



Photo: Chris Oldham

## The look of 2008?

IT'S not the end of the shirt, tie and cravat.

But this is how GMP's uniformed constables, sergeants, inspectors and PCSOs on the streets could soon be looking.

In the first proposed uniform change for five years, 100 officers

and PCSOs started a three-month trial this month of new tops and trousers.

The polyester zip-fronted roll-neck top is black for police officers and blue for PCSOs. The straight-legged trousers are black for

both, with cargo-style pockets.

The proposal is for operational officers and PCSOs to switch to the new style of dress for operational work but to retain their shirts, ties and cravats for ceremonial occasions, court appearances and perhaps some training events.

Frontline officers working indoors for any length of time will continue to wear shirts, ties and cravats. So will uniformed chief inspectors and ranks above them.

ACC Justine Curran, who is heading the review, said: "The aim is to develop a uniform fit for modern policing. The traditional uniform can be restrictive for officers out on the streets."

Scottish forces have already changed to the new style, as have Humberside, North Wales and West Mercia, with Cheshire and Merseyside set to follow.

Those taking part in the trials for GMP will fill in a questionnaire after six weeks and another after 12 weeks.

The views of the GMP Citizens' Panel – 3,000 people across Greater Manchester – are to be sought, as are those of the GMP Staff Consultation Panel, Police Federation, Unison and staff associations.

People can let the Force know what they think of the new look through the GMP website or by e-mailing [Uniform@gmp.police.uk](mailto:Uniform@gmp.police.uk). Internally, comments can be

e-mailed to the team monitoring the review at [Uniform-Modernisation/Greenheys/GMP](mailto:Uniform-Modernisation/Greenheys/GMP).

Ch Insp Catherine Hankinson, who is leading the team, said the proposed tops, which are all short-sleeved, were more functional and comfortable, needed less maintenance and required the minimum of ironing.

**CHANGING TIMES:** PCSO Paul Turnbull and Sgt Julie Maxwell, both based at West Didsbury on South Manchester Division, wear the new-style uniform.

## FAST TRACK

IT was called Operation Cyclone. And it lived up to its name with 25 arrests and the recovery of stolen cars worth £100,000 in less than two months.

The operation was launched following a series of violent robberies in Salford, Bury and Rochdale.

A gang from Salford smashed their way into homes and threatened occupants with a variety of weapons.

Their motives were to obtain keys for high-powered cars parked at or near the addresses.

The vehicles were used in a chain of crimes, including cash-in-transit attacks, ATM attacks and shop robberies in Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire.

At least 60 incidents were linked to the gang and their associates, including a £1 million jewellery robbery in Lancashire.

One suspect was arrested hiding in the loft of his grandmother's house.

Another was linked forensically to four balaclavas bought at a shop in Cheetham Hill.

Under the command of Ch Supt Kevin Mulligan, head of Salford Division, the Operation Cyclone team was led by Det Ch Insp John Piekos, with Det Insp Howard Millington, Det Sgt Simon Butterworth, Det Con Chris Potter, Det Con Darren Hankin and PC Jeff Lyons.

They were assisted by Field Intelligence Officer Lee Earnshaw and Salford analyst Joanne Yates, together with Bury and Rochdale officers, the Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit, Tactical Aid Unit, Road Policing officers and the Air Support Unit.

The whole operation, said Det Insp Millington, was 'the perfect blueprint' for proactive policing and co-operation across divisional boundaries in targeting suspects.

"For an operation pulled together so quickly, the results have been outstanding," he said.



**How Operation Wolverine is returning £200,000 worth of cars to finance companies every month (but not this one). Page 9.**



# Charting the Way – the next steps

**T**HE development of Charting the Way is continuing with a number of key pieces of work emerging from the comments and ideas of GMP officers and staff and informing the future direction of the Force.

The Command Team and Divisional and Branch Commanders have been actively shaping the way forward and are producing clear work programmes in the key areas below.

## PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

**You said ...** we should involve the people and communities of Greater Manchester more in the way policing is delivered and put them at the heart of what we do.

**We are ...** developing a work programme aimed at putting the people we serve at the centre of what we do and improving the quality of our services. This work will include national best practice on citizen focus and will reflect local communities' needs. Moving from policing by consent to a position where people actually participate in policing.

## OUR STAFF

**You said ...** we should value the contribution of our staff more, recognise

and reward good practice and increase opportunities for development.

**We are ...** designing a piece of work to focus on equipping our men and women to be excellent in what they do, including analysing training and development opportunities, taking away inappropriate barriers that get in the way, and better methods of recognising where our staff are doing an excellent job. We will also be developing the values that you believe all members of GMP should hold and the rights that you believe all officers and staff should have from the force and each other.

## LOCAL POLICING

**You said ...** we should concentrate on developing local policing.

**We are ...** developing better means of support for Divisional officers and staff to deliver against local priorities, building on the core principles of Neighbourhood Policing and tackling volume crime. Strengthening the position of neighbourhoods as the basic building block of policing in Greater Manchester.

## LEADERSHIP

**You said ...** we should continue our work in developing leadership across the Force.

**We are ...** reinforcing the programme to further develop all of our leaders. A

programme of work is being planned for core leaders (sergeants, inspectors and police staff equivalents) to help them understand what GMP expects from them in their leadership role and to give them the assistance to develop leadership skills and abilities.

## RESOURCES AND DEMAND

**You said ...** we should concentrate on having the right people in the right place at the right time and we should manage our resources better to match demand.

**We are ...** carrying out a major piece of work to examine how we can improve our effectiveness in delivering services to the public. Looking at calls for help from the beginning to the end: from the initial contact, how we deal with incidents at every stage in the process, through to how we follow up calls and keep the public and others informed when we have finished dealing with the problem.

There are many areas of policing such as serious crime, CJSSS, diversity and counter terrorism that we need to continue to develop, deliver and increase performance through a continuous improvement approach.

These remain key to the success of the Force and the protection of the public, but we need to give extra attention to the five identified areas above in order to meet the needs

of our communities and staff in the future and reflect their concerns and priorities.

Your views and ideas from Charting the Way have enabled us to focus on the areas which officers and staff of all ranks and our communities feel are the most important if we are to continue improving our performance and the quality of our service in the future.

## THE NEXT STEPS

Branch and Divisional Commanders will be briefing you on what is happening and how you have contributed to taking GMP forward. You will have more opportunities to give your views and ideas as part of this.

The Command Team and I will be visiting Divisions and Branches in a series of roadshows to give more details and to hold further discussion on how we go forward now we have agreed what we want to achieve.

A series of workshops will take place to map out the individual projects and actions that will deliver the new work programmes so we can forge ahead in these key areas in the New Year.

*Michael J. Todd*

## brief

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## 25 YEARS AGO

In Police Review, Robert Bunyard, Chief Constable of Essex, revealed that faced with a man on hunger strike and with their patience wearing thin, officers in Southend 'cured' him 'by frying bacon outside his cell.'



**FEELING BETTER:** Crime victim Betty Hartle on her visit to Manchester Utd with Sally Reid, of Ashton-under-Lyne OPU. Inset: Betty as a special constable in the 1960s.

# An away fixture helps Betty recover from robbery ordeal

## Police trip to Utd ground makes dream come true

AS a special constable 40 years ago, Betty Hartle was ready to handle any incident, no matter how ugly, that came her way.

But at 77, she was no match for two thugs who got into her home on the pretence of warning elderly people to look out for thieves.

One of the men let himself into her house in Denton through an unlocked rear side door and went into the living room, where Betty was sitting alone.

He told the stunned widow she ought to be aware that thieves were operating in the area.

Then, before she could stop him, he started searching drawers and found her purse.

Betty tried to grab it, but he pushed her violently back on to the settee.

### Handbags

He then snatched two handbags from the floor.

Before leaving with his accomplice, who had stood on watch at the front door

throughout the incident, he warned Betty:

"Call the police and I'll kill you."

After the daylight robbery, Sally Reid, of Bogus and Distraction Liaison in the Operational Policing Unit at Ashton-under-Lyne, helped Betty to recover from her ordeal by arranging a special treat for her.

She discovered that Betty was an avid Manchester Utd supporter and longed to visit the Old Trafford ground.

So Sally set to work on organising a visit and took Betty on a guided tour of the place she had seen only on TV.

"It was just the tonic I needed," said Betty.

She served as a special constable for seven years in the 1960s in the Denton area when it was policed by Lancashire Constabulary and took part in the Moors Murders searches.

Her life, however, has been marked by tragedies of her own.

"Her eldest son was killed in a



car accident and then another son committed suicide," said Sally.

"The shock was so great that it caused her to suffer paralysis to her face.

### Corage

"But she has shown great courage in the way she has dealt with the tragedies and now with being the victim of a rather nasty bogus burglary."

As a result of a report in her local paper about the robbery, a reader contacted the CID at Ashton-under-Lyne and offered to replace the money stolen from Betty.



**MEMORY TEST:** Absent-minded motorists have been known to leave passengers behind at petrol stations, but a 63-year-old driver in Germany went one better – he forgot his car. "He just forgot about it and walked off home," a police spokesman said after the man was traced and reunited with his car in Wuppertal.

**BAD HABITS:** Police were called to a convent in Bari, Italy, after a fight broke out between the last three remaining nuns. The mother superior ended up in hospital. The Santa Clara convent has now been shut down.

**SERVICE CHARGE:** A woman in New Port Richey, Florida, called 911 (the US equivalent of 999) to complain she wasn't getting any service at a McDonald's drive-through. A police officer arrived at the restaurant and arrested the 48-year-old, who was sitting with her engine running, for driving under the influence after she refused to take a sobriety test. She made the call at 11.20pm. McDonald's had closed at 11.

**WAKE-UP CALL:** Police had to wake up a 78-year-old driver who fell asleep behind the wheel of his car while he waited at a red light in Bottmingen, Switzerland.

