SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 CHELSEA FOOTBALL CLUB SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

15TH JULY 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

VIA MS TEAMS

Attendees:

NAME	INITIALS	ORGANISATION
Mark Ashley	MA	BTP
Paul O'Donnell	PO	CFC
Chris Baker	СВ	CFC
Wills Payne	WP	CFC
Jamie Gray	JG	CFC
Katie O'Donnell	LP	CFC
Keith Overstall	KO	CFC
Paul Kingsmore	PK	CFC
Mark Adedeji	MkA	FBSC
Jamie Maynard	JM	LAS
Stephen Hollingworth – SAG Chair	SH	LBHF
Stephanie Needham	SN	LBHF
Graham Souster	GS	LBHF
Lesley Gates	LG	LBHF
Anna Pater	AP	LBHF
Christiaan Uys	CU	LBHF
Paul Wright	PW	MPS
Simon Brooker	SB	MPS
Katy John	KJ	NHS
Catherine Sands	CS	NHS
Michael Allen	MA	RBKC
Geoff Galilee	GG	SGSA
Rebecca Charlotte Sales	RS	SJA
Trevor Jenner	JT	TFL

Minutes – Tamsin Jago.

Action Log

Item / Page	Action	Member	Status
6 / Page 8	SB (MPS) will be writing to all London clubs setting out the policing of drugs strategy on matchdays.	MPS	Actioned - Police have been providing dedicated resources to deal with drug issues at the stadium from the start of the season
8 / page 9	RC to share her details with the SAG - Rebecca.Charlotte@sja.org.uk	SJA	Actioned
8 / Page 9	LAS will join in a training. exercise with regards the new standing areas and extraction of patients from the higher tiers, will work with CB to get completed.	CFC/LAS/SJA	TBC
10 / page 11	With respects to the Wider Definition Safety certificate is being worked on and re-issuing, will be done next the season. There is some additional details required from the club.	LBHF	On Agenda – revised General Safety Certificate will be issued this season
10 /page 11	Annual inspection has been arranged with the club to review the life critical safety certification.	LBHF	Actioned
12 / page 12	Emergency Exercise KO would like to aim to hold this early in September and it will cover counter terrorism and the wider issues of command and control. Club will be arranging a date between the first and second week of September.	CFC	Actioned
13 / page 13	CB would like something in writing from SAG in relation to decision made (Chelsea v Manchester United fixture).	LBHF	Actioned – Special SAG meeting also held.

14 / page 14	Post-match traffic egress	CFC	Actioned – trial
	management trial from Stamford		commenced this season
	Gate to commence next season		and has been extended.

ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
1	SH introduce himself and the reason for the meeting being a review of the last season.	
2	Apologies	
	Hugh Millington, CFC Crowd Doctor James Berry LFB Ramesh Kerai MPS John Burchall MPS Peter Hollely SJA Janet Nairne LBHF- Network Management Adrian Overton – LBHF Licencing Laura McGahon – RBKC Licencing	
2	Minutes from Previous Meeting	
	 Emergency Exercise – still to be organised and on the agenda Page 6 - Refusal numbers to be included in the minutes – completed Page 7 - Minutes of the supporters meeting – PK was going to find out, could be on the internet. Keen to know if there were any issues on safety. PK confirmed he hasn't seen the minutes; PK will chase these and will share. Need to confirm with the supporters group permission to share the meeting. Page 8. CCTV in the FRP – KO confirmed it is the intention to progress with this, but spend was curtailed since March owing to ownership issues, now able to proceed with the provision of cameras in both rooms. Data sharing between SJA/LAS at the end of the season – RS will ensure this is done. 	
3	PK gave an update. Whole range of projects to improve the stadium. Rather to improve the fan experience e.g. LED screens internally/externally around the stadium, changes in signage, changing rooms dugouts, seating changes (East Stand) Improvements to the stadium for a fan experience point of view. The deal for the sale of the club, the new owners had to make it clear what their investment would be within the stadium going forwards.	
4	CFC Review of Season 2021/22	

CB gave an overview.

Attendances down in 2nd half of the season owing to the UK Government's sanctions.

Aug-Jan 673k spectators over 20 fixtures.

306k Feb – May over 10 fixtures.

