

# **British Transport Police**



## **The Application of the Lease Governing The M.E.N Arena in Relation to The British Transport Police**

By

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 On my appointment to this police station I was given responsibility for the M.E.N Arena. As part of my introduction to that task I was advised:

- The M.E.N Arena does not have a police services agreement with this Force but derives the right to police because they lease their premises from Railtrack;
- Unless officers were specifically invited inside the Arena for an event, the policing outside the stadium was provided free of charge.
- This was because as a condition of their lease they have the right to a police service from Railtrack via its PSA with this Force;
- The resources put to the policing of M.E.N Arena events were often *to the detriment of policing the Area objectives*;

1.2 In light of the above information I contacted Inspector Anne Walker, the Events Planning Officer at Bootle Street Police station, and she advised me that:

- The G.M.P were also policing M.E.N Arena events free of charge;
- That Force's involvement was due to having to police large volumes of M.E.N. Arena spectators pouring out of the stadium into Great Ducie Street, Trinity Way and Cheetham Hill Road after each event;
- As a direct result of this, the G.M.P have incurred costs of £58, 000 for this financial year alone;
- Her Force was equally dissatisfied with the M.E.N situation.

1.2.1 I therefore decided to establish whether the M.E.N. Arena had any contractual responsibility towards policing costs through its lease and Inspector WALKER said she would make enquiries with Manchester City Council concerning the M.E.N Arena Licence. A meeting was then arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

## 2.0 THE M.E.N. ARENA LEASE

2.1 As a result of the above meeting I obtained a copy of the MEN Arena's lease, copy herewith attached, and found that there is *nothing* in the lease to support the contention that this Force has to police M.E.N. events free of charge.

2.2 To simplify matters I have highlighted relevant clauses in the leasing agreement, which far from suggesting that this Force is obliged to provide a free service states that the MEN is obliged to pay for this Force's service. The relevant sections of the lease have been reproduced in the table overleaf.