



NEWSLETTER

FSOA Chair, Sharon Cicco, stepping down from role



FSOA Chair, Sharon Cicco, is stepping down from the role after five years at the helm.

Sharon, Arsenal FC's Operations and Safety Manager, was first elected Chair in 2013 and has retained the position for five consecutive terms. She has been committed to raising the profile of the FSOA and its work, representing the association on numerous committees and working parties, including working with governing bodies to develop football steward training resource 'On The Ball' and overseeing the launch of current discussions to determine the future direction of the FSOA.

Formerly a trained Stockbroker, Sharon joined Arsenal as a steward in 1988 before working her way through the ranks to hold her current position at the club she has supported since childhood.

She has held the position of FSOA South East regional chair since 2005 and will continue in that role, despite stepping down as Chair of the organisation.

She said: "The FSOA continues to do wonderful work to improve the safety of sports stadia and I am incredibly proud to have been the Chair over the past five years, but I feel now is the right time to hand over the reins. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chair of the Association and will remain an active member and supporter of the vital work we do."

John Newsham, FSOA Business Development Manager, said: "On behalf of the FSOA Management Board, and indeed all members of the FSOA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon for all of her hard work in her role as Chair over the past five years.

"As the world of sports stadium security continues to change rapidly, so too does the role of the FSOA. Sharon has been the figurehead of our organisation for the past five years, ensuring we remain at the forefront of safety at sports grounds and continue to seek and promote best practice as our roles change and threats to stadium safety develop."

Members are now being asked to submit their votes for a new FSOA Chair, which will be announced at the upcoming Spring AGM Conference & Exhibition on March 21st.

There is currently one nomination for Chair and one for Vice Chair. The proposed positions will be discussed at regional meetings where members can either support these candidates or put forward a nominee. Members have 28 days before the AGM to nominate someone.

Please find the Constitution for Election of Officers below:

7.1 Full Members attending the Annual General Meeting and those submitting a postal or email vote shall elect from their Full membership a Chair and a Vice Chair. Nominations for the election of Officers, including the name of the Proposer and Secondar shall be forwarded to the MB to be received at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

7.2 All Full members are entitled to register their vote by post or by e-mail to the MB for the election of officers. Such votes must be received by the MB no later than two days prior to the date of the election.

7.3 The post of Chair and Vice Chair shall not be determined by time.

Exhibitor space SOLD OUT for FSOA Spring Conference

All space for exhibitors at The FSOA's Spring Conference & Exhibition have been taken, with now just a handful of spaces remaining for delegates wishing to attend the much-anticipated event.

There are also only a few rooms remaining at the venue, Stratford Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon, for those wanting to stay overnight.

More than 20 organisations from the safety and events industries have signed up to showcase their products and services whilst representatives from dozens more have booked their places to network with fellow experts and learn about the latest in safety practices.

The event, on March 20th and 21st, will also feature a packed programme of talks, Q&A sessions and interactive activities focusing on a range of topical issues such as national terrorism threats and crowd control.

Among the speakers are Dr Aoife Hunt, a mathematician and specialist in pedestrian and evacuation modelling and Claire Worley, from the Counter Terrorism Unit. FSOA partner, ID Resilience, will be carrying out an interactive tabletop exercise with guests, which is titled 'Blackout'.

Following dinner, guests will be entertained with tales from cricket legend, Geoff Miller, as well as comedian, Rod Woodward.

John Newsham, FSOA Business Development Manager, said: "We are delighted that all exhibition space has sold out for our upcoming conference & exhibition. We will be welcoming back some familiar faces as well as a number of new ones. It is testament to the success of our bi-annual events and everyone involved in making them happen that so many people and organisations want to be a part of them."

Time is running out to book your place at the event, which will once again be sponsored by Showsec and Dallmeier. Booking forms are available from the FSOA website, www.fsoa.org.uk, under the 'corporate' section and then 'corporate events' tab.



