

1 (ii) special damages for losses to the date of trial, including medical
2 expenses and loss of earnings, together with interest;

3
4 (iii) damages for future loss including -

- 5
6 (a) Loss of future earnings;
7 (b) future costs of medical treatment and evaluation;
8 (c) future costs of therapy;
9 (d) future costs of equipment including prostheses; and
10 (e) costs of employment fund managers.

11

12 By the end of a trial of several days there was much common ground between the
13 parties. The matters which remained in dispute were general damages and interest,
14 one item of expense already incurred, various issues of future loss and cost of the
15 provision of a fund manager.

16

17 GENERAL DAMAGES.

18 As a result of the accident the Plaintiff suffered left femur and acetabular fractures and
19 his left leg was so severely crushed that it had to be amputated above the knee. He
20 still has severe scarring to his groin area, hip, buttocks and thigh. He gave his
21 evidence in an outwardly matter of fact way but the evidence of Dr. Wilhelm, an
22 impressively qualified specialist in the rehabilitation of victims of this kind of
23 traumatic injury under whose direct care the plaintiff has been, was that there was an
24 ongoing need for support in dealing with the psychological effects of his injury. She

1 testified as to the anxiety, social discomfort and loss of self esteem which he, as is
2 typical of a young man in early adulthood, was undergoing as a result of the
3 amputation and extensive scarring on the lower part of his body. I refer to her
4 evidence now in relation to general damages only, though I shall need to do so again
5 when assessing the various technical and other long term aids about which there was a
6 deep conflict of expert evidence.

7
8 The Plaintiff was in the Cayman Islands for a diving holiday and he described his
9 other tastes in sport as including, in addition, cycling, fishing, friendly football,
10 climbing, baseball, bowling and water skiing. These pastimes typical of a healthy
11 young adult will no longer be possible without an artificial limb, if at all.

12
13 This court has in the past expressed the view, and it is really self evident, that English
14 awards for general damages for pain and suffering can be taken only as guidelines or
15 pointers to the awards made in the Cayman Islands. For such a guideline or pointer I
16 refer to Kemp & Kemp on the Quantum of Damages and in particular to paragraphs
17 12-101 and 12-102 at pages 59101 and 59102 of that work dated August 1995 in
18 which the cases of Thomas v. Warburtons Ltd and Finch v. Hewitt are referred to. As
19 of today, I think that the uncontested view that the award of general damages in
20 England would be L57,000 is right. At the rate of exchange which prevailed with the
21 US\$ at the time of trial and which has not substantially changed since, the US\$ figure
22 would be \$94,000. I do not think that the purchasing power of the Cayman currency
23 is relevant because the Plaintiff is an American citizen and it is in the United States
24 where he will benefit from any award. However, I take into account the fact that this

1 accident took place in a country other than his own and that after treatment in George
2 Town Hospital it was necessary for him to undergo a flight back to the United States
3 for further treatment. Taking all this into account I think that a reasonable award of
4 general damages for pain and suffering is US\$110,000. All sums are expressed in this
5 judgment in United States dollars.

6

7

8 SPECIAL DAMAGE TO DATE OF TRIAL.

9 Medical expenses, loss of earnings and other expenses to 16th February 1998 with the
10 exception of the item with which I now deal, are either expressly agreed or "not
11 subject to contention." I award them.

12

13 The Plaintiff's first effort on the recommendation of his physical therapist in getting
14 himself fitted up with a prosthesis - an artificial leg - to replace his own was not
15 successful. Having seen the device with which he was first provided and compared it
16 with the second device which he obtained from another clinic called the Sabolich
17 centre I am satisfied that he was justified in making his second choice. I am also
18 satisfied that the chain of causation from the Defendant's negligence and the expense
19 incurred in the obtaining of the first prosthesis is unbroken and I award the costs
20 incurred in relation to this to the Plaintiff and find that they are \$19,107.64, as
21 claimed by the Plaintiff -

22

23 "When the Plaintiff takes advice in good faith from a reputable
24 medical man, the expense of taking the advice and acting upon
25 it is admissible, notwithstanding that the diagnosis proves to have
26 been mistaken: Rubens v. Walker 1946 SC215." (Munkman -

Damages for Personal Injuries and Death 10th Edition).

