

SUFFOLK POLICE Federation



MARCH 2018



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QUARTERLY REVIEW

MARCH 2018

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CONTENTS

Branch Secretary Report.....	4-5
Slater + Gordon Divorce Advice	7
Federation Rep's Perspective	8
Social Media and it's Dangers to you as an Officer.....	9
Tac's Rest	10-11
Latest News from the Federation	11
Police Federation Group Insurance Scheme	13
Elections are Here	14-15
Transferees	17
Roads Policing Conference 2018	18-19

ADVERTISING

Slater + Gordon	2
Barker Gotelee	5
Copperpot Credit Union	6
Print Services	7
Altberg	11
Slater + Gordon	12
RAC	16
Paul Ward	19
BMW Group	20

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*Suffolk Police Federation
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Branch Secretary Report

by Mark Emsden



Hello to you all and welcome to our first magazine of 2018, as usual I will try and give you a snap shot update on the hot topics of the moment and what we have been doing to make your voice heard.

Once again the magazine will be available as a PDF, which you can access on your force issued I.T, I would be pleased to know how you have found it as an electronic publication rather than the traditional paper one, which will still be available for use in stations etc, for those who prefer the feel of paper.

I would like to thank our member service providers (and Mish Collins who does the hard bit in contacting them all) who have advertised in this magazine, meaning that as before it is at zero cost to produce for the Federation.

As has been the case for what feels like a lifetime, finance dominates everything we do at the moment, and in particular the lack of it, despite the recent announcement that the council tax precept is to rise (which I think as a tax payer feels like robbing Peter to pay Paul) we still find ourselves in the position that further savings still need to be found.

Don't get me wrong the precept rise will help, but it will not get us out of the hole we find ourselves in, I am aware that there are a number of plans in place to deal with the funding gap through the 2025 group, but like you however we are not currently party to all the proposals which have been considered under the OBB process or the plans of the 2025 team, but as we do become involved we will try and ensure your voice is heard and that if you find yourself effected by the changes, we will support you through whatever needs to be done.

On that note it is really important that you get your views to us on how the various changes or projects are going on the ground, good and bad, we need you to feed in through the Fed reps on area, tell them if you think something is going well, a pilot idea for example, but also when it is not, if you feel unsafe for any reason you MUST send us a near miss form, you can either use the force intranet or the Federation app,(which is available on your force tablets or smart phones) there is a near miss form on that which is sent to us in the Fed office.

“A Near Miss is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage – but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage; in other words, a miss that was nonetheless very near”

Without evidence from you guys it is very difficult for us to argue a point successfully and get improvements where they are needed or tell the force when an idea is not fit for purpose. If you encounter any resistance from managers about completing near miss forms for any reason please get in contact with us in the Fed office and we will deal with it, as you should be free to submit the forms as you see fit.

Those of you that are members of the George Burrows group insurance scheme will have recently received letters informing you that there was a rise in the cost of the scheme, I will not repeat what has already been said in the letter re the added benefits, but I would like to clarify a couple of points, the first is that I nor the Federation are on commission so it is of no benefit to us personally if you are in the scheme, there is however a very small admin fee on each policy which covers the cost of the staff who process all of the policies and deal with the claims when they are made, I am happy to discuss this in more detail with anyone if they wish.

I have had some feedback asking why the increase is so much, this is because two years ago when the policy was last renewed there was an increase which was not passed onto you, however it has not been possible to repeat this on this occasion, there has also been a 3% tax increase from the government.

I can confirm that this is still an excellent package for the price, which as far as I can tell you would not be able to beat on the high street, having used the gadget insurance recently I am happy to recommend it to you all.

By the time you read this our elections will be well under way, the nomination period will have been and we will know who of you have decided to stand as reps, please take the time to vote when you are asked as it is important that you have reps that you want and can trust looking after your interests.

It may mean that there are a number of new workplace reps, please be patient with them as it takes time to learn the basics and get to grips with the regulations, we will try and maintain the service we provide you and supply a rep where one is required, but with this in mind please can you give us as much notice as possible if you think you will need the services of the Federation, I realise that this is not always possible but if you can please do.

