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FOOTIE FAN STRANGLED

Polish hospital worker killed after cup clash

A football fan was strangled just hours after watching the Champions League final and died in the hospital where he worked.

Police found Przemyslaw Lepkowski in Eastbourne Road, on the Merton side of Tooting, shortly after 1am on Sunday, May 20.

Paramedics treated the 24-year-old Polish man, who had suffered a cardiac arrest, and tried to resuscitate him at the scene and on the way to St George's Hospital, Tooting.

Mr Lepkowski, who was from Croydon and worked in the hospital's domestic department, spent two days in intensive care but died of his injuries on Monday evening.

EXCLUSIVE
by **HANNAH WILLIAMSON**
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A postmortem examination gave his cause of death as strangulation.

His father, Wojciech, who also works at the hospital, said a colleague phoned him to ask if his son was at home.

He said: "I checked his room and said no, he was going with friends to watch the Chelsea and Bayern Munich game.

"He said 'Your son is in A&E'. I took a car and went straight away."

Mr Lepkowski's mother Jolanta was in Poland at the time of the incident, but flew

back to be at her son's bedside before his life support machine was turned off.

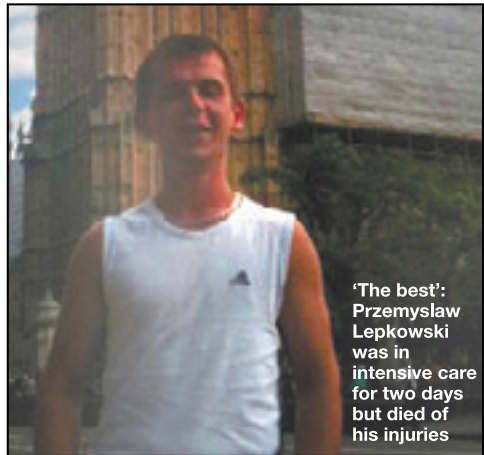
"The pair described their son as a friendly and popular boy who loved playing football with colleagues every Saturday in Mitcham.

Mrs Lepkowski said: "When he was in intensive care, lots of friends were coming to see him and say goodbye."

Mr Lepkowski said: "I know every father says 'My son is the best', but trust me, he was the best. He was a very hard worker."

Daniel Janik, 29, of Eastbourne Road, has been charged with murder.

He was due to appear at South Western Magistrates' Court yesterday.



'The best': Przemyslaw Lepkowski was in intensive care for two days but died of his injuries



Fight: Our campaign

NHS axe evidence 'in doubt'

NHS experts have raised concerns over evidence being presented to justify closing the A&E and maternity services at St Helier Hospital.

A panel working on behalf of NHS South West London's Better Services, Better Value (BSBV) recommended earlier this month that St Helier lose its A&E and maternity as part of a cost-cutting shake-up of hospitals in south-west London.

But the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT), which conducts an independent clinical review whenever a major shake-up of NHS services is proposed, has allegedly raised concerns about NHS South West London's predictions that sufficient alternative services would be in place to ensure three A&E and maternity units could cope with demand, and the affect it could have on patient outcomes.

Recently A&E and maternity departments at St Helier have seen a rise in the number of people visiting.

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