

## SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

### ABERDEEN 27 February 2015 Minute of Meeting of the SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

Present: Arlene Dunbar (Litigation and Licensing), Roland George (Aberdeen Football Club), Andrew Gilchrist (Environmental Health) Paul Hendry, (Aberdeen Football Club), David McIntosh (Emergency Planning), Grant Tierney (Building Standards) and Innes Walker (Police Scotland)

#### **MINUTE OF MEETING OF SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY GROUP OF 03 DECEMBER 2014**

1. The Working Group had before it the minute of the meeting of the Sports Ground Advisory Working Group of 03 December 2014.

With reference to Article 4 of the minute, Grant Tierney commented that to the best of his knowledge a representative of Building Standards did not attend the Table Top Exercise. Ronald George advised that he would check the position and revert.

With reference to Article 5 of the minute, Grant Tierney noted the position but felt it was worth reiterating that the work of the Sports Ground Advisory Working Group in executing the Safety Certificate was to fulfil a statutory obligation.

#### **The Group resolved:**

To otherwise approve the minute

#### **ABERDEEN FOOTBALL CLUB GENERAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE**

2. The Group had before them a report, instructed by Aberdeen Football Club, detailing the observations and comments of Donald Coutts, Architectural & Project Management Consultancy Ltd following an observational survey of the spectator stands and facilities at Pittodrie Stadium.

The Group also had a spreadsheet of areas of work required to be completed at the Stadium. Paul Hendry advised that the work had been prioritised by firstly immediate work, then essential work required to be completed as soon as possible and finally closed season work. He advised the Group that 50% of the work on the list had already been completed.

Paul Hendry further advised that a structural survey completed by Wright Associates had been circulated to members of the Group by email that morning. Grant Tierney advised that he would require to consider the contents of the documents submitted and to carry out a non-match day inspection of the stadium.

#### **The Group resolved:-**

To note the position

## **MATCH DAY INSPECTIONS**

### **MATCH DAY INSPECTION 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**3.1** The Group had before them a letter dated 13 February 2015 detailing the observations of the Working Group following the Match Day inspection of Pittodrie Stadium held on 30 September 2014. The Group considered each of the observations raised in the letter:

#### Electronic Advertising Boards

Arlene Dunbar reiterated that any alternation or addition to the stadium which is likely to affect the safety of persons at the stadium should be raised with the Working Group prior to the alternation taking place so that the Working Group can consider the matter. The Working Group and Club have previously had good lines of communication and the Working Group wished to maintain that good working relationship with the Club.

Paul Hendry advised that the original boards had been removed following the match day inspection, the new boards are 1.5m wide, are maintained by a steward at all times, are never locked and opens away from the spectators thus facilitating exit to the pitch if necessary. Grant Tierney commented that the new boards were a big improvement from the originals and more in line with the recommendations as contained in the Green Guide. He advised that he would look at the boards at the next inspection. He further advised that there was no landing at the bottom of the steps when the gate is shut and therefore this constituted a deviation of the Green Guide. Grant considered that this was an acceptable deviation and that it should be added to the Safety Certificate when being renewed.

#### Radio Communications

There had been some concern at the match day inspection regarding radio communications and the raising of the alarm in an emergency situation.

Roland George advised that there are 87 radios, not including police radios at the stadium. Each stand representative has a radio and there are 2 "floating" representatives. In addition every kiosk has a radio and the stewards are aware of this.

Paul Hendry advised that the club has instructed that an amendment to the stewards' briefings be made to reiterate the procedures regarding raising the alarm and to remove unnecessary information from the briefings. The Text Line number has also been added into the briefing information.

Innes Walker commented that Police Scotland were not aware of any issue regarding the raising of emergency incidents.

#### Stewarding Deployment

The issue of deployment of stewards at the match day inspection was raised.

Paul Hendry advised that the Club had produced a Steward Deployment Plan, that this been adapted over the years and that the Club are comfortable with the current number of stewards.

Grant Tierney advised that the number of Stewards used at the Stadium was not being questioned but pointed out that as part of the Certificate a number of deviations from the Green Guide have been agreed and the Stewards in some cases are not being deployed in accordance with those deviations.

Paul Hendry agreed to look at and consider the current deviations.

### External Lighting

Paul Hendry advised that additional lights had been installed and that some trees/bushes that were obstructing another light had been removed.

### The Group resolved:-

1. To add the electronic boards as a deviation to the Safety Certificate at Appendix 5;
2. That Aberdeen Football Club would review the current list of deviations and
3. To otherwise note the position

## **MATCH DAY INSPECTION – 8 APRIL 2015**

**3.2** Arlene Dunbar confirmed that the next match day inspection would take place on Wednesday 8 April 2015 and that she would email member of the Group to make the necessary arrangements.

## **MATCH DAY INCIDENTS**

4. There were no Match day incidents to report

## **SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUND SEMINAR – 20 MARCH 2015**

**5.** The Group had before them for information details of a Safety at Sports Ground Seminar to be held at Hampden Park on 20 March 2015.

Arlene Dunbar advised that she and Grant Tierney would be attending the seminar. The Club advised that 3 representatives would also be attending.

## **AOCB**

## **SOUTH STAND SEATING**

**6.** The Club circulated a proposal to reduce the away ticket allocation for Old Firm games and increase the home supporter ticket allocation. In order to do this the Club wish to remove the second segregation fence.

Paul Hendry considered that as this was a physical change to the stand, the Working Group should consider the proposal before the Club carried it out. The Club circulated some photographs outlining the proposal. Grant Tierney advised that the proposal would not require an amendment to the Safety Certificate; however updated plans would be required. Innes Walker confirmed that Police Scotland had no objection to the proposal.

**The Group resolved:-**

1. To note the proposal;
2. to request updated plans be submitted as part of the Safety Certificate renewal process.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7. It was agreed that Arlene Dunbar would arrange a date for the next meeting and advise the Group accordingly by email.