

New Issues in Attendance Demand The Case of the English Football League

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This paper uses an attendance demand model with panel data on close to 5,000 games to examine economic problems of fixture congestion in English Football League schedules. We find that televised midweek Champions League matches involving English Premier League clubs have substantial adverse impacts on lower division Football League gate attendance. This suggests that affected clubs may have a case for compensation from the Premier League for loss of gate revenue from this source. Scheduling of home games close to one another has an adverse impact on attendance with the bulk of effect felt in the first game of the sequence. Reorganisation of fixture schedules and/or redistribution of income would help offset adverse impacts on team revenues from midweek scheduling.