

Photograph courtesy of David Pritchard, Oxford Mail

Safety Officer resigns amid fan abuse claims

Oxford United's Head of Crowd Safety, Ian Mixer, has left his position at the Kassam Stadium after claiming to have suffered 'vile abuse', along with threats to his personal safety and that of his family, from some supporters.

The club said they had 'reluctantly accepted' the resignation of the respected Safety Officer, a long-standing member of the FSOA.

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‘Vile abuse’ leads to resignation of Oxford Utd’s Safety Officer



Ian Mixer

Photograph courtesy of David Pritchard, Oxford Mail Chief Sports Reporter

his hard work for the club.”

The club has sought to explain an incident before the game, where fans group the Oxford Ultras were turned away in the morning when they arrived as normal to put up their banners in the East Stand.

United say Mixer and stadium manager Michael Doyle asked them to return at noon, although the Ultras have said they were asked to come back to explain why the banners were not allowed.

The noon deadline is part of the contract with the stadium company, who appear to be enforcing the rules more rigidly than in the past.

The Ultras had announced last week they would be disbanding at the end of the season - their tenth as a group.

But they have now done so with immediate effect.

United said: “We would like to thank them for ten years of colour and atmosphere at games and we know they will continue to support the club as individuals.

“Talks are already under way with OxVox and the Stadium Company to find a permanent solution at the back of the East Stand which will add the same colour as the flags.

“We will continue to work closely with the Stadium Company and adhere to the midday on Saturday agreement.”

Peter Houghton, FSOA Finance Director, said: “Ian is a member of the Association and a well-respected practitioner in the Football Safety industry. It is unlikely that his decision would have been taken lightly.

“It does, however, highlight the additional pressure we work under both on match days and non-match days.

“The FSOA understands that the threats were delivered in person and online. There have been a number of recent issues between the Club and a section of its fans and threats to Ian appear to be a risk too far.”

*Visit <https://bit.ly/2Ekm8jY> to read Oxford Mail’s coverage of Ian’s resignation.

*Read Oxford Utd’s full statement at <https://www.oufc.co.uk/news/2019/february/peterborough-reaction/>

‘Making a Difference: FSOA unveils proposed new national stewarding qualification’



The FSOA is leading the way in the development of a new nationally-accredited training programme for stewards, which it is hoped will drastically improve recruitment and retention rates of stewards and properly prepare them for their challenging and ever-changing roles.

The organisation has been at the forefront of ensuring stewards are best trained to cope with their ever-changing role for 26 years. It has always been the passionate belief of the organisation that stewards should be properly trained, equipped, managed and led to ensure their competence to play a vital role in every event safety operation. Following much debate about poor recruitment and retention rates of stewards, which are affecting the ability of football clubs and agencies to effectively steward sports matches and large-scale events, The FSOA has commissioned IQ Verify to write an alternative training and certification to the current NVQ qualification.

The new qualification would streamline the current initial training programme, make stewards undergo refresher courses every three years and allow Safety Officers to train, assess and qualify their own personnel. Under the proposed new qualification, all training personnel must be qualified to the minimum requirements of the scheme. As a minimum, UKAS will insist on PETTLS.

The complex nature of the current training package means that a number of trainee stewards fail to initially qualify, whilst there is currently no need for stewards to refresh their qualifications.

The new stewarding qualification being written on behalf of The FSOA by IQ Verify - an independent, UKAS-accredited international Certification Body focusing primarily on security, risk and organisational resilience standards - is an al-

ternative to this current NVQ package offered by OFQUAL. The new certificate would be offered by UKAS and would see the compilation of a national database of stewards undertaking the qualification, which would be held by IQ Verify. The training would be undertaken by competent Safety Officers if so desired, as long as competency and knowledge is proven. Training would also be undertaken without an initial upfront registration fee, with registration only paid once stewards are ready for assessment, alleviating costs for clubs and agencies should a steward leave mid-way through training.

John Newsham, FSOA Consultant CEO, said: “It is time for an alternative to the current qualification, and The FSOA is leading the way in developing this to solve these major issues in the industry.

