

# Hillsborough tragedy: Six people charged

Officer in charge of match charged with manslaughter and ex-chief constable Sir Norman Bettison charged with misconduct

**Hillsborough match commander, David Duckenfield, former chief constable, Sir Norman Bettison, and four other people have been charged with offences relating to the Hillsborough disaster.**

Mr Duckenfield was the South Yorkshire Police (SYP) match commander at the 1989 FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest when 96 Liverpool fans were fatally injured in a crush.

He faces charges of manslaughter by gross negligence of 95 fans. For legal reasons, Mr Duckenfield cannot be charged over the death of the 96th victim Tony Bland, as he died four years after the disaster, prosecutors said.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) must apply to the High Court to lift an order imposed after he was prosecuted privately in 1999, which must be removed before he can be charged.

Former SYP Ch Insp Norman Bettison is charged over alleged lies in the aftermath of the disaster.

The full list of individuals facing charges are: Mr Duckenfield faces manslaughter by gross negligence of 95 men, women and children; Sir Norman faces four charges of misconduct in a public office relating to alleged lies he told in the aftermath about the culpability of fans; Graham Mackrell, former Sheffield Wednesday Club Secretary, will be accused of breaching Health and Safety and Safety at Sports Ground legislation; Peter Metcalf, who was a solicitor acting for SYP, is charged with perverting the course of Justice, relating to changes to witness statements; Former Ch Supt Donald Denton is accused of perverting the course of justice. Former Det Ch Insp Alan Foster is charged with perverting the course of justice. The defendants, other than David Duckenfield who now lives in Ferndown in Dorset, will appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on August 9th.

Sue Hemming, the Crown Prosecution Service head of special crime and counter-terrorism division, said the CPS would allege that Duckenfield's failure to take personal responsibility on the day was "extraordinarily bad and contributed substantially to the deaths of each of those 96 people who so tragically and unnecessarily lost their lives". Hemming added: "Following our careful review of the evidence, in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, I have decided that there is sufficient evidence to charge six individuals with criminal offences.

"Criminal proceedings have now commenced and the defendants have a right to a fair trial. It is extremely important that there should be no reporting, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice these proceedings."

Families of those who died gathered at Parr Hall, a venue in Warrington, near Liverpool, to hear the news about the charges directly from representatives of the Crown Prosecution Service on Wednesday, June 28th.

The charges are the latest significant landmark in a 28-year campaign for accountability fought since the disaster by the families of the 96 people who died, survivors of the crush and the wider Liverpool and football supporting communities.

Last year, new inquests into the 1989 disaster concluded the fans had been unlawfully killed and that the conduct of Liverpool supporters who attended the match did not contribute to the dangerous situation.

In January, the two new criminal investigations into the disaster and South Yorkshire police conducted afterwards announced that they had sent files of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service on 23 individuals and organisations.

Fifteen of those 23 files related to the circumstances which led to the disaster itself on 15 April 1989, in which hundreds of people suffered injuries and trauma as well as the 96 people who were killed. The remaining eight files were sent by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, relating to their inquiry into the way the police compiled evidence and presented its case in public and to the subsequent legal procedures.

The panel's report prompted the new police criminal investigation, Operation Resolve, into the events at the semi-final, which led to the fatal crush, and by the IPCC into the alleged efforts by South Yorkshire police to cover up their own responsibility and pervert the course of justice.



# Football clubs told to check cladding after Grenfell tragedy

**Premier League and Football League clubs have been asked to check on any external cladding on their stadiums following the Grenfell Tower fire disaster.**

Cladding on the tower in London is believed to have contributed to the spread of the horrific blaze that killed at least 80 people.

The Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA) has also written to Wembley Stadium and the Principality Stadium.

Brighton have begun checks but said the Amex Stadium is "entirely" safe.

"We are now taking the added precaution of working with our contractor and suppliers to re-check all of the materials used during construction, both at the Amex and at our training ground," said Brighton director Martin Perry.

The Amex opened in 2011, while the training ground was opened in 2014.

"We are fully satisfied the Amex is entirely safe and that the materials and building practices used during the construction of the stadium, and our training ground, are of the highest standards," added Perry.

Cladding installed on Grenfell Tower in a recent renovation has come under scrutiny, with experts saying a more fire-resistant type could have been used.

A major national investigation has been launched into the use of cladding on high-rise towers, leading to advice for football clubs to check cladding used at their stadiums.

The SGSA monitors safety conditions at Premier League and Football League grounds, as well as Wembley in London and Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

"Sports grounds generally contain no sleeping risk, benefit from high levels of vigilance when in use and are often fitted with active and passive fire detection systems to help mitigate any fire risk," it said.

