

THE FOLLOWING CCTV FOOTAGE SHOWS THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS NEAR THE LOCATION OF THE RACIAL ATTACK AT THE TIME IT OCCURRED WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING RICKY'S MOVEMENTS.

AREA: Pratts Passage, along
Side Marks & Spencer

TIME: 00.10am
DATE: 14/15 October 1997
HEIGHTS: 5'7.5"
5'10"



AREA: Clarence Street

TIME: 00.20am
DATE: 14/15 October 1997
HEIGHTS: 5'08.5"
5'10"
5'11.5"



AREA: Clarence Street

TIME: 00.16am
DATE: 14/15 October 1997



Eye witness accounts of the two white youths involved in the racists attack on Ricky and his friends at approximately 00.20am.

First youth:
Aged between 20-25, approximately 5'8" tall, slim build with short hair.
Second youth:
Aged approximately 20, shorter than the first youth, of stocky
Build with a shaved head. He was wearing a t-shirt and jacket.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE PEOPLE SEEN ON THE ABOVE CCTV FOOTAGE WHO COULD BE VITAL IN AIDING ENQUIRIES, OR REGARDING THE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE TWO WHITE YOUTHS INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK, PLEASE CONTACT THE NUMBERS OVERLEAF AND HELP BRING RICKY'S KILLERS TO JUSTICE.

Security film may give clue to Asian student's death

Amelia Gentleman

The family of the Asian student Ricky Reel, found dead in the Thames two years ago, believe newly discovered security camera footage could provide crucial clues in the police investigation of his death.

The footage shows two white men standing in an alley close to where Lakhvinder Reel, 20, known as Ricky, was last seen. Another person, thought to be Mr Reel, is also visible on the film, according to the family's solicitor, Louise Christian.

His body was found in the Thames in October 1997, seven days after he was last seen walking away from a racist attack by a group of white boys. He had been with three friends, all Asian youths from Brunel university, who scattered after the attack.



Ricky Reel, whose body was found in the Thames

Mr Reel's mother, Sukhdev, believes her son was killed by racists and has accused the police of failing to take the matter seriously. Police say they have an open mind on the circumstances of his death.

Scotland Yard will today re-launch the investigation with the first nationwide appeal for information.

Mrs Reel will join the Met's deputy assistant commissioner, John Grieve of the racial and violent crimes task force, in the appeal.

The family still say they have been let down by the force, and criticised the decision by the commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, not to publish the PCA report on Mr Reel's death. Family members are planning to protest outside New Scotland Yard tonight over the decision.

Mrs Reel said: "In the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, we were promised a parade of openness and swift action. Yet in reality all we get is the hell of not knowing what happened to my son."

She and her legal team have been allowed to see the report but have not been allowed to show it to other members of the family or their campaign coordinator, Suresh Grover.

The PCA report on the police's handling of the Stephen Lawrence investigation was published at the public inquiry into that case.

Mr Grover said the police feared setting a precedent if the report on the Reel case were released.

Mrs Christian said: "The family feel that if the investigation had been done properly at the time much more would have been discovered."

"There are still strong reservations about the way the police are responding to the family's concerns."

Read up on race issues in Britain on the Guardian network at www.newsunlimited.co.uk/racism

Reel inquest told of water phobia

By EXPRESS REPORTER



● Ricky Reel

in the days that followed his disappearance. She said: "I have said it from day one and I'm saying it again, my son had a phobia about water. He did not go to the river of his own free will, he was taken there." A police inspector had told her her son's zip fly was undone when he was pulled from the water. The officer thought her son had stopped to urinate in the river, fallen forward and died instantaneously. He felt it was a tragic accident and needed no further investigation.

The hearing continues.

The inquest heard how Ricky's distraught parents immediately reported him missing when he failed to return home after the night out on October 14, 1997. His body was recovered from the Thames at Kingston a week later. Ricky's mum, Sukheev Reel, told how the family failed to get the answers they wanted from police very shaken.

The next thing he knew, Brett came running back round the corner looking a different direction," said Dave, who "I ran off with Manny. Brett took off in towards us and shouting 'scram'.

"They shouted out: 'Oi Pakis'. Manny ran over towards them and said: 'What's your problem?' and got hit almost immediately. Brett went across to help but by this time, Manny was running back towards us and shouting 'scram'.