**PROFESSIONAL SLUR:** Even though police found his DNA on a pair of pliers at the scene, a court in Vienna cleared a 69-year-old man of breaking into a shop after his lawyer said he was too experienced to make such a basic error. He said his client, who had 18 previous convictions, would have worn gloves. "It's an insult to accuse him of such a dilettante approach," the lawyer said.

**WORK LOAD:** Police in Phelindaba, South Africa, impounded a tiny Fiat Uno car that was being used to transport two cows and two goats.

**OPEN AND SHUT CASE:** An 18-year-old woman escaped from a German youth prison by hiding in the suitcase of another inmate who was being released.

**POTTY IDEA:** A lavatory that plays the Italian national anthem was seized by police from a gallery in Bolzano, Northern Italy. Prosecutors said it was an offence to ridicule the anthem.



## XMAS CHEER ON CRIME FRONT

THERE was a Christmas bonus for the people of Greater Manchester this year with a significant drop in crime.

The number of burglaries, robberies, vehicle crime and violence against the person in the two months leading up to the turn of the year fell by 11.5 per cent compared to the same period in 2006.

This equates to 6,467 fewer victims of crime and reflects a general trend across GMP with crime in 2007 reduced by 10 per cent compared to the previous year.

Usually crime 'spikes' in the Yuletide period with criminals being more active, so the fall is even more remarkable.

Figures for the two-month period up to New Year's Day 2008 show that burglary was down 10.8 per cent, robbery down 17 per cent, vehicle crime down 22.7 per cent, and violence against the person down 4.6 per cent.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thompson said: "We and our partners in fighting crime were committed to giving the people of Greater Manchester as peaceful a Christmas and New Year period as possible in 2007. I am delighted that latest figures show that we achieved considerable success.

"GMP officers and staff have worked hard over the last year to keep crime down, and being able to continue this trend into the

festive period has been the cherry on the cake.

"We have ensured that criminals had a less productive 2007 and we will be working hard to ensure that this continues in the New Year."

Crime prevention messages are being displayed on a giant new screen at Gateway Tower on Piccadilly Station approach in Manchester (pictured left).

"It's a great facility for police to pass on important crime awareness information" said PC Stuart Pizey, the city centre Crime Reduction Advisor.

**NQSC**  
People Count

# Letters of Appreciation

Send copies of letters or e-mails of thanks and appreciation to Derek Hornby, Brief Office, Chester House, making sure the recipient's full name, not just number, is included. Letters may be edited for reasons of space.

A selection of letters of thanks and appreciation received recently at police stations in Greater Manchester

## CRIME PREVENTION, NUISANCE BEHAVIOUR, ROAD SAFETY..... PCSOs ARE DOING A GOOD JOB

WHILE there has been some negative articles in newspapers about PCSOs, I thought I would let you know that in my opinion, the Gatley area has seen significant improvement since PCSOs such as Robert Longden have been around.

Response times to calls used to be terrible. Now we get responses in minutes on some occasions. The local gangs of youths no longer think they have freedom to behave anti-socially when they feel like it.

Please keep up the good work and let the PCSOs know they are appreciated.

*Michael Williams,  
Gatley, Cheadle.*

WE write to tell you how happy we are with the PCSOs in the Rhodes area of Middleton. Over the years, we have had a number of challenging issues to deal with and have found the officers to be helpful, informative and supportive at all times.

We would like you to know what a wonderful job PCSOs Krishen Vohra and David Quinn have done and continue to do. Often in the media we are aware that your officers do not always receive a good press or support.

We want you to know that we feel your officers have made a significant improvement in crime prevention and nuisance caused by youths in the area, thus impacting positively on our residents' lives.

*Margaret McGovern,  
Senior Scheme Manager,  
Woods Court,  
Middleton.*

AT a meeting of Alkrington Home Watch, PCSO Bill Walsh was the guest speaker and the problems over parking outside Alkrington Manor Road Primary School were raised.

Over the years, we have listened to many speakers promising many things, few of which have materialised.

It is a pleasure, therefore, to express our appreciation of the considerable effort Bill is making to improve road safety.

This has included encouraging the school to write to parents warning that fixed penalty tickets would be issued to those who disregarded warning notices.

At least we now have someone prepared to make an effort to improve road safety for the children who attend the school.

It would be gratifying if something came of

his efforts.

*Roy Bowden,  
Membership Secretary,  
Rochdale Area Watch  
Association.*

THANKS to PCSOs Paul Buckley and Elizabeth Howarth for catching some nuisance youths who had been jumping on the roof of a portacabin at the side of my home and on to the sloping roof of a house next to it.

I warned them of the danger and was verbally abused. Then they started shouting and banging on my fence.

I reported this incident about 7pm and the local officers caught them the next day. Well done.

*Mrs B.H.,  
Sudden,  
Rochdale.*

A NOTE to thank PCSO Kelly Felstead from the Wythenshawe Neighbourhood Policing Team for coming to our school and talking at a full school assembly of the 600 children about anti-social behaviour, safety and forming positive relationships based on respect.

*J.C. Gretton,  
Head Teacher,  
St Anthony's RC Primary,  
Woodhouse Park.*

### QUICK TURNAROUND

I HAD my car stolen from my home and reported it immediately. Within the hour, PC Rob Booth and a colleague took a statement and visited neighbours. An hour later, a forensic officer visited and dusted for any evidence. Luckily, my car was found the next morning with minor damage. I just wanted to pass on my thanks for the way this was dealt with, which was professional, courteous and with such a quick response time.

*Steve Sheen,  
Middleton.*

### IMPRESSED

WE were impressed with the speedy response to an incident in which my husband and son were assaulted. We were pleased with the way PC Gary Owen and PC Grant Barnes dealt with the situation. Our two sons, aged 10 and 12, were very upset at the time, but the officers put them at ease and reassured them. The officers are a credit to the service.

*Susan Potts,  
Edgeley,  
Stockport.*

### ALWAYS GOOD SERVICE

A NUMBER of my staff worked with Oldham officers on an operation that involved a couple being arrested for multiple identity fraud. The officers mainly involved were Sgt Gary Watters, PC Matthew Grant, PC Zahid Iqbal and PC Craig Etchells.

My staff were impressed with their approachability, helpfulness and enthusiasm. I should also add their thanks to the staff in the custody suite.

We deal mainly with GMP and get an excellent service. It remains my opinion that the public at large have no real idea of the high level of service that the police provide.

*Gordon Robinson,  
Team Manager,  
Fraud Investigation Service  
(Organised),  
Jobcentreplus,  
Manchester.*

### EXCELLENCE

I HAD to attend court in Manchester three times within six months. During the whole process, Det Con Chris Aunins (Trafford) provided help, understanding, empathy and compassion, which helped me through the case. He demonstrated excellence in his profession.

*Chantelle Wilde,  
Surrey.*

### PAINSTAKING RESPONSE

SEVERAL lockers were forced in the male changing room in the theatre complex at Stepping Hill Hospital and credit cards and associated forms of identification stolen. The items belonged to consultants who were carrying out their duties in various theatres.

The matter was immediately reported to police and the response was excellent.

Over a few days, PC Christopher Belfield had identified a number of banking outlets where several thousand pounds had been fraudulently obtained.

He seized CCTV footage from the hospital and the banking outlets, and after painstaking inquiries gained a positive identification of the

### APPRECIATED

AFTER a recent crime incident, I would like to thank the police involved for their kind words of support and for the reassurances given to my wife by PC Steve Culshaw (Central PAD Desk, Trafford OCR) and subsequent letter informing us of procedures afterwards. They were much appreciated.

*K.G. Windsor,  
Sharples,  
Bolton.*

man who made the withdrawals.  
PC Belfield travelled around the country in the investigation, resulting in the identification of two men responsible for carrying out the thefts.

I was kept informed of developments every step of the way, which was quite refreshing.

On behalf of Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, please convey our thanks to the officers involved, in particular PC Belfield.

*Ged Hillary,  
Security Manager,  
Stepping Hill Hospital.*

**GIVE HER A MEDAL**

I WOULD like to inform you of the good things PC Anne Marie Simpkin has done for Landgate Estate. The kids are nowhere near as naughty as they used to be and have a lot more respect for the tenants. They also feel they can talk to her.

She is not just a police officer, but a friend to adults and children alike. She helped me start a 6 to 13 football team and comes to cheer them on when they play.

I am Home Watch co-ordinator on Landgate, and if anyone has a problem or wants to see Anne, they call at my home and leave their name and number. This is working well. People have reported youths who have done wrong and Anne has dealt with it straight away.

She has sorted out all the crime for us and made it a better place to live. She deserves an award for all her hard work.

*Christine Francis,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield.*

**EASED OUR MINDS**

AFTER an attempted burglary at the house next door, an officer entered by the smashed back window and found that the foreign man who lived there had been running a cannabis farm.

I couldn't believe what had been going on. We never saw much of the man and he hadn't actually moved in.

It was a very scary time for some of us in the street and on behalf of everyone I would like to praise the officers who did an excellent job in putting our minds at ease. They were PC Nicole

**Mercer, PC Andrew Halsall and PC Richard Hodson.**

*Miss T.H.,  
Leigh.*

**PERSISTENT**

WE have contacted the police twice regarding problems with tradesmen who took money as a deposit for work to be done, didn't do it and then refused to return the deposits.

We are grateful for the help given by PC Andy Potter, who has been persistent in making contact with the tradesmen and keeping us up to date with progress. So far, we have been repaid just under half the sum owed, which I'm sure we would not have received without PC Potter's help.

*G.N. Mullineux,  
Marple.*

**PROMPT**

AT 10.15pm when our daughter was in bed and my wife and I were watching TV in the front room, persons entered our house by the front door and removed wallets, coats and keys from our hallway and kitchen. We heard the intruders too late and watched as our two cars were driven away in opposite directions.

We called the police and PC Jeffrey Taylor and PC Lee Broadbent were at the house within five minutes.

