



## **CITATION FOR THE 2004 RUSSELL MEDAL Richard Bailey**

On 4 April 2004 Richard Bailey, an individual Member and Award of Merit award holder of RLSS UK, was travelling in a car with his parents in Venor Road, Penge, South London, when he spotted an 8 years old boy slumped on the pavement. Richard asked his parents to stop the car and he went over to the boy. He noticed that the boy was not speaking or answering questions put to him by bystanders. Nobody seemed to know who the boy was and when he did manage to speak his speech was slurred. Richard considered all the possible causes for the boy's condition and in view of his age felt that the boy was in diabetic shock. Richard noticed the boy was wearing a medical tag stating he was an insulin dependant diabetic.

Richard asked a lady bystander to fetch a sugary drink and a blanket from a nearby church. Whilst some members of the public kept back the crowd that had gathered, Richard continued trying to talk to the boy. Unfortunately the boy's speech was now so slurred that it was impossible to understand what he was saying. Richard then requested a bystander to call an ambulance and told them to explain that the boy was in diabetic shock and deteriorating rapidly. The bystander returned to say that there were no ambulances available.

Shortly after this, a Police van arrived and an officer came over to Richard and the boy. Richard briefed the officer on the boy's condition and explained that no ambulance was available. The officer agreed to convey the boy to the hospital in the Police van. The boy was laid in the back of the van in the recovery position and Richard attended to him on the journey to hospital. The boy was having difficulty in maintaining an airway and briefly stopped breathing although a pulse was maintained. On the journey to the hospital Richard had great difficulty in keeping the boy in the recovery position and was himself thrown against the side of the van on several occasions as the van went round bends in the road in an attempt to get the boy to hospital as quickly as possible. During the journey the boy went very pale, cold and had a weak pulse and Richard felt at one time that the boy was in real danger of dying.

When the Police van arrived at the Hospital Accident and Emergency Department the boy was immediately placed on a drip and subsequently made a full recovery. Since the age of 10, Richard has undertaken lifesaving and resuscitation training at his school and holds RLSS UK life support, Bronze Medallion, Award of Merit and Life Support 3.

Farnborough hospital stated that if he had not been diagnosed so quickly, then in a few minutes he would certainly have died. It seems clear that but for Richard's swift intervention the boy could have died. In Richard's own words, "if it was not for the training I had received I would just have been another bystander not a lifesaver".

**Richard Bailey is awarded the 2004 Russell Medal**