

The staff magazine of British Transport Police

the **Blue**line

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**BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE**

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Cover photo

BTP deployed 250 officers on 1 April as part of a
combined London policing operation for the G20 summit.
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03 DCC to take over from Ian Johnston

The British Transport Police Authority announced in April that DCC Andy Trotter will be the next Chief Constable of British Transport Police following Ian Johnston's departure this summer.

04 Student Officers foil robbery

Student Officers on their way to an assignment have foiled a cash in transit robbery on the streets of Camden.

05 Dishonest scrap dealer faces 16 months

A 61 year old Barking scrap dealer has been gaoled for 16 months following convictions for offences relating to theft and handling of stolen copper and lead. Confiscation of half a million pounds is now being sought under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

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12 Rugby success for boys and girls

BTP's rugby players have had a successful season with national honours for Louise Micklewright and victory over the City for the men's team.

In the Cess

Andy Trotter will be the new Chief Constable

As The Blue Line went to press, the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) announced that the Deputy Chief Constable, Andy Trotter, had been chosen as the next Chief Constable of BTP.



I am absolutely delighted that the Police Authority have been able to select Andy Trotter as the next Chief Constable,' said Ian Johnston, current Chief Constable. 'Andy has a vast experience of policing and in his new elevated role will bring fresh ways of continuing to improve the service the Force provides. He has shown outstanding leadership as my deputy, and I know will be a first class Chief Constable.'

Andy was appointed following a rigorous selection process and has been Deputy Chief Constable for more than five years. Following the announcement, he said he felt extremely honoured.

'There have been huge improvements made to the Force under the leadership of Ian Johnston over the last few years, which have ensured that the benefits of a dedicated force for Britain's railways is experienced by both passengers and staff.

'The dedication and hard work of BTP officers and staff in delivering a safe and secure

railway is first class and I am proud to have been given the responsibility to lead them.

'We now face enormous challenges ahead to ensure we respond flexibly to the changing economic conditions whilst continuing to drive our performance. I look forward to working with the police authority, colleagues in the rail industry and our officers and staff to continue to deliver a specialised, dedicated policing service to Britain's railways.'

BTPA Chairman Millie Banerjee said that she is confident Andy will build on the transformation BTP has undergone over the past eight years:

'The next Chief Constable faces the challenging agenda of a difficult financial climate and increasing demands on the Force. I am confident that Andy will deliver,' she said.

Transport Minister Lord Adonis also said he was 'delighted' with Mr Trotter's selection. 'Ian Johnston has done a superb job in making BTP the efficient and effective force it is today. I am sure that Andy will prove an excellent successor and I very much look forward to working with him.'

Ian Johnston will remain in office until this summer and the BTPA will be advertising for a new DCC.

Andy joined BTP from the Metropolitan Police in January 2004. He began his police career with the Met in 1970 and served in the West End before transferring to Kent Police, rising to the rank of Chief Inspector specialising in operational and public order policing. He returned to the Met as a Superintendent in 1992.

Following attendance on the Senior Command Course in the mid-90s, Andy was promoted to Commander covering operations for South East London, and Deputy Assistant Commissioner (Crime) two years later.

Since joining BTP, Andy has presided over a step change in performance, with all operational Policing Plan targets achieved in the last three years. He came to international prominence leading the media response for the police service following the London bombings of July 2005.

Sharing best practice with the Americans

BTP officers visited the USA in March as part of an international exchange of rail and counter terrorism expertise. They joined Amtrak Police Department (APD) colleagues for joint patrols at stations and on board trains along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor.

The visit was designed to cement a security partnership between the two organisations and share lessons learned and best practice.

Superintendent Phil Trendall from the Counter Terrorism Support Unit led the team of two Sergeants and three PCs who began their visit at Washington DC's Union Station. The security operations were conducted by police and tactical forces, counter surveillance (hostile reconnaissance) personnel, and K-9 detection units. Through the week, BTP officers visited Philadelphia's

30th Street Station, Baltimore Penn Station, and New York Penn Station.

'The week's activities represent a major opportunity for our two organisations to work and learn from each other,' commented Superintendent Trendall. 'We share a determination to protect the travelling public from the threat of terrorism and sharing best practice and operational tactics is critical to our success.'

'The rail community continues to be a target worldwide and protecting passengers from harm is paramount,' said Amtrak Chief

Operating Officer William Crosbie. 'If one member of the community is targeted, we all feel the effects one way or another. By sharing best police practices and lessons learned with our British counterparts and others, we can build a safer and more secure rail environment for riders internationally.'

Amtrak Police Chief John O'Connor said the parties agreed to the cross-Atlantic exchange after attending international counter terrorism rail safety conferences last year.



