

The Price of Success

The level of police charges continues to be a major source of concern to many in the game, more so perhaps in the light of the Government's determination that full economic charges be levied. While the bulk of the monies charged by the Police – over £9 Million for the 1991-92 season – are borne by the FA Premier and Football Leagues they are beginning to take their toll on Conference clubs.

But for the Football Trust, it would have cost Conference clubs £76,959 to have their games policed last season – an increase of over 40% on the 1989-90 season. However, due to Trust grants this figure was reduced by £37, 934. The bulk of the total charge

was borne by champions and runners-up Colchester United and Wycombe Wanderers who paid out £15,427 and £18,745 respectively but were able to claim back £7,714 and £9,372 from the Football Trust. Wycombe's costs amounted to a 144% increase on the 1990-91 season. Worse hit though were Slough Town who experienced a rise of 451% in policing costs on the previous season.

The Football Trust introduced its grant aid scheme for policing in 1985 when Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers increased the annual donation from their Spot-the-Ball competitions. What price survival for many if this aid was to disappear? Perhaps the Police are beginning to price themselves out of a job – more and more clubs from the top echelons of the Pyramid are beginning to seek the services of special event security personnel in much the same way that rock concert organisers do.

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A few red faces could be seen in and around Lancaster Gate recently. A week after the semi-professional squad for the Welsh game at Cheltenham was announced it was noticed that the 16 man English squad included a Scot. Winger Dave Carroll – one of five players from Wycombe Wanderers included in Tony Jennings' original squad – was born in Paisley of Scottish parents.

The Cost of Policing

Altrincham	£1,279
Barrow	£1,945
Boston United	£1,291
Cheltenham Town	£5,331
Colchester United	£15,427
Kettering Town	£6,578
Kidderminster Harriers	£3,437
Macclesfield Town	£3,437
Runcorn	£2,572
Slough Town	£5,572
Telford United	£2,864
Wycombe Wanderers	£18,745
Yeovil Town	£7,022