

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL BOARD OF THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

BETWEEN

LONG CRENDON FC

Appellant

and

THE FA LEAGUES COMMITTEE

Respondent

DECISION AND WRITTEN REASONS OF THE APPEAL BOARD

1. The Appeal Board conducted a hearing on Thursday, 9th June 2022, to determine an appeal by the Appellant against a decision of the Respondent, dated 12th May 2022.
2. This hearing was conducted by Microsoft Teams (video-conferencing) as a non-personal hearing on the papers alone.
3. The Appeal Board consisted of Mr Paul Tompkins (Chairperson), Mr Robert Purkiss MBE, and Mr Glenn Moulton.
4. Mr Michael O'Connor, the Judicial Services Officer, acted as Secretary to the Appeal Board.
5. Neither the Appellant nor the Respondent were represented and the appeal was based on the consideration of the papers submitted by both parties.

The Hearing

6. The Respondent, on 12th May 2022, moved the Appellant laterally from the Spartan South Midlands Football League Division One to the Hellenic Football League Division One for the 2022/23 season. The Appellant was appealing against this lateral move and requested to be left in the Spartan South Midlands Football League Division One.
7. The Appeal Board, having taken into account the submissions of the parties and having given the Appeal Bundle careful consideration, noted the following.

8. The Appeal Board thanks both parties for the manner in which they made their submissions.
9. 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.
10. The Appeal Board dismissed the appeal on this ground.
11. 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 Appellant put forward strong arguments concerning their 'home-base' being in Crendon but the fact that their home ground is not compliant with the ground grading required for Step 6 of the National League system compels them to ground share with Oxford City FC. Although plans are advanced for acquiring their own compliant ground the ground share is to continue for the immediate future. The Appeal Board noted that the Appellant was on the borderline of the lines drawn between the leagues being considered and the Appellant had played in the Spartan South Midlands Football League for the season 2021-22 having previously played in the Hellenic Football League east division at Step 6.
 - c. The Respondent, however, had not made an unreasonable decision in concluding that the geographical location of the ground at which the Appellant plays was necessarily the central point as to dividing the relevant leagues and allocating the Appellant. The ground is reasonably located within the catchment of the Hellenic Football League at Step 6 within which they have been placed. The Appeal Board was unanimous in finding that the Respondent was not unreasonable to make the decision they did and that the decision was within the scope of possible, reasonable decisions on the allocation of the Appellant. The Respondent had, therefore, not come to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come.
 - d. The Appellant put forward proposals as to what an ideal outcome could be should their appeal be allowed, however, it was found that the

solutions proposed would not be proportionate, reasonable nor feasibly open to the Appeal Board to order.

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

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

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

Paul Tompkins

Glenn Moulton

Robert Purkiss MBE

10 June 2022