

# Rentokil

The Experts in Pest Control



## Walsall Football Club Hawking Case Study

Rentokil used their in-house Harris Hawks to deter the resident pigeon population, which were causing major problems, at Walsall Football Club.

## Rentokil's Hawking Programme

### Background

Walsall Football Clubs' home ground is called Bank's Stadium, which is a 11,300 seater stadium located on the outskirts of the town centre.

Over the last few years a number of 'unwanted fans' had made themselves at home within the stadium. A flock of feral pigeons had decided to set up home and roost within the stadium's canopy.

Miss Nina Best, Commercial Manager at Walsall Football Club, explained how this flock of birds caused major health and safety as well as financial issues at the ground. Miss Best commented on the problem, "the bird fouling left on the floor and seats, by the pigeons, represented a major health and safety hazard and resulted in numerous complaints from fans. The droppings also resulted in additional cleaning costs, as we had to clean away the pigeon droppings on a weekly basis. In addition, at the time, the pitch was being re-seeded and the pigeons kept eating the grass seed which was a major issue for our head groundsman."

### Rentokil's Solution

Several methods of bird control had been tried at the stadium, including the use of a plastic bird of prey and an acoustic bird scaring system, both of which failed to scare away the pigeons.

It was at that point that they then turned to Rentokil for help. Rentokil's solution to the pigeon problem was to fly Dennis and Gnasher, a pair of Harris Hawks, around the stadium at irregular intervals over the course of several months.

Phil Sparkes, Rentokil Specialist Sales Consultant, explains the details of the Hawking programme, "the hawks don't actually catch or kill the pigeons, but regular flying unsettles the birds, resulting in moving them on to other areas to roost and nest. If the pigeons don't feel safe then they won't stay within an area. Our in-house hawks have been well trained to scare the pigeons away without catching them, and they seem to enjoy the exercise of being flown around the stadium".

### Results

Miss Best stated on the hawking programme, "the pigeon population at the stadium has dropped considerably since the Hawking programme started here, and now we only really see a few pigeons around the stadium which soon disappear when Dennis and Gnasher are flying. The fans can now watch our team play good football without the risk of being fouled on by pigeons. The Rentokil Hawking programme has really worked for us!"



**Nina Best**  
Commercial Manager

*"The pigeon population at the stadium has dropped considerably since the hawks started to fly here. The Rentokil Hawking programme has really worked for us!"*

## The Experts in Pest Control

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