

3 BARMMAIDS FACING NEW PAYOUT ROW

By Peter Swingler
COURT REPORTER

THREE barmaids were awarded £37,000 between them following the loss of their jobs at a Birmingham pub – but face a set back in receiving the money.

Birmingham Employment Tribunal has decided that the compensation claims by Susan Palmer, Helen Barham and Janice Allen must be heard again.

The barmaids worked at the Heathways pub, in Shard End.

They were awarded the £37,000 compensation at a tribunal hearing months ago after the pub temporarily closed.

The barmaids had been long serving employees, with Mrs Palmer, of Shard End, being employed for 17 years.

The compensation claims had not been opposed by the pub proprietors because they had failed to attend the hearing.

At the latest hearing, however, Jonathan Meakin, representing respondent Rebecca Fields, successfully applied to have the case heard again.

Miss Fields who had been named as the respondent at the previous hearing, told the Tribunal she did not previously oppose the compensation claims because she had not received Tribunal documents.

Mr Meakin said Miss Fields denied she was responsible for paying the £37,000 award and that a new hearing was needed to decide who the respondent really was.

"Miss Fields feels she has been stitched up over this matter," said Mr Meakin.

He said the pub was closed for refurbishment and later re-opened.

"We are not dealing with a company, but an individual," he said.

Mrs Barham said Miss Fields should have attended the previous hearing to fight her case.

"We do not believe she did not receive the Tribunal documents" she told the tribunal.

But tribunal judge David Dimbylow said Miss Fields had reasonable prospects of defending her case and on that basis the tribunal decision was that the case should be heard again later this year. He apologised to the three barmaids for the inconvenience.



New chef: Daniel Humphries.

Daniel keeping it local

HE'S the local chef who says he's got a passion for local ingredients.

Daniel Humphries, born and bred in the West Midlands, has just been promoted to the senior chef post at Jewellery Quarter bar and restaurant The Vaults.

The venue is housed in cellars below what was a brewery and workhouse.

And Daniel, a 28-year-old dad-of-one, says he tries to work with regional suppliers as far as possible.

"I understand the importance of fresh produce and I am delighted to be working with local suppliers," he said.

"It means we can provide seasonal specials and tempting dishes to whet all appetites. I particularly enjoy blending contemporary European cuisine with traditional British favourites."

He cites Paul Gayler, executive chef at the Lanesborough, on Hyde Park, known for combining European techniques with flavours of the Orient, as an inspiration.



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