An armed robbery attempt on a security van outside Sainsbury's Camden Road store in London went dramatically wrong when a passing motorist and BTP's Student Officers intervened.



Security van robbers foiled by Student Officers

Top of the cops: I-r PCs Carlo Peroni, London South, Karyn DeCosta, L Area, Craign Howat, London South, Maria Elward, London South and Peter Giles, London South

On the last day of March, the Loomis van was delivering cash to ATMs outside Sainsbury's, just yards from the London Professional Development Unit.

As the Student Officers were passing by on their way to the Tube station, they heard a shout and found an attempted robbery in progress.

'As we crossed to the station we heard a shout from another student officer,' said PC Peter Giles. 'We started walking back up Camden Road and a member of the public was pointing towards Bayham Street.'

PCs Craig Howat and Maria Elward gave chase down the street, whilst PC Giles headed towards the High Street.

'The suspect doubled back into the High Street and took refuge in a Curry's store,' explained PC Giles. 'Maria and Craig sealed the store off, so no-one could get out and I went in.'

Helped by a member of shop staff, Peter identified the suspect, who had tried to dump

clothing, and arrested him on suspicion of robbery.

The Student Officers, just over seven months into their training, were with their Professional Development Officer, PC Pravin Kerai, when the drama unfolded.

'We were on our way to St Pancras to do vehicle stops and checks. It's one of the competencies Student Officers have to demonstrate,' he told *The Blue Line*.

'These things don't happen very often and I've never done it myself before. I helped ensure the store was sealed and made sure all the Student Officers were OK.'

It was shortly before 2.25pm when the suspect grabbed a cash box from the van. A silver Mercedes getaway car was waiting for him across the street, but a passing van driver saw what was happening and blocked its path.

The thief and getaway driver ran off in different directions, abandoning the box as they went. Whilst the driver was being tackled in Curry's, the other suspect was pursued and detained by two more Student Officers, PCs

Carlo Peroni and Karyn DeCosta together with London South DC Simon Evans.

PCs Elward, Giles and Howat then went to Holborn police station, where Peter and Craig carried out a strip search of the suspect, and the three wrote up statements for the Met Flying Squad. It was later confirmed that the security guard had been hit from behind during the attack.

'Cash in transit robberies are a priority for the Met,' commented PC Kerai, 'so they were very pleased to be handed this one on a plate!'

● As a footnote, proud father of Craig Howat, Detective Inspector Brian Howat, currently assigned to the Olympics project, remembers something similar that happened to him more than 30 years ago.

'It was 1976 and I had just arrived from Glasgow in the Met at Lewisham. I was the first on scene to an incident in which three people were robbing a bookmakers. We arrested one person with a gun and two other guns were recovered later.'

Strike hits control rooms

A 48 hour walkout by some control room staff took place over the FA Cup Semi-Final weekend in April.

The staff from the two control rooms and the First Contact Centre took industrial action on one of the busiest football days of year over what the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) described as recognition and differences in terms and conditions issues.

Arrangements to staff the control rooms were put in place and there was no disruption to BTP services or performance as a result of the action.

BTP's negotiating team led by Lorraine Jainudeen, Head of Human Resources, has met with TSSA representatives to work through the details to recognise TSSA for all BTP non-managerial staff. Both parties agreed that ensuring a suitable package delivering recognition for staff is the objective.

Following a meeting on 22 April, Human Resources Director Linda Scott said: 'Both BTP and TSSA have worked together today and feel that further progress will be made at the meeting next week.'

Scrap dealer given 16 months

Scrap metal at LT Mumford's yard in Barking



In the first case of its kind, BTP's central Operation Drum team has secured the conviction of a scrap dealer and four others for dealing in stolen metal.

Metal theft facts

Metal theft has become an increasing issue following large price rises for copper and other metal on world markets. In 2006 BTP recorded 1,183 crimes; this rose to 1,886 in 2007 and 2,249 in 2008. Metal theft is estimated to cost Britain around £360m a year.

BTP has taken the lead in tackling metal theft and chairs the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Conductive Metal Thefts Working Group. A number of multi-agency operations have been run since January 2008, including a European Day of Action in April 2008, ACPO National Days of Action in January and July 2008, as well as dozens of Area operations.

Operation Drum is BTP's response to cable theft on the rail system and is a multi-stranded initiative that includes overt, covert and intelligence led operations. The operation is supported by dedicated teams of officers in London and the north east.

Proceeds of Crime Act

Since the 2002 Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) came into effect in 2003 over half a billion pounds has been seized from criminals.

POCA was introduced to take the profit out of crime and stop criminals living the high life on their ill gotten gains. Under a programme introduced in 2006, police and other criminal justice agencies retain half the value of assets seized.

