

JUSTICE FOR JACKSON

On Saturday 12th March, at Hereford Cathedral School, Jo Hood was put on trial for maliciously Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm on Alex Jackson. Defendant, Jo Hood, heard noises in the hallway of his flat while in bed, upon inquiring what the source of the noise was, he was met with an intruder in his house, Jackson, whom he attacked with a cricket bat.

With previous allegations of assault against him, it was expected that Jo Hood would not win the favour of the jury and indeed he was found guilty of his sentence. Prior to the trial, there was a tense atmosphere on the defence side, they were reluctant to answer questions and were engaged in thorough preparation. To contrast, the prosecutors appeared much more relaxed and willing to give us their statements. We even managed to get a statement from Alex Jackson himself claiming he would 'run away and hide' if Jo was found not guilty. Whether this was an exaggeration or not, it still clearly demonstrates his dread and fear of the possibility that he might experience another attack from Hood, perhaps he feared Jo Hood might attack again for revenge and break even more than an arm and a leg...

When the trial began, both sides began with remarkable opening speeches and

the courtroom was brought to life before the witnesses were questioned scathingly. The defence attempted to paint Jo Hood as a changed man as he claimed he'd 'worked on my anger' and that he was 'scared for my children'. Throughout the trial, Hood mentioned his children excessively, in an attempt to gain the sympathy of the jury, though the prosecutors exposed him for who he really was, a man with three assault cases in the past five years, all instigated by him and unnecessary. The prosecutors highlighted the attack on Alex Jackson was 'not proportionate' and it was instead 'acting with the intent of punishment', which was a job for the police, not him which he should have known very well considering he was in fact a member of the neighbourhood watch. Even Robin Bell, another neighbourhood watch member confirmed 'Jo was present' at the very meeting which discussed this matter.

He was an aggressive man with a fiery temper who we should be glad is now off our streets! This was exhibited yet again when he was sentenced as he banged his fists on the table with disproportionate force, showing he had no guilt, no remorse and no desire to change from his aggressive ways. These factors allowed the jury to come to a rapid yet virtuous decision of his fate and on the announcement of his sentence, the defence celebrated joyously, for justice prevailed.