1 The analogy between relying on a medical diagnosis and acting upon the advice of a
2 physical therapist is so close that with confidence I apply that principle here. The
3 Plaintiff's action in going to the respected Sabolich Clinic as a subsequent choice was
4 entirely reasonable and the travel and other expenses incurred in going to Oklahoma
5 are not in serious contention though not formally agreed. I award them as an item of
6 special damage.
7
8

9
10 FUTURE LOSSES AND EXPENSES.

11 It is now well established that the court should adopt the multiplier/multiplicand
12 approach - that is to say the court will make a final compensatory award having
13 assessed the amount notionally required to be laid out in the purchase of an annuity
14 which will provide the annual amount needed for the whole period of loss by
15 multiplying a figure assessed as the amount of the annual dependency ("the
16 multiplicand") by a number of "years purchase" ("the multiplier"). Among the many
17 imponderables inherent in this method is the assessment of future inflation and its
18 relationship to interest rates. Courts have adopted an approach, which I follow, of
19 assuming a constant value of currency and adopting an interest rate appropriate to
20 times of stable currency. A rate of 4.5% has been approved by the English Court of
21 Appeal in Wells v. Wells (1997) WLR 652. I adopt the approach of applying a
22 multiplier consistent with that rate of interest discounted on the capital sum arrived at
23 as the multiplicand.

1 So, before going into the individual items in dispute I will deal with this general
2 question of the appropriate multiplier. The Plaintiff contends for a whole life
3 multiplier of 19.8 and a working life multiplier to age 65 of 18.7, based on Tables of
4 the Government Actuary in England known as the Ogden Tables. These are now
5 admissible in evidence in England under the Civil Evidence Act 1995. There is no
6 equivalent statute here, so I look at how matters were approached in England before
7 1995. There are two cases which shortly preceded the statute. The first is Mills and
8 anor v. British Rail Engineering Ltd. (1992) 1 PIQR 130. It was a matter in the Court
9 of Appeal. The following is from the judgment of Dillon LJ.

10

11 “There appear to be few cases reported in Kemp & Kemp or
12 Butterworth’s Personal Injury Litigation Service or Current
13 Law and so forth which provide much guidance for the
14 circumstances of this particular case. But it is of course
15 recognised that calculations can be made from tables which
16 have been worked out, taking into account actuarial evidence
17 and related matters.”

18

19 Dillon LJ took the view that the trial judge was entitled to take a 10 per cent multiplier
20 from the tables, subject, however, to one medical matter specific to the case.

21

22 The second case is Hunt v. Severs (1994) 2 All ER 385, which is both more recent
23 and of higher authority.

24

25 The following passage from the speech of Lord Bridge of Harwich shows in a most
26 enlightening way the reasoning adopted by the trial judge, the Court of Appeal and the
27 House of Lords as to the relationship between general actuarial tables, estimates of

1 life expectancy which take account of a particular patient's medical condition and
2 "life's manifold contingencies."

3
4 "The assessment of damages is not and never can be an exact science.
5 There are too many imponderables. For this reason, the courts have
6 been traditionally mistrustful of reliance on actuarial tables as the
7 primary basis of calculation, approving their use only as a check on
8 assessments arrived at by the familiar conventional methods; see, for
9 example, Taylor v. O'Connor [1970] 1 All ER 365 at 377, [1971] AC
10 115 at 140 per Lord Pearson. We are told by counsel that the practice
11 has changed in recent years and that actuarial tables tend to figure more
12 prominently in the evidence on which courts rely. This may well be
13 so. But before a judge's assessment of the appropriate multiplier for
14 future loss, which he has arrived at by the conventional method of
15 assessment and which is not attacked as being wrong in principle, can
16 properly be adjusted by an appellate court by reference to actuarial
17 calculations, it is essential, in my judgment, that the particular
18 calculation relied on should be precisely in point and should be seen
19 as demonstrably giving a more accurate assessment than the figure
20 used by the judge.