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Conference Agenda & Menu

TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH

15:00	Hotel reception/room registration
19:00	Meet in lounge bar
19:30	Curry/Fish & Chips
20:00-22:00	Quiz in Leamington Suite

*An increase in membership fees was discussed at the recent FSOA MB meeting and a vote for this as per rule 4.1.4 of the constitution may be proposed at the AGM Conference on March 21st 2018.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21ST

09:00	Registration and exhibition. Time to visit and engage with exhibitors and supporters of the event
10:00	Conference introduction by John Newsham
10:10	Chairman's welcome: Sharon Cicco
10:20	Finance report: Peter Houghton
10:25	Election of officers: Dave Shepherd
10:40	Dallmeier: Steve Hodges
10:45	Showsec: Alan Wallace
10:50	Discussion for the future of the association, update of stewards training development & Amendment in the constitution: Mark Miles/Sharon Cicco/John Newsham
11:15	Morning break for refreshments and Exhibition visit
11:30	CTU Threat of Terrorism update: Claire Worley
11:45	SGSA Green Guide Update & Case Studies: Sue Storey & John Perkins
12:15	Case studies in crowd modelling: Aoife Hunt
13:00	Lunch and Exhibition
13:45	Table top exercise "Blackout": ID Resilience
15:30	Refreshments and Exhibition
16:00	Safety Officer Experience: Mark Miles (WBA V Chelsea May 17 th 2016/17) / Sharon Cicco (Arsenal v Cologne)
16:30	Open Discussion chaired by Mark Miles (Panel includes John Newsham, FSOA; Alan Wallace, Showsec; Robert Eastwood, Football League; Claire Worley, CTU; Steve Hodges, Dallmeier; Sue Storey/John Perkins, SGSA; Dr Aoife Hunt; Ian Kerr/ Grant Russell, ID Resilience; Mark Searle, Footanstey)
17:00	Conference round-up and summary by FSOA chair with introduction to the evening's proceedings
19:00 for 19:30	Aperitifs in the bar prior to the evening dinner, followed by an evening, hosted by Andy Ashworth, with guest speaker Geoff Miller OBE & comedian Rod Woodward



Spring 2018 Conference Evening Dinner

Menu

Starter:

Mixed bean & chickpea soup,
roasted garlic & rosemary oil (v)

Or

Smoked mackerel, fennel & potato
salad, orange dressing

Main Course:

Beer braised beef shin, Dauphinoise
potatoes, caraway scented leek &
kale

Or

Roasted artichoke ravioli, wilted
greens, water chestnuts, sage &
truffle dressing (v)

Dessert:

Baked New York cheesecake, black
cherry sauce

&

Cheese board

Tea or Coffee



Final Draft consultation into 6th edition 'Green Guide' to be under way within weeks



The highly anticipated 6th edition of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds - known as the 'Green Guide' - will be available for consultation in the coming weeks.

The SGSA will be seeking views from across the safety at sports grounds sector on the final draft of the Green Guide to ensure the guidance reflects the arrangements at all sports grounds.

The Green Guide is used mainly by ground management, their professional advisors and the regulatory authorities to inform safety at sports grounds. The primary purpose is to provide guidance on the safe capacity, such as the number of spectators who can be accommodated during an event.

The Guide's secondary purpose is to identify good practice and standards against which existing and proposed structures and systems can be assessed and if possible improved. As well as being a practical document for clubs and their professional

advisers, it has become an international design guide and is widely used by designers of stadium around the world.

The 6th edition will take account of the improvements in the design and safety management of sports grounds since the current edition was published in 2008. It is not intended to alter the fundamental principles and purpose of the Guide or be used to ratchet up minimum standards, unless this is necessary on safety grounds.

Some of the new areas which are covered in the guide include:-

- Extension of management responsibility from all spectators in the ground to all people present at the ground (including sports ground and sub-contracted, staff, media personnel, medical providers)
- New guidance on the circulation and movement of spectators in those areas of the public domain that lie beyond the outer perimeter of the sports ground, but which are integral to the safe management of spectators and other personnel, both before and after an event, known as Zone EX.
- Crowd modelling is now used by stadium designers to improve crowd flows in and around the stadiums. The new Green Guide sets out the parameters by which crowd modelling is used.
- Fire engineering is used by stadium designers of the Green Guide, there will be more detail in an annex to follow, however there is a note of when and where fire engineering is best used.
- More detailed guidance on concourses, plus an understanding of levels of service, density and loading on concourse wall.
- Inclusion of smart stadia or lightbulb moment
- Recognition of the role played by mobile devices and social media in safety management and communications in general
- Concept of 'invacuation'. Stadiums must consider the implications of an incident outside the ground. Safety management options such as lockdown, partial evacuation and horizontal phased evacuation are explained.

