



## *Stratton St. Margaret*

### **Court told bankrupt had backseat role**

Robert Eddolls, 62, of Highworth Road, Stratton St Margaret, denies being concerned with the management of Eddolls International Transport Ltd while being an undischarged bankrupt between May 1997 and April 1999. Prosecuting, Christopher Parker claims Eddolls was in charge of the company even though he was adjudged to be bankrupt in May 1997 following a creditors' petition. Mr Parker told Swindon Crown Court that Christopher Knott, of Cirencester, was registered as the firm's company director. But Mr Parker claims that though Eddolls was prohibited from doing so, he actually controlled the business, employing drivers and other staff, deciding when fuel bills should be paid and deciding whether the company should take on new delivery contracts. Yesterday, friends and former colleagues of Eddolls told the jury that Mr Knott was the man in charge of the business, not Eddolls. Sheree Delamere told the court she started work in an administration role at Eddolls International Transport Ltd from July 1997, first at its yard in Southrop and then its new depot at Marshgate, Stratton. "Chris Knott was in the office, I was in the office and Chris Knott was in control," she told the jury. "Mr Eddolls did quite a lot of work in the warehouse. There was quite a lot to sort out. "He was in the office talking to people but mostly he was out and about in the yard. "He would just be helping with the forklifts." Insurance broker Frank Alexander said he had known Eddolls for 30 years. He told the court that, as part-owner of a premises in Marshgate, he had dealt with Eddolls International Transport Ltd when it moved into Marshgate. "Mr Knott was fully in charge," Mr Alexander said. He added that, while collecting rent once a month, he saw Eddolls occasionally mostly outside on the forklift. "He has always been very honest and very open about things," Mr Alexander said. "You would probably never get a harder worker. "I know nothing to his detriment. He starts work very, very early and he gets home very late at night." Lorry driver Paul Hicks said he was given a job at the firm by Chris Knott. "Mr Eddolls just made sure the lorries and trailers were ready to run," Mr Hicks told the court. The case continues.

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