

No police probe into Chelsea 'invasion'

By Michael Dennis

BEDFORDSHIRE police have decided not to investigate allegations that Chelsea deliberately encouraged supporters to beat Luton's ban on visiting fans.

However, a senior police officer said he was disturbed about remarks attributed to Mr Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, and that there was the potential for trouble at Kenilworth Road during Saturday's game.

Mr Bates, a critic of Luton's members-only scheme, flew to Monaco on Saturday after reportedly saying he would give Chelsea's allocation of directors box tickets to his club's ordinary fans.

A number of Chelsea followers were refused admission to the directors' box because, in the words of John Smith, the Luton chief executive, "they had jeans and plimsolls on and were obviously not the sort of people you would normally expect to have directors' box passes".

Complimentary tickets
Some more smartly dressed Chelsea fans were allowed into the directors' box, and about 50 more sat in another block in the main stand and made their presence heard after gaining admission with complimentary tickets.

Chief Sup Glyn Spalding, head of Luton division of Bedfordshire police, said: "That was what concerned us. They were not the sort who would normally be in receipt of complementaries and I had to deploy more officers than normal to watch that situation.

"There was a little more tension than normal and the potential was there for trouble although fortunately nothing materialised. Because nothing happened, we will not on this occasion take up the matter with Chelsea."

However, he added: "If Mr Bates did say what he is reported to have said, I would find it very disturbing from a man in his position."