

Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975
Chelsea Football Club Safety Advisory Group (SAG)
10th February 2023
Minutes of Meeting (Part 1)
Via MS TEAMS

Attendees:

NAME	INITIALS	ORGANISATION
Mark Ashley	MA	BTP
Chris Baker	CB	CFC
Paul O'Donnell	POD	CFC
Wills Payne	WP	CFC
Jamie Gray	JG	CFC
Keith Overstall	KO	CFC
Katie O'Donnell	KOD	CFC
Jamie Maynard	JM	LAS
Stephen Hollingworth – SAG Chair	SH	LBHF
Stephanie Needham	SN	LBHF
Graham Souster	GS	LBHF
Adrian Overton	AO	LBHF
Laurence Turton	LT	LBHF
Simon Brooker	SB	MPS
Simon Brooker	SB	MPS
Matt Hero	MH	MPS
Ramesh Kerai	RK	MPS
Matt Smith	MS	NHS
Michael Allen	MA	RBKC
Geoff Galilee	GG	SGSA

Minutes – Tamsin Jago

ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
1	Welcome from the Chairman	Chair
	<p>This is the mid-season SAG to review the safety management operation so far. The last full SAG was held on 15 July 2022.</p> <p>However, two further Special SAGs have been convened since then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 12th September: following the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and the postponement of the Liverpool fixture ➤ 7th October: CFC v Manchester United high-risk fixture – this resulted in reduction of the away capacity 	

2	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>LBHF – Moolan Thiru, Stefan Bystrzanowski, Mathew Ramsay (Building Control) Christiaan Uys (Traffic Regulation Orders, Janet Nairne (Network Management), Ian Baron (LET) Matt Hooper (Chief Officer – Safer Neighbourhood & Reg Services) is tentative CFC – Hugh Millington (Crowd Doctor) LAS – Boyd Fisher (declined) , Matt Shute LFB – James Berry, Kevin Morgan. MPS – Superintendent James Brockway. TFL – Mark Dickenson, Peter Gobby. RBKC – Laura McGahon</p> <p>KO advised that Paul Kingsmore has left CFC and Tom Click, President of Business will be overseeing the role in the interim and Gold on matchdays.</p>	Chair
3	<p>Confirmation of the previous minutes and matters arising</p> <p>SH provided an overview of the actions from the previous meeting:</p> <p>SB wrote to al London clubs setting out the policing of drugs strategy on matchdays.</p> <p>RC (SJA) to shared her details with the SAG.</p> <p>Update on the Wider Definition Safety certificate is on the agenda.</p> <p>Annual inspection has been carried out to review the life critical safety certification.</p> <p>Emergency exercise was held and covered a range of challenging scenarios.</p> <p>Chelsea v Manchester United fixture and late kick off – letter was sent by the SAG to the club.</p> <p>Post-match traffic egress management trial from Stamford Gate commenced this season and has been extended.</p>	Chair
4	<p>CFC Safety management mid-season review 22/23</p> <p>CB advised he has distributed a copy of the report which he will read out.</p> <p>Domestic match categories and domestic fixtures, 1 low risk (AFC Bournemouth) 7 medium risk (Leicester, Wolves, Manchester United & City, Arsenal, Crystal Palace and Fulham), 2 high risk (Tottenham and West Ham United).</p> <p>CFC experienced a couple of very testing domestic fixtures against Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United (both 3,000 allocations) in the Premier League.</p> <p>CFC reduced the Tottenham Hotspur allocation by 67 seats due to their behaviour the previous season. CFC increased the segregation lines; accordingly, the decision was fully justified when they scored an equaliser deep into added time and the extra seat kills provided the added buffer to deter altercations across the segregation lines.</p> <p>The West Ham United supporters behaviour was generally anti-social throughout, a late Chelsea goal, which turned out to be the winner, and a VAR disallowed equaliser for the visitors added to the tensions amongst the Supporters. They caused substantial damage to the Lower Tier toilets before leaving the stadium.</p>	CFC

European Match Categories and Notable European Fixtures

CFC have had the 0 Low Risk, 2 medium risk (Reb Bull Salzburg and AC Milan) and 1 high risk European fixtures (CRI – Dinamo Zagreb) so far this season, up to and including 3rd February.