But its statement added: "This does not suggest that there is no risk but these measures significantly mitigate the risk."

SGSA chief inspector Ken Scott added: "As a precaution we are writing to sports grounds to advise them to check any cladding and review their fire risk assessments if necessary."

"We don't want to cause alarm or add additional burden to sports grounds, but it is important that sports ground management are being proactive and are never complacent about people's safety."



## Have you renewed your FSOA membership?

FSOA membership renewal forms were due back at the beginning of July so if you have not yet filled out yours, please could you do so urgently.

### **REMINDER OF MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**

**FULL** members will be serving as Safety Officer, Deputy Safety Officer, at a premier or football League Club but is not limited to these definitions and may include persons with a relevant management safety roles within the event industry.

**HONORARY** - offered to persons, identified by the Management Committee, who by virtue of their current role and area of expertise are considered that their membership is of value to the Association.

**ASSOCIATE** members are those that fall outside the FULL Members definition and may include SGSA members, FA Members, EFL Members. Local Authority members, Safety Team members, or members of the emergency services, first aid organisations etc.

**RETIRED MEMBER** - Full Members with more than five year's continuous service may apply for Retired Member status on retirement from the position of Ground Safety Officer, Deputy Ground Safety Officer at a premier or football League Club or relevant safety management role.

**CORPORATE** - open to companies or other business organisations which are involved in, or have an interest in Ground Safety

**All other applicants are Affiliate. Only FULL members are entitled to vote.**

FULL and ASSOCIATE membership fee is £100.00 annually, RETIRED £30 and CORPORATE being £500 annually. Should you not be accepted for membership, your annual subscription will be returned. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Football Safety Officers Association Limited' and forwarded with renewal forms to The FSOA office suite 5 Enterprise centre Blackburn Rovers FC, Ewood Park, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 4JF. Payment should be made before July 31st.

**If you have any queries call 01254 841771 or email [info@fsoa.org.uk](mailto:info@fsoa.org.uk)**

# Shrewsbury Town in bid to introduce rail seating

**Shrewsbury Town's bid to become the first English club to introduce rail seating at their ground has been backed by the EFL and fans, with campaigners for safe standing hoping it will blaze a trail for the Premier League to follow.**

The League One club has applied to have rail seats at the 10,000-capacity Greenhouse Meadow stadium before the end of the 2017-18 season.

Standing areas have been banned in the top two divisions of English football since the 1990 Taylor Report into the Hillsborough disaster. But it is believed that more than half of Premier League clubs are now open to the idea of standing areas.

Clubs that have played for three seasons in the top two tiers of the football pyramid are required by law to provide all-seater stadiums. But Shrewsbury does not fit this criteria and has capitalised on a deal struck by the EFL and the Sports Ground Safety Authority that allows lower-division sides to apply to have safe standing areas, similar to Celtic in the Scottish Premiership. *(pictured)*

The club, who finished 18th in League One last season, are attempting to raise the £50,000-£75,000 required through a crowdfunding campaign.

The EFL chief executive, Shaun Harvey, said: "This is an important step on the journey towards our stated aim of seeing standing in stadiums across the EFL and I wish Shrewsbury Town every success in reaching their crowdfunding target to support their application.

"The installation of standing accommodation will be popular with the club's fans and, more widely, will prove a valuable opportunity to assess the use of this form of accommodation at an English football ground."

There are 21 clubs in the Football League with standing areas and a further seven, in addition to Shrewsbury, which are all-seater but could make an application to build safe standing. Northampton Town Supporters' Trust has had discussions with the club about safe standing and are in favour of it being introduced while Colchester United, Chesterfield, Mansfield Town, Bury, Oxford United and Lincoln City are closely monitoring the situation at Shrewsbury.

The Premier League wrote to all 20 of its clubs this month to assess if they would be interested in trialling safe standing.

Jon Darch, a long-time campaigner for safe standing who has taken his roadshow of rail seats around the country in an effort to build support, said that there was now a feeling that more and more clubs would like to install safe standing areas if they were allowed to.



## Brazilian club ordered to play games behind closed doors after fan shot dead

Brazilian club Vasco da Gama have been ordered to play home matches behind closed doors after a fan was shot dead during disturbances at their ground.

Vasco's 1-0 defeat at home to title-chasing Flamengo in the Rio de Janeiro derby was marred by crowd trouble at the final whistle.

"I needed to apologise on behalf of Vasco," president Eurico Miranda said.

