

## Videoswitch Digital Recorders deliver a great result for Charlton Athletic FC

Charlton Athletic football club have upgraded the CCTV system installed at their south London stadium. Conventional analogue VCR's have been replaced by digital video recorders manufactured by Videoswitch.



Images from 32 dome cameras strategically placed in and around the stadium are recorded onto two Videoswitch VDM-16s. The VDM-16 has the capability to instantly recall images by active date/time search, scroll search, event log and incident list, making it extremely easy for control room operators to recall and review video of any suspicious activity. The

VDM-16 also has a built in CD writer providing the facility to transfer video footage onto a CD to pass onto police for evidence purposes.

In addition, two Videoswitch VDC-4s have been installed for crowd control and safety during match days. These are four camera input recorders but are being used as single channel machines to allow control room operators and the police to automatically record any incidents that they are viewing in real time from a selected camera.

Control room operators can "tag" any events and then instantly recall and view all occurrences immediately after a match. The VDC-4s record at 12.5 FPS. With an average image size of 20k, this means that Charlton Athletic are able to store the whole match on just two CDs. Management of a large tape library is therefore a thing of the past. CDs can be played back on any of the 4 Videoswitch units on site or onto a PC. When viewing on a PC the Videoswitch software enables a images to be printed together with authentication information. Alternatively images can be saved to a PC's hard

drive so that a profile of constant offenders can be kept or emailed to other football clubs.

John Little is the Safety Officer for Charlton Athletic football club. It is John's job (and not the police as some people may think) to decide who can come into the stadium and when trouble makers should be ejected. It is also his personal responsibility to ensure that the club complies with the rules and regulations specified by the local authority. Unless they are completely satisfied that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure crowd safety, the local authority will not grant a licence for a match to go ahead. An important part of the local authorities requirements is that there must be an effective CCTV system in operation for two hours before, during and one after a football match.

Commenting on the new method of recording, John Little said: "We have had a fully operational CCTV system in place for some years. It worked reasonably effectively but the new digital video recorders totally outclass, in terms of ease of use and performance, the now redundant analogue VCRs. Our overall security has been greatly enhanced and the real time recording of incidences on match day particularly impresses me. The logging of the incidences and the means of archiving are extremely effective".

When the CCTV system is not being used for crowd safety and control, it is used by Eddie Hart, Charlton Athletics' Security Managers and his team of security officers for general surveillance purposes. The preset position of the dome cameras are changed so that the activities of unwanted visitors, including ticket touts can be observed.

The Videoswitch DVRs were supplied and installed by IC2UK Ltd who specialise in the design, installation and maintenance of Access Control and CCTV systems. The company which is based in Beckenham, Kent, has been in business for some time but has recently been building a strong reputation for providing security solutions for sports organisations. Surrey County Cricket Club among others is on IC2's growing list of prestigious customers.

"Videoswitch and ourselves have worked well together as a team and we are delighted that Charlton Athletic are so pleased with the performance of the system", said Andrew Whelan, Director of IC2 (UK) Ltd.