The latest figures from the Home Office show that in the three months from July to September 2008 confiscated criminal assets totalled £33.5m. £5.4m (18.75%) went back to police forces in England and Wales, of which BTP received £7,325.

Following the convictions for offences relating to theft and handling of stolen copper and lead, which saw the 61 year old scrap dealer gaoled for 16 months, BTP is seeking confiscation of half a million pounds under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

In January this year, David Dutton from Romford, Essex, owner of Barking based scrap dealers L.T. Mumford, admitted four counts of possession of criminal property. The four other defendants, brothers Sam Price, John Price, and Hope Price, all from Bedfordshire, together with William Eastwood from Basildon, entered guilty pleas for supplying stolen metal and various counts of possession of criminal property.

At Basildon Crown Court in April, David Dutton was given a 16 month gaol sentence, the Price brothers were each given a six month sentence suspended for 18 months and William Eastwood was ordered to do 120 hours community service.

'This was an important case for us,' Detective Chief Inspector Simon Jones told *The Blue Line*. 'This is the first time we have successfully prosecuted a scrap dealer and it should send out a message to other rogue dealers that we are very serious about cracking down on their activities.'

The main charges against David Dutton and the Price brothers related to 53 boxes of cable stolen from an electronics company in High Wycombe in early October 2007. Just hours after the burglary, the cable was sold by the Prices at L T Mumford's yard.

During the investigation, over £40,000 in cash was seized and proceedings to confiscate around £500,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act are now under way.

'The investigation that led to these convictions was complex,' commented Detective Inspector Karl Skrzypiec. 'We undertook covert surveillance and there was close cooperation between a number of agencies. Metal and cable theft and dealing in stolen metals is a significant problem for the rail industry, telecommunications providers and utilities. Apart from the economic loss, there are real consequences for businesses and communities. The loss of cable on the rail network is a major disruption factor.'

Officers first visited L T Mumford in March 2007 when the owner was warned about dealing in stolen metals. However, Mr Dutton continued to trade in stolen cable and covert observations of the yard were set up in October 2007.

As a result of that, a vehicle driven by Sam Price, in which Hope and John Price were passengers, was stopped and all three arrested. A lorry, driven by William Eastwood, was also stopped and he was found with £4,000 in cash in his possession believed to be the proceeds of the sale of stolen BT cable. A search warrant was executed at the yard in October during which quantities of suspected stolen metals were seized.

Passenger satisfaction is on the up

Record numbers of passengers are satisfied with their train journey, according to the latest National Passenger Survey (NPS).

Consumer watchdog Passenger Focus carries out the survey twice a year. The results for Autumn 2008, in which more than 26,000 rail users were canvassed, show satisfaction up two percentage points to 83% since Autumn 2007.

The satisfaction rating around personal security on stations was up 1% to 63% and on trains up 2% to 72%.



G20 operation was unprecedented

The police operation around the G20 summit in London at the beginning of April has drawn its share of adverse publicity, particularly following the death of Ian Tomlinson.

However, the G20 went ahead as planned, people were allowed to make their protest and BTP officers received much praise for their part in a highly complex operation.

Five BTP officers were injured during the operation and three complaints have been received and are being investigated.

Integrated operation

Six police forces were part of the £7.5m security operation, including Bedfordshire, Essex and Sussex.

Under the overall command of Metropolitan Police Commander Bob Broadhurst, BTP became an integral part of the operation – a Bronze Sector in the Gold, Silver, Bronze structure (see panel). BTP deployed 250 officers on 1 April and more than 450 on 2 April.

With the Prime Minister hosting and delegates including the newly elected US president and US Secretary of State Hilary

Clinton, this was the most sensitive imaginable security operation.

It was in late January that planning for the G20 meeting began with the Metropolitan Police's CO11 Branch asking for a BTP lead. L Area Operations Superintendent John Hennigan took on that role.

'As the Docklands Light Railway track, land and stations, run the length of the northern flank bordering the ExCel Centre, BTP was given the task of policing this,' Superintendent Hennigan told *The Blue Line*. 'The objective was to design out disruption and incursions on the part of demonstrators – to put no finer point on it, they shall not pass.'

'I was designated a Bronze Commander and ACC Alan Pacey maintained high level liaison with the MPS and other forces throughout the five weeks lead up.'

'By this time intelligence was flowing, some about likely G20 protests and much more regarding 1 April. That was a double header day, an environmental protest, known as Fossil Fools Day, and an economic protest,

known as Financial Fools Day.

'As the intelligence grew, the decision was made to include 1 April under the umbrella of Operation Glencoe. Superintendent Paul Shrubsole assisted by Superintendent Dave Roney took the lead for BTP in connection with the 1 April protests.

