



20th anniversary

POLICE BRAVERY AWARDS

Tuesday 27 October 2015

#policebravery

organised by the Police Federation of England & Wales
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celebrating outstanding acts of police bravery

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Cleveland PC duo nominated for 20th Police Bravery Award for saving the life of drowning woman

The prestigious annual Police Bravery Awards will this year hear of two Cleveland who saved the life of a drowning woman.

On the evening of Wednesday 19th November 2014, PC Stewart Shepherd and PC Haris Imaan were called to reports of the swimming off Redcar seafront.

She had very quickly got out of her depth, around 15 metres from shore and was moments away from going under. The PCs had little time to decide what action to take.

The quick-thinking PCs saw that the woman's friends were also trying to go into the water to help her, putting themselves and others at further risk. They controlled the crowd and kept the woman in the sea in sight, awaiting the lifeboat and coastguard.

The woman was now too far out to throw a rope or wade out, so the officers took a lifebuoy and began their rescue. PC Shepherd removed his body armour and began to move out into the sea, while PC Imaan held the rescue rope and maintained a safety line to shore.

PC Shepherd swam towards the woman but she was now swimming further out and away from him. PC Shepherd swam further with PC Imaan moving waist deep into the water to provide the vital extra rope that would bring his colleague and the woman back in.

The officer finally reached the woman and brought her back to dry land and safety.

Richie Murray, deputy secretary, Cleveland Police Federation, said: "The brave PCs believed their duty to the public and the immediate risk to the woman outweighed any personal danger to themselves. They took into consideration the fast-moving sea and the time it would take for a person to drown, as well as their own training and skill. Their decision undoubtedly saved the woman's life."

Stephen Mann, CEO, Police Mutual, said: "Police Mutual is extremely proud to sponsor the Police Bravery Awards, recognising the courage of police officers who face extremely challenging situations every day to keep the public safe. Our ongoing, long-term commitment to support these awards reflects the incredible respect we have for the work of the police service."

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