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## The Specials

In the largest Octaga event to date at this particular venue, Emma and Dave took thirty-nine officers and stewards to Cheltenham Racecourse and a concert by the 70's and 80's legends The Specials on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

This was the first time that we have been asked to supply pit crew for a large music gig and Dave B led a team of six and an additional ten Door Supervisors as his security team.

Emma led a team of 23 stewards and following the concert the production staff was most appreciative, even saying that the helpfulness of all staff made Cheltenham the friendliest venue they have worked from! Praise indeed from a crew that has been around the block as often as they have.

Of course large events like these do take some pulling together and we'd like to thank sincerely all of you who took part. You are too numerous to list here but



Dave Barrett leads the first Octaga pit crew at The Specials Concert, Cheltenham, 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 11

particular thanks to Alex and the group from Bucks who joined the team, and to the huge effort made by Gemma as she ensured all positions were staffed prior to the show. Thanks also to Cheltenham duty manager, Heath, who was extremely helpful to our team.

Though hard work, The Specials concert was certainly an enjoyable event and we hope for more in future as our relationship with this historic venue continues to grow and flourish.

Large 'celebrity' events like these do as much to raise the profile of Octaga than any advertising campaign; it is often said in fact that the best marketing tool a company has is its front line staff.

On this occasion these have certainly proved true and the turnout, friendliness and professionalism of our entire team were commented upon by venue and production staff. Well Done! And "Thank You" to you all

## FORE! Octaga Golf Day by Colin D

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October saw the inaugural Octaga Golf Day held at Hazlemere Golf Club, in South Buckinghamshire. Magnificent Red Kites soar over this challenging and interesting 18-hole, par 70 golf course, which is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty in the heart of the Chiltern Hills. And the clubhouse offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere with food on par to match the golf.

Two teams of three battled it out under the clear blue skies, taking on not only their opponents but

the many bunkers, water hazards and lightning fast greens which certainly caught everybody out.

After four hours of club swinging, ball losing, mickey taking, highs and lows, the team comprising of Dave A, Gemma A and Andrew A were victorious over the team of Paul G, Colin D and Gary G. Well done to them, at the next golf day I can see a recalculation of the handicaps being brought into force! Overall singles winner on the day was Andrew A.

The best score on one hole was a net hole in one by Colin D. Overall it was a brilliant day and we all look forward to the next one where we hope for even more support; the more the merrier as they say. A big thanks to Dave A for his generosity on this day and allowing everyone to beat him into last place in the singles competition, also a big thanks to all who helped organise this successful day, and lastly a big thank you to all who dusted down their bats and turned up.

Hopefully see you all next year!!!



## Operations News

### Check Calls

Just a quick reminder from Dave Barrett about the importance of these calls; They are about our personal safety and security and not merely there for a bit more paperwork and some audit points, and we can't stress enough that officers need to stay on the ball with them. This applies doubly so to officers on mobile patrols, due to the random nature of their work. Please call on and off site chaps, and if you're staying on a site for a while, call in to your contact every hour.

Everyone drops a call from time to time – (there is even a scurrilous rumour that an editor of a certain journal did so once) but

let's not make a habit of it eh.

Seriously though, please try not to 'cry wolf' albeit by forgetfulness, to our colleagues.

### Return of the Uniform Challenge

The time of year has come around again where we are to complete the uniform challenge amongst the security officers on all our sites. This is to encourage officers to be smart and presentable whilst on shift as you are not only representing yourself, but us as a company and also your clients.



Security Solutions

The challenge is a great way to highlight officer's presentation and first impressions visitors get of us and over the months when the challenge is conducted we have seen great improvements to an already excellent turnout made by all. Let's hope this year will be no exception,

The winners will be announced in January, after managers have completed inspections of all sites and staff. Good Luck.

### Editorial

I'm sorry this issue is a little late, but we've all been rather busy over the December and Christmas period. The next News will be on time (well, pretty much) sometime in mid February.

