

Real heroes - the Police Bravery Awards

The Police Federation's Police Bravery Awards, held in association with The Sun newspaper, recognise the work of police officers who carry out courageous acts every day. Tina Orr Munro highlights the stories behind some of the nominees in the second of a series of articles leading up to the award ceremony, to be held at The Dorchester Hotel in London's Park Lane on July 10.



Officers are expected to protect the public, but often they find themselves coming to the aid of one of their own colleagues.

PC Philip Quirk who at the time of this incident had been a police officer for just 11 months, and PC Jimmy Lloyd from Merseyside police were attending what appeared to be a fairly routine call. Nothing could have prepared either of them for what was about to happen. The two officers arrived at an address in Huyton to follow up complaints of criminal damage. The occupants held their son-in-law responsible for the damage that had been caused. Stephen Hoey was well-known to the police and had a string of convictions for domestic violence and assault, including on police officers. However that night, he was nowhere to be seen and the

officers began discussing the incident with the couple in the quiet of their living room.

Minutes later, as is often the way, they were called away to attend an emergency at another unconnected incident. They later returned to the house in Huyton to continue taking the couple's statements.

Then, with no warning at all, Hoey burst into the room brandishing a knife and launched a vicious attack on PC Lloyd from behind, plunging the eight-inch kitchen knife into his head, neck and shoulder in what was described as a frenzied attack. PC Quirk who was still a probationary officer quickly drew his baton and began hitting Hoey around the legs in a bid to distract him from his attack, but also to avoid striking the injured PC Lloyd.

Hoey failed to respond, so the officer called for assistance and also shouted for the couple to get out for their own safety. He then began hitting Hoey on the shoulders and back, repeatedly shouting at him to get down on the floor. Hoey ignored all demands and continued to rain blows on the PC Lloyd. PC Quirk also sprayed the man with CS spray with seemingly little affect.

Finally the knife was knocked from Hoey's hand. PC Lloyd, by now badly wounded, managed to escape as PC Quirk pulled him into the kitchen where he gave him first aid until the paramedics arrived. Hoey fled the scene, but was later arrested. PC Lloyd was taken to hospital and treated for five knife wounds, one of which had penetrated the back of his left ear.

The father-of-two, who has 29 years experience, has since returned to work. He believes Hoey aimed for his head because he assumed the officer would be wearing body armour.

He said, "One minute I was a police officer going to take simple statements about a criminal damage matter. The next I was being stabbed repeatedly.

“Without Phil’s intervention, I could have been dead. If he had just steamed in, he would have been in hospital too, but he stood back, used his head and the equipment on his belt and took Hoey down.”

Hoey admitted attempted murder, two charges of criminal damages and breaching a restraining order. He was sentenced to life in prison, although the minimum tariff he must serve was set at eight years. The presiding Judge Brian Lewis praised the actions of both officers. He told Hoey, “This was a cowardly attack committed against a man for no other reason than that he was a police officer.”

Photography: Alamy

Nominees from the second three regions:

Region 4

Cambridgeshire	PC Stuart Adam PC Leigh Fenton
Derbyshire	PC Graham Fish PS Ian Worthington Captain Eric Church (helicopter pilot)
Northamptonshire	PC Jamie Lambert PC Kyleigh Lennon
Nottinghamshire	PC Mick Booth
Suffolk	PC David Colbridge PC Christopher Clark
Region 5	
Hampshire	PC Simon Ford PS Steve Bowen
Hertfordshire	PC Paul Reading
Kent	PC Stuart Merrington

Surrey	PC Neil Pike
Sussex	PC Eric Wells
Thames Valley	PC Paul Davies
Region 6	
Devon and Cornwall	Insp Robert Fitzpatrick PC Ryan Canning PC Glen Harrop PC Adrian Waldron PC Shaun Harris
Dorset	PC Chris Fryer Insp Peter Meteau
Goucestershire	PS Clive Patterson PC Ruth Wills PC Benjamin Hall PC Robert Dike PC Timothy Prangnell PC Michelle Bond PC Adam Chalkley PC Mark Avery
Wiltshire	PC Stephen Porter PC Sam Withey PC David Thompson