for dealing with them, other than the disciplinary process."

The key element of the new UP procedures is in giving emphasis to improving performance, rather than delivering punishment.

Where an officer is found to be unable to meet the standard of performance demanded of his/her role, an opportunity will be available to raise their level of performance before formal sanctions are implemented.

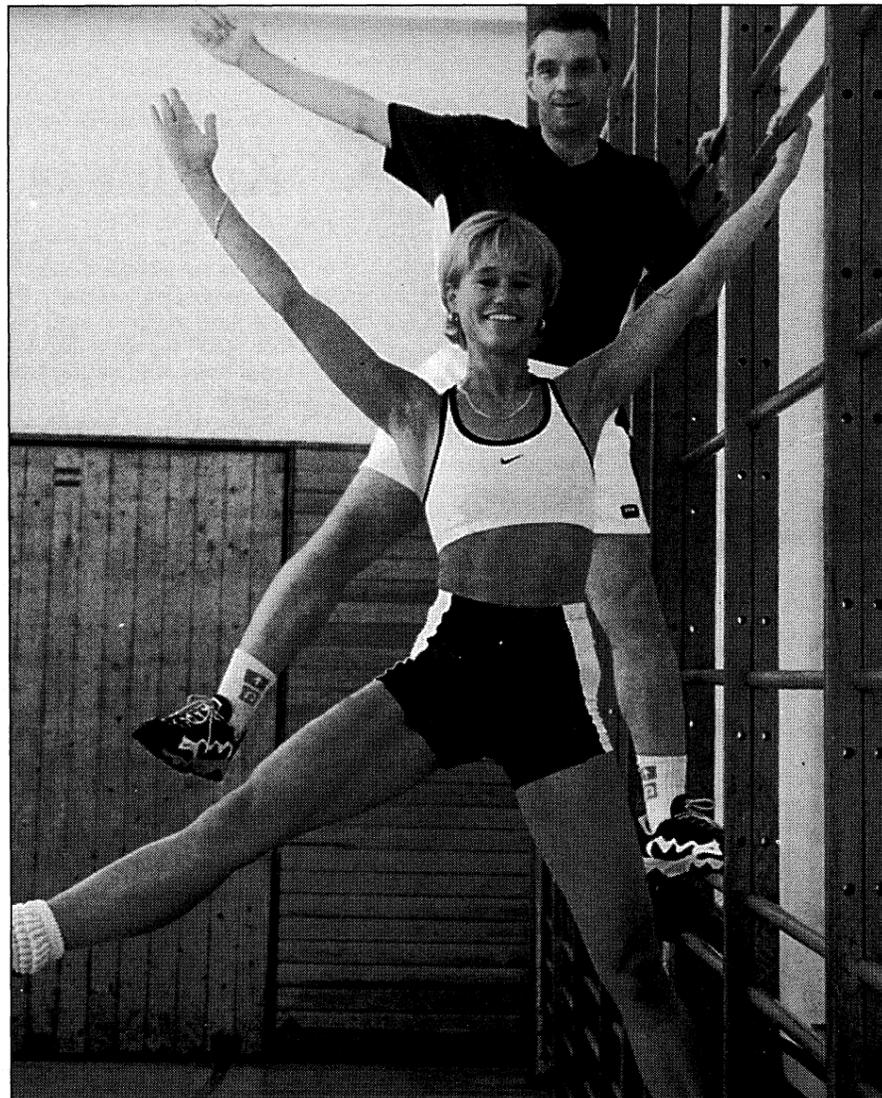
As far as Misconduct is concerned, the current Discipline Code is to be replaced by a Code of Conduct.

The key change here is

## Mediterranean cruise

THE Force Sports Secretary has arranged via Carefree Travel an eight-day Mediterranean Cruise. For only £569 the price includes return flights from London to Italy, transfers, seven nights cruise visiting Naples, Palermo, Tunis, Palma and Barcelona, sharing inside twin cabin, full board on ship, evening entertainment, all airport and port taxes. Departure date is May 30. Bookings must be made via John Stonehouse on 58888 by October 21. Application forms are available at the Secretary's office.

## Don't hang around: race to get fitter!



**TIRED** of hanging around piling on the pounds? Some of the aerobics classes in Chelmsford have changed days. Although regulars will know the new times, others may find there is now a more suitable class.

