

## Board Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the seventy-fifth meeting of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Board, held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 10 South Colonnade and via video conference**

### **Present**

Derek Wilson  
Jil Matheson  
Jane Sawyers  
Martin Esom (Via video conference)  
Bradley Pritchard  
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)  
Paul McCormack, Head of Regulatory Policy  
Steve Stathakis, Head of Special Projects (Via video conference)  
Frankie Broadbent DCMS (Via video conference)  
Sarah Hannaford, DCMS (Via video conference)  
Jo Welford, SGSA Inspector (Via video conference)  
James Andrews, Board Apprentice (Via video conference)

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

- 1.1 Derek welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 There were apologies for absence from Alex Lacey. There only declaration of interest raised was Derek's ongoing work with Luton FC, and that Derek's son has recently started working as a casual employee for Luton FC.

### **2. Minutes of the seventy-fourth meeting of the SGSA Board, including matters arising and action log SGSA25(11)**

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



### **3. Chief Executive's Report SGSA25(12)**

- 3.1 Giles started his report to the Board by paying tribute to Darren Whitehouse. His untimely passing left all his colleagues at the SGSA and the Premier League in shock. We will update the Board in due course on plans to ensure that his work to support safety at sports grounds is marked.
- 3.2 In the rest of his report Giles highlighted:
- 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. We await Ministerial decisions.
  - The position on licensing for the 2025-26 season.
  - The current position on our engagement with the WSL and VNL.
  - Confirmation that the Scottish Government have agreed to provide funding for the 2025-26 financial year.
  - The latest data meeting which prompted a discussion on the accuracy of reported data in particular to incidents involving pyros. A need was highlighted to identify who the customers for data are.
  - On the subject of how the SGSA can demonstrate what it can contribute to the Growth Agenda the Board recommended that the DCMS Chief Economist be consulted in how the intellectual property contained within the Green Guide might be valued.

### **4. Head of Inspectorate's report SGSA25(13)**

- 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 There are currently issues with extracting data to produce a dashboard report. We are looking at how we can redesign the dashboard to make better use of the data that we can extract.

### **5. Strategy SGSA25(14)**

- 5.1 Steve Stathakis presented the final draft of Strategy 2030 to the Board for their approval.
- 5.2 The Board recommended making some minor changes to wording to reflect the work that the SGSA will be doing with others in respect of the changing regulatory landscape.
- 5.3 It was also felt that although 'Growth' is mentioned in the strategy greater prominence should be given to how the SGSA intends to contribute to the Growth Agenda.
- 5.4 Pending some changes to wording the Board approved the Strategy 2030.



**6. KPI Update SGSA25(15) and Business Plan 2024-25 SGSA25(16)**

6.1 Jo Welford provided an update on KPIs and Steve Stathakis an update on the Business Plan 2024-25.

6.2 The Board noted both reports.

**7. Finance update including 2025-26 budget SGSA25(17)**

7.1 Gavin Jenkins presented the latest forecast for the 2024-25 financial year and also proposed the 2025-26 budget.

7.2 On research costs it was agreed that the plan for how this budget will be spent will be presented at a future Board meeting.

7.3 The Board agreed the budget for 2025-26.

**8. Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 SGSA25(18)**

8.1 Andrea Jones and Gavin Jenkins presented the planned timetable to produce the Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25.

**9. AOB**

9.1 The Board noted an exception on the injury statistics paper. It was agreed that this would be amended prior to publication.

9.2 There were no other items of business.

**Gavin Jenkins**

**March 2025**