

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

Sitting on behalf of Kent Football Association

A NON-PERSONAL HEARING via WebEx

Of

Whitstable Town Football Club (case 8721563M)

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 Kent FA to adjudicate a charge levied against Whitstable Town Football Club.
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 8th October 2016 a fixture took place between Whitstable Town FC First and Sevenoaks Town First (Southern Counties East Football League).
5. Craig Burton the referee reported to Kent FA that his assistant Bo Wang had reported to him that after the game a spectator had pushed him and verbally abused him. On further enquiry it transpired that abuse had started within the game but that following the aggressive pushing Bo Wang had been called a 'fucking chinky' and another witness heard the words 'ting tong' being used. The police were called by Bo Wang .When they attended the spectator was warned as to his future conduct but had admitted a physical assault.
6. Whitstable Town FC was charged as follows;

FA Rule E20 - Failed to ensure players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion.
7. Whitstable FC pleaded Guilty to the Charge and wished that the matter be dealt with in their absence.

EVIDENCE

8. The Commission received the following documents;

- (1) Referee's report,
- (2) Statements from Bo Wang and his fellow assistant Matthew McCaughan.

PREVIOUS RECORD

9. The Commission were informed that the Club had no recent relevant findings against it which ought to be taken into consideration.

MITIGATION

10. The Club informed the Commission via E mail that the offending spectator had been banned from the ground for the season; further that steps had been taken to improve its stewardship at home games; the Club apologised and hoped the Commission would accept reassurance that the matter was taken extremely seriously

SANCTION

11. The Commission took the view that this was a very serious incident. There was a physical assault on and racial abuse by a known troublemaker of an official; the police were (understandably) called; there had been abuse during the game also, and some intervention was necessary from the referee to prevent an escalation.

The offence was treated as a High Category case for those reasons. However the Commission was impressed by the apology and the evidence of attempts to avoid a repetition. Further the Club had pleaded Guilty. The Commission felt able to penalise the Club at a level towards the lower end of the High Category.

The sanction was as follows;

- (1) A fine of £75,
- (2) 5 points recorded against the club's disciplinary record.

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

Michael Weeks
Chairman
26th October 2016