

INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

“Servo per Amikeco”
“Service Through Friendship”



Plod-ing On’ No 4 (Wales) Region Newsletter September – October 2022



As I put the finishing lines to this slightly late edition of the Region 4 Newsletter, I will be able to say that in a few short weeks I will be winging my way down to (hopefully) sunny New Zealand for two months. It’s not actually my desperate way of saving on heating on lighting costs here at home, but my opportunity of catching up with my son Glyn whom I haven’t seen for nearly six years. I’m really looking forward to catching up with IPA friends in and around Wellington, particularly the Section NZ President, Mike Norden, with whom I share frequent emails plus a dram of fine malt via the IPA Whisky Forum on the first Saturday of each month. During my last visit to Kiwiland, I caused a little mayhem whilst visiting a town called ‘Bulls’, as explained in the Region Newsletter on my return....

‘My son and his lovely Kiwi partner took me on what is known as a ‘ticky tour’ (?) of the North Island. “I know an excellent town that you’ll appreciate” said Emma as we headed out along the main highway. What an opportunity thought I on this glorious sunny Sunday morning, to meet with the local officer in his little police station. So in I went, armed up with IPA pennants, pin badges and my name card, all of which I placed on the desk whilst calling out for some attention. ‘Nothings happening’ thought I. How wrong can you be.

Suddenly alarm bells in the station started ringing and at any moment I expected myself to be tasered and gassed by an infuriated officer whose coffee break snooze had just been interrupted. But absolutely nothing. “Let’s clear off quick” spoke the very wise and knowledgeable Emma. So beating a hasty retreat we left the premises, expecting at least some interest from the locals who were sipping on their beers in the café opposite. But again not one spark of interest or concern for what might be happening to their local officer of the law. So beating a hasty retreat in our little Nissan car we departed the town of Bulls, at least expecting an annoyed response from the constable who would have picked up my email and phone details from my card. But again, nothing. It was all just ‘lay back’ and ‘cruisey’, to use my son’s words. Absolutely wonderful.

Region 4 and Section UK Diary Dates

Section UK National Golf Competition 2023

The above competition will be held on the golf courses of Greetham Valley, Rutland on Tuesday, 30th and Wednesday, 31st May 2023 with a practice day available on Monday, 29th. The resort is set within 276 acres of rolling English countryside. We will play The Lakes and The Valley courses, Stableford format. Accommodation will be at the Hotel on the resort and the cost for 2 nights DB&B, 3 rounds of golf, light lunch on the Wednesday with the prize giving, £225pp sharing a room and £305 for a Single room. There is a Team Competition, consisting of 4 players from the same Region, only 1 Team per Region, which must be declared prior to the start of the competition. There is no restriction on the number of players from each Region competing for the individual competition and prizes.

If you want more information or wish to reserve your accommodation/tee time, please contact yvonnemcgregor@gmail.com.

Region 4 AGM Dates 2023 – Please ensure that you make every effort to support the AGM

North Wales: 7pm Wednesday 8th February, Via Zoom. The link has been circulated to members.

Dyfed Powys: 7.30pm Thursday 23rd February, via Zoom

South Wales: 7.30pm Tuesday 28th February, at present via Zoom.

Region 4: 11am Sunday 26th March, Aberystwyth Police Station.

The Welcome Hand of Friendship



Once again, within the Wales Region, we bid a warm welcome to a new member who has joined us in recent times:

Karl Francis – a serving member of Police Staff in South Wales Police

John Lee – a retired officer from North Wales Police.

It is always a real pleasure to see new members join this superb organisation, especially those currently serving within the local Force. We hope that we can encourage you to take part in any of the activities organised by not only your own local Branch, but by any of the three Branches across Wales. We encourage you to make use of the Section UK and Region Wales Facebook sites to find out what is happening afield across the UK and the International scene. Remember that you are also able to sign up for the on-line IPA International Newsletter. Simply register at <https://www.ipa-international.org/> or view the editions at the Section UK website.

International Visitor to Wales Region

A visit from over the pond....

IPA Section UK were delighted to welcome Retired Sergeant Lee 'Swoop' Walter from Kern County Sheriff's Office (California) and assist him with his action-packed itinerary. Lee spent 32 years in Law Enforcement, working in Los Angeles at the USC Campus Police, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Kern County Sheriff's Office, in a variety of roles from patrol officer, detective, and supervisor of a SWAT-style forced entry team.

Lee's UK itinerary was to take him on a UK road trip from London through to Cardiff and then north through the Midlands and up to Scotland. As Chair of the of South Wales Branch I arranged to meet up with Lee for his brief visit to this area. Eventually, about a week prior to his arrival and via several emails we managed to identify his travel arrangements. It transpired that he was coming into the UK on 15th August and was hiring a car with the intention of travelling to meet people in Bridgend whom he had never met, but who were acquaintances of his friends back home in the States!!!!

And so, on the 15th of August, I phoned Lee mid-morning, only to find that he had left Heathrow and was in fact just coming over the bridge into Wales. We met at an M4 services west of Cardiff from where I took him to a local pub for lunch. I presented Lee with several IPA memorabilia, including our Wales Region pin badge, pennant, and a miniature mounted truncheon in Region 4.

At this time, as I had become very concerned that Lee didn't have any where to stay over-night I completely forgot to take any photos.

We talked at length about his life in the USA, and it transpired that we both had several things in common in that we were both retired Special Constables, he previously in Liverpool and I in South Wales, also that we both had American wives. Following lunch, I took Lee to a local hotel, from where he decided that he would make his own way to Bridgend and contact me later. In fact, when I next spoke to him early the following morning, he informed me that he was already on his way to Liverpool and thanked me for everything I had done.

