

H

MEETING ON 30 JULY WITH THE FOOTBALL AUTHORITIES

What action remains for decision?

1. Popplewell's proposals on fire safety

We recommend you delegate this to the Home Office and DoE Sport.

2. Popplewell on hooligans

- CC TV, this is going well, Appendix 1 attached.
- Throwing missiles at sports grounds to be made an offence. Yes, this could be included in the Criminal Justice Bill 1987 - a new summary offence only.
- Clubs must review entry and turnstiles. Yes, ask FA and League what they are doing? They are likely to waffle and produce a very poor list of clubs that have some very limited form of membership system. This relates to only 14 clubs; none of them cover more than a part of any ground.
- A standard perimeter fence. Ask the Home Office to include a specification in the Green Code as a guide to local authorities certifying safety.
- Provisionally, Popplewell says police need more power to arrest, under the Public Order Act 1936, and that it should be an offence to chant obscene or racist abuse at sports grounds. This matter should be deferred until his final Report.
- To 'consider' a membership system for all league clubs. Media wrongly assert that Popplewell firmly proposes membership cards for all. This is the major outstanding

proposal. We deal with this in three parts: A. answering FA objections, B. dealing with the practical politics and C. dealing with Stewards.

A. FA Objections to
Membership Scheme

Answer

1. Cost

The cost will be met by spectators purchasing ID cards for possibly only 50p - at most £3. Government estimate of the most expensive option, ie for the exclusion of half a million hooligans would after a grant of £30,000 (football trust or Government) add 10p per ticket per match. (Source: Central Computer & Telecommunications Agency (CCTA)).

2. Cards will deter
casual supporters

ID card plus photo could be arranged up to half an hour before the game in an office at the ground. Popplewell says paragraph 6.43, ~~on~~ deterrence of casual supporters is a necessary 'price' for safety. He omits that such a system might attract more supporters who would feel football to be safer. One other options would be to let in family groups without identity cards in a channel to family enclosures. Interlopers could be 'spot checked'.

3. Risk of trouble at
turnstiles

There is a risk of trouble in any event. With better stewards, together with police presence and videos at turnstiles, trouble can be deterred and minimised.

Popplewell: no simple solution;
paragraphs 6.23 and 6.46. Better
turnstiles will help.

4. None has been
devised

24 commercial systems have been
devised. The Government (CCTA) state
a sensible and workable scheme is
feasible.

5. Identity cards would
infringe human rights

Paragraph 6.45. Popplewell rightly
says BR season ticket holders don't
feel their human rights infringed.

B. The practical politics of membership cards

1. We are in no position "deliver" a national membership card
system. Although our research and computer experts,
together with Popplewell, indicates a number of options, we
should not have to decide which one is best. We could,
however, commission a search for the best if necessary.

2. It would be feasible to insist that membership cards, or
some system of using them, are included in the guide to
clubs "The Green Code". This would be for clubs that are
thought by local authorities to be unsafe because of a
record of hooliganism. Thus, before a safety certificate is
issued, the local authority would have the discretion to
require a membership card system under Section 2 of the
Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975.

3. Popplewell did not consider the details of any one scheme.
No system will be totally villain-proof. Card forgery for
the determined, card theft coupled with poor gate checks,
and inadequate club data on who ought not to receive a card,
are the obvious loopholes. Worst is the likelihood that
hooligans will give false information on their application

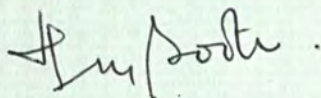
*This is a
new part. We
didn't understand
from Dept. it
it could not be done
without main
legislation.*

forms for cards. It may be necessary to consider a criminal penalty for this conduct.

4. Membership card systems could be produced by each club by the end of the season. But without a national back-up databank of hooligans - or at least one for London (18 clubs here) - this exercise will have limited usefulness. However, you could insist on one "reporting centre" for hooligans (name, address, offence and photograph etc). Legislation might be needed to require the release by magistrates of criminal convictions, police photographs, etc. There would be a civil liberties storm, but we believe the public would accept this - with statutory destruction of the record after, say, 5 years.

C. Stewarding membership cards

Clubs hire the ancient and the stripling and pay peanuts. Popplewell confirms (3.115). He recommends that they should be "physically and mentally capable", Bradford conclusion. He does not recommend the stewards should assist the police to combat hooligans. While direct contact is risky, more tough fit stewards should be taken on to man the turnstiles. The police need more help. The FA must do their part to improve stewarding (Popplewell conclusions 10 and 12) and add better gate control to their duties and, in particular, proper supervision of membership cards.



HARTLEY BOOTH

FOOTNOTES:

- Your neighbouring Barnet FC is one of the 4 top candidates for a new League place.
- Transfer fees squandering continues - Appendix II.

APPENDIX I

The Installation of Closed Circuit Television

By the start of the season (17 August), 20 clubs in the First and Second Division will be covered by CC TV. This includes 12 existing clubs that have the use of mobile equipment and 8 new clubs, including some with the worst record of hooliganism.

The Football Trust is meeting on 8 August to allocate 15 to 20 more clubs with CC TV. Some of these will be mobile.

Conclusion

This season CC TV will be installed at 35 to 40 Football League Clubs.

David Teasdale reports:

1985 summer transfers may be less than in recent years but are still huge:

1. Gary Lineker £800,000 Leicester City to Everton
2. Chris Waddle £600,000 Newcastle to Spurs
3. Paul Allen £400,000 West Bromwich to Spurs
4. Imre Varadi £275,000 Sheffield Wednesday to West Bromwich.

These were set by internal tribunal.

More surprising 'impoverished' Sunderland were able to pay a new manager, Laurie McMenemy, £700,000 salary over three years. Chairman Mr Cowie said 'he will get all the money he needs to rebuild the Club'.