

MINUTES OF THE MET POLICE FOOTBALL IAG HELD ON 25th October 2023 at Millwall FC

PRESENT Sue Watson (Chair) (WHUST) Margaret Wittich (Secretary) (Chelsea SC) Cliff Auger (Chelsea ST) Ian Clarke (Fulham ST) Nigel Kleinfeld (Charlton ST) Sue Maisey (Crystal Palace ISA) Dave Minckley (Brentford BISA) CI Simon Brooker Sam DFO Millwall Iain Jones MET Dave Lane (Millwall SC) Vicki Goodfellow (FSA) Steve Cavalier (Tottenham Hotspur ST) Rachel Major (Arsenal ISA) Tim Hillyer (AFC Wimbledon ST)

APOLOGIES

Kevin Hind (WHUST) Kevin Perrett (Arsenal) Paul Hay (CST) Sue Couch (FST) Keren Harrison (LOSC)

A gentle reminder, if you are unable to attend please let us know and also give us any thoughts that you have on the agenda items.

Green text not be shared widely blue text covered by official secrets act red text action to be taken

	Action
<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>All of the matters arising were covered by the agenda.</p> <p>Due to the current level of alert , all terrorism experts are unavailable. Simon set he will try to get somebody for the next meeting at Chelsea.</p> <p>The Met look at all aspects of an event. Inside the ground and outside.</p> <p>Sue M commented that Crystal Palace play Spurs this week. Sue asked if, due to the number of Jewish Spurs supporters that Spurs have, and the current issues, would there be more police at the game? Simon said that the normal assessment of the game has been made. DFO information has been shared and a risk assessment made. This is overlaid by the Israel/ Palestine risk.</p> <p>Police had been expecting a protest at the recent England v Australia game but nothing happened. Simon noted that there are now more taser enabled officers available. The Police have also spoken to Spurs. The general security risk is still moderate.</p> <p>Simon reported that the MPS is under significant demand and some rest days have been cancelled to cover the demand of aid to events.</p>	<p>MET to inform supporters when information is not covered under Official Secrets Act and items that are not to be shared widely.</p>

Simon explained the terms
CTSA counter terrorism specialist advisor

SECO security co-ordinator risk assessment for specific event

Tim H recalled at the England v Australia game, the Wembley Arena came out at the same time. There were some people there shouting Palestinian chants.

Tim also asked about player's security. Ignorant chants are being aimed at some Muslim players. Simon said that the police can talk to the players.

Tim said that there may be a webinar available to help to understand issues regards to terrorism. *He has since circulated details.*

Nigel said that other clubs have lots of Jewish supporters too- Chelsea, Millwall, West Ham, Arsenal. Simon added that all clubs are diverse. The Premier League has said no Palestine or Israel flags are allowed in the ground. The police are engaging with protesters. The only flags that are illegal are HAMAS.

Sue W asked what assessments are made in Europe? Simon said that it's the same. The Met also advise. Rachel asked if it extended to the whole club. Simon said yes.

Tim H reported that the problem of anti Semitism is low in this country compared to France, Poland, Eastern Europe. There had been a conference in Rome – Simon.

Simon said that for UEFA games the DFOs exchange information and they will visit the city in advance. UK police are used to walk up / marches to games.

Dave L thought that the Dutch are the worst.

CATEGORISATION OF MATCHES

Sue W asked if any more changes to kick off times are needed?

Simon said that the police always object to high risk games being 5.30, or later, on a Saturday due to more drinking time. 2 kick offs have been challenged this season Spurs v Arsenal and Arsenal v Spurs. Chelsea v Arsenal is medium risk and so can kick off at 5.30.

3pm medium risk

5.30 high as in for title.

After discussions with the hierarchy police are in a better place to negotiate.

Cliff commented that Arsenal v Chelsea was moved last season. Simon said that the context might have changed. Arsenal were challenging for the league late last season.

Simon said that the discussions around Chelsea v Man Utd last season led to the SG asking how could the kick off be 5.30. The decision was made to reduce the number of away supporters.

Ian asked what are the challenges of Christmas Eve games. Simon said that, as far as the police are concerned, NYE is busiest day. The police can't challenge Christmas Eve.

Margaret asked about 3 West London clubs playing at the same time in the League Cup. Simon said that as far as the police were concerned none of them were high risk games and so they were happy for them to be played.

