

MINUTES OF THE MET POLICE FOOTBALL IAG HELD ON 26th July 2023 LAMBETH HQ

PRESENT Sue Watson (WHUST)(Chair) Margaret Wittich(CSC) David Lane (MSC) Sue Maisey(CPST) Tim Hillyer (AFCWST)Sue Couch (FST) AnthoulaArchellios (THST) Steve Cavalier(THST)Nigel Kleinfeld (CASC) Ian Clarke (FST) RonaldMansveld (BIAS)Tim Payton (AST)

Kat Law (FSA) Simon Brooker (Met Police)Lee Sparks (Met Police) Iain Jones (Met Police) Graham Younger (Met Police)

APOLOGIES Cliff Auger (CST) Kevin Hind (WHUST) Paul Hay (CST) Rachel Major (AST)

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>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>Simon reported that he spoke off record to members about the issue of stewards searching women, during a close season training session</p> <p>Margaret and Sue met with the FSA and they contacted other clubs about joining the group. As result we have representatives from Spurs and Brentford joining us. The FSA will also send a rep.</p> <p>The counter terrorism items still needs to be covered . Simon said that he will arrange for the local officer to attend when he knows the date, and venue, of a meeting.</p> <p>FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Presentation by Chief Inspector Simon Brooker</p> <p>Simon reported that this is a tactical option that is already being used in the West End.It is now proposed to use it at football matches.The technology will be used in real time. Images will be sent to the data base, which will scan stored images. Only police will be briefed. The operation will not be acovert tactic. It is similar to ANPR. The camera will be in a van at present and images will be compared to a watch list. They will be looking for supporters on a banning order or someone that is wanted for a violent crime.Engagement officers, and mobile officer, will get a vibrating alert on their phone with a photo. Officers will move towards the person identified. They will speak to them and may arrest.</p> <p>If an image is not on the data base, it will be deleted.</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> <p>Simon to supply leaflet to be distributed to supporter groups</p>

The van will be used at specific locations and these will likely to be at high risk games rather than every game. It's use will be authorised by a superintendent. The camera uses the same technology as some private cameras but it is not used in street cameras. If somebody tries to avoid the camera deliberately, they may be spoken to.

A human, rather than a machine assesses if the image is a match. There can be false matches. These will be binned if they are obviously not a match or if the person is spoken to and proves not to be that person.

A LFR officer will wear a yellow jacket. They will be in addition to the normal officers and will be specially trained to observe behaviour. No specific legal authority is required. People cannot be forced to walk through the detection zone. Simon reported that a false negative image will be kept for 30 days in case there's a complaint. The alert given to an officer is an alert that means clarification. Simon said that it is not an offence for a person to refuse to be identified. Police would do a normal check. A person may be asked to remove a facial covering but there is usually enough face showing to complete the identification accurately.

Live Facial Recognition is not going to be all over football instantly. It will begin at high risk fixtures.

Ron asked how accurate is the system? Simon said that it generally hits an accurate match. Ron asked if it could miss someone on the watch list. Simon reiterated that it is extremely accurate.

Kat asked if was linked to both banning orders and club banning orders. Simon replied that it is linked to the police system and so club banning orders are not included.

Steve asked in what way will the van look different? Simon said that there will be signs in the street and the van will have its own livery.

Tim H asked if more vans are on the way. Are there plans to use them at a station? Do clubs want to use the technology with their own CCTV? Simon said that the team will meet 2 /3 weeks before a game to decide on the position of the van. Any club can upgrade their own CCTV to include the technology but it would not be linked to the police system. Simon said at the present we only have one vehicle but the new Commissioner is keen on new initiatives so more may become available. Tim H added that clubs should not share data on bans.

Sue W clarified that it is triggered by football banning orders and violent offences (not necessarily football related).

Nigel asked if it would pick up someone that is misbehaving at the ground. Simon said no.

Nigel asked how far away does a person on a banning order have to be? Simon said that it's one mile.

Simon said that they plan to use the van for the first time in September.

Simon then had to leave to attend another meeting but he later added some more note on the subject. South Wales Police are already using LFR. SWP have supported Northamptonshire Police (on a mutual aid basis) with a deployment at the British F1 Grand Prix. Other forces are going through the procurement process in order to purchase equipment.

We know from independent testing that, at the settings we have the system configured to, there is no difference in performance across different races or gender. In terms of numbers we generally have a watchlist of about 10k people – with these numbers, and the settings that we use, we would expect a maximum of 1 false alert for every 6k people that pass the system. In reality we have not had false alerts for the last 6 deployments.

Currently we have 4 vans.

