

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CROWD SAFETY AND CROWD CONTROL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON ON
THURSDAY 18TH JULY 1985 AT 11.45A.M.

*Mr Bernard Lyburn -
for info. to
present.*

Present: R.H.G. Kelly (Football League)- In the Chair

*In Teasdale
Doc.
1/8/85*

- R.O. Faulkner (Football Trust)
- J. Patten (Sports Council)
- K. Evans) (Association of Chief Police Officers)
- J.D. Phillips)
- K.J. Friar (Arsenal)
- G.I.S. Hortop (Charlton Athletic)

The Chairman referred to the terms of reference laid down by the Management Committee (to explore the matter of Identity Cards and compare the respective efficiency of the various systems with a view to recommending an efficient and cost efficient system if one can be found) and the Minister for Sport's wish, expressed the previous day, that the Committee report by the first week in September on methods by which club membership card schemes could be extended and made more compatible as between clubs.

The Committee received copies of the F.A. report on Identity Cards of May 1985, an extract of the League's memorandum of 1st July 1985 and a note of current Government thinking.

During a wide-ranging discussion on Crowd Control generally, a great number of points were made, of which perhaps the major ones finding consensus among the Committee were:

- i) Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the police would not be allowed to supply the names of convicted offenders to a national databank;
- ii) The police would be unable to enforce the confiscation of any card and its return to the club of issue;
- iii) The Government were perceived not to have any real regard for the financial implications of crowd control measures on clubs;
- iv) There was a need to improve the environment and atmosphere surrounding football matches;
- v) Banks had rejected the idea of photographs;
- vi) Fans disliked the concept of identity cards and perimeter fences;
- vii) All ticket matches were O.K. if there was a reasonable prospect of a sell out, e.g. cup ties, but otherwise led to more problems, e.g. hindrance to segregation;
- viii) Cards at the outset would give a badge of authenticity to the hooligan;
- ix) The hooligan would see the card as a challenge;
- x) Morning kick-offs could lead to trouble because hooligans might be able to cause trouble at a nearby match or in a city centre in the afternoon;

- xi) The Control of Alcohol (Sporting Events) Bill - restrictions inside grounds - was ill conceived;
- xii) There was a pressing need to create good publicity for the game;
- xiii) The police at the turnstiles next season would be anxious to demonstrate the effect of measures taken to date and this could be beneficial;
- xiv) The great bulk of spectators came through the turnstiles in the last twenty minutes before the match.

It was decided to circularise clubs about extending membership or controlled access/identifiable schemes with a view to ascertaining whether recommendations could be made to clubs generally along these lines.

Members expressed great scepticism about a national databank scheme.

The next meeting was fixed for Thursday 15th August 1985 at Walkden House, London at 11.30a.m.

Chairman

Date