"What happened here is not Vasco. Do not qualify these people as fans. They are vandals, bandits. I'm not giving an explanation, but I'm sure it's something that was already prepared."

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said that Vasco's fans caused "serious disturbances and a show of violence".

An official inquiry into the disturbances has been launched by

Brazil's Superior Court of Sporting Justice. "Taking into account that the safety of fans is a priority, it has been decided to ban the presence of the public at Sao Januario stadium in any football match. The decision is pending a decision by the Sporting Justice which will look into the events," the CBF said.

Davi Rocha Lopes, 27, died in the clashes following the match in Brazil's Serie A championship on Saturday July 8th.

Three other people were taken to hospital with two suffering from gunshot wounds, according to police.

Fighting in the stands and outside the stadium began at the end of the match, after Flamengo had secured their first win at the Sao Januario stadium for 44 years.



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# Have you booked your place for the FSOA's October conference & exhibition?

Places are going fast for FSOA's Autumn Conference & Exhibition, which will mark the 25th anniversary of the organisation. The event will take place on October 3rd and 4th at Crowne Plaza, in Stratford-upon-Avon, giving organisations in the events industry the chance to showcase their products and services whilst networking with experts. As it marks the milestone 25th anniversary of the FSOA, the event will include celebrations to honour the organisation's invaluable and ever-evolving work to improve safety procedures at stadiums across the UK.

Preparations are already well underway for the event, which will include a packed programme of talks, interactive workshops and Q&As with high-profile speakers. It will also include a boat trip along the River Avon, whilst football legend Kevin Keegan will relive tales about his illustrious career as the guest speaker following the evening dinner on October 4th.

Events and venue security specialist, Showsec, is once again the main sponsor of the event whilst leading surveillance company, Dallmeier, is continuing its support of the FSOA as associate sponsor for the event. Only a handful of exhibition spaces are still available, whilst rooms at the hotel are also being booked up fast. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Autumn conference & Exhibition 2017

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FSOA preferred partner, StadiumTM, has new job roles available in the sporting and events industries. The Company has a vacancy for enthusiastic & experienced Event Supervisors to work across the North West, predominately within the Sporting Industry. An NVQ Level 3 in Spectator Safety would be beneficial although training will be provided.

The successful candidate will: Take responsibility for the safe and efficient delivery of Stadium TM staff and operations, in line with the client's requirements, in a pre-designated area of the event site; Manage a team of Stadium TM Event Stewards, providing a thorough brief on their duties and responsibilities; Provide on-the-job training to support Stadium TM Event Stewards in the delivery of their role, mentoring to increase their confidence and skills; Be highly aware of surroundings and with attention to spotting signs of overcrowding, distressed persons or suspicious behaviour, reporting to your Event Day Manager or shift line manager; Attend post event debriefings arranged by Stadium TM, or their client, providing a thorough review of any incidents or actions you believe require attention; Ensure that Stadium TM Event Stewards under their responsibility are deployed as per the requirements of the event operations and briefing received.

The company is also looking to hire an experienced Events Manager to work within the sporting, security & traffic management events industries. This role is field based & most work will be predominately across the North West of the country. The successful Event Day Manager will be responsible for deploying & redeploying all staff at time critical intervals; Managing a team of supervisors; Ensuring any incidents are recorded & reported; Liaising with emergency services, control room & event safety officer; Coaching & developing event staff on the job; Collating sensitive paperwork & verifying hours of work for finance; Solving problems whilst under pressure.

The successful candidate will have previous experience managing events (ideally within the sporting / security industry; Ability to communicate with all levels of seniority; Experience dealing with highly pressured situations in a calm & professional manner; Be able to manage a team & effectively communicate responsibilities; Ability to work as a part of the team & ensure all reach their full potential; Good level of IT, Maths & English

Please send CVs with a covering letter to [L.baillie@stadiumtm.co.uk](mailto:L.baillie@stadiumtm.co.uk)

## NEWS FOR MEMBERS

The FSOA is delighted to welcome new members:

Steve Bond and Nigel Peter Bennett; both at Everton FC  
Stephen Bailey; Barnsley FC  
Martin Rowen and cliff Eager; both from Charlton FC; Tony Booker Chesterfield FC; Ian Crawford, Castleford Tigers; Jane Vogt, Rob Tinsley & Barry South, all at Manchester City FC; Julian Bowran Sunderland FC; Steven Reed, Stevenage Borough FC

We also welcome new corporate members:

Kent CCTV  
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FSOA member, Colin Nellist, from Chesterfield FC, is retiring. We wish him all the very best for the future.

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