

**DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**  
**Sitting on behalf of Cambridgeshire Football Association**

**In the Matter of**

**Cambridgeshire Football Association**

**-v-**

**Richard Hunt**  
**(Leverington Sports Reserves)**

**Decision and Written Reasons of the Discipline Commission**

**COMMISSION**

The Commission was held at the Headquarters of the Cambridgeshire F.A. on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 11am. The members of the Commission were Chairman Malcolm Mizon, Wing Members Arthur Reeves, Brian Manley and Secretary Colin Hills. The Commission was called to deal with case number 9639008-M. On commencement of the Commission all members confirmed they had received the relevant paperwork and had read through the Papers. This case was heard by the Commission by correspondence.

The following is a record of the salient points which the Discipline Commission considered and is not intended to be and should not be taken as a verbatim record of the hearing.

**CHARGE**

Case number 96739008-M was in relation to a charge issued against Richard Hunt of Leverington Sports Reserves. The Charge was E3 (i) -Improper conduct – Assault by Participant on Participant. The charge relates to a match played on the 17/11/2018 at which Richard Hunt was sent off by the referee Martin Pettit, for violent conduct. Due to the serious nature of the offence Richard Hunt had been immediately suspended from all football and football activities until the case has been dealt with by the Association. This notification was dated 23/11/2018. It should also be noted that the Police were called to this incident and are continuing with their enquiries.

**DOCUMENTATION**

The documentation made available to the Commission were:-

Misconduct Charge Notification

Misconduct Charge notification response from Richard Hunt

Statement from match Referee – Mr Martin Pettit.

Questions sent by the Association to the Secretary of Wimblington and the reply received.

Witness statement Kieran Daplyn – Joint Manager Wimblington

Witness statement Dean Stacey – Joint Manager Wimblington

Witness statement Martin Porter – Wimblington Player

Response to the Charge

Statement from Richard Hunt

Witness statement Stephen Beakhouse – Leverington Sports Reserves Manager

## **ALLEGATIONS**

The allegation made on the Misconduct Charge Notification are:-

Richard Hunt punched an opposition player causing the player to lose consciousness.

The response to the notice by Richard Hunt was:-

I am pleading GUILTY to all of the charges and I wish all the case to be dealt with in my absence. I request any correspondence I have submitted to be considered and I will await the decision of the Disciplinary Committee as to my punishment. An administration fee of £15.00 is payable for this case.

The response was completed on-line

## **COUNTY FA WITNESS EVIDENCE**

The evidence presented by the Association:-

The referee M. Pettit reports that he sent off two players, one from each side. The Wimblington player was sent off for raising his arms and pushing Mr Hunt. Mr Hunt then as the player was walking away threw 4 punches knocking the lad out before he hit the ground. The referee also reported that the Wimblington player was out cold for three minutes and collapsed twice in the changing rooms and was taken to hospital by ambulance. The referee also confirms that the Police were also called. The Commission found the evidence of the referee reliable although no other witness reported more than one punch being thrown.

The Club Secretary from Wimblington in responding to the questions raised by the Association confirmed that the injury sustained was concussion following a head injury. The Player was admitted to The Queen Elizabeth, Kings Lynn through the A& E department. The Club also confirmed that the Police have taken statements and are continuing their enquiries.

Witness statement Kieran Daplyn – Kieran Daplyn reports that the two players were competing for the ball and both had hold of each other. The Wimblington player pushed Richard Hunt and then turned away whereby Richard Hunt punched him from behind and knocked him out. The Wimblington player would not have seen the punch coming. The Commission found this evidence supported the report submitted by the referee.

Witness statement Dean Stacey – Dean Stacey reported that the two players were grappling and pushing each other. The Wimblington player started to walk away and the player from Leverington punched him from the side. The Wimblington player would not have seen the punch coming. He confirmed that the player was knocked out and when he came round was in a bad way and kept repeating himself. He also confirmed that the player collapsed again in the changing room. He also reported that at no time did the Wimblington player punch or threaten the Leverington Player. The Commission found that this evidence was consistent with previous evidence submitted.

Witness Statement Martin Porter – Martin Porter was standing about ten yards from the incident. He confirmed that his teammate did push the Leverington Player who then responded by punching him in the face causing his team mate to fall to the ground. The Commission found this evidence to be consistent with other statements.

## **PARTICIPANT CHARGED WITNESS EVIDENCE**

Evidence by Richard Hunt

Richard Hunt wrote that "As he was going towards goal, the Wimblington player and myself come together. We were both pulling each other. The Wimblington player swung an elbow which caught

the side of my cheek. He then pushed me two handed just below the throat what I thought was a punch. I then retaliated by throwing a punch which I regret. The Commission noted that Mr Hunt confirmed he had punched the player and although he expressed regret there was little sign of remorse.

Witness statement Stephen Beakhouse – Stephen Beakhouse reported that Richard Hunt rolled the Wimblington player and trying to get away was pulled back by the Wimblington player. This resulted in both players coming together with pushing and swinging of arms. The Wimblington player pushed Richard Hunt one final time slightly higher than initially and this resulted in one punch from Richard Hunt from a face to face position to the face and the Wimblington player fell to the ground. The rest of the statement refers to the Wimblington bench coming on to the field but the commission found this part of the evidence not relevant. Stephen Beakhouse ended his statement by saying these incidents occur in football and a punch is thrown, on this occasion it unfortunately landed, on another day it could miss or just bounce off a shoulder. I must reiterate that this was one punch thrown from a face to face position.

The Commission were disappointed in the ending on this statement which seemed to suggest that this was part of football. They also noted that he stated the punch was on a face to face basis, a fact that is not confirmed by other reliable witnesses.

### CONCLUSION

Having looked at the paperwork prior to the hearing and discussed the evidence during the commission and bearing in mind that Richard Hunt had pleaded guilty, the Commission found the charge proven. The Commission felt that this was a serious offence and agreed that this fell within the 'High Category' offences as within the sanction guidelines.

### SANCTION

Having heard the Richard Hunt's disciplinary record for the last five years which included two red cards for serious foul play, one for violent conduct, plus one proven misconduct charge which included violent conduct and threatening and/or abusive language behaviour which caused a match to be abandoned, the Commission agreed that they were no mitigating or aggravating circumstances to consider when deciding on the sanction.

The Commission took in to account the serious injury caused in this incident by the violent behaviour of Richard Hunt when unanimously deciding that the most appropriate sanction would be a five-year ban from all football activities and a £150 fine. The suspension is backdated to start 23/11/2018 which is when the player's sine-die suspension began. Leverington Sports receive 8 penalty points on their Club disciplinary record.

This decision is subject to the relevant Football Association Appeal Regulations

Mr Malcolm Mizon      Chairman  
Mr Brian Manley  
Mr Arthur Reeves



7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

