



Magistrate gives drunks verbal spray

SALLY GLAETZER

A HOBART magistrate has criticised disorderly drunks for making police officers' jobs more difficult.

"You're going to ruin your night and end up in court," said magistrate Chris Webster as he lectured a courtroom full of petty offenders about the perils of getting drunk and pestering the public and police.

New Norfolk siblings Luke and Britt Wardlaw both pleaded guilty yesterday to disorderly conduct relating to a drunken night at Curly's nightclub in Hobart.

The court heard Mr Wardlaw, 23, was angry and aggressive after being refused entry.

When police approached, Ms Wardlaw, 20, tried to get in their way, screaming at the top of her voice: "He hasn't done anything."

The court heard the pair were arrested in front of a large crowd.



CHOICE WORDS: Chris Webster

"Police have got a difficult enough job to do," Mr Webster said in a warning not only to the siblings, but also to the other offenders in the Hobart Magistrates Court.

"When they ask you to leave, leave . . . sometimes police just need people to clear out so they can control a situation."

Mr Webster said he would not convict the siblings because it was a first offence for both.

"You haven't got a conviction as long as you keep your nose clean for 12 months," the magistrate said.

Another defendant, Sam Joseph Dinely, of Kingston, was also at Curly's nightclub on January 10.

He was caught driving from Curly's to the Observatory waterfront nightclub about 2am with a blood alcohol reading of 0.157, three times the legal limit.

The court heard Mr Dinely lost his provisional licence the previous year when police busted him drink-driving as he left the Falls Festival.

He had incorrectly assumed his licence would simply become valid again once his disqualification period for that offence expired.

Mr Dinely pleaded guilty to drink-driving and driving without a licence.

He was banned from driving for two years and three months and fined \$1300.