Due to their prompt action, my car was recovered within an hour and my wife's at 2am that morning. Both were undamaged. I believe they were abandoned due to intense police pressure and that the thieves would have returned and retaken them if they hadn't been found so quickly.

*PA. Gardner,  
Denton.*

**INTER-FORCE HELP**

FOLLOWING an armed robbery in Windermere, Sgt Michael Reid and Sgt Carl Peterson (Collyhurst) and their team gained entry to a house with Cumbria CID officers and carried out a joint search.

They assisted in the arrest of our suspect and also found a firearm, live ammunition, ballistic vest and other items. Another man was arrested for these offences and dealt with as a

separate matter by Manchester officers.

I would be grateful if my thanks could be passed to Sgts Reid and Peterson and their team for their much appreciated support.

*Supt Don Spiller,  
Cumbria Constabulary.*

**COMMENDABLE**

FOLLOWING a burglary at our home, we write to express our appreciation for the way our 999 call at 10.45pm was dealt with.

PC David Lawton and PC James Gratrix arrived and remained with us until 2am.

They impressed us not only with their politeness, but their unhurried yet efficient professionalism in explaining the procedures they were taking.

We have lived here for 51 years and this was the first time we'd had to call for assistance.

In view of the criticism the police seem to receive from certain sections of the public and media, it is fortunate that in dealing with our type of incident, our local police show themselves in such a commendable manner.

*Mr and Mrs C. Croxford,  
Stretford.*

**CUSTOMER SKILLS**

I REPORTED the theft of my mobile phone while out with my wife and friends. The staff member who took my call, Kevin Daley (Trafford OCR), was extremely polite, professional and helpful, quickly providing me with a crime reference number.

This reflects on the professionalism of the Force, the police service and customer skills of the officer. He's a credit to the Force.

*Colin Miller,  
St Helens.*

**LIFE SAVER**

IF it had not been for PC Michael Berger, our father would not be alive today.

He had a stroke, which caused him to fall over in the road and fracture his skull. PC Berger found him at 11.55pm.

The whole family would like to thank the officer for his efforts and his action afterwards. If it were not for such officers, vulnerable adults would not feel safe and protected.

*Donna and Jonathan Knight,  
Rochdale.*



**TRIPLE HONOURS FOR LIFE-SAVER PAUL**

Officer rescued man in car fire and stopped suicide from bridge

HE won the Chief Constable's Excellence Award as Brave Officer of the Year for 2006 - and recently he received two high commendations for bravery from Michael Todd.

One of the awards presented to PC Paul Lowden was for the incident that led to his success in the 'excellence' nominations.

He saved the life of a drunken man, pulling him from a blazing car seconds before it exploded.

The second commendation was also in recognition of saving a life.

Eight months after the burning car incident, Paul responded to a report of a man acting suspiciously on Barton Bridge during the evening rush hour.

The man was standing on the outside of the guard rail, leaning precariously over the Manchester Ship Canal 95ft below.

Paul tried to talk the man into climbing back to safety, but he refused and jumped.

In a flash, Paul grabbed the man's wrist as he fell.

But the momentum of the fall and the man's weight pulled Paul over the rail with him.

**SWINGING IN MID-AIR**

As he went over, Paul snatched hold of the rail with his free hand and managed to keep his grip on the man as he struggled and swung in mid-air.

Moments later, a police colleague dashed up and seized hold of Paul and the man, stopping them both from falling.

Then more officers arrived and helped them to safety.

The rescued man was later detained under the Mental Health Act.

At the time of both incidents, Paul was a response officer on Trafford Division.

He is currently a dog handler on Bolton Division, based at Horwich.

In addition to the Chief Constable's commendations, Paul received two Royal Humane Society awards.

## Leading by intelligence

EIGHTY officers and staff from across GMP gathered at a conference in November to hear how the Force Intelligence Bureau can help them in tackling crime.

The session at Hough End Centre saw presentations on resources available to divisions to assist them in tackling volume crime, how the Force uses intelligence to tackle serious and organised crime, and information about a series of planned operations to focus on crime trends.

A new document, NIM In The Workplace, was launched at the conference.

It sets out the roles and responsibilities relating to the National Intelligence Model, as well as good practice around parade briefings.

Det Supt Russ Jackson, Director of Intelligence, said: "The aim of the conference was to dispel any myths about the Force Intelligence Bureau and promote what we can do for the Force.

"I hope people went away with a greater understanding of the resources they can tap into to assist frontline delivery, including available funds and analytical products.

"For those who weren't able to attend the presentation, it has been videoed and an edited version will be provided in due course."

Of the NIM In the Workplace document, Det Ch Insp Pat McKelvey told the audience: "The guidance has been rated 'excellent' by the National Policing Improvement Agency and makes the National Intelligence Model easy to understand.

"It explains what is required by giving examples of problem profiles, opportunity strategies, strategic assessments and briefing checklists," said Det Ch Insp McKelvey, whose remit includes NIM, Football Intelligence, evidential analysis and the Volume Crime Task Force.

The main objective of NIM in the Workplace is "to make GMP the most effective crime fighting force in the UK by reducing and investigating volume crime," said ACC Dave Thompson. To underpin this, he added: "GMP needs clear guidelines on the processes, roles and systems to be adopted by each division to provide a corporate view, focused training and examples of good practice to share across GMP".

At the conference, Det Ch Insp John Lyons explained the breadth of systems and processes provided by the Force Intelligence Bureau, from intelligence co-ordination to international information, and gave examples of how these dovetail into GMP territorial policing.

Det Ch Insp Darren Taylor outlined the work of his staff in his area of responsibility in supporting the priority themes of Xcalibre, Talon, Vanguard and drugs for which FIB is responsible for producing intelligence products.

## MORE DOGS NOW TRAINED FOR FIREARMS INCIDENTS

**WHILE plans to reduce GMP's dog total are under consideration, the number has been INCREASED in one sector.**

There are now 10 dogs available for assisting firearms officers after six recent successfully completed courses with the Dog Training Unit.

"They will assist the Force with the priority of tackling armed crime," said Sgt Alan Rose.

Whatever the outcome of the dogs and handlers review, the firearms dogs will remain a priority, he said.

The six additions – a German

Shepherd, a Belgian Malinois and a Rottweiler Shepherd Cross – are, like the other four, used for general duties.

But they now have extra skills following the four-week course at Hough End supervised by trainer PC Kevin Barnsley.

Firearms dogs are sent in ahead of armed officers and have a small camera on their foreheads that sends pictures back to a monitor.

They are trained in searching houses and other buildings, vehicles and open land.

In a siege, they can rapidly determine whether a person is armed or not.



**PAWTRAIT OF SUCCESS:** PC Lee Partington (Rochdale) with Marshall, a Rottweiler Shepherd Cross that is one of six recent additions to GMP's team of firearms dogs.



**THEY** are the only all-female pair in GMP's team of dogs and handlers.

PC Sue Burgess (Hyde) and Holly have recently completed a 13-week general purpose course with the Dog Training Unit at Hough End.

Dogs and handlers on the course were judged and licensed by PC Dave Buckley, of Nottinghamshire Police, who awarded the accolade 'best overall' to Sue and Holly.

The 18-month-old German Shepherd was bred under the in-house breeding programme run by Paul Quinlan at Hough End.

\* The NIM in the Workplace document can be found on the Solve It site on the Force Intranet.

Martin Scott, NIM Compliance Manager, has produced a document customised for GMP, with examples of best practice.

The NIM in the Workplace interactive document will be regularly updated with new examples of good practice.

For help and support on applying NIM, contact Martin Scott on extension 60115.

**INTELLIGENCE-LED:** Det Ch Insp Pat McKelvey and NIM Compliance Manager Martin Scott.



# Jailed for terrorism offences – the extremist who posed as a student

By Adrian Worsley

THE first person in Britain to be charged with disseminating terrorist information faced a hefty jail term if convicted after a trial.

But such was the weight of evidence provided by GMP's Counter Terrorism Unit that Abdul Rahman, 25, felt he had no choice but to plead guilty on the eve of his trial.

At Manchester Crown Court, he was jailed for six years for dissemination of a terrorist publication, six years for possession of an article for a purpose connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism and three years for aiding and abetting contravention of the obligations of a control order.

The sentences are to run concurrently and then Rahman will be deported to Pakistan, where he was born.

## One day at university

Rahman came to the UK in 2004 on a four-year student visa to study biotechnology, but quit the course in Dundee after just one day.

He then moved to Manchester where he began working in a mobile phone shop.

In an investigation lasting nine months and spanning continents, CTU officers uncovered compelling evidence that Rahman, who lived in a semi in Cheetham Hill, Manchester, was at the heart of a network of terror.

Described in court as 'the logistics man', he sent items including combat knives, survival equipment, radios, torches and mobile phones to Pakistan for use in terrorism.

He also admitted distributing disturbing terrorist propaganda that had been written by

people carrying out attacks against coalition forces in Afghanistan.

## Helped man to flee

He was arrested a year ago after he had helped a 22-year-old man who was the subject of a control order to flee to Pakistan.

Rahman had taken £480 out of two separate bank accounts, which was just enough to cover the cost of the man's flight from Birmingham Airport to Lahore.

During the course of the subsequent house search, CTU officers uncovered a wealth of material that backed up their conviction that not only did Rahman clearly sympathise with terrorist ideology, but he was prepared to act on it.

Among evidence recovered was footage showing Rahman and a number of associates taking part in military-style manoeuvres in the Lake District.

## Officers commended

Played in court and released to the media by the GMP Press Office, the clips showed Rahman singing jihadi songs and giving a commentary as several figures crawled on their bellies through snow as if practising a mujahedeen commando raid.

Clearly impressed with the thoroughness and professionalism of GMP's case, the judge commended the Force and surveillance officers for their skill in preparing for trial.

He singled out Det Sgt Graham Smith and Det Sgt Julian Richardson for particular praise.



ABDUL RAHMAN: He spent just 24 hours at university after coming to the UK on a four year student visa.

