

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL BOARD OF THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

BETWEEN

AMERSHAM TOWN 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, 9 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 Microsoft Teams (video-conferencing).
3. The Appeal Board consisted of Mr Paul Tompkins (Chairperson), Mr Robert Purkiss MBE, and Mr Glenn Moulton.
4. Mr Michael O'Connor, the Lead Judicial Services Officer, acted as Secretary to the Appeal Board.
5. The Appellant was represented by the attendance of Mr Simon Damery, Mr Mike Gahagan, and Mr Bryan Fisher.
6. The Respondent was represented by Mr Mark Ives with Mr Mark Frost and Mr James Earl attended as observers.

The Hearing

7. The Respondent, on 12 May 2022, made a decision to on the lateral movement of the Appellant. The Respondent refused the Appellant's application for a lateral movement from Spartan South Midlands Football League to Combined Counties Football League for season 2022-23.
8. The Appeal Board, having taken into account the submissions of the parties and having given the Appeal Bundle careful consideration, noted the following.

9. The Appeal Board thanks both parties for the manner in which they made their submissions.
10. 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.
11. The Appeal Board dismissed the appeal on the abovementioned ground.
12. 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 the fundamental reasons surrounding the Club's Appeal was due to the amount of travel/journey time the Club must undertake for the upcoming season. In addition, the club submitted they were concerned about their player recruitment due to the longer travel distance.
 - c. The Respondents position was that the decision made by the FA Leagues Committee was done to protect the integrity of the competition. They did not believe the decision was so unreasonable that no other body would come to the same decision. It is a National League who make decisions with no particular league in mind.
 - d. Upon considering both the oral and written submissions of the parties, the Appeal Board determined the decision of the FA Leagues Committee was not one that was so unreasonable that no other body would have reached it.
13. The Appeal Board considered the matter of costs and decided that there would be no order as to costs.
14. The Appeal Board order that the appeal fee be forfeited.
15. The Appeal Board's decision is final and binding.

Paul Tompkins
Glenn Moulton
Robert Purkiss MBE

10 June 2022 [Amended 13 June 2022]