

## Polish Woodstock kicks racism into touch

By Rafal Pankowski for *Nigdy Wiecej* and Antifa-Net in Kostrzyn

POLISH WOODSTOCK, the annual free music festival in Kostrzyn near the Polish-German border, attracted some 300,000 people this year. Searchlight's Polish sister organisation, the Never Again Association, contributed to the festivities with its ninth annual Polish Anti-Racist Football Championship which, as in previous years, proved highly popular with the festival audience. As a bonus this year, festival-goers could also view an exhibition on the multicultural history of Polish football.

"This year we paid special attention to recruiting volunteers who will be willing to take part in anti-racist activities planned around the Euro 2012 football championships in Poland and Ukraine," said Jacek Purski, a spokesman for Never Again.

The distinguished British violinist Nigel Kennedy, who performed at the festival, was among several people who expressed support for the Never Again activists. As an ardent Aston Villa fan, he was visibly surprised to see Purski wearing an Villa shirt during the matches at the festival.

The organising partners for the event included Warsaw University's Social Project 2012, the Council of Europe Information Office and the Mayor of Kostrzyn.

The Never Again Association is an independent anti-fascist organisation that monitors racist incidents and conducts educational campaigns. It coordinates the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) Eastern European Development Project supported by UEFA in the run-up to the Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine.

