

## MATCH RESUME (HOME)

Aston Villa v Birmingham City

Championship Fixture on: 11/02/2018 Kick Off: 12:00:00

Match Category	C - IR	Result:	2-0
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## ATTENDANCE

Home: 39167	Away:2066	TOTAL:	41233
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## ARRESTS & EJECTIONS

TOTAL ARRESTS	5	Aston Villa	5
TOTAL EJECTIONS	17	Aston Villa	9

### ▼ Phase 1 (Pre-match)

Phase 1.

The planning for this fixture started in November 2017 and due to the successful plan we implemented last season we rolled out the same one this season [REDACTED]

Spotters were briefed at 07:00hrs and out on deployments by 07:30hrs. Road Closures around the ground started going in at 10am with the deployment of 4 CBRN Barriers across Witton Lane. 7 away coaches all arrived under escort with No issues whatsoever at 10:45.

Birmingham City risk numbering around [REDACTED] drank in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Two special Blues Only trains had been arranged and the first train left New Street with [REDACTED] away fans at 10:57hrs. [REDACTED] Birmingham City risk then left [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and attempted to board Aston Bound trains but were thwarted by Spotters and BTP who made them wait on the platform for 2nd Blues Only Special.

At 11:26 [REDACTED] BCFC Fans including [REDACTED] BCFC Risk left New Street aboard the special accompanied with BTP and WMP Spotters. The Sterile area worked well and Blues fans had no opportunity to mix with Home fans and vice a versa. Two fence panels that segregate the basketball court opposite DE were missing which caused problems with fans migrating behind the police closure.

As planned the vast majority of fans started to arrive with 30 mins to KO. Three ejections were made early on when police in the concourse area spotted away fans damaging toilet roll dispensers.

At this time only half of the away contingents were in the stadium. There was a report of a steward assaulted by a fan in Holte lower. Police were asked to respond and duly arrested the offender. Overall phase 1 went well and objective of keeping fans apart and safe was achieved despite the issues we faced. There were several home R block and away fans outside at KO.

## Phase 2.

There were a few ejections early on. The mood in the ground was charged but under control. The Holte lower chose to stand for the first time this season despite repeated requests for them to desist. We had an away fan found in Trinity who was ejected. An early call was made to stewards to make the lower stands for half time where all drinks were being decanted.

Half time – The concourses were very busy but mostly the period passed without issue.

The second half continued with a number of ejections. The home goal saw one fan enter the field of play from the North Stand area. He was detained before he got onto the pitch and arrested. Two stewards were injured during this incident. 1 x cuts to head and 1 x knee injury. 2 more home fans were arrested for entering the pitch side but none got near to any players or the away fans thanks to the quick reactions of the stewards. 1 Home fan was arrested for throwing missiles towards away fans.

## Phase 3.

The egress went as planned in the areas affected by road closures. Train services were disrupted due to a death at Walsall Station but the 2 specials for away fans still ran. The majority of Blues fans got onto the 1st Special train at 2pm leaving only [REDACTED] behind for the 2:37 Special. all fans left via train without issue.

Blues Risk headed back into the City centre and drank in the [REDACTED] numbering around [REDACTED]. Villa Risk split themselves between the [REDACTED] but could only muster [REDACTED] in number. All groups monitored by Spotters.

At around 5:30pm [REDACTED] moved from the [REDACTED] in Nechells and numbered around [REDACTED]. Spotters monitored this group and at around 18:34hrs [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] approximately [REDACTED] Blues risk running down Cato Road towards the A47, Spotters quickly turned around radioed for assistance [REDACTED] where the Villa Risk had now exited the [REDACTED] and were running down Cato Street North to meet the Blues fans. Spotters drove between the two groups and were joined by another pair of spotters and together they kept both sets of fans apart by the use of baton strikes and strong verbal commands only approximately [REDACTED] persons got together to exchange punches, blues and villa risk threw bottles at each other but both sets of risk groups were chased in opposite directions by [REDACTED] spotters.

[REDACTED] AVFC Risk nominals were arrested for affray as the ones being identified throwing punches then and there in front of spotters. [REDACTED] Villa Risk nominals were rounded up and details obtained and all EGT'd. At the same time other resources and spotters speeding towards the disorder had managed to locate a number of BCFC Risk nominals starbursting into streets, some who were subject of FBO's and also EGT'd

them and obtained details.

The ■ AVFC Risk failed to extradite themselves following being EGT'd and were promptly issued with Dispersal notices to quit the area for fear of more ASB or violence. ■ AVFC Risk fans taken to Perry Barr Custody suite. Enquiries to obtain CCTV from ■ am Monday have been arranged with DPS and Officers will look to obtain further CCTV for a post-match investigation.

<b>MATCH RESUME (HOME)</b>			
<b>Birmingham City v Aston Villa</b>			
<b>Championship Fixture on: 29/10/2017 Kick Off: 12:00:00</b>			
<b>Match Category</b>	<b>C - IR</b>	<b>Result:</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>			
<b>Home: 25500</b>	<b>Away:2067</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>27567</b>
<b>ARRESTS &amp; EJECTIONS</b>			
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Birmingham City</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>TOTAL EJECTIONS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Birmingham City</b>	<b>3</b>

#### ▼ Phase 1 (Pre-match)

CAT C-IR with ■ PSU's on duty, this had been ■ which were on duty for the game last season.

