



Town Hall, Rugby CV21 2LB. Telephone (0788) 533533

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*Secretary and Solicitor*

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*A.A. Gabbittas LL.B.*

Please ask for Mr N.T. Carlile  
Direct Line (0788) 533510

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Our ref. NTC/GC/9/9/3 &  
28/5/80

Your ref.

Date 2nd June, 1992

Dear Sir/Madam,

JAMES GILBERT RUGBY FOOTBALL MUSEUM

I understand that Mr R.E. Webb of James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Ltd may have recently written to you about artefacts which you donated for display in the above Museum. Unfortunately the information in Mr Webb's letter was not strictly correct and I am sorry if his action has caused you some distress.

The facts are that the Museum was created by the Council in 1985 with the aid of artefacts and records loaned for the purpose by Mr Webb's company, James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Ltd. The Council rented, improved and laid out the ground floor of the company's premises in St. Matthews Street, met all the costs involved in creating the Museum, the necessary staffing and promoting the Museum as a tourist attraction with the support of Rugby and District Tourism Association and Mr Webb himself through his worldwide contacts.

Because of Government restrictions on local government expenditure earlier this year the Council had to cut back on its budget provision for 1992/93 in order to avoid being "rate-capped" by the Government. The Council considered the financial needs of the various services provided by the Council and decided that, in order to contribute a small part to the large amount of savings which the Council had to secure in its proposed budget for 1992/93, it could not afford to carry on its Museum facility. It was decided to terminate the Council's lease of the premises and to make arrangements for the artefacts donated or loaned to the Council for its Museum to continue to be displayed at either the James Gilbert premises or the Rugby School Museum (if such Museums were continued by the owners of the premises). Items donated to the Council for the Museum would only be placed in storage in the event of the Council not being able to arrange their display in a local Museum.

Negotiations with James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Ltd for the Company to take over the management of the Museum have now been concluded and the proposed terms of this arrangement will be considered in private by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 15th June.

contd.....

In view of the reaction from donors of artefacts to Mr Webb's unfortunate letter, I am recommending to the Committee that the artefacts be offered back to the donors or lenders so that they can then decide whether they wish to donate or lend their items to James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Ltd., a commercial company. I am also recommending that the Council should lend to the Company the existing furniture and fittings, and any artefacts remaining in the Council's ownership, for such period as the Company maintains the existing Museum as a facility open to members of the general public.

As the Council's lease of the existing Museum premises will terminate on 24th June it would be appreciated if you could let me know before the Committee meets on 15th June whether you wish your artefacts to -

- (i) be returned to you; or
- (ii) remain in the ownership of the Borough Council; or
- (iii) be handed over to James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Ltd as a donation or a loan to the Company.

Please complete the attached form and return it to me in the enclosed prepaid envelope as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

To: The Secretary and Solicitor  
Rugby Borough Council

JAMES GILBERT RUGBY FOOTBALL MUSEUM

I, ..... of .....

..... having \*donated/loaned to Rugby Borough Council, for display in the above Museum, the artefacts which I have listed in the schedule below HEREBY DECLARE that -

- \* I require that the artefacts which I \*donated/loaned for display in the Museum be returned to me.
- \* I require that ownership of the artefacts which I donated for display in the Museum be returned to me but the artefacts be left in the existing Museum premises as I shall be donating the artefacts to James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Limited from 24th June, 1992.
- \* I require that ownership of the artefacts which I donated for display in the Museum be retained by Rugby Borough Council.
- \* I require that the artefacts loaned by me to Rugby Borough Council be retained on loan by the Council and that the Council may lend such artefacts to James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Limited for display at the existing premises (or to any other reputable Museum proprietor) for the period during which such museum is open to the general public.
- \* I require that the artefacts which I loaned to Rugby Borough Council for display in the Museum be left in the existing Museum premises as I shall be lending those artefacts to James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) Limited from 24th June, 1992.

\*Please delete if inappropriate.

S C H E D U L E

Signed .....

Date .....