After a heavy weekend you can start with either circuit training or The 39 Steps. Circuit training is between 5pm and 6pm on Mondays at the headquarters gym.

Taken by Tracy Fritschy, it is ideal for men and women of all levels of fitness with the opportunity to take the programme at a comfortable pace. At 8.15 on Mondays Derek Sewell will take you through 39 minutes of calorie burning step aerobics followed by body conditioning. This is at Riverside Ice & Leisure Centre.

Tuesday's you can concentrate on those legs, tums and bums at Chelmsford Police station with Derek Sewell. There's no jumping around in this class, just ton-

ing exercises between 5.15 and 6pm. Alternatively you can join Tracy at headquarters for aerobics between 5pm and 6pm.

You can be spoilt for choice on Thursdays with four different classes. Between 5pm and 6pm at headquarters is step aerobics with Tracy or you could opt for The Stress Buster at Riverside Ice and Leisure with Derek between 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

This is a circuit type class using a variety of equipment. Later Derek is at headquarters for aerobics between 7.15pm and 8.15pm. He then dashes back to Riverside for 8.30pm to take a step aerobics class.

And after all that you can look forward to a relaxing weekend. For more information contact Tracy on 01245 491491 ext 52231 or Derek on 01245 514076.

Pictured - Derek Sewell and Tracy Fritschy, waiting for your call.

## Working Group prepares Essex response

that, rather than have a list of disciplinary offences, the new code will provide a set of standards, which officers must aspire to.

For example, corrupt and improper practice, falsehood or prevarication, under the present Discipline Code, will in future be covered by the standard which requires officers to behave with honesty and integrity.

Similarly, with misconduct towards a member of a police force and racially discriminatory behaviour, under the present code, the emphasis will now be on politeness and tolerance with fairness and impartiality.

Said Mr Newman: "As a rough rule of thumb, if you can't or shouldn't do it now, you won't be able to do it in the future!"

Their first task has been to gauge the amount of work which has to be done before April 1, 1999 and it has also been agreed to provide regular updates on progress to the force.

**Mind your own business**

The column of the Ex-Essex Police Business Association

ALL officers were re-elected at the AGM.

Bill Pirie remains as chairman, Neil Seymour as vice-chairman, Dick Bloomfield secretary and Bob Craven, assistant secretary.

It was agreed to hold three meetings a year which, for 1999, will be on April 7, September 8 (both at 7.30pm at the HQ Sports and Social Club) and December 8, for the Christmas function, venue to be confirmed (8pm).

Subscriptions remain at £10 joining fee and £10 first year, with no subs required from existing members.

Brian Mead showed his vast experience in the pastime of buying and selling stocks and shares and explained how money can be made with a calculated approach. We all expect to be millionaires in the near future, but expect some problems on the way!

Our appeal for general handymen met with a good response and we now have new members Colin Seal, Martin Maxim and Rod Walker, with existing member Les Blyth prepared to do various types of work in the Southend, Basildon and Colchester areas. Anyone living in Harlow, Chelmsford or Thurrock fancy joining?

All officers coming up to retirement will be sent a letter from the association, via Welfare, explaining its benefits. Dick Bloomfield will also continue to speak to pre-retirement courses.

The 1998 Christmas event will be at The Crown, Sandon, on Wednesday, December 9 (7.30pm). Details from Dick Bloomfield. New members or those requiring further information contact Dick on 01702 202959 or Bob Craven on 01702 546615.

# Retiring after more than 31 years' service

DETECTIVE Chief Insp Patrick Kavanagh, of HQ Complaints and Discipline Dept, retires on October 18, after more than 31 years' service.

Insp Mervyn Fairweather, of Essex Police Training Centre at HQ, retired on October 5, also having served more than 31 years.

Sgt Paul Probyn, retired from Sandon Dog Unit (Operations Division) on September 30, after more than 29 years' service.

Retiring on November 4 will be Sgt Brian Ridgeon, of Tilbury, Thurrock Division, following almost 29 years'

## Names in the news

service, more than five of them with Suffolk Constabulary.

Ill health has forced the retirement of Pc Robert Corrie, based at Burnham-on-Crouch in Chelmsford Division. He left on September 27, after more than 23 years' service.

