

Nick Pappas: Sorry to keep you waiting.

Wade: That's fine Nick.

Introductions.....

Nick P: Ok, well look. You've been effectively summoned before this sub-committee, to use technical language as a result of allegations that came subsequent to the Redfern Town Hall meeting. The unanimous view of the Board was that in view of the seriousness of the allegations, following comments you made in a public place, that a sub-committee be convened. Which is this sub-committee being gathered here now and that that sub-committee hear from you, in fact effectively ask you to show cause or otherwise, of being at the meeting or otherwise. It was a fairly packed meeting, a fairly noisy meeting. **It was true that some people heard things correctly, you should be aware of that. Other people are relying on information that has been passed to them.**

Wade: Ok

Nick P: This is not a star chamber. This is not an inquisitorial forum at which we can force you to say things, you're not compelled to say anything at all, anything you don't want to say. [garbled] **But you know the idea is that things will remain confidential.** You're aware.. [garbled]

Wade: Yes I am aware...

Nick P: Then you know that then gives the Board the power to, quote, disqualify, suspend, fine or otherwise deal with the person being brought before the Board. And the basis of that is that the Board has to decide whether your conduct on the night in question was prejudicial to the interests. Briefly if the comments made, and I suppose we really want to hear from you, and then it is up to the panel members to decide. My introductory comment is this – [long pause] I for a fact heard, and this is a conversation we should be able to be informally talking about, but I in fact heard you at the forum that night, which was a public forum, and I stress the issue is it was a public forum..

Wade: Anyone can turn up.

Nick P: Anyone can turn up ...

Wade: I was there as a member of the public

Nick P: I'll let you respond, I'll let you respond. But ahh it was a situation in which the club, at least was appearing if you like in your comments, as I recall them in part, and as I have had them communicated to me in whole. It did seem to me you were making some very serious allegations about individuals who are members of the club. Now forgetting who those people are, what your view of them is personally, all of that is irrelevant. The fact that we have to determine as a body, is whether members.... Now just so you

understand the framework with which we are putting this before you.

Wade: That's cool.

Nick P: Now I really want to hand over to you now, this is a show of cause hearing to use technical language again...andah

Wade: Well. That's cool, I have prepared a statement. I'll read it now. And we can discuss it...

Nick P: Over to you. Make sure you read it slow and loud for the benefit of a few older members.

Wade: [laughs] Alright. And we can discuss it if you like. Ok. Firstly I should say that it is my firm view that this is an inappropriate forum for this discussion. Whilst you are all members of the board, and entitled to the respect that such a cherished position deserves, you should not view my attendance here as implicit acceptance of the authority of this board as having the ability to arbitrate what is essentially a private matter. As I understand it the board seeks an explanation as to my views I expressed at Redfern Town Hall on the 24th of November [2004] about the viability of what has been known as 'Option 4' the redevelopment of Redfern Oval. My view is firm, that this is not in the best interests of the SSDRLFC. This proposal has not been fully, costed, tested or accepted by anyone with the authority. I stand by my statement and offer no apologies. My statement in no way reflected on the Football Club or the directors' ability to discharge their duties. And as such I question why this meeting has been convened. If any member has an issue with any statement I make in a public forum then he has his own legal avenues to pursue. This is neither an appropriate jurisdiction nor an appropriate use of the boards' time. And need I remind the board that we don't actually have a major sponsor at the moment. So I thought that it would have better things to do than try and you know...

[garbled Wade and Nick together]

Nick P: We should be doing other things. There are people around this table... We've got some people who are very busy, and we're very busy doing other things.

Wade: I understand that.

Nick P: And this is not...

Wade: Yes, so basically can I add... ah the other thing I've got it here... let me just grab the letter that Shane sent, very good of him, the second one Shane. So the allegations were listed, whoops wrong one. [Reads the allegations from the letter] The second one were I allegedly accused members of the club of being dishonest in their financial dealings. And I allegedly asserted that these same members had misappropriated leagues club funds in the course of their financial dealings. In regards to both of these allegations, I completely deny them. I know what I said at the meeting and I did not get to say much at the meeting

before the microphone was grabbed off me, and I was pushed backwards.