Another Milestone!  
Earlier in 2011, the Octaga News was four years old and now, we celebrate our Twentieth edition!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue; Dave and Tracey, Dave B, Emma, Peter, Chris and Colin. This is our newsletter, so anyone is welcome to write in at any time and the more of you that do so will be contributing to better News because of it. I particularly enjoyed Chris's note about Filipe; a well crafted and very sincere mail that spoke almost as much about the writer than about the subject. Colin's article about the Octaga Golf Day is terrific and just the sort of thing we need in the News. I look forward to the next golf report and to any other sports or hobby days that any of you guys may organise in future.

It has been a strange and difficult year for many of us, but we are still here and Octaga is in very good shape.

Regards  
Dave

### A note from 2011 from Dave B

I would like to open by personally saying, 'well done' to all Octaga Security Officers at our AP, PW and GC sites and also a thank you to Allan and Adrian, who are working closely with the Octaga officers and myself, in keeping up the high standards we expect to achieve.

Steve D is working very hard, and is our longest serving fulltime Officer at GC, where his experience is invaluable. In our Welsh sites, I would like to say that Terry and Stewarts commitment with Octaga and the client has been exceptional and cannot go without a personal mention.

Our new officers are mentioned on the Staff Page, and you are all very welcome aboard. Operations officers have been conducting uniform challenge, of which I have done 20 so far and the results are excellent, with officers are taking pride in their uniform and the way they dress, they are representing Octaga and the client, to a high standard. Well done all and keep it up.

You may have noticed that it is winter time again. Please wear sensible clothing if you're outdoors; long sleeve vests, long johns and thick socks will keep you more comfortable - and healthier! Clothing hot drinks salting and gritting for the clients if requested Health and safety.

Have a safe and Happy New Year  
**Dave Barrett**  
Area Manager

## Octaga Key Holding and Response



### New Duty Manager's Number

We have a new Out of Hours number

**07789 632 320**

Which comes into use with immediate effect

Many of you are already aware, but please use only this number to contact our duty officers for site related issues.



### Birthday!

In May this year, the Octaga News will be five years old and we might just have a birthday party for the sheet which has grown popular within the company and with clients.

Exactly where we'll hold it and what we'll do we've yet to decide and would welcome any (clean!) suggestions.

We're well on the way to becoming a corporate journal now and if any of you, your sites or your companies would like to feature in our birthday edition (or even before), please do not hesitate to contact;

[octaganews@octaga.co.uk](mailto:octaganews@octaga.co.uk)

In the meantime, thank you all for your continued support and if you know of anyone who'd like to be on our free circulation list, just put them in touch with us at the above address.

We have taken on several mobile patrol, keyholding and alarm response sites in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Dudley over the autumn in what promises to be an expansion for us into an often stimulating role in the security industry.

While not very officer can take to 'life in a van', those that do are frequently rewarded with thanks and sometimes commendations from clients and even police.

Responding to an alarm activation that is a confirmed intrusion (or a double knocker, as is the slang in the midlands) is a very responsible and often interesting piece of work, with officers called upon to facilitate the arrival of police, often assisting police with searching the premises and then the liaison with barding up services, CSI's, clients and alarm engineers, all of whom

may need to attend a premises, which is our baby from our arrival until the building is secured and re-alarmed.

Even more 'mundane' activations can upon arrival, sometimes be a little juicier than expected and the officer who walks straight through the front door to the alarm panel does so, for a variety of reasons, at his or her peril.

Liaison with the Alarm Receiving Centre is crucial too, so that both controller and guard know as much as possible about what they may be walking in to.

We are fortunate in these respects though to have our own technical engineers running the alarm systems, so that our call outs will be absolute Octaga jobs from response to re-set.

It may though strike the reader as strange that nowhere in SIA approved training is there a module concerning officers who need to respond to alarm activations, either alone, with police or as an escort to a client (settle down chaps).

