

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the seventy-third meeting of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Board, held on 11th November 2024 at The City Ground, Nottingham and via video conference

Present

Derek Wilson
Jil Matheson
Alex Lacey
Bradley Pritchard
Jane Sawyers
Jon Sellins

In attendance

Giles Smith, Chief Executive Officer
Gavin Jenkins, Head of Corporate Services
Andrea Jones, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
Steve Stathakis, Head of Special Projects
Dave Balbi, Football Licensing and Data Manager
Wendy Harnan-Kajzer [SGSA24(47)]

Frankie Broadbent, DCMS – via video conference
Caroline Hayward, SIA Legal – via video conference
Lauren Bard, SIA Legal – via video conference

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Derek welcomed everyone to the meeting, being held at Nottingham Forest's City Ground.
- 1.2 There were apologies for absence from Martin Esom and Ken Scott. There were no declarations of interest given, other than Derek's ongoing work with Luton FC.

2. Minutes of the seventy-second meeting of the SGSA Board, including matters arising and action log SGSA24(45)

- 2.1 The Board agreed the minutes of the previous meeting. All actions had been completed. There were no matters arising.
- 2.2 Giles informed the Board that a meeting had taken place with DCMS analysts concerning how the economic impact associated with the Green Guide might be valued. It was agreed that this would be looked at as part of Green Guide 7 development work.



3. Chief Executive's Report SGSA24(46)

3.1 Giles provided his report to the Board highlighting:

- His and the Chair's meeting with the new sports minister, Stephanie Peacock MP.
- Confirmation that the terms of office of Jane Sawyers and Jil Matheson had been extended for a further year until December 2025, and an update on Board appointments. The Board expressed their disappointment with the lack of diversity on the appointment panel. Frankie Broadbent agreed to feed this back.
- The latest position on the Spending Review which is that we and other DCMS ALBs are still waiting for clarity.
- The draft report from the Government Internal Audit Agency on our licensing procedures which raised no significant issues.
- The planned 'stock-take' of SGSA's licensed standing work.
- An update on our work in Women's football and the National League. The Board asked what the impact would be on the organisation if a serious incident occurred at National League ground. Giles confirmed that the National League does not come under our regulatory remit, but he would consider what more could be done (including seeking resolution from DCMS on a way forward with our currently paused VNL engagement)
- Our approach to improving the effectiveness of the Safety Committee.
- Updates on changes to the regulatory landscape, including the Independent Football Regulator and the SIA taking on responsibility for implementing 'Martyn's Law'.

4. Head of Inspector's report SGSA24(47)

- #### **4.1**
- In Ken's absence, Wendy Harnan-Kajzer provided the Head of Inspectorate report updating the Board on recent meetings with specific clubs, and the organisation's plan to refine its approach to collecting data to better inform our ground assessments.

5. Strategy SGSA24(48)

- #### **5.1**
- Giles Smith and Steve Stathakis presented the first iteration of the headline structure for the new 2025-2030 strategy for discussion.

6. CPD session on crowd psychology and the ENABLE project

- #### **6.1**
- The Board joined the Inspectors meeting to listen to a presentation given by Mark Holland, SGSA Inspector.

7. Staff Survey SGSA24(49)

- #### **7.1**
- The Board noted a positive set of scores for the organisation, including the fact that indicated that over 80% of staff wish to stay at the SGSA for at least 2 years.



8. AOB

- 8.1 The Board noted the other 'For Information' papers.

Gavin Jenkins

November 2024