RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

DISCIPLINARY HEARING – MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2008

HOLIDAY INN, COVENTRY M6, JUNCTION 2

JUDGEMENT

Player: Gary TRUEMAN

Club: MOSELEY RFC

Match: MOSELEY v COVENTRY

Venue: Moseley

Date of match: 9th February 2008

Panel: Richard MOON, Andrew LOCKHART and Geoff PAYNE

Secretary: Bruce REECE-RUSSEL

In attendance: the player

Tony Thomas – representing solicitor

CHARGE AND PLEA

The Player, Gary TRUEMAN admitted that he had struck an opponent in the Moseley v Coventry match on the 9th February 2008, contrary to Law 10(4)(a).

FACTS

The match referee, Ashley Rowden in his report described the incident as:

"In the 23rd minute of the second half, a ruck had taken place 10 metres infield and 35 metres from the Moseley try line. As the ball came away from the ruck the Moseley No 12 (Trueman) was seen to throw punches at a Coventry player on the ground. At this point the Coventry No 7 (Hodge) who was involved in the initial ruck, was seen to throw a number of punches in retaliation".

SUBMISSIONS

Tony Thomas on behalf of the player emphasised that this was a local derby of long standing and it was a game which was always tightly contested but it had been played in a good spirit. He took the Panel through the match DVD which showed the fracas breaking into two groups. GT (the player) saw a Coventry player striking a fellow Moseley colleague and went to his assistance. Despite what was said in the match referee's report both GT and DH were involved in different fracas of the same incident. The player had apologised to the referee after the game and felt he had let the whole side down.

TT believed that this was a LE offence.

The Club had held a Disciplinary Meeting on Sunday 17th February 2008 in which they had suspended the player for 1 (one) week.

FINDING

The Panel having assessed the gravity of the offence under 8.2.5 of the RFU Disciplinary Regulations made the following assessment:

- The offending was intentional.
- There was provocation in so much as he was bitten
- No injury received.
- The act was completed.

The Panel assessed the entry point as Low Entry (LE) with an entry point of 2 weeks. They then took into account:

- His guilty plea and remorse.
- His apology to the referee and other parties after the game.
- Clean disciplinary record
- His remorse.

In regard to these mitigating features the Panel discounted 1 week.

SANCTION

The player is suspended from playing for a period of 1 week. The suspension will run from the 18th to the 24th February 2008 allowing him to play again on the 25th February 2008.

COSTS

Costs of £200.00 were awarded against the Player/Club.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

There is a right of appeal against the decision and this should be lodged with the RFU Disciplinary Department within fourteen days of receipt of this written Judgement.

Signed ...pp Richard Moon (Chairman)

Dated: 21st February 2008