To this end, we may make available a half day seminar concerning mobile patrols and alarm response for delivery by our training staff; this will naturally be free for Octaga officers and if anyone would like to attend or even contribute, get in touch at

[octaganews@octaga.co.uk](mailto:octaganews@octaga.co.uk)



### SIA Licence Reminder

The SIA seems to be taking a firmer stance these days to our licence conditions, and while we're sure all Octaga Officers abide by regulations, it is worth, by way of a reminder to reproduce here advice from the SIA home office website;

Front line staff must:

- Wear the licence where it can be seen at all times when engaging in designated licensable activity unless you have reported it lost or stolen, or it is in our possession.
- Tell us and the police in writing as soon as practicable if your licence is lost or stolen.
- Tell us in writing as soon as practicable of any convictions, cautions or warnings, or charges for relevant offences whether committed in the UK or abroad.
- Tell us in writing of any changes to your name or address as soon as practicable.
- Not deface or change the licence in any way (should your licence become damaged, you should advise us and request a replacement).
- Not wear a licence that has been defaced or altered in any way.
- Produce the licence for inspection on the request of any constable, any member or employee of the SIA or other person authorised by the SIA.
- Return the licence to us as soon as practicable if you are asked to do so.
- Tell us in writing as soon as practicable of any change to your right to remain or work in the UK.

These are fairly unambiguous instructions, so please don't get caught out by simple forgetfulness and while we know officers do prefer sometimes to wear the licence on a belt clip rather than the lanyard, please never forget to have it with you at work.

## A Brief History of Close Protection; 27BC – 1974

Continuing with our 'mini-series' on the history of Bodyguarding, which formed the introduction of Dave Allison's address to the BSIA, we press on with profiles of two more groups famed for their close protection activities.

We've all heard of the Samurai due to popular fiction and film, but the Mameluk were no less a force and once both revered and feared throughout their native lands as well as most of Europe.

### Samurai



Samurai in armour, 1860's (hand-coloured photo)

### The Mameluk

A Mamluk (from Arabic: مملوك *mamlūk* (singular), مملوك *mamālīk* (plural), meaning "owned"); was originally a soldier of slave origin.

The Mamluks could trace their lineage of service to the Ottomans in the mid-13th century and by 1800 had become a powerful military caste in various Muslim societies. They were of varied ancestry but while they were purchased, their status was above ordinary slaves, and actually considered to be "true lords," with social status above freeborn Muslims.

Their training consisted of strict religious and military education to the dictates of *furusiyya*, a code that included values such as

The military elite of pre-industrial Japan, the character 侍 is said to have been a verb meaning to serve or accompany a person in the upper ranks of society,

In an effort to conquer the north of the country, Emperor Kammu in 800 AD introduced the title of 征夷大將軍; shogun, and began to rely on powerful regional clans as his temporary power and a military tradition among the Japanese clans began to grow, laying the foundations of *Bushido*, their ethical code

By the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Samurai warriors, dedicated to their feudal masters described themselves as followers of "The Way of the Warrior" or *Bushido*, a unique philosophy that spread through the warrior class. The Samurai felt that the path of the warrior was one of honour,

courage and generosity, and also cavalry tactics, horsemanship, archery and treatment of wounds, etc.

While they were technically no longer slaves after training, they were still obliged to serve the Sultan and many Mameluk rose to high positions throughout the empire, including general military command.

Though defeated by Napoleon in Egypt, Napoleon was an admirer of the Mameluk ways and formed his own Mamluk corps in the early years of the 19th century, and used Mamluks in a number of his campaigns.

Even his Imperial Guard had Mamluk soldiers during the Belgian campaign, including one of his personal servants.

emphasizing duty to one's master, and loyalty unto death.

Protection of their masters, and doing their bidding in military campaigns was the way of the Samurai, and according the *Bushido*, a samurai was supposed to commit ritual suicide upon the loss of his master.

One who chose not to honour the code was "Ronin" and was meant to suffer great shame.

