

Hi Lesley,

The next entry I put on the case Blog could be dynamite! What did your judge friend think?

It's hard to prove but essentially I will call into question whether the judge colluded to fix the trial. I've been wary of saying anything previously as it could drop me in trouble but I am approaching it as a journalist now.

I realised it as I prepared to attempt to get permission to appeal in 2008 - the Court of Appeal really didn't want to know, but I wonder if they were aware that this was a stitch-up anyway and went along with it - being told by everyone I was lying.

Sir Nicholas Warren QC was the judge, and I noticed after the strange judgment that went against me in 2007 (he IGNORED all my evidence!) that he was on the board of the Competition Appeal Tribunal with a Justice Gerald Barling QC, who had just become a High Court judge and taken this position THAT YEAR!

I remembered Margaret saying she had a relative who was a senior lawyer and QC, and circuit judge, and lived in Kidderminster, as Sir Gerald does. She got to know him a few years before when she was researching the Barling family tree. They are distantly related, but the Barlings are very clan-like. Strangely, Gerald Barling actually does resemble a younger version of Margaret's late father, and Margaret herself. So that rang alarm bells too.

Then I noticed that Warren and Barling both went to Oxford in the same year and are both long-time benchers at Middle Temple.

My theory has been since 2007 that Margaret and her barrister sought the advice and assistance of Barling when it looked like they'd got themselves in a pickle. They no doubt said I was lying - and when I saw Margaret last year I realised for the first time that she really DID believe I was lying about seeing my Dad on 12th Oct 04! So she presumably presented it with some conviction.

That she ignored how much I'd pieced together of what actually did happen is strange but reflects her naivety. She would have lost the whole thing had she not had help, although this wasn't helped by two of my witnesses not turning up to Court while her brother and friend came to Court to present their lies.

So that was the clincher, corruption at the top of the British legal system, rooted in the old boys' network and the Barling family clan.

And I know it is a clan - a couple of times in the 90s I turned up when the Barlings were having a family reunion, which they included my father in. I've never felt so unwelcome at anything, and I was on good terms with my father and Margaret then. So odd... but of course they wanted Margaret to inherit from my father and my brother and I (and Nicola and the boys) represented a threat to that.

Hope all's well,  
Ian