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TAYSIDE POLICE

federation NEWS

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

SUMMER
2009
ISSUE 7

Since our last newsletter a considerable number of changes have taken place to our Joint Branch Board following the elections in February. I have listed all of the reps in another part of this newsletter and hope that you will refer to this when you need to contact a rep for advice.

It is very important that, when possible, you try to make use of your local rep who should try to resolve any issues locally and informally. Our reps are in the workplace and should be contactable at some time of day. They need to build up their level of knowledge and expertise as two of their number will be elected as Secretary and Asst. Secretary in the next 18 months - two years. Dave Hosie and I both intend to retire well before the next triennial elections in early 2012.

Our new reps will attend various training courses run by the Scottish Police Federation but they will not become experts overnight. They will need to be challenged so that they can consider issues and hopefully resolve them to your satisfaction.

In addition to the new reps who were elected in February we have already had to recruit a new Inspector following the retirement of Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Kerr. Inspector Gordon Milne of

Eastern RPU was duly nominated and elected and he is most welcome. Gordon is a director of the Scottish Police Credit Union and brings considerable experience of both policing and committee work to the board.

Bruce Kerr was a valuable part of the board right up till his retirement and his unstinting work in respect of the promotion process has left a much more palatable and streamlined process in place. From the moment he joined the board it became clear that this was an issue close to his heart and he worked tirelessly to demonstrate to the Force Executive that a leaner process, conducted internally, would be much more acceptable to the wider membership.

In addition to changes on our board, we have seen the Force Executive state that the current shift pattern is now adopted as Tayside's shift pattern and the word "pilot" has been dropped. Whilst this may seem like the end of the work in this regard, you can be assured that it will remain a standing agenda item at every single meeting of the Joint Branch Board. If there is something better out there or tweaks are required then we will continue to work on them to improve your lot.

Finally, it is satisfying to know that on the 1 September this year we will get our annual pay rise on time and will not be left at the mercy of a Police Appeal Tribunal or Home Secretary. Whilst the pay rise is only 2.6%, it is guaranteed and considering the current job situation in the country, that cannot be disregarded.

On that point, you may be unaware that at our Annual Conference in April we managed to achieve an assurance from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill, that his government would always accept a decision from arbitration and we could quote him on that. This was a fantastic achievement but unlikely to be repeated by the UK Government unfortunately.

As I type, we still await the result of the Police Arbitration Tribunal in relation to our "on-call" claim at the Police Negotiating Board. As soon as that result is made known I will place a news item on our website. Bear in mind that we also have several other claims at PNB including one relating to a shift allowance. Watch this space for further news.

Malcolm Gibbs
Secretary

VISIT US AT ...
www.taysidejbb.org.uk

FAREWELL

The Joint Branch Board recently received the news that our Chief Constable, Kevin Mathieson is to retire from the police service for personal reasons. We would like to wish him a long and happy retirement after completing over 30 years service.

It was clear to us when Mr Mathieson first spoke to the JBB as Deputy Chief Constable that he would make a difference in Tayside from a very early stage. He was tasked with progressing the Advance Programme which to date is still providing us with more officers at the frontline.

Some of the other changes that this piece of work will bring will not occur until long after he has departed but he leaves a legacy of really wanting to put cops on the street where they can serve the public and protect their colleagues. That was a common thread in many of our discussions and deliberations. As a JBB we cannot ask for more than that from a Deputy and subsequently a Chief Constable.

One of the real concerns and moans that the Chief had to listen to from us and Bruce Kerr in particular, was the promotion process. He shocked a few people with his initial approach during interviews but we now have a much more streamlined process which is administered from within. We are extremely grateful for the concessions he made in this regard.

George Loudon
Chairman



BODY ARMOUR SUCCESS

During the early hours of Saturday 11 June 2009, an officer was subjected to a sustained assault by a man armed with two knives in Brechin.

According to his colleague he was struck numerous times on the body with the blades and clearly his body armour has done exactly what it is meant to do, save his life probably.

Our thoughts are with the officer and his family as he recovers from what must have been a particularly traumatic incident. Our congratulations go to his colleague who apparently handled himself particularly well, by managing to affect an arrest, disarm the male and activate the emergency button despite having only four weeks operational experience.

