

Vive La France as Russia host spectacular World Cup

Russia hosted a World Cup to remember both on and off the pitch, despite initial fears of trouble ahead of the tournament meaning a reduced number of England fans travelling.

Spectators and journalists have hailed a fantastic tournament and friendly welcome from Russia and its people.

Heightened political tension ahead of the tournament and the threat of hooliganism after clashes between England and Russia fans during Euro 2016 in Marseille had put off some fans from attending.

But doubts were quickly diminished, and reports from travelling journalists about the host country were nothing but positive by the time the tournament finished, after a number of spectacular matches, a surprise for England reaching the semi-finals and a victory for France in the final.

The Chairman of the Local Organising Committee for the tournament, Arkady Dvorkovich, has said that the main legacy of the event will be showing the world that Russia is "an open, friendly and safe country," "The most important legacy of the World Cup is that it has changed the image of Russia [abroad] and Russians' state of mind. The improved sentiments in Russia are the main outcome of the World Cup. "Thanks to the tournament, the image of Russia is now closer to reality. The world saw that we are an open, friendly and safe country. I hope that we will continue the development we began after the World Cup," Dvorkovic told journalists.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised the work of the country's security forces, along with international cooperation, for ensuring a safe World Cup tournament.

A police co-operation centre staffed by law enforcement officers from 34 countries was inaugurated ahead of the tournament to monitor potential fan violence and concluded without any major security incidents.

Putin thanked the 126 members of the international police cooperation centre outside Moscow, for "intense" work in ensuring a safe World Cup for foreign fans and dignitaries alike.

The president noted that nearly 25 million cyberattacks had been warded off during the tournament and that an estimated 2 million construction workers and volunteers underwent security checks.

"This work was unobtrusive and inconspicuous for most people, meaning that you had done your job well, understood each other and acted professionally as one team," he added.

He handed a parting gift to the hundreds of thousands of football fans who visited Russia for the World Cup - the freedom to return to the country without a visa, any time before the end of the year.

Visiting supporters can avoid Russia's complex and expensive visa requirements with a Fan ID.

The fan IDs that allowed ticket-holders to enter Russia during the World Cup had originally been scheduled to expire on July 25.

President Putin said: "Naturally, I cannot do otherwise but to thank our guests -- foreign tourists, foreign fans."

"All behaved perfectly well, demonstrating the best qualities of sports fans. They showed that sport and football can manage not to divide people and not lead to fights and disputes, but unite people on the basis of common values."

Despite a successful tournament in Russia, some delirious celebrations in England following the team's Quarter Final win over Sweden spilled over into the streets and led to vandalism.

Fans jumped up and down on a London Ambulance Service vehicle while medical staff attended a call in central London, leaving it unroadworthy, whilst in Clapham video footage showed a fan who had scaled a double-decker bus, jumping onto the roof of a shelter – which smashed under his weight.

Another video showed supporters across the city in Stratford invading a branch of Swedish furniture store Ikea and jumping on the beds, before being removed by security guards. In Folkestone, two shirtless men were filmed riding on the bonnet of a moving car. Unable to see, the driver nearly crashed into a family crossing the street with their dog.

More than 1,800 fans injured at matches in 2016-17, figures reveal

Figures show that 1,865 supporters were injured at football grounds in one season - one injury per 19,205 fans attending matches, according to figures released by the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).

Falling over, being hit by a ball, celebrations and insect bites were among the causes of the injuries. A total of 1,865 fans were hurt at matches in the 2016-17 season, up from 963 the previous year, according to the report.

The SGSA says they believe a new approach to more accurate reporting of injuries, which came about following discussions with clubs, has led to an underlying increase in the number of injuries reported.

"Grounds were reminded of their responsibility to report all injuries. As a result of more detailed reporting, the figures show an increase. We believe this is down to more accurate reporting rather than any actual increase in the number of injuries occurring," said spokeswoman Caroline Hale.

"Sports grounds in the UK are some of the safest in the world and reported injuries are relatively low." The figures cover 94 grounds - all Premier League and Football League clubs, plus Wembley Stadium in London and Cardiff's Principality Stadium. The majority are all-seater stadiums.

