



①  
2nd week in  
May.

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

Encouraging news on football.

You may like to consider

holding a joint meeting with

the authorities later in the year

(assuming the time still looks ripe)

to Yes - after the season is over

(i) keep up the pressure

(ii) thank them for what's  
been achieved

(iii) get a bit of publicity  
for a successful initiative.

(Hutcheon's note of  
May A)

MEFA 7/3

A

PRIME MINISTER

7 March 1986

FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE  
REPORTS FROM HOME OFFICE AND DOE

There is good news that football safety will not require further finance from Government, and that CCTV installation is going well. Nearly all First and Second Division grounds have now been equipped. Better still, Kenneth Baker reports that our domestic policies to combat hooliganism are succeeding. Not only are arrests down, but all reports confirm that the atmosphere is better this year. Even membership card schemes are gathering support.

Department of Sport officials have pioneered proposals to make better use of football clubs as sporting facilities for the young. The point behind it is not only employment, but also to burn up youthful energy in sport rather than in hooliganism. We believe that as soon as the teachers' dispute is over, we should reintroduce the proposal that ran into the sand 2 years ago to open up more schools for the use of youth sport at weekends.

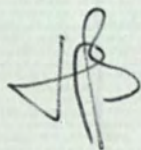
Home Office have now collected considerable evidence that existing law on the use of executive boxes will indeed lose football clubs a substantial proportion of their income. We have made some independent checks, and are satisfied that this information is realistic; and we support the suggestion that the time when alcohol may be consumed in executive boxes be

extended to 15 minutes before the match, and commence again  
15 minutes after the match.

Conclusion

We agree with Mark Addison that you might suggest a final  
meeting of your Football Committee with the hope of getting  
some good publicity.

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HARTLEY BOOTH



CT

CB

To await HB's  
comments. PL  
check him in  
the cage 4 days. MBA 3/3

PRIME MINISTER

FOOTBALL SPECTATOR VIOLENCE AND GROUND SAFETY

12th?

I last reported progress to you on 17 November. It is timely to bring you up to date again and I attach a further report prepared by Dick Tracey.

There are two pieces of particularly good news.

Firstly, Dick's Working Group on the financing of safety improvements has concluded that there is no need for financial help from Government. Such help was strongly sought by the football authorities last year. Their agreement now that it is not needed is, in large part, due to the vital financial support of the Football Trust (FT) and the Football Grounds Improvement Trust (FGIT).

Secondly, our domestic policies to combat and control hooliganism look to be paying dividends. We cannot be complacent, but arrests inside grounds (and ejections from grounds) are down by 30.5% in Division 1 and by 22% in Division 2 compared with the same time period last season.

On the possible lifting of alcohol restrictions as they apply to executive boxes at grounds, the Football League are putting a case together to support this. They will submit it to Douglas Hurd soon. He will put a separate note to you.

K.S.

KB

PROGRESS REPORT ON FOOTBALL: FINANCING OF SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND SPECTATOR VIOLENCE.

FINANCE FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The Finance Working Group met on 18 February following publication of Mr Justice Popplewell's final report in January. We confirmed the view that no Government help was needed. The necessary safety work can be under-taken over a 5-year period and financed from within football. The Football Grounds Improvement Trust's contribution was crucial, of course, to this conclusion. FGIT and the Football Trust will also give some financial help to non-League clubs with safety improvements.

The Finance Group is now on ice. There are no plans for a further meeting unless particular problems arise.

CCTV

In Divisions 1 and 2, 35 grounds out of 42 will have CCTV installed by 1 March. Of the remaining 7, 4 are in London. There have been delays caused by excessive technical scrutiny on the part of the Metropolitan Police but, with pressure from here and Home Office, the problems appear to have been resolved. We shall continue to monitor progress through the Football Association. It is generally agreed by the police and the football authorities that CCTV has played a significant part in the reduction of incidents this season.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

At the last Hooliganism Working Group meeting (12 February) the Football League and the Football Association confirmed their full support for membership card schemes as agreed by the League Management Committee. The League reported that 30-35 clubs now have or are planning to introduce schemes.

Although we are aware that some may not conform to the League's guidelines (issued in October), this welcome progress. We shall continue to press for more; the League are to submit an up-to-date report to us very soon, their clearly expressed support for Clubs' schemes, and the equally clear FA backing, was encouraging.

#### ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As sport needs more facilities, around the country, I am working with colleagues to open existing facilities in schools colleges and industry to the community. Obviously there are value for money benefits in this policy. I believe it can be extended to football clubs, whose grounds are greatly under-used and who need to forge better links with the community if they are to attract back the families and youngsters. I have pressed these views on the football authorities; we are making progress, already there are some good schemes in place. The Manpower Services Commission is involved, and we are looking to develop a national initiative. I believe this policy could be of great value.

#### ALCOHOL LEGISLATION/EXECUTIVE BOXES

The football authorities continue to press hard for alcohol restrictions on executive boxes to be relaxed. Their case was supported by Popplewell. We know that a number of clubs are unable to get ahead with improvements (other than necessary safety work) to their facilities which uncertain about the future of the considerable revenue which accrues from executive boxes. We expect a written case from the League this week. The Secretary of State and I agree with Home Office Ministers that there is in principle a good case for change with suitable controls built in. The Home Secretary will minute the Prime Minister separately, when the League's evidence is received.

## WORLD CUP AND EUROPEAN MATCHES

The World Cup in Mexico is the first test of the behaviour of England supporters abroad since the tragic events in Belgium last year. This test will be followed by further European examinations next season of our policies and resolve, as the England team takes part in the European Nations' Cup. For that tournament, UEFA specified certain "conditions" for England's participation; these have since been taken up by FIFA, the world body for football. As they derive from the European Convention, and UEFA's own revised Rules, I have been able to write to the Football Association expressing HMG's readiness to take the necessary measures in co-operation with the FA, UEFA and other Governments. Fortunately, we have been lucky with the European draw, as England has to travel to Yugoslavia, Turkey and Northern Ireland.

For the World Cup, we are developing with the Football Association, the FCO and other Departments a package of specific measures to deter and detect troublemakers. The next step is a meeting of all the Ministers concerned, with the three Football Associations and the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), on 10 March.

## EFFECT OF DOMESTIC MEASURES SO FAR

We cannot be complacent, but our policies look to be working. Up to January arrests inside grounds, and ejections from grounds, were down 30.5% in Division 1 and 22% in Division 2, compared with the same period last season. Crowd numbers were also down by about 10% on average.

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RICHARD TRACEY  
February 1986

Football Hooliganism : HOME AFFAIRS

HS.

