

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL BOARD OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

BETWEEN

CIRENCESTER TOWN FC

Appellant

and

THE FA ALLIANCE 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 Correspondence.
3. The Appeal Board consisted of Mr Tony Rock (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.

The Hearing

5. The Respondent, on 12 May 2022, notified the Appellant that they were to be laterally moved to the Southern League Central Division from the Southern League South Division.
6. 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.
7. The Appeal Board, having taken into account the submissions of the parties and having given the Appeal Bundle careful consideration, dismissed the appeal on the abovementioned ground.

8. The following is a summary of the primary considerations of the Appeal Board. 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.
 - a. The Appellant submitted that the reasons behind their Appeal were the increase in mileage and travel time impacting players, staff and supporters and a reduction in the number of local derbies. In addition, the Appellant submitted it would be difficult to recruit and retain players. They also put forward a possible alternative which involves moving Bishops Cleeve FC into the Central Division rather than them.
 - b. The Respondent submitted that they do not wish to expand the Central Division any further west.
 - c. In reviewing the correspondence presented before them, the Appeal Board determined that the decision of the FA Alliance Committee was not so unreasonable that no other such body could have come to it.
9. The Appeal Board considered the matter of costs and decided that there would be no order as to costs.
10. The Appeal Board order that the appeal fee be forfeited.
11. The Appeal Board's decision is final and binding.

Tony Rock
Glenn Moulton
Robert Purkiss MBE

9 June 2022