21 The passage I have cited from the judgment of the Court of Appeal
22 appears to show the court as treating the circumstance that both doctors
23 in evidence estimated the plaintiff's expectation of life at 25 years as
24 establishing the 'fact' or 'assumption' that she would live for 25 years
25 and thus converting the process of assessing future loss into 'a simple
26 arithmetical calculation'. I cannot think that this was a correct
27 approach to the evidence. A man or woman in normal health, at a
28 given age, no doubt has an ascertainable statistical life expectancy.
29 But in using such a figure as the basis for assessment of damages with
30 respect to future losses, some discount in respect of life's manifold
31 contingencies is invariably made. Moreover, when the Court of
32 Appeal referred to the Kemp and Kemp table as showing 'that the
33 allowance for mortality must be very small', they were not making
34 an appropriate comparison of like with like. The figure of 14.8 taken
35 from the Kemp and Kemp table refers, as already indicated, to a
36 woman of 35 with an average expectation of life. From the life table,
37 also set out in Kemp and Kemp, we see that this expectation is 44.6
38 years. Thus the fact that only a small allowance for mortality is
39 appropriate in relation to the average woman's expectation of
40 survival from the age of 35 to the age of 60 cannot be a reliable
41 guide to the allowance for mortality appropriate to a severely
42 injured woman aged 29 with a total expectation of life estimated
43 by doctors as no more than 25 years.
44 I can find no fault in the trial judge's decision to take a multiplier of
45 14 and apply it, subject to the various adjustments he made, in arriving

1 at his award for both the future cost of care and the future loss of
2 earnings. The use of a discount rate of 4.5% was not and is not
3 disputed. The judge has due regard to the full present value of L1 pa
4 for 25 years discounted at that rate, but decided, as I think rightly,
5 to take a slightly lower figure which he found to be in line with a
6 spread of multipliers in comparable cases. I do not, with respect,
7 think that the reasoning of the Court of Appeal entitled them to
8 substitute a multiplier of 15 by rounding up the figure taken from
9 the discount table.”
10

11 The Court of Appeal’s Order was accordingly set aside.

12

13 It is clear that these English Courts accepted use of the statistical average taken from
14 the Ogden tables, not as the ultimate and only test but taking into account also factors
15 found to exist in particular cases and the manifold contingencies of any individual’s
16 life. That is the approach which I shall adopt. In the present case the plaintiff submits
17 that the Ogden test and what may be called the conventional method of calculation
18 produce a very similar result. It is time to test that proposition.

19

20 The Defendant contends for a full life multiplier of sixteen. That is a figure in the
21 Ogden tables for a forty three year old man and is an indicator that in the present case
22 it must be too low. In supporting it Mr. Lamontagne relied on Mallet v. McMonagle
23 [1969] 2 All ER 178 which was an appeal which reached the House of Lords from
24 Northern Ireland and in particular the observation of Lord Diplock that sixteen years
25 would appear to represent a reasonable maximum number of years purchase where the
26 deceased died in his twenties. This was one of the earlier cases where the
27 multiplicand/multiplier concept was being developed and there are a number of
28 subsequent examples of cases where living plaintiffs have been compensated on the

1 basis of a higher multiplier. The following are briefly noted in Kemp and Kemp.
2 O'Keefe and Williams, both males aged twenty one - multiplier eighteen; Jenkinson
3 female, aged twenty two -multiplier eighteen Coles, male aged twenty seven,
4 multiplier twenty; Page, male aged twenty eight, multiplier seventeen.
5
6 It should be remembered in relation to Mallet v. McMonagle that the court was
7 considering general life expectancy in England or Northern Ireland in the 1960's in
8 relation to a fatal accident case where the normal span of life was assumed to end at
9 age sixty five.
10
11 On the basis of these comparisons and the conventional factors to be taken into
12 account, such as life expectancy, continued need for a prosthesis and care and loss of
13 future earnings it is submitted for the Plaintiff that the appropriate whole life
14 multiplier should be twenty and the working years multiplier to age sixty five should
15 be eighteen. The relevant figures from the Ogden tables show multipliers of 19.8 and
16 18.7 respectively.
17
18 There is no evidence that the Plaintiff's life is foreshortened by his injuries and Dr.
19 Wilhelm puts his expectation of life to age seventy six. There is some artificiality in
20 that in that it is the statistical expectation of life though expressed in evidence in
21 relation to an individual. I adopt the life expectancy which the Plaintiff has used as
22 the basis for his calculations. It is 75 years, with 53 years remaining.