I understand that on the 17th of August, Lee completed a 5K run in Cannock Chase, then headed to Liverpool, his former stomping ground, working for Merseyside Police out of Admiral Street Police station in Toxteth. He then blasted up to Scotland to catch the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on the 23rd of August before taking the train back to London.

Region 9 London North Branch hosted Lee for his final night in London, enjoying a good pub dinner and an impromptu walking tour of Charing Cross Police Station thereafter.

So here endeth a breathless tour of the UK by one lone American visitor.

Ken Davies

.....and staying on the International theme

IPA HOSTING

IPA is primarily about FRIENDSHIP. We know our members are proud to belong to the same fraternity and enjoy meeting colleagues and sharing beautiful moments together. It allows members to create strong bonds, both personally with members and with their families.

You can now offer to host members and their families from abroad whilst on their travels. Should you wish to offer to host members in your property, you can now do by completing a straightforward form which you can obtain via myself at d.hunt3@ntlworld.com and your property will be added central database of hosting accommodation.

From personal experience I can honestly say that hosting international visitors can be a wonderful opportunity to expand your circle of international friends.

I have hosted members from Brazil, Canada, USA, Ireland (but lock up your whisky/whiskey), New Zealand and South Africa. In addition, I have also acted as the liaison host for visitors to Wales from Japan, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, France (wonderful rugby nuts who spoke no English) and Sri Lanka. Many of these visitors have remained as strong friends, with the continual offer of hospitality in their own countries. Most of our international visitors tend to stay in the South of our Region, but not always. North Wales members have hosted visitors from USA and Israel. Dyfed Powys have also hosted members from the USA who travelled into Wales to play a round of golf in the area of Tenby – very strange, but a superb day for us all.

One of things that has become noticeable with international guests in recent times is that many have arrived here wishing to trace family origins, often going back many generations. As one who is strong into family research myself, I find this a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the bonds of friendship when I recover information relating to their ancestors, including former places of residence, in one instance a cottage dating back to the late 1700's.

And so, I invite you to broaden your IPA horizon's and dip your toe into the waters of international friendship. Simply contact me and I will email a copy of the form for you to complete and forward to HQ.

For heaven's sake, let's have a bit of a larf!!

Did you hear about the two peanuts walking in a bad neighbourhood? One was assaulted.



So, I'm in a bar and two very large women with accents are sitting across from me. I say, "Cool accents, are you two ladies from Scotland?" One of them yells, "It's Wales, you idiot." So I said, "OK, are you two Whales from Scotland?" I don't remember much after that.

Ted and Barney were hunting in the woods when suddenly with no warning at all Barney collapses.

He's not breathing, so Ted in a panic immediately calls 999.

"My friend is dead! What should I do?" Ted screams frantically into the phone.

The operator replies, "Calm down sir. First make sure that he's really dead."

There's a silence, then a loud bang...

Back on the phone Ted says, "Ok, now what?"

Ugh!!!!

Gimborn 2023

The 2023 diary of the IPA Gimborn Conference and Education Centre near Cologne has been published. These highly Professional Seminars vary from two days to five days, with Presentations by leading experts in their field of expertise. There are no exams involved, although attendees will be expected to take part in group study sessions if appropriate. Below are the English Language seminars, currently listed:

- 19 – 20 Jan. Tactical First Aid
- 15 - 17 Mar. Crime Fighting goes Digital – Best practice for Police Officers.
- 20 – 24 Mar. Disaster & Crisis Management – The challenge of dealing with disasters.
- 03 – 07 July Police Street Survival Training.
- 02 – 06 Oct. The use of Drones by front line services (Police Special) – this date needs to be verified.
- 04 - -08 Sep. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- 13 – 15 Oct ASP Instructor Course
- 30 – 31 Oct. Tactical First Aid.
- 20 – 24 Nov. Faces of Terror – Policing cyberterror and other forms of terrorism.
- 04 – 08 Dec. International Trans Border Cargo Crime.

If you are interested in any of these titles, you will find further information regarding these Seminars and other aspects relating to Gimborn on the Section UK website (Professional Development link) www.ipa-uk.org/

These police related seminars are open to IPA members and non-IPA members. There is a base participation cost varying upwards from 280 Euros for IPA members attending the Seminars.

However, Section UK members benefit from financial support to attend a Seminar of up to a maximum of £250 every 2 years for any seminar (this may well be now amended). In addition, No 4 Region also offer a further £75 to assist with travel costs, plus each of the three Branches also offer additional similar support. There are conditions attached to each of these offers of financial support.

Face-to-face seminars held at Gimborn are an excellent means of raising the profile of International Friendship, and you will always leave having met and made new friends from various parts of the world.



IPA Membership

As you will be aware, it was agreed at the NCM in June this year, to widen to range of persons eligible to apply for full Ordinary Membership of the IPA. The list of approved categories now include:

- Police Support Volunteers aged 18 years or over who have 3 years or more police service.
- The majority of UK Docks and Harbour Police.
- Canterbury Cathedral Close Constabulary
- Chester Cathedral Constabulary
- Liverpool Cathedral Police
- Royal Military, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy Police
- UK Border Force Officers (Warranted officers only)

If you know of anyone who is a member of any of these organisations, please bring possible Membership of the IPA to their attention. If you would like an A5 Publicity Flyer to download for them, containing details of Membership, please email me at d.hunt3@ntlworld.com .

Editor: Denis Hunt. d.hunt3@ntlworld.com