



STATEMENT OF Robert James Goslin

Age of Witness (date of birth) over 21

Occupation of Witness Group Security Controller W.H. Smith Limited

Address and Telephone Number

[Redacted box for address and telephone number]

This statement, (consisting of 2 pages each signed by me*), is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

14 August 1990

[Redacted box for signature]

Signature witnessed by

My full name is Robert James Goslin. On Saturday 11 April 1981 I was the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) with the South Yorkshire Police. On that day I was on duty at the Sheffield Wednesday Football Club (Hillsborough) on the occasion of an F.A. Cup Semi-Final match between Tottenham Hotspur and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Shortly after the commencement of the game a dangerous crushing situation developed in the Leppings Lane end of the ground which required swift action to prevent serious or possible fatal injury to the spectators. This action consisted of opening a gate leading from the terracing onto the track and allowing spectators to escape and take up positions on the track. It was also necessary to assist several people over the top of the fencing to relieve congestion in the Leppings Lane end of the ground

All these spectators were accommodated on the track surrounding the pitch and, apart from an abortive attempt to move some supporters into the Kop end at half time, remained there for the rest of the game. Several serious injuries i.e. broken bones, cuts and bruises, had been sustained prior to and during the evacuation of the Leppings Lane end

After the match an acrimonious meeting took place in the Secretary's office, between Mr. Bert McGee, Chairman of Sheffield Wednesday F.C., Mr. Eric England, Secretary S.W.F.C., the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, Mr. J.H. Brownlow and myself. The meeting lasted for about half an hour and was mainly concerned with the events on the Leppings Lane end just after the start of the match. Mr. McGee supported by Mr. England was extremely critical of the police action firstly for allowing it to develop and secondly for the manner by which the problem was resolved

It was pointed out to both Mr. McGee and Mr. England that circumstances beyond our control had brought about the crushing situation and conventional methods of control had failed. By this I mean the use of uniformed police officers, loud hailers and police horses to relieve the most congested areas of the Leppings Lane end had failed. Because of the possibility of serious injury and worse, I had instructed that the gate was opened and spectators brought out onto the track. I had taken up position on the track at this stage and therefore was in

[Redacted box for signature]

Signature witnessed by

(Print name)

Statement of Witness Robert James Goslin

Continuation of statement of Robert James Goslin

an ideal position to assess the situation. I had personally assisted several spectators to climb over the fence. Mr. McGee expressed the view that the action of bringing spectators out onto the track was completely unnecessary and had had the effect of making the ground look 'untidy'. He was obviously upset and said that because of our (the police) action it was unlikely that Hillsberegough would ever be invited to host a semi-final in the future

When I pointed out that had we not acted as we did, then there was a real chance of fatalities he replied 'Bollocks - no-one would have been killed'!

The atmosphere throughout the meeting was hostile and there seemed to be a total failure to appreciate what might have occurred had we not taken the action we did

Relationships between officials of the club and ourselves were strained for some time after the semi-final although it is true to say that things did revert to the normal co-operative working relationships after a relatively short period of time



Signed

Signature witnessed by