I have been heavily involved in the DICP (Detective & Investigator career pathway) group, which is chaired by DCS Skevington, we have been looking at ways to make being a Detective/ Investigator more attractive, as many of you will know the police service is facing a shortage of Detectives nationally, we as a group in Norfolk and Suffolk are looking at ways to address this, the group is making really good progress, with the help of Keith Philpot in L&D we are going to introduce the “kick start programme” designed to give people the best chance of passing the NIE (the pass rate is very low at present) also he is looking to provide a much better programme of courses meaning you will be armed with the tools required to be a functional Detective once you are in a CID for example.

We are also looking at the posts in force that require a Detective to be in them and vice versa, thus removing the need for “honorary status”, which has always been a real bugbear of mine, I am of the opinion that unless you have taken and passed the NIE and completed your portfolio, thus attaining PIP level 2 you should not be permitted to call yourself a Detective, a view that some of you may feel is controversial, but if you know me you will know I am not one to shy away just because not everyone agrees with me!

Lastly I will mention the UK Police Memorial Trust, those of you that don't already know, there is a proposal to create a memorial for officers that have been or are killed in the line of duty, details can be found

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by following this link <http://www.ukpolicememorial.org/> the trust have approached all forces and Federations across the country as they are trying to raise the funds required to build and maintain the memorial, with that in mind you may hear of various fund raising events being held in force through the summer, I would encourage you to attend where you can and support the UPMT, it is rather ironic however that even though we are supporting it, we hope to never have to use it in the future!



Be safe, *Mark*

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Protecting Your Money



Why the financial settlement is just as important as the divorce itself

Hannah Cornish
Senior Associate in
Family Law at Slater + Gordon



It's a common misconception that when a marriage ends the decree absolute will bring to a close the financial relationship between the couple. This is not the case as in the UK there's no statutory time limit for bringing an application for a financial settlement upon divorce.

When entering into a marriage both spouses have claims against each other in respect of income, capital and pension. When going through a divorce, you have to provide a 'full and frank' financial disclosure that details all your financial assets.

Reaching a fair settlement relies on both parties being honest about their earnings, investments and outgoings. And there are penalties for those who aren't. If a spouse hasn't complied with their duty of disclosure the court may take this into account when making their final order.

However, a delay could well impact on the level of the award so it's always prudent to obtain a financial settlement at the time of your divorce to avoid future uncertainties.

The case of Wyatt v Vince highlights the potential implications of not pursuing a clean financial break at the time of divorce. Ms Wyatt chose to make a financial application against Mr Vince 19 years after their divorce. The relationship had broken down some 31 years prior to the court hearing the application and Mr Vince had since built an impressive business empire.

However, the former spouses became involved in a drawn out and expensive litigation case, finally reaching an agreement which was approved by the court where Ms Wyatt received £300,000.00 of her ex-husband's assets.

Often, separated couples will try to reach an agreement between themselves. If this is unsuccessful or not an option there are a number of different routes available to couples trying to decide how to divide assets, ranging from mediation to court proceedings.

However, couples should be aware that some agreements may not be legally binding and the family courts has jurisdiction to override them. Therefore it's important to seek expert advice from a matrimonial lawyer when reaching a financial settlement.

If you were divorced a number of years ago without a court order then we can advise you in relation to any financial claim that may still be open. If you would like specialist advice from a family lawyer please contact Slater + Gordon on 0808 175 7710 and we'll be happy to help.

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Matt Paisley

A Federation Rep's Perspective

We often read in the press, and hear stories locally, concerning the unprecedented strain placed upon our members' ability to deal with what we face day to day. Whilst many will say that this is directly correlated to the cuts forced upon us, or the steady increase in risk faced by officers managed against a dwindling workforce, it could also be argued that it is symptomatic of the type of work that officers are faced with on a daily basis.

With traditional crime types generally falling, we face the reality of dealing with more emotive and pressured situations every time we put the uniform on. Domestic abuse cases, sexual offences, and mental health are all examples where officers are making decisions that ultimately have a bearing on the safety of the victim, and carry the risk of facing an inquiry if it all goes wrong.

It is therefore no surprise that the mental wellbeing of officers has now become a focus for the Federation in order to raise awareness and improve the support mechanisms in place for officers reaching the point of not being able to face coming to work.