CFC experienced three very different UEFA Champions' League Group Stage fixtures, FC Red Bull Salzburg (1,500 allocation; only 625 sales), AC Milan (2,743 allocation; sold out), Dinamo Zagreb (2,722 allocation; 2,466 sales).

FC Red Bull Salzburg Supporters behaviour was exemplary, they requested and were allowed to display a large banner showing respect for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

AC Milan was a typical fixture against Italian opposition with 11 away Supporters being removed from home areas of the Stadium. They had a request to bring a large drum into the Stadium denied but they still tried to sneak it in and it was confiscated at the turnstiles. They were loud but did not cause many problems.

GNK Dinamo Zagreb Supporters were amongst the most challenging set of Supporters that we have ever had to manage. They ignored all the pre-match advice given by the Club and the MPS and walked up in a group numbering approximately 1,000 plus with banners, a drum, and a megaphone. CFC implemented a 3-stage entry system for this fixture and big screen messages at the away turnstiles due to issues that we have encountered at previous fixtures involving challenging away supporters and it worked well mainly due to the sheer number of Stewards and Police that were deployed around Stamford Gate and the away turnstiles. The Dinamo Zagreb Supporters refused to enter the Stadium unless they were allowed to take their drum and megaphone inside, a dynamic risk assessment was made, and CFC allowed the two items to enter the stadium. They were anti-social, loud, set off two smoke devices and broke 350 seats in the away section. Firm but fair stewarding assisted by the Police ensured that the fixture passed off without any further issues.

Pyrotechnic Devices

CFC have had three smoke devices so far this season, all were dealt with by the Fire Stewards. The culprit at the Wolverhampton Wanderers fixture was not arrested as they could not be positively identified by CCTV nor by Safety Stewards. The culprits at the Dinamo Zagreb fixture were also not arrested due to a dynamic risk assessment being made and it being decided that it was not safe to send Safety Stewards into eject them due to the anti-social behaviour that was being displayed by the Dinamo Zagreb Supporters in the area that the pyrotechnics were ignited.

Wolverhampton Wonderers 1 device

Dinamo Zagreb 2 devices

Mitigation Measures

CFC continued to install barriers on each South Stand Upper Tier vomitory in the away section ahead of the three UEFA Champions League fixtures so far this season to protect the seat kill netting at the front of the section.

Major/Significant Events

Hate Crime – In January 2023 the Football Association issued a statement reminding Clubs that the “Chelsea Rent Boys” chant is a breach of the FA Rules for a Club’s Supporters, or anyone purporting to be its Supporters, to engage in discriminatory behaviour and that they reserve the right to pursue formal disciplinary action against Club whose Supporters engage in such behaviour. The CPS have confirmed that the chant is a criminal offence.

All Stewards and SIA Staff are required to take a zero-tolerance approach to anyone singing the chant. Chelsea FC is committed to enforcing the Premier League’s Anti-

Discrimination Commitment, which will see offenders banned from all Premier League grounds for a minimum of 3 years.

Forthcoming Domestic & European Fixtures

2 x low risk (Brighton & Hove Albion and Southampton)

7 medium risk (Aston Villa, Brentford, Borussia Dortmund, Everton, Liverpool, Newcastle, Nottingham Forrest)

1 high risk (likely to be a CRI) - Leeds

Emergency Exercise

CFC held a Tabletop Exercise on 27th October 2022 at Stamford Bridge. Club Staff, various stakeholders (agency suppliers) and the Emergency Services were all involved. Several scenarios were used, utilities failure, protestor activity and terrorism.

Code Black/Green/Red/Yellow Incidents

CFC have had the following incidents so far, this season.

Code Black (Suspect Item): 9.

Code Green (Medical): 101 – 21 Staff, 80 Public.

Code Red (Fire): 4 - 4 Indications, 0 no actual fires

Code Yellow (Safeguarding): 9.

Safeguarding – Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyards/Wristband Initiative

In February 2020 CFC invited all junior Supporters to wear a Safeguarding Wristband in case they become separated from their guardian/parent. This enables Stewards to gain the correct information and connect the child and the parent swiftly in line with our Match Day Safeguarding Procedures. This process will continue to be used.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard was introduced in March 2020. This enables Stewards to be notified of Supporters that may need additional support, which is also in line with our Match Day Safeguarding Procedures. This process will continue to be used.

