

cc.
DOE (Sport)
Mr. J. Dunnett
Lord Aberdare
Mr. J. Wharton



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 August, 1985.

Dear Mr. Millichip,

I am grateful for the useful and positive meeting we had on Tuesday.

I am glad we are in firm agreement on the need for urgent and strong action to meet the crisis caused by events at the end of last season. As you know, I take the view that the key point to start from is the responsibility of your Association, the Football League and the clubs for the safety and security of spectators within grounds.

I believe we made particular progress on the question of membership cards. We agreed that if controls on away supporters were to be effective, a point raised in Mr. Justice Popplewell's Interim Report, there was a need for access to grounds to be properly controlled, for which a membership card system was necessary. The Home Secretary will, as he said, be prepared to consider prohibiting football offenders from attending matches if a comprehensive system of cards were introduced which would allow such orders to be properly enforced. You and Mr. Dunnett welcomed that proposal; you also agreed with him that the FA would be able to use its disciplinary powers to enforce a membership card system. The Football League, through its Working Party, would consider urgently a cost-effective scheme to recommend to clubs (in Divisions 1 and 2 in the first instance). The

HCI/AAZ (389)
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next meeting of the Working Party would be brought forward for this purpose. The Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency will be willing to undertake an immediate feasibility study, and I am making arrangements for the Agency to liaise with Mr. Dunnett and Mr. Kelly. The Minister for Sport will also be arranging another meeting of his Working Group in August, to take stock of the progress which has been made.

On CCTV, Lord Aberdare reported that the Football Trust expects to fund equipment covering perhaps 35 grounds (including those with existing systems) from their budget allocation of £0.5 million. CCTV is an essential part of the package, and we agreed that it should be introduced widely as a matter of urgency. Some additional funds would be needed. The wealthy clubs might provide their own equipment without drawing on the Trust's funds thereby releasing money for other clubs. You and Mr. Dunnett agreed to consider ways of obtaining additional money from your own resources or from sponsors.

Mr. Wharton reported on the latest position regarding safety improvements. On financing there will need to be further detailed discussions within the Minister for Sport's Working Group.

You and Mr. Kirton reported on the FA's promising plans for a publicity campaign for the new season, to seek the help of the public in combating hooliganism, and to encourage the best behaviour from players and spectators alike.

The Minister for Sport will continue to co-ordinate and push forward developments through his two Working Groups. All of us must do everything possible to ensure the new season gets off to a trouble-free start. I believe our meeting on Tuesday marked a significant step forward towards our shared objective.

I am copying this letter to Mr. Dunnett, Lord Aberdare and Mr. Wharton. In view of the obvious public interest with the new season so close, I am also making copies available to the Press.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Shallice

F. A. Millichip, Esq.