

Innocent man tells of fight to rebuild his life after sex case

By GREGG FRAY

A BLACKPOOL man has today told of his battle to clear his name after he was accused of sex offences against a young girl.

Harry Turner even took a lethal overdose to try to end his life after the world believed he was guilty of the accusations.

Disabled Harry Turner's wife left him and he was shunned by his whole family after he was arrested on nine charges of indecent assault.

Blame

Now he is beginning to rebuild his life after a court cleared him of any blame.

Mr Turner says he did not even know what he was supposed to have done when police went to the Whitegate Drive Day Centre, which he attended, to arrest him.

For a year, he has lived with the prospect of going to jail as a pervert for something he had not done.

Finally, after spending weeks in Blackpool Victoria Hospital following a suicide attempt, he has now been found innocent of all charges. Mr Turner, 62, a for-

I have been treated like scum and people will take a long time to come round

— Harry Turner

mer refuse collector, of Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, said today: "I have been through hell.

"You will never understand how bad it has been. Now it has been proved I have done nothing wrong.

"It has turned my world upside down - I would never wish anybody to be in that situation."

Following a three-day trial, a jury at Preston Crown Court took just one hour to find him not guilty of any of the charges.

"I have been treated like scum and people will take a long time to come round," he said.

Shunned by society, Mr Turner said he is going to try to rebuild his life after his ordeal.

He said: "These lies have destroyed me. So many times I have just wanted to end it all - just because people believed the girl.

"All it takes is for someone to take a dislike to you and say something like this and your life is over."