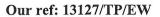
## **Helston Forensics**

Forensic Ballistic Laboratories





Helston Forensics
Helston Gunsmiths Factory
Water-Ma-Trout
Helston
Cornwall
TR13 0LW
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0) 1326 561440 T: +44 (0) 1326 573385 F: +44 (0) 1326 573221

W: www.helstongunsmiths.com E: aim@helstongunsmiths.com

### **The Expert Witness Course (4 Days)**

Since the inauguration of the Firearms Expert Witness course in 1999 a total of sixty nine firearms practitioners and examiners from thirty-three Police Forces have attended the joint Helston Forensics & Bond Solon training programme.

The majority of delegates are already involved in firearms examinations and the course was conceived primarily with them in mind; to enable them to receive first class training from registered forensic practitioners in this specialist field in a "safe" environment surrounded by their peers.

This "safe" environment is maintained by a corporate decision by Helston Forensics to limit this event to Police personnel and forensic practitioners ONLY, with the course limited to ten to ensure that each delegate experiences the maximum time in the witness box, unlike other "mass" training events.

Whilst aimed primarily at Firearms Examiners the course is ideal for continuing personal development of Crime Scene Managers, Senior Scene of Crime Officers and Forensic Practitioners who have contact with firearms and ammunition.

Due to the complexity of UK Firearms Law and the interaction of firearms with other forensic specialties a sound knowledge of this subject could only be of benefit to all involved in the forensic sphere.

The overall structure of the course is in line with the guidelines of the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners by trainers who were CRFP registered, to ensure that should the delegate be called to produce evidence or attend court they will be familiar with the system that is adhered to by the majority of Police and Defence expert witnesses.

The course culminates in the Bond Solon Courtroom skills package where after training from a Bond Solon Trainer the delegate experiences Crown Court style cross examination on an item they have examined the previous day.

In addition to receiving a Certificate from Helston Forensics, Bond Solon also recognise the Courtroom skills element of the course for a credit towards the Cardiff University Law School Expert Witness Skills programme.

## **Helston Forensics**

Forensic Ballistic Laboratories



- Day 1. Firearms Acts, classification of firearms, components, ammunition, measurements, testing procedures.
- Day 2. Deactivated firearms, magazine restrictions, examination procedures and practical, report writing and practical.
- Day 3. Handling firearms in the courtroom environment, criminal procedure rules, practical examination of an exhibits and preparation of a written statement.
- Day 4. Courtroom skills (Bond Solon), then each student is then questioned in the "witness box" on their statement.

#### **Administrative Issues:**

With regard to reference material, such as Acts etc, all of this will be provided for the duration of the course, however you are more than welcome to bring any material that you think would be of value as we are sure the course, as a whole would benefit.

Test equipment will also be provided with training where necessary.

We would advise that for the first three days of the course that you dress casual or bring a dustcoat or some such item of clothing, as there will be hands on periods with firearms.

With regard to day 4, this is your day in Court and I would suggest that you dress appropriately for the occasion, as this will enable you to gain the most benefit from the day, suit, uniform etc.

# **Helston Forensics**

Forensic Ballistic Laboratories





General lectures, firearms law and report writing.



Bond Solon day, in the morning courtroom skills.



In the witness box, under cross examination the expert explains how the gun works.



The courtroom with prosecuting Counsel testing the expert, the jury in the foreground enjoying the student's discomfort.

### SOLON

witness training experts in

#### DAY FOUR



### The Courtroom Skills Training Course Outline and Topics Covered

9.15am to 9.30am

Coffee and Registration

9.30am to 10.00am

Introductions and course outline. The premise of the course is that the quality of the presentation of evidence affects how it is received and the degree of authority attached to it.

10.00am to 11.00am Participants look at their expectations for the course, how they want to come across when they go to court, their role in court and preparation. The legal system is demystified.

### 11.00am to 11.15am Coffee Break

11.15am to 1.00pm

Participants look at how to create the desired impression, what judges are looking for and how to deal with anxieties. They learn how to take the oath or affirmation and how to introduce themselves to the court with their name, professional address, qualifications and experience. They are given feedback from the trainer and other participants on how they present. The techniques lawyers use to disconcert witnesses are analysed and participants are shown how to direct their answers to the judge. They learn how to prepare cross examination questions from opposing counsel.

### 1.00pm to 2.00pm

Lunch break

2.00pm to 3.00pm

The participants are cross examined on the case studies they have brought.

3.00pm to 3.15pm

Tea break

3.25pm to 4.30pm

The cross examination exercise continues.

4.30pm to 5.00pm

Any questions are dealt with and the key points of the course are reviewed. An evaluation form is then completed.

Conclusion.

Ref: acsl.out

BOND SOLON TRAINING LTD 11 HAYMARKET LONDON

Tel: 0171 925 0330 Fax: 0171 925 1002 E-mail: witness@bondsolon.bdx.co.uk www.bondsolon.com