1 I shall accept the desirability of making a small reduction in the lifetime multiplier to
2 take account of the changes and chances in any individual's life and arrive at
3 multiplier figures of 19 and 18 respectively.

4

5 It is convenient to deal now with the question of interest. Section 34 of the Judicature
6 Law (1995 Revision) closely mirrors Section 35 a of the Supreme Court Act 1981 of
7 England where the established practice is that interest should be awarded on general
8 damages at 2% per annum from the date of service of the writ. The Plaintiff does not
9 pursue his claim for interest on special damages and I think that he is right in that in
10 view of the substantial interim payments which have been agreed. I award pre-
11 judgment interest at the rate of 2% on general damages only from 2nd April 1996 to
12 the date of judgment.

13

14 There was a conflict of expert evidence relating to the standard of technical assistance
15 and medical care which the Plaintiff would need over the years. Evidence for the
16 Plaintiff was given by Mr. Robert Brooks a certified Prosthetist and Orthotist who is
17 the Clinical Operations Director of Novacare Sabolich Prosthetic and Research Centre
18 of Oklahoma City, the present supplier of the Plaintiff's prosthesis and ancillary
19 products; Mr. Michael Schuch, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director of the
20 Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics at Duke University Medical Centre, Durham,
21 North Carolina; and Dr. Cynthia Wilhelm who holds associate professorships of
22 Rehabilitation Psychology and Pediatrics at the School of Medicine of the University
23 of North Carolina. All these witnesses were highly qualified in their fields and I
24 found their evidence impressive. It was criticized on the Defendant's behalf as

1 advocating a “cadillac regime” for the Plaintiff and before I indicate the tenor of what
2 their evidence was I remind myself of what a object of a compensatory award should
3 be. It was described as follows by Lord Oliver in Hodgson v. Trapp [1988] 3 All ER

4 870 at 878 -

5 “The underlying principle is, of course, that damages are
6 compensatory. They are not designed to put the plaintiff
7 or his estate in the event of his death in a better financial
8 position than that in which he would have otherwise have
9 been if an accident had not occurred. Essentially
10 what the court has to do is to calculate as best it can the
11 sum of money which will on the one hand be adequate,
12 by its capital and income to provide annually for the
13 injured person a sum equal to his estimated loss over the
14 whole of the period during which that loss is likely to
15 continue but which, on the other hand, will not at the end
16 of that period leave him in a better financial position
17 than he would have been apart from the accident.”
18

19 I will attempt now, as briefly as I can, to indicate the evidentiary basis of the
20 Plaintiff’s claim by way of my view of the totality of the evidence given by him and
21 his supportive witnesses. He was a nineteen year old man, vigorous in body and mind
22 with the normal range of interests associated with that condition. He was interested in
23 many leisure activities and also a hard worker, working up to seventy hours a week in
24 two jobs. He had been an average student in school and was attending a course in
25 Electronic Analysis which would have qualified him to repair equipment such as slot
26 machines in Las Vegas. As a result of the accident he will face a difficult set of
27 problems throughout his life both physical and mental. The Plaintiff desires and
28 deserves the best technology available for his level of amputation which presents
29 special problems because of tissue damage surrounding his stump and the areas where
30 skin grafting was necessary. Technology has driven costs of prostheses dramatically
31 upward. A figure of \$20,000 was used in Dr. Wilhelm’s report as representative of

1 the appropriate level of the prosthesis. She estimated the total cost over the years of
2 supply and replacement of parts, repairs and maintenance at \$482,000 without taking
3 account of inflation. The Plaintiff has an increased risk of lower back syndrome. He
4 will find it difficult to participate in exercise on a regular basis which could lead to
5 health problems. He will be disadvantaged in the labour market.

6

7 The following is from the evaluation report of Dr. Wilhelm -

8 "Christopher Allen's disability is complicated and complex.
9 It requires a great deal of medical, psychological and vocational
10 expertise to access appropriate treatment and equipment to
11 maximise his potential and to provide direction for lifetime care
12 which Mr. Allen will require. A case manager who specialises in
13 disability management would be essential to direct, advocate,
14 intercede and teach Mr. Allen will be required for his lifelong
15 care needs. This person would advise and direct Mr. Allen in
16 a program based on preventive rehabilitation and maximising
17 his fullest potential."

