



# THE BOBBY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GIBRALTAR POLICE

**In this issue:**

**No 'cop out' for the RGP**

**Looking back at an evolving police force:  
a WPC perspective**

**RGP at the core of international police cooperation**

**Monitoring sex offenders on the Rock**

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# Commissioner's Foreword

## Dear Reader

Welcome to the latest edition of The Bobby, the official magazine of the Royal Gibraltar Police.

The current issue is packed with information about some of the activities that have kept us occupied in the past few months since our last publication. We have celebrated the first anniversary of Project Servator which has now become a widely known police deployment in the community, and been kept busy with some high profile police operations both on land and at sea.

And as always we have further developed our international cooperation links with law enforcement colleagues across the border in Spain and further afield.

The evolution of women police officers in the RGP through the decades is an inspiring and thought provoking feature of where we were and where we are at in 2019, when police officers are ascribed their operational duties and responsibilities irrespective of gender. Some of the vintage photographs will no doubt bring back memories to the older generation and serve as a timely reminder of how much things have changed.

The news roundup will certainly give readers a good understanding of the challenges we face on a daily basis and the diversity of the work that we do to detain and deter criminals and keep the community as safe as possible.

I would once again like to thank our editorial team, the sponsors for their kindness and stalwart support for the publication, and also to the collaborators and officers who have helped put the magazine together.

Warm greetings and best wishes to all our readers.

**Happy reading!**



*Ian McGrail*

Commissioner of Royal Gibraltar Police

Front Page L to R: Ceremonials – PS Tania McLeod; Dog Handler – PC Emma Rowbottom; Beat Uniform – PC Frances Deher; White Shirt – PC Natalie Passano; Scenes of Crime (SOCO) – PC Amandine Vallee; Civilian Dress – PS Patricia Gonzalez; Public Safety Unit (PSU) – PC Sharon Berini



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# Long hot summer of events but no 'cop out' for RGP

By F Oliva

*The RGP is a small police force with finite resources that faces manifold challenges on a daily basis given the Rock's size and circumstances. Not many towns with 30,000 inhabitants will have an international frontier, an airport, cruise liner port, ten million tourist arrivals each year and be situated right at the crossroads of continents and major sea lanes. However this July has seen Gibraltar immersed in a plethora of social, street and sporting events packed into a fortnight, each with their security profile and requiring a risk assessment and specific operational response from the RGP. This has been a testing time for the organisation as simultaneous events have drawn heavily from its human resources and material assets, stretching it to the limit, posing complex questions and requiring a well thought out plan to overcome all the difficulties and ensure the community was able to participate in these activities safely. Despite the frantic pace experienced in this time period, yet again, the organisation has come through with a credible performance showing its professionalism and worth to the community.*



**Superintendent Wayne Tunbridge**

It has been a hectic summer season for the Royal Gibraltar Police as numerous high profile events with an international dimension made the headlines in the Rock throughout the month of July. Street parties, food festivals, music concerts, European football matches and sporting competitions, all of which attracted large numbers of participants and spectators, have placed considerable pressure on law enforcement resources, as policing was carried out in addition but not at the expense of normal day to day security requirements.

The management of large scale events commenced with Calentita Night on July 5 which attracted a crowd of 5,000 to Casemates Square and adjacent areas. The inaugural ceremony of the Island Games was held the next day (July 6) which coincided with the opening of the daily Summer Nights programme which took place every night until July 13.

The ceremony congregated a further 4,000 strong attendance between spectators and athletes, marking the com-

mencement of a packed programme of sporting events over that week until Friday July 12.

As if these demands in themselves were not downright exacting for a small force of 230 officers, throw into the mix unscheduled incidents such as Operation Florence, the detention of the supertanker Grace One off Gibraltar on July 4, and the policing of the St Joseph versus Glasgow Rangers, and Europa versus Legia Warsaw football matches on July 9 and 11 respectively.

## Resilience

The RGP is a small force and resilience is one of its defining features. A police officer could be at a football match one day and resuming normal duties the next. They work long hours and need to have an adequate place to have refreshments and rest, and especially in the heat of the summer keep adequately hydrated. Use of Grand Battery House was secured for time outs, within easy distance of Ca-

and managing the extra road closures and restrictions as a result of the Island Games.

## Meticulous planning

Speaking to The Bobby, RGP Superintendent Wayne Tunbridge, Operations Commander, explained that most of these events involved meticulous pre-planning and countless meetings working closely with organisers examining the various safety and security considerations, for instance in the case of Calentita going back six months.

With the Island Games encompassing multiple venues across practically the whole of Gibraltar, road traffic restrictions and total road closures for events such as the marathon and cycling races, meetings with the organizing committee stretched over a two year period and included contacts with police in Gotland for assistance as the territory had previously hosted the games and

officers would be able to provide good advice as to their practical experience dealing with similar traffic management situations.

Project Servator deployments were incorporated into the

Island Games timetable and jobs such as searching of premises in conjunction with the Gibraltar Defence Police, were carried out at venues with sniffer dogs a week in advance. Extra firearm officers were also dispatched to the different locations.

Meetings were also held with Guernsey police officers who visited Gibraltar on a fact finding mission as the island prepares to host the games in 2021, and

***“For a number of years now, we have encouraged private event organisers to carry out their own stewarding arrangements and to take on board a greater share of the responsibility”***

semates Square which is a hub for many of the events in the Rock's social calendar. The Ministry of Defence also ceded its airport hangar to the police to house officers and equipment, also within close proximity of the Victoria Stadium.

Additionally, the 'business as usual' ethos of the force has continued unabated, with the service to the public remaining at the same level, without any reductions and normal day to day policing by the RGP's response teams dealing with frontier queues, beach duties, normal traffic,

***“The Poles visited the Sikorski memorial and were very impressed by it. That helped and had a calming influence”***

the RGP provided advice and assistance. “For a number of years now, we have

***“We have an excellent relationship with the GFA and individual football clubs, and work closely with the UEFA security officer who is the UEFA delegate during European matches in Gibraltar”***

encouraged private event organisers to carry out their own stewarding arrangements and to take on board a greater share of the responsibility and not leave everything to the police. It is good to see that this has worked well and at Calentita, the organisers provided 30 stewards, and at Europa League matches, ten stewards.”

The RGP acknowledges that it has been stretched during the Island Games as other major events have been going on at the same time. In large police forces with a much greater pool of officers to pick from the issue does not arise.

**UEFA fixtures**

An added complication was that as a result of UEFA fixtures, confirmation of the two Europa League matches with local teams, was not known until the week before, very little time to plan security measures, traffic arrangements and deployments, in contrast to the six months that the RGP had to prepare for the GFA versus Republic of Ireland European qualifier at the Victoria Stadium.

The RGP engaged representatives from the four clubs and prepared a deployment of one hundred police officers – a larger contingent than for National Day – for each match, the same as for the Republic of Ireland.

For the Glasgow Rangers clash they worked closely with four visiting Police Scotland liaison officers, met fan associations, and established a good rapport. There were no incidents or arrests at this game.

In the case of Legia Warsaw, no Polish police officer made the trip to the Rock but they engaged directly with the club’s head of security who has close links to their more radical fan base. Although the match passed off without trouble, the visit of the Polish fans, belonging to the notorious Teddy Boys 95 crew had elicited grave security concerns given their reputation for violent behaviour. “The Poles visited the Sikorski memorial and were very impressed by it. That helped and had a calming influence,” he said. For the earlier Republic of Ireland match there had been close liaison with officers from the Garda (Irish police).

