

# Willkommen zur Fife

**David McCulloch, a Chief Inspector and an IPA member arranged for a German colleague to spend some time with him working at Fife Constabulary.**

David briefly recounts the experience and opportunities the placement offered everyone involved; German police officer Markus Falch has been a training officer for 24 of his 28 years' service.

Having previously worked in the helicopter industry with MBB Eurocopter, Markus came to realise the truth of the saying: 'If helicopters are so safe, why are there are no vintage helicopters performing at air shows?', and moved to the marginally safer occupation of policing.

Markus joined the Bayerische Bereitschottspolizei in 1982, and transferred to the training division in 1986. Markus had difficulty in translating the exact meaning of Bayerische Bereitschottspolizei, firstly describing it as 'Bavarian Standing By Police', before settling on 'Bavarian Riot Police'.

**• FACT:** Babelfish translation - "One of the ready bulkhead police".

In any event, I am sure you will understand the general idea.

There are seven police training colleges throughout Bavaria. Markus is based at a college situated between the cities of Augsburg and Nuremberg, where he provides training to both student officers and trainers. In common with many German officers his force offered him the opportunity of an internship with a foreign police force. Importantly these internships are not mere social exchanges, but must provide the individual with real professional development opportunities. The pre-arranged programme is scrutinised and approved by a professional panel before the internship is confirmed.

Earlier in the year Markus, also an IPA member, contacted the Secretary General Tom Crozier describing his wish to undertake a professional visit to a UK police force. Tom is an ex-colleague, and knowing that I was responsible for a variety of roles, including firearms and public order training and road policing operations, as well as having a background as a trainer at the Scottish Police College, thought I might be able to provide for Markus's professional needs.

My colleague Inspector Mark Anderson from Fife's Specialist Operations department lent his assistance in putting together a programme that included a two day interactive simulated incident management course at the Scottish Police College. The proposed programme met with the approval of the Bavarian authorities, with the result that Markus spent almost three weeks in Scotland from early November.

**• FACT:** IPA Section Germany provides financial assistance to support accommodation

costs of members undertaking professional placements with foreign police forces.

Markus was afforded access to numerous training and live operational opportunities including CID investigations and suspect interviews, Road Policing ANPR interception operations, Offender Management duties, prisoner management, public space CCTV monitoring as well as local and national training courses.

Markus also shadowed Mark Anderson and me, in our public order roles at a local football derby between Dunfermline Athletic and Raith Rovers in the Scottish First Division. While the crowds might not match the numbers attending the likes of Rangers and Celtic matches or local derbies in England, there is still a real rivalry and a good deal of tension at these games. Happily the day passed without incident with the game ending in a 2 - 2 draw.

**• FACT:** Raith Rovers, then in the Scottish Second Division beat Celtic in the final of the Scottish League Cup in 1994; and in doing so qualified for the Uefa Cup.

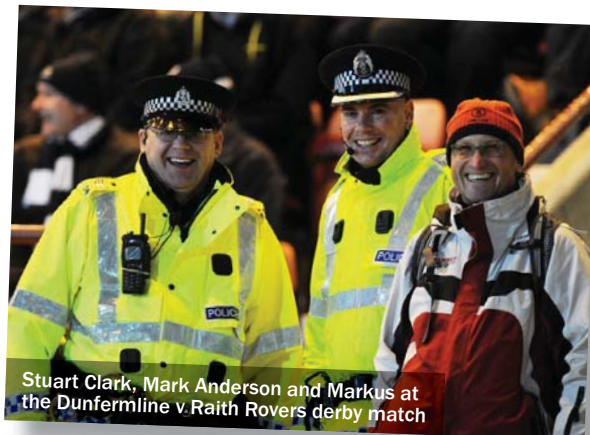
In the 2nd round against Bayern Munich at Munich, against all odds they led 1-0 at half time, eventually losing 2-1. This was the first time a Scottish team had qualified for a major European competition while playing outside the top league.

**• FACT:** The former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown is a lifelong Raith Rovers fan.

I was delighted when Markus accepted my invitation to be my off duty guest at the recent Scotland - South Africa autumn rugby test match at Edinburgh. Needless to say I felt it was my obligation to take Markus to whisky 'tasting' in Edinburgh's historic Old Town before the match. At the game Markus commented on the good natured crowd; no doubt mollowed by their earlier exposure to the 'Water of Life'! He was particularly impressed with the emotion roused by the playing of the bagpipes before the match and at the interval and the passion of the fans' rendition of the unofficial anthem, Flower of Scotland. Happily Scotland prevailed beating the reigning Rugby World Champions 21-17.

**• FACT:** That victory means that Scotland are now World Champions!

It should go without saying, and those that have had the experience of either receiving foreign colleagues or are fortunate enough to have undertaken a professional exchange will know, that the pleasure and learning is not all one



Stuart Clark, Mark Anderson and Markus at the Dunfermline v Raith Rovers derby match

sided. Both Mark and I have very much enjoyed the experience. Markus provided positive feedback and also commented on differences of approach to policing, including professional and cultural considerations. For example, the monitoring of public space CCTV is routine in the UK and Fife has the most extensive system of public space CCTV in Scotland. CCTV has not been embraced by either the German public or politicians as it has been here in the UK. He is also committed to making presentations on his experiences and the learning outcomes of his visit to Fife to future training courses back home.

Markus was kind enough to invite Mark and me to visit him in Germany in either a professional or social context. I hope to be able to take up his offer at some point in the near future, when I will be able to take in his presentation first hand.

My advice to serving colleagues in the IPA is that whenever an opportunity arises to take part in a professional exchange either as a participant or facilitator, then go for it! I am grateful to Mark Anderson for taking on the bulk of the arrangements, and I know that he would join with me in thanking Markus for providing us with this experience.

So much so, we are looking to bring another IPA member from Germany to Fife next July.

**David McCulloch**, Fife Constabulary.

**• FACT:** Tom Crozier has had five requests seeking professional placements for up to three weeks from trainee officers in Germany.

Some of the applicants are seeking placements in the UK as early as January or February 2011. As things stand there are two offers of acceptance, one from Hertfordshire and the other from Fife. Taking in to account the very positive comments from David McCulloch, Tom asks that where serving members believe they can assist in facilitating a visit for a foreign colleague to contact him by e-mail at [Secretary-General@ipa-uk.org](mailto:Secretary-General@ipa-uk.org) or by telephone at 0115 981 3638.