

Former United star admits attacking ex-wife

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The former Newcastle United player and Gateshead manager targeted estranged spouse Alyson after being blocked from taking his daughter to the theatre.

The 45-year-old, who also played for Berwick Rangers, Blyth Spartans and Whitley Bay, barged his way into her house and pushed her through a set of doors, injuring her arm.

It was the latest act in a campaign of terror that has left her scared to go out, a court heard.

Now Bell, of The Square, Boyd Terrace, Westerhope, has been ordered to stay away from Alyson and take domestic violence courses to help curb his anger.

And the former Gateshead chairman must pay his ex £100 in compensation after admitting using violence to gain entry and battery.

Andrew Waters, prosecuting at Newcastle Magistrates' Court, told how Bell had previously had plans to take his daughter to the theatre but that had been cancelled by phone call and text.

Raging, he demanded entry to the house, shouting "where are the ***** tickets," before trying to break his way in.

Mr Waters said: "When shoulder-charging the door, Mrs Bell was knocked backwards and he entered the house.

"He then pushed her through a second set of doors, into the hallway and appeared to be out of control."

Bell continued swearing and shouting obscenities at Alyson, while their terrified children listened. Bell initially denied the charges and a trial was scheduled, but he eventually pleaded guilty to both.

At his latest hearing, a victim impact statement was handed to the court, which told of Alyson's years of suffering at his hands since they got together in 1996.

It said in 2003 he beat her after storming into their home, and in June 2007, a year after they married, called her while she was away to say their children had been seriously injured in a car crash, which was a lie.

The statement added: "I am extremely frightened of what Derek is capable of. For the last 18 months, I have never left a door or window open in fear of Derek coming to the house. I am even frightened to go out to the bins in fear of Derek."

Kieron O'Neill, defending, said his client, who does part-time coaching for Gateshead Football Club, has been in receipt of incapacity benefit until recently.

He was sentenced to an 18-month community order with supervision.

He also has to complete a domestic abuse course and pay £100 compensation, but no costs because he is on benefits.

Det Chief Insp Peter Reeve, of the Newcastle Area Command, said: "There's no room for any kind of violence in Newcastle and victims of domestic abuse should know they don't have to suffer in silence."

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