The word *rōnin* means "wave man" and came to be used for a samurai who had lost his master.

Not having the status or power of employed samurai, *rōnin* were often disreputable, but after 1654, the Emperor permitted *rōnin* to join new masters and many found work as bodyguards for feudal lords

with many enemies and on particularly dangerous inter clan military operations.

Despite idiosyncrasies and cultural differences, the pattern we have seen in the west is repeated in the orient: – we see personal protection by elite and serving military men.



Napoleon's famous bodyguard Roustam Raza was a Mamluk who had been sold in Egypt.



Mameluk Roustam Raza  
Napoleon Bonaparte's personal bodyguard

cavalry forces and bodyguards to the Emperor, Generals and VIP's. Allowing the Mameluk to be proud of and display their Muslim roots, Bonaparte allowed cavalry uniform including a brass crescent and star, and the saddle and harness in Arabic in style.

Once more; personal protection by elite and serving military men; hired for their skills perfected over considerable careers.

Next time: Adolf Hitler's entire SS regiment of bodyguards, and some 20<sup>th</sup> Century police CP's

Throughout the Napoleonic era there was a special Mamluk corps in the French army, acting as special

## Studios News

Our regional office at Pinewood has moved to the Double Lodge! There have been a few structural changes at the studios over the winter, which we will outline in the next edition.

We also celebrate in January, 5 years of Octaga as guards of this historic site and perhaps plan a celebration of sorts at some point – suggestions welcome.

Red Dwarf fans will be pleased to hear that the show has returned and is currently being filmed in front of a live audience at Shepperton where we are providing a security and stewarding presence.

Alex has run a tight ship during the shows and we have had excellent feedback from the client.

Other TV shows at the Studios include the return of BBC1 The Magicians and Sky 1 Got to Dance, we still have some places on the team, if you would like to join in please email [operations@octaga.co.uk](mailto:operations@octaga.co.uk) or contact Alex S.

## Action for Children – Byte Night 2011

Octaga has had the privilege of doing business with the charitable organisation Action for Children (Formerly National Children's Home) this year.

We were delighted to be asked to provide manned security services for the annual Byte Night event.

Octaga was asked to provide a number of Security Officers at 3 venues; Forbury Gardens, Reading, Potters Field, London and the Cambridge Science Park in Cambridge.

On Friday the 7th October members of the Information Technology and business communities braved the elements and slept out overnight to raise money and awareness of the plight of the homeless.

More than 800 people attended the events to help tackle the root causes

of youth homelessness. A record number of sleepers attended and a record amount of money was raised.

At the time of going to press over £730,000 has been collected.

From this single event accommodation, education, training opportunities and secure accommodation can be provided to many vulnerable young people and hopefully allow them the opportunity to start to build a better life. Founded in 1998 the

event has so far raised in excess of £4m. Companies that took part this year included BT, Dell, Ernst & Young and RBS.

It is a worthwhile cause and the Directors of Octaga where keen to be associated with the charity and to prove that our commitment to a Corporate and Social Responsibility Policy are not just words on paper!

Thanks to all officers who provided their services as the feedback was great and you did us proud!!"



Potters Field – London SE1

## Emma and Mark



Emma and Mark

Here's a thumbs up from a very happy looking Emma and Mark on their wedding day earlier in the year, a day which went very well and all at Octaga wish them the very best.

If any other readers have any announcements they'd like to make or any happy, interesting photos or stories, or features, just get in touch.

The primary function of any commercial enterprise is of course to get custom and make money, but that's not to say the personal lives, hobbies and interests of our staff are not important. A happy team that enjoys being together not only work better but lead more fulfilling and healthier lives.

That's enough philosophy for one issue: you have a good picture or story; send it in!

## A message from Dave Allison

2011 passed with Octaga securing our existing client assets safely and forming new business relationships with some very prestigious customers.

We continue to strive to provide the very best in service and be a Total Security Solution provider.

