

WORLD CUP 1966 - CROWD DISCIPLINE

A Meeting was Held at The Football Association's
Offices at Lancaster Gate on 20th July, 1965

The following Chief Constables or their representatives were present:-

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| Mr. E. Barker | Sheffield |
| Mr. R. E. G. Benbow | Birmingham |
| Mr. R. Davison | Middlesbrough |
| Colonel T. E. St. Johnston | Lancashire |
| Mr. W. Tait | Sunderland |
| Mr. J. L. Waldron | Metropolitan Police |
| Mr. N. Watson | Liverpool |
| Mr. S. A. Donaldson | Hon. Treasurer of The Football Association |
| Mr. D. Follows | Secretary of The Football Association. |

Mr. S. A. Donaldson was in the Chair.

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called to consider the question of crowd discipline at grounds where World Cup matches were to be played. In order to assist the Chief Constables in their examination of the problem a memorandum had been prepared by the Secretary which was submitted to the meeting as a basis for discussion. A copy of the memorandum is attached to this report.

After a full discussion of the various aspects of crowd discipline the following points were made and generally agreed:-

1. Steel mesh should be placed over all tunnel entrances to ensure complete protection for the players and match officials from the crowd when entering or leaving the pitch.
2. Alcoholic beverages when served on the grounds should be served in cardboard containers.
3. When allocating tickets to foreign visitors care should be taken to ensure that as far as was possible they should be located in separate groups at various places throughout the ground and if in seats they should be located no nearer the pitch than the fourth or fifth row.
4. Interpreters, who would be fluent in the languages which were spoken by the supporters of the foreign teams, should be available at the grounds. Who would provide these interpreters would be a matter for consideration between The Football Association and the local authorities.
5. It was essential to have very clear cut arrangements for hiring of the police.
6. Only such people who were properly authorised should be allowed on the pitch. Anybody who was authorised should wear some insignia. A brassard was suggested. It was pointed out that

whilst officials might know that the person going on the pitch was a team member or attendant others might not and there was always a tendency for a crowd to be sheep like and if somebody went on the pitch to follow the example set.

7. Photographers and reporters should be clearly instructed that they were forbidden to enter the pitch under any circumstances.
8. Spectators should be educated in newspaper reports, in the programmes and on television that under no circumstances were they to invade the pitch.
9. Precise car parking arrangements were essential and the police would require to have very clear instructions concerning the officials who were given priority. Any influence which The Football Association could exert on local authorities to use parks or the like as extra parking space would be appreciated.
10. Representatives of the police should always be in attendance at meetings of the local liaison committees where any matter of concern to them, however indirectly, was being considered.
11. The view was expressed that the facilities for crowd control were not good at the White City and it was agreed that there should be direct talks between the police and the White City authorities on that point.

The Chief Constables expressed their appreciation of the meeting and felt that it would be advantageous to have a further meeting after the draw for the World Cup had taken place when they were in a position to know which teams would be playing on the grounds under their control.