Nick P: So you say, so what did you say you said?

Wade: I said – “I put it to you George that you couldn’t give a stuff about the community and all you care about is your leagues club.” Basically.

Nik H: Yep

Wade: And about a letter. It was just too noisy. That I was aware of a letter in existence that four of his own board members of the leagues club had signed stating that things were in a dire financial situation.

Nick P: But you said ‘bankrupt’...[garbled]

Wade: I don’t think I used the word bankrupt, I may have used ‘insolvent’.

Nick P: Well that’s the essence of it.

Wade: That’s alright. You’re the solicitor. I am sure that this could be all sorted out if you had minutes of the meeting actually. Or the tape...

Nick P: But ahh... The nature of the meeting, ahhh,

Wade: There was a video recording there that night.

Nick P: Oh it wasn’t ourswas it ours or... [Board members mumble]

Wade: well they left before I spoke so...

Nick P: well, well, aaah we have to, we have just... We’re relying on people who are...

Wade: cause that would sort it out, its not who said this, who said that.

Nick P: No, no, no I understand that. The critical issue and it is going to come to an issue we also want to raise with you tonight, is what is emanating from what you said about the club in a public place. I am going to make that point, and in future I want you to think about...ahh. I am going to ask the others if they have anything to say. Because I don’t think we need..

Nik H: You know what, what the outcomes are. And I agree it is not for the Board to kind of ahhh....And we do have a concern when that’s played out in public and you were in a forum where you had a view you, you kind of went. And again you’re saying that, I guess, when you bring, ahm, that we are on the lookout for a major sponsor. This is also a club that in the past has always had a story, and created havoc with it, what we’re saying, I just think you need to understand the core, you know the outcomes of of your actions. And you think

you're helping the club, well you're actually not helping because. And if you have a view on George good on you. Personally the three of us stood against George you know. To these day we are the only, without kind of marginalizing you, we actually stood against George because we wanted a different way forward for the club. But kind of beating everybody up in public and name calling. You know, doesn't advance the cause of the club, and I know you love this club. If you love the club just take that into consideration, you know going forward and mudslinging at other people just doesn't help us. It just doesn't help us, it just does not help. You know you talk about getting a major sponsor and we have put so much effort into that and what we don't need is you to have a barney amongst yourselves because that becomes cannon fodder for the papers. Papers love that sort of stuff. And if we had had a front page or you know as Souths only do a page 3 photo of a brawl that's ensued because somebody had a camera when you made these comments and others decided to react.

Wade: Well..I understand and acknowledge your point of view.

Nick P: the critical issue is the airing in public of issues between members, that's the critical issue for us, that's what worries the board and at the end of the day it affects the board. We're not here standing up in a membership action [garbled 4 voices]

Nik H: Because if that's going to happen let it happen.

Nick P: that has got nothing to do with this board. **Know this, this board has a duty to act, Wade, to anyone else in the club, not only you, to anyone else who acts in the same way.** We are determined to follow that through, because this club has.. [cut off by Nik H]

Nick H: They were basically my comments on ahh... By people who relayed information to me and seemed to have a fairly detailed, graphic ..

Wade: I think that is a bit of a case of Chinese Whispers to be honest.

Nik H: No, no, no, no It could well be but. But for me it was almost instant. I was in Perth at the time and I think I was rung up within a few minutes.

Wade: Oh ok.. there you go.

[Muffled]

Shane: What we just [garbled] and I was up the front but I did hear you say 'stealing from the club'.

Wade: I never said stealing. I will sit here and argue till I am blue in the face. I never said anyone was stealing.

Shane: Well I didn't hear all of the things, but you know, a lot of the things I heard were,

and you know I've got no axe to grind with anyone.

Wade: I know you have, that's exactly right.

Shane: Well my understanding is, that you can't... See my big thing about all of this is, is, that I can't understand... objecting to Option 4 I aint got a problem with, people have the right to object to whatever they want. Its as the board said before it does no good for this club if you had come up and talked about Option 4 and said I am against Option 4 and I don't think you're doing the right thing George. I don't have a problem with that, but for it to become like a bitter slanging match, in public, between you...

