

# Sainsbury's killer jailed for life

## Shelf stacker stabbed victim for not doing his job properly

DAVE FINLAY

A PERFECTIONIST supermarket worker who murdered a colleague on the nightshift after complaining he was not doing his job properly has been jailed for life.

Shelf stacker Robert McCulloch stabbed his victim to death in an aisle of a Sainsbury's store after the pair earlier clashed at their workplace.

A judge at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday ordered that McCulloch should serve at least 10 years and nine months in prison for the kill-

ing of Russian-born Roman Romasov.

Lord Brodie told McCulloch, who suffers from an obsessive-compulsive personality disorder, that he had psychological traits which may explain his behaviour, but did not excuse it.

The judge said: "He assaulted you in the supermarket toilet and I accept you believed your life was in danger."

"Your victim was unarmed and you went and deliberately armed yourself with a kitchen knife and stabbed Mr Romasov with it."

Lord Brodie praised staff at the store in Aberdeen who tried to prevent the attack and said they had shown intelligence and courage.

A manager rugby tackled McCulloch, 35, in a bid to stop him but the killer managed to free his hands and repeatedly knifed Mr Romasov.

Police called to the scene at Berryden Road, in Aberdeen, initially charged McCulloch with attempted murder and he replied: "What, you mean I didn't do it properly?"

Mr Romasov, 28, died despite efforts to resuscitate

### 'Your victim was unarmed and you armed yourself with a knife'

him following the attack.

McCulloch, formerly of Farmer's Hall, in Aberdeen, earlier admitted murdering his victim by repeatedly stabbing him on the body with a knife on April 16 this year at the store.

McCulloch told police that he had earlier had a "fall out"

with Mr Romasov. He said: "He was knocking stuff about in the shop and I told him to work properly and he started miscalling me."

McCulloch said the victim later deliberately sat beside him at a tea break and the two men rowed. He went to the toilet and claimed Mr Romasov attacked him and grabbed him and said if he lost his job he would kill him.

He went on to tell detectives: "After that I told a couple of people about it and I was just off my head and I was looking at the knives and I went and done it. I ran up to him and I told him he was finished and I stabbed him."

"He turned and tried to get away and I done it a few times and people were trying to stop me."

Mr Romasov, of Tanfield Walk, in Aberdeen, died from multiple stab wounds to the



ROBERT McCulloch: Suffers from personality disorder.

chest and stomach. One of the wounds to the chest would have proved fatal alone.

Advocate-depute Alex Prentice QC said the victim had come to Britain in 2004 and moved to Aberdeen three years later. As well as work-

ing as a shelf stacker he was also studying mechanical engineering.

The prosecutor said he was described as "a very private person" who did not socialise, but was a hard worker.

Mr Prentice said McCulloch and Mr Romasov frequently worked the same night shifts at the supermarket filling shelves.

He said of McCulloch: "He took particular care with his work but occasionally his attitude would create issues with his colleagues."

The advocate-depute said that several days before the fatal attack the two men got into a heated row at work.

He said: "It seems that the argument started because the deceased, while working, dropped crates onto the floor and the accused did not like the way in which the deceased was going about his work."

Mr Prentice said McCulloch, who suffers from epilepsy, was later seen by psychiatrists and was assessed as sane and fit to plead.

But a psychologist said he had an obsessive-compulsive personality disorder characterised by perfectionism, orderliness and control.

Defence counsel Jack Davidson QC said McCulloch was driven by a strong work ethic and had been told he was to be promoted to a staff trainer.

"The part played in the commission of this offence by his attitude to his work is of significance," he said.

"He took enormous pride in his work and was very zealous in its proper execution."

"When, in his view, others fell short of his high standards he had no difficulty in drawing their attention to the fact," he said.

## US firms to bid for Dounreay clean-up contract

IAIN GRANT

THE competition to run Dounreay is hotting up with the emergence of a serious rival to the team currently in charge of the plant.

US engineering conglomerate URS has thrown its hat into the ring and is expected to lead a consortium bidding to win the contract.