A FRIEND who was with student Ricky Reel on the night he disappeared has told how they were attacked by racist thugs.

The pal, identified only as Dave for fear of recriminations, told an inquest how they were on their way to a nightclub in Kingston, Surrey, when

Ironically, minutes before, Ricky, 20, a former Langley Grammar School pupil, had tried to persuade his friends to go home.

Dave told the Hammersmith inquest: "Ricky said: 'Look, it's late guys. I've got a meeting tomorrow and I want to get home'."

Ricky's arm to carry on to the club. Dave said the pals were merry, but not drunk. They were outside Bentalls when they saw two white men standing in the

Plaque in memory of tragic Ricky

Over 150 invited guests are expected to attend the lecture at the Guildhall which will be the first in an annual series. Ricky's mother, Sukhdev, was happy that a plaque will serve as a lasting memory to her son. She told the *Times*: "I'm very pleased that something has been done and Ricky will be remembered in the place where he died." And looking forward to the lecture, Bruce McDonald, Acting Chief Executive of Kingston Council, said: "I am glad we are holding this important memorial event. Not only is it a mark of sympathy to Mr and Mrs Reel and their family for their loss, but also a symbol of the council's commitment to promote racial harmony and to secure racial justice." And Suresh Grover, of the Campaign for Justice for Ricky Reel, added: "We are pleased we have been able to work with Kingston Council to organise this event in Ricky's memory. It will be a fitting memorial for Ricky and, we hope, an inspiration for people to work together for racial justice." A new inquest into the 20-year-old's death re-opens on November 1st.

A BRONZE plaque will be unveiled tomorrow (Saturday) in memory of Ricky Reel, the student who drowned in Kingston. It will be revealed by Kingston's Mayor, Cllr Jane Smith, who will be accompanied by the Reel family and friends, and will commemorate the second anniversary of his death. The plaque will be unveiled at the Guildhall, where it will be housed until Sukhdev, was happy that a plaque will serve as a lasting memory to her son. She told the *Times*: "I'm very pleased that something has been done and Ricky will be remembered in the place where he died." And looking forward to the lecture, Bruce McDonald, Acting Chief Executive of Kingston Council, said: "I am glad we are holding this important memorial event. Not only is it a mark of sympathy to Mr and Mrs Reel and their family for their loss, but also a symbol of the council's commitment to promote racial harmony and to secure racial justice." And Suresh Grover, of the Campaign for Justice for Ricky Reel, added: "We are pleased we have been able to work with Kingston Council to organise this event in Ricky's memory. It will be a fitting memorial for Ricky and, we hope, an inspiration for people to work together for racial justice." A new inquest into the 20-year-old's death re-opens on November 1st.

Kingston after a racist incident on October 14th, 1997. His body was found a week later in the Thames. lawyer Mike Mansfield QC. addressed by well-known University, which will be Ricky Reel and Kingston Campaign for Justice for by Kingston Council, the memorial lecture, organised by Kingston Council, the plaque will be followed by a The unveiling of the will be placed on the wall. Once constructed, the plaque will be followed by a The unveiling of the will be placed on the wall. Once constructed, the plaque will be followed by a The unveiling of the will be placed on the wall. Once constructed, the plaque will be followed by a

October 2000

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news

Gop slammed over Ricky case nabbed Asians for race attack

Family speaks out after report admits investigation errors

BY NICK HARDING and DANIEL ABRAHAM

A COP criticised for his handling of the Ricky Reel case successfully prosecuted five Asian youths for a racist attack on a white policeman's son.

And now the Reel family claim stark contrasts between the way their case was handled and the case of Daniel Moore, who was beaten into a coma in Hounslow, in September 1997, show institutional racism.

Asian student Ricky, 20, disappeared after being attacked by white youths in Kingston on October 14, 1997. His body was found in the Thames a week later.

Police said his death was a tragic accident and not connected to the row with the mystery youths.

Despite the racial attack, from the start police treated the case as that of a 'non-vulnerable missing person'.

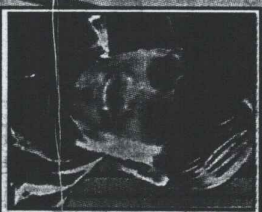
However, Ricky's family believed he was murdered and organised search parties in that vital first week.

