



Motoring journalist Mr. Paul Watson, 27, had a lucky escape last Friday evening when his sports car crashed through the plate glass window of a refrigerator showroom in Finchley Road, Hampstead.

The car badly damaged two refrigerators and showroom furniture. But Mr. Watson, who lives in nearby Netherhall Gardens, was unhurt. And six hours later he left to report on the Targa Florio motor race in Sicily.

"The fridges were worth more than £100 each and we doubt if they can be repaired," said a spokesman for the owners, Brett Daniels Ltd. "We haven't discovered the cost of a new window yet, but it will be several hundred pounds."

He added: "We've boarded up the window and we're asking our customers to walk in, not crash in."

"Paul was driving to Charing Cross in a borrowed car to collect some spare parts," said his flatmate, garage owner Mr. Chris Coburn. "As he went down Netherhall Gardens his foot must have slipped off the brake and he went straight across into the showroom."

"We checked the brakes afterwards and they were all right. It was lucky there were no pedestrians or cars in the way"