

Police Investigating Disturbances at Edinburgh Derby



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following disturbances at the Hearts v Hibs derby match over the weekend.

During the game, which took place at Tynecastle Stadium on Sunday 12th May, a number of flares were set off within the home and away ends of the ground and thrown towards the pitch. A 25-year-old man has already been charged in connection with one of these incidents. However, enquiries are on-going to identify others believed to be responsible and anyone who saw a flare being thrown is asked to contact police immediately.

Three other men aged 23, 21 and 18 have also been charged with alleged breaches of the peace following pitch invasions towards the end of the match. In addition, a seat within a stand was broken and a 14-year-old boy was subsequently charged with an alleged vandalism. A report will now be sent to the Children's Reporter.

A robust police presence was in place before the game and a number of flares were seized from supporters prior to kick-off.

Local officers continue to work alongside colleagues from the Football Co-ordination Unit for Scotland to trace anyone involved in crime during the game and fans of both teams are urged to come forward if they have information that can assist with these enquiries.

The Match Commander, Temporary Superintendent Gavin Phillip said: "Firstly, I would like to thank the vast majority of supporters from both Hearts and Hibernian, who were a credit to their respective clubs throughout the day.

"Sadly though, a small minority have conducted themselves in an unacceptable manner and committed offences that could have put themselves and others in danger.

"This type of behaviour will not be tolerated and officers from Police Scotland, assisted by officers from FoCUS, are currently conducting a post-match investigation to identify those involved in Sunday's disturbances.

"Anyone found to be responsible can expect to be robustly dealt with and may find themselves banned from attending further matches in the future."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111