

David Gallop

NRL

Dear David,

I am writing to you to express my utmost disgust at the behaviour of George Piggins with regard to his latest public allegations about the salary cap. In particular I would like to direct your attention to the appalling manner in which this unsavoury incident has been handled by the South Sydney District Rugby League Football Club (SSDRLFC).

I would like to draw your attention to a precedent set by the SSDRLFC with Shane Richardson acting as its CEO at the time.

In November 2004 I attended a meeting of residents at the Redfern Town Hall to discuss proposals for the redevelopment of Redfern Oval. It was a meeting stacked with George Piggins' acolytes but also in attendance were Nick Pappas and Clover Moore.

At that meeting I voiced my opinion about what Piggins' true motives for pushing his poorly planned Option 4 were. I stated that Piggins cared more about his Leagues Club than he did about the SSDRLFC or the community. I said it was all about his Leagues Club.

In December 2004 I was sent a letter from the SSDRLFC saying I would have to front a committee to justify my behaviour as a complaint had been received saying I had brought the club into disrepute. In January 2005 I attended a hearing of this committee comprising:

Nicholas Pappas
Nikolaus Hatzistergos
James Hatfield
Nicholas Greiner
Shane Richardson.

At that meeting many accusations were levelled at me and the subject for discussion quickly became Rabbitohs.com, the unofficial website which I run. They seemed much more concerned with this rather than the sham reason they had called the meeting.

As a result of this meeting I had my membership of the SSDRLFC suspended for 1 year, to be reviewed on the anniversary once I made application to gain membership again.

To be brutally honest David, I find the actions of my club to be utterly despicable. They have deliberately attempted to gag me and run roughshod over an ordinary member of the club. Now I find a quote in the today's paper from Shane Richardson stating –

Richardson pointed out Piggins was not a Souths official and said his comments had been made as a "high-profile supporter of the club". "We don't have control over comments that media outlets choose to air from people outside of the organisation," Richardson said --- Sydney Morning Herald, 15 July 2005.

All I can honestly say is that this is hypocrisy. The letter which suspended me was signed on behalf of the SSDRLFC Board by Shane Richardson. Now he claims that Piggins is just a 'high profile supporter' and that the club can do nothing.

To say that I am outraged is an understatement. I have not acted on this matter prior to this because I felt that it may be resolved by other means. But clearly my club is run by hypocrites, liars and people who are willing to target fans but allow an imbecile to rant and rave under the SSDRLFC name whenever he likes.

I cannot begin to express to you the level of disgust I feel, and I assure you that this matter will receive the maximum amount of publicity.

Yours sincerely

Wade Singleton