Total through turnstiles 979k across 30 1st team fixtures.

Domestic fixtures

Low Risk 2 (Newcastle & Watford), Med Risk 4 (Brentford, Arsenal, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Leicester), High Risk 1 (West Ham United) and 0 further CAT CIRs. Much quieter from 1st March with no incidents of any note.

7 smoke devices for 1st March (Newcastle 3 , Wolves 2 Leicester City 2) , some culprits arrested.

European matches

1 – champions league quarter final (Real Madrid- 2,00 allocation) – CAT B Medium Risk. Relatively quiet, nothing untoward happening.

Arrests/ejections/refused entry

Whole season

49 arrests

184 ejections

36 refused entry

Accounting for 84%/16% respectively of the total ejections/ refusals respectively. The figures are up from 19/20 season total of -164 ejections and 96 refusals.

61% of the ejections were due to fan behaviour, 31% ticketing issues, 5% discrimination and 3% miscellaneous. In terms of the fan behaviour figures these were – drunken disorderly (24), fowl abusive language (21), violent conduct (18).

75% of the ticketing issues were related to away supporters in home areas. 155 ticketless hands and 10% in possession of touted tickets.

Mitigation for big fixtures, installed barriers in vomitories to stop movement/migration, protect the seat kill netting in the South Stand Upper tier (for European fixture) which worked very well.

The major event for the second half of the season was the UK sanctions which was a very testing and worrying time for the club and staff.

Forthcoming fixtures 2022/23 season

6 low risk Cat A fixtures (Bournemouth, Brentford, Brighton, Everton, Southampton and Newcastle). Last game of season is against Newcastle and therefore the risk category may change.

11 Cat B medium risk fixtures (Arsenal, Aston Villa, Palace, Fulham, Leicester City (tbc), Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Newcastle (tbc) Nottingham Forest and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Cat C / Cat C IR High Risk – (Possibly Leicester, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United).

Emergency exercise – we were planning one but had to abandon due to sanctions.

Code black/green/red / yellow

Black - 9

Green medical - 67 in total (23 staff, 44 members of the public). Code Red 10 – activations on the fire panel but no actual live fires. Yellow safeguarding. Hidden disabilities sunflower lanyards and wrist band initiative: – introduced in February 2020, asked children to wear wristbands to help with safeguarding. Sunflower lanyard used from March 2020, give supporters additional support from stewards.

Persistent standing – no longer have an issue. If it does occur we will continue to manage where it occurs and working and educating supporters.

Licensed Safe Standing Areas

Was introduced at Stamford Bridge as an early adopter from 1st January 2022 with the North Stand (lower tier) 6150 and the South Stand (lower tier) 2039 and 3964 (upper tier). The club was evaluated independently by CFS Research and the findings advised the SGSA and DCMS for the potential wider roll out of licensed safe standing. The measures have been widely supported by supporters.

HMV/VMS trials

Conducted several trials, first on 25/9 (Manchester City), CSP deployed system in the Fulham Road west once supporters were inside the ground.

The 2nd trial took place on the 28/11, during Man Utd fixture, again once the match had kicked off but in the two locations Fulham Road west and east simultaneously two v used this time and removed before the end of the match.

Learning from the two trials was that the main locations for the build and breakdown of the systems worked well in safe and sterile areas ready for deployment, trying different configurations, reviewing supporter permeability.

The club has since conducted a third trial of the HVM system in a live matchday environment to see how it performs with spectators flowing through both before and after a match. Collated a communication plan across social media platforms, website and match programme. The club is working on further improvements with the use of the HVM going forwards.

Stewarding & Training

3 intakes last season - 44 in total.

118 stewards removed from the workforce. Currently have 634 active stewards, just carried out a new intake 71 stewards. Will have 705 stewards on database.

Stewarding numbers in the industry is still in decline. The club continue to have in place incentives for the recruitment and retention of stewards with updated uniform/increase pay/ food offering / created a steward referral programme / 3 year rolling training programme, implemented a proactive communication programme.

44 new stewards undergoing NVQ level 2

18 supervisors on NVQ level 3. Currently have 83 NVQ level 3 supervisors.

