

Judgecraft across Europe

Assessing credibility and giving an oral decision

Evidence pack:

Charmaine Dixon v Chief Constable

The appeal of Charmaine Dixon

Introductory note for participants

This is an appeal against a conviction for robbery. You are hearing the appeal with two lay judges. The appeal is a complete rehearing of the case.

Angela Graham is a middle-aged lady. She says that she was robbed in the street close to her home by a seventeen year old girl called Charmaine Dixon. She was on her way to do her weekly shopping and had £75 cash in her shoulder bag. Charmaine (whom she knows well by sight) came up behind her, grabbed the shoulder strap, struggled with her and used force in order to pull the bag off her shoulder. The bag came open. Charmaine snatched the cash out of the bag, threw the bag down and ran off.

By English law, as set out in section 8 of the Theft Act 1968, a person is guilty of robbery if *he steals, and immediately before or at the time of doing so, and in order to do so, he uses force on any person or puts or seeks to put any person in fear of being then and there subjected to force.* Thus if the above facts are proved it was, in law, a robbery.

Charmaine denies robbing Mrs Graham. She says that she did not see her on the day in question and was probably at her friend's house at the relevant time.

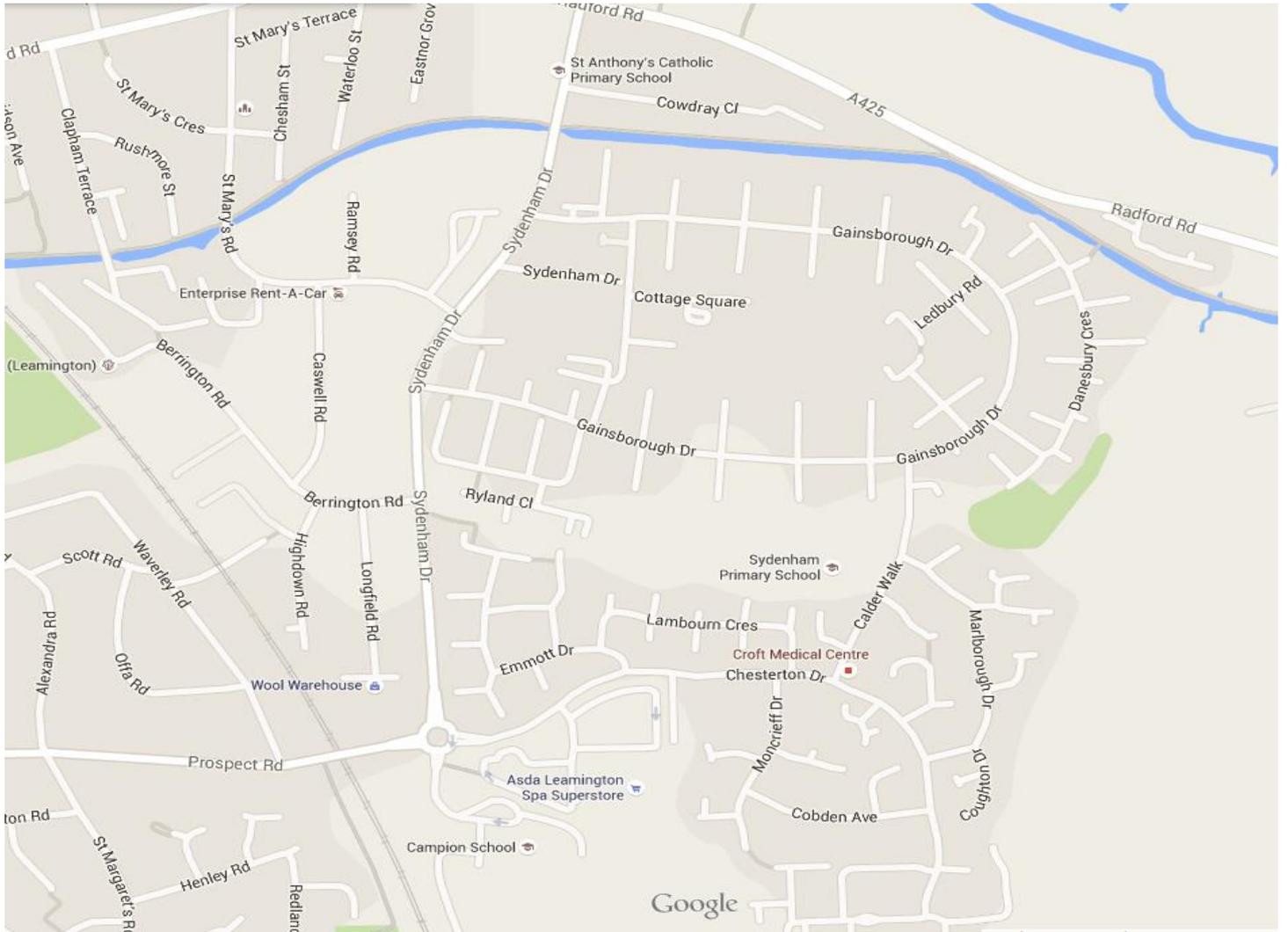
The burden of proving Charmaine's guilt is on the prosecution and, for you to convict her, they must make you sure that she is guilty.