## CTU CHIEF HONOURED

DETECTIVE Chief Supt Tony Porter has dedicated his Queen's Police Medal awarded in the New Year Honours list to his "outstanding team".

GMP's Counter Terrorism Unit, which he commands, has been responsible for a number of arrests of suspected terrorists and the disruption of the activities of many more at home and abroad.

Formed in 2007, its number of dedicated officers and staff will soon reach 350 and has forged important links with other forces across the region.

Mr Porter said: "I could hardly believe it when the letter dropped and I am absolutely thrilled. However, I recognize the medal is recognition of the work of the entire CTU team and the contribution they have made to protecting lives and tackling terrorists.

"The successes we have had are due to hard work and have been made possible with the support of divisional colleagues."

These successes include the capture of Abdul Rahman (see above) and Omar Altimimi, a terrorist 'sleeper' arrested in Bolton and jailed in July for nine years.



Mr Porter's career in policing started in Stockport 25 years ago when he joined GMP as a Community Beat Officer. In 1996 he became sub-divisional commander at Greenheys police station in Moss Side and played a key role within South Manchester's Command Team. He was promoted to Head of Community Affairs in 2001 and two years later became Head of Special Branch which was then superseded by the CTU.

## MEDIA PACKAGE RAPIDLY COMPILED AFTER PLEA CHANGE

Abdul Rahman's last-minute change of mind in pleading guilty presented the Force with a number of issues.

For the Press Office in particular, it meant the package of background information for the media had to be compiled and finalised at extremely short notice.

However, despite the rapid turnaround, Rahman's photograph and the chilling footage of the Lake District training trip was broadcast throughout Britain, Europe, the US and as far afield as Malaysia, Iran, India and Australia.

## The making of the case against Rahman by the Counter Terrorism Unit

- 859** Number of statements taken
- 3,503** Number of exhibits in the case, ranging from clothing to receipts
- 50** Number of crates filled with documents
- 20** Number of computers seized, together with CDs, DVDs and memory sticks
- 12** Number of interpreters who worked on the case for 10 months, translating videos, audio cassettes, computer files and documents in six languages
- 3,476** Number of actions undertaken by police officers in the case

## How rape messages reached a wider TV audience

AS part of Operation Talon, GMP's approach to the investigation of sexual crime, two graphic information adverts were shown on Granada TV last month.

First broadcast on Manchester's local Channel M last May, they reached a wider mainstream audience thanks to Home Office funding and were also shown on the BBC website.

The purpose of showing the scenes, which were broadcast after 9pm, was to raise awareness of rape and to stress that there is more help and support for victims now than ever before.

The ads showed some of the consequences of rape from the perspectives of both victim and offender.

Det Ch Insp Carol Ashworth said: "We are constantly striving to improve the service and support for victims.

"Many young men, as shown in the TV messages, often don't realise the consequences of their actions.

"One of the aims of the ads was to make them understand that they are committing a crime if they fail to gain consent for sex."

**E-mails praising the campaign were received by GMP during the week when the ads were shown.**

Among them:

THROUGH a radical feminist discussion group, I learned of the rape prevention TV campaign and was seriously impressed. Pretty much all the commentary in this group was extremely positive and that's not easy in a group as proudly hardline feminist as this one. Well done - it's fantastic.

*Mia Jankowicz,  
London N6.*

I AM writing to congratulate you on your rape adverts, which I have just viewed via the BBC website. It is fantastic to see that you are addressing this issue and in particular that, for once, the advice is not telling women to avoid rape but telling men not to do it. This is a welcome progressive step and I applaud the leadership you have shown.

*Davina James-Hanman,  
Greater London Domestic Violence Project.*

# TRAINING BASE NO 5 OPENS

## Bolton is the latest to get facility in the community for GMP's student officers

by Tariq Munir



**THE fifth Area Training Base for student officers in GMP has opened at Bolton.**

The trainees will spend 35 of their 40 training weeks based at Bolton or one of the other four ATBs - Bury, Leigh, Hyde and West Didsbury.

Most of the practical training and exercises, however, will take place on the streets and in shopping centres, community buildings and other public areas.

The first five weeks of training are spent on induction at Sedgley Park Centre, where trainee officers are introduced to diversity, ethics and values, human rights and communications.

They also study first-aid, IT, lifestyle management, work-related fitness and safety training.

Bolton trainees will be based at the new divisional headquarters in Scholey Street, with their training managed by two divisional sergeants.

Seven police trainers who work in the four other training areas will also be involved in the Bolton programme.

### Classrooms

Training is balanced between classroom work, practical exercises in the community, skills development at crime hotspots and 10 weeks on the beat with a tutor constable.

Though trainees are based at ATBs, most of their training programme is spent in the community helping them to develop communication skills and learn about different cultures, community needs and expectations at an early stage of their policing careers.

Community training venues include colleges, schools, places of worship, shopping centres, sports clubs and leisure centres, shopping centres, parks and high streets.

Cathy Butterworth, GMP's

Director of Learning and Development said: "Bolton is a large town with a number of established and relatively new communities. It also has a busy shopping centre, vibrant night-time economy and a mix of urban, suburban, industrialised and rural areas.

### Ideal

"All these factors make it an ideal venue for trainee police officers to identify and effectively deal with a wide range of policing issues.

"Policing is all about people, and Bolton's diverse population will give trainees experience of many communities and cultures and make them aware of their specific needs.

"The people of Bolton will also benefit from having more officers on patrol.

"Training officers in the community in this way is a relatively new venture for GMP,

but it is proving very successful in preparing student officers for the many challenges of modern policing."

\* On the day of the Bolton ATB launch, student officers were deployed in the town centre and a PCSO spotted a man who had been made the subject of a 'direction to leave' order. Realising he had been seen, the man ran before being brought down by a student officer with a 'firm but fair' rugby tackle and arrested.

ABOVE: PC Janet Parker (IPLD Programme) observes as law trainer PC Roy Dennett, playing the part of a suspect, is questioned by two student officers.

## 200 to attend GMP analysts' conference

DELEGATES from around the country are to attend GMP's first conferences for police analysts this year.

Up to 100 are expected at each session to be held on February 20 and March 3 at Sedgley Park Centre.

The conferences, sponsored by company i2, are being organised by Corporate

Analysis staff and analysts representing divisions and departments.

The purpose is to showcase GMP's high standard of analysis to other police forces and agencies.

Speakers will include specialists from the Counter Terrorism Unit, Force Intelligence Bureau and Major

Incident Teams.

Techniques and solutions will be explored at the conferences, ranging from burglary to terrorism and a murder case study.

+ For further information, e-mail Analyst -Conference Bookings/HQ/GMP or call 0161 856 2768.



WOLVERINE TEAM: Sgt Mark Beales with (from left) PC Dave Ellison, PC Vaughan Sherrah-Davies, PC Lee Mather and PC Tim Mounfield. A sixth member of the team is PC Gary Hackett.

# DRIVING FORCE

In two years, 30,000 vehicles have been seized by GMP under new police powers

Every month, vehicles worth £200,000 (and rising) go back to finance companies

**O**PERATION Wolverine, GMP's blitz on uninsured cars and unlicensed drivers, is returning vehicles to finance companies at the rate of £200,000 a month.

In the two years since police were given wider seizure powers, GMP traffic officers have impounded nearly 30,000 vehicles - an average of more than 40 a day.

About half have been released, but only after insurance, licence, road tax and proof of ownership details have been verified within 14 days - and penalties, including storage charges, have been paid.

The rest have been disposed of, either crushed, sold at auction or handed on to finance companies trying to recover loans

after borrowers had defaulted on payments.

## DODGERS

Operation Wolverine is run from Traffic Network headquarters at Eccles and headed by Sgt Mark Beales.

It runs, in addition to regular Automatic Number Plate Recognition, checks for insurance and road tax dodgers, and Operation Cheetah, which handles camera evidence against speed and traffic light offences - including drivers who claim they were not at the wheel at the time.

Wolverine takes things several steps further.

"Forged documents, lies told to insurance companies, the illegal use of

trade or fleet insurance, false representation - we've uncovered them all," says Sgt Beales.

The new Fraud Act, which simplified a number of offences, has been particularly useful, he says, in helping Wolverine live up to its aim - to drive criminals off the road.

Mark and his team also know that they have wide public support for their work cracking down on drivers who pay nothing while the law-abiding pay more.

Between May and November alone last year, Operation Wolverine, with the support of officers throughout the Force, returned £1 million worth of vehicles to finance companies.

*THE car on the front page is a two-litre Audi A4 worth £25,000 that was seized from an uninsured driver.*

*He never officially reclaimed the car, but while it was being held at a Manchester garage on behalf of the police, it was stolen.*

*It was recovered in the Midlands, returned to GMP and is now being used as a high-visibility 'this could happen to you' warning as part of Operation Wolverine around Greater Manchester.*

*And yes, it has been registered - and insured - in the name of GMP.*



**\* Operation Cheetah was among innovations singled out for accolades last month at the International Road Safety Awards presented by Prince Michael of Kent at the Savoy Hotel in London.**



**W**ITH the support of GMP, the European Parliament backed a Euro MP's campaign against convertible weapons last month.

Arlene McCarthy led the vote on a new EU law, which was carried by an overwhelming majority.

"We have tough laws in the UK, but without tougher controls in Europe, these guns will continue to be brought in by criminals," she said.

"I want to give credit to GMP officers and the community group Mothers Against Violence who demanded action on these guns.

"Lives of young people have already been taken. We owe it to them and their families to do everything we can to take these guns off the streets."

In her campaign to toughen the law, the North West Labour MEP, who chairs the EU's Internal Market Committee, worked with Det Supt Paul Savill, former head of the Armed Crime Unit, and Det Ch Insp John Lyons (Serious Crime Division).

To show how easy it is to get hold of convertible weapons, she took a 9mm Smith and Wesson copy into the chamber for the debate.

It was bought in Germany in a sports shop and sent in the post to her office in Brussels.