Level 3 Spectator Safety currently have the Chief Steward and one Assistant Chief Steward undertaking the course. This will increase the numbers to four Level 4 qualified Chief Stewards on the ground, on top of the 3 Level \$ qualified Safety Officers.

Emergency FA training, refresher training taking place as and when necessary.

ACT – 91 new stewards have completed the course.

SH queried HVM and will it be on all match days going forwards? CB confirmed it will be used for all matches as all parties concerned are of the opinion it is a good system.

GG mentioned persistent standing. Agreed, not many problems, but a little bit creeping back in across the Matthew Harding. Upper tier – Club need to keep an eye on this area.

CB advised that there are 4 people that the club are aware of.

GS advised that a few supporters in the back row of the Matthew Harding Upper tier persistently stand and that it has been a good first season of the use of the licensed safe standing at Stamford Bridge.

Club reports:









SAG MD Safety SAG MD Safety Report 2021-2022 (2)Report 2021-2022 (1) Data Form 2.xlsx

Chelsea FC Injury

Chelsea FC Injury Data Form 1.xlsx

MPS Review of Season 2021/22 6

PW update:

Sent a document to the club and local authority. Over the season there have been 8 Low Risk (Cat A), 17 Cat B now known as Medium Risk and 4 High Risk fixtures (Tottenham Hotspurs twice, Leeds United and West Ham United).

57 command team roles, 10 were resourced by local officers.

30 roles by previous local SLT.

17 roles resourced by 3 new officers this season.

49 arrests - 35 in Premier League, 10 European matches and remainder in domestic cup competitions. Of those arrested 21 were home supporters, 26 were away supporters and 2 were neutral supporters. Breakdown of those arrested were 34 inside the stadium and 15 outside.

BTP – 12 arrests, 8 have been in the London/SE area. 6 violent disorder or affray, 3 drunkenness, 1 racially aggravated public order and 2 for public order.

Away fixtures

Not has many arrests this season – 1 for common assault, 2 pitch encroachment 1 missile. The only game of note was away at Everton with 3 arrests, 1 for drugs and racial chanting, 1 for drunk and disorderly and 1 for an assault on an emergency services worker. There has been a noticeable increase in this and particularly at Stamford Bridge.

Away European fixtures

3 matches attended by MPS officers this season. Juventus where there were small numbers of Chelsea supporters. There were problems with missile throwing 9drink containers). There was no CCTV evidence but MPS offices provided information of those responsible to the club.

Lille issue – pre match disorder occurred, tactics used by French police did not help and matters escalated with CS gas being sprayed. No arrests made but details were provided by the police. Some sanctions put in subsequently by the club.

Real Madrid – minor altercation with Manchester City supporters who were playing Atletico Madrid.

Strange season – March to now. West Ham – high risk, passed quietly with a reduced crowd and also because West Ham United were in the semi-finals of the Europa League which largely helped with behaviour.

1 protest potential with ownership issues – One protest which was dealt with well by police and the club. Liaised with the fans, used learnings from previous Super League demonstration. Engagement was the key.

Presentations/attended first team training and delivered a presentation to men/women and will be looking to do the same with youth team this season.

Working with stewards to get best evidence from offences, coming on 6/8 for training and using other tactics.

Issue coming up – big push now for dealing with drugs, have had an amnesty bin, new tactic will be any find (Class A or B drugs) police will be deployed to the FRP to deal with. Any Class A detections with be dealt with by a postal charge or arrest depending on a set criteria. Cannabis could lead to an arrest or a community resolution which means additional officers working every match and the figures for the next SAG will likely increase.

