



## **Premises Licence Summary Review**

**Civic Hall  
Blackshots Complex, Blackshots Lane  
Grays, RM16 2JU**

**Supplementary documentary information in support of summary review.**



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## **1.0 Background Details**

1.1 The Civic Hall is a leisure complex situated in Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU. The premises are the holder of a Premises Licence No. 05/00744/LAPRE issued by Thurrock Council. The Premises Licence holder is Impulse Leisure Ltd, Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU. The premises is licensed for a number of activities including Boxing.

1.2 The Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) at the time of writing is Mr Juan RANGEL.

## **2.0 Outline of circumstances leading to the Summary Review application.**

2.1 At 21.40 hours on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 a call was received from Mr Ian MITCHELL, the Duty Manager at the Civic Hall, stating that multiple fights had broken out following a boxing event at the premises. These fights had started inside the premises and had then spilled out into the car park.

2.2 Considerable police resources across Essex had to be deployed to restore order and police officers were compelled to remain onsite until after 01:00 hours to prevent a recurrence after order had been restored.

2.3 The Boxing event was a local derby with two boxers from the local area. During their bout the boxer predicted to win took a fall resulting in an unexpected outcome. The supporters of the losing boxer then started to fight with the winning side. Door staff intervened; however, those fighting also turned on them causing them to become injured.

2.4 Attending officers reported that multiple low-level assaults were disclosed to them, tables and chairs were thrown, and members of the audience were assaulted. Members of the security team and door staff who tried to intervene and break up the fights were also assaulted by being punched and struck with chairs and tables causing injuries.

2.5 **Document 1** is a duty report from PC 78023 WEDDELL, giving her account of the incident.

2.6 The event organiser was Chris BARNES of EBA Boxing. He stated that he holds multiple events of a similar nature throughout the year and there are rarely ever any problems. BARNES did not make the police aware of this event ahead of it taking place.

2.7 Door supervisors were supplied by both the promotor and the premises and it was believed that this led to a lack of overall control which did not help with the situation.

### **3.0 Reasons for Review**

- 3.1 In the aftermath, delays were experienced in the police not being able to review the CCTV footage for the immediate detection of crime and identification of suspects. There was nobody on site who was able to operate the CCTV system; and no attempts were made to contact someone who had the relevant access.
- 3.2 Essex Police had no prior knowledge of this boxing event and no details of those fighting. This information would have allowed police intelligence to be shared about likely supporter groups and discussions initiated.
- 3.3 Had Essex Police been made aware; local policing teams could have appropriately planned for the event and drafted in additional resources to the area as a precautionary measure. This would have then allowed a more expedient response to the call for police assistance.
- 3.4 The current premises licence has very scant conditions and it is perceived by Essex Police to be inadequate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, especially the prevention of crime and disorder.
- 3.5 Essex Police also took into consideration that incidents of a similar nature had taken place in August 2016 and September 2017.
- 3.6 A meeting was held with the management of the Civic Hall alongside the Licensing Authority on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to discuss the incident and to view the CCTV footage. During this discussion Essex Police proposed a list of conditions which would decrease the likelihood of a further incident occurring.
- 3.7 At the onset of the meeting CCTV footage was viewed which showed the end of the bout with approximately 15 minutes of brawling with around 30 persons engaged to varying extents during that period.
- 3.8 At the conclusion of the meeting it was felt that it was not appropriate to proceed by way of normal review procedures, as a decision of the licensing sub-committee would not take effect for a considerable period. A decision was therefore made to apply for a Summary Review.
- 3.9 The concerns of the police relate primarily to the boxing and door supervision and the ability to investigate after the fact; that the proposals are there to prevent disorder and to facilitate the identification of offenders.
- 3.10 The conditions that were proposed to the premises were requested as Interim Steps at the hearing on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

- 3.11 At the hearing Essex Police also sought the reduction in the terminal hour for boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar, to safeguard the public and prevent disorder at any similar event in the future.
- 3.12 Essex Police did not request a suspension of the licence to be necessary as the disorder relates primarily to boxing events and how SIA door supervisors are deployed, ahead of the full hearing.