Now a Police Complaints Authority letter to the Reel family answering their complaints about the case says the officer in charge, detective superintendent Bob Moffat, "Contributed to the confusion as to the ownership of the enquiry, in particular the racial incident."

"Whilst he was acting in accordance with force policy he failed to adequately communicate matters to yourself and your family."

The letter criticises the way evidence was gathered in the case but concludes that no one person was to blame for the shortcomings.

It says the Reels did not receive a professional standard of service because of "organisational failings". It says DS Moffat has been admonished by the Met, a serious disciplinary action just short of a formal reprimand.



ANGRY: Ricky's parents

The detective also led the investigation into an attack on 12-year-old Daniel Moore, a police officer's son, who was beaten and left for dead by Asian youngsters in Hanworth just a month before Ricky's death.

During that investigation scores of officers were mobilised to collect evidence and carry out door to door inquiries. The day after the attack DS Moffat held a press conference with national media to appeal for witnesses.

In November last year after some of Daniel's attackers were jailed Mr Moffat said: "This result will send out a message to anyone caught committing this type of offence that they can expect to be caught and prosecuted."

Mrs Reel said: "We were left to investigate Ricky's death. We did not receive the same level of service because we are Asian. The contrasts show a racist attitude

INSET: Ricky was attacked by racists shortly before his death

within the police. They use the excuse that Ricky was a missing person. But they knew about the racial attack - they told us about it yet they did not investigate it."

The differences in the way the two cases were handled was brought to the PCA's attention before it began investigating the family's complaints.

A Met Police statement about the PCA report into Ricky's death says: "One officer has been admonished. In relation to the organisational and policy issues which have been criticised by the PCA, the Metropolitan Police Service has already recognised them and a process of change is in place."

Explaining why one case was treated differently from the other, a police spokesman said: "One was classified as a missing person and the other classed as an attack, so in the initial stages different protocols were applied."

Benefit gig and rally to be held for Ricky

TOP civil rights barrister Mike Mansfield QC will speak at a public meeting organised by the Campaign for Justice for Ricky Reel on Thursday, March 18.

Other speakers at the event will include Ricky's mother Sukhdev, Kwesi Menson - brother of tragic Michael Menson - and Suresh Grover of the Southall Monitoring Group.

The meeting will begin at 7pm at the United Reform Church in Eden Street, Kingston.

● The campaign is also holding a benefit concert with bands Dip, Fun-Da-Mental and Stereo Nation.

The concert will be held on March 12 at Kingston University's Kingston Hill Bar, Hamford.

Kingston Hill Site. Tickets cost £7. Call 0181-843 2333 for details.

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WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 30th, 1999

news

New Ricky Reel CCTV pictures are released

Racial and Violent Crimes Unit launches fresh bid to solve mystery of Asian's death

POLICE hope CCTV video footage will be able to shed new light on the death of Asian student Ricky Reel.

The 20-year-old's body was found in the River Thames after he had spent a night out in Kingston in October 1997.

Police claim his death was a tragic accident, but his family insist he was the victim of a racist murder.

The CCTV footage was not released in 1997 because it was of such poor quality.

But the Metropolitan Police's newly-formed Racial and Violent Crimes Unit has now decided to put out the pictures, together with a new appeal for witnesses.

The photos show glimpses of Ricky and his friends with a group of white youths in Pratt's

By DANIEL ABRAHAMS

Passage, near Clarence Street, only a short time before his death.

A police spokesman said: "We are asking these people to come forward because they may have seen or heard something relating to this incident."

"They were in Pratt's Passage at a crucial time of the evening that Ricky died and may hold key information to the case without realising it."

Officers also want to speak to a youth who approached a member of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) with information relating to the case in Kingston town centre at about 1pm on Saturday, March 6.

The SWP man was part of a group of people handing out leaflets about Ricky's death outside the River Island store in Clarence Street.

Ricky's mother Sukhdev said: "I feel that, whatever the quality, these pictures should have been released a long time ago."

"They should be seen by as many people as possible, if only to eliminate people from police inquiries."

Organisers for the Justice for Ricky Reel Campaign will be setting up a stall at this year's Kingston Green Fair in Carbury Gardens on Bank Holiday Monday, May 31.