You will hear that Charmaine has a previous conviction for robbery. The circumstances were virtually identical to the present. A few months earlier, when she was 16, she robbed a middle-aged lady on the same housing estate by snatching her handbag. She pleaded guilty. Under the '*bad character*' provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (as they are called) you have to decide whether the previous conviction makes it more likely that Charmaine committed the present offence.

On a DVD you will see and hear the evidence of Mrs Graham and Charmaine. You will also receive some agreed evidence in writing. Before you prepare your judgment you will be given a transcript of the entire proceedings, so there is no need to take a note of the evidence whilst you are watching the DVD, unless of course something is said or done that you think is important.

The two lay judges agree with your views about the appeal and your decision is unanimous.

Map of area of robbery



Witness statement of Angela Graham

I am the above-named person and live at 63, Ramsey Road, Sydenham.

This statement relates to an incident in which I was robbed at about 4.30pm on Friday, 29 May 2015 in Sydenham Drive, Sydenham.

I was walking from home along Sydenham Drive to do my weekly shopping at Asda on Chesterton Drive. This is about a 10 minute walk. I was on my own and I had a shopping basket in my right hand with my handbag on my left shoulder. It was a nice day. As I neared the end of Sydenham Drive I heard the sound of footsteps behind me. For some reason I looked round and it was Charmaine Dixon. I saw her clearly. She was wearing a pale jacket and jeans. She is well known on the estate and I have known her for years. She was in the local paper when she got her conviction for robbery and she is always making a nuisance of herself.

She suddenly started running towards me. I thought she was going to run straight past but she suddenly stopped. She started pushing and shoving me. She was really forceful. She didn't actually hit me but I was very frightened. Then she grabbed the shoulder strap on my handbag. When I realised what was happening I started hitting her with my shopping bag but it didn't make any difference and she kept tugging on the strap. She was quite strong and eventually she pulled it off my shoulder. By now the bag had fallen open. There was £75 in cash in a side pocket of the bag which was visible. Charmaine snatched the cash out of the bag, threw the bag down and ran off. I shouted after her but there was no one else around.

I decided to go straight home and tell my husband. I picked up my bag which still had my purse, credit cards and other personal items in it and walked home. My husband usually gets home from work at about 5.00pm. He arrived shortly after I did and immediately phoned the police.

The £75 in cash was my housekeeping money that my husband had given me that morning to do the weekly shop. This incident has shocked me badly and I want to make a formal complaint.

The Victim Personal Statement scheme has been explained to me and I fully understand it. At this point in time I do not wish to make one but understand I can do so at a later date.