Consultation on the final draft of the 6th edition will commence in the coming weeks and will be open until the end of April 2018.

The SGSA welcomes feedback from everyone involved in keeping people safe at sports grounds.

To ensure you are informed once the consultation period opens, please email info@sgsamail.org.uk stating Green Guide Consultation in the subject header and provide your name, organisation and email address.

Local authorities to review sports ground safety following SGSA guidance

The outcome of the SGSA's consultation in 2017 means that local authorities should consider safety in its widest context as part of the regulatory responsibility to ensure reasonable safety at sports grounds.

Many local authorities are now considering the steps that need to be taken to ensure people are protected from any danger that could cause physical harm or injury and are reviewing safety certificates and ensuring they have effective oversight of CT, crowd disorder and anti-social behaviour for everyone in a sports ground.

The SGSA has produced guidance documents and FAQs, as well as checklists and templates and has been working with local authorities and sports grounds to provide support and guidance to help with integrating these additional elements.

It is for the local authority to decide the best approach that suits them.

Medway Council is leading by example and has shared the approach they are taking. Their plan includes reviewing the current certificate and identifying what to include; producing a draft certificate using the template conditions produced by the SGSA and making amendments based on the guidance documents; meeting with the club to discuss what additional elements were planned to be included in the certificate; requesting the club complete a revised Event Safety Policy, a Counter-Terrorism plan and a Crowd Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour plan; advising them to keep the plans straight forward and to work with the local police, CTSA and SecCos to document what is already being done and any future activity that is being planned. The plans also include reviewing the SAG Terms of Reference and proposing a Part 2 SAG after the wider SAG to specifically discuss and document separately sensitive CT matters and - following the initial meeting with the sports ground - convening a meeting in 3 months' time with all the relevant parties to review the new Event Safety Policy, Counter-Terrorism plan and a Crowd Disorder and Anti-Social plan. Once all the new plans and policies are in place the Safety Certificate will be issued. It is hoped the revised Safety Certificate will be in place for the 2018/19 season.

It is important to note that whilst Medway Council works to get the revised safety certificate in place for the new season, both the ground and the local authority are already progressing activity in all these areas.

To achieve this plan, Medway Council is working hard to ensure that a partnership approach is being maintained and that everyone is working together to achieve the best outcomes for the safety of people in the ground.

Geoff Dingsdale, Match Monitoring Officer at Medway Council, said: "The safety of the public is our top priority and we work closely with sports venues across Medway to ensure they are following safety guidelines. The SGSA's guidelines are a helpful tool in providing advice to sports grounds and also help us monitor safety plans efficiently.

"We are fortunate that our local football club is proactive in implementing safety checks and takes responsibility for these issues on a weekly basis. We will continue to work closely with our partner agencies, as well as the club, to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time at sports events."

Derbyshire County Council has adopted a difference approach.

SAG Chair, Simon Hobbs said "Following the SGSA consultation on a wider definition of safety and the need to consider anything that could cause physical harm or injury, it has been necessary to review safety certification and how our Safety Advisory Group works to ensure it includes the additional elements of counter-terrorism, crowd disorder and anti-social behaviour and consideration of everyone at a sports ground."

Derbyshire County Council are developing an action plan for each of the three areas to be considered as part of the wider understanding. They set up two task and finish groups to develop action plans which will then be presented back to the SAG for approval and oversight.

The first group consisting of Council, Club and Police representatives will consider counter terrorism and anti-social behaviour.

The second group including the Club and Borough Council as well as County Council representatives will look at health and safety/ safety of all people issues.

The action plans will consider what approach to take, who should be represented at the SAG, and how best to support the SAG.

Alongside the task and finish groups, any amendments to safety certificates for designated grounds and regulated stands will also be considered.

The revised General Safety Certificates and associated documentation will then be reviewed by the SAG before the County Council re-issues in the summer.