Anyone with any information about the Ricky Reel case should call the Racial and Violent Crimes



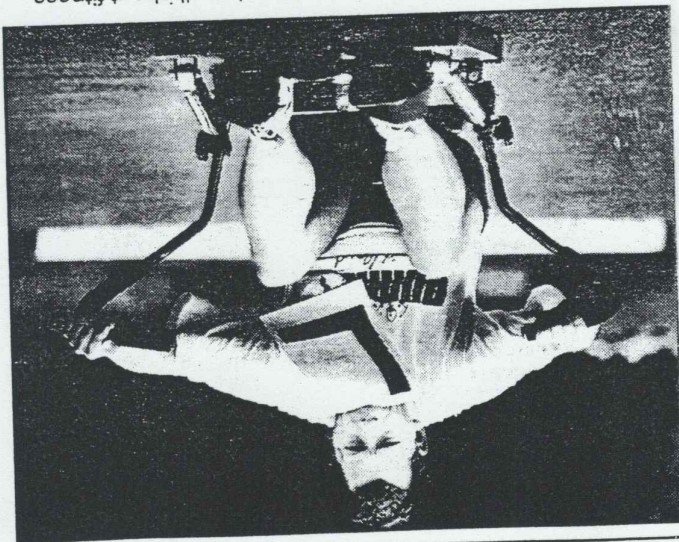
POOR QUALITY: But do you know these people?



Fine tuning time for DJ

CAPTAL Radio DJ Neil Long has started a gruelling training schedule so he's in peak condition to raise money for the charity. The Thames Ditton DJ, who has a late night show on the radio station, is getting in shape for this year's Kingston 10k mini-marathon. He is also raising funds with a sponsored weight loss.

WAY TO ROW NEIL: The DJ is learning all about fitness



New evidence in Ricky Reel case?

BY NICK HARDING

POLICE investigating the death of Asian student Lakhvinder 'Ricky' Reel are releasing video images of people they want to trace in relation to the investigation. As the *Informant* went to press, police probing the death of the 20-year-old student, who drowned after a night out in Kingston in October 1997, were preparing to issue photographs featuring potential witnesses. The images were taken from the town's CCTV network on the night Ricky died. Although a police investigation ruled Ricky had fallen into the Thames, his family maintain he was the victim of a racial attack and was murdered. He was involved in a fracas with white youths before his disappearance in the early hours of October 15. One image shows people walking past Marks & Spencer along Clarence Street towards The Bental Centre. The other shows two people walking away from the camera along Pratts Passage, which leads off Clarence Street. The investigation into Ricky's death is being handled by the Metropolitan Police Racial and Violent Crime Task Force, which is also involved in the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation. The images will be published in the *Kingston Informant* next week.

news

Cop slammed over Ricky case nabbed Asians for race attack

Family speaks out after report admits investigation errors

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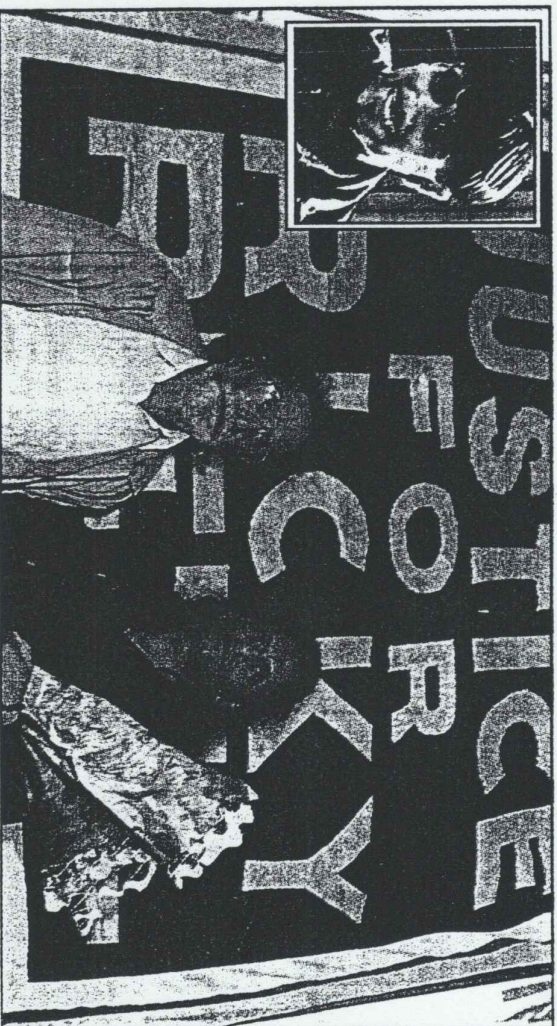
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MP threatens to reveal secret 'race death' report

Parts of the police complaints authority report were shown in April to three lay members of a sub-group, set up by the Met's racist and violent crime task force to oversee continuing police inquiries into Mr Reel's death.

