

Beryl Doreen Lillian Newman

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MOTOR CYCLING ACCIDENT AT NEWPORT

RYDE GIRL FATALLY INJURED

At an inquest held by the coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster) at Ryde Town Hall on Tuesday the jury returned a verdict of accidental death on Beryl Doreen Lillian Newman, aged 16, of 15a Castle Street, Ryde who was fatally injured in a motor cycle accident near Binfield Corner, on the main Newport-Ryde road, on Friday week. They attached no blame to those concerned with the accident. Mr. F. W. H. Cool represented Alfred John Dear, the 17-year-old motor-cyclist, and Mr. P. H. Rolf appeared for Mr. Carmino Salero, of 71 Mill Hill, Cowes, whose car was involved in the accident. Mr. C. G. Newman was foreman of the jury.

Mr. Dear, a garage hand, of Hurstake, Riverside, Newport, who was using crutches, said that he was riding his machine with Miss Newman as pillion passenger from Newport to Ryde at about 10.30 p.m.

Dazzled by headlights

As they reached Round House Hill travelling at about 45 miles an hour, he saw the beams of approaching headlights, and when he topped the hill he was dazzled by the headlights of two vehicles driving abreast. He could not remember whether the lights were dipped. He was dazzled and drew into the side of the road as far as he could and then felt a sharp blow on the right leg. His machine went into a wobble and hit the nearside hedge and he was thrown over the handlebars. He found his passenger unconscious on the road beside the machine and made her as comfortable as possible. - By Mr. Cool: He dipped his light before breasting the hill. The car that struck him appeared to be travelling towards him and then pulled in slightly. His machine was in perfect working order, but after the collisions he found his gear lever on the road by Miss Newman. - By Mr. Rolf: he had been riding a motor-cycle over a period of 19 months.

Motor-Cycle Swerved

Mr. Salero, a master butcher, said that he was driving his car from East Cowes to Newport at about 30 miles an hour and, as he approached the bend, was signalled on by a motor-coach driver. He overtook with a clear road ahead and with his lights dipped. He had regained his proper side when about a hundred yards away he saw a motor-cycle's headlight approaching from Newport at a fast speed. The machine made a half-circle swerve across the road and he thought it was going to hit him. The cyclist missed the bonnet of his car and then he heard a bump on the back mudguard. He pulled up and went to the motor-cycle, which was on its side about 150 yards back and three feet from its near-side hedge. By Mr. Cool: The accident occurred on his (witness's) side of the white line and not while he was regaining his side after having overtaken the coach.- By Mr. Rolf: He had been driving for 25 years.

Heard Grating Noise

Frederick Oliver Driver, of Rookwood, New Road, Brighstone, a bus driver for Messrs. Shotters Ltd., said that he could not remember waving on the last witness's car which was travelling at between 25-30 miles an hour. The car was about 50 yards ahead when he saw the motor-cycle approaching at a very fast speed. The headlight appeared to draw into the side of the car, and then he heard a grating noise and the machine went back to its near side. - In reply to Mr. Cool, witness said that the car had regained its correct side when the accident occurred.- By Mr. Rolf: There was no vehicle in the way when he signalled the car to overtake.

P.C. J. Knights stated that he arrived on the scene while on mobile patrol duty and found the distance between the cycle and the car was about 145 yards. The cycle's gear change lever was broken off, the off-side foot-rest was bent, and the pillion passenger's foot-rests were bent back. The off-side rear door of the car was grazed and the rear off-side wing was bent in half. There were no marks on the road.

Albert Frank Newman, the girl's father, said that she had frequently ridden pillion on the motor-cycle; he had done so himself and it was satisfactory.

Dr. S. C. DOBSON, the Island pathologist, said that Miss Newman died almost immediately after admission to the Royal I.W. County Hospital. Death was due to cerebral haemorrhage caused by a fractured skull.

Conflict of the Evidence

The Coroner said that there was a conflict of evidence. The cyclist said that he was dazzled, and he thought the jury should accept that, but he felt Dear was mistaken when he said that the overtaking car had not completed its course when he struck it, because there was the impartial evidence of the bus driver.

The jury expressed sympathy with Mr. Newman, and the Coroner and the police associated themselves with the sentiments.

The Funeral

There was a large congregation at the funeral service at the Victoria Methodist Church, Newport, on Thursday. The Rev. W. C. Cardy officiated and Mr. W. G. Bartlett (at the organ) accompanied the hymns "The King of love" and "I heard the voice." The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Newman (parents), Messrs. G. Burt and J. Foster (uncles), Mesdames M. French, E. Lee, M. Glen, and D. Foster (aunts), Mr. H. Porter (great-uncle), Mesdames K. Cooper and E. Taylor (great-aunts), Mr. L. Spanner and Mesdames N. Hallam and J. King (cousins), Mr. Alfred J., Mr. and Mrs. A. J., Mr. T., and Mrs. O. Dear, and many friends and former fellow pupils of the Newport County Grammar School. The interment was at Newport Cemetery, and wreaths included those from neighbours in Pyle Street, Newport, and the Sir Edward Riley Lodge, R.A.O.B. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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