	SB update	
	Discussed the drugs piece this is not just a Chelsea issue, recognised everywhere violence has increased since COVID. The Casey review following the Euros Final very much cites drugs and alcohol as being a driver of that behaviour.	
	The removal of amnesty bins is across the clubs in London. The Police and Crime Sentencing Courts Act has amended the Schedule 1 offences(Football offences with banning orders). This is being put before Parliament in September and from October drugs misuse at football match or possession with intend to supply drugs will be in play for Banning Orders. Could see an increase in Banning Orders this season. Intentions across all of London to do some operations. If anything around the ground police will work with CB before deployments so no surprises.	
	Communications wise the police will be talking through the relevant Football IAGs to inform supporters of this.	
	ACTION - SB will be writing to all London clubs setting out the policing of drugs strategy on matchdays.	MPS
	SH queried the 75% as whether being a conviction rate? PW confirmed this was the case.	
	GS queried about drugs being a new Football Offence and how this would look from a police resourcing perspective? SB advised that the Match commander make assessment of the game with regards resources for managing a safe match, then add on additional officers to look at drugs issue (1 Sergeant and 6 officers) in a crime role as opposed to those dealing with public order / safety. Some operations around the pubs with dogs/plus boat trips. Everything will be intelligence led. Will work with licensees/venues. Problematic pubs	
	and venues will be targeted as will boat arrivals.	
	and venues will be targeted as will boat arrivals. Chelsea End of season SAG complete	
7	Chelsea End of season SAG complete London Fire Brigade	
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	Chelsea End of season SAG complete London Fire Brigade No representative from the from LFB present at meeting.	

is going and with the return of full crowds next season the numbers will increase. Since March no changes.

Drugs – LAS have seen an increase in drug taking since COVID. Security reasons from September onwards LAS will have a roll out of body cameras for aggression. 50% of the service have body worn cameras already. All staff attending matches will have body cameras.

Only concern is that SJA ambulance keeps turning up late which impacts LAS pre-match. RS was not aware of this and will investigate.

A couple of cardiac arrests and a serious assault outside the stadium. Just low numbers of minor injuries is the trend.

One concern with the amount of Chelsea staff who have been sick/injured as compared to supporters being treated.

CB stated that staff from hospitality/chefs and some members checking into the medical units hoping they will get sent home. It appears to be a mindset if they don't feel well rather than attending their own GP they think they can turn up at work and visit the crowd doctor or SJA / LAS.

JM discussed using LAS intelligence procedures which will have to be used next season owing to the heat, NHS and Covid number to determine better where patient should be sent to. CS confirmed (from Chelsea & Westminster) that on matchdays the numbers have not gone up, the hospital does see and number of self-presenters before the match. There had been an increase in patients, drug/alcohol related. Numbers has not gone up, just the state of the patients.

SB mentioned it would be helpful going forwards, when in the Control Room, if drug/alcohol issue case requiring medical treatment record, so the Police can see the pattern/locations even if not on match days for operational purposes.

RC will follow up late ambulances and medical information on drugs etc.

JM gets stats from SJA on what was attended, plus mentioned the ambulance turning up with a non-blue light drivers. RC will look into this going and will link in with colleague to make sure we have blue light drivers.

CB queried if RC was the new single point of contact for the SJA. RC confirmed she will be from August.

ACTION - RC to share her details with the SAG - Rebecca.Charlotte@sja.org.uk

ACTION - JM mentioned the safe standing area and had not been any issues with dealing with medical treatments in the area. LAS will join in a training. exercise with regards the new standing areas and extraction from the higher tiers, will work with CB to get completed. ACTION

SJA

LAS/LAS/SJA

CB advised that the club has purchased salvage sheets and will be getting modesty screens for staff to work in the seating area or outside would be the best option as opposed to tents. Medical planning review meeting will take place next Tuesday. 9 Transport - London Underground / Fulham Broadway Shopping Centre. TJ advised no major concerns to highlight to the SAG. Looking forwards there will be adequate resources for all matches for the rest of this year. If any matches switch LUL would like to get If any other local match clashes would be good to be made aware. TJ discussed the persistent and growing issues of club staff going through the station – fare evading. This is not unique to CFC as it occurs across London WP – gueried that club staff enter the station where there are no ticket turnstiles and that the main entrance to the station may need to be opened earlier? TJ need to have a conversation with CFC on how this is managed. GS queried how from LUL perspective the crowd management into the station was going post-match? TJ advised that the plan in place is successful and does not anticipate any changes required. Fulham Broadway Shopping Centre. MkA – discussed car management processes with respects to Fulham Broadway Shopping Centre Car park and the delays in re-opening of the road closures and whether this could be managed better. GS advised this could be owing to the need to remove the HVM measures possibly? MA advised that their expectation was that as soon as LUL closed the back gates to the station that the car park could be open straight away afterwards, but there is a 10 – 20 minutes further delay. CB advised that the average time is normally 45minutes from the final whistle. Club cannot remove any street furniture or HVM until no supporters are on the roadway, hence the delay. The HVM has added 5 - 10 minutes to the opening of the road. PO have been working with traffic management company and an earlier warning to them to prevent additional delays. Hopefully, there will not be any added delays going forwards. 10 **Local Authority Review** Update from CU (Network Management) - CPZ F and S will be reviewed this year, and so the council will be consulting residents and businesses. This encompasses North End Road up to Lillie Road, and south east of the stadium towards the gas works. Will see a

consultation document in September. No further update with traffic

policy.

