

The Police Federation's Police Bravery Awards, in association with *The Sun*, were set up to recognise the work of police officers who carry out courageous acts every day. Carol Jenkins highlights the stories behind some of the nominees in the first of a series leading up to the award ceremony, to be held at The Dorchester Hotel in London on July 13.

# Bravery

Photography: PunchStock

## Drug addict threatened to kill officer with mirror shards

PC Andrew Jones admits he is lucky to be alive after a row over stolen property escalated into a terrifying struggle with a crazed drug addict who threatened to slash his face with a knife and broken mirror shards.

The brave South Yorkshire officer risked his life to protect others moments after being called to a Conisbrough bed-sit, following reports of an argument between two women and a man they had accused of stealing electrical goods. PC Jones entered the dingy bed-sit and saw two screaming women standing over a man, threatening to kill him unless he returned their stolen property.

PC Jones' first consideration was to try and protect the man and he calmly explained he was going to arrest him for his own safety. He told the women to leave the room but what he did not expect was for the man to turn on him and threaten to kill him with the shards of glass.

He explains: "The whole incident seemed to happen so quickly. One minute I was telling the man I was going to arrest him for his own safety and the next minute he went totally berserk, smashing a light bulb and simultaneously kicking the sink off the wall.

"I moved forward to grab the man to arrest him and found myself wrestling with him on the floor in floods of water from the sink. I didn't realise he'd also smashed a mirror as well as the light bulb until he started coming at me with the glass. I was convinced he was going to stab me in the face. The floor was so slippery and he was on top of me and I remember thinking to myself 'how the hell are you going to get out of this one?'"

Quick-thinking PC Jones managed to put the man into a headlock as they grappled on the wet floor and rendered him unconscious. Pushing him onto a sofa, PC Jones thought he had got the situation under control

and went to handcuff the man. Much to his horror, the man regained consciousness and produced a knife from a nearby dressing table. He began lunging at PC Jones' face and arms with the knife as the situation escalated for a second time.

"What made the situation worse was that I didn't have any space to allow me to get my baton or CS spray. I'd also realised my radio had come loose and I had no way of calling for back-up. I remember feeling totally alone," says PC Jones.

The officer eventually escaped through the door and tried to pull it shut behind him, only to see the offender start slashing at the door. At this point his colleague, PC Gavin Wilson arrived, closely followed by PC Wayne Bartlett. The officers entered the room and eventually overpowered the man and arrested him.

The modest officer shrugs off suggestions he is brave saying: "Even though I am really honoured to be nominated, it's important to remember that every day police officers up and down the country deal with worse incidents than this and they do so because they love the job and believe in what they do."

The offender pleaded guilty to offences of burglary, wounding with intent and criminal damage in January. He was sentenced at Doncaster Crown Court to six years' imprisonment.

Nominees from the first three regions:

#### Region 1 (North West)

Cheshire	Sgt Anton Sullivan
Cumbria	PC Barrie Cox
	PC Iain Carruthers
Greater Manchester	PC Jason Williams
Lancashire	PC Neil Cookson
Merseyside	PC Peter McAleeny
	PC Robert Downey

#### Region 2 (North East)

Cleveland	PC Dennis Lewis
Durham	PC Neville Waller
South Yorkshire	PC Andrew Jones
West Yorkshire	PC Fraser Corry

#### Region 3 (Midlands)

Warwickshire	PC Shane Bird
	PC Graham Flavell
	PC James Miller
West Mercia	PC Colin Kerfoot
	PC Gareth Davies
West Midlands	PC Sarah Hobson

## Lone female officer tackles armed balaclava-clad raiders

Fearless PC Sarah Hobson single-handedly tackled two crow-bar wielding raiders as she tried to stop them fleeing a Wolverhampton night club.

In an act of extraordinary bravery, the West Midlands officer used her experience as a self-defence trainer as she tackled the two armed raiders in a narrow alleyway from which there was no escape, after a fire door slammed and closed behind them.

The officer was called to the nightclub, which was a stones throw away from Bilston Street Police Station, following reports that a robbery was in progress. She explains: "I didn't know what to expect when I entered the building and made my way up the stairs in the dark. I started to hear voices and eventually came across a scene I can only describe as like something out of *The Bill*. There were two men in balaclavas with crow-bars standing over two people as they tried to bind their hands."

The two men fled the scene and ran down the stairs towards the fire escape. PC Hobson made sure the two captives were not hurt before chasing after the two raiders. What she did not realise was that she would end up trapped in the narrow corridor with the raiders and with no way out. The men, who had now removed their balaclavas, turned round to face PC Hobson. Unbeknown to her at the time, one of the raiders she confronted had been released from prison 18 months earlier for attempted murder. He had been sentenced to

14 years for an offence that involved inflicting 27 stab wounds on his victim.

She says: "As this is a family publication I won't say what was going through my mind but what I do remember is the adrenalin was pumping round my body and it took a long time for the feeling to wear off. I can definitely say this is the biggest thing I've ever dealt with in my 12-year career so far."

To her surprise, the men tried to barge past her to try and escape through another exit. Brave PC Hobson rugby-tackled one of the men to the floor and swung at the other one's legs with her baton. The two men managed to get away and made for the fire door, which was also locked, and she found herself trapped with them again. At this point, the officer drew her CS spray and subdued both men.

PC Hobson managed to handcuff one of the raiders and the other offender remained compliant until other officers arrived at the scene. A further search of the nightclub found a third offender and an imitation firearm. PC Hobson has now transferred to Devon and Cornwall and says the most satisfying aspect about the whole incident is that the offenders were caught and convicted. The three men were charged with aggravated burglary and other offences. They were later convicted and sentenced to a total of 20 years' imprisonment.