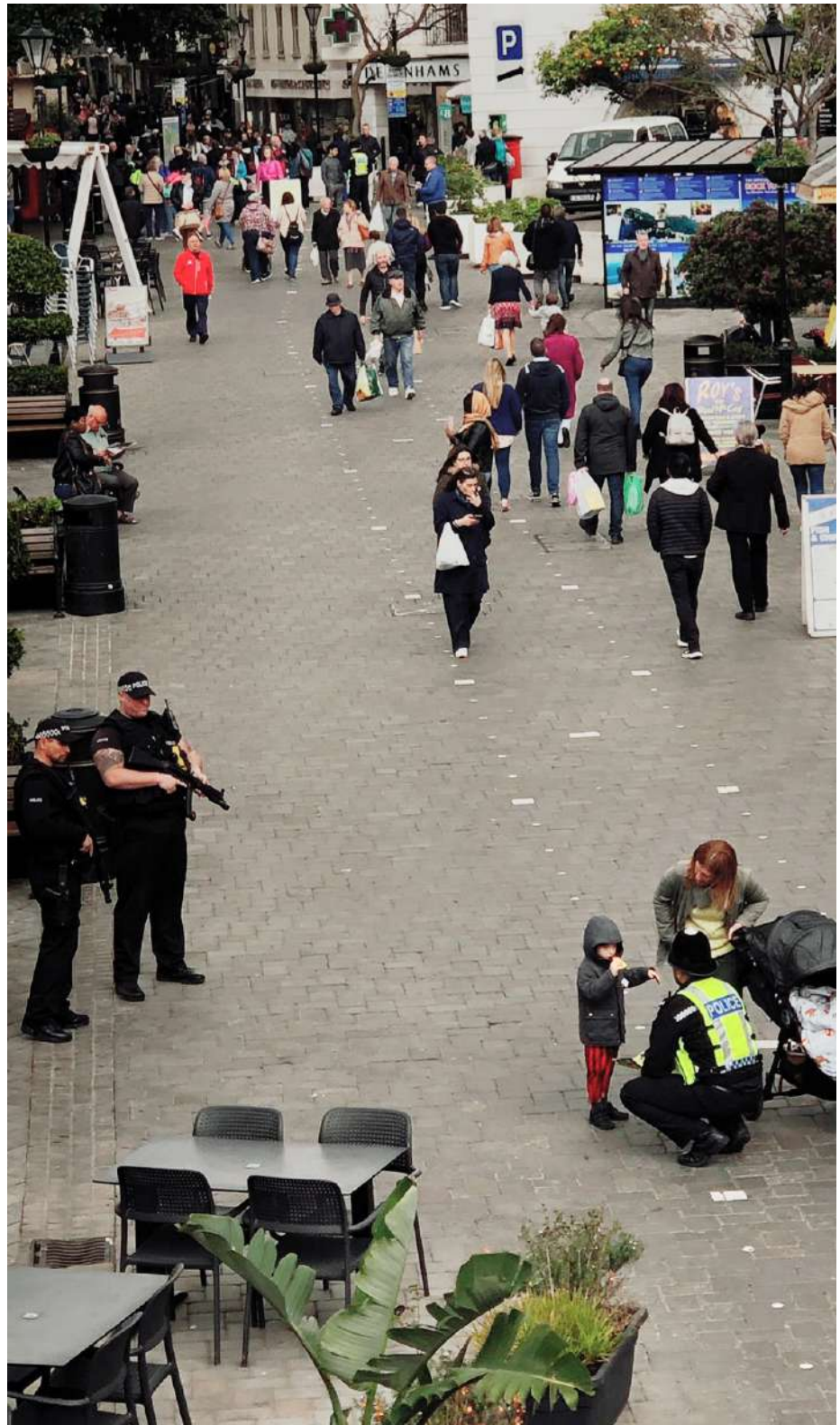
Supt Tunbridge expressed satisfaction that the large police deployments for the Eire, Legia Warsaw and Glasgow Rangers international matches had required only one arrest by the RGP. On match day RGP officers do not just

stand there, but have a proactive, vigilant role performing site visits and searches in the perimeter of the stadium, checking there is no rubbish, rubble, glass, or other objects lying around that could be picked up by so-

meone and hurled as a missile from the stands or at anyone. Britannia Cleaning Services play a role in ensuring that everything is cleared.

The RGP also request collaboration from the petrol station to sell drinks in plastic cups and not glass, something staff are happy to comply with. Establishments at Ocean Village and Casemates also conform to this practice. “We have an excellent relationship with the GFA and individual football clubs, and work closely with the UEFA security officer who is the UEFA delegate during European matches in Gibraltar.”

Additionally we also collaborate with the GDP, Customs, GSLA, Highways De-



partment and Britannia Cleaning Company. We also have excellent feedback and response from the bars and other outlets," he declared.

#### Business as usual

On the theme of 'business as usual', Superintendent Tunbridge insisted that the day to day tasks the RGP have to carry out for the community, cannot be affected or compromised by the major events that they are called upon to police, even if these generate additional responsibilities for the organisation over and above routine policing duties.

He stressed the importance of having good channels of communication with

***"Stewarding and policing are two different functions and this distinction needs to be understood"***

organisers, whether it be private firms, organisations like the GFA or football clubs, so that they take responsibility for stewarding their events.

"Stewarding and policing are two different functions and this distinction needs to be understood".

For instance inside football stadiums during a match or music concerts, stewards will carry out any extra search that is required, check tickets and event planning will determine that security and safety issues are the responsibility of the organisers. Naturally we will be there to step in when required, and intervene in the case of violence or public disorder."

He noted that the GMF and Dazed and Confused music events already hire their own security. "This has become an almost multi-agency approach, a SAG (Safety Advisory Group) scenario, where all the relevant stakeholders come toge-

ther and there is collaboration between door staff, emergency services, ambulance etc," he said.

Supt Tunbridge explained that the policing of events had evolved substantially in past years as the criteria applied for operational orders is much more related to the nature and the numerical attendance to the event, also to any risk factors that may be present, which will determine the plans rather than having a fixed template which would not always cater for changing circumstances.

The public order structure for events is divided in a Gold Command, the strategic lead for the event carried out by a Superintendent, Silver Command which is involved with the tactical running of the event led by a Superintendent or Chief Inspector and Bronze Command which deals with the practical aspects of an operation on the ground carried out by a Chief Inspector or Inspector.

Each section will produce a hefty document with detailed analysis of the security aspects of the event reflecting operational conclusions and insights gained in meetings with all the parties involved including private security companies.

#### September events

The next big engagements that the RGP is already well into the planning stage is the GFA match against Denmark which will take place at the Victoria Stadium on September 5. A minimum presence of 1,000 Danish fans is expected and police from the Scandinavian country will be travelling to the Rock for the occasion.

The Gibraltar Music Festival (MTV Gib Calling) takes place on September 7-8 while Andrea Bocelli will be performing on the 9th ahead of National Day and the Monkey Rocks festival on the 10th.



# JULY

1/7/19 .....	Climate change procession
2/7/19 .....	St Joseph's v Prishtina (Europa League)
3/7/19 .....	Op Florence - Grace 1
4/7/19 .....	Europa V Sant Julia (Europa League)
5/7/19 .....	Calentita night
6/7/19 .....	Island Games Opening Ceremony
6/7/19-13/7/19 .....	Summer Nights
6/7/19-12/7/19 .....	Gibraltar NatWest Island Games
9/7/19 .....	St Joseph's v Glasgow Rangers (Europa League)
11/7/19 .....	Europa v Legia Warsaw (Europa League)
12/7/19 .....	Pro-life demonstration
12/7/19 .....	Island Games Closing Ceremony
20/7/19 .....	Dazed & Confused Music Event
30/7/19 .....	Lincoln v FC Ararat (Europa League)

# A WPC perspective at the RGP – looking back at an evolving police force

*“In those days the first thing you were handed over as you walked into the police station was a pair of tights, a handbag and high heels,” says PC Tania Smith recalling her first day at work back in 1994.*

*During an interview with THE BOBBY just days shy of hitting retirement age, she acknowledges the profound structural and organisational changes that the police force has undergone in recent years, not just in name since the ‘Royal’ prefix was bestowed on the Gibraltar Police in 1992.*

*Accompanied by fellow woman officer PC Sabadak Apap who joined the force a decade later in 2002, both cast their gaze into the past and contrast their personal experience then with the radically altered police culture of today, brought about by twenty years of profound legislative and procedural changes at the RGP. Indeed 1994 now seems a distant world, not just in terms of the transformation in policing methodology that has taken place, but the Rock itself has also become a substantially different place to what it was – better for some, worse for others.*

When Tania joined the RGP things were beginning to move, albeit

or even in pairs. They would have to be accompanied by a male officer.

***“In those days the first thing you were handed over as you walked into the police station was a pair of tights, a handbag and high heels”***

at a slow pace. In previous years a woman’s career in the police force as WPCs – even the nomenclature drew distinctions between men and women officers – was circumscribed to the typing pool, to operating the school points and directing traffic. “In those days, you could not really express yourself properly for fear of repercussions and women played a secondary role, more office based, never in the front line,” she said.

It was still unthinkable that a woman could drive a patrol car, form part of the Marine Section, the Armed Response Unit or attend a scene of crime by herself – glass ceilings that have been resolutely shattered with the passage of time.

WPCs could not go out by themselves

ced at the sharp end of interesting police inquiries. Although she was in fact successful in her request, these expectations proved to be over optimistic, as, straight in through the door she was handed a stack of paperwork that needed to be typed out.

Indeed, in 1994 a woman was still patrolling in high heels and skirt, and Tania recalls less than propitious moments spent climbing in the area of rocks beneath the lighthouse while gathering evidence for a case.

After that and various other situations

when it became clear that that type of attire was entirely unsuitable to be out and about, Tania and other of her colleagues wrote to the then Commissioner of Police Joe Canepa asking for a review of the dress code.

“We did get a sympathetic hearing at that time and shortly after, trousers were introduced for women police constables who were carrying out operational duties.”