Persistent Standing

CFC continue to manage persistent standing at the Stadium if it occurs, CFC are continuously working with and educating spectators around safety, crowd management and customer care issues associated with persistent standing in seated areas, always keeping gangways and vomitories clear and ensuring the views of spectators with disabilities are not impeded by others standing.

Licensed Safe Standing Areas

As of 1st of January 2022 Licensed Safe Standing areas were allowed in two areas at Stamford Bridge, the North Stand Lower Tier (6,150) and the South Stand Lower (2,039) and Upper (3,964) Tiers. The introduction of licensed standing areas was based on evidence of a safety risk for supporters who persistently stand in seated areas. Safety is paramount and the SGSA is working hand-in-glove with the club. In general, it has been well received by the supporters of both Chelsea and visiting teams.

Coach Booking System

CFC are now in the 3rd Season of using their online Coach Booking System for Supporters, which is managed by their Match Day Stakeholder CSP. This has assisted the Club in their application for vehicle exemptions, a requirement as part of the Transport Congestion Pollution Reduction scheme for football coaches on match days. Additional management is required of European fixtures but overall, the online system has been a success. The Club will continue working closely with London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's Parking Services to ensure approved coaches are booked on in a timely manner.

HVM, Traffic & VMS Operation

Traffic - All closure points work well with no issues; a suggestion for the Traffic 6 position on Harwood Road on Sundays or after hours on weekdays to suspend some bays as through traffic/buses struggles to pass when cars are parked in the bays.

HVM & VMS - Following several trial deployments of the MVB-3XL system we went live with both systems on 15/09/22 at the Red Bull fixture. Both deployments are now part of our overall Traffic Management Operation and have been very successful. CFC believe the implementation of both the HVM and VMS systems have been successful and will continually review the operation and ways in which they can improve the deployments.

ACTION - The Club would still like to formally apply for 2 bay suspensions on Hortensia Road nearest to the junction of Fulham Road to use as a HVM build and break Location.

The build and break opposite Fulham Broadway Station work well. The VMS signs work well at either end of the Fulham Road displaying the messaging pre- and post-match. CFC have been able to adapt the messaging on the screens with the different events such as Tube Strikes and Coach Parking information.

Player Egress Operation - (Stamford Gate CSAS/Chapter 8 Proposal)

CFC have conducted several trial deployments of the post-match traffic/pedestrian management arrangements at Stamford Gate with the first taking place on 05/10/22 during the AC Milan fixture and they have worked well.

During egress from the site, CSAS Operatives are deployed to operational points to control the flow of vehicles onto the Fulham Road. Where possible, CSAS Operatives prioritise exiting traffic to maximise traffic flows off-site and minimise the exit time and reduce congestion at the junction of Stamford Gate and Fulham Road. This operation continues for 30 minutes post the TMO being lifted.

Once egress has ceased the CSP Operations Manager conclude the operation and return the Fulham Road to normal operation by the agreed Traffic Regulation Order. Security staff conduct post-match deployments in Underground Car Park. Whilst vehicle egress barriers are set up from the Underground Car Park to Stamford Gate. Crowd barriers are set up around the away team coach positions and the on the traffic barrier next to the 1905 Club.

Upon the TMO being lifted, SIA Stewards are in position at Stamford Gate creating a solid cordon. SIA Stewards in position at Stamford Gate pulse pedestrians through cordons on the instruction of the Traffic Supervisor and CSP Operative. Only CSP Operatives enter the Fulham Road.

Once the majority of the First Team Squad has departed the site, CSP Operatives (Underground Car Park) inform the Match Day Safety Control Room. Overall, the operation has worked well with the Club continually reviewing personnel to ensure consistency of staff, duties carried out effectively and in a safe manner. It is very much a team effort to ensure the safe management of departing vehicles from Stamford Gate which does get busy with the public converging on the area.

The Club and CSP have a Service Agreement until 28/02/23 with an aim to implement this as part of the overall Traffic Management Plan.

Stewarding/Stewards Training

CFC have had one intake of new Stewards in June 2022, numbering 65 in total. 132 Stewards were removed from our work force at the start of November 2022 for non-attendance. CFC currently have 614 active Stewards on our database. CFC have achieved a more consistent and regular attendance of Chelsea Stewards with an average of 400 attending each fixture, despite the decrease of overall numbers on the database. An introduction of a third agency to ensure enough staff to cover each event,

plus a continuation of the good relationship with our two incumbent agencies. A further in-house recruitment drive is planned for the summer.

