

A Note from the Author

At every stage following the public inquiry into Hillsborough, the authorities appear to have been more concerned with burying the issue along with the dead, and not getting to the bottom of why it happened. The complete lack of accountability has not only denied the families any sense of closure, it has allowed those responsible to avoid reprimand. It has also allowed for misconceptions regarding the causes of the Disaster to persist.

The derisory verdicts at the trials of Duckenfield and Murray, plus the decision not to have any retrial, is just so indicative of the lack of accountability that has gone before. Misinformation is still continually regurgitated to the public. In spite of the vast wealth of information which is so easily accessible since the advent of the internet, the original slurs are still spouted. The dated allegations purporting to supporter responsibility, made in two BBC television programmes in 2008, prompted me to create this document, dubbed 'HFD' with the aim of showing how utterly without foundation those allegations are.

'The Politics Show' made an incorrect and explicit link between Hillsborough and hooliganism, whilst the popular 'Eastenders' programme made a more subtle, implicit link. Both sparked outrage and indignation from those who know the truth, and helped once again to reinforce the myths and lies that have persisted.

The aim was to help break this cycle of lies, to create a short and succinct document that not only demonstrates why Hillsborough happened but also illustrates where the myths originated from and why they have taken hold. I wanted to create a document that empowered survivors and supporters so that, whenever they encounter someone spreading these myths, they can quickly and comprehensively counter such allegations.

Personal narratives have often been used in the past to counter the views of those who believe supporters were responsible. They are often and inexplicably dismissed for being biased, which is incredibly frustrating. To counter that, I wanted to create a very impersonal account of the Disaster, featuring facts which can be verified. 'HFD' has been a collaborative project and information has come from a variety of documented sources, all carefully referenced.

In its original form, 'HFD' was posted on an internet message board shortly before the 19th anniversary and the response has been terrific, and not just from Liverpool supporters. It has been reposted elsewhere and used as a tool to counteract the lies on various internet fora.

In this version, it seems that the impartial reader is finally hearing 'the other side' of the story, taking on board the facts of the Disaster, quickly silencing South Yorkshire Police apologists.

See it as a good introduction to the Disaster, a useful resource guide and a tool to combat those who want to spread lies, myths and misinformation, or as Maria Eagle (MP for Liverpool Garston) called it in the House of Commons, May 8th 1998, "*black propaganda*".

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