It was also around the period 1994-95 when women were first included in the normal shift work routines of the police force.

“At the time though, whenever a woman police officer went out on a job, our male colleagues would be very

***“Male and female officers are afforded the same treatment, and when you are out in the street we are all exposed to the same risks regardless of whether we are men or women”***

protective of us, and there were times when I had been sent to attend to a case only to find two or three policemen ‘shadowing’ me, having come out of their own accord as backup support out of a genuine concern for our welfare,” she declared.

The pivotal year for policing was 1996, a turning point for Gibraltar’s social history, with the arrival of Commissioner Alan Castree who imported standard UK practices and implemented significant reforms of the organisation. Among these ‘equal opportunities’, which brought women fully into operational roles as was the norm in Britain, and opened up more career opportunities for them.

“It was then that women police officers were able to patrol alone and take a step forward as police officers,” she declared.

Since Castree’s tenure, progress in the harmonization of functions has been





steady, and in 2008 women police officers joined the Armed Response Unit, the last remaining critical threshold which they needed to overcome to achieve complete equivalence with their male colleagues.

Even in the Custody Suite where arrested persons are processed, (traditionally considered a male orientated function), once the suspect is searched, female prisoners are examined by female officers, there is no difference to the work carried out by male and female officers.

Another key area where changes have been noteworthy has been in the training systems which have become much more demanding and specialized. When Tania first started, it was quite common to learn on the job, to gain experience "out in the street" rather than in the classroom.

"In my time it was six weeks, and just one day of physical training, another at the Marine Section and at the Traffic Department, whereas now the recruit school lasts three months and incorporates all the changes in the law and the latest legislative updates. A great emphasis is placed on gaining a sound knowledge of the law," she said.

#### Male chauvinism?

As regards male chauvinism which has been a recurring focus of criticism in large organisations, both Tania and Sabadak contend that they have never perceived it in their years at the RGP, and everyone both male and female "have been and are conscious of boundaries that must not be surpassed."

"Creating a team atmosphere, a good rapport with individual colleagues regardless of gender has been the decisive factor in building relationships," says Tania. "We each draw a line and then there is banter and there are jokes, but you always know where the line is and its limits, how far you can and cannot go.

Male and female officers are afforded the same treatment, and when you are out in the street we are all exposed to the same risks regardless of whether we are men or women.

There is no difference nowadays and

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***"There is nothing holding you back or any obstacle along the way, but life prospects do change and make you see things in a different way"***

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this has been the case for years across the organisation," observes Sabadak. Both agree that things have evolved



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considerably and now there is equality in the full sense of the term: for instance women officers today form part of the PSU (Police Support Unit) which is *policespeak* for the public order unit.

Asked what they would do if either of them were the RGP Commissioner of Police tomorrow, they unhesitatingly reply in unison – “More police officers, around fifty extra,” echoing concerns expressed by the real commissioner regarding how resources are severely hard-pressed and often transferred from one area of policing to another.

They vividly describe the current situation in terms of the availability of officers. “As they say in Spanish, ‘desvestir un santo para vestir otro’ this is what we have now. The system has grown so large that many departments draw from the shifts and these vital resources are ‘eaten up’ by the specialized functions that the RGP carry out as part of the modern policing tasks. We take everything on board and numbers are therefore stretched to the limit.”

### Choices

On the subject of the non-existence of female officers above the grade of sergeant, the two officers attribute this to career choices rather than to any ingrained prejudice that holds back the progression of women in the force.

Tania believes that young women often prioritize having children over their career ambitions and that is often the reason why many of them have not scaled up the ladder, and explains that while the work schedule is tough on both men and women, and includes long hours, night shifts and rest days that can be changed due to operational requirements, you have to choose which way you wish to go.

“All of this is part of the job, it is a tough occupation you encounter difficult situations and you just do it, but in my case I came in knowing what my priorities were in this respect,” she declared. “Women have different priorities to men, and that is the reason why there are no women in senior positions. There is nothing holding you back or any obstacle along the way, but life prospects do change and make you see things in a different way.”

But neither seem enthusiastic about the idea of positive discrimination. “No. The standards have to be the same for all. Positions have to be gained on merit and not on favours. There has to be pure equality between men and women, the same possibilities for advan-

cement, and for you to prove yourself regardless of gender.” There are 30 women police officers out

**“The standards have to be the same for all. Positions have to be gained on merit and not on favours. There has to be pure equality between men and women, the same possibilities for advancement, and for you to prove yourself regardless of gender”**

of a complement of 230. At present the RGP still awaits its first female to make it to the senior ranks. Sergeant Deborah Jones has been the closest as she passed the Inspector’s Examination, which is a prerequisite for

the post. They also point out to what they see as a growing problem in the organisation with the dwindling number of locals applying to become police officers, and the need to make policing more attractive as a career for Gibraltarians.

“As a result of this, we are seeing language problems and the RGP is encouraging more local candidates to apply and often we have to translate Spanish for the non-bilingual officers,” added Tania.

## In favour of career advancement and family life

By RGP Sergeant Deborah Jones



I joined the Royal Gibraltar Police in 2001 aged 18 years, when police women were few and far between compared to nowadays, with approximately two female officers per shift. Back then it was rare for an officer with a short period of service to be

working within departments. I gained my skills as a Child Protection Officer at this time and conducted this work alongside the criminal cases. I became part of the PSU (Police Support Unit) team and All Arms Search Team.

I conducted acting Inspector duties after passing my Inspector exam shortly after obtaining the rank of sergeant. I am a Command and Dispatch Sergeant and Custody Sergeant and now the Crown Sergeant for Response Team 5 whereby I have recently conducted and passed an intense Initial Tactical Firearms Commander Course.

I am career minded and at a point in my life where I feel ready to take the next step and pursue the next rank to Inspector. I am ambitious and yes, I do want children of my own and I personally cannot see why this would stop me from having both.

I have spoken in detail with my partner and he is willing to take over the house husband role. He understands how important my career is to me. Some women see having children as a set-back to rank, but I don’t see it this way. Why can’t we have both the career and the family life? Male officers do. In my mind there is no difference when you have a strong and understanding home life.

It is a tough, male orientated job but that is because of the balance between male and female officers, so this is expected. However there is a line of respect between us and it is about becoming part of the team as a whole and treating each other as equals.

I believe you need a strong mind to push through the ranks but this is not due to being male or female. I am a strong minded woman, my officers be it male or female respect me for my rank and the person I am and my style of management, not because of my gender.

# Drug concealment methods - taking the imagination to the limit

The recent discovery by RGP officers of a sophisticated electronic trap door fitted to a double hull in a confiscated RHIB launch, which when prised open revealed a cargo of 1.5 tons of cannabis resin in its interior, has highlighted the inventive methods devised by drug traffickers to transport their illegal merchandise.

Speaking to Detective Constable Daniel Fendley, the RGP's qualified Drug Expert Evidence Coordinator, he said that any hollow space or void in a car,

tank in a car rigged to a fuel gauge which after closer inspection was seen to be stuffed full with packets of tobacco.

Police officers can also count on the invaluable assistance of a trusted ally in discovering these hidden cavities: the police dogs. "The animals are trained to sniff out the drugs and give us a good indication of where they are located.

"Human imagination in conceiving concealment possibilities seems unlimited," he added.

## *"Human imagination in conceiving concealment possibilities seems unlimited"*

a house or an object can potentially be used by a drug trafficker to conceal drugs and avoid detection.

He told The Bobby magazine that the only limit to this was human ingenuity and there were countless instances when the most remarkable hiding places had been discovered by Drug Squad officers.

For the trained eye, seemingly innocent cans of lager or Red Bull stored in a person's fridge at home, hollowed out doors in a flat, vehicle panels, even oven tops and fireplaces or skirting boards, can all reveal false compartments for storing cannabis resin or other illegal substances. Even some brands of underwear now contain secret pockets where a sachet of drugs can be discreetly tucked away. He also recalls seeing a petrol

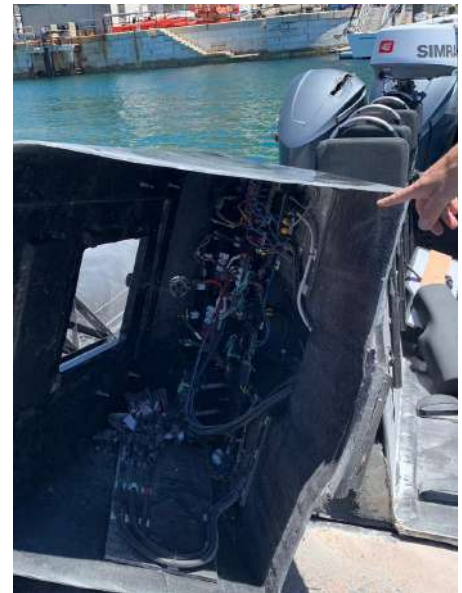
Commenting on the aforementioned RHIB launch, DC Fendley said that the vessel had been purchased and then adapted to precise specifications to be used for smuggling.