“The National Occupational Standards have taken around six months to re write alone, and therefore we could not move forward on this until they had been done as the training programmes have to be able to map across to them. “Currently there are around seven other companies/training centres trying to write, or who have written, training programmes for stewards but at present none have been approved by the SGSA. We aim to be the first to get approval for the alternative to the NVQ.

“During a recent Management Board meeting of the FSOA, we met with IQ Verify and engaged in very positive talks after around 12 months of discussions overall. We are now planning talks with the SGSA with the hope of getting our alternative approved and launched.”

Mr Newsham said it was hoped the new stewarding qualification could be launched in time for the 2019/20 season.

Making a Difference: FSOA/Showsec stewarding initiative in action again

Extra stewards were provided for two fixtures recently - the League One clash between Scunthorpe and Sunderland, and the National League match between AFC Fylde Vs Wrexham.

The stewards were provided thanks to the FSOA's hugely successfully and increasingly popular initiative with Showsec, which enables lower league clubs to benefit from extra stewarding support on matches where larger-than-average crowds are expected or for games that Safety Officers believe will present extra challenging situations.

Phil Jacklin is the latest Safety Officer to ask for help under the FSOA/Showsec Steward Support Initiative when Sunderland were the visitors to Scunthorpe on January 19th.

Having a club with such phenomenal support as Sunderland in League One is an unusual circumstance for our colleagues in that division, with a number of clubs receiving a greater number of visiting supporters than normal. As such, a number have already made use of the initiative and found the Showsec teams sent to them to be effective on the day and a vital cog in their match day operations.

Showsec's Area Manager from Leeds, Sam Hodkin, was once again on hand to provide a quality group of SIA Stewards to ensure that Phil's experience under challenging circumstances would be a good one.

The FSOA decided to also support AFC Fylde to host their fixture with Wrexham, despite not actually being members of the association.

At the time of the match, also on January 19th, AFC Fylde did not have a Safety Officer and asked FSOA member, Shaun Currie (Current Safety Officer at DW Stadium in Wigan, which hosts both Championship football and Super League Rugby) to act as Safety Officer for this match.

Peter Houghton, FSOA Finance Officer, said: "Not being members of the FSOA, the organisation would not normally be prepared to provide assistance, but Shaun is a well-respected member and supports the FSOA in a number of ways, including regularly hosting North West Regional Meetings, so we decided that we would help him.

"There is also an existing relationship between Shaun and Showsec's Liverpool-based Manager, Steve Roberts, as Shaun utilises Showsec on match days at the DW Stadium."

Peter added: "The stewarding initiative is just one way the FSOA is making a real difference to football clubs by funding extra stewards for matches where larger-than-average crowds are in attendance, or when risk assessments and intelligence show that safety and security staff will face extra challenging situations.

"The FSOA is proud to work with leading security and crowd management expert, Showsec, to provide this stewarding support for lower league clubs. The partnership between the FSOA and Showsec, particularly this initiative, has made a significant contribution to the enhancement of public safety at sports stadiums across the UK.

"We are delighted to receive consistently positive feedback from clubs who have benefited from the scheme, and would encourage any other clubs keen for our support for upcoming fixtures to get in touch."



Pic - The Showsec team of extra stewards at Scunthorpe Vs Sunderland

Stewarding Report: Scunthorpe Vs Sunderland

By Phil Jacklin, Scunthorpe United Safety Officer

How long before the match did you start planning?

Initial planning started early November with a review of steward numbers required for that type of match, and an email to the FSOA about the initiative with Showsec for some extra staff.

Who did you consult in terms of intelligence and information gathering?

We held three planning meetings with Humberside Police over a six-week period and I reviewed the FSOA website regarding Sunderland fans' behaviour away from home.

Did you do anything different in terms of planning for this match compared with others? If so, what?

Not really, I just made sure we were ready well in advance, which I do for every game.

How did your resourcing for this match differ from others?

We treated this game like the Play Off games previously, with regard to resources and match category. We also resourced extra outside catering and a fan zone for the away fans.

What challenges were you expecting that were different from other matches?

The only real difference is that we were prepared for more drink-related issues, but having worked at other stadia with Sunderland, I knew how friendly they would be.

Did anything happen that you didn't expect? If so, what?