Ms Christian, in a letter to Metropolitan police commissioner Sir Paul Condon, said: "It is not really open to the police to prevent the family from showing others the report by reason of public interest although other members of the public to see the report for the police's own purposes."

Mrs Reel said yesterday: "I feel angry that my own family can't see the report yet other people who work with the police can."

But assistant commissioner Denis O'Connor, replying to Ms Christian, denied the report had been made public. "At the specific request of the advisory sub-group, a select few of that group were allowed to read parts only of the report... Nothing, including your confidentiality, has been waived and I should be grateful if you would adhere to your agreement."

The Met has given permission for a barrister, appointed by the Reel family to represent them at the forthcoming inquest into Ricky's death, to see the report.

The inquiry into the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence recommended that complaints resulting from public comments should be disclosed to complainants. Mrs Christian said she and Mrs Reel were unhappy with the police complaints authority report. She believed the police were anxious to avoid an outcry by publishing it. The family are demanding a joint press conference with the Met to make public new lines of inquiry, including newly-discovered closed circuit television footage.

**Will Woodward
and Helen Briggs**

An MP yesterday threatened to invoke parliamentary privilege to expose a secret police report into the investigation of the death of Asian student Ricky Reel.

Mr Reel's family and their MP, John McDonnell, said the Metropolitan police had felted its right to stop the publication of the report after officers showed parts of it to lay members of an advisory panel. Lakhvinder Reel, known as Ricky, was found dead in the Thames in October 1997, seven days after he was last seen walking away from a racist attack by a group of white youths. Police at first decided that Mr Reel, 20, had fallen into the river accidentally.

But after a 14-month inquiry by officers from Surrey, the police complaints authority apologised to the Reel family for "weaknesses and flaws" in the investigation.

Mr Reel's mother, Sukhdev, believes her son was killed by racists and has accused the police of failing to take the matter seriously. Police now say they have an "open mind" on the circumstances of his death.

After a long campaign Mrs Reel and her solicitor, Louise Christian, have been shown a police complaints authority report on the Met's inquiry into his death, under strict conditions which prevent it from being shown to Mrs Reel's children, other members of the family, their campaign coordinator Lawrence Grover, or Mr McDonnell. Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington.

Mr McDonnell said: "This shows that lessons learned from Lawrence have not been learned adequately. This is one last attempt to get the home secretary and the police to see sense. After that I don't know what we can do other than use the Commons chamber."

remarkable when considering that space in the Concise Oxford is strictly limited. The main Oxford English Dictionary's deputy editor, Penny Silva, said: "Some English speakers might feel that by foreign languages. But we have to remember that much of what we now use as standard English was also at one time 'foreign'."

ing heavily and "ticky ocky" for a Cornish pasty. In the last edition of the Concise Oxford, a sixth of words came from outside Britain. One of the book's main editors, Catherine Soanes, said: "What is fascinating is how, partly because of the English and the internet, world media is increasingly reaching back to influence the vocabulary used in Britain itself. These figures are all the more

port. He knew he might suffer pain and even disability. He consented to the risk of injury from blows from his opponent. He did not consent to injury by reason of a failure to provide and institute proper medical facilities," Mr Mackay said.

circumstances that Watson fell dangerously ill. Eight minutes after the end of the fight - and probably seven minutes after his collapse - a doctor did reach Watson, Mr Mackay said. A briefcase was put under his head for support. "He knew boxing was a risky

at the high court yesterday that he had felt 'on top of the world' before his fight he was beaten by Chris Eubank in 1991 Photograph: Matthew Fearn



Top judge hits at 'ignorance'

A HIGH court judge has severely criticised police officers from the same force that bungled the investigation into the death of Asian student Ricky Reel.

The judge, George Bathurst-Norman, attacked the "complete ignorance" of police who arrived at the scene of an attack in which Cambridge student Seung Jun Lee died.