In the past, drugs such as amphetamines, cannabis and diazepam are known to have been smuggled into Her Majesty's Prison by 'body packers' or even strapped to the body.

### **Drug couriers**

The average number of packets ingested by an individual may vary dependent on their personal circumstances but can reach up to 100 packets, weights will also vary.

Other concealment methods such as pre-prepared clothing, footwear with hollowed-out soles, wheel chairs and walking sticks have been used to conceal cocaine or heroin. There is no age



restriction for selected drug couriers who can span generations from young children and teenagers to the elderly.

Potential couriers are sourced from people of different nationalities lured by the prospect of free travel and the promise of substantial sums of money upon successful delivery.

There is no specific legal classification regarding the concealment of controlled drugs, whether inside the body or of any other type, other than its inclusion within laws related to drug trafficking offences.

In cases of package rupture after swallowing, risks to health include dramatic increase in blood pressure, nausea leading to constant vomiting, internal injury and in extreme cases death.

**Body stuffers** is the term used to describe individuals who intentionally swallow illegal contraband such as cocaine or heroin in an attempt to avoid prosecution when confronted by law enforcement or cross border authorities.

**Body packers** are known to swallow or pack a selected body orifice with drugs in an attempt to conceal and avoid detection whilst illegally transporting the said drugs across international borders. Body packing uses more methodical means of packaging such as multilayered latex, rubber or condoms to prevent the packets from rupturing in transit.



In stark contrast to the ingenuity and elaborate concealment schemes devised by traffickers, there are also occasions which are unbelievably crude and senseless. One such case is that of a 52-year-old man who was arrested in Barcelona airport in June by the Spanish police, after arriving from Colombia with half a kilo of cocaine 'concealed' inside his wig.



Picture provided by Policía Nacional.



# THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE



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of Gibraltar

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# The RGP at the core of international police cooperation

International police cooperation is a normal, tried and tested routine procedure undertaken by the vast majority of countries around the world to their mutual advantage, to preserve law and order and protect the rule of law.

In the same way as the saying "Crime knows no frontiers" has become a sad global reality of modern life whose pernicious effects are frequently evidenced in media bulletins, conventional societies and democratic governments are obliged to counter this fact by ensuring that law enforcement cooperation can overcome national, political and geographical barriers in pursuit of critical police investigations and to uphold the rule of law, through the seamless exchange of information and evidence, and by supporting each other in the face of the growing challenges of organized criminal activity.

At no time and in no way does this cooperation undermine British sovereignty, jurisdiction and control of policing on the Rock.

It is a common occurrence for police officers from foreign countries to be invited to home soil in order to collaborate in the detection of suspects, to further complex investigations and assist in cross border operations.

Internationally recognized Police Liaison Officers are a common sight all over the world, and we see them at European football matches, at major tourist resorts, even on both sides of the Chunnel Tunnel between England and France. In the past it was more often the case that this cross border law enforcement

cooperation was made possible by senior officers, who recognized the intrinsic positive value of fostering close ties with police forces in other jurisdictions.

It was mostly dependent on the individual chemistry of those in key positions who

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***The RGP's expectation is that post Brexit and in conjunction with our UK counterparts, there will be a sufficiently wide berth for Europe wide law enforcement cooperation to continue as close as possible to the extent that we enjoy now***

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Commissioner of Police has powers to direct officers to operate abroad in the course of a police investigation in order to detect and prevent criminal activity. Numerous other judicial gateways exist in the European Union to facilitate and cement international police cooperation, including the European Investigation Order, the provisions for Mutual Legal Assistance on criminal matters, the Joint Investigation Team and the European Arrest Warrant among others.

In the past, Gibraltar police officers have undertaken operational duties as far afield as North & South America and the Caribbean, always at the invitation of the host country and in Europe, they have deployed in Germany, Spain, UK, and also Morocco, conducting inquiries and assisting local police with inquiries and sharing information and evidence gathered in Gibraltar.

The reverse is also true, as letters of request for visits from foreign police organisations have also been accommodated after the competent authorities in Gibraltar have sanctioned these. We have

also received uniformed Scottish and Irish police officers during European football matches to observe and support local police operations, also representatives from Guernsey Police for the Island Games. Even examining magistrates have been known to visit the Rock as part of an official investigation.

The RGP's expectation is that post Brexit and in conjunction with our UK counterparts, there will be a sufficiently wide berth for Europe wide law enforcement cooperation to continue as close as possible to the extent that we enjoy now.

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understood the benefits and value of fully fledged police cooperation and mutual assistance strategies in the fight against crime. However the personal relationships though valuable as a networking tool in policing environments, were voluntary engagements, ad-hoc arrangements not grounded on solid legal instruments that provide greater long term certainty and a clear, well-regulated, permanent methodology of action backed by lawful international mechanisms. In Gibraltar, under section 45 (2) of the Police Act, the

These official international police exchanges in all fields of policing activity, whether it be economic crime investigations, securing cyberspace for people and businesses, countering the threat of terrorism and organized crime or training courses, are becoming more and more commonplace and yield positive outcomes to all those who form part of the wider co-operation system. It is happening too, with Spain where law enforcement collaboration has existed for decades and in recent times, great strides have been made through joint operations, in developing elements of mutual trust and confidence building measures to foster a relationship that can be of benefit to the safety and security of people on both sides.

***“As far as the Royal Gibraltar Police is concerned, the overriding message from the organisation is that Gibraltar is not and will not be a safe haven for crime, a soft target to be used by those with heinous and criminal intentions”***

Recently, the active operational collaboration of RGP officers with Guardia Civil in the Campo area during the course of a joint investigation into illegal drug trafficking operations, attracted a degree of commentary on social media. Significantly, the news was confirmed to the press by the Spanish law enforcement agency itself. Although the vast majority of the public has understood the valuable asset that cross border police cooperation represents, this also gave rise to misunderstanding in some quarters which the RGP is keen to assuage with verifiable proof of how Gibraltar stands to gain from it.

RGP Commissioner Ian McGrail declared: “This is already happening and the working relationship with law enforcement agencies in Spain, the Guardia Civil and the Policía Nacional, has entered a new phase of structured collaboration where we all share the same aims: to disrupt, thwart and prevent crime, and bring criminals to justice on both sides of the border.

“As far as the Royal Gibraltar Police is concerned, the overriding message from the organisation is that Gibraltar is not and will not be a safe haven for crime, a soft target to be used by those with heinous and criminal intentions”.

“Collaborating with other police forces and keeping well-oiled channels of communication and exchange of evidence open, will serve to reinforce the Rock’s security profile and its efficiency in the repression of criminal activity. International police cooperation has become a welcome norm, an accepted practice for the good of society as a whole.” Mr McGrail also emphasized that be-

***“International crime, while becoming more global in scope, is becoming ever more local in its effects. Even the most local of law enforcement actors need to understand these threats and common goals in how to deal with them, individually and in cooperation with others outside their jurisdictions or countries. The Global Policing Goals contribute to this effort.”***

John Brandolino,  
Director United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime

***“The most effective weapon against crime is co-operation...the efforts of all law enforcement agencies with the support of the public.”***

J Edgar Hoover,  
founder of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

sides the mechanisms for exchange of information, it was also important when circumstances and the needs of an investigation warrant it, for police forces to have a physical presence and investigative support outside their own home soil on foreign territory, to give greater, even visual representation to the transnational nature of the law and how the pursuit of crime can be taken beyond the respective frontiers of police organisations.

The public should not be alarmed thinking that recent developments in respect of the RGP’s cross border police cooperation will result in Guardia Civil, Policía Nacional or any other foreign police force patrolling the streets of Gibraltar.

If there are circumstances that merit the presence of foreign officers on the Rock, this would always take place under the jurisdiction and command of the RGP; these officers would have no executive powers and would be accompanying local officers. These are the same arrangements that apply when Gibraltarian police officers are called to provide assistance abroad in the course of an investigation with local ties.

#### **Some of the main instruments applicable to international law enforcement**

##### **International Police cooperation**

In the European Union, member states work together closely to prevent and combat terrorism, drug trafficking operations and other pernicious forms of international organized crime.

##### **Europol & Eurojust**

Europol allows police forces throughout the EU to exchange information. Europol collects criminal intelligence and analyses it in the interests of preventing and combating organised crime. Europol stores the information in a registration system and, in doing so, abides by strict rules for protecting human rights. Europol has no operational or investigative powers and does not carry out investigations independently. Its main task is to facilitate information-sharing between countries.

