

**This file contains 3 reports. The first is from the *ACCRINGTON MIDWEEK OBSERVER*, July 30, 1991, page 3. The second is from the *ACCRINGTON OBSERVER*, August 22, 1991, page 3. The second is from the *ACCRINGTON MIDWEEK OBSERVER*, September 17, 1991, page 2.**

# Strict bail for man accused of rape

A MAN pleading not guilty to rape appeared before Hyndburn magistrates on Thursday.

Nicholas Heath Couldwell, 21, of China Street, Accrington, will appear before the Bench again on 5 September to face committal proceedings.

He was remanded on bail on condition that he resides in Blackpool, does not enter Hyndburn except to see his solicitor or attend court, and does not contact the woman concerned in any way whatsoever.

He must also report daily to the police and adhere to a curfew.

Couldwell is also charged with criminal damage and using threatening behaviour.

## Rape charge is withdrawn

AN ACCUSATION of rape against a 21-year-old man was withdrawn when he appeared before Hyndburn magistrates.

Nicholas Heath Couldwell, of China Street, Accrington, denied two further allegations of carrying an offensive weapon and using threatening behaviour, but admitted causing damage to two tyres.

Couldwell was remanded on conditional bail until 13 September.

# False rape claim led to threats

**A MAN decided it was time to sort things out after his girlfriend wrongly accused him of rape.**

Nicholas Heath Couldwell went round to see Julie Little armed with a tyre lever and threatened to "cave her head in" with it.

He also slashed the tyres on her brother-in-law's car, Hyndburn magistrates heard.

Couldwell, 21, of China Street, Accrington, was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months.

He was also given a 12-month conditional discharge for using threatening behaviour and fined £150 with an order for £89.30 compensation and £30 costs.

He pleaded guilty to the offences but a further allegation of possessing an offensive weapon was withdrawn after the prosecution offered no evidence.

Mrs Christiana Buchanan, prosecuting, said that Mrs Little, who was the mother of Couldwell's child, made a complaint to the police alleging that the defendant had raped her.

After Couldwell heard what had happened, he went to the home of Mrs Little's brother-in-law, Mr Sowerbutts, of Warwick Street, Church, and

slashed two tyres on his car.

He then went to a house in South Shore Street, Church, and started shouting and swearing at the occupants after being told that his girlfriend was not there.

He was chased off by police who were called to the scene, but later he returned armed with a tyre lever and threatened to cave his girlfriend's head in with the tool.

## Pram

Mrs Buchanan said Couldwell later told police he was convinced Mrs Little was in the house because he saw the child's pram outside.

Mr Graeme Parkinson, defending, said his client "did not know whether he was coming or going" with his girlfriend, because on some occasions she was very friendly while at other times she was hostile and aggressive.

He added: "He became extremely angry when he heard that a false allegation of rape had been made against him."

Mr Parkinson said Couldwell now accepted that their relationship was over.