

World Cup



Winning tickets

Game On For Conned Kids

Updated: 12:31, Wednesday June 21, 2006

A woman has been arrested over an alleged World Cup scam which saw 350 schoolchildren left without tickets for a game.

News of the arrest came shortly after it was announced that the youngsters will be going to Germany after all.

That followed talks between the Sports Minister and Fifa, the World Cup governing body.

The youngsters, aged between 11 and 15, never got their tickets after parents paid out £410 a head for a World Cup tour.

Sports Minister Richard Caborn reached a deal with Fifa for the fans to go to Germany. British Airways has offered to fly them out.

The woman was arrested at an address in Slough on suspicion of obtaining monies by deception, involving a sum of about £60,000 paid by Activ4 and other individuals for non-existent World Cup tickets.

Tony Blair's spokesman said it was not clear which game they will get to see.

Linda Owens, headteacher of Mayville High School, Portsmouth, where 23 of the boys come from, said the children would be delighted.

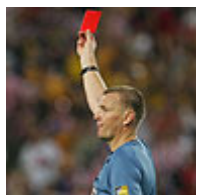
"This is amazing news, absolutely fantastic. It's wonderful, the boys will be over the moon.

"They were so disappointed at not being able to see the game and this will put them on a high again."

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