Some of the main categories under which fans were reported to have been injured are:

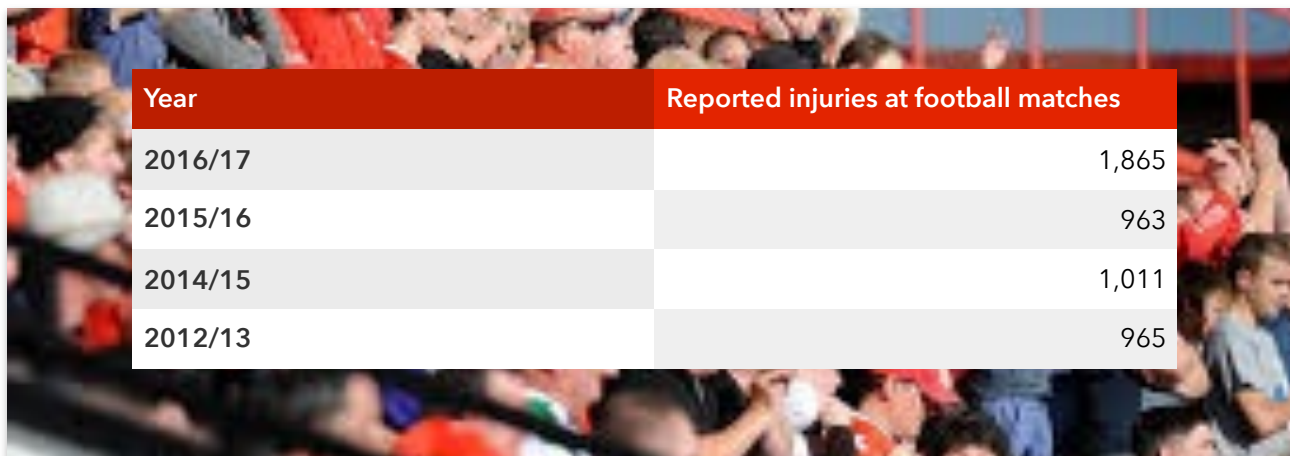
- Trips/falls/slips 500
- Cuts 235
- Burns/scalds 145
- Hit by football 101
- Hit by object 75

A total of 46 supporters were hurt while celebrating, another 28 suffered insect bites or stings and 12 were hit by flares.

The figures cover spectators who were hurt at the ground and excludes anyone treated for illnesses or injuries they had before entering the stadium.

Some 35.8 million supporters attended games covered by the report, so it works out as one injury per 19,205 fans. Most of the injuries were minor, although 92 required hospital treatment.

Article courtesy of BBC Sport



Year	Reported injuries at football matches
2016/17	1,865
2015/16	963
2014/15	1,011
2012/13	965

Sports minister Tracey Crouch commissions official review into Safe Standing

Sports minister Tracey Crouch has commissioned an official review into so-called safe standing and says her "mind is open" on the issue.

The MP was speaking at a Parliamentary debate on safe standing, which came after a petition was signed by 112,000 people calling for its introduction.

During the debate, Crouch apologised for previously saying only a "vocal minority" wanted standing areas but revealed she had been threatened with "physical and sexual violence" as a result.

Before the petition that led to the Parliamentary debate, the government said in May there were no plans to change the all-seater policy after West Bromwich Albion had a proposal to trial safe standing in one of their tiers rejected.

After that decision, Crouch was accused of "declaring war on fans" by the Football Supporters' Federation.

Standing in English football's top two divisions was outlawed by the Football Spectators' Act in 1989. It was introduced following recommendations made in the Taylor Report into the Hillsborough disaster, which claimed the lives of 96 Liverpool fans.

"Contrary to reports on social media, my mind is open on future of the all-seater policy," Crouch said. "I felt so disappointed with my own loose language on safe standing, that rightly led to outrage, but then sadly turned into abuse and threats.

"I feel really scarred by the response received on social media."

The review, which will be completed by the end of the year, will analyse existing evidence and look to identify any missing data - working with footballing authorities, leagues and supporters' groups.

"At the moment, we don't have data or evidence to make a decision either way on this issue," she added.

"Change cannot and should not happen overnight on something as serious as football ground safety."

West Brom, who have been relegated to the Championship, proposed a pilot scheme to convert 3,600 seats into 'rail seats', which can be locked in an upright position.

Crouch said it would have required a law change to allow the trial to go ahead, adding: "The legislative framework as it is currently set out means I cannot allow for any pilots. There is no wiggle room - it is either the status quo or change the legislation."

The Football Supporters' Federation said: "The fans will look forward to seeing the detail of the review and it is encouraging that there's a commitment to working with supporters groups alongside the football authorities."

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Have you booked your space at our October conference yet?

Places are selling fast for the FSOA's upcoming Conference & Exhibition in October, which is already gearing up to be another huge success.