Eurojust is the European Union’s Judicial Cooperation Unit among prosecutors, judges and magistrates, established in 2002 to improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions and cooperation between competent authorities of Member States. Eurojust deals with serious cross-border crime, including fraud, cybercrime, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and other criminal networks. In 2017, Eurojust provided EUR 1.31 million in funding to joint investigation teams (JITs), a very successful judicial coopera-





tion tool that facilitates investigations and prosecutions in complex cases.

**Joint Investigation Team**

When the police are investigating a crime committed abroad or involving people living abroad, they can set up a Joint Investigation Team (JIT). This is done by means of an agreement signed by a public prosecutor, stating which countries are involved, as well as the aim and duration of the investigation. Crime does not stop at international borders, so JITs are now being set up more frequently than in the past.

**Requests for legal assistance**

If in the course of an investigation a question arises which can only be answered in another country, a request for mutual assistance in criminal matters will be submitted to that country. The request may be for information, for a witness or other person to be interviewed, or for observation or arrest of suspects. Requests for legal assistance must be met within a certain time limit.

**National and international lists of wanted persons**

Suspects who are urgently sought by the police are put on a list of wanted persons. National lists of wanted persons can be found on the website of national police forces in Europe. Interpol manages the international list of wanted persons.



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# Monitoring sex offenders in Gibraltar to prevent relapses

Management of sex offenders in the community comes under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) a collaboration of different organisations including the Royal Gibraltar Police, Care Agency, Probation, HM Prison, GHA, Borders and Coastguard Agency, HM Customs, Housing Department, Drugs and Alcohol Rehabilitation Services and Department of Education. Within some of these agencies there are trained individuals, called Designated Risk Managers, who are trained in specific risk assessment tools to monitor those who have sexually offended and are subject to monitoring requirements.

One of the mechanisms available to Designated Risk Managers to restrict the movement and activities of persons on the sex offender register upon conviction, is that of court orders. These orders can prevent travel abroad, access to internet or to telephones capable of electronic/photographic devices, and the compulsory requirement to keep at a certain distance away from schools or areas frequented by children where there is evidence to suggest that these would be necessary measures.

Another effective procedure to closely monitor the state of mind and behaviour patterns of such individuals, is unannounced home visits which can give experts a reliable indication as to whether the person is at risk of reoffending.

Observation and surveillance by police officers in the street, carried out unknown to them, is another recourse at their disposal.

The Gibraltar Sex Offenders Register includes offenders convicted or serving prison sentence for a relevant offence as from November 2012, which is when the Crimes Act 2011 came into enactment.

Each sex offender on the register will have a tailor made management plan suited to their personal circumstances and designed to prevent relapses into sexual offences, RGP Inspector Alex Enriles, MAPPA coordinator for Gibraltar declared.

There are 35 sex offenders on the local register and, to date, three recidivists since the commencement of their management.

Intelligence and information sharing with other police forces around the world is a vital weapon in battling sex offences against children and bringing offenders to justice.

MAPPA can prevent non-Gibraltarian sex offenders from entering Gibraltar, a prohibition that has been exercised when necessary, and also to stop a local registered sex offender from travelling abroad.

Gibraltar has a lawful obligation to inform other jurisdictions whether any person on its sex offender register intends to travel but the person would not ordinarily be restricted from doing so unless there are founded suspicions that the sole purpose of travel is to commit sexual offences.

"If the person is travelling to Britain or Spain, that would be one thing, but if he says he is travelling to Thailand, for example, then we could intervene and obtain a court order if we felt the purpose of travel is to access and offend against children," said Inspector Enriles.

## Three tier structure

MAPPA has a three-tier structure for the management of sex offenders.

Tier one involves the Designated Risk Manager conducting an assessment of the person on the register and preparation of an evidence based report, where the offender will be classified as low, medium or high risk of re-offending. Often persons with historical offences dating back thirty or more years would remain on the register but could be given low risk classification since sex drive tends to diminish with age, however this is not a blanket rule.

The document is then submitted to the second tier, the Gibraltar Public Protection Panel, which will qualify or rubber stamp the risk management plan for the offender, the regularity of home visits or other restrictions that are deemed appropriate.

The third tier is the Strategic Management Board chaired by the Commissioner of Police and includes the CEO's of all the agencies involved in the structure, who set out the strategic aims for MAPPA, supervises policies and procedures and ensures the system is working properly, with adequate information exchange between the various tiers working together to deliver maximum protection to the public.

The SMB reports directly to the Minister for Equality and Housing. Whereas in UK legal mechanisms are in place which allows concerned citizens to obtain qualified information regarding the residence of a registered sex offender as long as certain thresholds are met, no such provision exists in Gibraltar at present.

However, locally MAPPA endeavours to provide reassurances to members of the public who approach them with specific concerns regarding the procedures in place to restrict the movements and activities of registered sex offenders. In the United States, information about the residence of registered sex offenders is publicly available and when one of these individuals moves to another city, it is publicized.

However experts believe this is an inefficient manner of managing sex offenders as these are often targeted by members of the public and would be prone to consider reoffending as the fastest way to get out of danger in an emotionally charged atmosphere, and back to the safety of a segregated prison.

Sex offenders are rarely career criminals who would carry out a robbery or other crime to achieve this and might re-offend sexually which is what the MAPPA specifically tries to prevent.

It also needs to be clarified that the popular and automatic assumption that only pedophiles make it to the sex offenders register is inaccurate, as there are other abusive forms of sexual behaviour that are unrelated to children or triggered by other factors. There are men, women and even children who engage in abusive sexual behavior who could end up being on the register due to their behaviour.

## Vetting

All Government departments are legally obliged to apply enhanced vetting of job applicants, which includes the compulsory disclosure of any previous criminal convictions, when this involves coming into contact with children or vulnerable adults. This vetting is also carried out by other Non-Government organisations who work with children such as sporting organisations, scouts and guides, dance groups etc. Police are prohibited by law to divulge the identity of persons on the sex offenders register.

## Counsellors

Although psychological support through social services is already in place for both victims and those responsible for the management of sex offenders, an emotionally draining line of work, two additional trained counsellors are in the process of being recruited specifically for MAPPA.

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# Project Servator celebrates its first year of operation in Gib

Project Servator was formally launched in Gibraltar on June 1 2018 following a 6 month trial and the provision of specialist training to a select number of officers. It is now one of several Key Performance Indicators within the National Security objective of the Annual Policing Plan, and is endorsed by the Gibraltar Contingency Council & Gibraltar Police Authority.

Project Servator is a policing tactic involving unpredictable highly visible deployments using a variety of specialist resources as part of an inclusive collaborative community strategy, designed to deter, disrupt and detect a wide range of criminal activity including terrorism. It was researched and developed in 2012 by experts from the UK Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) together with the City of London Police, which began using this tactic in 2014. Since then, 13 UK police forces (including the Metropolitan, City of London & British Transport police forces amongst others) have formally adopted Project Servator, with several other UK forces presently undertaking trials. Gibraltar is currently the only location outside mainland UK where this project is licensed to operate.

Commenting on the first anniversary of the project's launch in Gibraltar, RGP Assistant Commissioner Richard Ullger said: "Since the launch of Project Servator, the RGP have had more opportunities than ever to engage with residents, traders and visitors to Gibraltar at various levels as well as with our growing network of strategic partners.

"From tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, locating vulnerable missing people or catching wanted criminals, the support of people visiting and working in our community is crucial to the ongoing success of our deployments.

"The Servator vigilance network is supported by the use of specialist resources such as plain-clothes officers, armed officers and police dogs as well as less visible measures, including CCTV, a fantastic tool in the fight against crime. Since adopting this tactic, we have invested significantly in specialist training for officers locally and in the UK."

Part of the work behind the scenes in parallel to deployments on the ground has included support from RGP Facebook & Twitter feeds, engagement with traders and other key strategic stakeholders. Recent examples include an ongoing programme to facilitate the hosting of Project Servator messaging

on third-party websites and more recently, supporting the Island Games organising committee with regards to the provision of bespoke security awareness training at various levels as part of the wider policing operation for this event.

Terence Lopez, Chief Executive of Gibraltar International Airport, one of several locations where Project Servator operates said: "We work in close partnership with the RGP across various forums daily to ensure the airport is safe and secure for all our passengers and staff.

"The arrival of Project Servator and its use of the latest, proven techniques and methods to deter and detect criminality and terrorism, has contributed in providing additional reassurance to all airport users while maintaining and further enhancing security across the airport.

"I encourage everyone at the airport, staff and passengers to actively engage with and support Project Servator officers so they know what to be on the lookout for and how to report suspicious activity.