'That left me the time to take over late that evening, into the small hours, when the protective ring of security was put into place, which was strengthened as dawn broke on 2 April.'

'The events of 1 April around Bank station were seen over the world. However the containment of the protests by the PSUs (Police Support Units) was such that this did not develop into a long period of uncontrolled disorder as seen in the City in previous years.'

'The second of April saw a containment of protestors, late in the afternoon, when they had visited and surveyed the arrangements around DLR and ExCel. There is little doubt that these groups probed and tested the defensive plans. No weakness or breaches



Right
The event control room...operated in its usual efficient and professional manner – ACC Alan Pacey



In the thick of it

London North Sergeant Martin Kenneally, part of a PSU deployed in Threadneedle Street, was one of five injured BTP officers.

'We had good training and teamwork,' he told *The Blue Line*. There was a crowd of 50 to 60 determined to break through our lines. We couldn't make arrests because of the resource implications and we spent over an hour battling with these people. There was no respite.

'Then a bottle came from the back of the crowd and struck me on the top of the head. There was gushing blood and I was taken out by two Met medics, faced by a barrage of photographers.'

Martin, who has ten years public order experience, says that his PSU was stuck in the middle. 'There was a crowd behind us of over 300 and we were battling to keep them back. It was full on for well over an hour.'

'Everyone was remarkable, outstanding. I can't say enough about our PSU, which was led by Inspector Mark Hook.'

Sergeant Kenneally was taken to the London Hospital, Whitechapel where he was treated for a head injury. When *The Blue Line* spoke to him he was 'still a bit tender.'

Thanks for a professional job

Following G20, ACC Alan Pacey and the Chief Constable thanked officers for the outstanding job they had done in difficult circumstances.

'I had the honour to meet President Barack Obama, who had specifically asked to meet me to thank BTP for its role in the operation,' said the Chief Constable, Ian Johnston.

'I have also received extremely complimentary feedback from many sources about the performance of our officers on the front line. Their courage and restraint in the face of unprovoked and sustained violence was clear for all to see. I am extremely proud of you all.'

Writing to the Chief Constable, Millie

Banerjee, Chair of the British Transport Police Authority, said: 'I am writing on behalf of all the members of the Authority to thank you, your senior team and the force for the excellent job you did during this very difficult week. It was easy to see from the press and media coverage that BTP were right in the thick of it and I appreciate the dedication and the courage of the officers involved.'

Describing the operation as 'unprecedented', ACC Alan Pacey praised the professionalism and dedication of officers and staff.

'The intense national and international media focus on the police handling of the summit and associated protests, meant it was vital we displayed our utmost professionalism throughout the two days and your response was first class,' he said.

'I would also like to thank the event control room, which operated in its usual efficient and professional manner.'

Gold, Silver, Bronze

Major operations and incidents are managed using the Gold, Silver, Bronze command structure.

The Gold Commander, of which there is only one, has overall command and sets the strategy and policy framework for the operation.

Silver is the tactical level, the person making the immediate decisions about deployments and resources. There can be more than one Silver Commander, for instance covering separate venues e.g. two football grounds, as part of the same operation.

Bronze is the operational level commander who deploys resources on the ground. There are multiple Bronzes, sometimes covering geographical areas (e.g. individual stations), sometimes performing particular roles (e.g. Bronze Crime, Bronze Community, Bronze Media etc.).



were identified. In view of this there was a movement back to the City of London. Our plans and our lines stood the test.'

Silver Suite

This was the first time that BTP raised five PSUs from across the country. Specialist Working at Heights and removal teams were deployed and, for additional resilience, Ministry of Defence Police teams provided mutual aid over the night of 1 to 2 April

On both days, the refurbished Silver Suite at Force HQ was used as the main control for the BTP part of the operation, with links to and officers located within the main operational control at Lambeth. On 1 April the Silver Suite was a shared facility, as the World Cup qualifier between England and Ukraine was played that evening, with Superintendent Bob Pacey as Silver Commander.

The L Area Events Planning Team undertook the early stages of planning for the G20. As it became clearer that mobilisation of forcewide assets would be needed – in particular when the need for additional PSUs was identified – the Force HQ Event Planning and Co-ordination Unit (EPCU), under the command of Chief Superintendent David Wildbore, became involved.

Making what you see, what you get



Detective Inspector Ian Trantum thanks Dr Lorraine Hope after the national interview training seminar

A new interviewing technique developed by research psychologists in Britain and America should help capture more and better evidence from eyewitnesses. BTP is about to field test Self-Administered Interviews (SAIs) under an ACPO endorsed scheme.