Following the vote, the law will come into force across Europe this month, with a two-year deadline for member states to adapt their laws to enforce it.

The new directive will mean people wanting to buy convertible guns will have to prove their identity to a retailer or manufacturer, who will be under a duty to register the sale in the same way as for other types of firearms.

## DAY OF ACTION

TWENTY FIVE arrests were made and ammunition, weapons and drugs seized in Greater Manchester as part of a national day of action on November 28.

GMP drew on a range of resources, such as gang and gun crime experts working with the Xcalibre Task Force and specialist interview teams from the Force's Major Incident Team, as well as community and school-based police officers and PCSOs.

The Force helicopter was involved and the Dog Unit and Tactical Aid Unit searched houses and gardens in the Fallowfield, Moss Side and Old Trafford areas.

Supt Nadeem Butt (Metropolitan Division) said the day of action was part of a much wider ongoing campaign by GMP to tackle gun crime.

"We will continue to make arrests and seize firearms, build up intelligence on gang-related activity and take action to disrupt it," he said.

"Work will continue in local schools to get messages to young children to prevent them becoming involved in gangs and to work with our partners in the council to do all we can to tackle this type of crime."

The day after the operation, which saw co-ordinated raids in Merseyside, London and Birmingham, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith was at Longsight Police Station to announce the national results and to hear about GMP's work against gun and gang-related crime.

A week earlier, Prime Minister



# GUNN

(It's been brought in by the Euro Parliame  
for a crackdown on non-firing guns that ca

Gordon Brown was in Manchester, discussing the same topic.

He went to Greenheys Police Station in Moss Side where he heard about the work of the Xcalibre Task Force and he also sat in on a planning meeting of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme.

Det Supt Darren Shenton, head of the Xcalibre Task Force, said: "The Prime Minister came to look at our working practices.

"He was keen to learn how Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and community groups are working with the police to tackle gun crime in the wider community as part of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme."

The Xcalibre Task Force was established two years ago to deal with gang-related gun crime mainly on the Metropolitan and Trafford Divisions.

## Banned in UK, legal in mainland Europe

IT was Det Supt Paul Savill, when he was head of the Armed Crime Unit, who raised the issue of convertible weapons with MEP Arlene McCarthy and the use they were being put to in Greater Manchester.

He was later invited to give evidence to a hearing on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons in Brussels last October.

"We are delighted with the European Parliament's decision to pass this piece of legislation, which recognises the impact these types of weapons are having on the streets of Britain and mainland Europe," he said.

"The legislation will impose controls on the sale and acquisition of convertible gas guns, which are prohibited in the UK but lawfully possessed in continental Europe.

"They can be lethal in certain circumstances. For example, an alarm pistol that fires a CS gas pellet or a flare at close range could seriously injure or kill.

"They also have the appearance of a real firearm and can be used to intimidate people.

"Despite manufacturers' assurances and engineering attempts to prevent it, gas guns can be converted to fire live rounds of ammunition.

"Continental Europe is now a major source of these types of weapons on our streets.

"They are also a weapon of choice for many young people. Hopefully, the new EU legislation will make it harder to get hold of them and save more young people from being killed or injured."

## The new law will.....

**CLASSIFY** convertible weapons as firearms

**RAISE** standards to ensure all 'de-activated' weapons, another major source of guns for criminals, can never be reactivated

**ENSURE** all firearms sold in the EU are traceable to their owners

**ENSURE** clear and coherent marking and maintenance of a database system to aid traceability

**ENSURE** people who are a danger to themselves or others, such as violent criminals, are not permitted to buy weapons

**ENSURE** those under 18 are barred from acquiring and possessing firearms, except for hunting or target shooting with parental permission or under the guidance of a licensed adult

**INCLUDE** a review of the sale of replica weapons across the EU in two years with a view to bringing them under the control of the legislation as well.

The law sets minimum standards across Europe, while allowing all member states to maintain or introduce stricter controls as the UK has done.

It will tighten controls to prevent criminal use of firearms without adding unnecessary burdens for legal users of weapons, including hunters and sports shooters.



# LAW

nt after GMP led police support  
can be turned into lethal weapons)



ARMED WITH THE FACTS: Prime Minister Gordon Brown at Greenheys Police Station, Moss Side, with Chief Constable Michael Todd and Ch Supt Dave Keller, head of the Metropolitan Division

OLDHAM officers seized 31 ball bearing guns from a town centre shop on imitation firearms. They were on sale as Christmas gifts.

Sgt Gary Watters, who previously worked in the Tactical Firearms Unit, said: "I'm only too well aware of how realistic these

imitations are.

"When you are called to a report of someone in possession of a gun, you have only a split second to decide if it's fake or real.

"Even to the trained eye, it is extremely difficult to tell the difference."

**CONVERTIBLE** weapons are anything that looks like a real firearm – such as many alarm guns, gas guns and blank firers – and can be converted to fire live ammunition.

Converted weapons have become a cheap, popular

choice for criminals. Police cite them as an ever growing threat.

They are illegal in the UK but freely available in some other European member states.

Nearly half of all usable firearms recovered by GMP

last year were converted weapons.

Realistic replica weapons, even if not convertible, are also banned in the UK.

Controls on these weapons across the EU will be reviewed under the new law.

## THE VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION ACT – NEW LEGISLATION

- New legislation introduced on October 1 under the Violent Crime Reduction Act makes it an offence to sell, manufacture or import any realistic imitation firearm.
- A 'realistic imitation firearm' is one, which for all intents and purposes is indistinguishable from a real firearm.
- An 'imitation firearm' is anything that has the appearance of being a firearm whether or not it is capable of discharging a shot, bullet or other missile and includes soft air guns, starter pistols, cigarette lighters and blank firers.
- The legislation also now makes it an offence to sell or transfer air weapons by way of trade or business unless you are registered with the Chief Officer of Police as a Firearms Dealer.
- You now have to be 18 years old to buy or hire an air weapon. It is an offence to sell, hire, make a gift of an air weapon to a person under 18 years.
- Anyone who currently owns an air weapon or imitation firearm is exempt, but it still remains an offence to possess such weapons in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.
- The purpose of this legislation is to stop plastic guns that look like real guns from getting onto our streets and being used for criminal activity to frighten and intimidate people.
- Police in Greater Manchester are adopting a common-sense approach by informing retailers of the changes in the law and giving them some 'grace' time to get their businesses in order.
- If they don't comply they could be prosecuted and face imprisonment or a £5,000 fine.

More information: Chief Constable's Orders (published September 2007), Divisional Orders, Police National Legal Database, Xcalibre pages of the Force Intranet.

the voice of Greater Manchester Police

# brief

October 2007 [www.gmp.police.uk](http://www.gmp.police.uk)

## JAILED

These people are no longer a danger on the streets. They are in jail. They were tracked down, arrested and charged by GMP officers. Then they were convicted of gun-related crimes. And that was just in the past 12 months.

The crimes behind the faces - Centre Pages



## FACING UP TO FUNDRAISING

DET CON Alison Harwood was driving to work when she heard on the radio that November was Men's Health Awareness Month.

One idea from the Prostate Cancer Charity was for men to grow a moustache for a month (unless they already had one) to raise awareness and

help research into the disease through sponsorship.

Alison put the suggestion to her male colleagues in Crime Operations at Wigan, and far from bristling at the idea, eight took her up on it.

A month later, their growing efforts had brought in £500 – and Alison

was ready with a camera to capture their altered images before they returned to their former clean-shaven looks.

Pictured (top row from the left) are Det Con John Davies, CSI Lee Jolly, Det Con Andy Pickles and Det Con Dave Bunce.

Sitting from left, Det Con Tony

McFadden, Det Con Cameron Hackett, det Con Paul Bailey and Det Con Pete Morris.

\* Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. Every year, around 27,000 new cases are diagnosed in the UK, an average of three an hour. Deaths occur at the rate of one every hour.

## Helena stars in child safety film

**P**C HELENA HODGSON, Youth and Community Liaison Officer at Longsight, appears in a child safety DVD that went on sale last month.

'Keeping Healthy, Staying Safe' has been produced by Withington-based Child's Eye Media.

Helena was asked to take part because of her previous work as a school liaison officer on the Metropolitan Division.

The DVD, which is aimed at children

aged three to eight, is in four parts.

In Helena's 20-minute segment, she is seen talking to a group of children in a question-and-answer session about street safety and what they should do if they get lost.

The other parts of the 100-minute disc feature fire safety, road safety and beach safety.

"It's an excellent production and my own children think it is fantastic," said Helena.

Child's Eye Media, which specialises in educational films and resources, has worked with several police officers in recent years.

Its two directors, former TV producer Katy Jones and former early years teacher Linda Mort, have written to ACPO saying how impressed they have been with the officers, including Helena, they have encountered.

For more information and costs: [www.childseyemedia.com](http://www.childseyemedia.com)



## UV LIGHTS HELP IDENTIFY THIEVES

**ULTRAVIOLET** lighting has been installed at Swinton Police Station to identify criminals.

It has been fitted in the custody suite so that suspects can be scanned to see if they have come into contact with a SmartWater-protected item or been sprayed with it while committing

an offence.

SmartWater is a clear, water-based solution that is painted on to an item, with each brushstroke containing microscopic particles encoded with a unique identification number. The solution glows under ultraviolet light.

Officers can now place suspects under

the UV lighting to see if there are traces of SmartWater on their skin, clothing or footwear.

It also enables them to identify the owners of stolen goods.

Salford Division's Crime Reduction Adviser, Fiona James, said: "We are now routinely scanning everyone who is

arrested for traces of SmartWater.

"Criminals fear the product because of its forensic nature and because the police are looking for it.

"It's extremely difficult to remove and it links offenders to the scene of a crime, in some cases months after the event."

'From the poppy fields of Afghanistan to the streets of Oldham'

# Smuggled heroin was stitched in dress linings

**D**ETECTIVES from the GMP Drug Unit discovered that heroin was stitched into saris at a factory in Pakistan and posted to addresses in Oldham.