Overall, the number of Stewards in the industry seems to have stabilised, the recruitment and retention of Stewards is still difficult. We have continued with the incentives to try and ensure retention.

- A three-year rolling training plan to develop the skills and experience of all Stewards.
- Continuation of uniform provisions – new bibs, blazers, hats & coats.
- Implemented a proactive engagement and communications programme.
- Improved Bonus Scheme linked to attendance.
- Improved catering arrangements.
- Improved Stewards rates of pay (£12.00 - £36.96 per hour [role dependent]).
- Staff Benefits include Club Pension Plan, Employee Assistance Programme, Blue Hub Discount Programme, Club Membership.

CFC currently have a decrease in our full time Match Day Safety Department numbers with Wills Payne “transferring” across London to Arsenal to take up the Safety Officers role, CFC wish him well in his new adventure and will be advertising for his replacement over the coming weeks.

CFC are continuing to train Stewards in their Level 2 in Spectator Safety with 12 new Stewards having been awarded their Certificates in January 2023 with a further 33 currently undergoing the course.

Level 3 in Spectator Safety – we are currently running a course for 10 Supervisors who do not yet hold the qualification. CFC have 87 Level 3 qualified Supervisors.

Level 4 in Spectator Safety - CFC currently have the Chief Steward and one of the Assistant Chief Stewards undergoing the course which will increase our numbers to four Level 4 qualified Senior Stewards “on the ground” on top of the 2 full time Level 4 qualified Safety Officers.

Access and Welfare Training – on 30th July 2022 CFC piloted a bespoke disability awareness day for Stewards.

ACT (CT) Training – a further 165 Stewards have completed the course, this course is permanently available to all Stewards for refresher training on the Clubs “Blue Learn” online platform.

Emergency First Aid Training – a further 142 new Stewards have now completed the course, refresher training is being undertaken as and when necessary.

Pyrotechnic Training – all CFC Fire Stewards have now completed the course. The next session to include SIA Stewards, Away Section Stewards and Supervisors is scheduled for 11th February.

SH stated the remuneration package for stewards was great keeps their retention and reassuring.

Congratulations to Wills Payne going to North London.

CB responded to GS query on Safeguarding cases to confirm it was primarily minors coming to the game (under 14) without an adult and stewards are picking them up at the turnstiles and procedures that ensue. GO discussed safeguarding and what it concerned? CB confirmed it was minors under the age of 14 not accompanied by an adult. Under 14s need to be accompanied by someone over 18. Parents are contacted by the Police.

GO confirmed this maybe an issue with the Liverpool match as there will be lots of younger people on their own.

