

# Ace Detective

We step back to Christmas 1973 and catch up with DCI Gene Hunt from North West District CID for a chat about his 'vision' of policing. Here are the bits we could print...

**Q: You drive a Ford Cortina Mark III 2000E. Is it important that a DCI makes the right impression?**

**A:** Never underestimate the importance of your car. Not only does it get you from A to B, but at times it will be your bedroom, your office and the greasy spoon you eat your breakfast in of a morning. Your car also shows your status; you see me pull up in my Mark III Cortina and you immediately think I'm the business, don't you? There's no better car for pursuit either. This thing has thicker carpets than your front room and more wood than Sherwood Forest.

**Q: Any special equipment needed to drive it?**

**A:** I'm a big believer in the driving glove. A swanky pair of stringbacks gives you increased grip on the wheel and also look great. (They can protect your knuckles in a fight too)

**Q: You rely a lot on your instincts; does that mean there's no room for science when it comes to catching criminals?**

**A:** There's a lot of talk creeping in these days about the need to understand the criminal's mind. Now, this is important but what worries me is the hand-holding and talk of motivation that seems to go along with it. We need to understand these blaggers so that we can catch them, not to give them a big hug and invite them in to our mum's for tea.

**Q: As a seasoned investigator, have you any advice for younger detectives?**

**A:** The hunch is the copper's friend. The gut knows more than the brain ever will. At a crime scene you're going to hear a lot of opinion, a lot of misunderstanding and a lot of guff from witnesses. Remember that all important rule of crowd chat: the first one to speak did it. They can't keep their gobs shut – desperate to sound innocent, they put their foot in it and do the opposite.

Too many coppers try and make life complicated. If you're called to a house where a woman is lying dead in a bed with a naked milkman on top of her and nobody's seen the husband for two days we can safely say this is not a crime about the prices of diary produce. Don't go all Agatha Christie about things. More often than not it's the simple solution that's the right one.

**Q: In 2007, bureaucracy is a real issue for officers. Is this a problem in your CID office?**

**A:** Crimes aren't solved by poncing around the desk moving sheets of paper, you need to get out on to the streets and get the ball rolling.

**Q: You've said that going undercover is possibly the most dangerous part of the job. Why?**

**A:** This isn't doing a turn in your school play, your mummy ain't going to be giving you a round of applause

and a peck on the cheek for remembering your lines.

You're Brando, Pacino... Gary Cooper. You're on your own and you need to fit in. Mind you, the perks can be good – the wife has my time as a member of Harry Stoke's gang to thank for the colour telly in our front room.

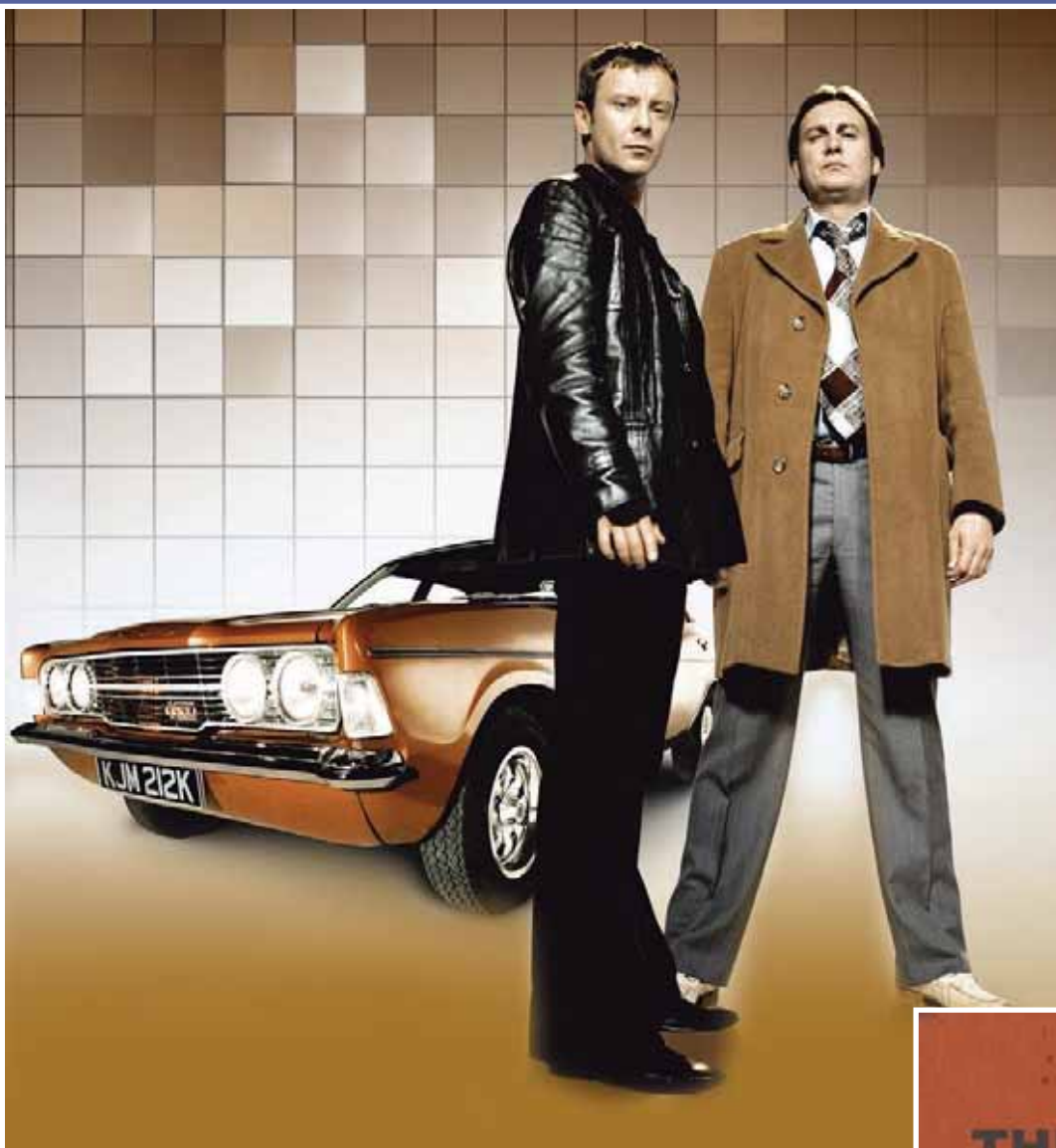
**Q: You seem to be a bit of a maverick in the policing world. How well do you get on with your superiors?**

**A:** It's important to know how to deal with those upstairs... the men whose job it is to worry about what they keep calling the 'big picture' (usually meaning the press or their pension). Politics... hate it, but you have to know how to play the game.

*Extracted from THE RULES OF MODERN POLICING by DCI Gene Hunt published by BANTAM PRESS @ £9.99.  
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Left: Poilce pursuit: DCI Hunt and DI Tyler proudly show off their 'wheels'.

Bottom left: Good cop, bad cop: DI Tyler and DCI Hunt 'interview' a suspect.

