

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the seventy-fourth meeting of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Board, held on 22nd January 2025 at 10 South Colonnade and via video conference

Present

Derek Wilson
Jil Matheson
Martin Esom
Alex Lacey
Bradley Pritchard (Via video conference)
Jon Sellins

In attendance

Giles Smith, Chief Executive Officer
Gavin Jenkins, Head of Corporate Services
Ken Scott, Head of Inspectorate (Via video conference)
Andrea Jones, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement (Via video conference)
Sarah Hannaford, DCMS
Darren Whitehouse, Premier League (Via video conference) Item 6
Matty Butcher, Martin Girvan, SGSA Inspectors (Via video conference) Item 7
Andy Robinson, SGSA Inspector, (Via video conference) Item 8
James Andrews, Board Apprentice

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Derek welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular James Andrews who was joining his first SGSA Board meeting as a board apprentice.
- 1.2 There were apologies for absence from Jane Sawyers. There were no declarations of interest given, other than Derek's ongoing work with Luton FC.

2. Minutes of the seventy-third meeting of the SGSA Board, including matters arising and action log SGSA25(01)

- 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 SGSA25(02)

3.1 Giles provided his report to the Board highlighting:

- The latest position on the Spending Review which is that we have received notice of a broadly positive settlement for 2025-26 and that we await further news on the following longer term Spending Review for subsequent years.
- An update on the Board appointment process. Interviews have taken place, and we await Ministerial decisions.
- Staffing updates on the returning Head of Policy (Paul McCormack), upcoming interviews for an Inspector in Northern Ireland (funded by SNI) and the plan for follow up activity as a result of the People Survey results (mainly focussing on L&D and Feedback)
- The current position on our engagement with the WSL and VNL.
- The SGSA's planned involvement in the CHAN tournament in Africa taking place in June 2025, having been previously due to take place in January 2025.

3.2 A discussion took place on whether there is a risk for the SGSA of a major incident happening at a ground that is unregulated. It was agreed to consider whether this should be included in the strategic risk register, although it would be clear that the SGSA has no statutory responsibility for grounds it does not licence.

3.3 Following the letter to other regulators from the Prime Minister, the Board discussed what potential the SGSA had for contributing to Growth. It was felt that Green Guide 7 should include the contribution of AI or other technology to safety in the sector.

4. Head of Inspectorate's report SGSA25(03)

4.1 Ken Scott provided an update on Match Day Inspections, Ground Assessments and Local Authority Audits, reporting that there are no new issues of concern.

4.2 Ken noted the progress in implementing recommendations to reduce persistent standing in certain clubs that SGSA were prioritising.

5. Stewarding project update SGSA25(04)

5.1 Darren Whitehouse provided an update on the Premier League funded SQUAD project highlighting its strategic aims of improving training for new stewards, providing CPD for existing stewards, creating a national register of stewards and higher steward agency standards.

5.2 The Board noted the potential for this work to fit into the growth agenda, thanking Darren for his presentation.



6. ARC Update and Risk Appetite SGSA25(05)

- 6.1 Martin Esom provided a verbal update to the Board on the previous day's ARC meeting noting the report from Internal Audit on licensing, the audit planning report from the NAO, the presentation on cyber security at the SGSA and the finance update.
- 6.2 In respect of risk appetite, Giles and Gavin will come to the next Board meeting with a proposed risk appetite for the risks identified in the Strategic Risk Register for consideration from the Board.

7. Martyn's Law update SGSA25(06)

- 7.1 Martin Girvan and Matty Butcher provided the Board with an update on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2024, otherwise known as 'Martyn's Law'.
- 7.2 The Board discussed what the best model might be for the SGSA working with the Security Industry Authority and other stakeholders.

8. Medical Update SGSA25(07)

- 8.1 Andy Robinson noted the SGSA's involvement in the development of the new Event Healthcare Standard, the consultation on CQC registration for event healthcare and the new requirement for readily accessible trauma kits and additional stretcher – all three coming out of recommendations from the Manchester Arena inquiry.
- 8.2 Andy also noted the refresh of SGSA guidance on crowd related medical incidents following some recent high-profile incidents.
- 8.3 The Board thanked all inspectors for their informative presentations and noted that the already crowded landscape - with so many bodies involved in overseeing different regulatory remits covering football stadia - there was a risk that confusion or duplication could be created. The Board wanted the SGSA to work to help ensure this risk was mitigated.

9. AOB

- 9.1 The Board noted the other 'For Information' papers. In respect of the item on the remuneration committee it was agreed that a proposal on how this should operate will come to a future Board meeting.
- 9.2 There were no other items of business.

Gavin Jenkins

January 2025