



Guests begin to arrive.

Andy answers plea for birthday bash help ...

A SIMPLE email plea for help resulted in organiser Andy Cotton playing a key role in arranging the birthday bash of Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty. Here, he describes his involvement in the party – and the prestigious Bollywood Oscars ...

Friday June 1, 11am: Meeting at Leeds Victoria Quarter to discuss all aspects of the party including crowd management, production, security, catering and health and safety.

3pm: Meeting at West Yorkshire Police HQ with assistant chief constable and officers, Yorkshire Partners and IIFA officials. Went into meeting with one job and came out with ten. All for same fee. One was to take on the role of public safety for the entire IIFA Week.

Saturday June 2 and Sunday June

3: Spent the weekend drawing up detailed event management plans incorporating crowd, traffic and pedestrian management, site co-ordination and safety and security.

Monday June 4: Meeting in Victoria Quarter to discuss Shilpa's party with IIFA managers, venue officials, Yorkshire partners and Leeds City Council with their safety consultant, Richard Limb.

3pm: Meeting at The Queen's Hotel, Leeds, the hotel for stars like Salman Khan and Ex Miss Universe Lara Dutta. Requested to undertake public protection of crowds, traffic management and VIP movements.

Tuesday June 5: Meetings held at IIFA HQ with IIFA and Wizcraft International Management. Site visits to National Media Museum and

Cineworld, Bradford together with Cineworld, Castleford. Preparation and submission of event management plans to West Yorkshire Police for these three venues.

Wednesday June 6: The stars arrive at The Queens Hotel – minus their bodyguards who got left at Manchester Airport. Shilpa has a birthday lunch at the Aagrah, Leeds. Then she visits a house in Leeds to meet a competition winner. Off we go again. Thank God for sat nav ...

Thursday June 7: Queen's Hotel was busy with crowds and arrivals. An advance trip to the Hallam FM Arena for rehearsals and health and safety on the VIP Hospitality. Then in the evening off to the IIFA World Premiere at Cineworld in Castleford; attended by Salman Khan, Gitta

Basra, Kabir Bedi and Safi Ali Khan.

Friday June 8: Covered Queen's Hotel; Bradford National Media Museum for visit of Aishwarya Rai; covered IIFA Film Premiere at Cineworld, Bradford for visit of Salman Khan and Aishwarya Rai. Early evening, we placed all the barriers at the Victoria Quarter for Shilpa Shetty's party which was starting at 10pm. Did all the health and safety checks on the venue and production. I rugby tackled a job who tried to get to the stars. Party finished at 2am.

Saturday June 9: Covered Queen's then off to Hallam Arena, Sheffield. Did all the health and safety for the VIP hospitality, assisted looking after Tessa Jowell MP. Also ended up looking after Shobna Gulati and Keith Vaz MP.