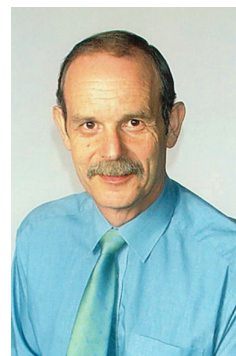


## MIKE WALDREN QPM (K61-64)

He was born on 13 July 1947 and after leaving the College eventually joined the Metropolitan Police in London in 1967. He had developed a great interest in shooting while at the College, not just in the CCF but also using the .22 rifle range alongside 'The Back' next to the woodwork classroom in those days.

He kept this up after joining the police and shot regularly in competitions using handguns. Later he moved on to shotguns although he believes he probably reached his peak when representing the South East region of England in a national open skeet championship. However, he was part of the Metropolitan Police 1st team several times in police national clay pigeon shooting championships.



In 1977 as a sergeant he joined the Metropolitan Police Firearms Unit as an instructor and was also a member of an operational police firearms team. The idea of teams was very new then. In fact, they were the first in Britain and they had to make it up as they went along! He has lost count of the number of operations he has been on and was promoted to Inspector in 1982. His first major command responsibility was at the Libyan Peoples Bureau in 1984. He was the officer in charge of the night duty inner armed cordon.

In the late 1970s they were regularly being asked by the media and television companies about the history of police use of firearms and he found that there was very little on it in books. He started to research the subject and this resulted in *London's Armed Police*, which was published, by Arms and Armour Press in 1986. This traced the subject back to 1829 when the Metropolitan Police was first formed. Since then he has given talks to historical societies and other groups that express an interest.

In 1987 as a Chief Inspector he became the Metropolitan's chief firearms instructor and as a result he sat on several national committees, which drew up police firearms policy. He became a Superintendent in 1992 and was appointed head of police firearms operations carried out by the teams and the armed response vehicles in London.

In 1994 he was promoted to Chief Superintendent and appointed in charge of the Metropolitan's Firearms Unit in its totality. This included all operations and training and (aside from that of the Commissioner) this is recognised as being one of the most high profile jobs in the Met. It certainly kept him awake many a night. In 1999 he was awarded the Queens Police Medal for Distinguished Police Service by Her Majesty the Queen in the Birthday Honours List. He retired from the Police Service in March 2000. During his time with the Firearms Unit he saw it grow from just 16 officers when he joined to a strength of over 350 when he left.

Since then he has acted as an Independent Consultant with appointments which include:

- Providing expert witness evidence for legal proceedings.
- Being the project consultant on a revised National Police Use of Firearms Tactical Manual.
- Co-author of the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum.
- An Expert Mission on Use of Police Firearms as a part of the Strategic Police Sector Assessment Project – Kyrgyzstan – on behalf of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

His latest book *Armed Police: The Police use of Firearms Since 1945*, just published by Sutton Publishing, is more than just an update of *London's Armed Police*. It contains a great deal of new material resulting from interviews with many of those who took part in incidents. He has already sent a copy to the College for the library.

