

# SCAR OF SADNESS

**W**ho to blame? After the tragic events at White City, each of us must wonder where the fault lies for the horrible events that occurred at an otherwise wonderful concert.

The figures we all know: one death, and hundreds carried from the area in front of the stage. Fourteen were hospitalised (not including one of the security guards, who suffered a broken leg), and the number who suffered injuries outside the stadium will perhaps never fully be known.

But even with all the uncertainty, why must some people, regardless of the facts, decide that the blame lay with David?

For this is what so many people have said, suggested, implied, and—yes—even printed. Headlines like "The Who Who 'Died' For David" have done so little to establish the truth and so very, very much to hurt David and the people close to him on the tour. Perhaps this is the time—and place—to give a detailed picture of exactly what happened.

To begin with, we must try and keep the picture in perspective. To really understand the whole scene, we must also look carefully at the Glasgow concert.

## ANGER

Any concert is organised long in advance to avoid the possibility of danger and injury, and Glasgow was no exception.

Artists security were there in force, along with members of the St. John's Ambulance Corps, and doctors and nurses as well. The concert,

which began at 8 p.m., took place on a cool June evening.

Although a little rain had fallen in the early morning, there was sunshine and a light wind by the time the concert had begun.

Perhaps 15,000 people were present that evening for David's first-ever appearance in Scotland, and the first concert of the British tour.

After the gates opened at about 6.00pm, fans entered through the turnstiles, and headed for the front of the stage. This was located at one end of the oval.

The schedule of events was much the same for all of the concerts. At exactly 8.00pm, Showaddywaddy, the first group on the bill, went on stage. They were well received, but everyone had come to see David.

After Showaddywaddy left the stage, there were a few long moments of excitement and then David's back-up band came on stage. After ten minutes, in which they played

"Feein' Alright," Tony Blackburn bounced onto the stage. After throwing a couple of T-shirts and a carrier bag to the crowd, he led them in the chant "We Want David."

And then, they got David! He entered from behind the drummer, and launched immediately into "Dreams Are Nuthin' More Than Wishes."

From then on, the concert went pretty much as everyone had expected it to. A few girls, overcome with excitement, were removed from the crowd and taken to an area in front of the stage, where they were treated by members of St. Johns.

No one was seriously injured, and everyone agreed that the concert had been a success. Some people were disappointed that David had not done an encore, but there was a good reason for this: the organisers had warned David against it.

They were afraid that, if the crowd outside the stadium had realised that David would soon be leaving, they (or David) might possibly be injured as David's limousine left the car park.

The concert was, as I explained in the May issue of the magazine, well organised, according to most of the people we spoke to, and most of the post we've received, the audience was pleased with every aspect of it.