Everyone can play a part to keep the airport and Gibraltar safe by being vigilant and reporting any suspicious behaviour, either to a police officer, by **calling 20072500** (if not-urgent) or **199 in an emergency** or by emailing: [servator@royalgib.police.gi](mailto:servator@royalgib.police.gi)





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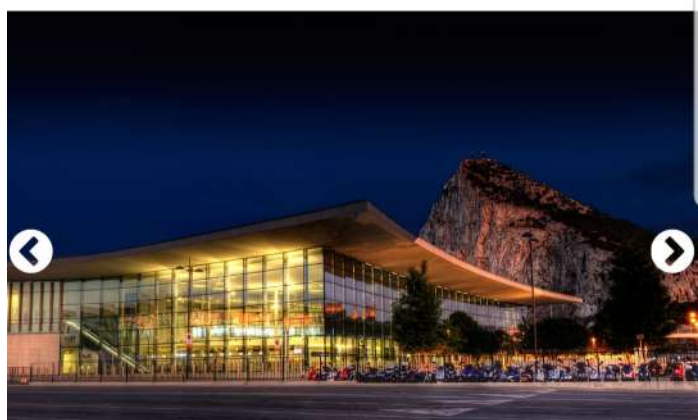



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**Welcome to Borders & Coastguard Agency**

# Bringing the ‘youth angle’ to the Gibraltar Police Authority

Senior Youth Worker Rebecca Figueras is the newest addition to the management board of the Gibraltar Police Authority. Rebecca completed a BA (Hons) in Youth and Community Studies in Leeds, and started working for the Gibraltar Government in the area of youth work, straight upon completion of her degree in 2002.

Speaking to *The Bobby*, Rebecca explained that she had been approached by the Gibraltar Police Authority chairman Joey Britto who had explained to her that the GPA was looking to broaden the representative base of the organization by including members from “all walks of life.”

Given her background and vast first-hand involvement and knowledge of youth matters, Rebecca seemed an obvious choice for inclusion as the authority strived to renovate its profile and establish more substantial lines of communication with younger members of the community.

“I was considered a suitable representative given my long standing connections with young people and their issues and I could be contributing to the work of the authority bringing that perspective to the table,” she said.

Rebecca accepted the post in February 2019 and was fully briefed on the official role and functions of the authority, what her own membership entailed and the responsibilities it carried.

“I have a lot of experience dealing with young people in the community and how they deal with the complexities of modern society and the pressures everyone faces, and the authority was keen to have that input,” she said.

## Community involvement

She is well aware of the RGPs invol-

vement in community initiatives that involve youth in clubs and schools including those to do with promoting awareness regarding the health and social risks associated to drug and alcohol abuse.

“I understand that policing in the 21st century, in the same way as the Gibraltar Police Authority as a whole, must be sensitive to feedback from the public and adapt to the needs of modern day society,” she declared.

Although still considering different ideas, with her authority cap on, in order to develop concrete proposals as regards future interaction between the RGP and local youth, Rebecca was keen to emphasize that good communication already existed between the police force and the Gibraltar Youth Service pointing to an array of elements of interaction between the two organisations in areas such as the aforementioned, domestic violence etc.

“We do have a series of joint workshops with the police in our different youth clubs and projects around Gibraltar where we examine these issues and their effects. We have also worked quite closely with the RGP on matters regarding the safeguarding and protection of children from online grooming and sexual exploitation.”

Rebecca said one of the areas that she constantly deals with as part of her day to day work is the impact of social media on people, and specifically on youth, how this medium presents reality to the youngest members of society and how it affects them. She declared that its influence on today’s young generation was a vital concern that cannot be overestimated, as online use is quite widespread from an early age and its effects could be damaging without the proper guidance.

She declared that ensuring children can use the internet safely is something the Youth Service actively pursued and they also work in close collaboration with the RGP in common initiatives to promote awareness of its dangers to protect children from any harm.

“The effects of social media on youngsters is worrying and we have a responsibility in ensuring we can equip them with the coping mechanisms required, so resilience building is very much a part of the work that we do to ensure kids are strong and they can cope with whatever life throws at them.”

## The portrayal of the RGP

Noting that at times a section of youth could have a distorted or unfavourable view of the purpose and function of a police force, she said the GPA worked toward getting the community as a whole including the younger members of the community to view the police in a positive light.

Asked how she had found the experience of joining the Gibraltar Police Authority and her own contribution to it, she said it had been quite an eye opener, particularly how issues were vigorously examined from various perspectives before reaching any kind of decision or conclusions.

She said it was an interesting process as views and thinking was filtered before arriving at a consensus opinion.

“In our board discussions we are looking at matters which are of a sensitive nature and the way different people will deal with the situations that arise, how they bring their own individual experiences to the table enriches debate and allows us to consider all the relevant factors. I learn from all the views expressed.”





# Rebecca's role in safeguarding initiatives

Rebecca took on a lead role within the Youth Service organization in 2013 where she actively formed part of the Child Protection Committee training sub group under the auspices of the Care Agency as the professional lead. As part of the duties in this committee, she is a trainer and delivers training on safeguarding issues to both individuals that work directly with young people and children in the community through a statutory and non-statutory organisations. She also attended training with the NSPCC in Leeds UK in 2016 for designated safeguarding leads where she learnt about the latest social trends relevant to safeguarding issues. Safeguarding children is very much at the forefront for the Youth Service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office safeguarding professionals recently met with the Youth Service senior team to talk about what safeguarding measures are in place for the youth service, and compare these to some of the commonwealth countries. They were impressed with local policies and noted these could be used as a template for best practice in other small British Overseas Territories. Rebecca's role has naturally led to the development of all the Youth Service's policies and procedures for staff.

Rebecca delivers the youth work training programme in conjunction with senior management, for new and existing youth service staff and has a responsibility for the on-going personal and professional development of the full time staff members that are part of the Youth Service team. As of late she is also part of partnership and multiagency approaches driving the 'going green' environmental initiatives for the Youth Service. CHAMP (Children Healthy and Active Multi-agency Programme) is another project that she is part of which is a public health initiative made up of Government and non-governmental agencies that have a vested interest in the well-being of children and young people in the community.



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# The loneliness of the long distance cyclist

Kent Police Inspector Tristan Stevens 42, completed a one thousand mile solo cycling trek from UK to Gibraltar earlier this year to raise funds for his local charity 'More than Words' which teaches sign language to children with communication difficulties.

With his Genesis bicycle barely held together by duct tape and bolts, Tristan, who was sponsored by the Kent Rotary Club, arrived at the frontier on May 16 2019 after a gruelling, three week odyssey during which he climbed steep mountain slopes, withstood lashing rain, harsh weather conditions and had to camp in the wild in France and Spain.

He was met on arrival by officers of the RGP and escorted by two police motorists to the 'finish-line' at Europa Point preceded by sirens and flashing lights, where he was greeted by his girlfriend Jan, members of the Gibraltar Rotary Club, together with other well-wishers.

Speaking to The Bobby, Tristan, his countenance a mixture of exhaustion, immense relief and gratitude at not having suffered a single puncture, acknowledged that there had been tough moments when the idea of giving up had crossed his mind. Although his determination had been severely tested, the thought of the children he wishes to help had spurred him on, providing the extra self-motivation to continue.

"When you are feeling cold and wet, absolutely lonely and vulnerable out in the wild, not knowing where to camp, looking at the map and feeling that you are not making much progress, it is very hard to carry on."

A physically and mentally draining adventure, one of its most challenging as-

pects has been the virtual isolation from human contact – thank god for Face Time – during much of the journey.

"The mountains of the Basque Country was almost a breaking point for me, climbing inclines of 8%, withstanding bitterly cold sub-zero temperatures and also intense heat. Those were difficult moments; loneliness can play tricks on your mind."

Tristan said that by setting himself up as an example of determination and inspiration to the children he was raising the funds for, and who face serious hardship on a daily basis, abandoning would have sent the wrong message to them.

"The thought of so many kids emptying their piggy banks to support me, the way they were keeping their faith in me, helped me feel better and fitter, to gain the extra drive and energy in those moments of doubt."

The RGP contributed around £650 for the fellow policeman, to be added to the £3,000 raised by the Rotary Club for the 'More than Words' charity.

Although Tristan has taken part in tremendously taxing sporting activities before, including marathons and other endurance events, he said this had been "the biggest by far," and reckons he was burning 4,500 to 5,000 calories a day. A father of two small children, Tristan says the experience has been hard on them too, "but they are proud of me and

have been urging me on to succeed and complete the route."

One of his most special moments was catching the first glimpse of the Rock of Gibraltar in the distance from the approaching roads of the Costa, although the highlight of the entire experience was getting to the end and reuniting with his girlfriend at Europa Point.

"I have been overwhelmed, it was an amazing rush of emotions getting here and seeing her after three weeks."

After taking a well-deserved break, Tristan reckons he will be doing other long distance challenges in the future, and does not rule out involving Gibraltar again.

