RFU DISCIPLINARY HEARING

COVENTRY M6, JUNCTION 2 HOLIDAY INN

MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2007

JUDGMENT

Player: Matthew YANG Club: LUTON RFC

Match: LUTON V DINGS CRUSADERS

Venue: Luton Date: 20th October 2007

Panel: John Brennan (Chairman), John Loughton and Geoff Payne

In attendance as Secretary: Bruce REECE-RUSSEL

In attendance: Paul Alston – Chairman

Phil Wilson - Chairman Club Discipline

player

To consider: The sending off of Matthew Yang, LUTON RFC for stamping on an opponent (37th minute of second half) of the match Luton v Dings Crusaders contrary to Law 10(4)(b).

CHARGE AND PLEA

1. The Player pleaded guilty to the charge.

THE FACTS

2. The match officials report states:

"The incident happened close to the half way line and 7 meters away from the touch line where I was standing. Following a scrummage there was a passage of open play and a ruck formed. Well away from the ball I saw the Luton 16 standing over a Dings player who was lying prone and defenceless on the ground. My view was unobstructed by any other players

The Luton player raised his foot above the side of the face and made contact with the sole of his boot with the Dings player's head. This was deliberate. It was not done with great force and the Dings player was able to resume playing. However after the incident many players reacted and there was a melee that took some time to settle and separate the players. During the melee I instructed the referee to stop the game using the communications equipment.

There appeared to be no provocation for the incident. The Luton player had only been on the pitch for 10 minutes

After the players had been separated the referee invited me on to the pitch. He had not seen the incident and asked for my report and then my recommendation. I had no hesitation in recommending a red card.

The player made a series of remarks as he left the pitch but due to the crowd noise it was difficult to determine exactly what was said".

The video was shown and it was noted that the melee quoted in the report involved a number of punches (8 minimum) thrown by MY.

MITIGATION

2. The player apologised for his actions. He further stated that the stamp had been a reckless act and was to remind his opponent to stop killing the ball. The stamp had not connected with the head but with the shoulder. The Club confirmed that they had imposed a one week suspension from the 15th to 22nd October 2007.

SANCTION

11. The Panel having gone through the requirements of 8.2.5 assessed the act as MR with an entry point of 5 weeks. They then added as an aggravating feature the punches thrown, which they deemed as a 2 weeks addon. In view of the guilty plea and coupled with the player's contrition and exemplary conduct at the hearing the Panel gave a reduction of 3 weeks. The player is therefore suspended for 4 weeks.

Having served one week already, the player is further suspended from the 5th to the 25th November 2007 allowing him to play again on the 26th November 2007.

COSTS

17. Costs of £150.00 are awarded against the Player/Club.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

18. The Player is reminded of his right of appeal which must be lodged within 14 days of receipt of this judgment.

Bruce R2

Bruce Reece-Russel Secretary

8th November 2007