Two men were found guilty last week of attacking Lee, who was kicked to the ground, his skull fracturing on the pavement.

The judge laid into the police and demanded that Metropolitan Police commissioner Paul Condon be personally informed that he was "gravely disturbed" about "deplorable" police actions. He attacked the way officers had "rejected outright what they had been told by eyewitnesses then jumped through their ignorance, to a false position".

Lee's wife Nan-Joo Yang has lodged a formal complaint with the Police Complaints Authority at Kingston.

Refused

The attack took place just yards from where the body of Ricky Reel was pulled from the River Thames a few months earlier in October 1997.

Ricky had last been seen running away from racists who attacked him and his friends in Kingston town centre.

His family has led a massive campaign for justice for Ricky, after the police at first refused to act and then bungled the investigation.

His mother, Sukhdev, told alarmed to hear of the Seung Jun Lee case: "People are jumping for joy at the Stephen Lawrence report recommendations but we have to ask, what has changed with the police?"

"This happened at the same spot where my son died. I'm not surprised at what the judge has said. Look how badly we were treated when we went to report Ricky's disappearance."

At the end of last week the police were refusing even to acknowledge that a complaint had been made against them in the Lee case.

In a separate move the Reel family's MP, John McDonnell, has threatened to use parliamentary privilege to release the Police Complaints Authority investigation into Ricky's death.

The Metropolitan Police, whose "property" the PCA report is, have refused to make it public. The Reel

Tribunal sensation

IT IS likely that not one police officer will be brought to account for the Stephen Lawrence scandal.

The one remaining serving police officer named in the Macpherson report announced that he was retiring from the Metropolitan Police just as his disciplinary tribunal was about to start.

Detective Inspector Benjamin Bullock faced seven counts of neglect for his part in the bungled investigation. He will get a full pension.

Bullock resigned after a judge ruled that lawyer Imran Khan would be allowed to sit in on the tribunal alongside Neville and Doreen Lawrence—but only as "a friend".

Bullock's move means that the tribunal will be cut short. A police source told the Mail, "We are now carrying out a paper exercise and nothing more."



300
300

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JUSTICE DEMANDED FOR RICKY REEL

UNISON

■ "How many more times do we have to come to conference to hear about racist murders? We don't want anything special, we just want justice," said John Noblemunn, vice-chair of the National Black Members Committee before standing orders at conference were brought to a halt in order to give Sukdev Reel, the mother of Lakvinder Ricky Reel and longstanding UNISON member, the chance to ask the union for help.

Twenty-year old Ricky Reel disappeared following a racial incident which was reported to the police. The family accuse the police of taking no effective action to investigate the disappearance, and his body was found seven days later.

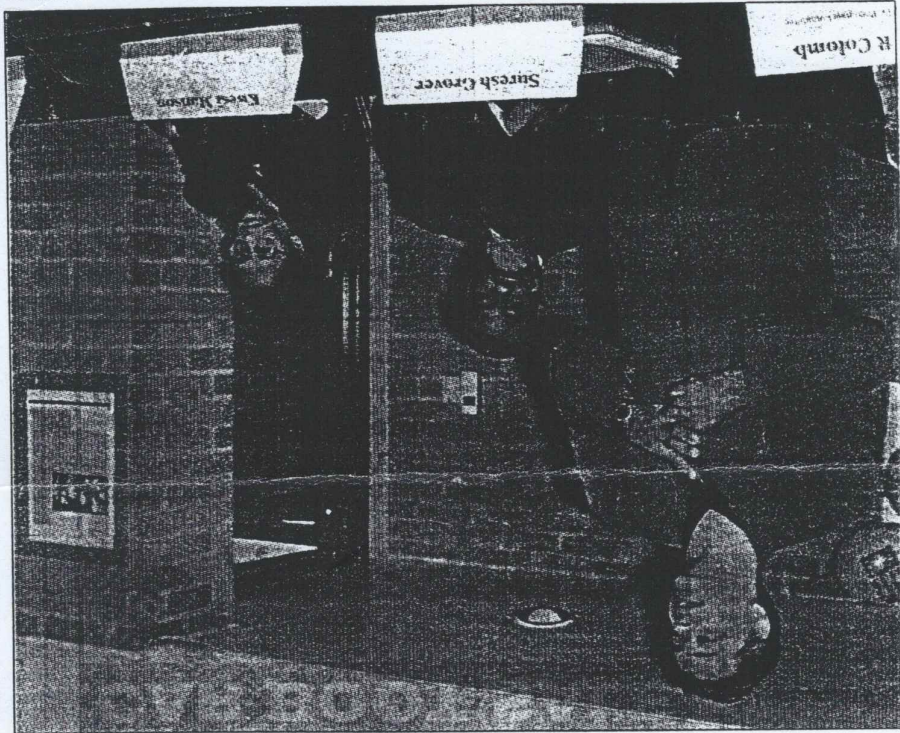
"The police saw Ricky's death as 'a tragic accident'" said Ms Reel.

