

## Widow of motorcyclist killed in accident sues skateboarder who stepped into road

The widow of a man killed when he swerved his motorbike to avoid a skateboarder is suing the teenager for £300,000.

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Father-of-three Tim Honey, 47, died of multiple injuries after he crashed his Suzuki motorcycle as he tried to avoid a collision with Lewis Hart.

Lewis, then 15, and friend Marcus Andrews, also 15, were skateboarding to school when Marcus fell off his board which rolled into the road.

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Lewis stepped into the road to recover the board but wandered into the path of Tim, who clipped him and then ploughed into an oncoming car.

Tim's widow Suzanne Honey, 47, has now launched a legal action and is suing Lewis Hart for £300,000 accusing him of negligence.

The crash was thought to be the first time a motorist had been killed in skateboard-related road accident in Britain.

If Mrs Honey is successful in suing the boy it could pave the way for millions of similar claims including the families of people killed after swerving to avoid pedestrians and children.

A six page writ issued at the High Court claims Lewis, now aged 18, was negligent in running into the road without a proper check to see whether there was any approaching traffic.

The writ says he failed to see or hear Mr Honey's motorbike and he was negligent for running into the path of traffic.

Andrew Campbell, the Honey family's lawyer, believes there are no recorded cases of a driver dying in a road traffic accident involving a skateboard.

Mrs Honey, a yacht firm worker from Plymouth, Devon, refused to talk about the case.

She said: "I didn't want to talk about the accident at the time and I don't want to talk about it now."

Mr Honey, a tools technician, was killed as he rode his powerful Suzuki GSX-R1000 to work at around 8am on April 20, 2007.

Lewis had been skateboarding to school when his friend Marcus lost control of his 'long board' which rolled off the pavement.

The teen suffered a broken collar bone after he was struck a "glancing blow" as he stepped into the road to recover the board.

But Mr Honey died instantly after his Suzuki GSX-R1000 careered into an incoming Vauxhall Vectra. Tests later showed neither vehicle had been breaking the 40mph limit.

Speaking at an inquest in 2007, Lewis said he had looked both ways before stepping into the road to retrieve his friend's board.

He said: "I stepped out, as the skateboard appeared to be only a couple of feet away from the curb. I stepped out and cannot remember anything else about the collision."

Lewis' friend Marcus told the inquest they used the same route every day that week and said his friend had looked before he stepped into the road.

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