

BETWEEN: -

**(1) MR GAVIN REES
(2) MS JANINE REES**

Claimants

-v-

**(1) THE BRITISH DRIVING SOCIETY
(2) CIMLA RIDE AND DRIVE CLUB
(3) MR GERALD POULTON**

Defendants

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MODRIS KESANS

I, Modris Kesans of 2 Greenfield Cottages, Tydraw Road, Bonymaen, Swansea WILL SAY as follows:-

1. I am making this statement in respect of events surrounding the tragic death of the Claimants' daughter, Angharad Rees, whilst she was taking part in a British Driving Society (BDS) organised fun day ride and drive event in Afan Argoed Country Park on 27 May 2012.
2. I was the Chairman of the Welsh branch of the BDS at the time, and had been for 6 years.
3. I was not at the event on the day of the tragic accident but I had been approached several months earlier by John Green, the former Chairman of the Cimla Ride and Drive Club to ask if the event could be held under the auspices of the BDS.
4. I had no objections to this and agreed to contact the Area Commission, Gwenda Kesans, who is also my daughter in law, to see if she was happy with it.
5. I spoke to Gwenda who confirmed that she had no problem with it being a BDS event either.
6. I was aware that the event had been run as a Cimla event for many years but the number of members had dwindled over the years. As such, the club were not able to run the event in their own right because of this and the costs of insurance.

7. After Gwenda had agreed to the BDS running the event, I left the organisational side of it to her and John and didn't get directly involved.
8. However, I know the route of the drive in the Afan Argoed country park and have driven it many times myself.
9. I have also driven down the bridleway in question and taken a pair of horses and carriage down there.
10. On the day of the event, I was contacted by either John or Gwenda to advise that Angharad Rees had been badly injured and subsequently died.
11. I went to the scene the following morning with Gwenda, John, Mary Jones and Gerald Poulton.
12. The track looked normal apart from evidence of passing horses and carriages of the other participants at a steady pace. There were no additional marks to show what had occurred to Angharad. There was no marks or other evidence of the carriage having been tipped over or the pony having fallen. There was a fresh mark in the bark of a tree near to the track where something had come in contact with it about 5ft. off the ground. At the base of the tree there the remains of cotton wool etc. that had been left by the paramedics who treated Angharad where she lay.
13. I also recall telephoning Richard Lanni, who was the overall Chairman of the BDS at the time, to tell him that about the accident.
14. I had no concerns about the tracks suitability

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true

Signed ... *M J Hesans*

Dated ... *8/7/16*

CLAIM NO: B11YM125

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT CARDIFF

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Defendants

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MODRIS KESANS

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