I want us to be much more than just another Security company. I believe

with your continued support and professional approach to your daily work routines and a joint effort with our Managers, we will be again much more than that this year.

“Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude

causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes.

It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results”.

I look forward to catching up with you over the coming months and at the same time wish you all the very best for 2012.

Regards  
**Dave Allison**



## A successful 2011 – Tracey Allison

Well I cannot believe that we are at the end of the year! 2011 has been a great year for Octaga again and I'm very proud to say that we have maintained all our existing contracts and secured some exciting new ones!

Octaga's operations department went global this year with our operations being required to provide our expert knowledge and training to a very well known factory in Poland: 'Cadbury's'

Emma provided a week's training to key staff and assisted in implementing new procedures, bringing their policies up to UK standards. Octaga were very proud to provide this service to such a prestigious company.

Octaga has diversified in this economic climate and expanded its technical division by at least 50%. We have achieved our

NSI Silver status and will upgrade in 2012 to Gold.

Octaga are really the one stop shop in security providing Guarding, Technical Solutions, Key holding Services and Monitoring.

Many of our customers love the fact that we can do everything and don't subcontract work out.

It's very rare to find a company as

accredited as ours and I am extremely proud. It goes without saying that without such a fantastic portfolio of staff we would not be in such a great position that we are today.

Thank you so much - everyone that works for Octaga; you are all a credit to our successful growing company!

**Tracey Allison**  
Director

## Staff Arrivals and Promotions

A warm welcome to **Said D**, who has fitted in well at AP, and has already received a mention from his client. Welcome too to **Kieran** and **Ronique**, our newest recruits to the GC site, and **Netra L** at OR.

It is also a pleasure to welcome a second Ben to Cheltenham and to Shepperton **Jawaid** and **Bilal**. Pinewood has received a new relief officer. **Prakesh** joined the team late in 2011 and he is fitting in well with the team, so thank you to all those that have made all our new starters welcome

**Steve H** has passed his three months probation as a supervisor at PW and he is doing very well, working closely with the client.

Likewise **Chris C** has been promoted Shift Supervisor as of 3rd Nov.



## Employee of the Year: Filipe Telo

In the first week of November, our Operations Department received an e-mail from Chris at Shepperton who wanted to show his appreciation for all the help Filipe has been over what has been a tough few months at the studios.

Chris was keen to have Filipe recognised as a valued member of staff and nominated him for an Employee of the Month prize, asking that he be given a mention in the News. The citation which followed was without doubt the most sincere one from a good manager to a good officer and here it is;

"We have had a hard 8 months here at Shepperton due to experienced members of staff leaving for various reasons and Filipe has always been there to back everyone up and to share his 4 ½ years site knowledge with all new starters. Here on site he has the nickname of the "Training Manager" as he is always the preferred staff member to take out any

make sure they know what they need too, always telling them things that others may think are not important but make a big difference.

He is an invaluable member of the team here at Shepperton and I hope will be here for plenty of time to come. Filipe is always impeccably dressed and never shies away from work even if I have to trick him into being a supervisor on overtime :-). He is never scared to question what's going on and we are blessed to have his knowledge and chirpy attitude in reception or wherever else it is needed. He is highly regarded by all who deal with him and know him from site. Shepperton would be a much poorer place without him. I would like to give him my thanks and that of the team for sticking around to help us through this tough time and to make sure he knows he is valued. Hopefully we can continue to work hard together. Here is to another 4 and a half years Filipe!

Regards, Chris Lauder"

To draw such written praise from ones manager (to be read by all executive staff) is a rare achievement indeed and Emma was quick to second Chris's sentiment, describing Filipe as, "an asset to the team and the company" and put Filipe forward for employee of the year.

If anyone then has made an outstanding contribution to his client, team mates and company above and beyond what could have been reasonably expected from rank and contracted duties, it is Filipe – and of course in doing so has most certainly enhanced the reputation of the Octaga Group. Filipe has most likely deserved two Employee of the Month prizes during the course of 2011 but for such an effort over an extended period of time leaves us in no doubt that he must be man of the year.