This incident brought to mind the importance of wearing properly fitted body armour at all times when on duty and away from your station.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your armour fits properly and is maintained so that it provides all of the protection intended by the manufacturers.

If you have any concerns about your armour and its capability then you should speak to your supervisor in order that it can be adjusted, repaired or replaced.

CHARITY WORK

As a result of participating in a profit sharing scheme with the Foresters Friendly Society Limited who provide us with our Critical Illness cover and half pay insurance we have been able to provide more by way of charity donations during this financial year.

We have donated additional sums to charities supported by Tayside officers who have carried out a range of arduous tasks for their respective charities.

In addition we have recently donated £500 to the Army Benevolent Fund through Doug Fisher who participated in the Nijmegen Marches and we are purchasing an additional five spinning bikes for the Police Treatment Centre at Auchterarder. You may recall that we originally bought two bikes following the Benevolent Fund golf day in 2008.

We also supported Morag Dunn (wife of Craig, Eastern Division) who ran a very successful quiz night, raising £6500 for the Police Dependant's Trust. We were able to reimburse her for any costs associated with the event such as raffle ticket printing and local authority licences. The photograph of the cheque presentation includes Chief Superintendent Campbell and Morag's father, Tom Rintoul, a retired Inspector and trustee for the Police Dependant's Trust.

We know that all staff across the Force assisted in this event by purchasing raffle tickets and our thanks on behalf of the PDT goes to all who donated prizes, purchased tickets or entered the event.

Our very sincere thanks go to Morag in particular for her hard work on behalf of our charity.



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BENEVOLENT FUND

One of the real pleasures that we get is being involved with the work of the Benevolent Fund. We provide assistance to local charities, retired officers or their widows/widowers and on occasion we provide assistance to serving officers.

I say "on occasion to serving officers" deliberately as we are sure that there are deserving cases out there that we never hear of. We are always delighted when we can assist serving officers in times of need but are concerned that sometimes we do not get notified of situations that have developed where the fund could assist.

For example, in the recent past we have provided items such as bath lifts, stair lifts and orthopaedic chairs for officers or their family which make their life just a little bit easier. As a registered charity we can normally make such purchases without having to pay VAT.

If you are in need of some assistance or know of a serving officer who could do with some then please speak with us, confidentially, in the federation office or to any rep.

Diploma in Police Service Leadership and Management



PC Morven Mitchell, Western Division receives a gift in recognition of becoming Tayside's first officer to be awarded the diploma.

ATTENDANCE AT COURT – DO NOT BE LATE!



We were recently made aware of a situation that occurred within the Force area when officers were allegedly slightly late for court having been mucked about all week at a Sheriff and Jury diet.

It transpired, allegedly, that the PF was looking for the officers concerned at the allotted time and they were not to be found. One of our colleagues did a very good job of convincing the PF that this was a one off aberration for which a good excuse existed and an arrest warrant should not be issued for the officers. It was, we are led to believe, touch and go!!

Never ever fall into this trap. Ensure that you book into the court before or at the instructed time for all citations or adjourned diets.

Court attendance is undoubtedly inconvenient and sometimes a considerable waste of our time but we do not want to be arranging legal advice for any of you who are in custody awaiting an appearance before the Sheriff.



Arresting Offers.

BMW UK Forces are currently selling BMW Cars at special concessionary rates for Police Officers and Staff.



An example:

BMW 118d SE Convertible

£1000.00 deposit and £269.00 per month Plus VAT.

To gain access, please register at www.bmw-ukforces.co.uk

Only Police Officers and Staff can register their details to get access to information on the Special Offers.

For further information please contact either Peter Marshall or Matt Lang on 020 7318 9406, or email them at mail@bmwparklane.co.uk

Terms and Conditions:
Finance example is based on a 36 month BMW Contract Hire agreement, for the model shown, a BMW 118d SE Convertible with an annual mileage of 10,000 miles.
Excess mileage and wear and tear charges may apply. Figures are correct at time of issue and are subject to change without notice. All financing is subject to status and available to over 18's in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required.

