

SURREY COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
WRITTEN REASON
Case Number 9872707M Lucas Willmott

Introduction

- On 10th March 2019 motor AFC Eagles 1st played Malden Vale Men in the Leatherhead and District Sunday League (The Match).
- Surrey County Football Association received a report from the match Referee Mr Vince Hull alleging Mr Willmott of Malden Vale Men, having been sent off deliberately snatched the referee notebook from his hand and threw it 10 yards away and said to the referee "You are a cunt".
- After receipt of this complaint, Surrey County FA investigated the allegation.

The Charge

- On 8th May 2019 Surrey County FA charged Mr Wilmott with misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E3 (g).
- It was alleged that: Mr Willmott made contact with the referee by grabbing the notebook and throwing it after being dismissed and swore at him, and that this conduct was violent and threatening.
- The relevant sections of FA Rule E3 (g) state: Improper conduct against a match official (including physical contact, violent conduct and threatening and / or abusive language / behaviour.

The Reply

Mr Willmott had responded to the charge and denied the offence.

The Commission

The following members were appointed by Surrey County FA to this Disciplinary Commission to hear this case:

Chair: Les Pharo

Secretary: Adrian Shorter

Member: Paul Mallon

Independent: Peter Martin (Independent).

The Hearing & Evidence

- This matter was dealt with by way of a non-personal hearing on 19th June 2019 and It was agreed that we all had received and read the bundle of documents from all parties prior to the hearing.

Burden of Proof:

The applicable standard of proof for this case is the balance of probability. The balance of probability standard means that the Commission is satisfied an event occurred if the Commission considers that, on the evidence, the occurrence of the event was more likely than not.

The following is a summary of the principal submissions considered by the Commission. It does not purport to contain reference to all points considered, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point, or submission, should not imply that the Commission did not take such point, or submission, into consideration when the members determined the matter. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished with regard to this case.

This matter was considered on the basis of a denial as indicated; however, the commission were not able to consider any response to the charge as despite requests there was no response and therefore had no alternative than to find the matter proven. In reaching that decision it was considered that the action was violent and threatening as shown by the language used towards the referee

Having found the matter proved the following sanction was imposed in line with the FA sanction guidelines and taking into consideration the previous record of Mr Willmott:

Mr Willmott is suspended from all football for a total period of 274 days this taking into account the non-playing period in the summer, he is also fine the sum of £150-00 and 8 points are awarded against Malden Vale Men.

Les Pharo

Chair

20th June 2019