It has already succeeded in landing two contracts worth £1.5bn to manage the giant Sellafield plant in Cumbria and the national low-level waste dump at nearby Drigg.

The fast-growing San Francisco-based corporation now has its sights firmly set on moving into the Caithness site.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is tendering for the job of carrying out the £2.5bn clean-up of the defunct fast reactor complex from 2011 onwards.

The successful bidder will become the new owners of Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd in what will signal the fully-fledged privatisation of the running of the plant.

URS are set to pit themselves against the Pentland Alliance, which comprises executives drawn from UKAEA Ltd, Amec and US-based CH2M Hill.

Making its pitch earlier this year, the Alliance highlighted the major progress it said it has made in its management of the site.

URS, which bought over the former Washington Group for \$2.6bn in 2007, has extensive interests in the US nuclear decommissioning industry.

It has key roles in the multi-billion-dollar clean-up programmes at the huge government-owned Hanford and Savannah River nuclear waste sites and the national laboratories at Idaho and Los Alamos.

Its interest in Dounreay is reflected in its move to open an office in Thurso today.

Dick Raaz, one of URS's senior officials in the UK, said his firm was ideally suited to take over the running of the far north site. He said: "We're definitely interested in the Dounreay contract - we wouldn't be here otherwise."

"We strongly believe that our track record in the industry and our community involvement is unequalled."

Among other US firms that have shown an interest in the Dounreay contract are Fluor, Bechtel and Jacobs.



IMPOSING ENTRANCE: The stunning Edwardian facade of 103 Trongate, located in the heart of Glasgow's Merchant City.

## £8m arts centre all set to be city's creative hub

PHIL MILLER  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A NEW £8m arts centre in Glasgow's Merchant City is now ready for a series of galleries, artists, and filmmakers which will make it the "engine room" of Glasgow's cultural quarter.

Trongate 103, as it will be known, has been developed by Glasgow City Council, Culture and Sport Glasgow, and the Scottish Arts Council to be a home for eight separate galleries and more than 40 artist studios, as well as a cafe, film-making studios and public spaces.

The six-storey Edwardian former warehouse in King Street will be home to Glasgow Print Studio, Street Level Photoworks, the Transmission Gallery, the Russian Cultural Centre, Glasgow Independent

Studios, Sharmanka, Glasgow Media Access Centre, and Project Ability.

The Herald was yesterday given a guided tour of the new facility, which has taken more than half a decade to come to fruition and contains 7915 square metres of space.

The Transmission Gallery is known as one of the city's key contemporary arts spaces, while Glasgow Print Studio, founded in 1972, has had a stream of leading Scottish artists, such as John Byrne, Alasdair Gray, and Adrian Wiszniewski, display their prints there. Glasgow Media Access Centre is an acclaimed but low-budget, film-making body and the Russian cultural centre includes a Russian cafe, Cafe Cossachok.

The building - with its public entrance in the busy



PRINTS CHARMING: From left, Malcolm Dickson, of Trongate 103 Tenants' Forum, Councillor George Ryan and the Scottish Arts Council's Jim Tough. Picture: Colin Mearns

thoroughfare of Trongate - which will hold exhibitions, will be the home for activity from all aspects of art, including printmaking, photography, digital media, film and video, sculpture, painting, and ceramics.

The eight companies are all currently in nearby accommodation but will move into the new arts centre this summer, ready for its official opening to the public in September.

There is also dedicated space for visiting international artists and several areas where artists and other people using the building can mingle and meet, as well as the offices of the Glasgow International contemporary art festival.

Trongate 103, situated in an area which also includes the Iron Theatre, the Brigait building, which is being developed into artists studios, will also offer education programmes

### 'We wanted to make sure that the area remained focused on the arts'

for schools, and projects for youth and community groups.

The block is a conversion of three existing buildings. It has been funded by Glasgow City Council with a total of £5.75m, the Scottish Arts

Council's National Lottery Fund with £1.5m, Scottish Enterprise Glasgow with £500,000, and the Merchant City Townscape Heritage Initiative gave £750,000. It has been organised by the council, the eight organisations involved and Culture and Sport Glasgow, which runs the city's museums and art galleries.