In 2016, the PFEW surveyed 17000 officers, and found that 39% had sought help with mental health issues. A quarter of officers had taken sick leave due to stress, depression or anxiety, whilst 65% of officers stated that they still attended work despite feeling that they shouldn't, due to their mental wellbeing.

This survey only, of course, takes into account those that were prepared to respond, and it is likely that for every officer prepared to talk about their mental wellbeing, there will be another that won't. It takes a lot of courage for somebody to talk about how they are feeling. Whilst many of us will recognise that something isn't quite right, the majority will stay quiet in fear of being labelled, or letting the team down if they take time off work.

The Police Federation are working extremely closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing to raise the profile of the mental wellbeing of our members. It is important that we all feel supported in asking for assistance, or recognising when our colleagues need support. Your Federation Representatives are there to be an unbiased support to you at times of need. You can use us to vent at, or to just talk to about how you feel. We can offer that first line of support, and signpost you to make sure you get the best help available to meet your needs.

I personally encourage colleagues to utilise the Employment Assistance Programme, backed up by the provider Validium. One of the many services offered by Validium is a confidential, external counselling process. They will initially triage your call over the phone, and then set up six sessions with a trained professional who will be local to you. We should not fear any stigma that some may attach to speaking with a counsellor. Once recognising that it is all becoming too much, the bravest step is taking action to tackle the problems head on.



So, if you are struggling to cope each day, feel that even the basic tasks in life take up all of your energy, or you feel that you can't face the world, please do talk to somebody. Share your experiences, and start to make a difference to your life. Who knows, your actions may even encourage others to talk too!



SOCIAL MEDIA AND ITS DANGERS TO YOU AS AN OFFICER

There are many of you I am sure who are users of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or WhatsApp as well as many of the other social media apps that are available.

While many of you will be very careful with what it is you are posting or discussing on these apps and will have your security settings at an appropriate level or even be using pseudonyms this may not be enough to prevent you being investigated in the future, if you have posted something which could be inappropriate or offensive to others, even if you never intended it to be viewed by anyone else.

A number of your colleagues (some of them now ex colleagues) have unfortunately fallen foul of this recently, which is the reason for me writing this.

What you must consider whenever you do anything on social media, even if it is within a closed group, is whether or not it is a comment or picture that if seen by a member of the public or a member of PSD would be deemed appropriate for a police officer?

If the answer is no or if you find yourself thinking it might not be, **DON'T POST IT.**

The comment or picture may be sat on your phone for a number of years without any issue, or you might have even deleted it, but what you can't account for is the other people who are in the group or discussion, and IF their phone or laptop/ iPad is seized for some reason in the future and they have not deleted it, it will not be long before it is traced back to you and before you know it you will be getting served regulation notices and could find yourself losing your job.

The types of things I have seen range from pictures of people with penises drawn on them, comments about individuals which are derogatory or offensive, nude or rude GIFS or JPEG images being shared, the list is fairly long.

If you are sent anything like this or something is posted on a group you are on, my advice is simple, delete it and leave the group, after telling the person who posted it that it is not welcome



and it is not appropriate, if it is an officer who posted it you will need to consider if it is serious enough that it needs reporting to a higher authority, this will very much be down to your discretion, but remember your obligations under the standards or professional behaviour.

Some individuals have been lucky and have kept their jobs but others have not, make no mistake, if you breach the standards of professional behaviour by posting something controversial you must be prepared to face the consequences, it does not matter who



the intended recipient is or was, it is about your conduct, so please, please, please remember to think before you post anything at all.

Mark Emsden



Emma Arthurs

Tac's Rest

In February 2017 I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, the usual thoughts went through my head such as "Will I die", "My hair will fall out" and "I'm going to be really sick", I decided to focus on being positive and getting on with it all including booking up social events, little did I know that my social life would become near non-existent and everything I had planned would need to be cancelled.

I had already planned the trip of a lifetime to New York, it was booked with events all pencilled in for the November, it was around April when I began Chemotherapy and discovered that travelling anywhere was just not going to happen and so I had to cancel,

I couldn't get travel insurance to cover me for any cancer related illness and all the worry of being sick and not working full time just added to the pressure of needing to save all the our money for important and boring stuff like household bills, it became a bit depressing to say the least and all the time my partner was also suffering.

