

## "I didn't rape her, I didn't": Teacher describes two years of hell after he's cleared of raping Tinder date

The 40-year-old says his career is in tatters after he was accused of raping a woman he met on Tinder before he was cleared.

BY **MARK NAYLOR**

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The teacher met the woman on Tinder, and he was later accused of raping her (Image: Getty Images Europe)

A teacher says his career is in tatters after he was accused of raping a woman he met on Tinder before he was cleared.

The 40-year-old has described two years of hell after being put through two trials.

And he told Grimsby Live that the ordeal has destroyed him mentally, and could prevent him returning to work.

He stood trial twice after the first jury failed to reach a verdict.

He said: "Everything I have worked for has disappeared. I can't believe the nightmare."

The man had been arrested and charged with raping the woman, in her late 20s, after two dates and when she returned to his flat after drinks in a Grimsby town centre pub.

Because he couldn't work while the case was ongoing, he is now in debt and nearly lost his home.

His first trial in July last year resulted in the jury being unable to reach a verdict and a retrial was ordered.



**The teacher, 40, was cleared of rape at Grimsby Crown Court** (Image: Grimsby Telegraph / BPM Media)

The second trial last week resulted in a not guilty verdict at Grimsby Crown Court - finally bringing an end to the anguish but triggering a whole new set of problems as he now starts to try to rebuild his life.

The teacher from Grimsby and the woman in her late 20s met through dating app Tinder. But what started off as a blossoming romance quickly became a nightmare.

The 40-year-old said: "Mentally, it has destroyed me. This was like a shock. It took me a long time to understand what exactly was going on and what I was being accused of."

The trial heard that he met the woman on the dating app and they had chatted on WhatsApp before a first date at the King's Head in Tealby. He gave her a bunch of flowers at the end of the evening after a "lovely meal".

The court heard the woman, now in her late 20s, told a friend she had enjoyed a "marvellous evening". They continued to chat online and met for a second date and a meal at the Mill House, Covenham.

They later had drinks and kissed in the Wetherspoon's pub in Grimsby but she did not want sexual intimacy because of her period.



**The teacher met his accuser at a Wetherspoon's pub in Grimsby** (Image: Daily Mirror)

She agreed to go back to his home and it was there that the alleged rape took place, although she admitted there had been no violence or threats.

She told the court: "There was no thought in my head that he would do anything that I didn't want him to do. It didn't enter my head." The woman added: "He wasn't nasty. He wasn't horrible."

She said of their dates: "We clicked straight away. We just talked all night. He was lovely. We got on really well. We met online on Tinder."

But she later went to police and complained she had been raped by the teacher.

The teacher said he heard no more about the incident until four months later when, to his shock, police charged him.

Speaking at his home in Grimsby following the case, the teacher said: "I didn't think they had any case to go on.

"I was charged but, prior to being charged, everything was so blurry. I didn't rape her, I didn't. She said that it didn't take more than 20 seconds.

"The whole thing has been a nightmare over two years."

The teacher said he may now have to change career and almost lost his home.

He said: "In the beginning, I used savings to live on because I wasn't eligible for benefits and I have been borrowing from friends," he said.

"When they put me on remand, I was in danger of losing my home," he added. "A lot was happening out of my control.

"The Crown Prosecution Service should actually do a proper investigation before charging people who have careers because it is so damaging.

"If they had done a proper investigation, I doubt very much they would have taken it to trial because, during the trial, that was when all the loopholes came out.

"If you don't do proper research, you are damaging somebody's career. My career has gone."

The man said he fears he now may never be able to teach again and says he has been targeted on social media as a result of the case.

He said: "I was a supply teacher but I haven't been able to work since the allegations due to safeguarding. I haven't been able to work at all.

"I don't think I am going to be able to teach again even though I was acquitted. The charge still stays on your records and, not only that, I've had my name tainted all over social media, now mentioning where I used to work, which makes it even more difficult.

"I am thinking about changing the direction of my career. I don't even know where to start. Everything I have worked for has disappeared. I can't believe the nightmare."

He said he has now complained to police about online harassment but senses little is being done to investigate.

He said: "I am relieved that everything has been dropped. It has taken a few days to process it. I have told the police about the online stuff but they haven't done anything about it. They haven't given me a crime number or anything. They haven't given me a log number.

"I have picked up the pieces and no one is helping me."

He said he is now considering a claim against police for not investigating the case thoroughly, in his opinion.

He said: "I am trying to see if I can get legal representatives to make a civil complaint towards the police," he said. "I believe there were a few things that they did incorrectly."

And for now he is still exploring whether he may be able to teach again.

He said: "I am trying to see if I can teach again but, from research and what I understand, I don't think I will ever be able to teach again.

"But I hope that, come September, I will be able to get back to work."

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/i-didnt-rape-her-didnt-13007185>