

Coventry Telegraph

My rape trial nightmare

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A STAR Coventry schoolboy is trying to rebuild his life after a year-long rape case ordeal.

For 12 months Jonathan Hagan has faced an accusation of raping a young fresher student.

The former pupil at Bablake School in Coventry, who is now attending Nottingham University, was charged with attacking a young woman student there.

But this week a jury found 22-year-old Mr Hagan not guilty.

Back at his parents' home in Hall Brook Road, Keresley, yesterday, he refused to discuss the trial.

But he said: "I just want to get on with my life."

At Bablake Mr Hagan was a top pupil. He had been a chess champion and represented his school and Warwickshire at hockey.

He had also been a church altar server and scout leader.

He left Bablake with four As and a B at A-level and took up a promising university place.

There he studied maths and was appointed president of of a student residents' association and also sports secretary.

One of his responsibilities was to help younger students, but his world came toppling down in October last year when he took a young woman fresher home from a party after she had been drinking.

The girl told Nottingham Crown Court that the last thing she could remember before passing out was her underwear being removed.

She woke up to find the slogan "I pulled the president" scrawled on her stomach.

But the jury took just two hours to find Mr Hagan innocent.

Back home in Coventry, Mr Hagan said: "As far as I am concerned I was found innocent and this should all be put to rest now.

"Let's all just get on with our lives."

The 18-year-old girl, who cannot be named, claimed that Mr Hagan abused her trust.

She said: "I hate him. I felt that I was taken advantage of. It has ruined my life.

"I do regret getting so drunk and being so trusting.

"If I could give advice to other women I would say don't get so drunk, stay with your friends and make sure you go home with them at night."

And a spokesman for the University of Nottingham has hit back at trial Judge Tony Mitchell's criticism of binge-drinking at the university's freshers' parties.

The spokesman said: "Week one is not all about parties and nightclub events.

"We recognise that university life is not purely about studying, but we do want our students to enjoy their time here in a safe and responsible way."

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