Around the end of April 2017 I was told about TAC'S REST, a lovely static caravan in Borth, North Wales where individuals in my position could go for a break, it all sounded amazing! SJ Primmer made a referral so that my partner and I could get away for a week in the June and before we knew it we were getting lost in the back roads of deepest Wales!

We arrived around about 6pm after a good seven hour drive from home in Suffolk, as we entered the caravan we were welcomed with a hamper

containing all the essentials... Tea, Coffee, Milk, Bread, Butter and WELSH CAKES!! After a cup of tea and a spot of cake on the decking we unpacked a weeks' worth of clothes into the lovely double bedroom and settled in for the night, the bed was really comfortable and I had a really good night's sleep, the first in a long time.

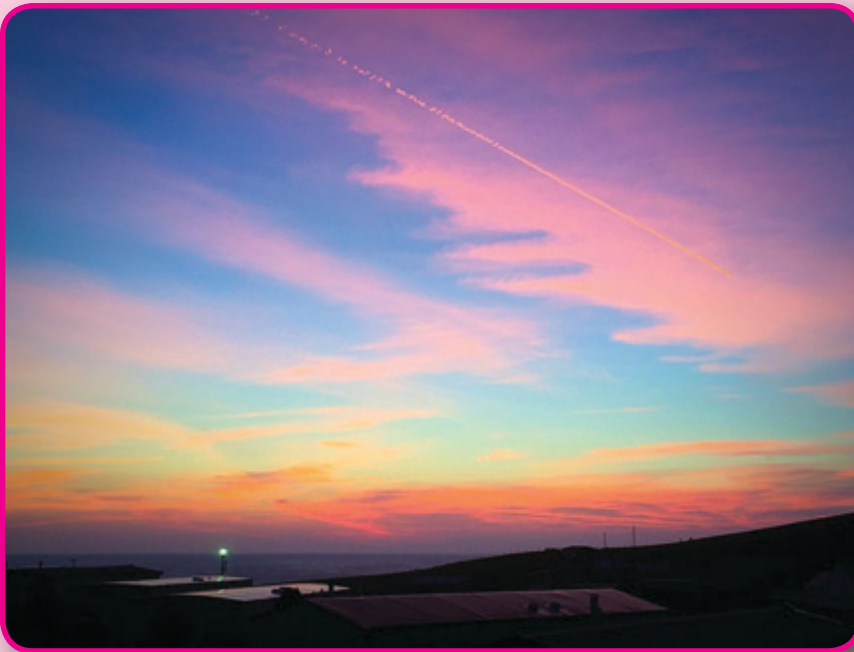
On the Sunday we adventured around the lovely farm land and coastal walks which were just a step out of the door, we found ourselves eating ice-cream on the beach and at low tide discovering the Jurassic forest that was washed up after a huge storm on the beach, it felt like I was gaining some control again and enjoying myself.



Tacs Rest offered us the opportunity to relax and unwind away from all the hospitals and treatments. It provided us with a sense of normality when life was anything but. The trip was some time ago now and we had an amazing time, we didn't have to worry about insurance, illness or finding the money at a time when a break was needed but at the bottom of the "Can we afford it list".

**Do you know someone who has been through tough or difficult times?
Could they do with a break?
Then make a referral!**

Tac's Rest is a fully equipped six berth holiday caravan situated on the stunning Welsh Coast at Brynrodyn Caravan Park. Set at the southern end of Cardigan Bay, the park affords incredible sea views, sweeping vistas of the bay with Snowdonia National



