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SPORT AND CRIME

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS
Number 23, Spring 1996
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For many, the sport and crime connection conjures up images of on-and-off-field violence, abuse and inducements. Examples abound of 'hooligans abroad', 'doped athletes' and 'financial bungs'. Often an individual's psyche, cultural constraints or structural circumstances are credited with providing explanatory potential. Whatever the view, for many, crime is the price we pay for competitive sport today. However, the world of sport is not just a random location for crime and criminal behaviour. The pursuit of sport itself can often be criminal (badger baiting, cock fighting) whilst sport is also seen as a possible means for crime prevention and reduction. As **Victor Jupp** stresses in the opening article the relationship between sport and crime is necessarily 'complex and has many dimensions'. It must be taken seriously and requires full and critical research and evaluation.

In developing understanding of the dimensions of sport and crime, one important area of analysis must be that of *lifestyle*. **Russell** and **R Emerson Dobash**, along with **Mick Bloor** and **Lee Monaghan** discuss the link between steroid use and violence within the body building community, whilst **Mark Gilman** traces the relationship between fashion, drugs and fan preferences associated with changes in the world of football. In both, common issues such as masculinity and violence arise, as does a need for consideration of cultural and structural dimensions along with historical and spatial variables for any understanding of the sport-crime lifestyle. Furthermore, both articles raise concerns regarding the policing and enforcement of rules and legislation within the sporting environment.

Our evaluation of the *policing and enforcement* of rules and legislation on the field begins with an interview with **David Cowan** who draws attention to, the processes involved in, and highlights many of the issues surrounding, the testing for drugs within modern sport. The contributions by John Williams, Eddie Bannon and Robert Pinkney discuss changing practices and ideologies surrounding the policing and control of off-the-field fan behaviour. **John Williams** looks at police preparations for Euro 1996, **Eddie**

Bannon focuses upon the development of sophisticated technology, surveillance, intelligence gathering and control in the policing of football matches - a view highlighted by recent press releases on police preparations for the forthcoming European Championships - whilst **Robert Pinkney** addresses the question as to whether the curbing of football hooliganism has been one of the more successful areas of the current government's law and order policy.

Another area which many of the articles touch upon, some in great detail, is the role of criminal law and legislation on the playing field. Defining boundaries of the law and legislative enforcement is given primary analysis by Simon Gardiner and Mark James. **Simon Gardiner** addresses the legitimacy and necessity of the criminal law encroaching on to the field of play, whilst **Mark James** argues for a better understanding of, and a more consistent approach to, the prosecution of sports field violence. In a further contribution, Gardiner also draws attention to the role of the athlete as victim of fan behaviour and the role social policy can play in preventing and reducing behaviour such as racist abuse.

The relationship between *sport, crime and social policy* hits at the heart of much commentary on the area, again a point echoed by **Victor Jupp**. The final four articles evaluate the role sport can and should play in the spheres of crime prevention and reduction. **Valerie Jones** rehearses well the arguments regarding the individual and social benefits of sport and crime prevention, whilst **Dave Robins** questions the evidence on the sport and crime prevention relationship. Whatever your view - and it appears there is no easy answer - **Keith** and **Julia Waldman** certainly provide an important insight into the possibilities and potentialities that sport can bring to particular crime prevention and reduction programmes, whilst **Dacre Dunlop** provides a broader overview of the benefits of sport for the development of good social and individual skills.

Peter Francis and Julia Braggins