

2006 Recipient of the Dr. Lois-Higgins Grote Heritage Award

TINA MARTIN



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This historical document on the British Association for Women in Policing has been prepared as a personal project by a founder member, so that others can realise how far BAWP has progressed in its first 20 years. It has to be dedicated to Tina Martin, without whose enthusiasm and foresight BAWP would never have existed, but also to all those who have helped along the way. It just goes to show that leadership is not necessarily a function of rank, as Tina was a constable for all of her service.

In 1985, a small article about the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) was featured in 'Police Review' magazine. The originator, Joan Lock, a retired Metropolitan Police Officer and an accomplished author, was unwittingly responsible for the formation of the British

Association of Women Police. This article, together with two others by Joan Lock in 1986, prompted Constable Tina Martin from Derbyshire Constabulary to discover more about the Association. She attended the IAWP's Training Conference in the States in 1986, at her own expense, and came back enthused to do something similar in the UK.

Tina placed a letter in 'Police Review' inviting policewomen from around the UK, to attend a lunchtime meeting at Chesterfield, Derbyshire on 1st March 1987. 15 women from 8 forces (including, interestingly, two from the MOD Police) attended this meeting, along with Joan Lock and a lone male officer - the local Superintendent, representing Derbyshire Constabulary's Chief Constable. The cost was £7.50 each for a 3 course meal and afternoon coffee!

At this meeting, various issues were discussed but principally the formation of a British section of the IAWP. The following month saw a second meeting and it was then that the British Association of Women Police was formed using the constitution of the IAWP as its guide. Officers at the meeting elected a Committee and it was decided that a British section would benefit from being affiliated to the IAWP but needed to retain a separate identity so as to ensure that the needs of British policewomen were served to the full. The first funding was a £50 grant from IAWP and £1 from each of those present at the April meeting. Although at that time the Association was aimed principally at policewomen, male colleagues have always been able to join as full members, and police support staff (as they were called at that time) were able to join as Associate members initially, but this was amended in 1998 to give them full recognition.

Although it is no longer used, when it was founded, BAWP adopted the motto 'Animo et Scientia' which translated means 'with courage and knowledge' - surely the qualities of Tina Martin, the professional police officer!