18

19 The report and evidence of Mr. Schuck addressed two primary issues; a lifetime
20 estimate for the costs and fees of Mr. Allen's prosthetic needs and a discussion of any
21 medical problems or conditions which are more likely to be experienced by Mr. Allen
22 due to his amputation and its limitations. His written conclusion was as follows -

23

24 "Due to his young age, anticipated high activity level, and need
25 for high technology prostheses, coupled with an understanding
26 of the need for frequent replacement of his prostheses, his lifetime
27 prosthetic costs will be extremely high. The potential for
28 additional reconstructive surgery secondary to stress and trauma
29 of his residuum, (skin graft and scar sites) or as a preventative
30 measure is quite high. Recovery time (whether from wounds that
31 occur as discussed or from either preventative or treatment
32 relating surgery) will undoubtedly occur in his lifestyle,
33 necessitating periods of time off from school/work. The
34 potential costs of this unfortunate anticipation will undoubtedly
35 be staggering."

1 The evidence of Mr. Brooks was of his active involvement in evaluating the Plaintiff
2 whom he had last seen some two weeks before giving his evidence. He described and
3 demonstrated the nature of various prosthetic devices and said that he thought that the
4 Plaintiff was absolutely suitable for a sports prosthesis and indeed a swim prosthesis
5 also. He disagreed with the view of Dr. Olysav, the Defendant's expert witness to
6 whom I shall refer later that the Plaintiff's history of fractures would make him
7 unsuitable for active participation in sport. He could use his swim prosthesis for
8 showering and his sports prosthesis as a backup for his primary prosthesis. That
9 would eliminate the necessity for using crutches while the primary prosthesis was
10 under repair. He gave his views as to the replacement intervals required for the
11 various prostheses in the Plaintiff's case and the associated costs of this and the
12 necessary maintenance. He also described technological advances over the last
13 decade and estimated that a 5% increase per year in the costs of prostheses was
14 attributable to technology. He was taken through Dr. Olysav's report in which, like
15 the Plaintiffs' other witnesses, he found much with which to disagree.

17

18 Dr. David J. Olysav the Defendant's expert has been a licensed medical practitioner in
19 the Cayman Islands since 11th December 1997 but graduated as a doctor of medicine
20 in Wisconsin in 1973. He practiced thereafter in that State and in Illinois as well as a
21 medical officer in the United States Navy from 1974 to 1976. He is a certified
22 Orthopedic Surgeon and has held administrative and academic appointments within
23 that specialization. He ran an amputee Clinic in Illinois and saw some twenty

1 amputee patients per month, of whom thirty to forty percent were amputations above
2 the knee, for fifteen years. He performed five to ten amputations per year himself.

3

4 Dr. Olysv differed in many respects from the Plaintiff's expert witnesses. He did not
5 believe that two consultations with an Orthopedist per year would be necessary. They
6 would be by referral from a Prosthetist on an as needed basis and would be rare.
7 Consultation with a Plastic Surgeon was not needed at all; regular consultation with a
8 Physical Therapist simply does not happen and would arise only on a change in
9 prosthesis or a new injury; yearly consultations with a Prosthetist are not necessary or
10 usual; recreational evaluations are not necessary at all as the patient will do the things
11 he is comfortable with; there is no need for any American patient to travel out of state
12 to consult specialists. He also testified that a calculation of changes of primary
13 prosthesis at the same rate over decades does not make sense. Younger and more
14 active people require more frequent changes whereas it is not uncommon for many
15 older amputees to have the same prosthesis for perhaps fifteen or twenty years; a
16 sports prosthesis was clearly not indicated for the plaintiff who is an above knee
17 amputee who has had a fracture of the femur and the socket into which the head of the
18 femur is set and moves; while a swim prosthesis is commonly given to an amputee
19 they commonly do not like or use them and find it easier to swim without any
20 prosthesis; a shower prosthesis is just a weight support but most amputees use a
21 shower chair; a patient who has and uses a prosthesis does not need a wheelchair and
22 a triscooter is only needed for a wheelchair bound patient who cannot walk with a
23 prosthesis and only for those occasions where walking distances or persistent walking
24 would be necessary.

