



# Toxteth cousins NOT GUILTY of kidnapping and raping two women

Anthony Standish and Keith Marlow cleared of all charges by jury at Liverpool Crown Court

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**Liverpool Crown Court in Derby Square**

Two Toxteth cousins have been cleared of kidnapping and raping two women.

Anthony Standish and Keith Marlow were found not guilty by a jury of eight women and three men at Liverpool Crown Court today.

Marlow, 32, and Standish, 27, always claimed the women had consented to any sexual activity and denied taking them to a secluded location in Brassey Street, Toxteth, against their will.

The jury took three hours and 45 minutes to reach a unanimous decision after a four day trial.

Under questioning from his defence counsel, Paul Becker, Standish claimed the pair had been driving towards McDonald's on the Dock Road when they noticed the women "flashing their breasts" at traffic on Upper Parliament Street. The women both denied ever exposing themselves.

The cousins had been accused of then tricking the women into Marlow's car before driving them to Brassey Street and forcing them to perform sex acts - before leaving the women at the scene

But Standish told the jury: "We asked them where are you going? And they said with you to a hotel... They said we will stay up all night drinking with you and having sex."

He claimed the older woman told Marlow to "park up somewhere" and began touching his private parts over his clothing.

Anthony O'Donohoe, representing Marlow, told the jury that while the encounter was "squalid," it was consensual.

He said: "It was pretty sordid. Wherever the truth lies. But this is not a court of morals. It's not a beauty contest or a popularity contest. It's a court of law."

Mr O'Donohoe had suggested to the women that they made up the allegation because they had done something "in drink" which they later regretted.

He suggested the woman, who were Travellers, were intending to cover the fact they had broken their community's "strict moral code" surrounding sexual behaviour.

The prosecution had suggested grazes to one of the women's knees were consistent with her claim that Marlow had dragged her from the car.

But Mr O'Donohue pointed to CCTV footage which showed the women falling to the floor before they got into the car.

The court heard the mood between the four parties had "turned nasty" after Marlow accused the younger woman of trying to steal his phone.

The cousins claimed the women threatened to get relatives to "kill you" and said they drove away as they felt "intimidated."

Throughout the trial there was a heavy police presence after police received intelligence on threats made by the families of the women to the defendants.

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/toxteth-cousins-not-guilty-kidnapping-11682606>