Evidence of Angela Graham

In chief

Q. What's your name?

A. Mrs Angela Graham

Q. And where do you live?

A. 63, Ramsey Road, Sydenham

Q. I want to ask about something that happened to you on Sydenham Drive, quite close to your home. Do you remember that day?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Where were you in the afternoon?

A. I was at home.

Q. Did you go out at all?

A. I did later on – to do the shopping.

Q. What time did you go out?

A. About quarter past three, I think.

Q. And where were you going?

A. To Asda on the estate

Q. How far's that from your house?

A. Oh, about a ten minute walk.

Q. Did you take anything with you?

A. Only my shopping basket and handbag.

Q. Can you remember how you were carrying them?

- A. I think I had my shopping basket in my left hand. I usually put my handbag on my right shoulder.
- Q. What about money? Did you take any money with you?
- A. There was £75 in my handbag in a side pocket.
- Q. Which way did you go?
- A. Across St Mary's Road and onto Sydenham Drive.
- Q. Did anything happen?
- A. Yes. I couldn't believe it.
- Q. What happened then?
- A. I heard someone coming up behind me and looked round.
- Q. Did you recognise them?
- A. It was Charmaine.
- Q. Charmaine who?
- A. Charmaine Dixon.
- Q. How do you know her?
- A. Everyone knows her. She lives on the estate – the bottom end.
- Q. That's not what I asked. How do *you* know her?
- A. I know all the Dixons. They're always making trouble on the estate and she's no exception.
- Q. Did you get a good look at her?
- A. Yes, she was right next to me.
- Q. Are you sure it was her?
- A. I'm positive.

- Q. And what time was this?
- A. About twenty past three.
- Q. What happened next?
- A. She took my handbag.
- Q. How did she manage to do that?
- A. She just grabbed it off my shoulder.
- Q. Did you try and stop her?
- A. I tried but she was too strong.
- Q. Did she say anything?
- A. Not then but afterwards she said. "If you tell anyone, you're dead."
- Q. So what next?
- A. She kept struggling with me. She was really forceful. She got the bag off me and it came open.
- Q. What happened to you?
- A. I fell on the ground and hurt my knee. It was really painful.
- Q. What kind of injury was it?
- A. Just a nasty bruise. It went after a few weeks.
- Q. And then?
- A. I got up but by then she had taken the money out of the bag and run off.
- Q. Where did she go?
- A. Down Gainsborough Drive towards the bottom of the estate
- Q. And what happened to your bag?

A. She just dropped it and I picked it up.

Q. Was anyone else around?

A. Not that I could see. I was too shocked.

Q. What did you do then?

A. I went home and told my husband and he phoned the police. They came and took a statement. The whole thing has been awful.

Q. Thank you very much, Mrs Graham. No further questions.

Cross-examined

Q. Would you agree that this was a pretty memorable event so far as you were concerned?

A. It certainly was. I haven't recovered even now. There are times when I wake up in the night thinking about it and I just

Q. Mrs. Graham, all I asked was whether you agreed that this was a memorable event

A. Well I was just explaining why

Q. All right Mrs. Graham, well let me ask you this. Are you still clear in your mind about the details of this event?

A. What do you mean?

Q. You told us a few minutes ago that you left home at about 3.15 in the afternoon and that you saw Charmaine Dixon at about 3.20. Yes?

A. That's right

Q. Those times. Are they reasonably accurate? Within a few minutes either side?

A. Very accurate I would say

Q. And you went home as soon as the incident occurred?

A Obviously. I was hardly going to hang around waiting for Charmaine to come back.

Q How long did it take you to get home?

A A few minutes. Perhaps a little longer than normal. I was very shaken.

Q And how long after that was it before your husband came home?

A A matter of minutes. No more than 5 or 10.

Q So your husband arrived home no more than what 20 minutes, 30 minutes after the events in Sydenham Drive?

A That would be right

Q And as you've said they occurred at about 3.20 that afternoon?

A That's right

Q Did your husband telephone the police immediately?

A Yes he did. Well once I had persuaded him not to go straight round and try and find Charmaine.

