

NIGHTSPOT BRAWLS

Man fined \$4,000 over fight at club

He punched Briton who made derogatory remarks about him

By **KHUSHWANT SINGH**

AT A members-only club in Robertson Quay in November 2010, a Briton pointed out to a Singaporean that there was a dry-cleaning tag still attached to his coat.

This casual remark made at the Filter Club in Gallery Hotel was to later fuel an angry encounter between the two.

As project manager Richard Jonathan Mills, 29, was later waiting in line to use the toilet at the club, Alexander Lincoln Chew

Yew Wah, 27, jumped the queue, and in so doing, bumped into Mr Mills, triggering a dispute.

The Briton was heard passing what District Judge Ronald Gwee said during the hearing were derogatory remarks.

Mr Mills had also egged Chew to hit him. The latter did so, landing punches until the Briton fell.

The police were called in. In a district court yesterday, Chew, who had pleaded guilty, was fined \$4,000 for causing hurt to Mr Mills that Nov 28 evening.

The Briton was in hospital for two days. He had cuts near his right eye and a scan of his head showed tissue damage.

Chew's lawyer Shashi Nathan, arguing against a jail term, said his client had been provoked by Mr Mills' remarks. The Briton had told Chew to "go back to China" – specifically, back to the launderette where he worked.

This was an application of the stereotype held by Westerners of Chinese often managing laundry outlets, said Mr Nathan. He added that, with Mr Mills being bigger, his client was "frightened, angry and insulted" and so lashed out.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Norman Yew tried to argue that Mr



Chew pleaded guilty to hurting Mr Mills, who was hospitalised for two days. ST PHOTO: WONG KWAI CHOW

Mills' comments were not derogatory, but the judge disagreed.

Chew, a 2009 Singapore Management University business graduate, runs his own firm importing sports supplements.

He could have been fined up to \$5,000, or jailed for up to two years, or both fined and jailed.

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