Since then, Ms Reel has launched the Justice for Ricky Reel Campaign which calls for the police to release the full PCA report to the family before Jack Straw to intervene in order to ensure all the facts are disclosed, as well as for a new team of police investigators to look in to the case.

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Challenge for change: Suresh Grover, standing, Kwesi Manson and Sukhdec Reel

to challenge the police to fundamentally change their structures and adapt. Suresh Grover said: "We must ensure that some of the positive aspects that came out of the Stephen Lawrence case are implemented all over the country from High Wycombe to Sheffield."

impact that their actions have on communities in High Wycombe." Kwesi Manson said Asian and black communities had to take the opportunity to make permanent changes in policing attitudes. He added: "It is crucial that we take this opportunity

"The biggest challenge facing me is the restoration of confidence in the police of minority communities, which are often over-policed and under-protected. There's an enormous amount of work that needs to be done. I must help make staff aware of the

had to suffer with the police that these families have to go through the bat- meeting: "Nobody should Supt Beckley told the inquests this year. were accused of institution- alised racism after one of the The Metropolitan Police death in 1993.

since he was stabbed to number of official inquests have been the subject of a teenager Stephen Lawrence into the death of black Bungle police investiga- two years ago.

burnt alive in north London Michael Manson who was Kwesi Manson, brother of teenager Ricky Reel, and mother of murdered Asian co-ordinator Suresh Grover, Lawrence family campaign Wednesday, to hear the up at the meeting, last

Dozens of people turned up at the meeting, last Wednesday, to hear the Lawrence family campaign co-ordinator Suresh Grover, at the Reggie Goves Centre, Pauls Row, High Wycombe, how officers needed more understanding and aware- ness of the issues affecting ethnic minorities.

Supt Beckley, of Chiltern Lawrence inquiry. the wake of the Stephen ibbean communities in Wycombe Asian and Car- trust with the High to work hard to build up Council how officers need Wycombe Race Equality Rob Beckley told POLICE Superintendent

allowed to be citizens." ethnic minority candid-
 Claude Moraes said it dates was "absolute rubbish".
 Asian MEP in London, "It might be true for the

"The Conservative Party was the only one which allowed ordinary members to select the encouraged by the low turnout, at 23 per cent a record low both for a British national election list."

resent India against top snooker stars.
 Gudev Singh has been given a wild card entry to the first American Nine-Ball Pool Championships in Cardiff next month, with games against the likes of Steve Davis live on Sky TV.

MP threatens to disclose secret report on alleged racist killing

Nick Sommerlad

AN MP has threatened to use parliamentary privilege to reveal the contents of a secret report on the police investigation into the mysterious death of Asian student Ricky Reel.

The report, by Surrey police officers, into the Metropolitan Police's handling of the case has been seen by Ricky's mother Sukhdev Reel and her solicitor, yet they were prevented from showing it to the rest of the Reel family.

But it has emerged that parts of the Police Complaints Authority report were shown to lay members of a police advisory panel.

Campaigners claim the police no longer has the right to stop publication and that the Met has failed

to learn the lessons of the Macpherson Report on its handling of Stephen Lawrence's murder.

Mrs Reel said: "We are calling for wider publication of the report."

"We were forced to make an undertaking, which we have kept, not to reveal it."

"Then we found out that the police have shown it to members of the public."

John MacDonnell, Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington, is arranging a final meeting between the Reel family and Home Secretary Jack Straw.

