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McIlveen trial hears murder MSN messages

By Staff Reporter

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A COURT heard yesterday that within hours of the beating which was to claim the life of Ballymena schoolboy

Michael McIlveen, one of those accused of involvement was on the internet 'chatting' about it.

The internet exchanges were allegedly found on MSN Chat Logs recovered from the hard drive of a computer taken from the Moat Road home in Ballymena of 20-year-old Aaron Cavana Wallace.

Sections of the logs, which at an earlier point the user had signed into as 'Aaron The Hit Man Wallace', were read to Antrim Crown Court.

Early on May 7 2006, after Michael had received a beating in a back alleyway at Granville Drive, Mr Wallace allegedly chatted about giving "a wee taig a digging with baseball bat to the head".

In the continued exchange it stated that they "gave a fenian a digging... Michael McIlveen", while later the chat read: "we went down to do something and we did it".

In the same section, given the apparent realisation of what happened, it was agreed that if others got involved in the future: "Its going to get out of hand", before it was allegedly conceded: "Well that's war between us".

In the final MSN chat message, the court heard that when told that the attack on Michael was on the news, Mr Wallace allegedly didn't believe it, but added: "I didn't touch him at all".

However, when it was said the word was that the 15-year-old schoolboy was already dead, Mr Wallace allegedly replied: "He's dead now".

The court also heard of other internet chat, allegedly between Mr Wallace and a computer user, signed in as 'Chrissie The Pit Bull McLeister', which was conducted in the months before Michael died.

In it the pair allegedly chatted about making a petrol bomb to be thrown into a hut in the garden of a house which backs onto the alleyway where Michael was beaten.


At one stage the message said: "can't wait... I'm in the mood for a riot", while later the talk was of arming themselves beforehand because the intended targets would also be armed.

Later, in answer to questions from defence lawyers, the detective who extracted the sections of chat logs agreed that they had come from numerous chat messages which were recovered from the computer's hard drive.

He also agreed that anyone could have signed on to MSN with the user names 'Aaron The Hit Man Wallace', or 'Chrissie The Pit Bull McLeister'.

He further accepted that "at times" the internet chat exchanges were "reminiscent of five-year-olds talking together". The case continues.

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