Wade: Well hold on a sec,

Shane: Well I had to spend the next 3 days trying to water it all down and keep it under control in the press because I am trying to give us a bit of an image about going forward in a more professional way than we have before. Slanging at people, and abusing people on a forum. If it's at an AGM and you are their to talk about the performance of the club and you are not happy with this or that then that is every member's right as a member of the club, I got no problem with that. My problem on the night, from my point of view, is that it just made us look so bad that this public slanging match over something that was not relevant to the night. You didn't just go on about Option 4 mate, I heard you go on about the viability of the leagues club and bankruptcy and all sorts of things.

Wade: Why does Option 4 want to happen?

Shane: Well Option 4 is something that the leagues club..

Wade: Yeah exactly.

Shane: Well the football club see... well, no look at the end of the day mate, if we could actually build Option 4 and go forward with it, it would be great for us to do it.

Wade: Yes it would be great.

Shane: We have got to look a situations financially, at the moment we've got...ah

Wade: Well that's not going to take the club down is it?

Shane: Well its not going to take the club down cause it has got nothing to do with it. At the end of the day mate, it, if the figures don't stack up then they are not going to be approved by any backer or financier anyway. If Clover Moore decides she is not going to go ahead with it, and the Government says no to it, and they are going to go ahead anyway, we are all well aware of that. My planning is not whether Option 4 goes through or not, because we support it, look if we could all return to Redfern and have a wonderful club I'd be happy as a pig in mud. Because all I'm trying to do, is balance the books of the club and keep it going forward. My problem is though mate, is that, is that, is that, over the next 4 years I've got to

look at what we as a club can do going forward. If Option 4 was approved tomorrow it would be 4 years before it would be bloody built. And to do that I have got to have confidence, I have to create confidence in this club that we are able to achieve the targets. If we start breaking down and breaking down that confidence at corporate level out there with our people. We have a major... if you've got everybody else, we can't have a situation where you have got a forum about Option 4..

Wade: Well 'slanging' match. I got up, I had my say, I didn't 'slang' at anyone. I was prevented from finishing what I wanted to say because the microphone was grabbed off me and I was threatened. So how is that...its semantics really.

Nick P: We have been advised that you used words to the effect of 'this is all a desperate measure by George trying to save his bankrupt leagues club, this is all about him trying to save his insolvent leagues club'....[garbled, Hatfield over the top] We have had a strategy, we had agreed on a strategy. And on one of the rare occasions in the history of this club, we were galvanised to unity.

Wade: Really?

Nick P: And there was a strategy behind that. It might not be so apparent...those sort of comments you want to make, get up and bag me, get up and bag me at the AGM. Say I'm the worst chairman in the club's history.

Wade: That's not possible.

Nick P: That's the place to do it. That's the place to do it. Not where you did it. And it was [garbled]

Wade: In the end it doesn't matter. Whatever you guys go away and decide, its really going to have little bearing and effect on me. Because you know, you can take my membership away, you can do whatever you want to do, I am still going to be a Souths supporter. I am still going to do what I do as well [garbled 5 voices]

Nick P: We're not trying to take that away from you. No one doubts that you are a Souths supporter.

Wade: I am still going to go to games, still going to want to see my team win football games, that is what it is all about.

Nick P: Of course,

Jim: Now Wade, I'll say...you and I don't see eye to eye.

Wade: No we don't Jim.

Jim: But I think that I have showed by my actions that I do things that I feel are best for the

club. Whether I am agreeing with George or not, right ok is immaterial.

Wade: Well I would have to take your word for that at this stage, because I don't know the inner workings..

Jim: Well I think there are people around here [garbled],

Nik H: I have said this publicly by the way if it wasn't for Jim none of the reforms that you saw last year would have happened.

