

## IN THE MATTER OF

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ex parte THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE FA

-v-

MR THOMAS WEBB

(CASE REFERENCE 8736474M)

REASONS FOR DISCIPLINE COMMISSION DECISION

THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2016

### PARTIES

1. The Discipline Commission members were Mr Anthony Rock, Mr Roger Pullin and Mr Errol Thompson. Mrs Debbie Sowton acted as Secretary to the Commission.

### INTRODUCTION

2. These are written reasons for a Discipline Commission, held on behalf of The Gloucestershire FA on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, following charges raised against Mr Thomas Webb, resulting from comments that he made on Social Media about match officials. These comments were made following the completion of a league match between RSG and Bishops Cleeve A on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
3. By a Gloucestershire FA Misconduct Charge Notification, dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Mr Webb was charged as follows:
  - a. Under FA Rule E3 – Improper conduct (including foul and abusive language).
  - b. Under FA Rule E3(2) – Improper conduct – aggravated by a persons Ethnic Origin, Colour, Race, Nationality, Faith, Gender, Sexual Orientation or Disability.

### CHARGE

4. The details of the charges are that at 18.47pm on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Mr Webb made the following comment on Social Media: *“That’s why I stopped last year when they sent me off twice in a row, fucking joke, some of them are complete spastics”*.

## **PLEA**

5. The Commission was informed by Gloucestershire FA (via Whole Game System) that on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Mr Webb had pleaded GUILTY to both charges and had requested attendance at a Disciplinary Commission in order to enter a verbal plea for leniency. The Commission subsequently heard Mr Webb's plea on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. The Commission felt that Mr Webb was genuinely remorseful and apologetic for the comments he had made.

## **PREVIOUS MISCONDUCT**

6. The Commission highlighted an anomaly with Mr Webb's disciplinary record that was resolved by the Secretary during the Commission. The Commission noted that there were no other misconduct charges or aggravated offences on Mr Webb's record.

## **SANCTION**

7. The Commission took into account the circumstances in this case, Mr Webb's misconduct record and his verbal plea for leniency. The Commission also noted that under FA Rule E3(4)(iii) they were not bound to impose an immediate suspension of at least 5 matches for a first such breach. The Commission found that for the offences committed, Mr Webb will receive a 3-match ban, a £50.00 financial penalty and be required to attend an FA Education Workshop. His Club, RSG, will also incur 5 disciplinary penalty points.
8. In accordance with FA Regulations, there is a right of appeal against the decision.

**Mr Anthony Rock (Chairman)**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**