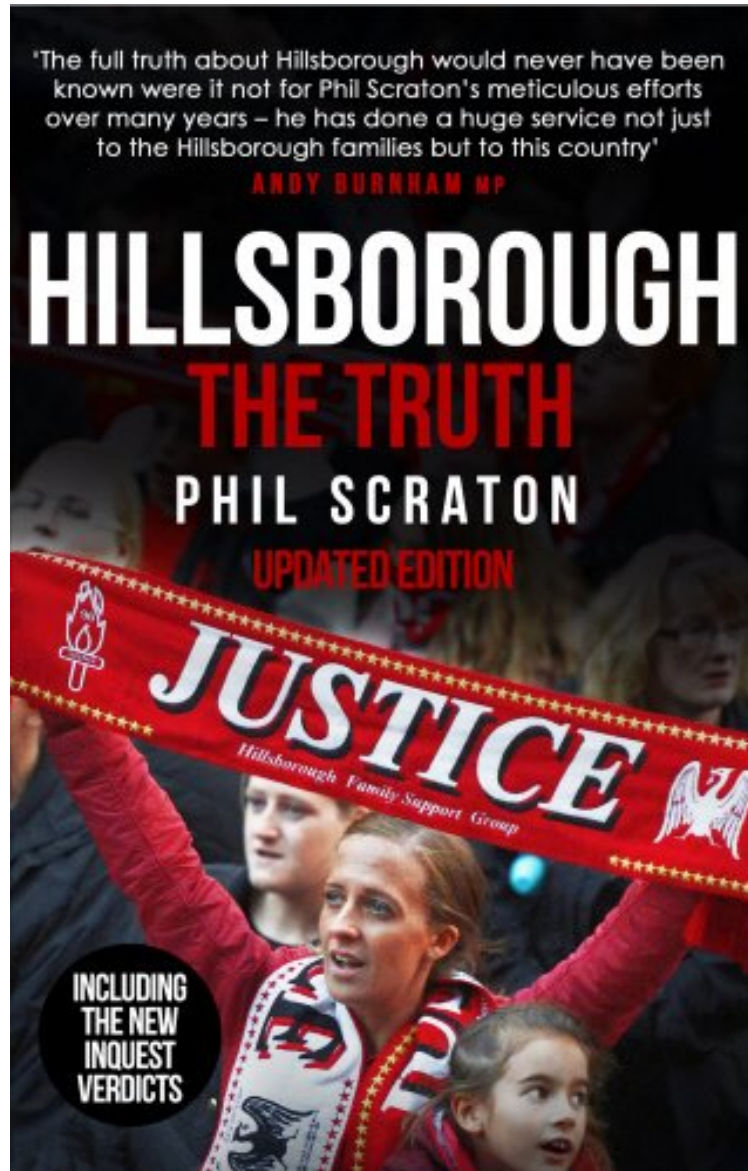


(Download pdf) Hillsborough - The Truth

Hillsborough - The Truth

Phil Scraton

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Phil Scraton : Hillsborough - The Truth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hillsborough - The Truth:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Should have been a book of two halvesBy Delta D.Torn between three stars and four. Points to praise are (i) its author quite possibly has greater knowledge about this awful tragedy than anybody else on the planet, (ii) he has an admirable ability to convey quite complex aspects of the narrative very

clearly and (iii) the book probably contains all the facts (as opposed to opinions and judgments) that any reader is likely to want. On the downside, though (i) judgment and opinion are conflated with the facts. I would rather have seen, first, a straightforward narrative of the facts - the relevant precedents, the preparation for the match, what happened on the day and the long history of events following the tragedy and then second, and separately, comment, judgment and opinion on these facts. (ii) the author finds fault, and grounds for suspicion, in the activities of so many on the Establishment (as opposed to the bereaved families) side. Clearly, the South Yorkshire police had a massive self-interest in shedding the blame, but the author suggests that the original coroner, the two judges who undertook separate public enquiries, the judge at the civil prosecution of two senior police officers, Jack Straw, and (possibly) the European Court of Human Rights seemed to shed common sense in order to disadvantage the bereaved families pursuing the truth. None of these had a vested interest in doing so, hence it would be worth investigating why they chose to go this route and/or whether their actions were perhaps more sensible than the author suggests. There is no suggestion that any of them were approached for comment. But I'm glad I read this, although prospective readers should be warned that it tells a grim tale, not only of the tragedy itself, but of the frustration put in the way of the bereaved families, desperately seeking closure.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Compelling account of a crowd tragedy and the long fight for the truth about what happened