GS queried provision of a 'bag deposit" on Imperial Road. PO confirmed the club will continue to do this this onsite internally. Any changes PO will update. Everything will be kept on site now, so no additional resources required on the perimeter of the stadium.

GS gave an update:

Advised majority of matchday inspections were carried out prior to the March SAG. Since this time GS has only carried out one day inspection, the West Ham fixture which was a Cat C IR high risk fixture. But owing to the factors as described by the police with West ham in Europe this certainly influenced behaviour. There was large walk up of West Ham supporters from Earls Court

There was large walk up of West Ham supporters from Earls Court who were boisterous upon their arrival into the "ticket check box" at the stadium. Everything worked well with no issues for this match.

The latter half of the season with the sanction in place and reduction of capacity was a strange situation. Safety management arrangement worked well.

ACTION - With respects to the Wider Definition Safety certificate is being worked on and re-issuing, will be done next the season. There is some additional details required from the club.

LBHF

ACTION - Annual inspection has been arranged with the club to review the life critical safety certification.

LBHF

One complaint received via the Police with regards cyclists in the Fulham Road closures, concerns from supporters. Staff/police need to be vigilant; cyclists should dismount.

GS confirmed that Trading Standards have been actively taking action on unlicensed street traders and have had some successful prosecutions and Anti-social Behaviour Orders issued to prevent individuals returning to the area. The Police and council's Law enforcement team have assisted with this work. The work is ongoing with the support of the club.

Licensing – GS confirmed he was not aware of any issues. RBKC (Laura McGahon) has informed that there will be a number of Designated Supervisor changes in some of the pubs in the Earls Court area and that she is liaising with PC Cardwell on this. The Chelsea Pensioner will also have a new operator.

11 Stadium Works - JG

There is a lot of work going on at the stadium, a lot of painting and decorating

New LED boards and screens are going in – all of which are subject to planning and other processes

Withing the bowl there are no changes to the number of seats. The club is looking at the replacement of all seats in the East Stand. This

	will happen during the new season with the replacement of the plastics of the seats.	
	All the inspection works have been undertaken with respects to the licensing of the stadium in preparation with meeting with GS in two weeks' time.	
	JG advised that the north west TV studio is being stripped and will be converted into a new suite.	
12	Emergency Exercise	
	ACTION - KO would like to aim to hold this early in September and it will cover counter terrorism and the wider issues of command and control. Club will be arranging a date between the first and second week of September.	CFC
13	High Risk Fixtures	
	SH queried the Manchester United fixture on the 2 nd October and what the current position is?	
	PW advised that the request was put through by the Club on behalf of the TV channel. Every fixture, the risk matrix was completed, it is very early on and PW had not heard back from his Manchester United police DFO counterpart on his assessment. He has since made contact and have undertaken a joint assessment and it has come out as a high-risk match. Therefore for that fixture under the SPSA the MPS will not provide the officers inside the stadium.	
	SH queried about a change in time. PW advised that a 3 pm on a Saturday or Sunday would bring the match down to a medium. Anything after 3 pm on a Saturday raises the level of the risk owing to the extra time for the consumption of alcohol / drugs, the history between the two sides where there has been spontaneous post-match disorder. It is one of those fixture with the clubs rivalry that something happens on the pitch and it spills out late on.	
	SH queried whether the club is requesting a change in time. CB advised the club is not it is just following the process required, as the Premier League advised that the broadcaster wanted match to kick-off at 5.30pm on the Saturday. CB forwarded this request to the MPS and the club is not going against the police's decision for this match. The Premier League advised that the club needs to follow the rules process and use it's best endeavours to adhere to the TV scheduling request. CB therefore has brought this matter to the SAG.	
	CB advised that a recent Premier League meeting concerns were raised about the Premier League putting pressure on clubs on the scheduling time of high-risk fixtures.	
	SH asked GG if he was aware of this problem across football? GG advised he was not but would raise it internally and that the SGSA	

coincidentally was due to meet with the Premier League to discuss ASB issues at football, etc.