Dave M asked if the impact on public transport is looked at. Iain said yes it is. There have also been strikes this year, which needed to be considered. Tim H added that, in the past, we had asked if BTP could be invited to a meeting. It was agreed that we would like this to happen. Sue M asked if the Met Interact with BTP. Iain replied that they work together. Dave L added that there have been problems at Millwall recently as South Bermondsey station was closed for engineering works. He has written to the local MP.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN / GIRLS UPDATE

Nigel had seen an FSA thread about the correlation with domestic violence. The issue is the lack of evidence. He asked if the Met are able to provide any evidence. Simon said in London it is a priority whether related to football or not. The Brentford DFO has met with supporters, walked and talked. He is compiling a report. He is looking at handing out alarms to women. Tim reported that he had seen an initiative, which is police led, in Carlisle, showing abuse related to football is not linked to domestic abuse. Simon said that there are also trigger times eg when a world cup is being played. He added that they have lots of data. Dave M attended a session with the Brentford DFO and he said that it was excellent. Simon said that he has authorised the purchase of the goods.

UPDATE ON THE DRUGS INITIATIVE

Iain presented the group with the figures for last season and this season so far.

2022 -23

Arrests 293 positive outcomes 251

2023 – 24

Arrests 72 positive outcomes 59

Police to invite BTP to a future meeting, possibly March meeting.

Simon to show the matrix on the big screen at the next meeting.

He reported that only 3 people have been banned from football, so far. The campaign continues and the Met are now looking at suppliers too.

Sue M had seen Crystal Palace's figures and she said that most arrests were away fans. They showed that 4 Arsenal fans were discontinued. She asked what that meant? Iain said there may have been a reason but he can't comment on individual cases. Simon said that it may have been insufficient evidence / weak evidence. He also added that the focus is usually on the away supporters. Cliff noted that there was a spike at Spurs last season and was there a reason for this. Simon said that Spurs use the best dogs. The ones at Chelsea are not particularly good. Cliff further asked why are the dogs different. Simon said that the process used is better/ quicker. Rachel this could be considered for new grounds, clearer, separate away end. Vicki asked if the Met separate drug offence from violent offences? Simon said yes. If you are arrested for theft, for example, you are tested for drugs. This doesn't happen in football, but Simon would like it to.

LIVE FACIAL RECOGNITION

The van used for LFR was parked near to Highbury Corner on the day of the Arsenal v Spurs game. 25,000 people went past it in 4 hours before and after the game. There were 2 detections before the game and 2 after. One male on a banning order / sexual touching offence. Female on a protection order / homophobic abuse to an officer. Male on a banning order / pyro offence (reported but wasn't at stadium). Male on recall to prison for sexual assault.

More operations are planned for the future. 2 before Christmas

Dave M asked if any false identifications were made. Simon said no.

Sue W asked if supporters will know in advance? Simon said no. Comms go out on the day of the game. Stephen asked if anybody objected. Simon said that a complaint was made to the Met and it will be investigated. Some people will also have swerved being detected by avoiding the van. Human rights group may also make their way there.

Vicki reported that most of the FSA's concerns have been addressed. Vicki asked about the limit of time that it was activated. Simon said that the operation takes place for longer before the game than after. It depends on the situation and how things are going. Vicki asked who supplies the tec. But Simon said that he didn't know. Vicki said could somebody be added to the database after they had gone through the zone. Simon replied that they could be added for additional offences.

<p>Vicki asked if 4 was a good number. Simon reported that they were pleased with 4 as sometimes it's none.</p> <p>Dave asked if it's only being used at football? Simon said that it is being widely used. The Met are using every option to bring down the number of violent crimes.</p> <p>Dave further asked if it's being used at other sporting events? Simon said it is being used at a variety of events including other sports. Sue W asked if rugby has banning orders? No</p> <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Sue M asked if the matrix suggests that Palace v Spurs, Arsenal and West Ham are all medium risk. Chelsea is low.</p> <p>Simon agreed to show us the matrix. He said that the grading takes into account history between the 2 clubs, threat of harm / risk.</p> <p>Tim H referred to the BTP when he said that the FSA are running a campaign anti dry trains. He quoted some recent examples York station a dry station due to hen / stag do. Carlisle 2 dry trains. Simon felt that supporters would avoid those trains.</p> <p>DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS 29th November. This has since been changed to 4th January at Stamford Bridge.</p> <p>Sue W will ask about using The London Stadium.</p> <p>Simon will retire after our next meeting.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Simon to show the matrix at next meeting</p>