The event will be staged at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Stratford-upon-Avon on October 16th and 17th, and places for day-time passes and overnight stays are running out quickly.

All exhibition space for the event has been taken, with 21 partner organisations - all experts in stadium safety and security - signed up to exhibit at the event.

The latest in stadium technology and safety systems will be on display, including CCTV solutions, drugs detection dogs, IT support systems and steward training providers.

Preparations are well under way for the upcoming conference, which will also give FSOA members the opportunity to network with peers, listen to talks by experts and take part in interactive workshops.

A packed agenda of speakers has already been lined up for the event covering a range of topics including an update from the Counter Terrorism Unit, GDPR, the World Cup, Safe Standing, Safety Officers' experiences and the Manchester Arena bombing. Boxing legend, Frank Bruno MBE, will then entertain guests as our VIP after-dinner speaker.

A boat trip along the River Avon will take place ahead of the conference and exhibition on October 16th. Two boats are being sponsored by Dallmeier and Event Detection Dogs, and will include free drinks. All places for both boats have now been booked.

John Newsham, FSOA Business Development Manager, said: "We are delighted that all exhibition space for the upcoming Conference & Exhibition has already sold out, as well as our two boat trips.

"There are now only a handful of places available for day delegates, anyone wishing to stay for evening dinner and also those wishing to stay overnight at the Crowne Plaza Hotel so I would encourage anyone who has not yet booked to do so soon to avoid any disappointment.

"We are looking forward to seeing all of you there for what promises to be another wonderful event."

To book your place at the conference, at the evening dinner, or overnight stay, please email info@fsoa.org.uk to request a booking form

Meet our exhibitors



Hillsborough match commander David Duckenfield to go on trial

The match commander on the day of the Hillsborough disaster, David Duckenfield, will face trial for the manslaughter by gross negligence of 95 football supporters, a judge has ruled.

The decision to prosecute the former chief superintendent was made by Sir Peter Openshaw at Preston Crown Court who lifted a stay on his prosecution.

An order preventing Mr Duckenfield being tried was imposed 18 years ago.

Four other men will also face trial on charges related to Hillsborough.

Mr Duckenfield, 73, was match commander at the 1989 FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest when 96 Liverpool fans were fatally injured in a crush in the terrace pens.

Under the law at the time, there can be no prosecution for the death of the 96th victim, Tony Bland, because he died from his injuries more than a year and a day later.

Former Sheffield Wednesday club secretary Graham Mackrell is charged with health and safety, and safety at sports grounds offences. The trial of Mr Duckenfield and Mr Mackrell had originally been listed to start in September but have since been adjourned until January 14th 2019 at Preston Crown Court.

They will both be asked to enter a plea at a pre-trial hearing on 10 September.

Former solicitor Peter Metcalf and former police officers Donald Denton and Alan Foster are scheduled to go on trial in January 2019 charged with perverting the course of justice. A hearing to determine whether former Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison will be tried has been adjourned until August.

The Crown Prosecution Service applied to lift a historical stay - halting further legal proceedings - on Mr Duckenfield which was put in place in 2000.

In his ruling, the judge said: "In respect of the defendant David Duckenfield I lift the stay."



Have you renewed your FSOA membership?



Renewal Form Season 18/19 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019

As the 17/18 season draws to a close, we would like to thank you for your continued support of the FSOA. Since its establishment in 1992, the organisation has played a pivotal role in transforming the landscape of football safety and your input is crucial to ensure we remain at the forefront of stadium and spectator safety going forward. We look forward to continuing our relationship for the upcoming season.

Club / Organisation

Member 1 - Details

Name:

Job Role:

Email:

Contact No:

Qualification:

Member 2 - Details

Name:

Job Role:

Email:

Contact No:

Qualification:

Member 3 - Details

Name:

Job Role:

Email:

Contact No:

Qualification:

Member 4 - Details

Name:

Job Role:

Email:

Contact No:

Qualification:

Accounts - Details

Name:

Email:

Contact No:

P.O. Number (if required)

Quantity of memberships:..... Sub total (£) :..... Total (£) :.....

Annual Membership Fees

Details of our membership fees are outlined below, full details can be found on the following page.

National League Clubs and below are eligible for FREE membership on application.

FULL, AFFILIATE & ASSOCIATE - £100 Plus VAT | RETIRED - £30 Plus VAT | CORPORATE - £500 Plus VAT

I /we wish to apply for the following membership:

Full	Associate
Honorary	Retired
Affiliate	Corporate

Signature:

Print Name:

Date:

*** PAYMENT IS DUE BEFORE JULY 31st 2018**

PLEASE NOTE That it is a requirement of your membership that you post your match reports for EACH fixture or event held at your ground. Your membership could be suspended, on descretion of the management board, for failure to do so.