■ x spotting teams and ■ x EGTS's who were deployed from 0745 hours.

Villa had been allocated 2100 tickets for the game and due to the strict ticketing policy at Villa Park these went to genuine fans who attend virtually every game.

9 Villa risk had been arrested in the week preceding the game for their involvement in disorder at Cardiff in August, all had been conditionally bailed including non-association which made it virtually impossible for any Villa group to muster on the day.

There were just two intelligence logs prior to the day.

#### Phase 1

Birmingham risk began to gather from approximately 0830 hours onwards around the Digbeth corridor, however, in groups of ■ rather than one big group. Villa fans predominantly drank over in the Aston area.

Due to engineering works on the rail network there were no trains running between

Aston and Duddeston, this route usually sees about [REDACTED] Villa fans using it. Due to this after intervention by the DFO AVFC decided to put on rail replacement buses to transport fans from Villa Park to BCFC - this saw 5 coaches being used.

In addition 14 coaches transported Villa fans from various locations.

Birmingham risk totalled around the [REDACTED] mark from mid-morning, however, still in groups of [REDACTED]

From about 1030 onwards there was a trickle of Villa fans making their way to the ground, as kick off approached there were numerous verbal altercations on the Coventry Road between rival fans, which saw spotters having to step in on more than one occasion to split fans up, Birmingham older and youth risk involved in this. These incidents didn't really escalate fortunately. As these 5 rail replacement coaches dropped off they were subject to a lot of attention from BCFC risk and non-risk alike, however, again spotters ensured nothing escalated past some pushing and shoving.

One BCFC fans arrested by the coach park for S.4 POA.

## Phase 2

BCFC had decided to place around 20000 cardboard clappers on the seats, needless to say these were thrown at every available opportunity during the game, every AVFC corner, free kick and goal kick saw numerous missiles thrown at the Villa player these included plastic beer bottles, coins and these clapper boards. The referee and 4th official stopped the game on more than one occasion. Villa players and the linesman all struck with various missiles.

Coins were exchanged over the segregation line between home and away fans.

30 seats were broken in the away end.

Just as the final whistle went a BCFC fan ran the length of the pitch, subsequently arrested for pitch encroachment.

## Phase 3

Villa fans were going to be held back inside the ground, however, it was hoped it would not last as long as last season.

Initially the dispersal of BCFC fans went quite well, however, after about 10 minutes BCFC fans began to group by the coach park gates, what started as approximately [REDACTED] soon swelled to about [REDACTED] and it was quite clear they were not going to move away.

A blue smoke bomb was discharged which appeared to change the mood and soon after coins started to be thrown at officers. Officers deployed into [REDACTED] and it was quite clear that this group were not going to disperse. Officers began to move down the road with numerous verbal warnings being given over loud hailers. Officers had bottles, glasses, bricks and coins thrown at them. Baton strikes were used on more than one occasion. This disorder lasted for approximately 20 minutes, each time the officers stopped moving forward they would be pelted with missiles. One spotter was struck in the face with a coin.

[REDACTED], this saw [REDACTED] arrests of key people taking place in a short period of time.

As officers reached the Watering Hole Island there was another stand-off where again [REDACTED] and then towards Digbeth the group of BCFC fans split with some moving towards Digbeth and the rest using a side street towards the back streets of Digbeth.

For about 10 minutes normality was resumed, however, Villa fans were still locked inside the stadium.

Shortly after a spotting team about half a mile from the ground shouted up with regards to a group of approximately [REDACTED] masked males who were throwing missiles at them, eventually a [REDACTED] made to the location, upon their arrival they had metal brackets, scaffold poles, breeze blocks and glasses thrown at them, officers deployed with long shields due to the threat level. The windscreen of a carrier was smashed with a claw hammer.

This group were eventually dispersed towards Birmingham City Centre.

Villa fans were eventually let out about 90 minutes after the final whistle. A group of approximately [REDACTED] Villa fans made their way onto Digbeth High Street, only very quick work by spotters prevented serious disorder as [REDACTED] Birmingham risk and non-risk were a short distance away. The road was quickly blocked and these Villa fans diverted for their own safety.

There were then numerous reports of disorder in the back streets of Digbeth and around Millenium Point as Villa fans were getting picked off all over the place.

10 arrests in total on the day with an extensive post match enquiry to follow, early estimates suggests from the disorders at phase 3 50+ to be arrested and from phase 2 inside the stadium similar numbers for the missile throwing.

The behaviour of Villa fans outside the ground was again exemplary and as always the behaviour of BCFC fans exceedingly poor, yet again when they couldn't get to Villa fans were all too happy to attack police officers using a very high level of force. Following a significant post match investigation 44 Birmingham fans have been arrested and interviewed about various public order offences and missile throwing.