All the intelligence led me to believe that if Sunderland scored, they would encroach on the pitch in celebration in large numbers. However, I was pleasantly surprised that only a couple made it on to the perimeter wall.

Would you do anything differently if you were planning this match again? If so, please give details

Absolutely not. Everything went well on the day. All the planning paid off and everyone worked well together.

You were assisted in your resourcing by the FSOA. How do you think the Showsec team performed on the day? Did they meet your expectations? Please give details

The communication weeks before with Sam was spent on and he emailed the manning list over in plenty of time. Ade Tuner was their supervisor on the day and he is a credit to Showsec. He was calm and professional throughout, and all the Showsec team were excellent. They integrated well into the current setup we have at Scunthorpe United.

Would you seek this type of assistance again if a similar match occurred?

That's an easy 'yes, absolutely'. They made the whole day easier for my team to perform and therefore there was less stress for me.

Any other information?

If any Safety Officer has a big game to plan for and are not sure if they will cope with the number of stewards required you can't go wrong in contacting the FSOA and requesting Showsec assistance. They are fantastic.

Read about our stewarding support for AFC Fylde Vs Wrexham over the page

Stewarding Report: AFC Fylde Vs Wrexham

By Shaun Currie (Current Safety Officer at DW Stadium in Wigan) Match Safety Officer

How long before the match did you start planning?

I commenced my planning for the AFC Fylde V Wrexham game on 2nd January following a request by AFC Fylde to help them out.

Who did you consult in terms of intelligence and information gathering?

In planning for the game, I consulted with both clubs, the Lancashire Police and Tony Pinder (the previous Safety Officer who had managed the safety operation the two previous times the two teams had played at Mill Farm Stadium). I also reviewed the previous match reports on the FSOA website.

Did you do anything different in terms of planning for this match compared with others? If so, what?

As I do not normally work at Mill Farm Stadium I visited the stadium several times to familiarise myself with its layout and safety policies and procedures. I also examined the contents of its General Safety Certificate to see what conditions had been imposed and to determine its agreed capacity as it was expected that many Wrexham fans would attend the game and there was a danger the capacity could be exceeded.

How did your resourcing for this match differ from others?

AFC Fylde play in the National League and attendances at Mill Farm Stadium are usually well below capacity and the safety operation resourcing reflects this. This game was going to be different in that a capacity crowd was expected with the potential for more away fans turning up than could be accommodated in the away stand. In addition to this, Shrewsbury Town were playing against Blackpool at the same time and the Police had received intelligence that Wrexham and Shrewsbury fans were going to meet up somewhere on the Fylde coats to engage in disorder and that Celtic fans were going to come south of the boarder to join up with the eWrexham fans against Shrewsbury fans.

Taking into consideration all of the above, I needed to determine if the existing stewards were experienced in dealing with a capacity crowd that may engage in disorder and if they had managed a 'lock out' situation. Additionally, Mill Farm Stadium does not have any external CCTV or any that covers the stands/terraces so the safety of the stewards was a major factor in deciding the number and type of stewards that would be required to manage the game safely. With the increased risk of disorder and the possible use of pyrotechnics I also wanted to ensure that I was able to put a robust pre-entry search capability on outside the away turnstiles and I knew I would need an experienced stewarding team to perform this function. Having worked with Showsec on numerous occasions at my own stadium I was confident that they would be able to assist me to achieve my safety objectives, so I contacted the FSOA to see if they could assist by providing the Showsec stewards through their stewarding agreement.

What challenges were you expecting that were different from other matches?

I am used to managing the safety operation at a stadium that hosts Championship Football and Super League Rugby that are normally 'ticket only' games where seats are reserved and fans are used to seeing plenty of stewards and advised of what they can and can't do in the stadium. With this being 'non-league' football, I expected the challenges to be around controlling entry (due to numbers or lateness or the potential for a 'lock out', complaints about being searched, smoking, use of the concourse at half-time and pitch encroachment after a goal or final whistle.

Did anything happen that you didn't expect? If so, what?

I have to say that the event went to plan and that the stewarding numbers and their deployments worked very well.

Would you do anything differently if you were planning this match again? If so, please give details

Probably beyond my control for this particular fixture but I would have liked to start my planning a bit earlier to ensure that resources could be booked well in advance.