Most police officers will have experienced the frustration of having many witnesses to a crime, and almost as many versions of events. Human memory is not, as many people believe, like a video recorder in your head registering events as they unfold: rather it is a process of reconstruction, and like any process, can be helped or hindered by a variety of factors.

The golden hour

One of the key factors that prevents witnesses recalling as much information as they might is delay in being interviewed. Research has shown that witnesses can forget a great deal of information very fast, particularly in the first hour, when up to 50% of useful data can be lost.

Constraints on police at the scene of a crime – for instance the need to deal with injured or vulnerable people and preserve physical evidence – mean that it is often not possible to carry out interviews with witnesses immediately, particularly if there are large numbers. Best practice has been to collect names and contact numbers, establish the basic facts and then follow up with a full interview later – sometimes weeks later.

Work undertaken by Dr Fiona Gabbert from the University of Abertay in Dundee, Dr Lorraine Hope from the University of Portsmouth, and Professor Ron Fisher from Florida International University aims to bridge that gap.

They have developed the Self-Administered Interview, a booklet of instructions, cues and

prompts that can be given to eyewitnesses straight after an incident so they can capture, in their own words, a full account of what they have just witnessed.

‘The phenomenon of transience means that memory fades over time,’ Dr Gabbert told a national interview training seminar in Birmingham in March.

‘It is not only the memories themselves that fade, but associations between memories weaken...Memory fades from the specific to the gist.’

Studies undertaken by the researchers using subjects drawn from the general population show that using SAIs can help mitigate memory decay.

‘You can actively prevent decay if you ask people to rehearse their memory,’ says Dr Gabbert. That means that the sooner people are asked to remember, the more they will remember, and once they have been asked to recall something once, the more likely they are then to be able to remember it in the future.

People remember better if they are in a similar situation, physical or mental, to the one when the event occurred. ‘Recall is best when the encoding and retrieval environments are the same,’ is how Dr Gabbert puts it, so one of the psychological techniques employed in the SAI is to get people to think themselves back into the situation when the event occurred: What were they wearing? How did they feel? Who was around them, etc.? These details help ‘reinstatate the context’, which is a proven way of helping people remember more.

The SAI booklet asks witnesses to remember everything, not just what they think is relevant, and then provides them with cues,

such as asking if they remember the gender, age, accent or clothing worn by a suspect, so they can fill in their answers.

Control group

The first study with the Self-Administered Interview technique compared subjects’ performance against a control group immediately after they had witnessed a simulated non-violent car crime. The control group was asked to recall freely what they had witnessed and write it down, a second group was given the SAI to complete and a third group was given a cognitive interview – a detailed interview with a specially trained interviewer.

The results were encouraging, with the SAI subjects performing significantly better than the control group, and not far behind those given the cognitive interview. If that panned out in practice, it would mean detectives gaining significantly more information about a crime from a larger number of witnesses more quickly.

Significant improvement

A second study introduced delay into the equation. The control group went away after witnessing the crime and were only asked to recount what they had witnessed a week later. The SAI group were given their booklets to complete immediately and then re-interviewed a week later. Here, SAI subjects performed much better than the control group, remembering significantly more forensically relevant details such as person descriptions..

‘This research confirms the importance of capturing as much information from witnesses as early as possible,’ commented Detective



Dr Fiona Gabbert

Alarm sounds last post for control room

An eerie hush has descended over one of the busiest rooms in the North Western Area.

Computers have been turned off and the phones have gone quiet in the North Western Area Control Room which took its final call on 22 March (see TBL April).

And it was the sound of a siren which took the place of the last post, as the final incident to be dealt with was an intruder alarm at Manchester Piccadilly station.

'It was not perhaps the most dramatic or glamorous way to bring the curtain down on the control room, but it was fitting that the incident related to a station so close to the call handlers,' commented Chief Inspector Eddie Wylie.

'The call was passed to the North Western control room at 6.52am – and just eight minutes later all functions passed to the Force Control Room Birmingham.

'I'd like to thank everyone who has worked in the control room over the years for their professionalism and dedication to a job that can be extremely demanding.

'Often the call handlers deal with members of the public who are going through some of the worst experiences of their lives and there is no doubt that the calm manner of BTP staff has helped countless people in difficult situations.'

Chief Superintendent Peter Holden, North Western Area Commander, added: 'People will be aware that the North Western control room was the last of the provincial control rooms to close and my thanks go out to all the control room staff who have worked diligently and shown obvious pride and dedication in the difficult circumstances leading up to the closure.'

Inspector Ian Trantum from the FHQ Major Investigation Team, an expert in interview techniques and organiser of the seminar. 'The SAI could prove very valuable for Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs). It won't be appropriate for every incident, but where you have a large number of witnesses, who are generally willing to cooperate – for instance after the cash in transit robbery at Rayleigh, Essex, during which a commuter was shot in the chest – I think it will prove its worth.'