Q I'm sorry?

A My husband was extremely angry when he heard what had happened. To be honest he has something of a temper and he may have done something he regretted. Anyway he didn't. He called 999 pretty well as soon as he got home.

Q Well we know that the police were called at 5.07 p.m. that afternoon.

A Do we?

Q The police record the time of 999 calls so that time is known do you follow?

A I see

Q So the incident occurred at about 3.20 p.m. but the police were not called until 5.07 p.m. Can you help us as to what happened in those 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ hours?

A I really don't see your point

Q Let me put it this way, did anything else happen in the period between the events in Sydenham Drive and the call to the police, something you have not told us about?

A No of course not.

Q The police came to your home very shortly after the 999 call did they not?

A Yes they were very prompt. Some people criticise the police but their attitude to me was first rate. I can't speak too highly about how they dealt with my case. I think that

Q Mrs. Graham, I apologise for interrupting but I just wanted to establish how quickly the police came to your home. And when they came, they took a witness statement from you.

A That's correct.

Q Presumably the crucial part of the statement so far as you were concerned was the description of the point at which you were robbed, is that fair?

A Yes I agree with that

Q And that afternoon as you gave your statement your memory of precisely what happened in those few moments presumably was vivid?

A I should say it was.

Q You told us a few minutes ago that, as Charmaine Dixon pulled your bag from you, you fell to the ground.

A Correct

Q And you did fall to the ground?

A Yes

Q And hurt your knee?

A Yes

Q Presumably your knee was hurting as you were making your statement

A It was. But I had to tell the police what had happened. I could worry about my knee later.

Q Did you tell the police about falling and hurting your knee?

A I should think so

Q Is it in the statement you made and then signed?

A I don't know

Q Well have a look at that witness statement Mrs. Graham.
[statement handed]

Just read it through to yourself and then tell us if there is anything in it about falling and hurting your knee
[reads statement]

A Well no but it says that Charmaine was pushing and shoving me and she was really forceful.

Q But nothing about falling down

A I hardly think that matters

Q And nothing about any injury

A The bruise hadn't come up at that stage

Q But according to you you were in pain. Yet you didn't mention it to the police.

A Well I thought I had done – and it does not alter the fact that I was injured.

- Q It is not an injury that anyone saw is it Mrs. Graham?
- A Well I did – and my husband. You could ask him if you wanted.
- Q Mrs. Graham you were on Sydenham Drive when this happened.
- A I was
- Q Many people about at the time?
- A No it was rather quiet. I suppose that is why the girl thought she could get away with it.
- Q There are shops close to where you say this incident occurred.
- A Where this incident did occur – yes.
- Q It was a Friday afternoon
- A Yes
- Q But no one around to see you knocked to the ground?
- A As I say Charmaine saw her opportunity and took it I'm afraid
- Q To get home you had to walk past quite a number of shops didn't you?
- A Yes
- Q Why did you not go into one of the shops to ask for help?
- A I just wanted to get home. Anyway I would not have wanted that girl to come in after me.
- Q Do you have a mobile telephone?
- A I do
- Q Was it in your handbag?
- A Yes. I suppose I'm lucky that wasn't taken as well
- Q Why did you not use that to telephone the police there and then?

- A I just wanted to get home where I knew that I would be safe. I have told you more than once, I was not going to hang around waiting for Charmaine to come after me again. If you remember, she had told me that I would be dead if I told anyone.
- Q Is that something you told the police Mrs. Graham?
- A I imagine so.
- Q Look again at your witness statement please. Can you see anything in there about Charmaine issuing any threat of any kind?
- A I daresay I was in shock when I made this statement. I can assure you that she did threaten me. It was extremely frightening.
- Q When Charmaine Dixon took your handbag, was she wearing gloves?
- A No, not that I could see
- Q And she had hold of the shoulder strap?
- A Yes
- Q And when she pulled the bag off your shoulder she touched the main part of the bag?
- A Presumably. Well she must have done because she got the money out.
- Q You are quite clear that she held the bag in that way?
- A Yes. What are you driving at?
- Q Mrs. Graham I am not driving at anything, I am just establishing what you say Charmaine Dixon did.
- A What she did do
- Q Mrs. Graham you are sure that it was Charmaine Dixon you saw in Sydenham Drive?
- A Absolutely no doubt at all. I know her well and it was broad daylight.
- Q Were you robbed that afternoon?