You were assisted in your resourcing by the FSOA. How do you think the Showsec team performed on the day? Did they meet your expectations? Please give details

I am fortunate to work with Showsec at most of the games held at my stadium so I am familiar with the quality of steward that they provide and the competence of their supervisors who I know I can give a task with the confidence it will be carried out to my satisfaction. Again, fortunately they provide me with a supervisor who works with me on a regular basis which provided consistency with decision making and familiarity with the working practices of the others. Their performance on the day met my expectations.

Would you seek this type of assistance again if a similar match occurred?

I would seek this type of assistance again in similar circumstances and I would encourage any of my colleagues to do the same.



Photograph: AFC Fylde

Opinion

Persistent standing at grounds: Implementing new safety measures

By Jon Darch, Operator, Safe Standing Roadshow

Since I first brought the Safe Standing Roadshow to an FSOA conference in 2011, there have been many safe standing developments, not least in the last 3 months. Following the installation of rail seats at Celtic in 2016 and Shrewsbury last summer, the new Green Guide published in November included for the first time guidance on the use of 'seats incorporating barriers' and 'seats with independent barriers'. While for safe standing campaigners like me that did not yet mean 'mission accomplished', for safety officers it does present a significant new opportunity for mitigating the safety risk of persistent standing in all-seater grounds.

That's because the SGSA has confirmed that, provided certain strict conditions are met, such seating can be licensed as compliant with the all-seater policy. Indeed, had the new Spurs stadium opened on time, there would already be an all-seater Premier League ground operating with around 7,500 'seats incorporating barriers' in place.

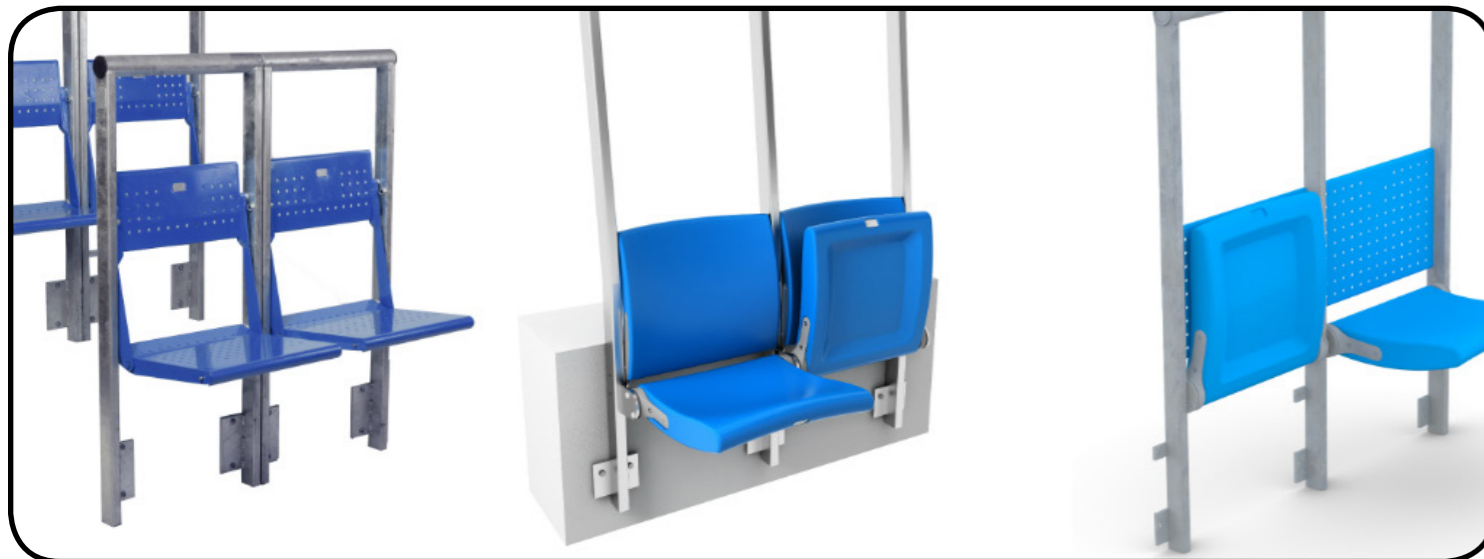
Such seating cannot, of course, be operated as standing accommodation in all-seater grounds until the government policy is revised. However, with the Green Guide now saying that where persistent standing occurs managers of such stadia need to discourage it or consider whether to install additional safety structures, such as seats incorporating barriers, such seats do now provide clubs with a means of making these safety enhancements without having to wait for policy change.

