

"Action against Discrimination"

In 1976 Parliament passed the Race Relations Act, which makes it illegal to discriminate against anyone on grounds of race. At the same time, the Commission for Racial Equality was set up to enforce the legislation by assisting in taking offenders to court, and also to promote better relations between ethnic groups. The CRE helps in cases of discrimination, however minor. — Commission for Racial Equality News Release 13 July 1994.

A local working men's club which refused admittance to three members because they are Asian has been found guilty of race discrimination by the Central London County Court. Belvedere Working Men's Club, Belvedere, Kent. was ordered to pay £1,043 each to Mr Mohan Dosanjh, Mr Kashmir Singh and Mr Harminder Singh.

- 5 Around 22 July 1991, after a fight allegedly involving a group of Asian men and a number of other club members, the Club posted a notice refusing admission to associate club members of Asian origin.

Shortly afterwards Mr Dosanjh attempted to enter the Club. He was refused entry by the doorman, who did not ask him to produce his membership card.

- 10 At the beginning of August Kashmir and Harminder Singh also attempted to enter the Club and received similar treatment.

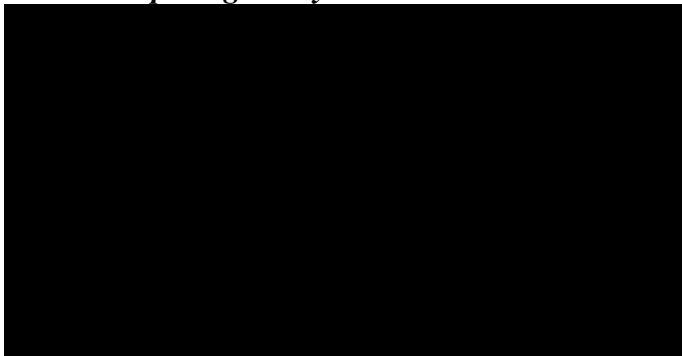
Commenting on the case, CRE Legal Division Director, Chris Boothman, said: "The County Court found that the Belvedere Working Men's Club racially discriminated against the three plaintiffs. They were all very upset and humiliated when refused entry by the Club.

- 15 "Whoever was involved in the alleged fight, it was unlawful of the Club to ban associate members solely on the grounds of their Asian origin.

"Working men's clubs have a membership of around 4 million. It is essential that clubs' ethnic minority members feel they are getting fair and equal treatment. Club rules and regulations are binding to everyone irrespective of their colour."

The Club was ordered to pay costs.

*Who says ethnic minorities can't get jobs?
There are openings everywhere.*



1. What did the club do which angered the three Asian members?
2. What reason did the club give for excluding them?
3. What was the decision of the court?

4. Some people say equal opportunities legislation is an attack on personal freedom, others say it does not go far enough. Try to find arguments on both sides.
(Is it really important whether a club lets people in or not?
Many clubs refuse entry to people without ties or a certain dress code.)