### Obituaries

Former Pc Roy (Noddy) Fulcher, who served from 1952-82 at Billericay,

Hadleigh, Laindon and Basildon, died on August 27, aged 68. He leaves a widow, Elvina.

Ex-Pc Christopher Kearney died on September 10, aged 64. He served from 1960-87, at Grays, Purfleet, Harlow, Dunmow and Stansted Airport and leaves a widow, Pam.

Derek Thompson, who served as a Pc from 1948-76 at Southend-on-Sea, died on September 3, aged 74. He leaves a widow, Pearl.

# EPSA benefits for retired officers

A RULING allowing retired officers to compete in PAA events has already created one new national champion, despite only coming into force on September 1.

Retired officers have to be full members of the sports association to participate, and EPSA would like to hear from fitter former officers who want to join and swell the ranks from the present 37.

There are a range of activities that retired members can still take advantage of, and they are entitled to all the EPSA benefits, set out below.

Anyone who is interested

should contact the secretary on 588888.

1. You can take part in the monthly force lottery, with prizes totalling over £4,000.

2. You can make use of the Force Sports and Leisure Shop.

3. An additional 10 per cent off items at all Choice discount shops in Essex.

4. 5 per cent discount on all items at Curry's superstore, Chelmsford.

5. Discounted hotel prices at some top hotels in this country and some abroad.

6. Travel insurance scheme (for those not in the Federation scheme).

7. Discount off travellers'

cheques and currency, Thomas Cook, Chelmsford.

8. 15 per cent discount from all Dale Hire sales centres in Essex.

9. Discounts from City Electrical Factors Ltd.

10. 10 per cent discount on clothing at Hollington Bros, Coggleshall.

11. Free use of the function room in the Sports Pavillion at HQ, currently being used for wedding receptions, adults' birthday parties, etc.

12. Holiday bargains as and when, e.g. cruises and New York shopping trips.

13. 10 per cent discount on parking at Gatwick airport.

**AIWA** stereo NSX360 CD player £80 ono. Fidelity 14in. colour TV £40 ono. Pc Simon Harman, Chelmsford 467376.

**CYRIX** 200 MMX computer, 48mg RAM, 24sp CD-Rom, 33.6kb modem, 600mg hard drive, Win 98, Word, Publisher loaded, £450 ono, Pc Golding, Laindon Traffic, extn 43188.

**DISNEY** World three-bedroom luxury villa, ideally located 15 minutes from Disney World, with own private 25ft heated pool, air conditioning. Sleeps up to eight, £425 per week. Stephen Warwick, Harlow extn 20110.

**HIGHLAND** Holidays. Bed & breakfast and evening meal in the beautiful Highlands of Scotland. En-suite, shooting, fishing, walking, skiing, bird watching, many other pursuits, or just relax in the comfort of our

Austrian style home set in its own grounds. A 20 per cent discount for all Essex Police personnel past and present. Call Andrew Nunn (ex-Pc Chelmsford Traffic) on 01479 841717.

**LUXURY** one-bedroom Spanish pueblo style house overlooking Mijas golf course and Fuengirola. Malaga airport half hour drive; beach two miles. Recently refurbished. South facing terraces. Three pools with children's paddling facilities on site. For two people £150 p/w, 3-4 people £200 p/w. Contact DI Gary Glassfield on 01245 328262 or 75115.

**LUXURY** villa Gulf coast, Florida. Swimming pool. Quarter share freehold offered £4,500. Interested? Contact Dave Sweeney 01702 544545.

**ROVER** Metro GTA 16v, white 1992 K-reg, 29,000 miles, fsh, central locking,

# Law letters

Continued from page 4

## Thanks for the big send-off

I WRITE to thank everyone who attended my farewell drink and who gave me a really good send-off. The gifts, especially the suitcase, will be very useful with my proposed foreign travel.

I thought Des McGarr's speech was excellent and balanced the humour with the more serious sentiments. However, my advice to anyone else considering leaving Corporate Support Department is don't let him talk to your staff or get anywhere near your personal file!

On a more serious note, I

leave with mixed emotions, as I have enjoyed my 16 years with Essex Police, but the opportunity to meet more challenges and broaden my horizons is one that I do not feel possible to let go.

Once again, thank you to everyone who came to see me off and, to those who couldn't make it, I hope to see you all again in the future, as I have promised to keep in touch.