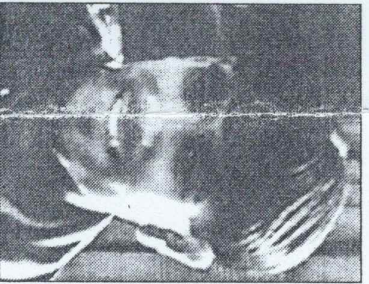
He said: "This is one last attempt to get the Home Secretary and the police to see sense."

"After that I do not know what we can do other than use the Commons chamber."

The last time Lakhvinder



Neville Lawrence with Sukhdev Reel, mother of Ricky, right



Reel, known as Ricky, was seen alive was on 14 October 1997, when he and three Asian friends were racially abused and attacked by white youths in Kingston, London.

The incident was reported to the police but no action was taken until a search of the River Thames a week later led to the discovery of Mr Reel's body less than half a mile away from the scene of the

attack.

The police initially decided that Mr Reel, 20, had slipped accidentally, but a 14-month inquiry revealed "weaknesses and flaws" in the handling of the case.

Mrs Reel believes her son was killed by racists and wants to hold a joint press conference with the police to further new lines of inquiry.

"We want to work with the police. We have passed

all information that has come out way on to them," said Mrs Reel.

"I do not think my son's case has been properly investigated. I just hope that we can recover from the mistakes and that the killers can be caught."

"We want peace for Ricky and without justice there's no peace."

"I'm not calling for revenge. I need to know why they killed my son."

Civic award for Liverpool GP

An Indian Liverpool GP has been awarded a "Certificate of Merit Award" by Liverpool County Council for services to the community.

Dr Shiv Pande was presented with the award by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool at the Town Hall on Tuesday.

Dr Pande received an MBE in 1989 and has been involved in many fund-raising activities.

Mother of dead man keeps vigil

Sue Quinn

ing to return home that night. Why? Simply because I am trying to find Ricky's killers. I am not seeking revenge. I just want to find out.

"I have put my life on hold for the last two years. I sometimes go [to the place where he was found dead] at one or two o'clock in the morning and I stand there and cry," she said. "I feel closer to Ricky there. I can't sleep. All I can see is Ricky running and I feel guilty because I wasn't there to save him."

Detective Chief Inspector Sue Hill, in charge of the investigation, said she had an open mind about whether Mr Reel was murdered. There was evidence linking the two men captured on CCTV to the racist attack, but not to Mr Reel's death.

The video footage, timed at 12.11am on October 15, 1997, shows a grainy image of the men, one 5ft 10in and the other 5ft 6in, aged between 18 and 30, in an alley just before they emerged into Clarence Street.

"Ricky was a good kid, he didn't want to be involved in any fracas," DCI Hill said. "After not getting involved, he subsequently died. I am a mother myself and I would want to know what happened to my son."

Yesterday's news conference was the first joint appeal by the family and the police.

For months, police treated Mr Reel's death as an accident but three officers were later found guilty of neglect of duty after a 14-month investigation by Surrey Police, on behalf of the Complaints Authority, which found "weaknesses and flaws" in the original inquiry.

The deputy assistant commissioner, John Greve of the Metropolitan police, noted to publish the PCA report into Mr Reel's death.

The family's solicitor, Louise Christian, said: "The family feel that if the investigation had been done properly at the time, much more would have been discovered."

Video tape showing the two men in the alley



The mother of Ricky Reel, who was killed in the racist attack, said she believes the "racist thugs" she believes killed him.

Sukhdev Reel joined police in a national appeal to find two white men involved in a racist attack on Ricky and a group of friends in October 1997, shortly before the 20-year-old student was last seen alive.

Investigators released newly discovered CCTV footage, enhanced by Nasa scientists, of two men they believe were involved in the incident.

They are pictured emerging from the alley in Kingston upon Thames, south-west London, where they shouted racist abuse at Mr Reel's group, all Asian youths from Brunel university, who were on a night out.

While his friends fought the men, Mr Reel wandered off. He was not seen again until his body was found a week later. Detectives leading the fresh investigation into his death, following an initial botched inquiry, want to contact the two men, or any one who saw them or witnessed the racist attack. In an emotional statement at Scotland Yard, Mrs Reel said she had dedicated the past two years to finding her sons' killers.

"On October 14 he went out. His words are still ringing in my ears: See you later mum. When he died, I thought I had died with him. The racist thugs who killed me instead, not my son," she said.

"I have travelled the country up and down. I go out in the morning and my children don't know whether I am going to find them or not."

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