

Thursday 17th December 2020

## **Man on trial for the brutal stabbing of a man in row over a stolen bicycle**

Samuel Ford is charged with the manslaughter of Mikhail Hanid after street stabbing which resulted in Mr Hanid's death three days later in hospital.

This afternoon in Bristol Crown Court, the defence made their closing statement.

Diana Ellis, defending Samuel Ford, said her client had not been armed and denied it was a racist attack.

Ellis reminded the jury that Samuel Ford had "no idea about a knife," and urged them to consider that Ford had "never been previously convicted of possession of a violent weapon."

The defence encouraged the jury to "look at the evidence against Sam Ford separately" to his cousin's actions. They argued, the defendant "did not participate in the attack intending to cause serious injury."



**Samuel and Curtis Ford**

Cousins Curtis Ford, 28 and Samuel Ford, 30 stand trial after being accused of relentlessly stabbing a man in a brawl over a stolen bicycle.

After Samuel Ford had his bike stolen he went out with younger cousin Curtis to seek the perpetrator.

Bristol Crown Court heard the men wrongly traced the theft to 47-year-old Mikhail Hanid, and when they confronted him it was Curtis who stabbed Hanid eleven times.

After the shocking attack, Curtis Ford was heard bragging: "You've got to push it in and twist it because they can't sew or put the stomach back together."

Curtis Ford, 28, of Baildon Road in Weston-super-Mare, pleaded guilty to murder on the first day of the trial.

Thursday 14th May 2020

## **Man on trial for wounding fellow driver with a car wrench during a brawl at a petrol station**

Christopher Hallett is charged with the unlawful wounding of Stuart Sellen after an altercation at a petrol station on the victim's return from a football match at Wembley Stadium.

Today in a virtual Crown Court, both the prosecution and defence put forward their arguments and cross examined witnesses.

Julia Cottage, defending Christopher Hallett, said her client was "provoked" by Mr Sellen who was actually the "aggressor" and Mr Hallett was only defending himself against Sellen's actions.

Miss Cottage reminded the jury, "Mr Hallett was lawfully entitled to stop his car and get out to remonstrate with a man who had made his Aunt cry, who was swearing and being abusive to them both. There was nothing that prevented him from doing that, no law."

The defence argued, the defendant "was doing instinctively what he felt was necessary when he believed he was being attacked by both men."

The court was informed that the defendant had no previous convictions involving violence or previous examples of dishonesty.

Whereas, John Trafford for the prosecution, argued the defendant "chose to get out of the car, despite not being under attack and took a weapon with him. He chose to go back and attack this man."

The prosecution prompted the jury to reflect on whether Mr Hallett believed he was under attack or under threat of attack. If not then the question of self defence doesn't arise and the argument of self defence is not a lawful justification.

On Saturday 17th June 2017, Stuart Sellen and his brother were returning to his brother's home from a football match at Wembley Stadium and pulled into a petrol station near Victoria station where the attack occurred.

The argument was prompted by Sellen asking the defendant, Christopher Hallett and his female passenger to turn down the loud music which was playing from their open-top convertible car. After verbally disagreeing, Hallett got in his car and went to leave the petrol station but halted at the exit and returned to Sellen by foot with a car wrench. It was at this point that the victim's brother returned from the petrol station and a fight between Sellen and Hallett broke out leaving Sellen wounded.

The trial continues.