I wish all my colleagues and friends every success in the future.

**John Black,  
Earls Colne**

## Kindness appreciated

MAY I, through *The Law*, express my sincere thanks to the serving and retired officers and civilian staff for their kind thoughts and letters of sympathy on the death of my wife.

Nesta died in hospital on September 16. Over a year ago she fell and fractured her

neck and was totally disabled.

May I also thank the retired ladies of the Panda Club for their letters of condolence.

**W A Petherick,  
Ex-Acc (O),  
Halesworth**

## Book your seats

**BEST seats for the award-winning musical version of Disney's Beauty And The Beast are available from £15 (normally up to £32.50) until October 23.**

The offer applies Monday through to Friday. To book, call the

**Dominion Theatre Box Office, 0171 656 1888, and quote "Autumn Special Fax Offer - Essex Police."**

Please note bookings are subject to a £1.95 booking fee and the offer is subject to availability.

## Market Place

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX


Name and Rank .....

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

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

## Your chance to sky dive

HAVE you ever watched skydivers on the television and thought "I'd like to do that"?

With a little training, you too could be freefalling from 13,000 feet safely harnessed to a qualified tandem parachute instructor. You might want to progress further and obtain a category 8 licence, enabling you to skydive solo.

You'd be surprised how easy it is to get started.

Do something different and learn to skydive.

Anybody interested in a tandem jump or full accelerated freefall course should contact Sgt Russ Woolford at the Air Support Unit or Pc Tim Sanders at the Underwater Search Unit.

# Have cricket veterans played final match?

ESSEX Police Veterans' Cricket Club could have played their final match, unless more players come forward to support the team, which was founded in 1987.

A group of ex county police players got together then to form the club, with the intention of playing a few matches annually against other veteran sides.

The founding group included Johnnie Johnson, John Stonehouse, the late Nigel Grainger, Fred Nichols, Barry Tarbun and Alf Henry. Said Alf: "The team has been playing half a dozen matches each year, but in these last couple of years, unfortunately, it has been struggling, despite the efforts of Martin Reed, Chris Martin and others, as team support has been lacking."

A meeting has been arranged in November, to make a final decision on the club's future, but Alf said he was not hopeful they will be able to continue.

If it does fold, the club will at least have gone out on a winning note.

In the final match this sea-



● The victorious Veterans' Cricket Club team.

son, against Billericay Cricket Club, there was a full turnout of 12 players from the Veterans, who batted first and made 225 for 5.

This was due to a great batting performance from guest Brian Davenport, who scored 104, helped by Martin (20) and Morgen (37).

The opposition started well and got to 31 before losing their first wicket.

They gradually lost wickets

at regular intervals and were all out for 163.

There were good bowling performances from Mick Patrick, conceding only 32 runs from his 11 overs, Chadwick, with 3-39, Merry (2-13) and Lapham (2-7).

"It was a fitting climax to win the last game and I was privileged to have captained the team on this occasion," said Alf.

"I would like to thank all

the members of the team over the years for their team spirit and friendship and hope to see them in the future."

Alf can be contacted on 01992 522304, for further information.

Essex Police Veterans CC vs Billericay CC:- Martin, Chadwick, Davenport, Morgen, Frost, Croot, Lapham, Stubbs, Merry, Henry, Patrick.

## PAA

**TENNIS.** The national PAA Lawn Tennis tournament was recently held in Leeds. Pc Sarah Hewing (Pitsea) won the Ladies Singles title, beating Maggie Loughton of Humberside in the final, 0-6, 6-4, 6-1.

This is the first ever Essex success in any PAA Lawn Tennis tournament. A fantastic achievement. Very well done, Sarah!

## Games date

THE International Police Law Enforcement Games will be held in Dubai between November 4 and 12.

Neither the PAA nor EPSA will sponsor the event or provide any facilities. Nevertheless there is no objection to police officers making their own private arrangements to attend the event.

## Lottery

THE result of the October lottery was: £1,500 Pc Mark Shaw, Basildon; £1,000 Christine Hope, Corringham; £500 Dc Christine Thomerson, HQ Complaints; £300 Sarah Cook, Colchester; £200 Pc John Summerfield, Tendring; £100 Pc Steven Jones, Saffron Walden.