Contaminated memories

Using SAIs may have a number of advantages. Firstly it allows witnesses to say things in their own words, cutting out any possibility of influence from the interviewing officer. It also allows simultaneous reporting by a large number of witnesses after which SIOs can prioritise those witnesses they want to interview in more depth.

Further experiments with SAIs have tested whether they can have an adverse effect on a subsequent police interview. Dr Lorraine Hope has been working on the project for some six years and explained some of the dangers of memory distortion.

'Memory is not passive, it is a reconstructive process and it can reconstruct in line with expectations and pre-existing schemata,' she said. 'Up to 85% of witnesses swap information at the scene and this can lead to contamination.'

People who have witnessed an unusual event are also likely to recount it to friends and family - and may be tempted to embellish or elaborate to fill in gaps or for dramatic effect.

Leading questions from interviewers can also affect witnesses' evidence, so a study was undertaken to see if those who had completed an SAI were any less susceptible to being misled by the interviewer. It did indeed

show what Dr Hope describes as an 'inoculating effect – protecting them against misleading information.' The SAI subjects reported significantly more detail and less incorrect information.

Witnesses can be influenced from a variety of directions, not just the interviewer or fellow witnesses. A study that gave subjects sight of a mock BBC report of the crime, containing deliberately wrong information, showed that subjects, who completed an SAI after witnessing the event, were significantly less likely to "recall" the erroneous information gleaned from the news report.

Staggeringly, 50% of the control group included some of the deliberately erroneous information in their subsequent accounts, compared to 20% of the SAI group. 'It shows that SAIs can begin to inoculate or protect against misinformation,' said Dr Hope.

Field testing

A further study involving 60 participants showed that SAIs also lead to improved quality of subsequent interviews. Specifically, the SAI group remembered more specific details about the crime event witnessed a week before, indicating that the level of fine detail was maintained, rather than turning into a 'gist' memory.

As well as the field testing, the research team are looking at a possible audio version of the SAI, for those with literacy difficulties, an on-line facility that witnesses could access from their own homes and foreign language versions.

'The SAI is an addition to our investigative tool box,' DI Trantum told *The Blue Line*. 'We intend to trial it using interview trained officers as part of a study to show whether it is useful to witnesses on the one hand, and to police officers on the other.'

Remember the numbers!

The dedicated contact numbers for BTP officers and staff are:

First Contact Centre

054 5774 (0121 634 5774)

FCRB

054 5777 (0121 634 5777)

FCRL

004 3039 (020 7904 3039)



New Chairman for SAME

Left
SAME Chairman, Baseem Akbar

Right
Beverley Jamerson, Deputy
General Secretary of the National
Black Police Association

Baseem Akbar has been elected as the new Chairman of BTP's Support Association for Minority Ethnic staff (SAME) at its annual general meeting held in March. Gerald Brown was re-elected General Secretary.

The Peterborough AGM was the fifth conference to be held by the organisation, the last being in 2007. Full membership has increased by 15%.

Chief Inspector Dave Oram acted as master of ceremonies telling delegates that they had an 'opportunity to influence how BTP delivers a policing service better to people out there.'

Highlighting important issues that SAME has been dealing with, Baseem Akbar noted the number of calls from members concerned about the *Frontline* first programme and the racist graffiti incident at Stockwell, which had featured in a BBC Panorama programme. More widely within the police service, he said that stop and search still presented difficulties and that the majority of forces had failed to meet recruitment targets for BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) staff.

'Progression is the key issue for BME staff. BME staff are twice as likely to resign, three and a half times as likely to be investigated and five times more likely to be dismissed.'

SAME has been helping BTP through participation in a group looking at recruitment and progression and helped with the rollout of the Taylor reforms, the new misconduct and performance arrangements that were brought in in December last year.

'Success in 21st century policing is about partnership,' said Baseem. 'We are showing BTP how it can go forward.'

Whilst the majority of the day was devoted to independently facilitated workshops, during which delegates had the opportunity to voice opinions and concerns in a confidential forum, the conference also heard from guest speakers Beverley Jamerson, Deputy General Secretary of the National Black Police Association (NBPA), and Paul Obinna Wilson-Erne, a specialist in cultural engagement.

Beverley, who is from West Yorkshire Police, outlined how the NBPA has progressed since its inception ten years ago after the tragic death of Stephen Lawrence.

'It took his death to bring about a plethora of change,' she said. 'We have made substantial strides, however this is not the endgame.'

'Racism is still alive and well in 21st century Britain. In the police, it's still there; the only difference is that instead of being overt, it is covert.'