	<p>GG commented on children going in over a certain age. GG queried the policies around children and if anything happens in the stadium.</p> <p>CB discussed the policy, it was implemented on Friday, 16-year-old intoxicated, escorted to FRP, Police were spoken to, left with stewards at a hotel. The Police didn't want to prosecute. Aware we have a duty of care; we make an informed decision. Generally away fans, but they are managed until they are accompanied by their group.</p> <p>SB discussed an issue with an adult who is accompanying a minor, has to be dealt with in a different way (get them in for interview at another time). Police happy to support club on Safeguarding training.</p> <p>KO discussed stats in terms of ejections/arrests.</p> <p>KO to circulate end of season stats. The figures are quite high. 101 people ejected or refused entry. Virtually all go through the FR. Working closely with the Police. 23 of these were arrests.</p> <p>Discrimination 10 cases, 8 resulting in arrests (relating to away supporters for rent boy chants).</p> <p>Drink related 17 cases, 1 arrest.</p> <p>Drunk on attempting entry to the stadium – 5 home / 1 away.</p> <p>Drunk inside the stadium 1 home / 1 away</p> <p>Drinking in view – 5 home supporters ejected and 3 away.</p> <p>Fan behaviour 36 ejections/refusals. Pitch incursions 2 arrests. Violent contact 3 incidents (home 2 arrest) . Missiles 5 away, 1 home, all arrested. Drugs 4 incidents, 2 arrests.</p> <p>Arrest for a steward assault.</p> <p>3 away supporters ejected for challenging stewards.</p> <p>Club will circulate and break them down for the end of season final stats. This is only a half year snapshot. Drink related fan behaviour is high for the matches that have taken place so far.</p> <p>SH thought there may be more drug incidents given the proactive approach this year. KO confirmed they have dozens and dozens of drug detection by the dogs. Fans are taken over to the FRP to be searched. 4 away supporters for drug (refused entry) 2 arrests. Many more dog detections but not positive findings.</p>	
5	Metropolitan Police – mid-season review 22/23	MPS/BTP
	<p>MH gave an overview (taken over from Paul Wright as DFO for Chelsea). 13 first team fixtures policed ; 1 women's fixtures policed at a low level.</p> <p>Men's 10 Premier League, 3 Champions League. (1 x low risk, 9 medium, 3 high risk).</p> <p>30 command team roles required. None resourced by the local BCU. 19 have been performed by previous local SLT members.</p> <p>Trend is up, more arrests. 46 arrests, 41 in Premier League, 5 in Champion League games. More than double compared to last year. General trend across the country not isolated at Stamford Bridge. How it has been post lockdown era and is reflected across London and the country as a whole</p> <p>Antisocial arrests – 16. Public order, drunken disorderly. The new MPS drugs at football initiative following the Casey Report has been put in place this season. 7 extra officers on home figures to help with drug detections. Detections remain fairly high. However the translation of finding drugs on people has been low. 5 arrests for drugs this season so far, this is not necessarily all at the away turnstiles as includes those who have been causing trouble outside the stadium and have then been found to be in possession of drugs are included in the stats as part of the matchday operation.</p>	

26 arrests inside.
20 outside.

Testament to poor behaviour inside the stadium.

8 home supporters have been arrested and 34 away supporters at Stamford Bridge and 4 neutrals.

Majority of arrests are away supporters.

Hot topic is "rent boy chanting". CPS considered it to be classed as a homophobic crime. MPS have taken positive action against this. 9 arrests this year. It's being reported a lot more. Bronzes are briefed on this and zero tolerance. Crystal palace arrested cited in the Fulham Road as an example of an arrest.

Special team dealing with this issue going forwards (MO6 Public Order Team to cover all clubs across London). The police are getting the message out on this hate crime theme and hope as a result will see a reduction.

16 charged – 5 convicted so far, rest are in the judicial system.

There is a backlog in the courts currently.

1 caution and no FPN as police are moving away from this form of disposal.

8 no further action.

2 football banning orders obtained from the 5 convictions. Magistrates are somewhat reluctant to give a banning order owing to new tests – "unjust" which is open to interpretation.

2 new Banning Officers appointed.

Away Fixtures:

17 away fixtures, 3 UEFA.

24 Chelsea arrests. 10 drugs, 5 assault/public order offences, 3 drunk and disorderly, 4 missile throwing, 2 criminal damage.

Those stats are high in terms of the London clubs.

Significant minority of younger anti-social males that attend matches. Police are trying to change their behaviour in partnership with club.

3 Away European fixtures.

Pyros with Milan and Salzburg, but no major issues.

Letter received from German Police for next European fixture, worried about Pyro – Borussia Dortmund. Anticipating a busy match away in Dortmund.

Rent boy chant is a priority and highlighting arrests into the press. MH noticed other police forces are taking a proactive approach on this, it is a national issue not just the MPS. Silver and Bronze Commanders are setting the strategy on the day.

Fines have been low for drugs. But having the additional 7 officers at matches is useful for processing other arrests.

Second half of season. Leeds is a high risk 3 pm. The club had a request to move to 5.30, we had objections, it's still 3 pm.

Dortmund match – is high end of Medium, there is not much intelligence currently.

Everton game – medium risk, 5.30.