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes: Dc William Lang, Harlow SOC; Det Supt David Bright, HQ; John Preston, Chelmsford; Pc Stephen Dewberry, Westcliff; Michael Barry, FIR; Reginald Shelley, retired; Anthony Belford, Southend; Pc Derek Gargan, Harlow; Pc Gareth Lomasney, Tendring; Pc Paul Restarick, South Ockendon.

## National plea for boxers

THE Police and Community Boxing Association of England (formally the British Police ABA and PAA Boxing Section) are seeking any police officer or member of amateur boxing.

In the 1998/1999 season the association is already scheduled to box against a number of teams including the British Army at Spalding, Lincolnshire, the Combined Services at Jersey, the USA Police Athletic League at Miami, Florida and Gateshead, the Caribbean

Police at Orlando, Florida, and a number of other prestigious opponents.

This season we are scheduled to hold an Assistant Coaches course and full coaching course as well as staging other major events.

Any current boxers, coaches or officials who are interested in becoming involved in the association should contact secretary Barry Jones on (01276) 453708 (home), 0973 723121 (mobile), or write to him at 38 Colville Gardens, Lightwater, Surrey, GU18 5QQ.

## Rugby tourists

THE Essex Police Rugby Club announce their forthcoming tour to Newcastle upon Tyne in November this year.

The exact date which is to be decided by members will be circulated shortly.

Details of the tour are still to be formulated but it is anticipated that two games against local clubs and a floodlit evening match will be played.

Newcastle Upon Tyne

Police will provide some of the usual tour hospitality.

Coach transport and local accommodation will be provided on the tour, the cost will be between £50 - £70.

A deposit of £25 is required to secure a place.

Any members of Essex Police wishing to join the 1998 Rugby Club tour are asked to contact Dc Richard Shakespeare on extension 52392.

## Triathletes shine

OFFICERS who competed in the London triathlon have cause to celebrate after all, bar one, finished in the top 30 of their group, raising a large amount of cash for charity at the same time.

The feat began on a warm but foggy morning with a 1500m swim in Victoria Docks.

Unable to see the finish line for fog Pc Chris Mathlin still managed to reach land first, out of 150 competitors. He was swiftly followed by fellow swimmers Insp Mark Harman,

Pc Paul McFadyen, Sgt Pete Bryan and Pc Paul Purkiss.

Unfortunately Chris wasn't so lucky on the bike leg of the competition when his new 'thoroughbred mean machine' suffered a puncture and he was unable to complete the 25 miles. Although he ran the third event of 10km to complete the triathlon, he had to be disqualified for his failure to finish the cycle.

Paul McFadyen on the other hand was in his element on terra firma pulling away in the cycle and run-

ning events to eventually finish 5th overall in the group.

Next up was Mark Harman finishing 19th, Pete Bryan finishing 21st and Paul Purkiss finished 27th.

Although the team are still collecting their sponsorship it is hoped they will have raised up to £1,000 which they are donating to the Dyslexic Institute.

Next up in the events calendar is the police duathlon in North Yorkshire on October 11.

## Paul beats top field

TOP canoeist Paul Anderson took on an international field in Dublin and won.

The Chelmsford Traffic Pc, Britain's highest ranking canoeist, won the Racing Canadian Class in The Liffey Descent event last month and came home ahead of his rivals in a time of 2 hours 29 minutes and 14 seconds.

He was representing Essex Police Sports Association.

## Essex on top

THE first round draw of the P.A.A. saw Essex Police Men's Hockey team travel to Basingstoke to take on the strongly fancied Hampshire Police team. The 3-0 win by Essex has re-affirmed the strong position Essex now has in terms of hockey at the highest level.

Chris ROUTS made his first appearance in goal since joining 'the job' but had little to do, so dominant was the Essex side.

Accomplished performanc-

es by several players led to Captain Tony Manze enthusiastically about the future.

Goals by Mark Shaw, Gary Rogers and Matt Brooking sealed Hampshire's fate.

The second round has Essex second at home to Cambridgeshire Police on Wednesday October 14, 1998, starting at 3pm at Maldon Sports Centre, supporters welcome.

Bob Ward

## Sports and social club

### Croker Cup

**HOCKEY.** The Hockey Sevens took place at HQ on September 13. The winners were HQ with 12 points, runners up were Southend with 10 points, third were Tendring with eight points. Chelmsford and Harlow finished equal fourth with six points each. No other divisions participated.

