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Ref: NT 080508 Oblique

## Operation Oblique reaches conclusion

Police investigating a serious sexual assault at an autograss event in Herefordshire last August have concluded their enquires and are now satisfied that no offence was committed.

Officers were called to the Border Counties meeting at Monkland on August 27, 2007, after a young woman reported having been raped in the early hours of the morning. An extensive eight-month investigation followed, named Operation Oblique, with police working closely with members of the autograss community to establish the precise circumstances of events.

During the enquiry, officers visited a subsequent autograss meeting in Kent and placed messages on racing websites urging people to come forward with information.

Having interviewed numerous people who were at the meeting and analysing other evidence, including statements made by the complainant, officers have now concluded that the rape did not take place. This has since been substantiated by the young woman.

A man who was arrested at the Monkland event shortly after police arrival has as a consequence been fully exonerated of any wrongdoing.

Chief Inspector Ivan Powell, who led the investigation, thanked the autograss community for their co-operation and patience over the past eight months.

He said: "This was a very sensitive enquiry and, as with all allegations of this kind, was taken extremely seriously by the investigating team. The nature of the reported incident caused clear concern among the autograss community and it was important to conduct a very thorough investigation to understand the full circumstances.

"I would like to reassure the autograss community that we have now concluded our investigations and are satisfied that the incident did not take place. Furthermore, a man arrested as part of the enquiry has been fully exonerated and cleared of any wrongdoing.

"I would like to thank all those who came forward during the investigation and would ask that the community continues to offer its support and understanding to all those affected by these events."

ENDS

For further information, please contact Neil Tipton, Public Relations Manager for Herefordshire Division, on 01432 347340 or email [neil.tipton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:neil.tipton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

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