Congratulations, Filipe; you are appreciated very much by your team, your clients, and your manager and by corporate Octaga.

# And Finally

## JOGLE: a pre-appeal by Dave W

Following quite serious illness in the first half of 2011, Dave has taken to walking for exercise and has developed a desire to someday complete the John O'Groats to Lands End (or the JOGLE, to keen walkers) for a group of local and national charities. "Olympic year would be nice," Dave says, "but it's a complex venture really and realistically, I'm looking at summer 2013."

Projects like this are difficult, as there are natural expenses of food and B&B or campsite costs (though some places might

offer free service if they know it's for charity); celebrities even have Winnebago support vehicles and masseurs. In addition, just the route planning and booking of places to stay and eat can be a full time job for a while. Dave has no such delusions of a grand, Ian Botham style back up crew, but if anyone has experience of the planning and pre-finance of such a venture then please get in touch, we'd welcome any experienced input and support.

As part of a warm up for the main event, Dave is considering the

possibility of a walk from Shepperton, though Bucks, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, the West Midlands and on to Wales, visiting all Octaga sites, should there be enough support.

If any organisation (or individual) feels that they'd like to donate in return for a photo opportunity and press release, we would welcome any offer in this respect.

Net takings would be split between the Octaga charities of the Army Benevolent Fund and Cancer Research, and any causes requested by donors.

## Grand Octaga New Year Quiz

Christmas just wasn't the same without it, so here are a few questions to get you thinking.

Most correct answers (or first in with all of them) wins a **£25 Argos voucher**, courtesy of Directors!



1. What medal is shown above?
2. What is the common name for the chemical element known as Plumbium?
3. Lee Harvey Oswald shot JFK. But who shot Oswald?
4. In what field is Jim Al-Khalili famous?
5. Who made the famous 200mph Le Mans racer, the 250LM?
6. Californium (Cf), Plutonium (Pu) and Lanthanum (La). Only one of these occurs naturally on earth. Which one?
7. If a shotgun were capable of firing a single lead ball weighing half a pound, what would be the 'bore' of the gun?
8. Who was crowned King of England on the 25<sup>th</sup> December?

9. Who was the second man on the moon?
10. In parachute jumping, what does HALO mean?
11. What is significant about the military career of surgeon, William Manley?
12. After the suicide of Adolf Hitler, who assumed control of what was left of the Third Reich and ordered the signing of the surrender to Allied generals?
13. What was the first name of King Edward VIII?
14. In what game might a player make a move, *en passant*?
15. Where might you find a significant amount of Lithium Deuteride (LiD)?
16. What is significant about Eddy Merckx's 1969 Tour de France win?
17. In what sport were William Perry, Tom Sayers and John Heenan famous?
18. What is the proper name of "pear cider"?
19. Which two chemical elements are liquid at room temperature?
20. What happened to Hamida Djandoubi on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1977?
21. George A Romero is famous for producing which genre of movie?
22. Silver, Holy Water or Gold. Which is more effective against a werewolf?
23. James Stewart or John Wayne. Who shot Liberty Valance?
24. How do you start a pudding race?
25. And who was the only 18-stone man to ride a Derby winner?

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Website

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[www.octaga.co.uk](http://www.octaga.co.uk)

### All Readers:

Deadline for submissions for next edition: **10<sup>th</sup> FEB**

### Managers:

Deadline for monthly award citations: **18<sup>th</sup> FEB**

*Opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and as such may not reflect the views, strategy and policy of the Octaga Group*

*"If the fence is strong enough, I'll sit on it!"*

### Cyril Smith

*Liberal MP for Rochdale; and at that point, 23st in weight.*

### Next Time:

- Structural Changes at Pinewood
- New Octaga Sales Manager
- Five years of Octaga at Pinewood-Shepperton
- Results of the winter uniform challenge