

Teenage couple and friend killed when BMW crashed into tree

David Brown

Three teenagers were killed when the BMW in which they were travelling left the road and hit a tree near their home on Sunday afternoon.

Ryan Barber, 19, his girlfriend, Trudi-Mae Kennell, 18, and their friend Will Louch, all from from Atherstone, Warwickshire, had been returning from a weekend walking in Snowdonia.

They were killed instantly in the crash at Baxterley, three miles from home, at 4.40pm. A fourth man, Dan

Whale, 18, who was in the back, was flown to hospital with serious injuries.

Tammi Garcia Sanchez, Mr Barber's mother, wrote on Facebook: "It's with a broken heart... That my baby boy Ryan Barber passed away yesterday afternoon in a car accident along with his beautiful girlfriend. I'm so sorry to the people who are reading this that I haven't told... My heart is broken and I'm not sure how life will carry on without my baby boy."

Mr Barber had been training to be a scaffolder. Miss Kennell was a recep-



Will Louch, Trudi-Mae Kennell and Ryan Barber had been driving home from a walking holiday in Snowdonia

tionist and a lifeguard at Atherstone Leisure Complex. She previously went to what is now Queen Elizabeth Academy in Atherstone.

One of her friends wrote on Facebook: "You made me so happy in so many ways, and I could sit here and write a book on how everyone feels about you."

Another friend of the couple said: "Trudi and Ryan were inseparable. They were the most gorgeous, happy, loving couple. Their deaths have torn our lives apart." Mr Louch's aunt Susan

Louch, 52, said: "We found out [about his death] in the early hours. We are all still in a state of shock. All we know is that he was on his way back from Snowdonia. It's awful."

Sergeant Carl Stafford, of Warwickshire police, said: "We are in the very early stages of the investigation and I would urge anyone who witnessed the collision to contact police."

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "Unfortunately, it became apparent that nothing could be done to save three of the patients."

Fire chief 'fondled colleague in lewd game'

A fire chief played a lewd game with a female firefighter, scoring points by squeezing her breasts at work, a court heard yesterday.

David "Dai" Lewis is also accused of "kegging" the woman — pulling her trousers down to her ankles when she was not expecting it.

Mr Lewis, who is married, denies five charges of sexually touching without consent. He said that the games were just part of "garage humour" at the fire station in Wales.

Swansea crown court heard that he was sacked as crew manager for his behaviour towards the younger officer, who was left "embarrassed" and in tears. The jury was told that on one occasion the woman, in her twenties, was sitting on the lavatory in the ladies' facilities when Mr Lewis burst in.

Craig Jones, for the prosecution, said: "It began with inappropriate sexual comments. He would refer to the size of her breasts and offer to use his tools to help her if she required assistance."

"He would make sexual gestures with his fingers and tongue."

The court heard that the abuse became physical and Mr Lewis grabbed the firefighter's breasts when she was carrying a tray of teas and coffees for her colleagues.

Mr Jones said: "She would tell him not to do it but he would laugh and call her a slag, saying she 'loved it'."

"He would make sure she went up the stairs first and then touch her bottom. "At the top the stairs he would pull her trousers down. There was an occasion when she was sitting on the loo and he pushed the door open so that others could see her sitting there."

The court heard that "kegging" was a popular practice at the station.

Mr Jones said: "Lewis claimed it was garage humour and that the woman was a willing participant, claiming she had done 'kegging' to him."

In a police interview, played to the jury, the woman said: "It started off by him referring to my figure and the size of my breasts."

She broke down in tears as described how Mr Lewis would follow her up stairs at the fire station and pull down her jogging bottoms.

"My personal space had been entered and I had no control over what he was going to do," she said.

The firefighter added that Mr Lewis's conduct got "worse and worse" as time went by. "It was ongoing every day. I would tell him, 'Don't do that, stop' but he would say, 'Shut up you slag, you love it,'" she told police.

The woman said that Mr Lewis would also blame her period if she was in a bad mood.

The trial continues.



Flight crew Royal swan uppers, with others from the Dyers' and Vintners' livery companies, check the health of cygnets during the annual census on the Thames

Police memorial charity spends £640,000 on private consultants

Billy Kenber Investigations Reporter

A charity that was given £1 million of taxpayers' money to build a memorial to fallen police officers has paid more than £600,000 in management fees to a consultancy company.

The UK Police Memorial Trust has raised £2.5 million of the £4 million it needs to build a permanent memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield, Staffordshire.

The government has committed £1 million to the project from fines levied on banks for manipulating Libor and it has received the backing of the Duke of Cambridge.

The trust, which is chaired by Sir Hugh Orde, former president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, aims to build a memorial featuring a brass screen with sections cut out in the shape of leaves that will be given to bereaved families, by early 2019. A digital memorial, grants for families of staff killed in the line of duty and an education programme are also planned.

However, £640,000 has already been paid out in "trust and project manage-

ment fees", according to the charity's accounts. The sum has been spent since March 2014, putting the charity on course to spend more than £1 million on management fees by the time of the memorial's expected completion.

The money went to Morgen Thomas Limited, a company not named in the trust's annual accounts and mentioned only once in small print on an illustration of the memorial's design on the charity's website.

Morgen Thomas's website says that it has a team which "directs and manages all day-to-day aspects of the charity", covering everything from fundraising to government relations.

The spending on management fees is distinct from more than £300,000 spent on the design and construction of the memorial and an associated smartphone app, according to documents filed at Companies House.

Alex May, a blogger who writes about charities, said that the figures raised questions about whether funds were being used effectively. "Management is outsourced to a private company, yet both sets of charity accounts hide the



The £4 million tribute is to be built at the National Memorial Arboretum

firm and its role," he said, adding that "management costs are excessive for a charity this size — and increasing" and called on the trust to "spend the money it raises more effectively".

The charity said that the £640,000 spent on management fees included the cost of "ongoing management of the design and build process", with the majority going towards paying for "specialist management of the development of the memorial".

It said that it expected to spend

£400,000 on "essential support functions such as fundraising, governance, communication and engagement, marketing and PR" over the course of the project, with three-quarters of this already spent.

In a statement, Morgen Thomas Ltd said that it was "honoured to be serving the UK Police Memorial". The company said that its services were "delivered at cost, designed to be commensurate with management costs had the trust employed staff, and strictly reflect the time required to provide the very wide range of services for which we are contracted".

It said that the salaries of its staff which were being met by the charity were "not marked up to generate profit on the assignment as would be usual practice for any similar business".

The project has proved controversial with some police officers because there is already a police memorial in central London. The National Memorial Arboretum, which is located on the edge of the National Forest, already has monuments to the armed forces, voluntary organisations and civil groups.