

Press Pack Introduction

In 1989, Liverpool and Nottingham Forest Football Clubs had progressed to the semi-final stage of the English Football Association (FA) Cup competition. The English FA decided that the match would take place at the Hillsborough football stadium, home to Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, on Saturday April 15th.

More than 50,000 supporters travelled to Sheffield to watch the match but only six minutes were played before the game was stopped by the referee, as it became apparent that a deadly crush was unfolding in the enclosed pens of the Leppings Lane End terrace.

96 people died as a result of the Disaster, hundreds more were injured and thousands were traumatised in what was claimed to be one of the safest grounds in the country.

A public inquiry was launched to answer the question of why Hillsborough happened, with Lord Justice Taylor appointed to oversee proceedings.

Even though he found that mismanagement of the crowds by South Yorkshire Police caused the Disaster, and that a number of failings by the stadium's owners and safety advisors contributed to the high death toll, no individual, group or organisation has ever been held legally accountable for what is still the worst disaster in British sporting history.

The lack of official accountability has allowed for entirely false accounts of the Disaster to continue to be presented as fact. Consequently an entire new generation has grown up not knowing what really occurred or why and most importantly not knowing where real blame really lies.

This 'press pack' has been produced to illustrate what really needs to be known.

Herein you will find:

A booklet which documents the key events that led to and caused the Disaster plus all the significant events that followed in its wake. This includes a reference section of further reading to expand knowledge of how a football match turned to tragedy. There is also a memorial page to illustrate the high price of complacency.

A note from both the author and the editor on why they undertook this project.

A chronological timeline, illustrating key events prior to and following the Disaster, as well as when all the key decisions were undertaken on the day.

A table of failures, highlighting the numerous breaches, and their subsequent deadly effects, of the government's 'Green Guide' safety standards.

A graphical representation of the stadium, to place the reader at the scene of the Disaster.

'Hillsborough's 20 Questions'; a brief summary of key questions that should be asked. You decide the answers based on what you read in the rest of the release!

A study on the 'Duty of Care', which examines the areas of responsibility for the authorities.

You can contact us through the www.hfdinfo.com website's main email address:

feedback@hfdinfo.com

Nicola McMillan, Author
and
Jim Sharman, Editor