Leading the way in sports stadium safety

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

FULL - Full members are those who have successfully completed the Event and Match Day Safety Management Course (EMDSMC) or who hold a Level 4 Qualification and are employed as Safety Officers, Deputy Safety Officers, or Assistant Safety Officers at Sports Venues. Full membership is not limited to these definitions and may include persons with a relevant management safety roles within the events 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 representatives from the SGSA, FA, EFL, Local Authority or emergency services, for example.

RETIRED – Full Members with more than five years' continuous service may apply for Retired Member status on retirement from the position of Ground Safety Officer, Deputy Ground Safety Officer at a sports venue or relevant safety management role.

CORPORATE – open to companies or other business organisations which are involved in, or have an interested in, ground safety.

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

TERMS:

*FULL, AFFILLIATE & ASSOCIATE membership fee is £100.00 Plus VAT annually, RETIRED £30 Plus VAT and CORPORATE £500 plus Vat 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 this renewal form to The FSOA office suite 5 Enterprise Centre, Blackburn Rovers FC, Ewood Park, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 4JF

*BACS Transfers are preferable, payable to the account provided on your `invoice

*If membership renewal forms are not returned and completed by July 31st 2018, no invoice will be dispatched, your details will be removed from the database and your access to the members' area of the FSOA website withdrawn.

Please tick the box to acknowledge that by continuing with member access to the FSOA website you agree that your contact details can be accessed by other registered members for operational effectiveness. Your details will not be passed to any third parties without your approval.

Our carefully selected partners may, from time-to-time, have information, services and offers that may be of interest to you. Please tick here to opt out if you do NOT want to receive information from the FSOA about industry-related products and services.

by email

by post

by phone

by newsletter

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

Upcoming Meetings:

*The next NW regional meeting will be held on September 20th September 2018 at Everton FC. Please contact the FSOA office or regional chair, John Newsham, for details and attendance/apologies.

*The next EM regional meeting will be held on September 27th September at a venue to be confirmed. Please contact the FSOA office or regional chair, Paul Lewis, for information.

Latest Intelligence report

Please find the latest bulletin from the National Events Intelligence Unit by clicking this link

<https://www.fsoa.org.uk/neiu-industry-bulletin-18th-july-2018/>

Timely reminder to check all steward qualifications

A fantasist who attended a volunteer session for stewards at Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials and conned people into believing she was a medical consultant has been jailed. Cassandra Grant masqueraded as a nurse at the event before trying to help a man who was having a heart attack treatment by shouting 'cardiac arrest, cardiac arrest' repeatedly. Her trickery was uncovered when she volunteered to help with the insertion of a cannula on another patient but asked where she should insert it.

The 39-year-old imposter has been sentenced for three years for fraud and common assault. John Newsham, FSOA Business Development Manager, said the case was a timely reminder of the importance for clubs to thoroughly check the qualifications and competencies of all stewards to ensure the safety of fans.

To read the full story, click <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5977333/Bristol-fantasist-pretended-nurse-Blenheim-Palace-International-Horse-Trials-jailed.html>

SGSA welcomes interim Chief Executive



Martyn Henderson is joining the SGSA on 1st August 2018 as Interim Chief Executive to cover for Karen Eyre-White during her maternity leave. Martyn is currently Project Director for Great Exhibition of the North – a celebration of art, culture and innovation of the North of England, taking place in Newcastle and Gateshead this

summer – and the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund, which is funding projects in Bradford, Blackpool and the Lake District. He is also the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Social Mobility Champion.

His previous roles include leading the UK City of Culture programme, establishing a £290m museum storage programme and working for several years on gender and disability equality. Martyn is a Bolton Wanderers fan and worked on the turnstiles at the Reebok (now Macron) Stadium for two seasons.

Alan Coppin, SGSA Chair, said: "I am delighted that Martyn Henderson is joining the SGSA to cover for Karen Eyre-White during her maternity leave. Martyn brings a wealth of experience from government and will enable the organisation to continue to develop and deliver under his leadership."

Martyn Henderson said "It is a huge privilege to take on the role of Interim Chief Executive at the SGSA. I'm passionate about sport so this is a dream role for me. I'm keen to get to know the team and to immerse myself into the role as quickly as possible.

"I look forward to getting out to grounds across the country to meet those involved in keeping the millions of people that go to sports grounds each year safe."