

## Rossi identity confirmed at US rape trial

Nicholas Rossi is set to stand trial in the United States after his lawyer finally confirmed his identity, bringing a farcical legal stand-off to an end.

The 37-year-old is accused of raping two women in Utah before fleeing across the Atlantic and starting a new life in Glasgow using a fake name and contrived identity.

He was deported from Scotland in January after a judge ruled that he had masqueraded as a Dublin-born academic called Arthur Knight.

Rossi's initial court appearances in Utah stalled after he continued to insist he was Knight and claimed he was the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

He refused to have a lawyer allocated and said he would represent himself.

However, Rossi agreed to be represented by Samantha Dugan, a publicly funded defence attorney.

Tom Mooney, a reporter with The Providence Journal in Rossi's home state of Rhode Island, said: "In US court parlance, to stipulate a fact means it can be accepted by both sides without contention. His lawyer confirmed his true identity."

Prosecutors allege that Rossi raped a former girlfriend after an argument in Salt Lake County in 2008.

He is also accused of raping a 21-year-old woman in Orem, Utah, in the same year.

At the latest hearing in Utah, Rossi was clean shaven and wore a prison uniform.

Rossi will appear in court again in Salt Lake City on October 17.

## Isle rocket explosion

Engineers have identified a "very unusual" oxygen fire in a turbopump as the reason a rocket engine exploded during a test at the spaceport in Shetland earlier this week.

The blast on Monday has delayed a German company's efforts to carry out the first vertical satellite launch from European soil.

Rocket Factory Augsburg (RFA) said launching in the coming weeks or months was "no longer possible".

Nobody was hurt during the incident at the privately owned SaxaVord Spaceport on Unst.

However, the first stage of the RFA One rocket was destroyed in the blast, meaning a replacement will need to be brought from Germany.

In a video, a spokesman for the company said they had collected a significant amount of data and footage from the blast.

The video shows a plume of fire extending from the base of the rocket, indicating a problem with one of the engines.



Rocket blast.

# Stories of hope: How led to an inspirational

# one man's tale of beating the odds has book about those who battle cancer

By Murray Scougall  
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**Standing on top of Ben Hope, surrounded by blue skies he could almost touch, Kevin Donaghy couldn't help but think of the dark clouds that had almost swallowed him not too long before.**

Diagnosed with stage four, life-limiting and incurable melanoma – just 18 months after believing he had beaten the disease – was "a wrecking ball of cancer" swinging its way through his and his family's lives.

That the news came on Friday the 13th, and just 12 days before Christmas, added to the funeral atmosphere in the oncologist's office, where he was told that 66% of people with his type of cancer and on his treatment plan were dead within 12 months. At 50, he thought he was preparing for his last Christmas with his wife Sophie and their two children.

Instead, more than four years later, he stood at the peak of the most northerly Munro with his sister, brother-in-law and niece. He did so while still living with cancer, but his tumours have shrunk to the point where his oncologist can't see them. Hope, he says, has played a pivotal role in his cancer fight.

"Like a lot of blokes, I thought I could handle it but starting treatment and then going straight into lockdown affected mine and my family's mental health," Kevin, from Melrose, said. "I knew I had to reach out and try to find people going through something similar."

"Sharing my story and hearing other people's gave me a lot of hope. Hope means different things to different people, and it can change as well. When I was first diagnosed, I hoped I could be cured, then I hoped I had enough time to achieve things like another Christmas, to see my son Stephen graduate, to see my daughter Katherine go to university, to see Scotland at a major football championship again.

"Hope can maybe mean a pain-free death, or that the

**Four years on from his diagnosis, Kevin is making the most of having "been given more time". He went to Euro 2024 in Germany with his best friend and family members and has recently climbed the aptly-named Ben Hope.**

family will be ok after we're not around.

"I thought it would be a good idea to gather stories from across the UK and about different cancers to find out what hope means to other people and to hopefully help others through it."

Kevin has collected 39 stories in his book, *Stories Of Cancer And Hope*. He used his contacts gathered in the IT industry to secure sponsorship for the first print runs, and he has given more than 7,000 copies to 90

different charities and cancer treatment centres, including all eight Maggie centres in Scotland. Now, he has agreed a distribution deal for the book to become more widely available, with all royalties going to Maggie's.