She went on to say that black police associations need to work smarter and rely less on the mainstream organisation for support. 'We have the answer the organisation needs to bring about its agenda of policing within the community.'

Speaking at the conference, the Chief

Constable, Ian Johnston, thanked SAME and its members for the 'important role' they have played in BTP.

Emphasizing the common ground between the organisations, Mr Johnston said: 'Progress has been frustratingly slow, but progress there has been... The biggest issue facing the police service is building trust and confidence in the community it serves. The police need to see the world through the eyes of the communities we serve and needs to reflect that community.'

Mr Johnston said that BTP was now in third place behind the Metropolitan Police and West Midlands Police in terms of the percentage of staff drawn from BME backgrounds. Neighbourhood Policing Teams, he said, will help BTP better engage with communities.

Human Resources Director Linda Scott promised an action plan to move issues forward, an action plan that would be informed by the workshops taking place at the conference.

BTP's eight per cent progression target for BME staff had been achieved, she said, but pointed out that targets are simply 'a means to and end,' the end being to create 'a force that is truly representative.'

Workshop findings are being collated and a follow up event is planned for later in 2009 to develop plans to address the issues raised.

BTP invests in young people with Prince's Trust

Seven members of BTP staff are working with young people as part of a Prince's Trust scheme that helps develop their own potential as well as that of the youngsters with whom they work.

BTP has joined this scheme providing seven delegates to act as a coach and mentor. They work with Prince's Trust sponsored young people on community projects, helping guide, advise and develop them. From BTP's point of view, the scheme allows the staff involved to develop valuable communication and project management skills.

'All our delegates have been assigned a programme, mostly starting in May,' Diane Doyle, Diversity Trainer from Learning and Development told *The Blue Line*.

'This is a three month programme that involves the BTP delegate being away for one week with their group and then for a further 15 days spread over the remaining time.

'By working with other organisations, such as the Prince's Trust, we can unlock young peoples' potential and improve their confidence, motivation, skills and job prospects. We also know from other employers who take part that 90% of staff who go on the course come back with improved skills and attitude.'

Around one in five young people in the UK are not in work, education

or training. Youth unemployment costs the economy £10 million a day in lost productivity, whilst youth crime costs £1 billion every year.

The Prince's Trust gives practical and financial support for young people who need it most. It is open to both unemployed and employed young people and includes work experience, careers advice and job opportunities, new qualifications and challenging projects.

The seven delegates are Richard Chapman, FHQ Diversity Officer, London North Sergeant Anna Granger, PC Bill Hurst from the North Eastern Area, PCSO Georgina Ironside, who is about to start her training as a police officer, Natalie Martin from the London Criminal Justice Unit, Olufunke Oduntan from HR and London South PC Richard Punter.

'The project that I am working on is the "Team Programme", commented Sergeant Granger. 'It's a 12 week personal development course offering work experience, practical skills, community projects and a residential week. It is aimed at young people who are unemployed, unexcited and unsure about their future.

'My role as a development coach consists of spending a couple of days each week with the team, assisting the team leader by carrying out lessons and activities and encouraging and motivating the young people.'

Advisors visit Liverpool

The North Western Area has always taken a lead in promoting community engagement. It was the first Area to set up a Citizens' Forum and to become involved in Business in the Community.

Marten Lougee (left), Marlene West and Carl Duncan visit BTP Liverpool



Marlene West, previously Chair of BTP's National Independent Advisory Group, has been the Chair of the Forum since being elected at the end of 2008. The Forum is made up of members of the travelling public and representatives of passenger user groups throughout the Area. Their role is to work with BTP to improve the travelling experience for those using the network.

'Marlene has had a lot of previous experience working with BTP,' commented Chief Inspector Sue Peters formerly based at Liverpool. 'She has already discussed some good ideas of how she wants to take the group forward and make it available to areas in the North West not yet represented. We all look forward to working with her in the future and feel she will be a great asset to the group.'

Sue hosted a visit to Merseyside by Marlene, who was accompanied by Marten

Lougee and Carl Duncan from the NIAG. They observed officers conducting Section 44 counter terrorism searches and toured the police station having the chance to talk to police officers, PCSOs and staff.

'The feedback from the traveling public has been very positive on all occasions,' said Marlene. 'They said that the officers who had stopped them had explained why they had stopped them, were very polite, courteous and were never heavy handed.' and had friendly banter during the search.'



Left BTP in red and black head for victory against City of London Police
Right Louise Micklewright



Kicking her way to victory

Louise Micklewright from the Strategic Development Department has played her part in the British Police women's rugby team continuing success with wins over the British Army by 18-7 and the RAF by 39-0.

