

STATEMENT

Nine members of the former committee of Achill Rovers, Football, Drama and Athletic Club (hereinafter to be known as 'the committee') sincerely regret any upset and distress caused to Mr Stephen Manning of Dooagh, Achill, County Mayo or to his family arising out of the publication of the letter of the 11th June, 2009. The committee unreservedly accept that the letter was carelessly drafted and contained immaterial and incorrect statements. It is accepted that the letter should have been carefully scrutinised prior to issue and that it should have been marked strictly private and confidential. No reference to Mr Manning's refereeing style should have been included in the letter. These comments were unfair and failed to recognise Mr Manning's continued efforts to referee games in a fair and impartial manner.

(Contrived and misleading section omitted here).....It is accepted that the letter of the 11th June, 2009 went beyond its remit. The committee also accept that Mr Manning was cleared of any wrongdoing following an internal investigation by the Mayo Referees Society.

(Contrived and misleading section omitted here)...The committee further acknowledges their failings in dealing with the matter in an appropriate fashion and extend their sincere apologies to Mr Manning and his family for any hurt, offence or damage caused.

Yours in Sport,

Philip McNulty

This statement is signed by Mr McNulty on behalf of the nine committee members of Achill Rovers, Football, Drama, and Athletics Club for the year 2009 namely Mr George Collins, Mr Philip McNulty, Mr Canice O' Sullivan, Mr Patrick Gallagher, Mr Tony Galton, Mr Tony Grealis, Mr Eddie Gallagher, Mr Michael Gallagher and Mr Martin Fadgian.