A Of course I was. I set out that day with £75 in my bag. By the time I got home I had no more than a few pence.

Q Do you gamble at all Mrs. Graham?

A What are you suggesting?

Q Do you gamble at all Mrs. Graham?

A I go to the bingo occasionally if that is what you mean

Q Anywhere else?

A I really do not know what you mean by this

Q You go to the betting shop in Sydenham Drive don't you?

A I'm sorry

Q Do you ever go to the William Hill betting shop in Sydenham Drive?

A I may have been

Q Do you know a Mr. Graham Sproson?

A Possibly

Q Mr. Sproson is the manager of the William Hill betting shop in Sydenham Drive. He has seen you from time to time in his shop. On those occasions he has seen you placing bets. Let me ask you again. Do you gamble at all?

A Well yes. Just occasionally. Just for a bit of fun. But that has nothing to do with this.

Q I see. Is that where you were that afternoon?

A Well really.

Q Is that where your housekeeping money went?

A I suppose you have your job to do.

Re-examination

Q Just this Mrs. Graham, do you still have your witness statement?

A I do

Q You already have told us that matters were very fresh in your mind at the time you made it

A Yes

Q Do you give a time for the robbery in your statement?

A Oh I see. Well there you are.

Q And the time is?

A About 4.30 p.m.

Witness statement of PC Elliott Baker (agreed)

I am a serving police constable employed by Warwickshire police and I am currently based at Leamington Spa.

On Friday, 29 May 2015 at about 4.50pm I was on duty in full uniform in a marked police vehicle and was driving along Gainsborough Drive, Sydenham. Walking on the pavement I saw a young girl who is known to me as Charmaine Dixon. She was coming from the direction of Sydenham Drive and she was alone. She was wearing a light coloured top and black denim jeans. She was carrying a large bottle of Bacardi Breezer. I saw her stop and drink from the bottle. I concluded that she was consuming alcohol. I recently had had dealings with her in relation to an offence of robbery and I knew that she was aged under 18. I had reason to believe that she had committed an offence contrary to Section 150 of the Licensing Act 2003.

I stopped my vehicle and walked across the road towards her. I intended to issue Miss Dixon with a fixed penalty notice under Section 2 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. As I approached her she told me to fuck off. I decided to exercise my powers to stop and search her in addition to issuing a notice under the 2001 Act. I gave her the information set out in section 2 of PACE and asked her to turn out her pockets. Initially she refused. After some persuasion she agreed. In one of her jacket pockets she had a mobile phone and from her jeans pocket she produced a £20 note and 67 pence in loose change and 2 packets of Silk Cut cigarettes. Otherwise the search was negative.

I then informed Miss Dixon that I had seen her consuming alcohol and I issued her with a fixed penalty notice. She became belligerent, telling me that her mates were drinking as well and asking why I did not go and pick on them instead. I advised her as to her future conduct and returned to my vehicle. I then left the area of Gainsborough Drive.

Record of interview of Charmaine Dixon (agreed)

Introductions and caution

The defendant was asked to account for her movements on the afternoon of Friday, 29 May 2015. She said that she could not remember precisely where she had been. She thought it likely that she had spent time with her friend Hayley because that is what she did most afternoons. At some point she had gone home. She did not know what time that had been.

The defendant was asked if she remembered that she had been stopped by P.C. Baker in Gainsborough Drive. She said that she had been stopped quite often by police officers when she was walking around the Sydenham Estate and that P.C. Baker may have stopped her on this day. The interviewing officers clarified where and why P.C. Baker had stopped her. The defendant said that she must have been on her way home since Gainsborough Drive was her usual route.

