

Statement of Rachel Radbourne – 22.06.2022

I am unable to attend the hearing due to a prior organised commitment [REDACTED] that I am unable to change. I would like my evidence (documents attached) and this statement to be still heard and a decision made regarding the Temporary Event Notice submitted for the 17th – 18th September 2022.

My background is within the Forensic Science field as I was previously a Court Reporting Officer/Forensic Scientist for the Forensic Science Service (FSS) at the Wetherby Laboratory up to the disbandment of the FSS. I have a Bachelors and Masters degree within Forensic Science.

I have attached the original documents that were submitted for the prior TENs as these are all still applicable for this hearing.

Halton Moor ABC

I am the Club Secretary and Vice Chairperson for Halton Moor Amateur Boxing Club, which is a vital community resource within Halton Moor in Leeds. All the people, including coaches that help out at our club are volunteers, we do not get paid for the work we do, we do it because we love it and want to teach kids our passion for boxing.

The club is multicultural and we have children from areas of Leeds and from all backgrounds attending, Russian/Polish/English/Irish/Chinese/Nigerian to name a few and there is no discrimination whatsoever to who comes, if they want to learn boxing then we will teach them.

There is very little within the Halton Moor area for youths and seniors which is why we were invited by Deeta from Youth Services South & South East to an Activity Day last August at Beckfields in Halton Moor with the likes of the Army, RAF and emergency services. We were praised by the three councillors Helen Hayden, Nicole Sharpe and Debra Coupar and were told we are a much needed resource within the community, we felt it an honour to be showcased at this event.

Amateur Boxing Shows (TENs)

We normally run approximately 3-4 shows per year and these are run through our affiliation with England Boxing, the shows are important for our boxers and the club itself. These shows give us the chance to showcase our own boxers talent and enable us to raise much needed funds to keep the club open and running.

The boxing shows give the boxers and kids something to aim towards and to look forward to. They enable them to have a sense of achievement and an incentive. It enables us as coaches to reward the boxers for their training and progress.

Financial

Halton Moor Amateur Boxing Club is a valuable community group that will most likely fold and have to close without the income that we gain from shows. These are funds that cannot be replaced by sponsors or grants as the club struggles to get these.

We do have two current sponsors for the club which are friends and family businesses of volunteers which we are so lucky to have obtained, but these cannot be guaranteed each year.

Other than overheads for rent and essential bills such as electricity and water, we keep our club costs to a minimum and rely on volunteers and we also get a lot of help from friends and families within the community as people appreciate what we are doing and trying to achieve at the club for the surrounding area.

The club gives children from low income families the ability and opportunity to partake in our classes due to how affordable our fees are, this is something that we take pride in being to offer within the area.

Crime & Disorder

We have held a number of boxing shows since 2018, we have never once had an issue or any concern regarding any of the shows prior to October 2021 or at the boxing show that we held in December 2021 after the incident.

The shows are strictly supervised with security in attendance until the end of the show, and the shows are wristband entry only. We normally have at least three licensed security operatives present, with one being on the front door, one by the cash desk and the other/s present around the bar and ring area.

On Saturday 17th October I was present at the event all night, we had three security operatives [REDACTED] and there were no issues at all. An e-mail from [REDACTED] attached within the document sent, states this as well.

I do recall three very intoxicated males, that were not members of the club, nor had they attended the boxing show that had finished at that time, entered the club uninvited. They were refused alcohol at the bar as they were so intoxicated and were asked to leave. I believe that these three males are the same individuals that the police are referring to. Neither myself, any club member nor the security operatives present witnessed any assault or public disorder incident within the club or immediately outside the club premises.

On Monday 1st November, DC 2102 [REDACTED] from the Reactive CID Team 2 at Elland Road attended my home address in order to ask me further information regarding the males that had been assaulted. I conveyed the same information again to her that had been spoken to the other officers that came to the club. She stated she thought that it may have been people who had been at our event that were involved in the incident. I explained that our event had finished some time before the incident but there were a number of people in the area when we left and not all these were at our event so I didn't believe she was correct. She stated that she was annoyed as she wasn't getting any information or assistance from anyone in the Halton Moor area as nobody wanted to talk to the police or get involved. She asked me for a list of volunteers/staff and attendees at the event and asked me to send this to her by email. I then spoke to a number of the volunteers who were present at the event and they all stated that they did not want to get involved at all and certainly did not want their details being given to the police as they all have to live within Halton Moor and are scared that any repercussions will come back on themselves or their families.