## Gibraltar Rotarians

Gibraltar Rotary President John McKillop Smith was also present at Europa Point to greet the cyclist and praised his "huge effort for a worthy cause." The local branch is associated with its Kent counterpart and assisted in the charity effort.

"What Tristan has done is no mean feat. We have close links with the Kent Rotary Club and we decided to 'adopt' him and his cycle ride to raise funds for the children's charity 'More than Words'. We met Tristan's partner Jan at the airport ahead of his arrival to the Rock, and have arranged to take them out for a celebratory dinner."



Caption: Gibraltar Rotary President John McKillop Smith, President Elect Marian Hale, Treasurer Martin Hale, photographer Silvia Leay, and committee member Lyana Armstrong Emery.

# In the field of competitive table soccer



**R**GP Chief Inspector John Field is a lifelong Subbuteo enthusiast, the table football game that was all the rage with most Gibraltar kids back in the sixties and seventies, when the 'sport' experienced its pre-internet golden era. However, in John's case it was more than just a passing fad, and he was able to take it much further than most. Not only is John the Rock's reigning champion, he has become one of the world's leading players – currently ranked 6th overall in the veteran category – and a regular winner of the local league tournament and knock out competitions.

When Subbuteo, the trademark, ceased to exist, the activity was taken under the wing of the Federation of International Table Soccer Football (FITSF) under whose auspices a World Cup, European Cup and American Cup are held at regular two year intervals. Outside of his policing duties at New Mole House, there is a strong probability that he will be training for a tournament or travelling to an international competition in Europe.

He has a string of international successes under his belt having won individual and team Honours in Portugal, Spain, Scotland and Belgium.

The home of Subbuteo in Gibraltar is 63 Red Sands House, which is the venue of the Gibraltar Table Football Association that consists of the Lincoln Red Imps and the Europa table soccer clubs. John told The Bobby: "The Rock is a full member of the Federation and last year (2018) we staged a very successful world cup tournament at the Tercentenary Sports Hall. In fact it was so well

organized that FITSF was impressed and have since adopted many of the innovations that we introduced such as live streaming with the assistance of the online gaming firm Mansion, standardized tables, running commentary, good sponsorship deals and a promotional video which combined many elements of the tournament and Gibraltar as the host."

Having travelled to many tournaments in the past decade, John said he had been able to learn how these were organized, take the best parts of each one that he saw and experienced, and use this knowledge to build up an impressive competition locally. "It was not easy, it took 18 months of planning and hard work, but we were able to set the bar so high that it has encouraged others to follow suit. Mansion sponsored the tournament and the Gibraltar Government helped us a great deal in organizing the event," he declared.

The Gibraltar selection did very well at the world cup which attracted 21 participating countries to the Rock and approximately 280 players. John obtained third place in the Veteran Team category.

Speaking about the qualities of a good Subbuteo player, John reckons that successful competitors need to combine technique with mental strength and also the ability to read an opponent's style of play, and not buckle under the tough pressure dominant players can exert during a match.

"There's a lot of mind games involved, you do research players and their tactical approach. You have to be versatile and be able to be good at counterat-

tacking. My strongest point is a fast and accurate shot. I've won many matches where I've hardly had any possession but made the most of one or two goal-scoring opportunities."

Although largely an amateur game, some of the financially more powerful clubs will contribute the travelling and accommodation expenses when their top players compete in international tournaments.

John has had up to five transfer requests from afar as Italy, the Italian league is one of Europe's finest, but he opted for Tiburones FM, from Malaga one of the best teams in Spain, currently ranked second in the world. "It is a club in Estepa, a town near Malaga, and there is a great family atmosphere at the club. Other team members are lawyers and teachers, and with my line of work, we combine quite well and have similar interests. They always support our events in Gibraltar too."

Other than local competitions, the local association organizes two international tournaments every year an Open and a Grand Prix, for various age categories from young players to veterans. It is in these competitions where players acquire ranking points for their international standing.

The four big nations in the world of Subbuteo are Belgium, Italy, France and Spain. He recalls that it was his uncle, a keen player himself, who introduced him to the game when he was only a child, and that he spent a 17 year hiatus without playing before returning with renewed enthusiasm.

John enjoys the game and representing his team, but the travelling to different countries to compete in international tournaments, the social networking and meeting with friends you don't often see are other equally important highlights.

"These are great opportunities that come with the sport. It is quite competitive but in a healthy way, and with the success of our hosting of the World Cup in Gibraltar last year, we have now been awarded the privilege of organizing the 2021 European championship, which we are really looking forward to."

**PAINTING**

Such is John's passion for Subbuteo, that he not only competes at the highest level, he also paints teams with club colours and personalizes some of the footballers to look as some of the best known soccer stars like Maradona and Gullit. He also makes products such as bases for the players – there is a wide range of them suited to different surfaces and styles of play, and obtains his materials through internet or when he travels abroad. The local association also collaborates with the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority (GSLA) bringing Subbuteo sessions for children during the summer programme of events.

"We do our best to attract the younger generations to our sport, but it is almost impossible to compete with PlayStation and electronic devices."

John is also a keen Bonsai collector – but that is a different story...



 A close-up photograph of a white, curly wig, likely a barrister's wig, set against a dark, textured background.
 

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# Commissioner's Commendations



**PC Keith Bonfiglio, PC Keiron Reyes and PC Karl Moody**

The above named officers of the RGP Marine Section were awarded Commissioner's Commendations in acknowledgement of "the unflinching determination and perseverance to locate a vessel lost at sea on May 11 2019 with four persons on board." The three officers were able to use their years of maritime knowledge, professionalism and experience to save lives. PC Bonfiglio and his crewmates carried out determined and systematic search procedures to locate a small, engineless dingy, and rescue its four occupants already succumbing to exposure to the elements approximately 18 nautical miles south east off Gibraltar.



**DC Jonathan Goodson and Tony Ford**

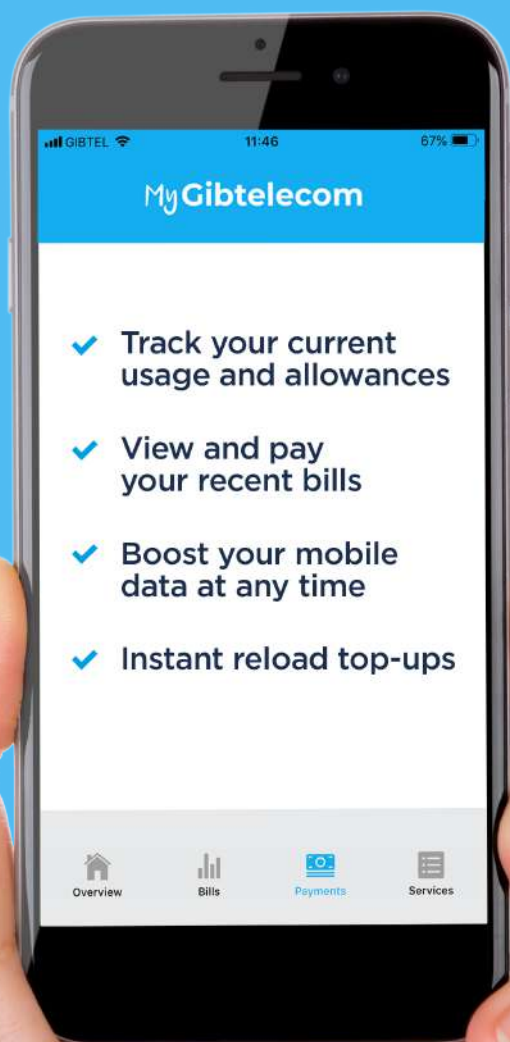
Tony Ford, a Financial Intelligence Officer at the Financial Intelligence Unit (GIU) and Detective Constable Jonathan Goodson were awarded a Commissioner's Commendation by COP Ian McGrail last month. The award was made in acknowledgement of "the unstinting dedication, professionalism and unremitting perseverance demonstrated in the investigation into the case of R v Filaev and Nilsen."

This was a complex investigation spanning over a year and delving into the incorporation of companies without a licence, failure to conduct due diligence and failing to keep records.

The complex nature of the investigation required the cooperation of both the Royal Gibraltar Police and Gibraltar Financial Services Commission to achieve a successful prosecution that resulted in hefty fines being imposed on both defendants and a confiscation order being granted by the Court in respect of £90,000.

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# Happy retirement Malcolm!



RGP Inspector Malcolm Figueras retired from the force on Friday July 19 2019 after almost 35 years of loyal and dedicated service to the community. Malcolm who will now be looking forward to a well-earned rest, was seen out of the New Mole House courtyard by the traditional guard of honour reserved for retiring officers.

Earlier Commissioner of Police Ian McGrail and other members of the Senior Management Team personally thanked Malcolm for his magnificent work at the RGP Traffic Section and wished him a happy retirement with family and friends.