The defendant was asked from where and how she had obtained the bottle of alcopop and the packets of cigarettes. She said that she must have bought them at a shop somewhere on the estate earlier in the day. She could not recall when or where.

The defendant was asked if she knew the complainant, Angela Graham. She said that she had seen Mrs. Graham around the estate and in various shops on Sydenham Drive. She had heard her name via a friend of her mother's. She was not aware of any grievance that Mrs. Graham had against her or of any reason why Mrs. Graham might tell lies about her.

The interviewing officers read from the witness statement of Mrs. Graham. The defendant said that the allegation that she had robbed Mrs. Graham was untrue. She said that she did not know why Mrs. Graham was saying what she did.

Evidence of Charmaine Dixon

In chief

Q Please give the court your full name

A Charmaine Dixon

Q How old are you, Charmaine?

A 17

Q Where do you live?

A 23 Danesbury Crescent

Q Where is that?

A The Sydenham

Q Is that in Leamington Spa?

A Yeah

Q Do you remember the day Mrs Graham has been giving evidence about?

A Sort of

Q Can you now remember what you were doing on the afternoon of that day?

A What time?

Q Well we know that at about 4.50 on that afternoon you were stopped by P.C. Baker when you were in Gainsborough Drive.

A Yeah

Q Do you remember that happening?

A Yeah – I mean it's always happening innit

Q On this occasion you were given a fixed penalty ticket for drinking.

A Right

Q So do you remember that?

A Yeah.

Q When you were stopped on that day, can you remember where you were coming from?

A Well I would have been at Hayley's probably

Q At about 4.30 p.m. on that

A I'd have been at Hayley's all afternoon probably

Q Yes. Well it is being alleged that you were in Sydenham Drive at around 4.30 p.m. and that you robbed Mrs. Graham.

A That's a lie

Q Were you in Sydenham Drive that afternoon?

A No

Q Did you rob Mrs. Graham?

A Definitely not

Q Do you know Mrs. Graham?

A Yeah

Q How do you know her?

A She lives local. I've seen her around.

Q Have you ever spoken to her?

A Dunno. I might have done.

Q Did you see her on that day?

A Don't think so. If I did I don't remember it. I definitely didn't rob her.

Q When you say that you have seen Mrs. Graham around, have you seen her anywhere in particular?

A How do you mean?

Q Is there a bookmakers' shop on the estate?

A Yeah. There's one on Sydenham Drive.

Q Have you ever been in there?

A Yeah

Q Have you ever seen Mrs. Graham in there?

A Yeah

Q How often have you seen her in there?

A Dunno. Quite a lot. I go in there for my dad and he puts money on most days and I should think I see her most times when I'm in there.

Q What is she doing there when you see her?

A Putting money on of course.

Q Have you seen how much she bets?

A Not exactly but she's always at the counter.

Q Very well. Please wait there, there will be some more questions for you.

Cross examination

Q So you know Mrs. Graham reasonably well don't you?

A Not really

Q Not really? But you say you saw her regularly in the local bookmakers.

A Yeah

- Q And elsewhere around the Sydenham Estate
- A Yeah
- Q And obviously she saw you
- A Well yeah
- Q Whenever you saw her you recognised her straightaway didn't you?
- A Yeah
- Q She would have had no difficulty recognising you would she?
- A Suppose not
- Q And she did didn't she?
- A Well that's what she says
- Q Is she wrong?
- A Yeah
- Q Well Mrs. Graham was robbed as she was walking along Sydenham Drive – we know that don't we?
- A So she says
- Q I see. Well Mrs. Graham tells us that she was on Sydenham Drive, that she was robbed and that this was about 4.30 p.m.
- A Yeah
- Q And she tells us that you robbed her
- A I didn't
- Q That is what she says. Now about 20 minutes after that you were walking along Gainsborough Drive from the direction of Sydenham Drive and the very spot where Mrs. Graham tells us she was robbed. That is right isn't it?
- A No

