



February 2008: Issue 5

Newsletter

www.met-cityorphans.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 234787

70th Anniversary Luncheon

Our 70th Anniversary Luncheon sponsored by D. J. Talbot and Associates was held in December at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall. A number of our friends and benefactors were present. We were particularly delighted that Lord and Lady Imbert, Sir Ian Blair (Commissioner, Metropolitan

Police) and Frank Armstrong (Assistant Commissioner, City of London Police) were able to give up their valuable time to attend. We were also grateful to Sir Ian Blair by agreeing to present John Howard with the Board's Presentation Piece on his retirement from the Board of Management and the Metropolitan Police Service.



Simon Owens (Board Member) and David Talbot (Sponsor)



John Howard and Sir Ian Blair



Front Row: Tom Beardsley, Lord Imbert, William Cross and Chris Melia. Back Row: Phillip Cronin (Sec), Jo Kaye (Chairman) and Mick Park (A/Sec)

This publication is sponsored by the J.E.C. of the



METROPOLITAN POLICE FEDERATION

Metropolitan and City Police Orphans Fund

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The Metropolitan and City Police Orphans Fund was featured on ITV's 'OFF THE BEATEN TRACK' Watch the programme on our website at www.met-cityorphans.org.uk



Money Matters

Checklist - Shop Safely on the Internet

- **Protect your computer by installing a firewall, anti-virus and anti-spyware software.**

Make sure you have your software switched on, this acts as a barrier between the web and your computer.

- **Guard your personal information and watch out for common scams.**

Watch out for phishing emails. These are hoax emails, supposedly from banks and other financial institutions.

- **Check that the website you are contacting is secure before buying.**

Secure web-page addresses start with the letters https, instead of the standard http, you should also see a padlock symbol on the page, double click on this to see the site's security certificate.

- **When buying goods on the internet, do not forget to include delivery costs.**

- **For goods over £100 pay by credit card, it gives you added protection.**

If you use a credit card to pay for goods worth more than £100 (and up to £30,000) your card company is jointly liable with the company that you buy from for any problems.

- **Always check your bank and credit card statements regularly, contact your bank immediately you suspect any fraudulent activity.**

Widows/Widowers - Children Receiving a Pension

Since the new Pension Administrator (Xafinity Paymaster) took over from CAPITA some of our Widows/Widowers who also receive the child allowance, found themselves in difficulty when completing Inland Revenue returns and grant application forms as the child allowance amount has been incorporated into the pension total on the pension advice slip.

The Child Allowance payment is not taxable and needs to be shown separately.

During 2007 it became apparent that some of the recipients of this fund were having difficulty in completing our annual review form and their Inland Revenue Self Assessment Tax Forms, as they could not calculate the separate amounts for pension and child pension allowance.

With the help of John Beck, Secretary NARPO (London Branch), Xafinity Paymaster were approached and ask whether they could look into the possibility of splitting the pension from the child allowance on the pay advice slips for widows/widowers whose children are receiving a pension under the same reference.

Unfortunately, Xafinity Paymaster were unable to change the system for those already affected, however, after meeting with them, they have agreed to set up totally separate pensions for widows/widowers and any children that are eligible. They have also agreed to write to those widows/widowers affected to explain the situation along with details of their present split in pension and child allowance.

We hope that this problem has now been resolved; we thank John Beck for his help.



New member joins the Board of Management

Dave Bennett joined the Metropolitan Police Service in 1981 and was posted to Barking & Dagenham and has worked in all aspects of street policing, core team, instant response & crime squad. In July 2006, he became General Secretary of the Metropolitan Police Federation Constables' Branch Board.

Retiring from the Board of Management

Nearly thirty-two odd years ago as a new recruit to the Metropolitan Police I remember being asked/told by a tough looking police officer to sign here, here and here. I didn't know what I was signing, so as I did so, I said, "what are all these for sergeant? He replied sternly, "son these are all things you need to join, hopefully you will never need them but they are very important." I wondered what he meant but thought, that's unusual, normally people make it hard for you to join their club. Many years later I would go on to play a principal part in of two those clubs the Orphans Fund and the Metropolitan Branch of the Police Federation.

I rarely if ever in my first few years as police officer, gave any thought to the organisations I had joined. Occasionally when I opened my pay slip I would ask if anyone knew what all the stoppages were for. Of the older hands, few had any in depth knowledge but the normal reply was "don't worry about it until you need it!"

In the pre email era the Met communicated with its officers through a twice-weekly publication called police orders, which we were obliged to read. It was in this publication that I first read about the Orphans Fund General Court. I noticed that every rank was represented, not just senior officers, which was unusual.

When I became a federation rep one of the first friends I made was with Dick Godwin who was the inspector's rep from the federation on the fund. Dick told me about the work of the fund and helped me so much when a colleague and friend died of cancer leaving a wife and four children all still at school. The financial help the fund provided was so important to that family, it really made a difference. The fund also helped when my best friend and colleague collapsed and died of a heart attack while I was with him, he had left a wife and two children. Nothing makes so big an impact on a police officer as the sudden death of a colleague. I remember thinking then about the prophetic words of the stern sergeant the day I became a cop.

When Dick told me he was retiring I did everything I could to be the person to take over from him. Fortunately, that happened no doubt in no small part due to Dick Godwin.

Over the years I have attended the monthly meeting of the Fund. I have heard, so many times, very sad accounts of sudden death and real hardship that follows. The help we are able to give to the children of deceased police officers on behalf of their colleagues is so vitally important to their futures.

I feel truly privileged to have served as a member of the Board of Management and with my colleagues to help those in so much need and distress. My one plea to every officer new or old is make sure you are a contributing member.



Glen Smyth QPM



LONDON MARATHON 2008

Sponsorship Form

Freddie MILLS, Police Constable 186
"Enfield Police Station"

I will be running the London Marathon on Sunday 13th April 2008, and I would greatly appreciate if you could sponsor me. I will be running in aid of the Metropolitan and City Police Orphans Fund (Charity No: 234787); details of this charity can be found on www.met-cityorphans.org.uk.

If you would like to sponsor me, please give the following information:

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Postal Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
Amount You Wish To Donate:	Cheques to be made payable to: Metropolitan & City Police Orphans Fund
Would you like to Gift Aid Your Donation: (Please answer Yes or No)	Gift Aid is a scheme that allows the Metropolitan and City Police Orphans Fund to reclaim tax on every gift you make to us. So for every £1 you donate, we can claim back money from the government - at no extra cost to you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:
Constable 196"YE" Freddie Mills
Enfield Police Station, 41 Baker Street,
Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3EU



USEFUL CONTACTS

City of London Police

WELFARE OFFICE.....020 7601 2214
 FEDERATION OFFICE 020 7601 2727
 PENSIONS DEPARTMENT020 7332 3312

Metropolitan Police Federation

OFFICE AND GLENDA WHITLEY *Pensions Advisor* ...020 8464 2322
 WELFARE DEPARTMENT.....020 7161 0268
 PENSIONS DEPARTMENT 0845 8500279
 FRIENDLY SOCIETY 01689 891454

National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO)

LONDON BRANCH..... 01737 210679

Tax Credit Helpline0845 3003900

Student Support Information Line0800 7319133

Benefits Information0800 88 22 00

Police Dependants Trust020 8941 6907