

Reading

Read the article.

Football hooliganism

When did we start to use the word 'hooligan' for violent sports supporters? We don't know when people used it first, but it was in an 1898 police report, so we know it was used before then. Some people think that it comes from the name of an Irishman called Patrick Hooligan, who often **got into trouble with** the police. Others say it comes from a London street game called Hooley. Wherever it comes from, when anyone says the word, we think of sports fans and violence.

We often think of hooliganism as part of life in the modern world, but it

actually has a long history. In England, there has been a link between football and violence since they first played it there over 700 years ago. Back then, the game had hundreds of players, so it was the perfect opportunity for people to hit each other and **get away with it**.

Modern day football hooliganism began in England in the early 1950s but, by the 1970s, it was a serious problem. People often call football hooliganism 'the English disease', but the problem in England is now reasonably under control. Today, many hooligans are **behind bars**, and cameras and police officers at matches

help people feel safe. Hooligans no longer have the opportunity to fight, so more fans can enjoy matches safely.

Many other countries have serious hooligan problems. Eastern Europe, Africa and South America have the worst problems. In Brazil in 2000, they had to replay one game after supporters **took the game too seriously** and a fight injured more than 60 people.

But even though the situation can sometimes **get out of control**, football is still the most popular and most watched game in the world.

A Choose the correct answer.

- 1 When was the word 'hooligan' first used?
a in 1898
b before 1898
- 2 According to the text, hooliganism in sport is actually ...
a a very old problem.
b a modern day problem.
- 3 What opportunity did a football match in the past give its players?
a to be violent
b to kill someone
- 4 What is true about English football matches today?
a They are very violent.
b They are much safer.
- 5 The writer says that Brazil has ...
a the biggest problem with hooligans.
b a serious problem with hooligans.

B Match the phrases in bold in the article with the definitions below.

- 6 avoid punishment
- 7 become dangerous
- 8 got arrested by
- 9 in prison
- 10 got angry

..... / 10 marks