1 It is in relation to these matters, and the assessment of the Plaintiff's future medical
2 problems, that the fact that Dr. Olysav has never actually had the Plaintiff as a patient
3 or indeed seen him at all before the hearing assumes some significance. It may well
4 be, as he says, that surgery or stump revisions are not usually necessary but that is
5 something which on the face of it needs to be determined on a case by case basis. The
6 same observation applies in particular to weight gain and to a lesser extent to other
7 possible complications. While I accept the evidence that the fact that a patient is an
8 amputee does not necessarily indicate that he will gain weight a comparison of
9 photographs of the Plaintiff soon after his accident and his appearance now show
10 quite clearly that he has gained weight. Nevertheless, Dr. Olysav agreed that the
11 Plaintiff's life expectancy was not affected by his amputation.

12

13 Dr. Olysav gave his evidence in a rather dogmatic and sometimes defensive way.
14 Where their opinions differ from his, I prefer the evidence of the Plaintiff's witnesses,
15 except in one important respect. I am persuaded by his evidence that amputees
16 commonly do not like or use a swim prosthesis and commonly swim or bath without
17 any prosthesis at all. I shall not order the payment of any sum towards a swim
18 prosthesis; and in my judgment the bath bench or shower chair, which I allow, will
19 take care of the Plaintiff's ablution needs.

20

21 I now need to perform various mathematical exercises. The parties put forward two
22 very different methods for calculating the multiplicands relating to purchase and
23 maintenance of prostheses. The Plaintiff produced schedules in relation to each
24 prosthesis which took account to the evidence that technological progress over the last

1 decade had increased the price of these devices by 5% per year. He produced a
2 weighted average by reference to the intervals at which the prosthesis concerned
3 would need to be replaced. The Defendant objected to this on the ground that this was
4 a kind of complicated exercise which our Court of Appeal in Woods v. Francis [1986]
5 CILR 207 should not be embarked upon and was in any event pure speculation.
6 Future increases in the price of the prostheses as a result of technological development
7 should not be taken into account.

8

9 I do not think that the Court of Appeal was saying that judges should not make use of
10 their knowledge that numbers may be subject to addition, subtraction, multiplication
11 and division and even expressed as percentages of others. The real objection to the
12 Plaintiff's method is that it produces an unreal result. I am asked to find that - to take
13 the primary prosthesis as an example - that a device which cost \$28,351 on first
14 purchase will when the fourteenth of these devices is purchased, after intervals in each
15 case of four years it will, because of technological development alone and in taking no
16 account of inflation cost \$303,336. These are devices which are made and sold
17 commercially and a superior product which nobody can afford will not reach the
18 market. An additional reason for not using the Plaintiff's method throughout the
19 replacement cycle of the prosthesis for the rest of the Plaintiff's life expectancy is that
20 it produces a vastly increased figure at each step for technological expenses because
21 the principal sum on which the 5% is calculated has itself increased. Moreover I take
22 judicial notice of the fact that technological progress does not necessarily increase
23 cost.

24

1 However, there was specific evidence about technological developments which were
2 on the way, such as computerized prostheses which replicated the movements of the
3 good leg and enabled the wearer to sense whether his toe or his heel was in contact
4 with the ground. I have therefore followed the Plaintiff only to the extent of allowing
5 his 5% increase for technology up to the time of the third purchase of the primary
6 prosthesis when its notional price will be \$40,825 at a time where there is some
7 indication in the evidence, nebulous though it is, that we shall still be in an era of
8 recognisable technological advance. That, according to my calculations, gives a
9 multiplicand of ~~\$10,000~~ ^{9,963} and an award using a multiplier of 19 of ~~\$190,000~~ ^{189,297} Mr.
10 Lamontagne rightly pointed out that the cost of the first purchase of the primary
11 prosthesis had been taken into account in the special damages and I have taken that
12 into account in my calculations. I have adopted a similar approach in relation to the
13 sports prosthesis. It may well be that the Plaintiff makes less use of these devices as
14 he grows older but I cannot speculate as to the extent to which this may happen.
15 There are factors such as the increased need to keep taking exercise as one grows
16 older in order to maintain good health and to keep weight down which point in the
17 other direction and it is very much a field in which one does the best one can. As the
18 first of these sports prostheses has not yet been bought I take the third replacement as
19 the point at which the 5% increase per year for technology development ceases. For
20 maintenance of the prostheses I take the formula of 20% of the price for each year of
21 use. There is no evidence to the contrary.

