# England Fans' Conduct Raises Concerns at Euro 2024 Opener



### England Fans' Behaviour Under Scrutiny at Euro 2024 Opener

Gelsenkirchen, Germany—The start of Euro 2024 has seen mixed scenes as thousands of England fans traveled to Germany to support their national team. Concerns about crowd trouble, reminiscent of past hooliganism, initially cast a shadow over the tournament. However, the overall atmosphere remained largely celebratory, punctuated by isolated incidents.

On Friday night, Dusseldorf's bars were bustling with football fans, including a notable presence of Scots without tickets. The fan zones along the Rhine witnessed a largely peaceful gathering of supporters from various nations, celebrating the sport without any major incidents.

Tensions escalated on Saturday night outside the St George’s Hotel, where around 300 English fans, shirtless and singing provocative songs, gathered. Despite the charged atmosphere, local police and the UK Football Police Unit managed to keep potential issues under control, preventing any significant clashes.

The situation worsened on Sunday in Gelsenkirchen, where England faced Serbia in a "high-risk" match. A clash between English and Serbian fans at a local steakhouse resulted in broken tables and bottles thrown, leading to eight arrests. Post-match, significant transport issues left many fans stranded for hours due to inadequate arrangements. The Free Lions supporters’ group criticized UEFA and local authorities for the logistical failures.

Despite these challenges, there were no further arrests, and the majority of fans managed to maintain restraint. The Gelsenkirchen police later confirmed that only English and Serbian fans were involved in the pre-game brawl, dispelling earlier reports of other groups' involvement.

As the tournament progresses, both UEFA and local authorities are under pressure to address these issues to ensure better management of future fixtures.