**CROSS COUNTRY.** The date for the Cross Country is Sunday October 11 at Harlow Park, First Avenue, Harlow, starting at 11am.

**SWIMMING.** The swimming gala will be held on January 24. Further details to follow nearer the event.

**SQUASH.** Any keen squash players in Basildon Division who would like to join the Croker Cup squash team to play in the competition in the first week in November is asked to contact Pc Marvin Rothman, at Wickford Police Station, on 47140.

*Sport  
and Leisure*

## Netballers' national glory



● A delighted Sue Clark collects the Silver Trophy from Chief Constable David Stevens, watched by Janet Letham..

THE PAA time by Essex at  
National Netball Highwoods Sports  
Tournament was Centre, Colchester,  
hosted for the first with the home team  
striking silver after a  
thrilling contest.

Seventeen teams entered  
the draw, pooled into three

groups, each team playing  
the others in their group for  
the first half of the tourna-  
ment in 16-minute games.

Essex A's first game was  
against Dyfed Powys getting  
off to a flying start with a 10-  
5 victory, Sam Barr, as centre,  
catching the umpire's eye as  
player of the match.

Essex then met  
Lincolnshire, with some  
good defensive work by Goal  
Defence Vicky Denmark and  
Goal Keeper Janet Letham  
providing some early inter-  
ceptions and allowing Essex  
to pull away for an 8-1 suc-  
cess, Sam Barr again taking  
the honours.

### Trained

Norfolk proved tougher  
opposition, fielding a highly  
trained side, which eventu-  
ally triumphed 12-6.

Recovering well, Essex  
then took on  
Northamptonshire, with  
some excellent shooting from  
Sue MacLellan (normally  
defence) and Goal Attack  
Sue Clark (player of the  
match), giving them victory  
by 20-4.

Appalling weather marred  
the final match against  
Strathclyde, the visitors tak-  
ing a four-goal advantage,  
before further excellent from  
defence and the shooters  
saw Essex pull back to lose  
by a single goal, 6-5. Sue  
Clark again picked up player  
of the match.

The final standings from  
Saturday's play saw Essex -  
which also included Dianne  
Gerrard (Wing Attack) and  
Sarah Hewing (Wing  
Defence) - playing for the sil-  
ver medal on the Sunday.

### Shooting

For the first game, against  
Lincolnshire, Essex had  
Hayley Barkway playing  
Wing Defence and a differ-  
ent shooting combination of  
Sue Tyler with Sue Clark,  
the latter picking up player  
of the match after a 10-9 suc-  
cess.

For the next game, against  
West Mercia, Tiffany  
Poynton came in as 'keeper  
as the hosts won 8-5.

Essex next took on South  
Wales - with Humberside  
the team to beat - Tiffany  
moving to shooter and Sue  
Tyler to Goal Attack. It was  
goal-for-goal, as a tense

match ended in a 6-6 draw.

Sue Clark returned to the  
attack against Gwent, team-  
ing up with Tiffany, who was  
shooting well.

The defence were strong  
with Janet and Hayley pick-  
ing up on missed shots, along  
with Vicky and Sam making  
some excellent interceptions  
mid court, consolidated in  
the shooting circle for a 12-6  
victory, Sam Barr collecting  
player of the match.

The final match against  
Humberside - who had earli-  
er beaten South Wales -  
would prove decisive, winner  
taking the honours.

Essex changed their attack  
again, Tiffany Poynton  
shooting, Dianne Gerrard  
moving to Wing Defence, Sue  
Clark to Wing Attack, with  
Vicky Denmark and Janet  
Letham defending the shots  
and Sam Barr as Centre.

This was a gamble which  
paid off with victory to Essex  
by 11 goals to 7. Player of the  
match was again Sam Barr,

as energetic as ever.

The overall tournament  
was won by a strong  
Metropolitan North side,  
with West Yorkshire as run-  
ners up for gold.

Essex improved on last  
year's bronze medal to take  
the silver, with Greater  
Manchester B collecting this  
year's bronze.

Thanks go to Insp Janet  
Letham and Pc Sue Clark for  
organising the event, with  
support from PS Tracey Butt  
and Pc Sue Tyler.