Around £1.5m worth of the drug was sewn into dress linings at premises on the border with Afghanistan.

After parcels arrived in Oldham, they were collected from various addresses by gang members and taken to a house that doubled as a processing plant.

Detectives on Operation Baton succeeded in smashing the ring and three men have now been

jailed, with others awaiting sentence.

Det Insp John Ogdon said officers had broken a smuggling ring that 'had brought heroin direct from the poppy fields of Afghanistan to the streets of Oldham'.

He said: "The lengths some people will go in order to get dangerous drugs into this country is unbelievable."

## SERVICE STATION

Officers initially swooped on two men at Knutsford Service Station on the M6.

Fazal Hussain, 40, and

Mohammed Askeem, 39, were found to be carrying £200,000 of heroin which they had picked up from Oldham and were taking to an unknown destination.

These arrests led officers to the drugs factory in a two-bedroom house in Cambridge Street, Werneth.

Four men were known to have travelled to Pakistan to co-ordinate the scheme.

At the Werneth house, officers found drug processing equipment, eight kilos of heroin and two packages.

The packages, posted from Pakistan, contained colourful dresses that had heroin sewn

into the linings.

Mohammed Iqbal, 40, and Manir Khan, 37, were arrested at the scene while a third man, Ijaz Ahmed, 29, fled, leaving three mobile phones behind.

## WORKSHOP

Subsequent footage recovered from one of the phones showed Khan sewing the heroin into dresses in a Pakistan workshop with several other unidentified men. The clip also showed him boasting about the operation.

It took an industrial cleaning company two days to clear heroin dust from the property.

After contacting the courier firm that had delivered the parcels, officers managed to intercept five more bound for addresses in Oldham.

Three months later, Ahmed, who had fled from the Werneth address, was arrested in Yorkshire.

Khan, of Hollinwood, was jailed for eight years, Askeem, of Glodwick, who had previously been sentenced to eight years for importing heroin through Heathrow Airport in 1998, was given six-and-a-half years, and Hussain, of Oldham, got six years. Sentencing of Ahmed and Iqbal was postponed.

**TWO of GMP's senior crime scene investigators, Bob Gallagher (Tameside) and Les Jones (Trafford), served in the British forces during the Falklands war. Last year, they were invited back for the 25th anniversary pilgrimage. Bob takes up the story.....**

WE assembled at the Union Jack Club in London for a reception with Lady Thatcher, then flew from Gatwick on a chartered plane, arriving in the Falklands the next morning.

We were then collected by our adopted families for the week and went to their homes to settle in.

There was a full range of sightseeing and battlefield tours laid on for people to return to places they fought in 25 years ago, and we all paraded to the Cenotaph in Port Stanley on Remembrance Sunday.

In 1982, I was serving on board HMS Argonaut as an able seaman (electronic warfare). We sustained extensive damage after being hit by two 1,000lbs bombs, dropped by Skyhawk jets at the



Les (left) and Bob (right) are pictured with Major Tom Blake from the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

mouth to San Carlos Bay on May 21, the day of the landings.

We also were strafed with machine gun fire from the jets. Both bombs failed to explode, but a fire damaged the interior of the ship.

Two members of the ship's crew were killed and others injured. The dead were buried at sea, opposite the headland to the

bay, Fanning Head.

Les served as a lance corporal in 11th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers. He was responsible for constructing the Harrier runway at Port San Carlos and later he was involved in mine clearance around Goose Green settlement.

At the end of the war, he helped in the reconstruction of Port

Stanley airfield.

We asked Dr Peter Hall, Scientific Services Director, and Joan Holcroft, CSI Unit Manager, if they would purchase some GMP plaques for us to present to the Royal Falklands Police, including the Chief Police Officer, Supt Paul Elliott, on behalf of the employees of GMP who served during the conflict and they gladly

agreed. We took four plaques with us.

There were 250 people on the pilgrimage, including veterans from Combat Stress and their carers. There were also families from servicemen killed in action.

It was a moving and memorable occasion, and Les and I were lucky – and honoured – to be asked to attend.

## Corporate Development and Performance awards

## 'Winners come from all levels'

MORE than 100 nominations were made for Corporate Development and Performance Branch's Excellence Awards of 2007.

And that, said Director Colin Baldwin, showed the respect staff had for one another and their achievements.

"All the awards were thoroughly deserved, but I'd like to make a special mention of our Branch Employee of the Year, Ross Mason," Mr Baldwin said when the winners were announced at a ceremony at Hough End Centre.

"Ross was nominated by people in every unit and at every level across the whole Branch," he said.

"He is an excellent role model and shows that winners come from every quarter, not just the high visibility services."

The awards were presented by Ch Supt Caroline Ball, head of Oldham Division, who previously worked in the Branch.

**THE WINNERS WERE.....****EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR Support Services Section Winner and Branch Employee of the Year Winner:**

Ross Mason, Administrative Assistant.

His citation said he had built up good working rapports not only with day-to-day colleagues, but also with those he deals with outside the Branch.

Comments written in his nominations (he received 12 of them) included 'fantastic attitude to work'....'he adds the human

side to work'....'always smiling, always polite'....'a pleasure to work with'....'trustworthy, highly valued'....'a real asset to the Branch.'

**Corporate Policy Section Winner:** Lee Evans, Research Assistant

Involved in delivering a number of strategic and new areas of work, including developing the complex area of business benefits and devising mechanisms to assist in monitoring Chief Officer delivery plans.

**Corporate Research and Consultation Section Winner:** Natalie Wilford, Research Assistant.

Has taken the Telephone Interviewing Bureau (TIB) forward from its inception last year. It is now a successful interface with the public, providing a level of service recovery where there is dissatisfaction.

**Corporate Information Section Winner:** Lindsay Vicary, Research Assistant

Chosen for her willingness to undertake tasks, take on extra responsibility and improve processes and products in the section.

**Corporate Review Section Winner:** Charlotte Lowe, Research Assistant.

Has consistently demonstrated a high level of accountability, personal responsibility and professionalism, combined with an enthusiasm to develop skills and experience and regularly provide support and assistance to colleagues.

**Corporate Analysis Section Winner:** Jayne Cunningham, Senior Analytical Co-ordinator.

Has undertaken excellent pieces of work throughout the year, her most recent achievement being the development of a demand management problem profile with Operational Communications Branch, the first of its kind.

**Branch Command Winner:** Brenda Cottrill, Personal Assistant to the Director.

For 'unbelievable dedication and professionalism' throughout the year, taking in her stride additional responsibilities while maintaining a high level of service.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD Programme Management Unit – Kirsten Armitage, Lesley Cullen, Lee Evans and Danny Sowden.**

Awarded for their commitment and enthusiasm in developing programme management in GMP.

Commended: Policy Team – Louise Bostock, Richard Carleton, Stephanie Chadwick, Claire Cowap, Alex Black, Eric Knights, Sarah Owen and PC Duncan Shuttleworth



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: Ross Mason with Ch Supt Caroline Ball.

**PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

Joint Winners: Ian Broadbent, Principal Analyst (Head of Profession) and Duncan Stokes, Senior Analytical Co-ordinator

Showed creativity and innovation in producing the seasonal risk calendar which unlike other intelligence or analytical products is interactive. This is the first of its kind and will hopefully assist in improving performance further across the Force.

generation.

Nominated for consistently demonstrating professional expertise, dedication and commitment, developing her area of work from scratch and ensuring it met current legislation, as well as delivering training across the Force and co-ordinating an intranet-based guide.

Commended: Janine Smith, Projects Officer, and Sue White, Risk and Insurance Manager.

**OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Winner: Chris Burton, Projects Officer – Activity Based Costing Team

For demonstrating innovation and resilience and having a positive impact on performance and results. For leading a unit with low morale and performance and turning it round.

An Audit Commission Review had given the unit only one 'good,' two 'fairs' and two 'poors,' but following Chris's work with the team, a re-inspection had brought four 'goods' and an 'excellent.'

Commended: Claire Gardner, Section Head – Corporate Policy.

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATION AWARD**

Winner: Fiona Meechan, Assistant Director

Has played a major role in the facilitation, communication, analysis and dissemination of Charting the Way across the whole Force. In the Branch, has been instrumental in informing staff, listening and responding to their views on changes to functions and roles.

**HIGHLY COMMENDED 'ALL ROUNDER' AWARD** – While these staff members didn't win any awards outright, they were nominated in at least three different categories:

Susan Carroll, Research Assistant,  
Kirsty D'Souza, Assistant Director,

Pat Garside, Staff Suggestions & Reducing Bureaucracy Manager,  
Toni Irving, Research Assistant,  
PC Duncan Shuttleworth and  
Janine Smith, Projects Officer.



TOP TEAM: from left, Lee Evans, Kirsten Armitage, presenter Ch Supt Caroline Ball, Danny Sowden and Lesley Cullen.



**WEARING** authentic protective suits, a dozen teenagers were confronted with a dummy body and make-believe blood sprays. Then, following a basic lesson in finger and foot prints, they were released on to the scene to collect evidence.

In conjunction with CSI staff at Bradford Park, PCSO Sean Kennedy arranged the event as part of a 10-week youth academy for the teenagers, aged 13 to 18, from Brooklands, Baguley and Northenden.

Other scenarios were organised by the fire and ambulance services, Manchester Airport, Manchester Youth Service, Bramalls Construction and Parkway Green Housing.

In addition to the CSI night, Sean arranged group visits to the GMP Museum and the Air Support Unit.

At the end of the 10 weeks, Ch Supt Alan Cooper, head of South Manchester Division, presented certificates of attendance and copies of a DVD highlighting the activities.

## BANK ROBBERY PURSUIT OFFICERS HAD TO DIVE FOR THEIR LIVES

**TWO officers who were shot at while pursuing two bank robbers received high commendations from Chief Constable Michael Todd at a Bolton awards ceremony last month.**

PC Jonathan Ashcroft and PC Alison Flatley were on van patrol when they were alerted to the robbery at Barclays in Horwich.

