

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**

**B E T W E E N:-**

**STEVE BUNCE**

**Claimant**

**- and -**

**GUARDIAN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED**

**Defendant**

**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

**The Claimant's Solicitor**

My Lord, in this libel action I appear for the Claimant, Steve Bunce.

The Defendant is the publisher of the Guardian newspaper. On 1 October 2009 the Guardian published an article in Marina Hyde's column headed "Bunce takes the biscuit". The article also appeared on its website, and the allegations in it were repeated on other websites.

Steve Bunce is an experienced boxing commentator, having written for national newspapers since 1988, including the Mirror and the Independent, as well as presenting a monthly radio show on BBC Five Live, since 2004. He presented a programme called "Steve Bunce's Boxing Hour" on the television channel Setanta Sports, which was a highly successful show; the only magazine programme dedicated to boxing on UK television. In June 2009 Setanta Sports went into administration and Mr Bunce's programme was no longer broadcast.

The article complained of falsely alleged that Mr Bunce used the website, [www.bringbackbunce.net](http://www.bringbackbunce.net) “in a campaign to get his show back on your telly”, in which he claimed to have supporters he does not have, including high-profile politicians Bertie Ahern and David Blunkett. In fact these allegations are completely false and without foundation.

Steve Bunce found the allegations distressing and embarrassing and complained, through his solicitors, to the Guardian newspaper. The newspaper removed the allegations from its website and apologised to him in the next edition of its paper and online. The paper has agreed not to repeat the allegations and to pay him damages and his legal costs.

Steve Bunce is grateful for the opportunity to correct these allegations in open court and accordingly is content to let the matter rest.