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## Barrister fined £50 after fight

A DUBLIN barrister was convicted in Dun Laoghaire Court yesterday of causing grievous bodily harm during a fight with another man in the grounds of Rathdown School, Glenageary, Co Dublin, last summer.

The senior counsel, Ronald Robbins, of Sorrento Terrace, Dalkey, Co Dublin, was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and fined £50. A second defendant, Terence Kearney, of Glenageary Lodge, Glenageary, was convicted on a summons of common assault and fined £15. The court was told that the two men had "fought like alleycats".

Kearney told the court in evidence that he had been invited to a barbeque at the school last May 26th and at 2 a.m. he decided to go home, as the party seemed to be ending.

"I was making my way out of the school when somebody jumped on me from behind, knocked me to the ground, and after pinning down my arms, started beating me about the face." Under cross-examination by Mr Patrick McEntee, SC, instructed by Michael Fitzsimons,

solicitor, for Robbins, Kearney denied prowling around the building on the evening in question or having been asked by Robbins for his name.

Mr Robbins in evidence said he was part of the organising committee for the barbeque and after the party ended at 1.00 a.m., he and his wife were packing his car with equipment he had brought to the function. He said at approximately 2.00 a.m. he went down the drive to relieve himself and while there became aware of the presence of "a figure in a crouched position running from tree to tree.

"I immediately feared for my wife's safety and for that of the girls in the school and ran after the figure." He said he was suddenly confronted by Kearney, whom he grabbed by the jacket and asked who he was. When he got no reply Mr Robbins said he called to the school principal to phone for the gardai.

"At the mention of this he reacted as if on a spring and threw me back on my lefthand side." Mr Robbins said that a struggle developed in which both men "fought like alleycats" until the gardai arrived.

Dr Philip O'Connell, who was on casualty duty at St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, said he treated Kearney for injuries to the face.

A medical examination of Robbins revealed a large bruise to his forearm and three smaller bruises to the back of his right hand. Both men pleaded not guilty to summonses of assault causing grievous bodily harm and common assault.

Dismissing the summons of assault causing grievous bodily harm against Kearney, District Justice Sean McGee said he was not satisfied Mr Robbins's injuries were caused by the defendant and he fined him £15 on the summons of common assault.

The district justice fined Mr Robbins £50 on the assault causing grievous bodily harm charge and dismissed the second summons against him.