

brother and solicitor... him sent to prison... mpting his ruthless... est into the deaths of

was described as irrational... ng spree were revealed for... of the inquest.

He began his murders by... blasting his twin brother... David in his bedroom, shoot-... ing him 11 times.

Days before, David told... his estranged wife Susan his... brother was "going mad" and... should be sectioned.

Bird was worried about a... tax investigation involving... up to £60,000 of income, and... feared he would be jailed.

Derrick's son, Graeme, aged 29, told how his father was "not his normal self" the day before the shootings and was worried he was being "set up" to go to jail.

Graeme said his father was due to meet his accountant on June 2.

Relatives of the dead held hands to their faces as the full horror of the taxi-driver's rampage through West Cumbria was revealed for the first time yesterday.

Directions

During the murders on June 2 last year, Bird, 52, carrying a 12-bore sawn-off shotgun and a .22 rifle, had repeatedly stopped his car, called victims over as if to ask the time or for directions, then blasted them in the face with a shotgun.

On more than one occasion he finished off his victims by shooting them in the head at point blank range.

His rampage began in the early hours when he left his home in Rowrah and went to his twin's house.

Bird went on to murder solicitor Kevin Commons, 60. His other victims were Darren Rewcastle, 43, Susan Hughes, 57, Kenneth Fishburn, 71, Isaac Dixon, 65, Jennifer Jackson, 68 and her husband James, 67, Garry Purdham, 31, Jamie Clark, 23, Mike Pike, 64, and Jamie Robinson, 66. Bird injured four others people before turning the gun on himself. The inquest continues.

Challenge given a lift by Bully



Wolves star Steve Bull and weightlifter James Fernihough who organised the charity auction in Kingswinford with young supporter Daniel Bolus, aged 11

Wolves legend Steve Bull is backing a Dudley father-of-two in his quest to raise the bar for a record-breaking charity challenge.

Weightlifter and Beacon Centre for the Blind trustee James Fernihough is attempting an endurance world record, lifting the equivalent of 250 tons in 24 hours.

James, from Blossomfield Close, Kingswinford, hopes to bring in thousands of pounds for the charity, based in Sedgley.

His challenge will be staged on March 16 at Paragon Gym, off Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, starting at 9am.

Now the 37-year-old has scored the support of the former striker through his em-

Report by Naomi Dunning

ployers, technology supply firm Altdigital which sponsor The Steve Bull Foundation.

Bull stepped in to help James organise a charity auction and took part in a Q&A session with fans at Kingswinford Snooker Club, off Stallings Lane, last night.

More than 80 people packed into the venue to help raise cash which will go into James's fundraising pot to boost the coffers before the challenge.

Signed shirts, football memorabilia and a £300 camera were among lots which went under the hammer.

works way

Charity funding to be transferred

A charitable trust set up to fund improvements in South Staffordshire and Cannock is to be transferred from a council to a foundation. The Hilton Trust has £105,000 in its account and is looked after by South Staffordshire Council.

But it has decided to transfer to Staffordshire Community Foundation.

Annexe is agreed

Plans to build a single-storey day care annexe at Wellesley House Nursing Home, Penn Fields, have been approved.

Warning over UK's Euro cocaine trade

The UK is becoming an increasingly important hub for the importation of cocaine into the rest of Europe, the UN drugs body has warned. Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain have been the main routes for the drug's entry to the EU, but the International Narcotics Control Board said there had been a recent surge in cases of the UK being used as point of entry.

Board president Hamid Ghodse said: "It is not only the UK but the Netherlands also, Portugal also and Spain.

"Traditionally they were the hub of the importing to Europe but now the UK is also one of the countries. Cocaine comes to the UK to be diverted to the rest of Europe."

Mobile phone firms get masts go-ahead

Three mobile phone masts will be built in Wolverhampton.

Vodafone and O2 were given permission to erect them by the city council's planning committee. One will go in Bradley, another in Deans Road, Moseley Village, and a third, at Steelpark Way, Wednesfield.

the wrong type. This means some people will have been told they have Type 2 diabetes when in fact they have Type 1, and vice versa. Some of the errors are caused by mistakes made when entering information, but some are down to a lack of understanding among doctors or other staff. The growth in obesity has also made it more difficult to differentiate between Type 2, which is linked to unhealthy lifestyles, and Type 1. Such errors can have a "considerable impact on patient care", the report said. If untreated, diabetes can lead to heart disease, stroke and blindness.

Three on firearm charges

Three men have been charged with firearms offences after a shot was fired in Pensnett High Street.

They will appear before Dudley Magistrates' Court on March 4.

A 19-year-old from Great Bridge will face charges of possession of an offensive weapon, attempted wounding with intent, and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

A 20-year-old, from Wall-sall Wood, and a 21-year-old, from West Bromwich, will face charges of attempted wounding with intent and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

They were arrested on December 2 after a shot was fired in the early hours. No one was injured.

The investigation into the incident caused long delays for motorists after a section of Pensnett High Street between High Oak and Ten-nyson Street was shut.

McCartney to premiere

Sir Paul McCartney's classical music work is to have its Birmingham premiere this month.

The city's first concert performance of Ecce Cor Meum (Behold My Heart) will be staged at the Town Hall.

The hour-long musical event will be performed on March 19 by Birmingham Choral Union. Tickets cost £15 and are available from the Town Hall box office 0121 7803333.

Ocean Colour Scene at Civic

Britpop stars Ocean Colour Scene will play Wolverhampton's Civic Hall later this year, it was announced today.

The group, who delighted a packed audience at Birmingham's O2 Academy at the weekend, will be at the Civic on December 9. Tickets priced £24.50 will go on sale on Monday.

