

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL BOARD OF THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

BETWEEN

GRAHAM STREET PRIMS FC

Appellant

and

THE FA LEAGUES COMMITTEE

Respondent

DECISION AND WRITTEN REASONS OF THE APPEAL BOARD

1. The Appeal Board conducted a hearing on Tuesday, 7 June 2022, to determine an appeal by the Appellant against a decision of the Respondent, dated 12 May 2022.
2. This hearing was conducted by Correspondence.
3. The Appeal Board consisted of Mr Paul Tompkins (Chairperson), Mr Robert Purkiss MBE, and Mr Glenn Moulton.
4. Mr Conrad Gibbons, the Judicial Services Officer, acted as Secretary to the Appeal Board.

The Hearing

5. The Respondent, on 12 May 2022, notified the Appellant that they were to be laterally moved from the United Counties Football League Division One to the Midland Football League Division One for the 2022/23 season.
6. The Appeal Board, having taken into account the submissions of the parties and having given the Appeal Bundle careful consideration, noted the following.
7. The Appeal Board noted that the Appellant was appealing on the following ground:
 - a. Came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come.
 - b. Imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

8. The Appeal Board dismissed the appeal on both grounds.

9. The Appeal Board reached this decision considering the following:
 - a. The following is a summary of the primary considerations of the Appeal Board, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point, or submission, should not imply that the Appeal Board did not take such point, or submission, into consideration when it considered the matter and reached its findings.
 - b. The Appeal Board noted with the submissions of the Appellant, specifically the increased expected mileage and the impacts this might cause on the attendance of spectators, which has financial implications for the club. Further, the Appeal Board noted the Appellant's submissions in relation to the potential impact this lateral move might cause to the playing squad.
 - c. However, the Appeal Board found that, applying the criteria, Regulations and principles applicable to the lateral movements, the Respondent reached a decision which was not so unreasonable that no other such body could have come to it. The Appeal Board considered if there was an alternative option to the Respondent that would mean the decision reached could be considered unreasonable, however, there was unanimous agreement that there was no alternative solution that would be more reasonable nor which would deem the decision reached as outside the realms of reasonable possibility.
 - d. The Appeal Board sympathised with the Appellant's submissions and do not dispute the potential implications in terms of finance nor increased mileage for the Club, however the remit of the Appeal Board is to consider whether the decision of the Respondent was so unreasonable that no reasonable such body could have come to it. The Appellant ultimately failed to satisfy this high hurdle.

10. The Appeal Board considered the matter of costs and decided that there would be no order as to costs.

11. The Appeal Board order that the appeal fee be forfeited.

12. The Appeal Board's decision is final and binding.

Paul Tompkins

Glenn Moulton
Robert Purkiss MBE

10 June 2022