Jim: At the end of the day, I like Nick, I have no problem with people not agreeing with what the board decides to do. What I have a problem with, right ok, is in reality what we put into trying to get that meeting, you know, to go our way. And threw it out the window, right ok, you can say here what you want, but it was a definite attack on George. It was the manner, look it's not what you say sometimes it's how you say it. I can call you whatever...

Wade: Whatever..

Jim: it's the tone of voice that you use. Your tone of voice can really convey hate, right, to the person that you are trying to attack. At the end of the day...

Wade: I don't hate George, I don't hate George. You might think that, but.. I just hate what he has done to the club, that is all I hate.

Jim: But that's what you believe, right ok. You're entitled to that right, right. But we as a board, we know that across the road right. We know that across the road is worth a lot of money to the football club right, and separate from the leagues club right, just from the football club's, ahh the leagues club perspective. Look people round this table will tell you that the leagues club tomorrow would be better off if Option 4 for was off the table, right. You might not understand that, but that is the truth, right. And all that I am trying to say is right, that you need to take the needs of the club before your own needs. It's a thing that has been said, and George has said it, right, ok. Think of the club first before yourself, right, ok. Now you mightn't agree that George has done that, but I can quote times when he has. I don't think George is perfect, I don't think any of us around this table are perfect.

Wade: No, of course.

Jim: Ok, right. And we are all going to make mistakes. But if you were honest with yourself and you put your hand up and said ok it was a mistake. You know, if you came here tonight and said look, right, it was a mistake, right ok. I could accept that. But you have come here tonight, to me, right ok, saying, and I heard you say it and with that I have a great deal of difficulty with.

Wade: Well unless you can come forth with a tape of what I said, or minutes of the actual..

Nick P: We will seek to find if the words that have been reported [garbled 2 voices] some of which... [garbled]

Wade: Well, stealing? I never said stealing I know that. I might have said insolvent, and I didn't say bankrupt.

Nick P: Can we take this opportunity while we have you here, we don't get to see you very often and there are other topics we want to talk about.

Wade: Here we go, this will be fun.

Nick P: Look I do want to address the question of the website you administer.

Wade: How did I know this was going to come up [chortles],

[Several voices together in protest]: No, no, no

Well that is what it is really all about. Really [5 voices], yeah I think so.

Nick P: It is not a pretext to get you here.

Nik H: You can tell us to stop now.

Wade: No go ahead, I want to hear it. This is an opportunity for me.

Nik H: It isn't a pretext... I asked for this on an informal basis at the end because...

Wade: How often do I, as a Neville nobody, have the opportunity to have a chat with the brains trust of the club, so.. please by all means try me.

Nik H: Now just before we leave the Redfern Oval thing, the whole strategy of Option 4 is that the Council wants Option 1 which is they are going to level it. Ok that is the worst outcome and we had to galvanise one option. Now whether Option 4 does it or not what we wanted for Redfern Oval was a presence for football on some basis. Ok?, and that...

Wade: Well why won't George support Option 3?

Nik H: Sorry?

Wade: Why wouldn't he support Option 3? And that's not, that's... The government is prepared to put \$20 million in for that, and that is going to get it up to speed.

Nick P: [haughtily] Well we've got a former premier in the room... [garbled 5 voices]

Wade: Well that's just what they say you know, you gotta read between the lines.

Shane: Well that's what they say mate. Well its just not...

Nik H: We are trying to do is apply pressure, just so you understand, so that there is football presence on that ground in some capacity. Ok. That's what we're trying to achieve as a unit. And we don't want an open parkland and bowling greens and you know, little tea gardens, ok. And the Juniors...[cut off by Pappas]

Nick P: Well I have seen snippets of information from that website...[long pause] The material I have seen of late, seems to fall into.

Wade: no not me. George thinks its me. I'm too busy to be 3 or 4 different people.

[Nik H and Nick P together]: No, no that's not the question.

Nick P: Ahhh that the... [pause] the material from that person is being disseminated to, for example, people like Russell Fairfax at Foxsports, that is betrays the same lack of judgement, I am sorry to say, to whoever that may be who is doing that. About the the airing of private material about the club, which is really the domain of its members. And nothing more. I don't have to tell you about the history of News Ltd and this club.

