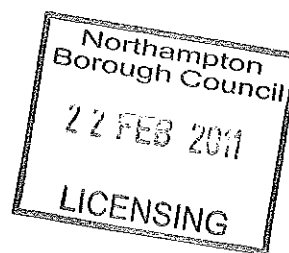


Far Cotton Working Mens Club  
Main Road  
Far Cotton  
Northampton  
NN4 8EN  
TEL:01604 761020/01604  
762288

Date

Northampton Borough Council

For the attention of Mr Bill Bayliss



Dear Sir,

**Impending Premises Certificate Review (CP0012)**

As a club with great respect for the law, we find ourselves having to admit from the evidence supplied by the police, that we did act outside the terms of the Licensing Act 2003 when we held a charity boxing tournament at the club on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

It would be greatly appreciated if our statement of mitigation could be considered by the Committee when carrying out the review.

The Committee will be aware that the stringent safety requirements of this activity required the bringing together of a range of professionals to ensure the wellbeing of contestants and supporters alike involving substantial costs.

The Police and Borough Council would have been aware when they received the TENS on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011 that it was to be rejected on the grounds of insufficient notice having been given. Had a phone call been made on that day to the number provided on the application form there would have been more than sufficient time to cancel the event.

However, it was not until 17<sup>th</sup> January that the police wrote informing the club of the rejection and that letter was not received until the 20<sup>th</sup> January. Apparently a phone message was left on Mrs Gale's phone on 17<sup>th</sup> January that was not picked up. The shortness of this notice created a logistical nightmare in trying to cancel the event.

On the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> January Councillors Brendan Glynane and Kevin Reeves attended the club concerning this matter. Mr Reeves advised Mr Dawes (Club Trustee) not to worry too much as he was on the Licensing Committee. Later Mr Glynane and Mr Reeves told Mr Pickering (Club President) that it would be sorted in the morning. Those words of reassurance left the organisers and club executive with the very real impression that the event would be allowed to go ahead.


In the event, the Councillors assurances came to nought, but by then it was impossible to cancel.

The statement from Inspector X0049 Doherty (MSc) omitted to state that he said he could come back mob-handed and close the event down but he would not do that as it would cause a near riot. The club management felt that if the Police closing the event would cause a near riot, the club

management closing the event would cause mayhem. On those grounds Mr Pickering very reluctantly felt unable to comply with the law in this instance.

In the end the event was well attended and well ordered and raised £1,800 for the boxing club which is to help the kids relieve their aggression in a controlled manner. The Club is devising a policy with the help of the police and its own Branch Executive to ensure that such an occurrence as this can never be repeated.

In considering your response to this admitted offence, we hope the committee will take into account the fact that what was done, was done reluctantly. As with many clubs we are in a daily struggle for survival and would beg the Committee to bear this in mind together with our previously unblemished record of compliance that has always been, and will continue to be, our policy.

Mr R Pickering (President).....

Mr Dawes (Trustee).....

Mrs P Gale (Secretary).....