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Violence at the Town's big fair

A CAFE owner took a "flying leap" at a police officer as the organisers of Worthing's seafair were caught up in violence at the showpiece event last year, a court heard.

Julie Major, 45, of Durrington Lane, Worthing, is charged with causing harassment, alarm or distress, and assaulting a police officer.

Her son, Brett Taylor, 24, of Durrington Lane, Worthing, is charged with resisting a police officer and causing fear or provocation of violence.

Major's brother, Tony Mosey, 42, of Kipling Avenue, Goring, is charged with causing fear or provocation of violence.

Worthing magistrates heard that trouble flared at the fair on July 26 last year after organisers wanted to start a firework display outside Jq Ju's Coconut Kiosk, where a crowd of up to 150 people had gathered.

Simon Hamilton, prosecuting, said that the three defendants became upset because customers were being moved away from their kiosk. He said that owner Julie Major behaved

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ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE

What happened at the seafair

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in an "unpleasant and unnecessarily abusive way."

Leading local businessman Jonathan Chown, the fair's organiser, told the court that he was pushed to the floor by Mosey. He said that he walked towards the "agitated" crowd with a metal barrier and told them to move back for the 15 minute display.

Mr Chown said a man began to shake the barrier and told him "we have a right to be trading here".

"He was pushing against the crowd barrier for a few minutes and then the person came round and shoved me on the chest and I fell to the ground."

Mr Chown added that the man stood over him and told him to get up - "you are not really hurt".

Stella Thomas, a marshal at the event, told the court that when she arrived at the kiosk a huge row was going on. She said: "It was like a free-for-all. I harked off because I was frightened of getting hurt. I then saw the lady take a flying leap onto the back of the policeman."

She added that the woman held him in an arm lock. "I felt very, very frightened and intimidated by the whole thing."

Mrs Thomas said that she received a black eye and bruises during the melee.

Giving evidence, Sergeant Peter Darkin said that he saw Brett Taylor shouting, swearing and punching down towards somebody. "I told him I was arresting him for affray."

He said that he grabbed Taylor, who swore at

him and shook him off. He said: "I actually thought I had bitten off more than I could chew. He was a big chap and I was on my own."

"He pulled away again and suddenly my arms were being grabbed from behind."

Sgt Darkin said that a woman had grabbed him and told him to leave Taylor alone. He said that he shook himself free and chased Taylor, who had run off, catching up with him on Beach House grounds.

Sgt Darkin said that, fearing for his safety, he used Capser spray on Taylor but a teenage boy appeared and grabbed hold of his leg.

Sgt Darkin said that he pushed the boy away and continued to chase Taylor onto a patio area near the seafair. "I grabbed him on his right side by his shirt and there were two blokes with him and it became a pulling match."

He added that he thought if he had used spray on the men he would "get a really good kicking."

Sgt Darkin said that Taylor told the men he had had enough, but the teenager returned and began to kick him on the leg. "A member of the public grabbed this kiddie by the neck and pulled him away." Sgt Darkin said that another officer arrived and they arrested Taylor.

Tony Mosey said marshals were pushing the barriers into the crowd without saying why they were doing it.

He told the court he did not want his sister's business to be shut. He said: "I grabbed hold of the barrier and started pulling it. They were pushing it into people and they had no right to shut my sister's business. At the same point I was pulled

away from the barrier, but I didn't look.

"Mr Chown did fall over. There were some orange mesh fences with metal stakes sticking out the ground. While I am pulling the barrier he tripped over one of the pegs. He tripped over that and just fell on his backside. He sat there for a few seconds and laid back and shouted 'assault' and I said 'less of the amateur dramatics'." He denied pushing Mr Chown.

Julie Major, describing the incident, said she saw people being pushed back and went to have a look. She said: "I then went outside to try to put the shatter down. The next thing I know, there is this policeman and he started pushing and shoving me. I said 'this is my business and I am trying to shut'." She said she was shocked and later closed the kiosk so the fireworks could go ahead.

Mrs Major denied having anything to do with her son or brother during the incident.

Brett Taylor gave evidence, saying he saw some "trouble" happening outside the kiosk and "legged it down to try to sort something out". He told the court he saw a man on his uncle's back and tried to get him off with a bear hug.

Mr Taylor was told he was being arrested, but he walked away. Mr Taylor said: "I did nothing wrong to get arrested. I went off and the policeman caught up with me and said 'I am arresting you', and I said 'you cannot arrest me, I was trying to stop a fight' and he used pepper spray on me." He denied hitting the marshal.

● The case was continuing yesterday afternoon as the Herald went to press.

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