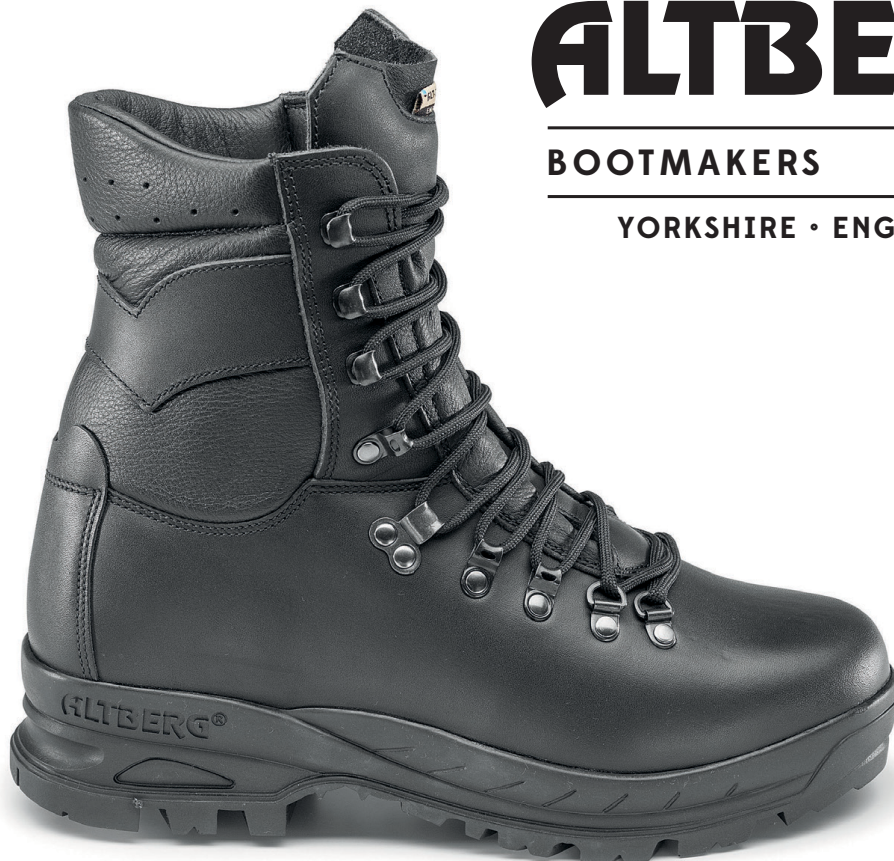
Borth, North Wales

Park as a back drop. Tac's Rest offers a free week stay for those that have been through tough or difficult times. Funded by the fund-raising efforts of Bobby On A Bike, Tac's Rest is now in its third season.

The caravan is in memory of Tony 'Tac' Spry who sadly passed away in 2014. Tony served 30 years as a Police Officer in Suffolk Constabulary and then a further 6 years as a Civilian. He started BOAB in 2002 with now retired officer Neil Smith MBE. Neil, David Horne and SJ Primmer run Tac's Rest with the help of retired Dyfed-Powys Police officer, Neil Davies. Since Tac's Rest has been in existence, 18 families have benefitted from the relaxing week away. If you would like more information or to make a referral, please visit www.tacsrest.co.uk where you can use the 'contact us' page.

May 2018 will see the 10th Anniversary May Ride. A gruelling 400 mile, 4 day bike ride from Aldeburgh to Brynrodyn. Participants will be raising funds for Tac's Rest so that we can continue to offer this much needed break for families. If you would like more information or to sign up for the ride, please visit www.bobbyonabike.com

Emma Arthurs



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Police Federation Group Insurance Scheme – February 2018

We have received renewal terms for the Serving Officer’s Insurance Scheme from our insurance partners, George Burrows, and there are some important changes which we would like to bring to the attention of all our members.

We are pleased to confirm that there have been some enhancements added to some parts of the package at no additional cost to you. These are as follows:

- *In relation to the Life Assurance and Critical illness cover, the maximum age limit for a Serving Officer has been increased from age 65 to age 70 years, in line with state retirement age.*
- *Under the Personal Accident section, the Firearm Assault benefit has been increased from £1,500 to £2,500 and the Stabbing Assault benefit has been increased from £750 to £1,500.*
- *Travel Insurance now includes ‘Car Hire Excess Waiver cover’ which means that insurers will pay up to £1,000 per claim for any monetary excess in respect of loss or damage to a rental vehicle whilst on holiday.*

We always try to avoid premium increases however due to a very high usage and claims experience under the scheme over the past 2 years, it has been necessary to increase the premiums. As your premium is payable by payroll deduction, the monthly amount will be automatically adjusted by your Payroll department with effect from renewal date of 1 March 2018. The changes that will apply are detailed below:

	Expiring premium*	New premium*
Serving Officer	£25.20	£26.68
Partner of Serving Officer	£7.47	£7.81
New Recruit	£12.14	£14.65
Partner of New Recruit	£3.84	£3.95
Retired officer (under 65)	£25.82	£30.42
Partner of above	£7.37	£10.17
Retired officer (65-69)	£25.24	£30.05
Partner of above	£7.44	£10.85
Retired officer (70+)	£9.55	£12.97