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Guest Blog:

‘Growing Security’ – The challenge for all future sporting events

Staying Ahead of the Game

As we are all well aware sport unfortunately is no stranger to the threat from terrorism. High-profile sporting events, including the Olympics, football tournaments and cricket matches, have been targeted, with varying degrees of impact and success, since the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. A number of incidents have been prevented at high-profile sporting events in recent years due to successful counter-terrorism operations.

Alongside the heightened threat terrorism brings is the general safety and security of fans and associates. Within the UK there is one aspect of the English game that continues to set the standard and makes us the envy of the international football community. Irrespective of league position, stadium size or attendance; the way in which the grounds of our football clubs are operated ensures that crowd safety, accessibility and enjoyment are world class as standard. So whilst all eyes might be fixed on the team on the pitch, it's the effort and the vigilance of the team off the pitch that ensures that football supporters across the country can enjoy the game in security and comfort. (FA 2017)

During the current football season 17/18 we have seen many clubs enhancing their searches of home and away supporters at the turnstiles, the result searches will take longer and subsequently we see extended waiting and queuing times in entering stadium facilities. Most top league clubs have also undertaken a strict policy as to the type of item that can be taken into the stadium and a firm restriction on the size of item allowed. For example, laptop and laptop bags, suitcase trolleys and even children's buggies. All ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the supporter is of paramount importance.

One of the most popular solutions club facilities and venues of all levels have adopted to ensure supporter safety is a top priority is to offer an accessible ‘**Drop Bag**’ facility. In most cases this is situated slightly away from the venue, giving supporters alike a safe and secure place to leave unsuitable larger items such as luggage/buggies/crash helmets and laptops, enhancing the fans' experience of the event and furthermore assisting in ensuring security is visible as a ‘top priority’ endorsing a safe and secure environment both inside and outside of the sporting venue.

On top of helping to enhance safety and security, the ‘**drop bag**’ facility assists in reducing waiting times at the turnstiles, allowing enhanced search procedures, reducing congestion in popular entry points around the stadium and the training and appropriate deployment of trained staff.

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Detect drones to safeguard sports stadia, says



By Amit Samani, Regional Sales Manager (UK & I), Dedrone

Over the past 20 years the role of a safety officer has transformed and today the level of responsibility now includes counter terrorism as a key part of the role. One emerging threat that is currently causing major concern for areas of critical importance such as sporting arenas is the emergence of Drones or UAVs (Unmanned Ariel Vehicles).

Since the CIA first used a UAV in 2002, drones were generally only considered to be technology available to military applications. This all changed in 2012 when the first drones were sold into the consumer market. Since then the technology continues to become more accessible to the general public through commoditisation and easier to fly UAVs. It is estimated that the UAV market will be worth over \$100 Billion by 2020 according to Goldman Sachs. Today there are over 1000 manufactures of drones in China alone and over a million new drones hitting the airspace every month, therefore this is a critical consideration for any club or organisation.

What's the impact?

As with many sporting stadiums, security is a major focus area. Drones are already effecting entire business models and operations. When considering that a \$500-dollar drone can bypass a traditional perimeter security operation by simply flying over a fence to gain access, it is imperative that safety officers start to consider how to gain awareness and build operational procedures to counter the threat.

Considerations and strategies for countering drones

Today it is against UK legislation to effect or interfere with the flightpath of a drone with solutions based on jamming or using nets. Therefore the most practical solution is to detect, track and identify drones to build operational procedures to safeguard spectators and players. Given the speed at which a Safety officer needs to make a decision, having awareness will enable clubs to make more informed decisions to safeguard the stadium and the spectator.

To learn more around this emerging threat please visit the Dedrone stand during the FSOA Conference & Exhibition.

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome:

New Corporate Partners: Cassandra Risk Mitigation Ltd, and **New Members:** Graham Peffers (Security co-ordinator Manchester United FC) and Christopher Edge (Macclesfield Town FC)

We are pleased to announce APT Ski-Data are returning as Corporate Partners and that Northwood have renewed their contract to sponsor regional FSOA meetings until 30th June 2019.

For more information about the FSOA, to learn more about the benefits of being a member, to book your place at our Spring Conference & Exhibition or to enquire about advertising in this newsletter for as little as £50 per month (+VAT) visit www.fsoa.org.uk, email info@fsoa.org.uk or call 01254 841771

