FOOTBALL HOOLIGANISM

Nature & Extent
Causes & Control

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Nature: Three Popular Fallacies

- Spectator violence is NOT new
- It is NOT just a football problem
- It is NOT just “The English Disease”
- But ..... 
  - since the 1960s
  - football related
  - English at home and abroad
- Current concern – current examples

Nature: Range of Behaviours

- Problems of definition
- MANY VARIABLES
- Criminal offence categories?
- Extent of criminalisation?
- Location? Timing?
- Extent of organisation?
- Arrests, injuries or damage?
- League/Division?

“Complex and Many Sided”


Extent: Data Sources

- Scottish Education Department 1977
- Trivizas 1980
- NCIS Statistics to 2000/01
- Home Office Statistics from 2001/02
- Home Office Statistical Highlights
- NCIS Football Disorder Logs
- BTP Serious Disorder List 2003/04
- BBC Hooligans Investigation 2001
- FSOA Post Match Reports Database

Data Sources: Critique

- Troublesome statistics
  - Attrition rate
  - What gets counted
  - Interpretation
- A declining problem?
  - Academic commentators
  - Fans surveys
- A changing problem
  - Displacement
  - Redefinition
Extent: Student Research

- Robert Newton MSc Dissertation
- One match in 20
- Arrest rate 0.011%
- 50-64% away from ground
- 43-50% after the match
- Less in Premiership
- 19% not linked to matches
- Disorder, but few injuries

Subsequently Published

- ‘The Nature and Extent of Football Hooliganism in England and Wales’
- *Soccer and Society*. Vol. 7 No. 4, December 2006, pp. 403-422

Who Are The Hooligans?

- ‘Most of the evidence on hooligan offenders suggests they are generally in their late teens or early 20s (though some leaders are older), that they are mainly in manual or lower clerical occupations or, to a lesser extent, are unemployed or working in the ‘grey’ economy, and that they come from mainly working class backgrounds.’ (SNCCFR 2001, p. 5)

Getting Older?

- Chris Conrad MSc Dissertation
- “Can a Profile of a Football Hooligan be Achieved?”

- Data Sources 2004/05
  - 160 ‘hooligan’ subjects
  - Persons Arrested at Matches
  - 40 ‘most active hooligans’

Causes: Populist

- “All football fans are animals”
- Alcohol?
- Sophisticated organised gangs?

Theoretical Perspectives

- Over-researched
- Vitriolic debate
- Silly writing
- Commonalities?
Causes: Taylor and Clarke

- Marxist sociological perspective
- Sub-cultural perspective

Causes: Marsh & Armstrong

- Social psychological perspective
- Social anthropological perspective

Causes: The Leicester School

- Social historical perspective

Causes: Kerr and Buford

- Psychological perspective
- Populist 'biological' perspective

Causes: Amplification

- Media amplification
- Moral panic
- Self fulfilling prophesy
- Academic amplification!

Causes: Summary

- Who are they?
  - white males
  - late teens to early 20s?
  - getting older?
  - unemployed or 'grey' economy
  - working class backgrounds
- Why do they do it?
  - post-modern masculinity – 'lager louts'
  - search for peak/flow experiences – 'fun'
‘Fault-Lines’ Hypothesis

- It is important to stress that it is unlikely that the phenomenon of football hooliganism will be found always and everywhere to stem from identical social roots. As a basis for further, cross-national research, it is reasonable to hypothesise that that problem is fuelled and contoured by, among other things, what one might call the major ‘fault lines’ of particular countries.’ (Dunning 2000, p. 141)

UK ‘Fault-Line Hypothesis’

- ‘English football disorder cannot be removed from its wider social context. In many ways it is a manifestation of a wider social problem of alienated young males demonstrating their frustration in an anti-social and violent way. It occurs in high streets up and down the country every weekend. Mediterranean holiday resorts are equally at risk.’ (Home Office 2001, p. 15)

Control: Containment

- Herding and caging
- Segregation
- Indiscriminate policing
UK ‘Policing’ Style

- Police officers
- Stewards
- Planned, reactive & assertive
- Policing versus stewarding
- Product of experience

Police (Over)Reaction

- If there is a problem, we will deal with it, i.e.
  - We will get our truncheons out and hit everyone over the head, or
  - We will throw a tear gas grenade into the bar and arrest everyone who staggers outside

Legal Provisions

- Control of alcohol
  - possession, sales and drunkenness
- Football offences
  - throwing things
  - indecent/racist chanting
  - pitch incursion
- Banning orders & travel restrictions
- Home Office Circular 34/2000

New & Refurbished Grounds

- The nadir of Hillsborough
- All seating
- Improved facilities
- From public order to public safety
Technology
- CCTV
- Hand-held cameras
- Ticketing
- Access control

Intelligence-Led Policing
- Undercover operations
- NCIS Football Unit
- Football Intelligence Officers
- Police ‘Spotters’
- Match Categorisation
- Post-match investigations
- Police and club protocols
- ACPO Manual of Guidance

Government Reports
- Disorder in Scotland – McElhorse 1977
- Disorder abroad – DoE 1984
- Bradford and Heysel – Popplewell 1985/86
- Hillsborough – Taylor 1989/90
- Home Affairs Committee 1991
- Home Office consultation document 1998
- Bassam 2001

‘Friendly’ Policing
- Origins in Euro 2000 – Holland
- Approach encouraged by Bassam
- Used to soften Japan/Korea 2002
- Euro 2004 in Portugal

Fan Culture
- Supporters clubs?
- ‘Football in the Community’?
- European ‘fan projects’
- England fans against hooliganism
- Anti-racist initiatives

Conclusion
- Nature/Extent
  - Statistics an unreliable indicator
  - wide range of behaviours involved
- Causes
  - populist fallacies
  - complex theoretical alternatives
- Control
  - (over)reaction and containment
  - policing and stewarding
  - fan-led initiatives