- Q No? Miss Dixon, the statement of P.C. Baker has been read to the court with your agreement.
- A Yeah
- Q And P.C. Baker saw you coming along from the scene of the robbery didn't he?
- A I'd have come from Hayley's
- Q Does she live in Sydenham Drive?
- A No she lives in Hornbeam Grove
- Q But P.C. Baker's evidence is that you were walking from the direction of Sydenham Drive.
- A Yeah but I'd have come out of Hornbeam Grove
- Q Is Hornbeam Grove on the map we have?
- A Dunno
- Q (looks at map) Yes it is
- A Well there you are then
- Q No Miss Dixon, look at the map. Hornbeam Grove is a side road not far from the point where P.C. Baker saw you on Gainsborough Drive. He says nothing about you coming out of a side road, does he?
- A He must have missed it
- Q Miss Dixon you were coming from Sydenham Drive weren't you?
- A No I wasn't.
- Q This Hayley, what is her second name?
- A Bishop
- Q And what were you and Miss Bishop doing together?

- A I can't remember
- Q Well try
- A I dunno – just chilling – watching TV – playing on the computer – I dunno
- Q Let's move on. When you were stopped by P.C. Baker you were drinking from a large bottle of alcopop weren't you?
- A Probably.
- Q Well were you?
- A I'm not saying I wasn't. But what's that got to do with this?
- Q Buy the drink did you?
- A I dunno. Probably.
- Q With what?
- A Money. What do you think?
- Q Where did the money come from?
- A I dunno. I can't even remember having the drink.
- Q Is that where Mrs. Graham's money went?
- A You could get crates of breezers with what she said was stolen. A bottle only costs £2.79 down the One Stop.
- Q You got drink for your mates as well though didn't you?
- A I don't know where you get that from.
- Q What did you say to P.C. Baker about your friends' drinking?
- A I don't remember.
- Q And where did the cigarettes come from?
- A They were for me dad. He gives me the money for his fags.

- Q So you remember that then. Now Miss Dixon you tell us that you saw Mrs. Graham occasionally in the local betting shop.
- A What do you mean “occasionally”?
- Q Just from time to time
- A It was more than that. I have to go and put my dad’s bets on for him and pick up his winnings and stuff and she’s always in there.
- Q Always?
- A Well pretty much
- Q You have no idea what she does when she’s in the shop do you?
- A I do. She’s putting bets on. I’ve seen her at the next counter to me counting money out. And it’s not 20 pences either.
- Q You told us earlier that you had no idea how much she bet.
- A I said I didn’t know exactly but I could see it was notes. What’s more I never saw her win.
- Q Are you suggesting that Mrs. Graham was not robbed at all, that she is making this up? Is that your case?
- A I’m not suggesting anything. I’m just saying that I didn’t rob her and there’s other ways she could have lost her money.
- Q Miss Dixon you have robbed someone previously haven’t you?
- A What’s that got to do with anything?
- Q You have just said that there are other ways that Mrs. Graham could have lost her money.
- A So?
- Q In other words Mrs. Graham has come here to tell deliberate lies about you.
- A I’m just saying I didn’t rob her.

Q Miss Dixon you are the one who has introduced the suggestion that Mrs. Graham was a regular at the betting shop.

A Well she was

Q However often she went to the betting shop it has nothing to do with this case has it?

A Well

Q Mrs. Graham has told us the truth hasn't she?

A No

Q You have robbed before and you did so this time didn't you?

A But that was different

Re-examination

Q Two matters Miss Dixon. You told us that the cigarettes were for your father for which he gave you the money.

A Yeah.

Q Why do you recall that?

A Well he's the one who smokes. I don't. If I've got cigarettes, they're for my dad.

Q The other matter is this. You have been asked about your previous court appearance when you were 16

A I don't see why that

Q Miss Dixon, just this. When you were charged previously with an offence of robbery did you plead guilty?