	<p>Went through future matches – Aston Villa and Liverpool will be medium, Low risk – Brighton, Brentford and Nottingham Forest. Last game of the season against Newcastle is under review as they are competing for Champions League position.</p> <p>SB gave an update. SLT commanding fixtures. Command team doing the best across London to make sure continuity. SB, Lysander Strong and Jim Brockway are all Cadre Silver trained. Most fixtures of had 1 of the 3 of the team as Match Commander, so consistency and also for the outside Bronzes.</p> <p>Briefings/messages on hate crime is positive action. MPS is doing a lot of work with officers as a key briefing point.</p> <p>Emergency testing and exercising is in a strong position. With a stadium training coming up on the 27th.</p> <p>Banning orders are up across the country. Tailgating is a theme and one to watch. European fixtures are creating demand with some challenging fixtures at Arsenal and West ham with disorder on the seg lines. Late kick offs is a theme with impact. SB role is working across London and DFOs. There is good interaction with Chelsea pre-match and during.</p> <p>GS is disappointed that the Premier League were discussing the late kick of time of the Leeds match for a later kick-off. Please that this was addressed with the Premier League.</p> <p>CB advised that it seem that the Premier League and Broadcasters have an agreement any fixture at any time. MPS will be under pressure under SPS agreement and is a nation matter. This was discussed at a recent Safety Officer. The clubs complete a questionnaire every season and pinpoint the matches of concern. SB advised it is a national issue and police forces want a meeting with the Premier League before next season. MPS will continue to work on this and this will develop in weeks and months.</p> <p>SH queried about the homophobic chants and how far and wide the arrests and convictions get shared. Does the information get to other clubs / supporter groups.</p> <p>SB confirmed the messaging is being spread and shared, especially when there is a ban. Confirmed there is education work being done with comms pre-event, etc. Police are being proactive to send the message on this.</p>	
6	London Fire Brigade	LFB
	<p>Nobody on the call.</p> <p>GS updated - there were issues with the North Stand fire detection system that was notified to the authority. Detection, Mitigation measures for the match days before Christmas were put in place. Since resolved.</p> <p>JG – Chelsea confirmed it was an unusual fault, a weather issue with regards the steep change in temperature causing condensation. Looking to change the fire alarm system across the whole estate this summer and going through a tender process at the moment.</p>	
7	Medical Provision Update	
	<p>JM (LAS) Updated.</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour towards all crews across London has increased.</p> <p>No significant injuries to supporters. Down to good work of Chelsea/Police. The drug initiative has also helped. There has been an increase in staff wanting treatment (approx. 20). Not sure if it's minor treatment or can't get help before the match. Definitely on the increase. CB confirmed that staff have seen medical provision at stadium to present themselves. CB will share figures with LAS.</p> <p>MS (Chelsea and Westminster NHS) - gave an update, no admissions from the football, so no feedback.</p>	

	<p>GS mentioned having a training session for a heart attack in the upper tier and safe standing area . There was new equipment being bought for extraction, no sure if it has taken place?</p> <p>CB, the offer is still there, LAS have requested access to both stadiums. Still available and CFC happy to help.</p> <p>Action JM confirmed it needs to be planned, but with strikes it has been difficult to get sorted. Action LAS to arrange.</p> <p><u>ACTIONED – EMERGENCY EXERCISE HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2023 (CHELSE V EVERTON FIXTURE)</u></p>	<p>LAS/CFC</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Transport for London/Fulham Broadway Shopping Centre</p> <p>No TFL / LUL or Fulham Broadway Shopping Centre reps at meeting.</p> <p>MA – BTP. Not too many issues with Chelsea matches form BTP perspective. Historically Chelsea supporters have caused more issues at away fixtures. Numbers are down travelling away, CCTV on trains is very good and therefore there has been a reduction in anti-social behaviour. The text messaging service has also worked well to report incidents on services.</p> <p>4 incidents for Chelsea home fixtures. 2 Spurs fixture, 1 Leicester fixture at Earls Court station and a fight outside Fulham Broadway Centre between Chelsea and Arsenal supports.</p> <p>Generally seeing a mistrust of rail services, late cancellations/strikes does have an impact on travel plans.</p> <p>Continue to see challenging at cross over areas at Fulham Broadway and Earls Court. There will be some challenging fixtures for the remainder of the season.</p>	<p>TFL/FBSC</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Local Authority – Mid season review 22/23</p> <p>(a) Lead officer update</p> <p>Partnership between Chelsea and the MPS has been exemplary.</p> <p>GS only done 5 match day inspections, typically focussing on the High-Risk fixtures. Wasn't able to do Tottenham. Laurence Turton was there a supporter; he was happy with his perspective on the operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Ham – Geoff Galilee from the SGSA was also present. Primary purpose was to look at the HVM measures and use of the rail seating. Briefings were excellent. Response team briefing – uninspiring/scripted. These club has since looked at briefing going forwards. West Ham supporters were challenging, couple of issues with turnstiles going down but it did not impact on queues getting into stadium. • RB Salzburg this coincided with the arrangements leading up to the Monarchs funeral. Special SAG was held during which the police were able to resource the match .Reviewed the walk up from Earls Court tube station during which the supporters were very respectful and also inside the stadium. • AC Milan – looked at walk up and how it was managed. 1,000 lively supporter group from Earls Court. The supporters were a little excitable on reaching the away turnstiles and had to be calmed down. On the whole it went well, did require some intervention from stewards to clear blocked vomitories. smooth entry. Monitored post-match Chapter 8 arrangements, safe departure of vehicles – Impressed operation with wand lights/management/whistles. Clearly needed and please this is in place from a public safety perspective. There was a UEFA delegate at the match reviewing the management of the safe standing areas. 	<p>LBHF</p>