22

23 The next matter which remained in dispute was the question whether a sum should be
24 provided for the provision of financial advice and fund management for the Plaintiff.

1 I conclude that there should. He is in no way mentally impaired but he is still a very
2 young man and has already shown more generosity than sense in lending funds which
3 he is having difficulty in recovering. It would be tragic if any part of the sum which I
4 award were dissipated at an early stage of the Plaintiff's long life expectancy leaving
5 him to live in hardship thereafter. The award is 1% of the fund multiplied by the
6 lifetime multiplier of 19

7

8 The following are my conclusions on other miscellaneous matters -

9 LOSS OF FUTURE EARNINGS AND LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY.

10 The Plaintiff currently works forty hours a week and his current loss of earnings is
11 \$6,500 per annum. The job which he has is quite unsuitable and involves a
12 considerable amount of walking. Notwithstanding the evidence of Dr. Wilhelm that
13 in future he will be unlikely to be able to work more than thirty hours a week I will
14 stay with the number of hours which the Plaintiff has already achieved. He gave me
15 the impression of being a young man who would wish to continue as nearly as
16 possible at full capacity. I therefore award \$117,000 under this head on the basis of a
17 multiplicand of 6,500 and a multiplier of 18. However, there is a separate and
18 justifiable claim in relation to loss of earning capacity. The legal basis for such a
19 claim is to be found in *Smith v. Manchester Corporation* [1974] 17 KIR 1. The
20 calculation for loss of earnings assumes that the Plaintiff will remain in employment
21 working forty hours a week for the rest of his working life. However, the Plaintiff's
22 disability is severe and he is going to be disadvantaged inevitably over the long period
23 of his remaining working life in the open labour market. He may well be unemployed
24 for substantial periods. This is a particularly difficult figure to arrive at but the

1 Plaintiff's submission that a fair figure is \$120,000 seems to me to be reasonable and
 2 that is the sum which I award.

3

4 FUTURE TREATMENTS, EVALUATIONS, THERAPIES AND EQUIPMENT
 5 AND FUTURE MEDICAL PROBLEMS, HOME MODIFICATION AND
 6 MAINTENANCE COSTS.

7 Unlike Dr. Olysav, Dr. Wilhelm has had the Plaintiff actually under her care and I
 8 accept her evidence, with the exception of that relating to the swim prosthesis as set
 9 out in her report and given orally. I award the sums set out in the Table which
 10 follows. These reflect a recalculation of the sums claimed by the Plaintiff on the basis
 11 of what I have found to be the appropriate multiplier and in the case of replacement
 12 and maintenance of the prostheses what I have already said. The Plaintiff has
 13 abandoned, rightly in my opinion a claim for a triscooter. I was also conceded that the
 14 claim for a cosmetic cover for a sports prosthesis was erroneous

15

16 So the award is as follows -

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 17 | | |
| 18 | General damages | US\$ 110,000.00 |
| 19 | Prejudgment interest on general damages | |
| 20 | from 2.4.96 to date of judgment | 4,762.00 |
| 21 | Wage loss (loss of future earnings) | 117,000.00 |
| 22 | Medical treatment/evaluations | 169,866.00 |
| 23 | Therapies | 57,088.00 |
| 24 | Equipment | 800,386.00 899,783.00 |
| 25 | Expected medical problems/costs | 58,240.00 |
| 26 | Additional costs (maintenance) | 14,250.00 |
| 27 | Future potential complications | 34,542.00 |
| 28 | Handicap or disadvantage on the labour market | 120,000.00 |
| 29 | THE FUND | 1,346,374.00 1,585,531.00 |
| 30 | Fund Manager's charges | 233,803.00 301,256.00 |
| 31 | Add losses to 16.2.98 | 254,632.00 |
| 32 | TOTAL | 1,856,769.00 2,141,419.00 |



G.E. Harre

1st June, 1998

G.E. Harre
Chief Justice

NOTE: The deletions and revisions shown on pages 17 and 19 of this judgment were ordered upon the hearing of a summons by the Plaintiff dated 29th June 1998 under Order 20 rule 11 of the Grand Court Rules 1995.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11