PLANS FOR THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL 2024

Tim H commented on the report on the events at The Euro 2020 Final. It heavily criticised the police. Focus was taken away from the FA and UEFA, as there have been other problems. Tim said it was announced today that Wembley have spent £36m on improvements to security. Tim noted that issues only seem to happen at UEFA games. FIFA have more security in place. Tim H asked what has been the police reaction to the report?

The report said that the police arrived at the normal time rather than earlier. He felt that some blame should be put on ticketless supporters. There were crimes away from the game too. Many took the opportunity to commit a crime. Tim concluded by asking if the police have started to plan for this event? Are all parties being brought up to speed?

Lee said that he felt that covid and ticketless supporters had a lot to do with the problems. He said that some police officers were there early. Wembley is now surrounded by residential buildings. Supt Jerry Parker has done a lot of work on public space protection order. The police want to put supporters back into licensed premises. Drinking in the street is banned.

Lee continued by saying that the Caraboa Cup 2022 was easier than they had expected.

The council will now enforce touting and drinking laws.

Iain said the police resources, PSUs have doubled. Planning has also started with UEFA. Also the matchday commander for Wembley will be the same for the whole season.

Lee reported that there was a good atmosphere and good engagement at the FA Cup Final. The local community do tend to target events at Wembley, crime wise.

Iain said that he felt that Wembley is a better place to work now.

Graham felt that there are many benefits from having an organised fanszone. There had not one at the Euros due to covid. He said that the police had learnt a lot since then.

WALK UPS AT EUROPEAN GAMES

Sue W spoke on Cliff's behalf.

Cliff wanted to know why walk ups (marches) are allowed to happen when they disrupt local traffic and put pressure on the turnstiles at the ground ,when large numbers arrive at the same time.

Lee felt that they had minimal impact. They are going to happen anyway. The police work with the other country's police. They try not to close the road. The police like to be aware that it is happening and to police it.

Graham added that there is no legal framework that covers them. There needs to be a balance with the disruption to the community. Clubs plan how they are going to get the fans into the ground.

Tim P noted that Croatian fans use the same tactic.

Sue C felt that at least they're not drinking while they're walking.

Steve said that there were arrangements for the Spurs v Arsenal game and the police knew where the Frankfurt supporters were.

I think that should be FA Cup 2023 as it was United v City Think so too

Tim P said that boat parties were also a problem. Long time drinking. Are they an issue with the police?

Graham said that they can be an issue but no more than a pub. Again at least the police know where they are.

Sue W asked if police from different countries liaise. The police said that they do but they have different systems for banning supporters.

CATOGARISING GAMES

The issue of conditional picks was raised, where a date for a fixture is dependant on another.

Lee said that choosing games for TV seem to be happening earlier. The police are already getting the lists for October. The Police have only objected to one kick off so far and that has been resolved.

Tim P felt that fixtures should be approved earlier for supporters. The PL says that they have been so far.

Lee said that the DFOs run the matrix to approve fixtures .

Dave asked if it is different for Championship games. Lee said that the EFL are slower and he would go back to the EFL.. Graham said that the EFL start a new contract with the TV companies next season.

Sue W raised the issue of a Black Pride Event,, due to be held at The Olympic Park, being rearranged due to the West Ham v Chelsea fixture being changed to take place at the same time. Black Pride issued a statement that contained some inappropriate language and accusations. Lee said the decision was made by the organisers.

Sue said that the issue and response has been reported to the FSA.

Nigel asked if the SAG has to listen to the police. Graham said that they don't.

Sue M asked If something causes a fixture to be changed is the SAG involved? Iain said yes and the matrix is completed.

ANTI ABORTION DEMONSTRATION

Again Sue W raised this on Cliff's behalf. Last season there had been an anti abortion demonstration outside Stamford Bridge. Some of the images that they were showing were horrific.

Cliff asked what are the laws about this?

Graham said that it is a protest and you have the right to protest. The right can be restricted if it causes disorder, damage to property or the community. There is a fine line between freedom and causing offence. Technically they should notify the police 7 days before but legislation is easily overcome. Graham said that in the case of offensive images, officers at the scene should be able to deal with. The law is, however, difficult to judge.

Tim H asked if Just Oil Protesters, that protested in the ground, received a football banning order. Iain answered yes, from Spurs.

ANY POLICE INITIATIVES

Violence against women and girls

DFO Andy Sheldon is using football as a tool to work with on this issue.

Graham said that the police are rolling out training to bars etc and they may extend to stewards.

Drugs initiative

This is being used with clubs down to league 1. There have been some arrests. Some taken to court.

AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT TIME

Feedback on drugs initiative including figures.

DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS

4TH October Millwall FC

29th November Chelsea FC

Tim H recommended to supporters a Police Roadshow that was held at AFC Wimbledon recently.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

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