TRAVEL INSURANCE



You are reminded that those of you who pay into the Federation Insurance Scheme ("personal accident" on your pay slip) have automatic worldwide travel insurance for you, your partner and your children up to 21 years of age who live with you.

It is advisable to carry a copy of the travel insurance document with you when you travel. You can download this document from our website, www.taysidejbb.org.uk/downloads or get a copy from our office.

COMPETENCY RELATED THRESHOLD PAYMENTS

Once again it is incumbent upon us to remind you that when you have been on the top of your pay scale (now 10 years for a Constable) for one year, that is 11 in total, you can apply for Competency Related Threshold Payment.

It is YOUR responsibility to apply for this through SCOPE and the application form can be completed up to three months in advance. It is extremely frustrating to give advice to officers who contact our office that the Force will not backdate payments because you did not apply for the payment.

YOUR FEDERATION INSURANCE SCHEME – 25p increase!

As you will be aware your insurance scheme is arranged by us through our brokers Philip Williams and Co.

We are delighted to advise you that we have negotiated some improvements in the scheme which we hope will provide you with additional benefit for little extra cost. These benefits will apply from the scheme renewal date, 1 October 2009.

LIFE COVER – We have managed to increase the cover provided in all sections by 10% which means that your life is now insured for £110,000 and your spouse/partner is insured for £55,000.

The increase of 10% also applies to entry level scheme which relates to probationers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE – slight benefit increase here. You can now claim up to £25 towards phone calls in the emergency medical section.

LEGAL EXPENSES – The limit of indemnity has been increased from £75,000 to £100,000 which is important given the ever spiralling cost of litigation. In addition, some new cover will be provided regarding ID theft protection.

NEW PRODUCT – We are adding Home Emergency Insurance to the package and this will provide a suitably qualified contractor to deal with home emergencies such as a failure of your boiler or heating system or a burst pipe.

As with all insurances, there are conditions and one of the clauses here is that your boiler must be less than 15 old and must have been properly serviced within a year.

As a result of this clause, you will be pleased to know that we have negotiated an excellent deal with a suitably qualified gas engineer who covers the region. His company will service the gas boilers of scheme members for £50 including VAT.

As a result of all of the above benefits you will find that w.e.f. your October payslip that your accident insurance deduction on your pay slip will increase by the princely sum of 25 pence per month. We feel that this is excellent value for money and are delighted with the renewal terms.

TAYSIDE POLICE JOINT BRANCH BOARD REPS 2009 - 2012

Inspectors' Board

Inspector Gordon Milne, RPU Eastern Division. (3800)
Inspector David Barclay, Western Division, Perth. (2604)
Inspector Martin Buchan, Professional Standards, H.Q. (6663)
Inspector Andrew McCann, Community Safety, Perth. (2643)
Inspector Ron McNaughton, Community Safety, Forfar. (3640)
Inspector Hazel Robertson, Business Change. (6704)

Sergeants' Board

Sergeant David Dunlop, PEO Central. (1751)
Sergeant Malcolm Gibbs (Secretary) (6660) Mobile:- 07891 999893
Sergeant David Hamilton, Downfield. (1701)
Sergeant Murray Haston, Carnoustie. (3731)
Sergeant Alan Kidd, PEO Central. (1570)
Sergeant Grant Letham, Perth. (2601)
Sergeant George Loudon (Chairman), PEO Central. (1570)

Constables' Board

Constable Stephen Cook, R.P.U./Central. (1885)
Constable John Ferguson, Crieff. (2725)
Constable Douglas Fisher, CCPO, Central. (6108)
Constable David Hosie, (Assistant Secretary) (6662) (Mobile: 07808 899190)
Constable Graham Howie, Arbroath. (3786)
Constable Kenneth McGregor, Perth. (2616)
D/Constable David Sneddon, FIU/HQ. (6471)

CONTACT US

Write to us at: Tayside Joint Branch Board, Scottish Police Federation, Tayside Police Headquarters
West Bell Street Dundee DD1 9JU

Tel: (01382) 596660 (Ext: 6661/6662) E-Mail: malcolm.gibbs@spf.com www.taysidejbb.org.uk