By Fastwalk This important, readable, engrossing book describes the tragedy at Hillsborough stadium when 96 people died in a crowd crush when police and stadium officials mishandled crowds at a football (or soccer, as we Americans would say) game between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. The game was played at a neutral location, the Hillsborough stadium at Sheffield, and the Liverpool fans, though greater in number than the Nottingham Forest fans, were confined to an end of the stadium that was served by an inadequate number of turnstiles. As crowds built up waiting to use the turnstiles, the police commander made a fateful decision to open a gate that led into an already crowded area of the stadium. At that time, football fans were confined in what were accurately called "pens" to try to restrict rushes to the pitch or fights between fans of opposing sides. Liverpool fans entering from the tunnel couldn't see what lay ahead of them and entered pens that then became packed, with people crushed to death as they stood. Those who fell became entangled in nightmarish clumps. The game began at 3 pm and a referee ended it just six minutes later. It was too late. Under the very eyes of the police commander in a watch post, 96 people died. Fans tried to help each other, even as the police showed almost no comprehension of what was happening. This book provides a compelling account of the political context that led the police to misunderstand the situation and then try to cover up their failure. The police cover up began almost immediately after the deaths, with blood alcohol levels taken from all the deceased, including the children, as the police prepared to blame the fans for their own deaths, declaring that drunken fans had forced their way into the stadium and had trampled on those already there. The families of the dead struggled for years for a fair accounting of what had happened. Scraton was a key player in their struggle. In this book, he tells the story of what happened with insight, compassion, and eloquence. Above all, he explains what really happened at Hillsborough in a way that makes clear the risks of poor crowd management. The police and the owners of the stadium viewed the working class fans who bought tickets for the standing terraces as uncouth louts who needed to be corralled and controlled and they devoted little thought to how they could watch games in safe conditions. This book makes a major contribution to our understanding of crowd safety and also to our understanding of organizational dysfunction, as was exhibited by the police, aided and abetted by their political supporters. Since this book was written, the people of Liverpool won a huge victory as all documents in the case were opened and police manipulation was revealed. Scraton played a major role in making this happen. For more on the case, see the BBC film on Hillsborough. All credit to Scraton for his long struggle to make the truth known and for writing this book and the later report of the Hillsborough Independent Panel.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heartbreaking

By Customer Heartbreaking. What these families went through to get the answers of their loved ones' deaths' is just heartbreaking. The coldness and efficiency at which the government handled the events and aftermath left me cold. Well written and expertly delivered. Phil Scraton may be a professor but it isn't dry reading. A little more background on the investigation at the scene would have been nice and a little more in depth of the officer that came forward would have set the table as to the resulting investigations; but that is my only complaints. It brings heart to a tragedy that these victims are not names on a tablet and that their families still mourn them. I have watched the documentary and now after this exhaustive work I am glad justice has finally been served.

This is the definitive, unique account of the disaster in which 96 men, women, and children were killed, hundreds injured, and thousands traumatized. It details the appalling treatment endured by the bereaved and survivors in the immediate aftermath, the inhumanity of the identification process, and the vilification of fans in the national and international media. In 2012, Phil Scraton was primary author of the groundbreaking report published by the Hillsborough Independent Panel following its new research into thousands of documents disclosed by all agencies involved. Against a backdrop of almost three decades of persistent struggle by bereaved families and survivors, in this new edition he reflects on the Panel's in-depth work, its revelatory findings and their unprecedented impact, an unreserved apology from the Prime Minister; new criminal investigations; the Independent Police Complaints

Commissions largest-ever inquiry; the quashing of 96 inquest verdicts; a review of all health and pathology policies. Paving the way for truth recovery and institutional accountability in other controversial cases, he details the process and considers the impact of the longest ever inquests, from the preliminary hearings to their comprehensive, devastating verdicts. Powerful, disturbing, and harrowing, Hillsborough: The Truth exposes the institutional complacency that led to the unlawful killing of the 96, revealing how the interests of ordinary people are marginalized when those in authority sacrifice truth and accountability to protect their reputations.

"This book is dynamite. A brilliant achievement, a real page-turner." Jimmy McGovern