Clare Simpson of Culture and Sport Glasgow said: "The idea was that all these organisations had set up in this area of town because then the rents were cheap, but as time went on and the area changed, developers were looking to move in."

"We wanted to make sure that the area remained focused on the arts and we

have involved the organisations from the start, the whole process has been incredibly collaborative, and now this centre will be a focus for exhibition, production, training and education."

George Ryan, executive member for development and regeneration, said: "The investment in our creative industries will pay off through underlining the city's worldwide status in contemporary art, its attractiveness as a cultural destination and is another landmark in the regeneration of the Merchant City."

"Hundreds of artists will be based as Trongate 103, with many thousands more coming through its doors to create, view or learn about art."

## Life for football coach who stabbed girlfriend to death

FOOTBALL coach Ricardo Morrison has been sentenced to life with a minimum of 24 years for killing his girlfriend - and his violent history of attacking his partners and other young women can be revealed for the first time.

In chilling similarities to his fatal assault on model and actress Amy Leigh Barnes, 22-year-old Morrison repeatedly attacked an ex-girlfriend who was too scared to give evidence against him at his murder trial.

He twice bit her on the face and after one assault sent her a text message saying: "I hope you die of cancer, just like your dad."

Less than a month before he stabbed Miss Barnes, 19, to death with a six-inch kitchen knife, he attacked five women, headbutting and punching



AMY LEIGH BARNES: Victim worked as actress and model.

victims in the face in a London nightclub.

Described in court as "a phoney and a bully", Morrison has four previous convictions for assault and one for harassment of his ex-girlfriend, aged 23, from Birmingham. He was never sentenced to custody and broke a restraining order. The jury at Manchester

Crown Court that yesterday convicted him was not told of his violent past - or that he faced five charges of grievous bodily harm for the nightclub attack.

Mr Justice MacDuff ruled the details would prejudice a fair trial and that Morrison already faced overwhelming evidence of his guilt.

In a harrowing recording of Miss Barnes's 999 call, her screams and sobs were heard as she begged the operator for help, gasping: "He's stabbed me to death... my boyfriend."

Her face was slashed open from the corner of her mouth to her right ear and she was stabbed with "severe force" all over her body.

## Skill of driver is 'irrelevant' in dangerous driving cases

THE case of an experienced traffic officer jailed after being found guilty of dangerous driving led to the issuing of new guidelines by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Three judges in London ruled that the special skill of a driver was "an irrelevant circumstance when considering whether the driving is dangerous".

Lord Justice Thomas, Mr Justice Collins and Mr Justice Owen also pointed out that no emergency or police duty permits a police officer to drive dangerously.

Their ruling on the issue of a driver's skills arose out of the case of Sergeant Craig Bannister, 30, of South Wales Police, who was originally sentenced to five months on March 18 after earlier being found guilty of dangerous

driving by a jury at Cardiff Crown Court.

He served 20 days before he was released on bail in April pending a conviction challenge, which resulted last month in the Court of Appeal quashing the dangerous driving conviction and substituting one of careless driving.

His jail sentence had already been overturned at an earlier hearing by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Judge, who said a financial penalty should have been imposed in the officer's case. He imposed a nominal penalty of £50.

On June 29 Lord Justice Thomas, Mr Justice Collins and Mr Justice Owen quashed the dangerous driving conviction.

They said Bannister must pay the £50 fine, but reduced a driving ban imposed on him

to three months, which he had already completed.

Bannister was driving on the M4 near Swansea when his BMW 5 series spun out of control. The court heard Bannister was stood down from an emergency call shortly before joining the motorway, but continued to drive at high speeds, reaching 120mph.

During his trial he claimed that his training had enabled him, "because of that special skill" to drive safely at speeds in those conditions "even if that would not be the case for the ordinary driver".

Lord Justice Thomas said that contrary to a previous legal ruling, taking into account the driving skills of a particular driver is inconsistent with the objective test of the competent and careful driver set out in the statute.

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