

## Axis keeps a watchful eye over The Jungle.

With a family-friendly reputation to maintain, Castleford Tigers RLFC decided to install network video surveillance from Axis to help deter inappropriate crowd behavior.



Organization:  
Castleford Tigers RLFC

Location:  
Castleford, West  
Yorkshire, UK

Industry segment:  
Leisure

Application:  
Stadium surveillance,  
safety and security

Axis partner:  
White Rose Security  
Solutions

### Mission

Following an unfortunate incident during a tense match with a rival team, Castleford Tigers Rugby League Football Club decided it needed to review its current and future safety requirements. The club is extremely proud of its family-friendly atmosphere and its well-behaved fans and wanted to take steps to ensure that it maintained this reputation. The club decided to deploy network video surveillance to monitor the behavior of fans and consulted local security installer White Rose Security (WRS) to recommend a solution that could not only stand up to harsh weather and low light conditions, but which would also offer excellent image quality.

### Solution

WRS recommended that Castleford Tigers deploy the AXIS Q1755 Network Camera, an ideal solution for securing areas where clear images and greater detail are required. This allows the club to clearly identify the perpetrators of any bad behavior and deal with it accordingly.

It is the ideal camera for an outdoor-based solution as it provides high-quality images even in extremes of light and dark and adverse weather.

### Result

The camera was installed high up in the stadium to ensure that it was out of reach of spectators and that the view was not obscured. On match days, the AXIS Q1755 now keeps an active eye on the crowd and in the event of an incident the club can monitor the coverage stored on the network to identify exactly what has taken place and who was responsible. Visitors to 'The Jungle' are well aware that network video surveillance is in place and this helps to discourage bad behavior from those few fans who can occasionally try to spoil it for the well-behaved majority and enables the club to take firm action against the troublemakers.

"The AXIS Q1755 is perfect for our needs as it is an extremely robust camera that provides exceptional image quality regardless of the weather or the lighting conditions on match day. We're extremely confident that having network video surveillance in place will act as a deterrent in itself."

Richard Wright, CEO, Castleford Tigers.

Castleford Tigers Rugby League Football Club was founded in June 1926 and has since competed out of its current home ground at 'The Jungle,' Castleford, West Yorkshire. The club has grown to become one of the most famous Rugby League Clubs in the UK, and apart from just two seasons, has constantly remained in the top division of British Rugby League. The club regularly enjoys match day crowds of between 8,000 and 10,000 and is committed to ensuring that its stadium is a safe and friendly environment. The club rarely experiences any serious crowd problems and is extremely proud of its well-behaved fans. However, one particular occasion persuaded the club's management team that it needed to review its surveillance requirements.

### Preventative measures

During a tense match against rivals the Catalans, there was some unrest amongst some of the Castleford Tigers fans, and one disgruntled Castleford Tigers fan decided to launch a plastic bottle. Tigers CEO, Richard Wright said: "The throwing of missiles is not acceptable in any circumstances, no matter how frustrated a fan might be. Although the Jungle rarely witnesses any serious crowd problems, this incident made us realize that we needed to act quickly to do everything possible to ensure that there wasn't a recurrence. We have always prided ourselves on being a family club and we don't intend to allow the behavior of only a small number of fans spoil this."

On match days, the club's team of stewards and safety officers are on hand to help ensure crowd safety, however, following this incident, the management team decided to step up security and review how it could better monitor crowd behavior. The decision was made to install surveillance to cover the area where the Catalan incident took place. This is an area of the stadium that the club's most passionate and noisy fans tend to occupy and where any potential crowd trouble might occur.

### A robust solution

Castleford Tigers consulted local security installer White Rose Security (WRS), on the types of surveillance camera available for its specific needs. Having previously partnered with Axis Communications on a number of

other projects, WRS recommended that the Castleford Tigers deploy the AXIS Q1755 Network Camera.

The AXIS Q1755 is the ideal solution for securing areas where clear images and greater image detail are required and allows the club's security team to replay footage after an incident has occurred and identify those responsible. It has 10x optical zoom, 12x digital zoom and autofocus and can provide the desired field of view instantly and in perfect focus. It can provide high-quality images, even in tough conditions, including extremes of light and dark, fast-moving objects – ideal for the rugby games – and adverse weather. It can also adjust to changing lighting conditions using iris control and automatic day and night functionality for improved light sensitivity in low light conditions.

It also incorporates 'Gatekeeper' functionality which automatically zooms in when there is activity in the scene and other intelligent capabilities such as enhanced video motion detection, audio detection and alarm notification at tampering attempts such as blocking or spray-painting the camera. WRS also recommended this camera due to its ease of installation. The AXIS Q1755 is placed high up in the stadium where it was out of reach of spectators and the view was not obscured. In the event of an incident the club can monitor the coverage stored on the network to identify exactly what has taken place and who was responsible.

"All visitors to The Jungle are fully aware that network video surveillance is now in place, and in the event of a future incident, we will have immediate access to the footage and be able to see exactly what happened and who was responsible. This gives us the evidence we need to remove them from the stadium and, if appropriate, ban them from any future matches. We're a family friendly club and I'm pretty sure that the Catalan incident was a one off. We're extremely confident that having the camera in place will act as a deterrent in itself, especially the resulting lifetime ban facing anyone caught on camera behaving inappropriately. It is hugely reassuring to have the AXIS Q1755 in place," concluded Wright.