**The premiums include Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) and the Federation’s administration fee*

Travel Insurance – Important information

We would also like to remind you about declaring your medical conditions, when necessary. Please read the Declaration on pages 4 & 5 of your policy wording where you will find the Medical exclusions that apply to the policy and; the Health Questions. If you or anyone insured by the policy answers Yes to any of the Health Questions you must contact the Police and Fire Brigade Health Line on 01689 892 262 to declare any and all pre-existing medical conditions. Cover for pre-existing medical conditions does not automatically continue and you must declare these at each renewal. You must also read the Declaration each time you book a trip and declare any new conditions or any changes to those that have already been declared.

All documentation regarding this Group Insurance scheme is available from our Intranet site to view/download.

If you have any queries or concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact the Federation Office on extension 2001.



ELECTIONS ARE HERE

Since being elected into the Chair's position on the 5th Oct 2016 we have been waiting for the new Police Federation Regulations to be written, approved by the Home Secretary and passed through Parliament. In fact it was hoped that when I took Office the election would have been under the new process. Due to two General Elections and Brexit, the slow turning cogs of the Home Office have meant that we have only just got to this stage.



The new Police Federation's [Rules](#) and [Regulations](#) were overhauled in 2017 and became law on 31 December 2017, following major change within the organisation carried out under an [Independent Review](#) published in 2014. The review, commissioned by the Federation itself, aimed to modernise and professionalise the organisation which had remained largely unaltered in its 100-year history. Amendments include:

- improved standards of conduct and integrity
- better financial management
- revised election procedures
- a directive to improve representation from under-represented groups.

WHAT WILL THE NEW PROCESS BE LIKE?

The new process allows members to vote for workplace reps, local Chairs as well as the National Chair. The new process will provide a new rank-less structure; there will be no more separate rank committees at local or national level.

THE NEW PROCESS WE ARE WORKING TO:

- Members vote for workplace reps (Branch Council)
- The Branch Council vote for the Branch Board members
- Members elect the local Branch Chair
- The Branch Board elects the Branch Secretary
- Branch Board Chair and Secretary make up the National Council
- National Council votes to elect the National Board
- Members vote to elect the National Chair
- National Board select the General Secretary
- National Board vote in remaining Principal Officers

Within any triennial election there is a risk of losing experienced Reps and this is no different although it also offers the opportunity for new reps in who may bring new energy and ideas to the council and our members. We have been supportive of the Normington Review since its inception and have been visionary in adapting our constitution to reflect the direction of the review.

WHAT ARE THE ELECTION KEY DATES?

A breakdown of each round is shown in the table below. The rounds in bold text indicate those in which members are able to vote:

Key date	What's happening
1 - 17 February	Branch Council nominations open
1 - 21 March	Branch Council voting open
28 March	Branch Council election results
3 - 11 April	Branch Board nominations open
15 - 23 April	Branch Board voting open
27 April	Branch Board election results
1 - 11 May	Branch Chair nominations open for all Branches
14 - 30 May	Branch Chair voting open for all Branches
31 May	Branch Chair election results

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE LOCALLY?

Suffolk Branch Council would be made up of 20 work place reps plus the Branch Chair and Branch Secretary. This would include safeguarding the seats for under-represented groups and ranks. This would take the form of:

- 25% female representation on the Council
- 20% Inspectors
- 20% Sergeants.

Due to the BME representation in the force, under the rules, BME Officers will not have a safeguarded seat on the council. We intend to address this issue by inviting the individual Staff Support Networks to our meetings so that representation is not lost.

Once the Branch Council had been formed with work place reps, the Branch Board will be formed with 10 reps from the Council having a seat on the Board. If more than 10 reps apply to become Board members there would be an internal vote.

Once the Board had formed – nominations from the Board would be forthcoming with regard to the Chair's position. If more than one person stood, there would be a force wide election between 14-30 May and the results announced on 31 May.

The post of Secretary follows the same process although it will be an internal Board vote.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE NATIONALLY?

The number of officials on the National Board will be reduced from 30 to 24. The National Board along with the National Council (which is made up of Branch Chairs and Secretaries, additional reps and other individuals from protected characteristics groups) will be the key decision-making bodies for the organisation.