Louise, who has been playing rugby since the age of 17 and is a first team player for Premiership side Saracens (see TBL November 2008), kicked three conversions and a penalty to help secure the wins.

'The British Army had quite a similar set up to the British police team with various big name international players and fringe players from the International Elite squads in both teams,' Louise told *The Blue Line*.

'The Army was a well drilled squad; however the game was won by the amount of turnovers won by the British police forward pack.

'We knew the RAF team wouldn't be as tough a test as the British Army, however they were a very physical side and put in some big hits. The game was won 39-0 with six tries scored. I took over kicking duties in the second half and converted the final three tries and kicked a penalty from 35 metres.'

- On the men's side of the house, BTP won a hard fought and bruising encounter with the City of London's rugby team by 14 points to 12. That makes it four in row for BTP.

The last minute victory over the City boys was down to good defending and the in-form boot of Tom Harris. The forwards were more than a match for City and breaks by the backs ensured they were kept on their toes.

'Thanks to all those who played and the sideline support, who always had faith that we would win,' said Nick Loader from London North.

'Everyone gave 100 per cent and the team did not stop until they heard the final whistle... The lads have had a brilliant year and I want to congratulate them for winning the league for the second year running.'

'The whole team played well,' commented Julian Gardiner, 'but a couple who stood out were Tom Harris, whose kicking display seems to be getting better and better, and Jamie Natrass playing at 2nd row, who showed that he will make a very good forward as he is only 19 and does not usually play there. Also John Atkins made some very good breaks. This is the second time we have now won the London Competition and the third time in a row that we have beaten the City Police.'

Draw result

Thanks to all those who returned questionnaires in our February readership survey. The results are being analysed and will be published at a later date. Deborah McNally, who is a member of Police Staff from Corporate Services, Wales and Western AHQ in Birmingham, was the lucky winner of our prize draw for £50 worth of vouchers.



Four into 100 will go for Bristol Trailwalkers

Four Bristol based officers are undertaking a 100km trek along the South Downs Way raising money for Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

They aim to raise £1,700 as part of Trailwalker 2009, which takes walkers the 100km from Petersfield to Brighton.

Teams have a maximum of 30 hours to complete the walk, but the Bristol officers, Sergeant Scott McKechnie and PCs Paul Broaders, David Richardson-Aitken and Tony Watt, aim to complete it in 24 hours.

Apart from the odd food break, the walk is non-stop and the money raised goes to help the charities' work tackling poverty and suffering. Oxfam works all over the world, whilst the Gurkha Welfare Trust concentrates its activity amongst ex-Gurkhas and their families in Nepal.

The team will have a support crew, but they also need your support through sponsorship. To make a contribution, just go to the Justgiving website at www.justgiving.com/davidrichardsonaitken

In the Cess

Fine for robbery victim

Whilst our brave lads and lassies foiled a raid on a security van in Camden (see page 4), it was business as usual for local traffic wardens, who ticketed the security van. The local police said the £120 fine was likely to be cancelled.

Booze and twos

After a night out on the tiles in sunny Bournemouth, a man in his 20s decided that a parked car would make a good place for a snooze. Fast asleep in the car, which was parked in the station car park, he remained undisturbed by the screeching car alarm. A train driver heard the commotion and called the police, who discovered him asleep in the back of a BTP marked vehicle using the concrete block he had used as a key as a pillow.

Heavy rock gig for retired officers

For the past 14 years, the Birmingham United Services Club has been the venue for the National Association of Retired British Transport Police Officers (NARBTPO) Annual General Meeting, reports John Bryant.

But for the fifty plus members who attended the 15th annual general meeting this year, there was a surprise in store. The venue had changed from an Ex-Serviceman's Club into a "Heavy Rock" venue called Eddie's.

However, the show must go on and Chairman Ron Aston gave the opening address highlighting the achievements of the Association and its members.

Guest speaker was Colin Skitmore, Secretary to the BTP pension fund. He gave an overview of the current situation within financial markets across the world explaining that asset values had dropped by up to 40% in the past year, something reflected in the value of the assets of the fund.

However, there was good news too. From this April eligible pensioners are receiving a five per cent increase in pensions and the levy paid by the fund to the Pension Protection Fund has been

reduced from £850,000 to £140,000 for the current year.

The Association's Committee was re-elected for a further 12 month term of office as below:

NARBTPO Committee 2009/10

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| President | R E Kerr QPM |
| Chairman | R W Aston |
| Vice Chairman | J P Parker |
| Secretary | J D Bryant |
| Treasurer | M J Barry |

Committee Members

E Beyerman
L Braithwaite
M D Kiely
E Lightfoot
F Loftus
C D Sinclair
T A D Stewart
W Taylor