**4.0 Review Outcome Sought**

4.1 Both before and after the Summary Review hearing the premises licence holder’s management have contacted the local licensing officer requesting advice and guidance to assist the premises going forward.

4.2 In order to mitigate the risk of further disorder the police would request that the licensable hours for boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar are amended as below:

Monday	07:00 - 23:00
Tuesday	07:00 - 23:00
Wednesday	07:00 - 23:00
Thursday	07:00 - 23:00
Friday	07:00 - 00:00
Saturday	07:00 - 00:00
Sunday	07:00 - 00:00

Currently 07:00 - 00:00 Sunday – Thursday; and  
07:00 - 01:00 Friday and Saturday.

4.3 Furthermore that the conditions added as interim steps form part of the operating schedule as set out below with the addition of a further condition which relates to the use of CCTV:

- 1) Essex Police shall be provided with 28 days’ notice where an event is to be held which is organised by an external promoter or is promoted/advertised to the public by an external promoter and where that event includes boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar. This notice shall include full details of the nature of the event and the promoter, expected attendee numbers and the details of each fighter listed on the bill. The notice shall be e-mailed to the central police licensing team (the address of which appears on the Essex Police website).
- 2) The notice set out above shall be accompanied by an event management plan that details the minimum numbers of door supervisors (male and female), minimum numbers of stewards and a risk assessment based on advertised ‘fighters’.

- 3) When professional boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue; a Clubscan/IDSCAN or similar system shall be operated at the premises. All patrons entering the premises must provide verifiable ID and have their details recorded on the system.
- 4) Signs must be displayed at all entrances and exits advising customers that CCTV is operating at the premises and shall be a minimum size of 200 x 148 mm and clearly legible at all times when the premises conduct licensable activities.
- 5) An incident log shall be kept at the premises and made immediately available to police or licensing authority staff upon reasonable request. The log must be completed as soon as is possible and within any case within 4 hours of the occurrence and shall record the following:
  - a. all crimes reported to the venue
  - b. all ejections of patrons
  - c. any complaints received concerning crime and disorder
  - d. any incidents of disorder
  - e. all seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
  - f. any faults in a CCTV system, searching equipment or scanning equipment mandated as a condition of the licenceThe incident log shall either be electronic or maintained in a bound document with individually numbered pages and be retained for at least 12 months from the date of the last entry.
- 6) Where SIA licensed door supervisors are used at the premises a record shall be maintained (on the premises) which is legible and details:
  - i. The day and date when door supervisors were deployed;
  - ii. The name and SIA registration number of each door supervisor on duty at the premises; and
  - iii. The start and finish time of each door supervisor's worked duty period.This record shall be retained on the premises for 31 days and be immediately provided to police or licensing authority staff upon reasonable request.
- 7) All SIA licensed door supervisors engaged at the premises for the purpose of supervising or controlling queues must wear high visibility jackets or vests.  
When boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue all SIA door supervisors on duty will wear high visibility jackets or vests.

- 8) When boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue all patrons entering or re-entering the premises shall be searched by a SIA licensed door supervisor for concealed weapons.
- 9) At all times, admission to the premises shall remain under the exclusive control of the premises' management and staff and any SIA licensed door supervisors deployed shall be hired (directly or indirectly) by the premises licence holder, designated premises manager or some other responsible person directly involved in the management of the premises.

