

Cyclist suffers devastating injury in Market Harborough crash caused by speeding driver

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When Steven Lee regained consciousness the car next to him was on fire



Steven before last year's accident

A cyclist left paralysed from the chest down after a crash has spoken for the first time about regaining consciousness with a car on fire beside him.

Father-of-two Steven Lee, of [Wigston](#), has spoken about the crash to raise awareness for Road Safety Week.

The 49-year-old was waiting at a junction on the A5199 near [Market Harborough](#) when a speeding driver smashed into another car, knocking it into him.

The incident happened in July 2017 at the Shearsby crossroads.

Steven, who has been unable to return to his job as a project manager because of his spinal injury, said: "I was almost at the top of the junction when I noticed a car coming down the hill, obviously going too fast to be able to stop at the give way.

"It all happened very quickly.

"The car on the main road was hit by the car coming down the hill and then I can't remember anything until I woke up on my back on the grass verge.

"I couldn't move, and I realised immediately that I couldn't feel any part of my body below my chest.

"One of the cars was very close to me and I could feel the heat and realised that it was on fire.

"The people who came to my help were absolutely brilliant, I said to them 'I think I'm paralysed'.

"Thankfully the emergency services soon arrived."



To mark Road Safety Week later this month, Steven is urging motorists to take more care

Steven was airlifted to [University Hospital in Coventry](#).

After about two weeks he was transferred to a specialist spinal injuries unit in Shropshire and was discharged in January 2018, six months after the collision.

The speeding driver pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

[He received an 18-month jail term](#), suspended for two years, 180 hours of community service work and was disqualified from driving for three years.

Steven and his wife Jo have had to move out of the family home into a wheelchair-accessible property.

He may also have to undergo further surgery on his spine to prevent further injuries in the future.

Steven said: "Prior to the accident I took my fitness seriously.

"As well as cycling I enjoyed sailing, fishing, walking and led an active lifestyle.

"But all that changed in a split-second. The many months in hospital were really hard. The support of my friends and family really helped me through that time.

"It has been difficult coming to terms with how life is different, not only for me but also for my family.

"The injuries I sustained are not only personally life changing, but they also impact the ones who are closest to you.

"I just hope that by speaking out drivers realise the hurt and pain they can cause by breaking the law."

Steven sought help from serious injury lawyers at Irwin Mitchell to help him get money for the specialist therapies and rehabilitation he now requires.

Sarah Parkin, a lawyer at Irwin Mitchell, said: “Sadly, we continue to see too many people whose lives have been turned upside down as a consequence of road traffic collisions, particularly cyclists.

“The injuries which Steven suffered through no fault of his own have had a major impact on him and his family.

“They are still trying to come to terms with how their lives have changed forever.

“We join Steven in supporting Road Safety Week and urge motorists to take care at all times to reduce the number of cyclists being seriously injured or killed.”