Armed with a shotgun and a machete, the two masked robbers had threatened staff and customers before escaping.

The officers reached the bank as the men were getting into a red car.

They followed it, but decided to abandon the pursuit when one of

the men pointed his gun directly at them as if to shoot.

Using their local knowledge, the officers instead made their way to a place they knew had been used previously for changing getaway vehicles in other crimes.

Sure enough, as they arrived, they saw the red car being set on fire by one of the men. Then both men got away in a grey Mondeo.

The officers followed, passing on the registration number and descriptions to other police patrols.

As they turned into an alley, they caught up with the robbers, who were waiting to turn on to a main road.

On seeing the officers, the men ran towards the van and one of them aimed his gun at PC Ashcroft.

As the officer tried to reverse, the gunman fired into the windscreen and both officers dived into the footwell.

The men then approached the van. But after pointing his gun straight at the officers, one of them reached in and snatched the ignition keys before they both got away.

The officers had hospital treatment for shock. PC Ashcroft was also treated for eye injuries caused by the shattered van windscreen.

## DOUBLE AWARD FOR OFFICER AFTER FIRE RESCUE ATTEMPT

**PC Jonathan Miles (Horwich) received a high commendation and a Royal Humane Society testimonial for rescuing an elderly woman from a house fire at Westhoughton.**

Two passers-by had tried to save her, but they had been

defeated by the fierce heat and smoke.

Entering by a side door, PC Miles was met with flames and thick black smoke. He crawled over the floor and found the woman unconscious with her clothing alight.

He dragged her outside, and after putting out the flames on her clothing, he gave first-aid until an ambulance came.

Despite the efforts of PC Miles and staff at Royal Bolton Hospital, the woman died from her injuries the next day.

## ST JOHN AMBULANCE AWARDS

**PC Paul Seel (Astley Bridge) and PC Karl Horner (Horwich) received St John Ambulance awards for trying to save the life of a man who had hanged himself.**

Police were contacted at 11.50am by the man's son-in-law, and after breaking into the house, the officers found the man hanging from the stair banister

with a towrope round his neck.

They freed him and managed to restore his breathing, but he died in hospital four weeks later.

A St John Ambulance award also went to PC Elaine Smith (Farnworth) who gave first-aid to a man who tried to hang himself from the first-floor communal balcony at a block of flats.

As officers leaned over the stairwell to support the man's weight, he started thrashing about, punching at the officers to prevent them reaching him.

PC Smith and a colleague managed to pull him to safety and gave first-aid until an ambulance arrived. He was detained under the Mental Health Act.

## Staff mentoring expands

GMP's Mentor scheme is to expand during 2008 to enable more officers and staff to gain the benefits of mentoring.

Since the scheme was launched in March 2005, 260 mentees (those receiving mentoring) have been assisted, and 140 Force personnel trained as mentors.

The scheme was launched to aid the retention and progression of staff across GMP and address key areas of under-representation within the workforce. Eight specific groups, such as minority ethnic officers and staff, and police officers transferring to GMP, have been able to apply to become mentees.

Sarah Coleman of the Leadership and Development Unit said a recent survey of mentees attracted favourable responses, with more than 70 per cent saying mentoring had enabled them to gain new expertise and develop new ways of working and thinking.

She added that the scheme would now be expanded to include officers and staff who were returning to GMP after an absence of six months or more as a result of a career break, an out-of-Force secondment, maternity leave, or a period of long-term sickness.

Further details can be found on the Leadership Intranet site.



**AWARD:** The largest grant awarded by the Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust for 2006/07 was presented to PC Anna Hopkins by the High Sheriff, Michael Oglesby, last month.

The £30,000 donation will go towards the £77,000 cost of providing a fully-equipped skating facility in refurbished Gorton Park to help reduce anti-social behaviour in the area.

It is a multi-agency development involving Manchester City Council Leisure Services and the Friends of Gorton Park community group.

Gorton Neighbourhood Policing Team officer Anna helped make the funding application to the High Sheriff's Trust.

## Michael's reward



A good behaviour award for Michael Mark from PC Steve Oswald, community beat manager in Ashton-under-Lyne town centre.

AFTER being taken under the wing of town centre officers at Ashton-under-Lyne, Michael Mark received a special good behaviour award last month.

He was also given a tour of Tameside Divisional HQ and a ride in a police car.

It was his reward for staying away from trouble for two years and following a set of rules and guidelines.

Officers decided on a spot of mentoring because Michael, 36, who has Down's Syndrome, was regarded as a vulnerable adult at risk of being led astray and into crime.

The first officer to work with him was PC (now Det Con) Darryl Cunningham. Then Darryl's successor as community beat manager, PC Steve Oswald, took over.

"If there were disturbances in the town centre, Michael was always on the fringe of them," said Darryl. "He seemed to be drawn to trouble.

"He was vulnerable in many ways, keeping late hours and liable to be taken advantage of.

"We drew up a programme for him, which included keeping sensible hours, and he has done his best to follow it for the past two years."

Michael, who lives in a care home, was presented with his framed 'commendation' during his VIP day at Tameside HQ.

## UKRAINIAN OFFICERS CHECK CELLS

**D**URING a week-long tour of UK police forces, Ukrainian officers compared GMP custody facilities at West Didsbury with their own.

They took notes on such things as access to doctors, the size of the custody suite and the number of prisoners catered for.

The main difference in custody procedures between the two countries is that in the UK, custody visitors are members of the public and independent from the police.

In the Ukraine, custody visitors are police officers working alongside human rights representatives.

The Ukrainians are now trying to make their facilities more community based.

Their visit, arranged by Greater Manchester Police Authority, also included a look at the authority's Appropriate Adult scheme.

### ONLY ONE

Russell Bernstein, Deputy Chief Executive of GMPA, told the group at the authority's Swinton offices: "All Police Authorities run custody visiting projects, but we are the only one to run an Appropriate Adult project."

Under this scheme, which started in 2005, members of the public are trained in providing support to youths and vulnerable adults in police custody.

The volunteers help speed up the custody process as they are always available to be called upon.

Without them, procedures such as interviews with vulnerable adults and youths cannot take place.

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, formerly the Lay Visiting Scheme, has been running for more than 20 years in Greater Manchester.

GMPA says the scheme enables members of the local community to monitor the welfare of people detained in custody by observing and reporting on the conditions.

This allows for better understanding and confidence in procedures and brings an independent check on the way police officers and staff carry out their duties.

## Cold call

**DURING** icy weather last January and February, more than 150 vehicles were stolen in Greater Manchester after drivers left them unattended to defrost.

Last month, GMP's Traffic Network Section issued a seasonal message reminding drivers to stay with their vehicles while de-icing them.

With the message came a warning that if a car is stolen while unattended with the engine running, insurance companies may refuse to pay out.

Ch Insp Haydn Roberts said: "What many people don't realise is that as well as the distress and inconvenience that the initial theft may cause, insurance companies are often unlikely to pay if vehicles are stolen in this way, leaving many victims in a serious financial dilemma."

Throughout the whole of last year, 450 unattended vehicles ranging from BMWs to Transit vans were stolen in Greater Manchester after drivers left the engines running.

## End of Derek's Brief Encounter



**BRIEF** journalist Derek Hornby retired from Greater Manchester Police last month after completing 11 years and 110 editions.

Since joining the Force in January 1996, Derek, aged 65, compiled the 20-page newspaper 10 times a year. He had previously worked at the Daily Express's Manchester office and the former Daily Sketch – where he became the youngest deputy night news editor in Fleet Street.

Force Internal Communications Manager Michael Smith said: "Brief is widely acknowledged in the police service to be among the very best police newspapers – and credit for that goes to Derek for his commitment and skill in getting the right balance of operational news, policy updates and stories about the 11,000 people who make up the Force. We all wish him well in his retirement."

On Derek's final day with GMP, Chief Constable Michael Todd presented him with a framed certificate to mark his years of service.

Before his departure, ACC Rob Taylor presented Derek with a cake made to look like the front page of Brief.

Taking over as Internal Communications Officer is Andrew Nott, who comes with 26 years' reporting experience on the Manchester Evening News. He can be contacted on extension 62238 or by email.



**ON THE MOVE:** Wigan Division's Child Protection Unit has moved into accommodation at Ince Town Hall alongside Children's Services – the first unit of its kind in GMP to make such a move.

"It will assist in streamlining work and ensure that both agencies work more effectively together," said Det Insp Jon Keeley, of the Public Protection Investigation Unit at Wigan.

Pictured on moving in day are (from the left) Temp Det Ch Insp Alan Lyon, Det Insp Jon Keeley and Ch Supt Lee Bruckshaw, head of Wigan Division. Two members of the Child Protection Unit are Det Cath Edwards (fifth from right) and Det Con Joanne Kirkman (third from right), alongside Councillor Brian Wilson (centre) and Child Services staff.



**SCHOOL BREAK:** As part of a series of 'inspirational' talks by potential role models, three Bury officers were invited to the town's Derby High School to address 170 pupils on what it's like to be a police officer. PC Rebecca Dickinson, who was joined by Insp John Goldsmith and Sgt Abed Hussain, is pictured demonstrating equipment with one of the pupils.

Photo: Chris Oldham



**WINNING ROUTE:** PCSO Robert Webb won a satellite navigation system in a national draw run by Police Mutual and was presented with his prize at Stockport Divisional HQ by PM representative Jayne Dennis.

There are three more sat nav systems to be won in the draw. Police employees and their families can enter by visiting [www.pmas.co.uk](http://www.pmas.co.uk).

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB LTD.**

**Vacancy for post of Chief Executive**

**Salary circa £28k, full time position,**

GMP Sports & Social Club Ltd is a forward thinking organisation dedicated to improving benefits for its members.

You will lead the development of the organisation and the expansion of services to members, and Divisional or Departmental Sports and Social Clubs.