This requirement exists even where:

- i. The premises is hired/used by independent promoters; or
  - ii. An arrangement exists with an independent promoter who arranges an event that includes admission to the premises.
- 10) When boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue:
    - i. Drinks must only be served in polycarbonate/plastic and/or toughened glass containers; and
    - ii. No alcohol sales shall take place after the last fight takes place.
  - 11) The premises shall have installed and maintain a closed-circuit television surveillance (CCTV) system that at all times complies with the below requirements:
    - i. CCTV will be provided in the form of a recordable system, capable of providing pictures of evidential quality in all lighting conditions particularly facial recognition;
    - ii. CCTV cameras shall cover all public areas of the Civic Hall including all entrances and exits (and in particular that area where patrons present ID for IDSCAN or similar) and all areas where the sale of alcohol takes place;
    - iii. Equipment must be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped, recordings must be kept in good working order and kept for a minimum period of 31 days;
    - iv. At all times, whilst the premises is open for licensable activities, there are members of staff able to immediately provide viewable copies of recordings to the police or licensing authority staff upon reasonable request;
    - v. The recording equipment and data storage devices shall be kept in a secure environment and fitted with security functions (such as passwords) to prevent recordings being tampered with.

Station: Grays Police Station

Officer: PC 78023 WEDDELL

Subject: Public Order incident at Impulse Leisure Centre

Date: 10/03/2020

Ref: EP-20200307-1298



On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 I was on duty in uniform as part of the Grays local policing team. I was in company with PC 77853 WALDOCK in the unmarked police vehicle call sign WD03.

At 21:40 hours control made us aware of a large fight occurring at the Impulse Leisure Centre on Blackshots Lane and that it involved 400 people fighting. This then was updated via control to say 40 individuals were fighting, throwing chairs and tables.

Once sufficient units had met at the RVP we proceeded to the location and were directed by PS MOULD to make a noisy entrance, PC WALDOCK activated the blue lights and bull horn of our vehicle. This was to alert the public of our presence before we arrived at the leisure centre. On arrival there were many cars lining the one route into the leisure centre as well as many members of the public outside the building. There was not anywhere suitable to park the police car or any of the police cars that had followed behind me and unfortunately, they were parked where there was space. If there was a designated emergency services bay it was not obvious to myself or the others.

Once out of the vehicle I tried to identify individuals who looked like staff or security, I found PC WALDOCK talking to a female member of security who told us that one of the security guards had been injured and indicated a white male with a bald head and a beard. I asked if there was anywhere quiet that we could talk, it was very loud in the building, music and loud speaker announcements were coming from the large auditorium which made it very difficult to hear what the injured party had to say. Security Male 1 told me that there had been a scheduled boxing match between two local lads, one of which had been put on his arse in the fight. This had not gone down well with this competitors' supporters who had reacted with violence. Table and chairs had been thrown and he had suffered a puncture wound which looked like the end of a chair or table leg. Another Security guard came in and stated he had been punched to the face several times which had caused red marks to areas on his face. These two security guards explained that they were only security for the boxing event and not the security for the Leisure Centre. It became clear



that the security who worked for the Leisure centre were distinctive as they were smartly dressed in smart trousers and suit jackets. I spoke to two security guards who worked for the centre who had both been assaulted, whilst trying to deal with individuals at the entrance to the leisure centre. Both had been punched to the face, one had received a bloody nose.

I did ask another of member staff why we as the police were not notified of such an event. I was also told that the event had been oversold and there was approx. 400 people at the venue. There were two security manning the main entrance to the venue, I am unsure whether they worked for the leisure centre or not, they were not as smartly dressed, two leisure security staff were floating around the reception area. The two injured leisure security that I spoke to remained in the office that was to the left of the auditorium entrance and did not come out whilst I remained on scene.

It did not appear that there were sufficient numbers of security for the number of people attending the event. Whilst police were present members of the public continued to leave the auditorium, either to leave the venue altogether or to go outside to smoke. Regarding smoking; the public were told they were not allowed to re-enter the venue once they had gone outside. It didn't appear that any sort of announcement had been made regarding this change as members of the public continually asked myself and colleagues if they were allowed outside for a cigarette.

The bar appeared to be closed as it had shutters around it, although it still had a number of people at the bar. The management decided to continue the event after the incident, and police remained just as a visible presence.

PC 78023 WEDDELL