

PRIME MINISTER

19 July 1985

TERRY NEILL

Prime Minister. ②

For information. Terry Neill

wants control over hooligans at away matches,

but not membership cards.

This doesn't add up. MEA 19/7

I saw Terry Neill this morning for an hour at Downing Street. He is highly critical of the idea that every football supporter must carry a plastic identity card and sees his sport as suffering from years of selfishness, neglect and notoriously bad administration. He considered the FA's backtracking on its decision that Luton must have more fences, and that Millwall and Luton should be fined, as "crazy".

Neill's Constructive Suggestions

1. More clubs should involve the local community, as Arsenal and Watford have done, by offering ground facilities to local schools and by expanding supporters' clubs.
2. Tackle the problem of the unviable clubs in the League. The German banks tightened their financial control on football clubs with salutary effects. Amalgamations of clubs would be welcome.
3. Vigorously control hooligans at away matches. The German police forces liaise with each other and send photographs of known hooligans.
4. Inspectors who give certificates of safety should be tougher.

Conclusion

We have an opportunity on 30 July to toughen the FA and League - which Terry Neill sees as weak.



HARTLEY BOOTH