

Anti-JSA Demo

Saturday September 7th, 1996

(Time of writing Monday September 9th, 9:30pm)

This may have been organised by GROUNDSWELL, but we had no official notification of who was behind it (although the event was "sponsored" by several trades unions, amongst others). Overall organisation and communication was poor and there were very few leaflets or prior communication about the demo. About 150 people met on Shepherds Bush Green at 12:00 and marched to Action Park, after which most of the crowd dispersed, some going on to an indoor meeting.

Arrests:

Two people on their way to the demo were arrested for Threatening Behaviour while entering a shop. One was carrying a spanner which may have been the cause of this charge. Witnesses did not want to give the arrestees' names (or their own), although a scuffle took place in which both witnesses and arrestees were involved. We gave the details of the arrestees to one of our solicitors.

To our knowledge, no other arrests were made and the demo itself passed off peacefully.

Police Behaviour:

For such a small demo there was quite a strong presence, although no TSG were spotted. A van headed the procession, and two police busses carrying uniformed officers followed up the rear. Their attitude overall was slightly tense, but not unduly so.

Reclaim The Streets - Brighton

Saturday August 17th, 1996

(Time of writing 7:00pm Tuesday 3rd July)

This event was monitored by the Brighton LDMG.

Two LDMG Observers were arrested; one being the coordinator with 900 bust cards, who was held for the duration of the event, then bailed to return and charged with "conspiracy to hold an illegal demonstration." (The LDMG have no connection with RTS or any other body, nor to our knowledge did this members take part in the organisation of the event.)

80 other people were also arrested, most released, but some charged with Section 4. Court cases will be in October. A full report will be sent out soon by Brighton LDMG, which we will make available here.

Street Party 96

Saturday July 13th, 1996

The annual Reclaim The Streets [Street Party](#) took place on the M41 West Cross approach road (off the Holland Park roundabout at Shepherds Bush). As with previous years, RTS were not telling anyone where the venue would be beforehand, although participants were told to gather at Liverpool Street station for 12:00. After what may have been a couple of abortive attempts to set up in another location, by 1:30 we had confirmation that it was taking place at Shepherds Bush. There were upwards of three thousand people present throughout the day over a 1/3 mile stretch of motorway.

Arrests:

Two people were cautioned and released. Another was charged with Section 4 and possession of a pointed object and was bailed to appear at Greenwich(?) magistrate's court (unconditional bail). The other was bailed to return to the police station (for graffiti). Reports in the media of arrests and court appearances being made for damage to the road surface during the event appear to have been unfounded.

We witnessed no more arrests until observers left at 10:00pm. However, RTS had told the police that they would stop the sound systems and wind the event down at 11:00pm (the police had given them until midnight to disperse). There is the possibility of one further arrest taking place around midnight at the junction end of the road. To date we have not been able to get any information on this. Please contact us if you know anything.

Police Behaviour:

There was a light police presence at each end of the road visible throughout the time LDMG observers were at the event, although further inspection revealed that there were eight vans of (apparently relaxed) Tactical Support Group officers (riot police) waiting out of sight. Police were letting participants come and go freely at the junction end.