11 April 2019

**RGP officer at Interpol’s Heads of National Central Bureaus Conference**

Inspector Sean Perera of the Royal Gibraltar Police, who heads the local INTERPOL office, is currently attending the 15th INTERPOL Annual Heads of NCB Conference being held in Lyon France. The three day conference being held from the 9 -11 April brings together the leadership of NCBs from around the world to examine matters related to cooperation among NCBs, between NCBs and INTERPOL General Secretariat, operational issues, exchange of best practices and provide updates about INTERPOL policing capabilities.

In his invitation to the Heads of NCBs, Tim Morris, INTERPOL’s Executive Director Police Services, stated:

“As daily policing demands continue to surge, technology and innovation remain fundamental to help police officers do their jobs more effectively and efficiently, thereby delivering them and the societies they serve, greater safety.”

18 April 2019

**RGP Officer qualifies as drug expert in UK**

RGP Detective Constable Daniel Fendley completed an extensive five day Drug Expert and Valuation course conducted by Kent Police in Maidstone, UK earlier this month.

The course consisted of assessments connected with drug supplying, wholesale purchase and encompassed a hands on approach on methods of preparation and packing of controlled drugs (Class A to Class C).

A visit to GW Pharmaceuticals, one of the world’s leading companies in the research of cannabinoid therapeutics, was also included.

DC Fendley who has been awarded membership of the Drug Expert and Valuation Association on successful completion of the course, is the latest RGP officer to be fully qualified in the role of Competent Drug Expert Officer.

The officer will now be able to provide the Magistrates Court with expert valuations and reports during criminal cases related to drugs offences.



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10 May 2019

**Arrests – Conspiracy to defraud**

Three local men have been arrested this morning in connection with an allegation of conspiracy to defraud a local company and several computer misuse offences. The investigation continues with the assistance of officers from the Cyber Crime Unit at the National Crime Agency UK.

The three men have been released on bail and police are continuing with the investigation.

13 May 2019

**Arrest – Misconduct in public office**

Further to the arrest of three local men on Friday 10th May in connection with an allegation of conspiracy to defraud a local company and several computer misuse offences, a senior Civil Servant has been arrested this afternoon on suspicion of:

- Misconduct in Public Office, and,
- Fraud by Abuse of Position.

On the basis of information presented by the RGP, the office of the Chief Secretary asked that the matter be fully investigated. The Civil Servant has been granted Police bail.

The investigation continues with the assistance of officers from the Cyber Crime Unit at the National Crime Agency UK.



May 15 2019

## French national sentenced to prison after attempted 'black-money' scam

Cameroon born French national Jean Duplex Nounkeu was today sentenced at the Magistrates Court to four months imprisonment, after pleading guilty to the charges of fraud by false representation and possession of articles for use in fraud.

Nounkeu had pleaded guilty on April 12 2019, in relation to a black money scam.

On April 1 2019, Nounkeu had approached the complainant, claiming that he could turn partly printed Euro currency notes in his possession into legal tender by means of a finalising process using certain substances. He later asked the complainant to provide him with E100,000 in cash to obtain a large quantity of the 'incomplete' notes and promised to deliver a return on the supposed investment.

The defendant had been arrested on entering Gibraltar later that month with a bag containing numerous blank sheets of paper cut to the size of E100 notes, intended to be shown as the incomplete Euro notes used in the scam. In sentencing, the court took into consideration the defendant's early guilty plea.

May 22 2019

## RGP cooperation with Spanish law enforcement

The Royal Gibraltar Police confirms reports in the Spanish Press that it is cooperating with its Spanish counterparts in a major anti-drug trafficking

operation being conducted in various provinces in southern Spain.

A number of RGP officers have been present in searches conducted by Guardia Civil officers since early this morning in a number of localities within the neighbouring Campo de Gibraltar region.

The growing mutual co-operation serves to highlight that organised criminality will be pursued cross border.

May 30 2019

## Gibraltar cops attend Interpol seminar in Poland



The Royal Gibraltar Police and Gibraltar Defence Police are currently attending Interpol's 47th European Regional Conference that is taking place in the Polish city of Katowice, May 29-31 2019.

Gibraltar is represented by Inspector Sean Perera (GCID), Head of Interpol's Sub Bureau on the Rock, and by the local Interpol contact officer Karl Walsh of the Gibraltar Defence Police.

The conference is one of Interpol's most important regional annual events, and provides senior participants from member countries a unique opportunity to examine strategic priorities and intensify law enforcement efforts against international organized crime in Europe.

Other items under discussion are the improvement of regional police cooperation in Europe to more effectively combat emerging forms of crime and terrorism.

Possible challenges in the use of Interpol data in Europe with regards to new EU regulations on interoperability of Police Databases were also debated. High-ranking officials from the Polish Government and Interpol inaugurated the conference.

June 11 2019

## RGP arrest three men at sea after Guardia Civil tip off

Three Spanish nationals were arrested by RGP Marine section following a high speed chase at sea yesterday in the early hours.

Juan Jose Pinero Espinosa 24 from Algeciras, Francisco Gil Dominguez 34 from Jerez, and Juan Manuel Ordonez Suarez 36, from Algeciras, were charged and will be appearing at the Magistrates Court this morning.

Ordonez Suarez faces charges of dangerous navigation, importing a prohibited import – a 14 metre 350 HP semi rigid inflatable boat – and obstructing police.

Gil Dominguez faces charges of importing a prohibited import (as above) while Pinero Espinosa was charged with importing and possession of a small amount of cannabis resin, and importing a prohibited import (as above).

The RGP Marine Section responded to a tip off from the Guardia Civil.

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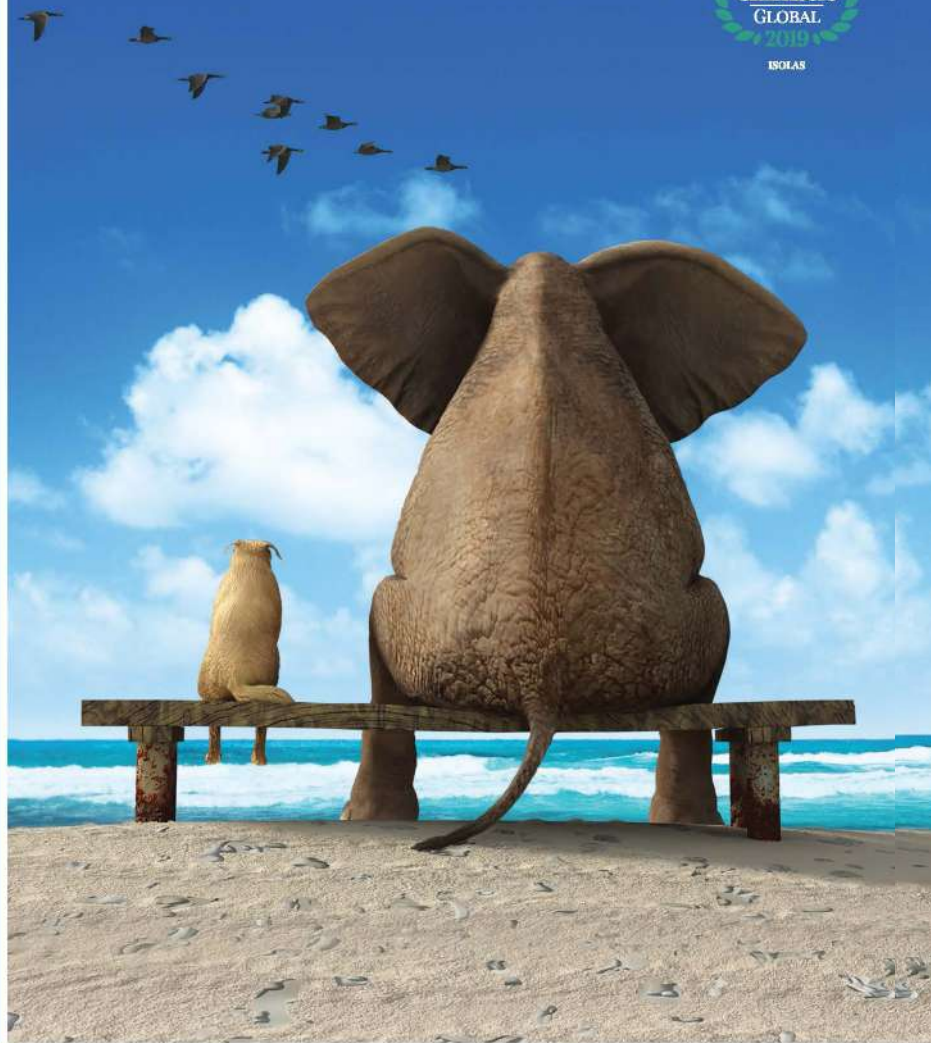
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