SB advised that there was a wider London piece also to consider with travelling supporters in central London and other matches taking place the same day. This all feeds into the wider violence piece. The match therefore has a wider impact.

GS advised on the importance of having a police presence under the SPSA for High Risk fixture and how quickly, as has been seen in the past, things can go wrong. Supporters behaviour has also deteriorated as reported is also a factor since the return from the lockdowns. Letter to be drafted setting out the concerns of the SAG and proposed sanction under the General Safety Certificate.

ACTION - CB would like something in writing from SAG in relation to decision made

SH queried any other high-risk fixtures next season and queried Tottenham Hotspur on the 14th August.

CB updated – that Tottenham is the first home fixture, 4.30 on a Sunday. The club has been in conversation with Tottenham already about the mitigation that will be taken due to their supporters behaviour last season at the segregation lines. The club will take more seats off them (just under 70 seats) in order to put in a wider segregation line in the south-east corner. This will create a 6 seat-segregation line to further mitigate against anti-social behaviour.

PW queried if any plans for victory parade if successful this season. CB confirmed they would only consider a parade. It has to be a Premier League and or Champions League win before the club would consider any parades.

CB advised Leicester City could also be a high-risk fixture. The club has had two mid-week fixtures against them, having it on a Saturday at 3 pm does pushes it on the risk matrix.

14 SGSA Update (GG)

Licensed standing – success in the pilot schemes and now the legislation is being changed with the government giving it the go ahead. SGSA will now be able to licence safe standing in the top two divisions if clubs apply and they meet all of the 16 criteria conditions satisfactorily.

CFE research, focussed on what had been happening at Chelsea and reported on a lot of positives in rail seating. Something that came out of the research that still needs to be looked at; incidents of fans climbing on barriers during goal celebrations still needs to be dealt with by clubs.

SGS01 has been revised. Making the away section and dealing with offering seats to those who want to sit. Whole away area has gone to safe standing but need to look at people who really want to sit. Need

LBHF

to work with the visiting club to offer a small proportion of seating tickets being available.

It has been a success and another 3 or 4 clubs applying for safe standing licences (Brentford have installed 5,000 rail seats and QP are looking at it).

Crowd related medical incidents – seems to have reduced. Guidance on protocols on how clubs will deal with it.

Pyrotechnic tool kit will be released 25th July . Included in a package with the Premier League and English Football League on of all things ASB. It is a practical tool kit aimed at clubs and authorities with changes in how to deal with pyrotechnics.

GG discussed the new ticketing system and to consider as a change to the operation and safety of a ground. GG mentioned the entry into the stadium of the away at Stamford Bridge and delays in the reset time and how it impacts on the flow rate via the turnstiles.

CB is aware of 1 turnstile with a delay on this, the suppliers/IT department are looking at this.

15. Any Other Business

PO discussed post-match player egress. Looking to trial a different operation at Stamford Gate with traffic management provider, did not do a full trial last season, but amended internal procedures with better control. Looking to pulse traffic / pedestrians for 15/30 mins post the TMO being lifted

PO asked if we could trial for the first 3 or 4 matches of the new season. GS confirmed this was discussed at the last SAG meeting at which LBHF Head of Network Management agreed for the trial to go ahead. GS also supported the trial from a public safety perspective.

ACTION – Post match traffic egress management trial from Stamford Gate to commence next season

MA (RBKC) is supportive of the trial. MA advised that RBKC would check on fixture to ensure there is any conflicting works and would advise CFC / LBHF. RBKC always looks to defer any works that could impact on matchdays.

GS advised that the club did put in additional pitch incursion protection measures during last season and in response to protestors.

PO thanked the Parking Team for help with the coach parking system and will share the VRN details to the Parking Team within 48 hours of the fixture. GS stated that there was good success with the Parking Team with the permission to use Fulham Palace Road for those cup matches when there is a large number of visiting supporter coaches attending Stamford Bridge.

CFC