



## NEWS

# Eton teacher guilty of sexual abuse on Solihull girl

Eton College rowing coach David Rachel has been convicted of sexually abusing a girl when he was a teenager in Solihull.

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Eton College rowing coach David Rachel has been convicted of sexually abusing a girl when he was a teenager in Solihull.

Rachel, of Sheepcote Road, Eton Wick, Windsor, had denied two charges of raping the girl and five of indecently assaulting her when he lived on Warwick Road, in the 1980's.

But the 45 year-old, who once coached the British junior rowing team, was found guilty of four of the indecent assaults at Warwick Crown Court.

He was cleared of the rape and the fifth indecent assault charge.

Judge Christopher Hodson ordered Rachel, who had been a rowing coach at Eton since 2001, to register as a sex offender.

Rachel left the prestigious school 'by agreement' following his arrest there in January last year.

The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report to be prepared.

After the jury returned its verdicts prosecutor James Dunstan revealed that in 1990 Rachel had been given a conditional discharge for assault.

And in 1998 North-west Hampshire magistrates had also given him a conditional discharge for intentionally causing alarm or distress after he had been seen through the window of his flat exposing himself.

Rachel was granted bail with conditions that he lives at his current address in Laggan Road, Maidenhead, and has no contact with any of the prosecution witnesses.

Judge Hodson warned him: "These are serious matters, in view of the tender age of the girl."

Prosecutor James Dunstan had told the jury that the offences took place when Rachel was in his mid-teens and the girl, who also lived in Solihull at the time, was aged from about 10 to 14.

The victim said that she discovered Rachel was teaching rowing at Eton at the end of 2009 and became "alarmed that he had contact with children".



Rachel, in his evidence, denied indecently assaulting the girl, although he said they had kissed on a couple of occasions out of "curiosity".

Rachel said that he had been a boarder at Carmel College from the age of 16, and after fluffing his A-levels went to work in London before returning to Solihull and re-sitting the exams at Solihull College.

He then went to university, and after gaining a degree and a teaching certificate, he did teaching practice at Birmingham's King David Jewish school and then taught at schools in London before taking up his position as a rowing coach at Eton.

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