The National Chair Election will take place in mid-July with the successful candidate chairing their first National Council meeting in mid-September when the whole process will be concluded.

The process will be evaluated and the rules can be changed for the next triennial if there is learning to be had. This is the first time in the history of the Federation that we have seen changes like this and I encourage you to engage and use your votes to make the whole process inclusive and transparent.

WHERE WE ARE NOW...

Nominations have now closed and although we have had 4 new officers nominate themselves as Reps we have also had 4 current Reps not stand. So we have 17 Reps who will form the new Suffolk Branch Council from the 1st of the following month. Mark Emsden and I will join the Council which consists of the following Reps:

<i>Sgt Barry Abbott</i>	<i>Pc Martin Johnson</i>
<i>Pc Emma Arthurs</i>	<i>Sgt Jonathon Loud</i>
<i>Pc Rupert Beynon</i>	<i>Sgt Matt Paisley</i>
<i>Insp Jane Coe</i>	<i>Pc Ben Richardson</i>
<i>D/Sgt Andy Dibbs</i>	<i>Sgt Mark Sargeant</i>
<i>Dc Iain Forbes</i>	<i>Pc Helen Self</i>
<i>C/I Dave Giles</i>	<i>Pc Kirit Shah</i>
<i>Pc Mark Green</i>	<i>Pc Claire Yates</i>
<i>D/Sgt Ben Hudson</i>	

You will note that we have not met the requirement for Inspecting rank and females and it will be the decision of the Council and duly elected Chair and Secretary to decide, with direction from PFEW, how to meet this criteria. This will happen after the 1st June.

You should all have received an email informing you that there will be no election for the Council members and the next correspondence will be around the nominees and election process for the Chair's position for which I will be standing and would ask for your support if there is an election.

Darren Harris - Branch Chairman



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Transferees

On behalf of **Suffolk Police Federation**, welcome to Suffolk Police Constabulary. We hope you enjoy your new job.

As you are aware the Police Federation is a statutory Association to which all regular police officers between the ranks of constable and Chief Inspector have the option to join. However, were you aware that as a transferee your membership of the Federation and group insurance schemes did not transfer with you and you are required to re-join.

As a subscribing member of the Federation you are able to join our group insurance scheme.

As a subscribing member of the Federation you will have access to a local representative. A career within Suffolk is fantastic and we hope you will enjoy it. However, life doesn't always work out that way and should you be injured on duty, receive a complaint, or other problems whilst on duty the Police Federation will be able to assist. We can't help you if you are not a member.

Suffolk Police Federation also provides other services to subscribing members. Our insurance provider is George Burrows Group Insurance, which offers for only £26.68 per month, full life cover for £110,000, worldwide travel insurance all year for you, your partner and your dependent children (and grand children) up to the age of 21, sickness cover if you are reduced to half pay, full legal assistance and full RAC Cover amongst other insurances. You also have the option of additional life insurance from George Burrows, which many of your colleagues find useful for mortgage purposes, so sign up today by completing the attached Group Insurance Scheme Officer Application Form. There is a scheme for your partners for an additional amount, so in order to take advantage make sure you complete both application forms and submit them to the Federation office.

We would encourage you to register to our website (www.suffolk.polfed.org) if you have not already done so. Suffolk Police Federation also has a Facebook page, so please "like" us and a Twitter account - @SuffolkPolFed so you will be able to keep up to date with issues as they occur. Please encourage colleagues to register to our website, like us on Facebook and check out our Twitter account.

Please complete the following forms and return to the Federation Office, The Pines, PHQ.

 [recruit form.docx](#)

 [subscription form.doc](#)

 [Suffolk Police serving officer scheme application form.pdf](#)

If you wish to contact the Federation Office on extension 2001 and speak with Colin or Tony, our job share Office managers, who will be able to assist you



Roads Policing Conference 2018

PS Barry Abbott, RPF OU

Photography: Sarah Lucy Brown, Archant

The Roads Policing Conference 2018 took place Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 January in Leicestershire.