A Yes

Q And on that occasion did you tell the police what you had done?

A Yes

Q Are you telling the truth about this robbery?

A Yes I am

Witness statement of Geoffrey Sproson (agreed)

I am the manager of William Hill Bookmakers, Sydenham Drive, Leamington Spa. I have been manager of this branch since October 2011. I work in the premises every day except Sundays. I know many of the regular customers by sight.

When a cash bet is taken from a customer, the customer is provided with a computerised receipt in relation to the transaction i.e. what is commonly called a betting slip. Our system does not record the identity of the customer, merely the time of the transaction and the details of the stake including the amount. We receive many hundreds, if not thousands, of cash bets in the course of a normal day's business. The branch does have a CCTV system which records transactions at each counter. The system is computerised. The hard disc recording is retained for 21 days before being deleted automatically.

I have been asked today whether I know a Mrs. Angela Graham. I am acquainted with this person. She lives locally on the Sydenham Estate and I have seen her from time to time in and around the area. I say hello to her if I see her but I have never had a proper conversation with her. I cannot recall how I came to know her name. I have seen her very occasionally in the branch of William Hill of which I am the manager. This is when she has been in the premises as a customer. I have never taken a bet from her myself but I have seen cashiers in the premises taking such bets from her. I really cannot recall how often this has happened or the amounts of money involved.

I also have been asked today whether Mrs. Graham was in my branch of William Hill on Friday, 29 May 2015. I am unable to say. As I have indicated already, we have no records available to say whether any particular person was in the premises on a particular day.

The credibility of Angela Graham

Which of the following factors influenced your assessment of Angela Graham's credibility?

1. Her demeanour in court. Yes/No
2. The overall consistency between her witness statement and her oral evidence. Yes/No
3. She has no real reason to make it up. Yes/No
4. Upon assessment she is not the sort of person who would make it up. Yes/No
5. When she got home she told her husband straightaway what had happened and provided a statement to the police there and then. Yes/No
6. The appellant's recent conviction for an almost identical offence tends to support her (Angela Graham's) credibility. Yes/No
7. The inconsistencies between her witness statement and her oral evidence are comparatively minor. Yes/No
8. She said in evidence that the robbery occurred at about 3.20pm but in her witness statement that it occurred at about 4.30pm. Yes/No
9. She said in evidence that the defendant said, 'If you tell anyone, you're dead', but that is not in her witness statement. Yes/No
10. She said in evidence that she fell to the ground and hurt her knee, but that is not in her witness statement. Yes/No
11. She went straight home without going into a shop for help. Yes/No
12. She did not use her mobile to telephone the police from the scene. Yes/No
13. She gambles. Yes/No
14. Her husband has something of a temper. Yes/No

15. Anything else:

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The credibility of Charmaine Dixon

Which of the following factors influenced your assessment of Charmaine Dixon's credibility?

1. Her demeanour in court. Yes/No
2. The overall consistency between her police interview and her oral evidence. Yes/No
3. Her evidence that she had seen Mrs Graham gambling accords with the agreed evidence of Mr Sproson. Yes/No
4. Her evidence that she had seen Mrs Graham gambling might explain the loss of the money. Yes/No
5. Although she has a recent conviction for a similar offence she pleaded guilty, so when she is guilty she pleads guilty. Yes/No
6. There may be a good reason for Hayley Bishop not giving alibi evidence. Yes/No
7. She was seen by PC Baker close to the scene of the alleged robbery only 20 minutes after it occurred. Yes/No
8. 20 minutes is long enough to spend most of the proceeds of the robbery on drink and cigarettes. Yes/No
9. She failed to call Hayley Bishop to support her alibi. Yes/No
10. Her recent conviction for a very similar offence makes it more likely that she committed this one. Yes/No
11. She has a previous conviction for dishonesty and this dents her credibility. Yes/No
12. She is lying to avoid a probable custodial sentence. Yes/No
13. Anything else:

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