Wade: No you don't.

Nick P: And the last thing you want is that, someone's diatribe. Someone's vendetta against Chris Wilson, or George Piggins or ME! [angry Nick]

Wade: Overall we've been pretty supportive of you Nick, though you have copped a bit every now and then. But on the whole we're very supportive.

Nick P: I have had some rockets

Wade: Yeah, yeah you have.

Nick P: from , from, Botak. I've copped some absolute rockets! Almost threatening my life.

Wade: Look I don't know anything about that.

Nick P: So you have read them?

Wade: Some of them, he does forward some of them to me. I usually find out after the event, after the fact.

Nick P: Now ahhh... We are not in the business of shutting things down. We did try to have a forum on our website, but as you know because it became, everyone's out to bag everyone else and you know as an outlet..

Wade: It's an outlet. That's a good word, its an outlet. The fans need an outlet don't they?

Nick P: But when they start to cc Russell Fairfax, and Foxsports and News Ltd, and others. Who have no interest, but do have interest of a different [garbled]

Wade: Yes a different interest.

Nick P: but interest from a legal sense, they have no interest at all. People are misunderstanding what this is all about and in the end the board has to step in and say this - who is it? Who is behind this? And I wanted to use this opportunity to see if you, And Nik might have some [garbled Wade cuts in] I feel it happening again very soon, another meeting like this. And it will be far more serious.

Nik H: Look this stuff, I can't believe anybody within the club would want to give any material to News Ltd. After you know, what they have put this club through. And to give them anything of another story, whether its something of somebody standing against the current board. And I have had snippets of this and away we go again. And it is all being done anonymously.

Nick P: Look if it was reasoned, if a lot of this was reasoned, analytical criticism, I won't engage in that sort of language. I would debate somebody, debate the facts, on the merits.

Wade: Look, I have got to say that it seems to me, that you are trying to convey a message to me, but you are talking to the wrong bloke. Now..

Nik H: Well we are talking to the right person.

Wade: No you're not. Look I can't control what other people say and do.

Nik H: Well you can actually, you can. And what I wanted to ask you...

Wade: Well nobody has requested that.

Nik H: Well we are.

Wade: Well give me specific threads and I'll have a look at it. But..

Nik H: No, well, we'd like you to consider two things. 1 is that if people are on the forum that they use their real names and badge numbers.

Wade: Impossible to police, you know what I mean.

Nik H: Well the club would verify that badge number for you because, you know...creating a lot better standing. Because...

Wade: I'd love for everyone to use their real name, I have always used my real name, this is what you have to understand. I never post as anyone else but myself.

Nik H: Well we are really concerned at what you are doing, because this Rudy Terwilliger is using an email address that is created off that website. To go and publish this...

Wade: Well that's another part of it, yeah. I have got a free email service.

Nik H: Well that's part of it, and that's very dangerous for you as the publisher, and we're not the lawyers here to disseminate legal advice to you but. We would like you to consider this from the perspective of the best interests of the club. I'd like you to consider, and I'm sure that, well I'm not sure, but we will anyway Wade. In terms of debate for \$200 you can obtain a listing. But I am sure I think, that if people are members and whatever, but what we can't allow to happen is this stuff and worse. And you know a trickle becomes a stream. And then it becomes a river, and then they just decide to email everybody in sight. I mean, you know we're the board and you're asking us to show a more professional attitude, we actually need that in return from supporters as well.

Wade: But Nik, I cannot control what other people say and do.

Nik H: But you can, and ahh

Wade: In a way but they will just circumvent these things. If I put these systems in place like you want me to do they can easily circumvent them. Do you know what I mean, it's just... really it is impossible to shut people up.

Nik H: We're not necessarily saying we want to shut people up, basically if people are prepared to make statements then they should be prepared to make them in their own name.

Wade: I agree [garbled 3 voices]

Nik H: So we would ask you to consider it , it is something we would

Wade: So what do you want me to consider? Just so I got it clear.

Nik H: Ahm, well we would love to know who Rudy Terwilliger is because...

Wade: Wouldn't we all.