- **Manchester United** – under pressure due to the KO time as a SAG. The subsequent reduced capacity of the away supporters resulted in the threat of a judicial review by the Manchester United Supporters Trust. This took up considerable time of the authority and police in defending the decision. Felt our decision was proportionate in view of the intelligence, game stayed at 5.30 KO on Saturday. For the match itself, high quality briefings were delivered to Senior Staff and also provided by the Stand Supervisor witnessed on North Stand. Rumours of a protest due to reduction in Manchester United capacity but didn't transpire. There was thorough searching. There were many negative drug detections requiring processing by the FRP. Both rooms have now been fitted with CCTV. Concerned were relayed about the impact on egress, late equalizer. Barriers put out mistakenly by the Millennium Hotel forecourt which did impede the egress of supporters from the East and South Stands in this area. This was raised with CB to ensure it does not happen again.
- **Dinamo Zagreb** – really good pre-match liaison between the police and club. Completely review how they would receive a large walk up from Zagreb fans, put in a change of system in the Stamford Gate entrance area with a 3-point entry management system and alternative entry point for home fans. Watched the walk up, 1,000 + walk up from Sloane Square walk. Excellent police engagement with Zagreb supporters. Significant police presence was very importance. Entry into the stadium went well. Behaviour deteriorated during the match, throwing coins, pyros, smoking, drinking, standing on barriers and a threat of a pitch incursion attacking home supporters. This was dealt with well in the control room between the club and the police with extra resources being deployed for pitch protection and segregation points. into the bowl. Zagreb supporters did a voluntary hold back after the game.

Thank you for the club for the invitation to the emergency exercise back in October. High standard exercise and many good learnings.

**Safety Certificate annual review / Wider Definition of Safety
GS in the process of issuing the certificate helped by GG, will be issued asap.
Have all the data from club - will be issued this season.**

ACTIONED - CHELSEA FC GENERAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE VERSION 10 – DATE OF ISSUE 18TH APRIL 2023

LBHF

GS advised the operation at Stamford Bridge is getting better and better every season.

No complaints received on safety matters received by the authority so far this season. The club has enquired to the authority about proposed improvements it could make in the public realm area with the provision of temporary toilets, cleaning operations, etc. The club has been linked in with council departments.

KO requested for a renewed push on the provision of temporary toilets.

(b) Building Control Update

Nobody on the call.

(c) External factors

Network Management (LBHF / RBKC)

MA (RBKC) update. Lots of emergency works on Kings Road and on Chelsea embankment which may have impacted on a couple of fixtures. But overall will always check against planned works, and make sure no clashes with matches. Ongoing. Will notify Chelsea of any concerns / works.