It was hosted by the Police Federation of England and Wales and National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), and sponsored by MIB, the 12th annual conference brought together those who work in the roads policing arena and highlighted the successes, challenges and industry best practice. The theme was - 'Roads Policing – a new approach'. A new approach in how we keep roads moving, work with partners and stakeholders. A new approach on tackling criminality who use our roads, a new approach on how we stop Road death.

Opened by the PFEW lead for Roads Policing, Jayne Willetts the agenda was full. The event commenced with an address from NPCC Lead for Roads Policing - Chief Constable Anthony Bangham. He was supportive for legislative change for pursuit driving. It is hoped this legislation change will progress over the next couple of years.

CC Bangham said that he wanted more enforcement from Police. Recognising there is a place for education in casualty reduction on the roads, CC Bangham highlighted that there are partners such as the fire service who could perform this function, whereas the police were the only agency who could conduct the enforcement arm of the strategy. Enforcement in itself provides education through "Learning the Hard way"

Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Department of Transport - Jesse Norman MP - Spoke soon after and echoed his support of protecting Pursuit driving.

(My Observation), there is a wider discussion developing, distinguishing between response driving and pursuit driving which not all stake holders seem to appreciate.

A question and answer session involving Jayne Willetts, Chief Constable Anthony Bangham and Jesse Norman MP focused on educating drivers, highlighting the need

for more Roads policing officers on the roads and raising the value of road policing work.

Further updates followed from Chief Constable Anthony Bangham on pursuits and a Forensic Collision Investigation update from Assistant Chief Constable Martin Evans.

OP Galileo – policing the roads together, was presented by Detective Superintendent Paul Keasey, NRPIF (National Roads Policing Intelligence Forums) he spoke about the use of technology, most notably ANPR and intelligent targeting criminality on the roads. A common thread of the whole event was that Policing the roads should not be viewed as a luxury or policed if there is time. Roads' Policing is everyone's responsibility. Not all road users are criminals, however nearly all criminals are road users!

Challenges of Road Safety was the theme for Pauline Reeves, Assistant Director, Department for Transport. Ms Reeves vowed to be a friend of the police in the DFT and is attempting to ease information sharing issues between departments. For example to allow police instant access to DVLA photos to identify offenders.

Chief Inspector Colin Carswell, from the Metropolitan Police spoke on the challenges of tackling motorcycle enabled crime. How the Met and Essex are developing and using PSU and Road Policing tactics together to deal with large scale Motorcycle Flash Mobs. Which are often well organised and can be very dangerous.

Operation Tutelage – Inspector Simon Hills, Thames Valley Police spoke of how his force were targeting uninsured drivers on the Roads. In what would be later explained by Paul Bennett of the MIB (Motor Insurer Bureau) there are an estimated 1 million drivers on the roads in the UK. The cost financially is huge to the country and all those who use the roads. The human cost is greater, with an established and real link between those who wilfully risk driving uninsured. Those same risk takers are more likely to risk driving whilst committing Fatal 4 activities.



It was quoted an uninsured driver is eight times more like to be a drink driver for example.



Operation Tutelage simply put, checks a period of time on ANPR for uninsured drivers on the MIDAS data base. These drivers are written to and a staggering 80% on average were shown to correct, what in many cases is a mistake. The outstanding 20% are then subject to targeting and action by roads policing officers. Many of these uninsured drivers have been found to have links to criminality.

There were several other interesting presentations from a wide variety of speakers such as MIB, Tyresafe

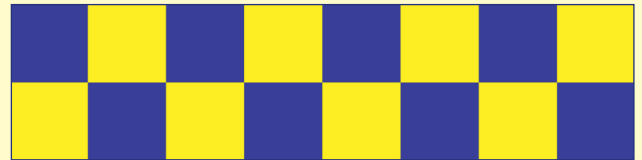
and Operation Seraph – a West Mercia ANPR and intelligence program targeting offenders on the Roads. Similar to our own Op Showdown in running in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Technology was another key note to the conference, as well as the decline of Road Policing numbers.

Speakers at the conference were presenting to a receptive audience when it came to the call for more officers, and a greater appreciation of the role. Policing the roads has many meanings and is more involved with daily life than ever before.

In 1896 a lady named Bridget Driscoll was the first ever road traffic death on the UK's Roads. The coroner summed up by saying he hoped it was the last. There have been over 500,000 people killed on UK roads since. A number that sadly continues to rise.

Barry Abbott



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