The tournament turned  
out to be a great success, the  
weather proving the only let-  
down.

Chief Constable David  
Stevens, who presented the  
trophies at the end of the  
tournament, welcomed the  
visiting teams and paid trib-  
ute to the organisers. He  
also thanked the sports cen-  
tre staff and caterers for  
completing an excellent  
weekend.

# BOWLED OVER!

ESSEX Police won the  
regional bowls triples cham-  
pionship for the first time in  
25 years, when they saw off  
the favourites Hampshire in  
the final.

Played on a chilly, but  
sunny afternoon at  
Maidstone Bowls Club, the  
six Essex bowlers over-  
whelmed their opponents by  
an overall score of 49-21.

Playing on rink one were  
Peter Brown (Stansted  
Airport), Alan Rees  
(Colchester Traffic Warden)  
and Brian Taplin (HQ  
Registry).

On rink two were Ray  
Howard (Steeple  
Bumpstead), John Stewart  
(HQ FIB) and John Anderson  
(Harlow Traffic).

Both rinks had even starts,  
with the lead changing at vir-  
tually every end, but by the  
half way stage Essex were

starting to pull clear and had  
soon built up a substantial  
advantage.

On rink two after nine ends  
the scores were tied at eight  
shots apiece, when Essex put  
on a superb display of draw  
bowling up to end 17, by  
which time they led 28-8.

Hampshire scored a single  
consolation shot on the final  
end, when their only target  
was to reach double figures.

Brian Taplin's trio played  
in much the same way, scor-  
ing shot for shot with their  
south coast opponents up to  
end ten, when they started to  
pull clear.

Hampshire achieved dou-  
ble figures on this rink, but it  
was still not good enough to  
prevent Essex lifting the  
long-awaited trophy.

Hampshire did take the  
fours crown earlier in the  
day, when they beat

Bedfordshire in a thrilling  
match.

Going into the final end  
they led by four shots, only to  
see Bedford holding three  
with one bowl left to play.

The Beds captain however  
could not find the accuracy  
required to make the match  
go into extra ends. Missing  
his line he left Hampshire  
the victors by just one shot.

Strangely enough, this was  
the first Hampshire success  
in this competition in 25  
years.

The Croker Cup final was  
held at Falcon Bowls Club,  
between holders Braintree  
and challengers Rayleigh.

Braintree were firm  
favourites to take the cup for  
the second year, but could not  
find the form they showed in  
the semi-final and went down  
by some 16 shots.

The outdoor season came to  
a close when the police team  
took on the Essex County  
side at Braintree Bowls  
Club.

The police were short of  
four players and had to call  
on substitutes to make up  
the numbers.

They still put on a solid  
performance, going down by  
just 11 shots over the six  
rinks.

The indoor season is about  
to begin and we are still on  
the look-out for new players.  
The team is open to all serv-  
ing officers, civilian staff  
and retired members.

If any of you are interest-  
ed in joining up, please con-  
tact Peter Brown at  
Stansted Airport, who will  
be pleased to hear from you.

**Ray Howard**

## New season

SUMMER seems to have  
slipped by unnoticed and the  
start of the new cross country  
season is upon us.

The first fixture, on  
October 1, took place at  
Lordswood, Southampton  
(report to follow in November  
Law).

As well as taking part in  
the No 5 Region Police  
League and championship,  
Essex Police are hosting the  
1999 PAA National  
Championships.

This will require a lot of  
hard work and I am sure that  
Laurie Rampling, as head of  
the organising team, would  
welcome offers of help, par-  
ticularly on the day (March

24) at Basildon.

The Essex team for this  
event will be selected on the  
basis of results over the  
whole season.

### FIXTURES

Wednesday, November 4,  
98, Maidstone, Kent; Thursday,  
December 3, 98, Stevenage,  
Herts; Wednesday, January 6,  
99, Guildford, Surrey;  
Wednesday, February 10, 99,  
Horsham, Sussex; Wednesday,  
March 10, 99, Reading Thames  
Valley (SE Championship);  
Wednesday, March 24, 99,  
Basildon (National  
Championships); Croker Cup  
Cross Country takes place on  
Sunday, October 11, 1998, at  
Harlow Park, First Avenue,  
Harlow (11am start).

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