Nik H: But failing... Well I think you know, because as administrator of the site you would know..

Wade: But mate, can you understand... hang on , hang on a minute.

Nik H: [over the top] I have it here if my IT guy if you gave him open access I'd find out who Rudy Terwilliger was within an hour.

Wade: Probably,

Nik H: Ok?

Wade: Probably. But you find out he is not me. He is not me. He has an email address attached to my domain name.

Nick P: It is wolfy@rabbitohs.com

Wade: That's right but anyone can gain an email address with my domain name, you understand. An email address with my domain name. I have had this service available for years.

Nik H: Yes but there is a way, trust me I do know, that we, that you would know exactly...

Wade: That I can know who it is. It could be anyone, from any computer, anywhere in the world.

Nik H: But hang on, say there was an email address and you provided it and it was NickGreiner@bigpond and it would be up to us to take it from there.

Wade: Well the email address he uses is wolfy@rabbitohs.com

Nik H: Well yeah, but to get to there he must have access from somewhere else to get on your server.

Wade: True, yeah. I see what you are saying.

Nik H: On your server. I promise that if we had access we could find out in an hour for you.

Wade: Yeah, probably.

Nik H: Well I'm not asking [cut off by Pappas]

Nick P: I think you are getting the thrust of our comments. And, and we, we all..

Wade: You'll obviously send me another letter once you have taken this back to the board.

Nick P: On the arrangement that you came in today, we will be ready to deliberate at the board meeting tomorrow night. We will leave it to the board to decide what should happen. It won't be dealt with in the correspondence but I would hasten to add, I really would...

Nick G: Can I just say that I have not looked at the website and..

Wade: Don't waste your time.

Nick G: Well what I was going to say was that in the 2 years that I have been on the board, this has diverted more time and energy, out of the board. Which has, as you know, has a whole lot of things it needs to concentrate on. And you know. Part of this is if you can find a way to demonstrate some bona fides. Ask them to do that, you know there must be some ways that can happen. The truth is that it does not matter to me at all, except as far as that it diverts all of us from trying to do the right thing by Souths.

Wade: Well if I could just, we could just move forward and leave the bad blood in the past.

Nick P: We are trying to, look on the site there is statement today, it is... [cut off by Wade]

Wade: Look, to be honest, I can't. When I see some of the stuff that bloke writes, I cringe, because it is not something I would ever say. You know what I mean, publicly or even privately.

Nick P: But it is being attributed to you, because it is your website...

Wade: True, well that is something I will deal with.

Nick P: And because of your behaviour on the night we intended to talk about tonight, unfortunately. Thanks very much for coming.

Wade: Alright. No worries.

Nick P: And Brad thanks very much for joining us. And ahh, I hope something good comes out of tonight, even though you might get a fairly stern letter, I hope something good comes out of it.

Wade: No worries.

Shane: I'll say this mate. Can I make this point. I made this statement when I first came here and everybody got the experience of being an axe head together and drive forward as one. And I can tell you mate, it'd been a very difficult job to make sure you all work as one axe head goin' forward to make us successful. And that's the only, I, I've got my opinion on things. I'm very, very, the board will tell you I'm very, very open with them about my, I hide nothing from them. And the good thing about the board, we don't leak out of the board, we do actually [chokes] discuss things and go through things on the board and make decisions going forward

Wade: No worries.

Nick P: Thanks mate.

Wade: No worries. Thanks.

Nick P: I'll see you out.

Wade: Cheers mate.

Nick P: Is it good to be back? You sat in that board room before didn't you?

Wade: Did I? No, that one? I think you're mistaken, no I've never been here before in my life.

Nick P: Yes you used to do the draft of the day.

Wade: No, no, no...

Nick: No?

Wade: Thanks Nick...

Nick P: It must have been a figment of my imagination.

Wade: Yeah, yeah,

Nick P: Ok.

Wade: It must have been someone else.

Nick P: Ok

Wade: I don't know how you confused me with someone else, but anyhow...

Nick P: All the best.

Wade: Cheers.

Nick P: Ok.