

## Board Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the seventy-second meeting of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Board, held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 10 South Colonnade, London and via video conference**

### Present

Derek Wilson  
Jil Matheson  
Martin Esom – via video conference  
Bradley Pritchard – via video conference  
Jane Sawyers – via video conference

### In attendance

Giles Smith, Chief Executive Officer  
Ken Scott, Head of Inspectorate  
Gavin Jenkins, Head of Corporate Services  
Andrea Jones, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement  
Steve Stathakis, Head of Special Projects  
Jo Welford, Inspector  
Anil Keshwala, Football Licensing and Oversight Manager  
Dave Balbi, Football Licensing and Data Manager  
Joey Edomobi, Board Apprentice – via video conference  
  
Sarah Hannaford, DCMS – via video conference  
Frankie Broadbent, DCMS – via video conference  
Caroline Hayward, SIA Legal

### 1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Derek welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Dave Balbi on his first day at the SGSA.
- 1.2 There were apologies for absence from Jon Sellins and Alex Lacey. There were no declarations of interest given, other than Derek's ongoing work with Luton FC.

### 2. Minutes of the seventy-first meeting of the SGSA Board, including matters arising and action log SGSA24(35)

- 2.1 The Board agreed the minutes of the previous meeting. All actions had been completed. There were no matters arising.

### 3. Chief Executive's Report SGSA24(36)

- 3.1 Giles Smith provided his report to the Board highlighting:



- His and the Chair's meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October with the new sports minister, Steph Peacock.
- The current situation with the board recruitment process and the separate request to extend the term of two current board member. Frankie Broadbent confirmed that the need to agree Board appointment extensions had been escalated within DCMS.
- The latest position on the Spending Review and the SGSA's overall approach to it.
- The potential implications of the Grenfell Tower inquiry report on both the SGSA's regulatory operation and the areas that we regulate.
- An update on the football governance bill and the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, 'Martyn's Law'.
- Staff updates noting that Anil Keshwala will shortly be leaving to join the Civil Service fast stream and Dave Balbi joining the organisation as his replacement, and also the appointment of a new part-time inspector for Scotland, funded by the Scottish Government.

#### **4. Head of Inspector's report SGSA24(37)**

- 4.1 Ken Scott reported on recent engagement with certain grounds to mitigate the risks of persistent standing. The Board were assured that an agreed plan for enforcement action is in place should it prove necessary.
- 4.2 Regarding ground assessments Ken confirmed that although a number of stadiums that were constructed in the early 1990s are nearing halfway through their expected life, the Green Guide requirements of annual assessment and detailed structural appraisal every 6 – 10 years is sufficient for issues to be identified.
- 4.3 Ken reported that 21 grounds now have licensed standing areas.

#### **5. Strategy SGSA24(38)**

- 5.1 Giles Smith and Steve Stathakis initiated a discussion on the development of a new strategy highlighting the achievements of the previous strategy, and a summary of the strategy discussions at the Board awayday in June and with members of SGSA. The Board supported the direction of travel with the Strategy and noted that it was of vital importance for the SGSA to be part of discussions in other areas of Government that could have an impact on the SGSA.
- 5.2 The Board agreed that we have not done enough to quantify the value to the sector of our guidance, and it was suggested that some analysis could be commissioned to do so.

#### **6. Developing an HR Strategy SGSA24(39)**

- 6.1 Gavin Jenkins highlighted to the Board the planned approach to developing an HR strategy, a large part of which is dependent on other uncertainties such as the new organisational strategy and Spending Reviews.
- 6.2 The Board will be kept informed of the development of our HR strategy as these uncertainties become more certain.



**7. Joint Meeting SGSA24(40)**

7.1 The Board agreed with the proposed plan for the Joint Meeting in November expressing their desire for a focus on hearing thoughts from staff.

**8. AOB**

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

8.2 A discussion took place regarding how the organisation might work more closely with the Professional Footballers Association (PFA). Giles confirmed that he would be meeting with representatives from the PFA shortly and welcomed Bradley Pritchard's offer to potentially join this meeting.

**Gavin Jenkins**

**September 2024**