It was important to Kevin that the book did not shy away from showing the heartbreak and loss of cancer, but at the publication's core is a message of positivity.

"You learn to let go of what should and could have been,

and focus on what will be," Kevin said. "When faced with a life-changing medical situation, trying to adopt a positive attitude really helps – it helped me and I've spoken to hundreds affected by cancer, and I think that's almost half the battle."

Kevin was diagnosed with melanoma on his left forearm in late 2017. He had the cyst removed, as well as a lymph node from under his arm. He was told it hadn't spread. But when back pain led to a CT scan 18 months later, he was told the

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Kevin was 50 when he was diagnosed with skin cancer.



DEBORAH CAIRNS FROM GLASGOW

The chemotherapy sessions continued when I was well enough and one day I sat opposite a woman in her 70s who had diamond rings covering her fingers. I couldn't take my eyes off her hands.

Every finger had at least two beautiful rings, sparkling away in this place of darkness. She saw me looking and asked if I wanted to know the story behind them. I said "yes" and she explained that when she was first diagnosed with cancer she was told her lifespan would be very limited.

Her husband had bought her a diamond ring and promised to buy her a new one for every year she survived.

Thanks to advances in cancer treatment, she had survived for more than two decades and had so many rings that her husband joked about killing her to save money!

It's strange to think how you can laugh about cancer, but sometimes laughter is a great release, and her story gave me so much hope.

When I think of what hope meant to me, shortly after finishing my chemotherapy, I travelled to New Zealand and met my friend's mum at a wedding.

She came over to me and gave me a huge hug and said she had been diagnosed with breast cancer 20 years ago.

Despite still having cancer when I met her, she had an amazing quality of life because of the treatment she received.

Fast forward another 10 years and we are both still here. This gives me so much hope.

**At least £1 from every sale will go to Maggie's.**



wife sold her business. We're spending more time with family and friends and enjoying life. I've started walking Munros – although I'm not going for all of them."

As far as those hopes he had when he was told his cancer was incurable, Kevin has enjoyed more Christmases, he has seen his son graduate and his daughter start university, and he was in the stands in Germany to cheer on Scotland against Switzerland earlier this summer, with his

best friend, sister and son by his side.

And while he may not have the appetite to bag every Munro, there was one he knew he must climb, and it had to be Hope.

*Stories Of Cancer And Hope by Kevin Donaghy is available to purchase from Amazon, directly from publisher Swan & Horn, from all good bookshops, and from storiesofcancerandhope.co.uk. At least £1 from every sale will go towards supporting Maggie's cancer centres.*

## RICKY NICOL FROM EDINBURGH

I had convinced myself I would die. It just seemed logical. It was 2006 and at the age of 44 my experience of cancer, or the Big C as my parents and grandparents called it when I was growing up, was that once diagnosed all thoughts turned to life without my great aunt, my uncle or grandmother. People just died in the 1960s,

70s and 80s once they were diagnosed. Cancer was a killer and I now had it. Squamous cell carcinoma. It's not easy to say and even harder to treat. The cancer was in my throat and was making it harder to eat, drink and talk. My wife Joan sat by my side and I needed to know, "Will I die from this cancer?" The best answer I got was that without

treatment and surgery I would likely be dead in six months.

The Edinburgh Cancer Centre became my new office. Monday to Friday for seven weeks I went for radiotherapy and chemotherapy. You create a bond with those who are going through similar, since they know what it's like. The hope and fears are shared. My hope started to



Ricky's inspiration during his illness was wife Joan.

disappear. Soon my friends in the centre started to disappear. Everyone I had got to know had died or was dying. I didn't get to know anybody who had successfully beaten this cancer, so why would I be any different? I prepared myself to die... but not Joan! "You are not going to die!" Every day she told me this as the treatment did its best and

I grew weaker and thinner. It wasn't a wish or a request, she was ordering me not to die. She built my confidence daily and I clung to her hope. Day by day, week by week, the treatment did what the oncologist hoped it would and eventually I was well enough for the surgery.

The monthly checks soon turned into three-monthly then

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