

# **THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

*Sitting on behalf of West Riding Football Association*

## **A NON-PERSONAL HEARING via WebEx**

*Of*

**Steven Sedgwick (Case ID 282018)**

### **The Decision and Reasons of the Commission**

1. The Football Association convened a Disciplinary Commission via WebEx which sat on Wednesday 26 October 2016 on behalf of West Riding FA to adjudicate a charge levied against Steven Sedgwick.
2. The following members were appointed by the FA to this Commission;  
  
Michael Weeks (Chairman)  
Susan Hewett  
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3. Richard Cooper was appointed by the FA to act as Secretary

### **INTRODUCTION**

4. On 25th September 2016 a fixture took place between Churwell Lions U15s Blacks and Chapeltown Juniors U15s (Garforth Junior League Under 15-Division 1.
5. The referee Lewis Elliott reported to West Riding FA that after the game he had been confronted by the Churwell Lions coach and told that "he was a disgrace and shouldn't be allowed to referee...you cheating puff'. Nobody else appears to have been present at the time.
6. Steven Sedgwick the Churwell coach wrote to Caroline Gordon of Churwell Lions FC when he was approached about possible misconduct and said he neither swore nor raised his voice.
7. Steven Sedgwick was charged by the FA as follows  
  
Breach of Rule E3(2): Improper conduct-aggravated by reference to a person's Ethnic Origin, Colour, Nationality, Faith, Gender, Sexual Orientation or Disability.
8. Steven Sedgwick did not respond to the charge. He was therefore deemed to have pleaded Not Guilty.

9. The following documents were submitted to the Commission;

(1) Report of the Referee

(2) Email from Steven Sedgwick in response to a suggestion of misconduct

### **THE HEARING**

10. The Commission found the case proven. In the absence of a formal response to the charge by Mr Sedgwick the Commission preferred the evidence contained in the referee's report there was no reason on the face of the papers for the referee to have been mistaken or invented the comment. Indeed Steven Sedgwick's email refers to a conversation along the lines of marking the referee which is also mentioned by the referee. Nor had Steven Sedgwick presented a written or oral defence when he learnt of the precise nature of the comments alleged by the referee.

### **PREVIOUS RECORD**

11. There were no relevant findings against Steven Sedgwick to take into account

### **THE SANCTION**

12. The exchange was unpleasant but relatively brief nor did it involve others. The Commission took the view that in the absence of aggravating features and a relevant record the minimum sanction required by the Rules was appropriate;

The sanction against Steven Sedgwick was as follows;

(1) Fine of £75.00,

(2) A ground ban for 5 Matches,

(3) Completion of the Equality Education course details of which will be provided by the FA. In the event that Steven Sedgwick fails to complete the course within 4 months he will be further suspended from all footballing activity until he undertakes the course.,

(4) 5 points will be recorded on the disciplinary record

13. There is a right of appeal against this decision in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in the FA Rules and Regulations.

**Michael Weeks**  
**Chairman**  
**26th October 2016**