I have cooperated fully with DC McLean from West Yorkshire Police and offered to make myself available to attend Elland Road Police Station to make a formal statement on behalf of the club, I have been informed that this is not necessary by DC McLean. I explained to DC McLean that the people that I had spoken to had requested that I do not disclose their identities as they have no faith in West Yorkshire Police and were concerned for their and their families safety if they were seen to be talking to the police. She was also informed that there was of course no problem if she or any other officers were to choose to attend the club and approach individuals directly as part of her investigation.

The club is open at least 5 evenings a week and most members and volunteers are present on at least 3 of those evenings. At no time other than the initial visit to the club 2 days after the incident, has the police attended the club to speak to anyone.

As I explained to PC Clifford, I would have thought this would have happened especially on the evening of the 18th December when we held the next boxing show. There were no police in attendance at this event although the contact with DC McLean was in November prior to the show and they were fully aware of this event at the end of November 2021. This show would have been the perfect opportunity for DC McLean to speak to individuals in attendance as I explained they would most likely have been present at the previous show.

There was no police presence at all, which I would have thought they would have been the case if they believed that the club was involved with the incident and that this type of event would undermine the licensing objectives.

The fact that this event went off without any incident or problems at all shows that the club can hold further events without undermining the prevention of crime and disorder and the public safety objectives.

I am aware that arrests were made back in January after the hearing that took place regarding two TENS that were submitted. The arrests of two volunteers at the club have not resulted in any charges and they have been released off bail with no further action. Understandably if there was evidence that they were involved or responsible for the assault then there would have been charges made. The police cannot use this against the club when they are not able to prove that they were involved or responsible for the assault. The police have footage of the assault from CCTV cameras on or near to the property where the assault took place which clearly shows the individuals undertaking the assault.

From what has been stated to me from DC McLean and also to what PC Clifford has stated in his Notice of Objection, 'the assault took place at the time that the boxing event was taking place', this is incorrect as the boxing event had finished before midnight on the 16th October.

Leeds District Licensing have said that 'they understand that the incident began inside Halton Moor Club and that the more serious assault outside was a continuation of that'. This is again incorrect as there was not an 'incident' within the club other than the 3 males being so intoxicated that they were asked to leave. DC McLean stated in correspondence with the club solicitor that "This obviously isn't the same version that the 3 males tell, however I do keep an open mind regarding these things." This is obviously not the case if they are stating that the incident took place within the club to begin with.

The only person/people that could have stated this is the three males that were assaulted, given the state of inebriation that they were at I find it hard to believe that they recall any of the events that

took place that night at all and are mainly going on what they have witnessed from the CCTV evidence that they have.

When two of the males and the female that I now know to be the victims who were assaulted visited the club on the evening of the 18th October 2021 (the Monday after the event and the day after the assault) to collect one of the victims coats that had been left, they attended without police presence and asked if the CCTV worked on the premises as they couldn't remember anything as they had had a lot to drink and actually laughed about this. They stated that they had had a house party at the property a few doors away and had been drinking all day and had run out of beer so had come to the club to gain further drinks as they did not think they could make it to the local shop, [REDACTED]

They told me that they had been punched outside the car park of the club and then outside their house, never did they mention an assault within the club grounds. Two police officers/detectives attended the club on the evening of the 18th October, to ask whether we had CCTV on the premises, at the same time as these three people were at the club and I explained to the police and to them three people that they were paralytic and had already told me that they couldn't remember anything within the club and that nothing had happened on the premises as they were outside of the carpark, and that the assault had taken place out of the club premises.

Given the police were present when these statements were made by the three assault victims I find it hard to believe that their accounts have changed to that degree that the police now believe that the incident began within the club. I also find it hard to believe that if they did believe that the incident had begun within the club or someone linked to the club was involved, why they would then attend the club to possibly be faced with such persons. I know if I was assaulted in this manner and believed that the club or members were responsible I certainly wouldn't risk my safety by attending the club to retrieve a jacket, I would have asked the Police to retrieve this for me.

