# **RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION**

#### **DISCIPLINARY HEARING**

**VENUE: Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London** 

**DATE: 15 March 2010** 

Player: Graeme SMITH Club: London Scottish RFC

**Match:** London Scottish 2<sup>nd</sup> XV v Esher 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

**Venue:** Richmond Athletic Ground **Date of match:** 30 January 2010

Panel: Jeremy Summers (Chairman), Peter Budge and Dr Julian Morris ("the Panel")

Secretary: Liam McTiernan

In Attendance:

Martin Goudie - Counsel

### DECISION

1. The Player was found guilty on his own admission of an offence of striking on an opponent contrary to Law 10.4 (a) of the iRB Laws of the Game 2009/2010. He was suspended from playing rugby for a period of 3 weeks. Having already served a suspension for that period imposed following internal disciplinary proceedings he is free to play again with immediate effect.

### **PRELIMINARY ISSUES**

- 2. The Player did not object the composition of the Panel and no other Preliminary Issue arose.
- 3. The Player pleaded guilty before the Panel to a single charge of striking an opponent in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute of the second half.
- 4. The Sending Off Report recorded as follows:

"The ball had been taken into contact and retained by Esher, who had control of the ball at the back of the ruck. The Scottish player then landed a punch which made contact with the side of the acting scrum half's face. The Esher player hit, resumed playing afterwards, and did not require too much medical attention. This incident was not provoked. After the punch had been landed, players from both sides were involved in a skirmish defending their team mates. (Another player was involved who made contact with players with 3 punches he threw). The original Scottish player after being pushed to one side by team mates decided to get involved again and threw 2 more punches at opposition players. These punches made very little contact.

It was at this point, as both sides were separating, that I presented him with the red card. The player walked off the pitch straight away."

- 5. It was confirmed that the Player did not dispute the decision of his club's internal disciplinary committee, the minutes of which were provided to the Panel.
- 6. The Panel did not feel it appropriate to interfere with the decision reached by the club, and the Player was accordingly sanctioned as set out at paragraph 1 above.

### **COSTS**

- 7. The Player and/or his club is ordered to pay costs of £150
- 8. The Panel would wish to commend London Scottish RFC for its action in this case

## **Jeremy Summers**

Chairman 21 March 2010