**You will be:**

- Dynamic and creative
- A strategic thinker
- Able to develop the facilities for members

**You will have experience of:**

- Staff management
- Financial Control
- Sports and Social matters

The post is based at Hough End Centre, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

Applications must be made in writing together with full CV, and forwarded marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' to

Ian E Campbell, Chief Executive, Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road West, Manchester M21 7SX.

**Closing date: 31st January 2008**

Interviews mid February 2008

**OBITUARIES**

DET Ch Insp **David Corrigan**, 48, of Timperley, died on November 21, leaving a widow, Tracy, a son and two daughters. He joined GMP in 1979 at the age of 19 and was a member of the Counter Terrorism Unit at the time of his death from cancer.

Retired US officer Ken Varnold has written from Minnesota: *Dave was one of our hosts when I and two other officers arrived in 1995 in an exchange program between your police force and ours. He*

*and his wife became good friends, and we had several great visits with them, both here in Minnesota and in Manchester. He was a dedicated colleague and we will miss his enthusiasm and great sense of humour. Those of us on this side of the pond salute him.*

PC **Paul Merrick**, 44, a member of the Strategic Roads Policing Unit, died of cancer on December 15, leaving a widow, Hilary, and two daughters, aged 11 and

14. He joined GMP in 1986 after six years with West Midlands Police.

Former Supt **Brian Boardman**, 78, of Colwyn Bay, died on November 23, leaving a widow, Eileen. He joined Southport Borough Police in 1954 and retired from GMP in 1979.

Former Ch Supt **Brian Davis**, 69, of Chorlton, died on November 18, leaving a son as next of kin. He retired from GMP in 1992, having joined Salford City Police in 1959.

Former Sgt **George Lawther**, 75, of Sale, died on November 18, leaving a widow, Mary. He joined Cheshire Police in 1953 and retired from GMP in 1984.

Former members of Manchester City Police who have died recently include former Ch Insp **Peter Fowler**, 84, of Aldershot, former Sgt **James Helyer**, 88, of Ontario, Canada, and former PC **Jack Simpson**, 90, of Middleton.



**New facilities deal will boost efficiency**

**A FIVE-YEAR partnering contract for the maintenance and servicing of heating, ventilation and air conditioning throughout GMP has been launched by Facilities Branch.**

The two successful contractors are Oasis Services and KWT Building Services

They will each be responsible for half of the Force's 165 buildings until late in 2012.

"Having only one mechanical contractor to deal with on each division will greatly benefit the Force," said Facilities Branch project manager David Lett.

"It will improve efficiency, reduce waste in time and effort and promote advantageous long-term relationships for both parties to work together in a cost effective way."

Pictured at the contract signing are (from left) Oasis Services Managing Director James Parkinson, GMP Contract Manager Barry Lomax, Mark Robinson (Operon Consulting Engineers), GMP Contract Manager David Lett, KWT Building Services Managing Director Kevin Totterdell and KWT Finance Director Kate Totterdell.





# Bootle Street fundraisers serve McDonalds charity with £5,000

**T**HE annual charity fundraising by Bootle Street Sports and Social Club ended with a cheque for £5,287 being presented by PC Stuart Pizey and his wife Margaret to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The organisation provides accommodation for parents of seriously ill children, and the money will be put towards the cost of a new accommodation block being built near Manchester Royal Infirmary.

The Manchester City Centre Crime Prevention

Panel hosted a charity golf day and with the Sports and Social Club raising funds throughout the year, a record sum was achieved.

It was supplemented by Barclays Bank with its 'pound for pound' scheme which supports such causes to a value of £750 a time.

Margaret Pizey, who works for Barclays, arranges for funds in the scheme to be counted and audited.

Stuart, secretary of the Sports and Social Club as well as the Crime Prevention Panel, said: "It was a wonderful effort by friends

and colleagues at Bootle Street.

"Our fundraising started at the 2006 Christmas dinner with a charity auction and then the charity golf day brought fantastic support, resulting in our best-ever total."

RMHC representative Tony Morton, vice-chairman of the Panel, who accepted the cheque on behalf of RMHC, said after receiving the cheque: "This is a fantastic amount which will help support the building of the new facility in Manchester."

SUPPORT: Margaret Pizey (Barclays) and Tony Morton (Ronald McDonald House Charities).

# Football tournament helps hospice wishes

**T**HE third annual community football tournament organised by Bolton Central police raised £3,341 for Bolton Hospice Patients' Wish List.

The five-a-side competition held at Bolton Lads and Girls Club brings together players from local communities.

These include Muslim, Hindu and Somali teams, as well as one made up of officers from the Bolton Central community beat.

The 2007 competition

attracted 10 entries and resulted in a victorious Heaton Elite team beating Blackburn Road in a penalty shoot-out final.

It also attracted hundreds of supporters keen to cheer on their local teams and enjoy the fun event.

The Bolton Community Challenge Cup raises money for Bolton Hospice through the raffle of prizes donated by local groups and businesses.

The latest sum raised will be used for something specific to

the need of each hospice patient suffering from a life-threatening illness.

Insp Ian Parker said the annual football competition organised by PC Robert Varley was now a permanent fixture on the Bolton sporting scene.

"I am delighted that people have been so generous and have helped us to raise more than £3,000 to help people with life-threatening illnesses," he said.

## No 1 CopperPot Credit Union December Lottery winners

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| £2,000 - John Dubbins, North Wales              | £50 - Lloyd Thomas, retd Joanne Stanway, S Wales |
| £1,000 - Margaret Whitmore, Notts               | Alan Gregory, retd Kevin Baxman, Hants           |
| £500 - Tony Perridge, retd                      | James Dandy, retd                                |
| £250 - Ian Coulton, Leics, and David Ford, retd | Joseph Moore, Leics Gary Matsell, Cambs          |
| £100 - Trevor Wallis, retd Simon Head, Leics    | Robert Reddy, retd Martin West, GMP              |
| Keiran Folan, Surrey                            | Karen White, Leics                               |
| Gerald Darling, Humberside                      | Douglas Cook, retd                               |
| Charles Hamilton, Humberside                    | Alexander Cann, Leics                            |
|   | Michele Peckham, retd                            |
|   | Steven Bailey, GMP                               |
|   | Stephen Ford, GMP                                |

**MATCHMAKER:** Radcliffe PCSO Dave Johnson organised a football match between a police team and a youth team that raised £2,242 for a local community centre, the Y Zone.

More than 300 people turned out to watch the match and support the fundraising at Radcliffe Borough's ground.

Dave, who scored both goals for the police team in their 3-2 defeat, said he had received great help from local businesses, which gave cash and prizes for the event.

The money raised on the day has been earmarked for buying equipment for the community centre.

Dave said he hopes to organise a match on a bigger scale this year between police and youths from the Bury area.

### Do you know we have 93 ensuite rooms at the Sedgley Park Centre?

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Special weekend accommodation rate for GMP personnel - AND guests staying with you!

Single £16 per night [room only]

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Why not treat yourself to a night out and stay with us? To make your reservation call Alison or Marion on 60425/60590 or email QA Room Booking -Diary





# BRIEF SPORT

## Motorbike teams ride to 1st and 2nd places in national championships



Photo: Chris Oldham

FIRST and second places in the 2007 National Trek series organised by the Federation of Police Motorclubs went to GMP's two teams, the Rainy City Racers and the Phoenix Knights.

The annual motorcycle championships are hosted by a variety of police force clubs in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Each round takes the form of a 'navigation scatter' event in which entrants must solve cryptic clues

based on Ordnance Survey map grid references.

The GMP Motorclub regularly fields two teams in the series and the 2007 events resulted in their best-ever performances.

The Rainy City Racers took first place in Cleveland, second place in Belfast, third in Hereford and fourth in Newcastle upon Tyne to ride away with the overall team championship.

The Phoenix Knights, meanwhile, took first place in Hereford and second in

Newcastle, putting them in the final No 2 spot in the team championship.

### INDIVIDUALS

Individually, club members Paul Anderton, Pete Edwards and John Hughes were the top three riders in Cleveland, John Hughes was second in Belfast and Martin Slater and Phil Batchelor finished second and third at Hereford.

The jobs of club members

range from Scientific Services to Operational Communications Branch.

There are also members from the GMP Motorcycle Unit – "which goes to prove that you really can mix business with pleasure," says Pete Edwards, of the Fingerprint Unit.

He says that while club members enter into the events with a healthy spirit of competition, there is also the opportunity to socialise with colleagues from many other

police forces and the wider community.

The GMP Motorclub meets every five weeks on a Thursday evening in the bar at Sedgley Park Centre.

Anyone in GMP interested in joining the competitive events or motorsport in general is welcome to contact Pete Edwards at Bradford Park or Dave Priestley at Claytonbrook OCR.

As well as those named above, other regular members are Duncan Seddon and Jason Pal.

## And more winners.....

THE GMP road running team regained the Police Sport UK marathon championship last month.

Three years after first winning the title at Blackpool, they won it back at Luton.

Police Sport organisers 'piggy-backed' the race on to the annual Luton Marathon, which meant that 50 police

runners from around the country ran alongside 850 non-police entrants.

For one member of the GMP team, Bolton officer Guy Heyes, it was a particularly memorable day.

Running his first-ever marathon, he was the first of GMP's seven runners to finish.

He came second among all

the police entrants with a time of 2hrs 55mins and eighth overall in the field of 900 runners.

GMP won the title based on the timings of the team's first three runners home – Guy and Rochdale officers Bryan Lawton and Andy Pilling.

Joanne Glynn (Bury), the only woman in the team, finished third among the female police runners.

The remaining team members were Bolton officers Jim Bentley and Brent Marshall and North Manchester's Callum McGregor.

This year's race will be held as part of the Edinburgh marathon in May.

Anyone interested in running in the GMP team should contact Supt Bryan Lawton at Rochdale on extension 68501.



MARATHON MEN: from left, Andy Pilling, Bryan Lawton and Guy Heyes.

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