

County man cleared of indecency

COUNTY man George Lewis was acquitted of indecency charges involving little boys after claiming there was a vendetta against him.

Lewis (53) had denied five charges of indecent assault and was found not guilty after the Lincoln Crown Court jury had been out overnight.

During the week-long trial it was revealed by prosecuting barrister Richard Inghall that Lewis had once been deported from Rhodesia after being convicted of indecency involving a male person.

Victim

Lewis claimed in the witness box that the fresh allegations were made by a former friend who had found out about his past. He alleged he had become the victim of an attempted blackmail plot.

Lewis claimed the man, the father of two of the children

involved, had become annoyed because he would not go into business with him.

"I was successful in business and he thought he would like to be part of it," said Lewis of Livingstone Avenue, Thorpe Sands, near Mablethorpe.

Shady

He alleged the man and the boys "got their heads together" to "blackguard" him.

"I was unwilling to go into shady business ventures with him such as a betting shop," said the defendant.

That put their friendship under strain and it was further affected, alleged Lewis, when the man realised Lewis's brother was a Jew. "He doesn't particularly like Jews," alleged Lewis.

During the trial, the man, who cannot be named to protect the identity of the children, verbally abused Lewis several times and had to be warned about his conduct by the trial judge, Richard Hutchinson.