It has been suggested by PC Clifford that because we are a boxing club and 'therefore know how to throw a punch correctly' to cause maximum damage, that means that it is most likely someone from the club that has been responsible for the assault. That it is too much of a coincidence that a boxing show was being held in the close proximity of an assault, that actually took place nearly two hours after the event had finished. This is very judgmental on all boxers as this suggests that we would use our skills and training for other purposes other than boxing. Which is the complete opposite of what boxing stands for as it teaches discipline and how not to use force unnecessarily.

It is highly prejudicial against all boxing events as it is basically saying that a boxing event promotes violence and disorderly conduct. When every boxing event/show we have held or attended within the United Kingdom has never had any disorderly conduct occur within the show/event. I am aware that there has been disorderly conduct at an event previously held at Elland Road but this event had the distinct difference of being an over 18s only event whereas our boxing shows are Amateur boxing and family orientated and I believe this makes a massive difference on peoples actions and perspective when attending an event with children present.

DC McLean stated that she was in 'no doubt that the serious injuries sustained were a direct result of the kicks/boots to the head that the victim received while on the ground', this is evident within the CCTV footage that West Yorkshire Police released. As boxers we are trained to use our fists and not our feet. Therefore the suggestion that it must have been linked to the Amateur Boxing Club is an insult.

Licensing Objectives

With regards to the prevention of crime and disorder we have stated a number of times that we would be more than willing to adhere to any conditions that were placed on the club in order to carry out these events and have obtained CCTV quotes for enhanced CCTV systems for the club. We would be more than happy to have a system that would be connected or directly linked to the police as we have nothing to hide and would like to ensure the safety of all members of the club and members of the public. We have a capacity limit within events and are careful that we don't allow overcrowding that could likely lead to disorder or violence. The events are family events as a lot of our members are under the age of 18. We always have licensed security staff at the events and would guarantee that these would remain at the event until all occupants had left the premises and the site was locked and secured.

Prior TENs Hearing and Counter Notices

As you will be aware we were issued with two counter notices regarding the two previous TENs that were submitted (19th-20th March & 21st- 22nd May 2022) and a hearing had taken place on the 10th January 2022.

We did issue a notice of appeal against these two counter notices within the Magistrate Courts in Leeds dated the 11th February 2022 however this was withdrawn by ourselves. The only reason that we chose to withdraw this appeal was due to the earliest court date being 1st June 2022 and with this being after the proposed dates for the two submitted TENs we felt that it was not in the clubs interest to use the little funds that we have on further court and solicitors fees when the shows could not be held retrospectively. I have attached the Notice of Appeal stating the grounds for appeal that was submitted by the club solicitor (██████████) to the legal team at Leeds Magistrates Court and was considered and agreed to be listed by them.

Summary

I believe that the Boxing show held on the 18th December 2021 shows that we can hold an identical event and not undermine any licensing objectives at all, as suggested otherwise by Leeds District Licensing. The evidence that we have not had any problems at any boxing shows under previous TENs shows that the club can carry out these events within the licensing objectives. We have had works completed on the existing CCTV system that was present within and outside the club and we are open to any further suggestions for improvement with regards to further events and have obtained quotes for enhanced CCTV inside and outside of the club. I would also like it to be noted that the only reason we have not had this carried out already is down to funds available, we would however ensure that these funds were available if we were to granted further TENs as the income from the boxing shows would cover this cost.

We also have had a Ring doorbell fitted on the external door

Without being able to hold boxing shows this will not only stunt our boxers development but also lose the club much needed funds. The club would always be running on a deficit and eventually we would have no other option but to close a much needed resource within the community, this is the

last thing that any of us, I'm hoping including the police and Leeds City Council would want to happen.

I would also like to reiterate that DC McLean nor any other officer/detective has attended our club once since contact has been made with ourselves. At the last hearing the panel put the question to PC Clifford as to why no one had attended the club at the event held in December or on any other occasion and he was unable to answer this question on behalf of DC McLean. I stated clearly to the panel and to PC Clifford that any member of the police would be more than welcome to visit the club at any time, as this would be entirely different to people being approached at their homes with the possibility of being seen as assisting police, but yet this has still not been done. The club cannot be seen to not be cooperating or assisting the police with their investigation when they have been clearly invited to the club in order to carry out their own enquiries and investigations and they have chosen to not do so.

I hereby invite you to grant the Temporary Event Notice with or without any conditions that you feel may be applicable with regards to the prevention of crime and disorder and the public safety licensing objectives and I can guarantee that all licensing objectives will be upheld.

Rachel Radbourne 22/06/2022