SELECTED ARTICLES AND REPORTS

This section contains a selection of abstracts of reports and articles on the central topic of this issue. The aim of publishing these short summaries is to generate and disseminate additional information. Most of the articles have been published in other journals in the English language, although we aim to incorporate French, Dutch or German literature on the subject. General information on criminal policy and research in Europe can be supplied by the WODC Documentation Service (infodesk@wodc.minjust.nl). Single copies of the articles can (when used for individual study or education) be provided by the WODC Documentation Service.


“Hooligans, autonomous people and police officers: violence and police conduct in riot situations”. The author has systematically researched the interaction between the police and the public, with special attention to football hooliganism. He has observed several ‘risk’ matches and focuses on the presence of away-supporting hooligans, preventative and reactive policing, the differences between supporters and hooligans, possibilities for influencing them by the police, policies to prevent violence and the execution thereof.


The introductory section clarifies the ways in which the terms ‘punishment’ and ‘victimisation’ are applied in this article. The next section of the article evaluates the relevance or otherwise of the socio-cultural theory advanced by Giddens to the study of sports law. Following on from there, the author attempts to demonstrate how modernist discourse of the ‘civilising process’ mistakenly focuses exclusively on the punishment of the offender while being completely silent about victimisation as mere punishment. From this, the article attempts a detailed analysis of specific football penalties to show that what is taken for granted by modernity (the codified offence) is often problematic. Before the conclusion, the article moves beyond the sphere of sports to demonstrate that the criminal justice system could be better understood (in certain instances) from the point of view of collective responsibility which is reflected in the team spirit found in sports, but which the discourse of the Enlightenment defines away from the ‘rational’ administration of justice.


Gary Armstrong and Dick Hobbs consider police response to football hooliganism. They argue that politicians and the media helped to create a moral panic which justified the creation of specialised police surveillance units directed against a marginal group. The low status of the group made possible police actions that would not have been publicly supported against other groups such as labour unions. They also note how covert means lend themselves well to the dramatisation of the fight against crime and a struggle between good and evil. Heroic police facing great peril is well suited to mass media glorification.

This report, on football hooligans/football criminals, consists of two parts. M. Bol gives expert evidence on football hooligans, based on interviews with police officers, stewards, people involved in the safety of stadiums and a public prosecutor. These interviews have provided an analysis of the profile and motives of perpetrators of organised violence at football matches. The second part consists of an annotated bibliography compiled by C. van Netburg, in which literature on the subject over the years 1985–1997 is summarised.


“Today we’ll lie doggo: a cross-national study of hooliganism and policy”. This sociological research focuses on the physical and verbal acts of hooliganism in England and the Netherlands. Apart from a comparison of the situation in these two countries it traces the origins of hooliganism and the interference of racism, extremist ideas and anti-Semitism in football. Attention is also paid to the policies to beat hooliganism and racism in football, and preventative policies directed at verbal acts.


Hooliganism is known under several names and across a wide geographical area, hooligans in Britain, Germany and the North of France, *siders* in Belgium and the Netherlands, *ultras* in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Southern France, and *barras/favelas* in South America. The ‘crisis’ in violence is characterised by the time (the football match), the place (the stadium), and the actors (the supporters). In this article the phenomenon of hooliganism is explained on five levels: the individual, the group, the social group, the crowd, and the social class. The author describes these levels and also their interrelations, referring to international literature and specifically to the Belgian situation.


In this article several Greek studies on hooliganism are described. A research group was formed under the direction of the author of this article to research different aspects of the problem. In view of this objective, seven particular projects were planned and carried out, the principal one being that which was set up to investigate the behaviour and attitudes of hard core fans.


In November 1995 a conference was organised in Liège with the title ‘Which supporters for the year 2000’, to celebrate five years of ‘fan coaching’ with the Standard Football Club. Several Belgian as well as European experts discussed large sports events (the forthcoming Euro 2000), the security measures and the interaction of sport and people from diverse angles.