	<p>Licensing (LBHF / RBKC)</p> <p>AO – no specific issues. Do need to carry out a match day inspection. Two applications in the pipeline for the Club. One for marquee by the West Stand – had to be adjourned, and one for the concourse application, no real safety issues, but high profile. Lots of press enquiries, will probably hear early March.</p> <p>GS discussed the concourse application from a public safety perspective we have agreed conditions that we feel are fit with regards alcohol sales / use of the big screens for the application with the police and club in terms</p> <p>Comments received from Laura McGahon (RBKC) there will be a change of operator at the Chelsea Pensioner public house. 118 Finborough Road – pub is being converted into an Indian restaurant and wants to open on match days. Police and RBKC are agreeing match day conditions.</p> <p>GS advised that Trading Standards officers work on a risk basis perspective with unlicensed scarf sellers. Pending court actions for unlicensed street trading. Repeat offenders, GS has been part of the operation and taken photographs of the offenders and submitted to Trading Standards not available, action is being taken.</p>	
10	Planned Stadium works/ maintenance and future developments	CFC
	<p>JG updated.</p> <p>JG thanked the Planning / Building Control officers over the past few months since new owners taken over.</p> <p>Summer works still subject of approval. Infrastructure and enhancement to the stadium, subject to internal improvements. Fire alarm has been approved but will keep authority and other bodies up to date when they become reality.</p> <p>Roof works to the West Stand, looking to improve in the summer (will be looking to replace the whole roof budget permitted).</p>	
11	Looking forward to the remainder of the 22/23 season	CFC
	<p>GG discussed the forthcoming Leeds match. Has there been a move to reduce the allocation being offered? Will there be different arrangements for Leeds fans and how loaded.</p> <p>CB updated, had a meeting regarding the allocation. Felt it may indicate that the club cannot deal with Leeds supporters, their allocation will be the same as last year with seat kills. Had a productive meeting with Leeds and supporters' groups, looking for a further meeting with the Chelsea / Leeds Supporters groups. Entry system will be as for Zagreb – 3 stage entry process. Need to ensure the information gets out to Leeds supporters prior to the match in terms of arrival times and the entry system. Hopefully 3 stage process will combat these issues.</p> <p>SB updated there will be the same Command Team as the Leeds match last year. The Command Team that worked the Zagreb game with 3 stage system will work the fixture as well. It was busy at the Zagreb match but the system was not tested.</p> <p>There is a tabletop as a Command Team to prepare for the match and help mitigate risk and plan for contingencies.</p>	
12	Update from the Sports Ground Safety Authority	SGSA
	<p>GG discussed Martin's Law; Home Office have issued a fact sheet. As soon as has information it will be shared. As soon as SGSA has any information it will supply to club / authority.</p>	

	<p>SGSA Conference in Birmingham 22/5, speaker session on Martin's Law. If you are doing what has been asked of your (CT Plan within your Safety Certificate) you will be a long way there in complying with the Protect Laz., there that you have to comply with.</p> <p>The club and local authority should have a letter that went out yesterday regarding counter terrorism initiative aimed at London football clubs, in the coming months the SGSA will be doing some work with police and CTAs, joint initiatives. Will be looking at plans/protocols, there will be advanced noticed of visits, some on a match days and some before the matches.</p> <p>SIA and sports ground exemption discussed. SIA are concerned that provision allowed around stewards being licenced isn't being complied with. Policy guidance has been shared. Webinar late last year, plans to have another one to bring things up to date. We have allowed a period of grace up the end of June to implement the directive around the training/exemption of stewards (ID/DBS checks) for inclusion in Safety Certificates. This exemptions applies across any sportsgrounds.</p> <p>Licensed Safe standing – have a review at the end of the season and build in barrier testing of the system. More and more clubs are installing safe standing systems.</p> <p>SGSA Licensing – sent out questionnaire to clubs for completion.</p> <p>Accident statistics – on the whole the rate of injuries is the same as is the pattern of injuries as the comparison year before the pandemic. Championship has the most supports being transferred to hospital. There is a small increase in the assaults on supporters and stewards.</p> <p>Training webinar on dealing with pyrotechnics is available.</p> <p>Tracy Couch report being looked at. There is a white paper, proposal to bring in an independent regulator being brought in. The pilot scheme for permitting alcohol consumption in view of the pitch has been dropped.</p>	
13	Chairman's Update	Chair
	<p>SH introduced to KM who had joined the meeting late - KM Station Commander for Fulham Fire Brigade, introduced himself as he's new to the role. KM queried whether CFC had an LFB Event Liaison Officer. POD advised that the club does liaise with the local fire station on familiarisation visits and happy for LFB to run through</p> <p>GS queried Jim Berry moving on, KM advised that JB has now moved to Hammersmith Fire Station. Will introduce KM to the safety team at Fulham.</p>	
14	AOB	
	GS best wishes to Wills Payne and move to Arsenal.	
15	Date of next meeting	All
	July.	