So the new Green Guide and the new line from the SGSA spell good news for safety officers keen to improve the management of persistent standing. I would, however, add a note of caution: clubs installing any form of seat/barrier combination will, I'd suggest, want to bear in mind that if this fails to leave the required space for fans who stand, their SAG may seek to reduce that area's capacity. Conversely, clubs giving no consideration to such solutions could, I believe, find themselves in hot water legally.

Lochlinn Parker, a partner at ITN Solicitors, who specialises in football matters, tells me: "A club must take all reasonable steps to keep their fans safe, including in areas of persistent standing. In light of the new Green Guide guidance, a club may be held liable for a breach of its duty of care if it failed to consider the now permitted implementation of additional safety measures, such as the use of rail seats, as a way to resolve the issue."

So, as a safe standing campaigner, 8 years on from that first visit to an FSOA conference, I'm delighted that rail seats are now permitted in all-seater stadia. While their use initially as an added safety measure in areas of persistent standing is a welcome first step, I continue to hope that very soon clubs will be permitted to use areas of such seating as formal standing accommodation. Both scenarios, I believe, add to spectator safety and remove the hassle of trying to manage persistent standing by other means from safety officers' busy lives.

Picture below: The evolution of rail seating, courtesy of Ferco Seating



Wolves to trial Safe Standing at Molineux

Wolves have become one of the first clubs in the Premier League to pilot safe standing – should the government change legislation regarding all-seater stadiums.

Managing director Laurie Dalrymple has previously confirmed the club are interested in installing safe-standing at the ground if any pilot scheme is launched.

Albion have previously had a proposal rejected to introduce a standing area in the Smethwick End.

But now Wolves have installed three different types of rail-seats in a currently unused block of the Billy Wright Stand. Current government policy prevents any form of standing area in the top two tiers of English football. But Shrewsbury have installed a safe-standing area in League One with success.

And Wolves now want to be at the front of the queue if the government changes its all-seater policy for the top two divisions.

Dalrymple said: "As a club we are keen to be at the forefront of innovation and progression, so the opportunity to install these examples of potential safe-standing solutions was one that we were very happy to explore.

"Whilst the seats themselves will not be operational or used at matches, we are now able to give our Fan's Parliament group and local authority the opportunity to view all the options before some of these solutions become commonplace in UK stadiums.

"We are now actively working on plans regarding the development and expansion of Molineux in line with the club's ambitions on and off the pitch, and we see this as another example of how we plan to meet supporters' expectations and desires as we deliver a stadium that meets all of our requirements."

Safe standing campaigner, Jon Darch, said: "It is fitting that Molineux should be the first operational stadium in the Premier League to install rail-seating as it was the first ground I took the Safe Standing Roadshow to in 2011, for a presentation to the Fans' Parliament.

"We anticipate that in the future Safety Advisory Groups will be looking closely at clubs with areas of persistent standing, and will most likely encourage them to enhance spectator safety in those areas by installing rail seats like those now on show at Molineux. I also anticipate that in time legislation will change to allow clubs to operate areas fitted with such seating as formal standing areas. That could potentially happen this year." (Article: Express & Star)



Above: Rail seating at Shrewsbury FC

Countdown on for Spring AGM, Conference & Exhibition 2019

The final countdown is on for the FSOA's upcoming Spring AGM, Conference & Exhibition - with just a handful of spaces now available. Organisers have managed to add two extra exhibitors, taking the total number to 24, whilst making an 11th hour addition to the agenda to include a presentation on LGBT awareness in the game.

There is now only ONE remaining room available for an overnight stay on March 20th, with just a few day delegate passes remaining for the event.

A packed programme of speakers and workshops has been lined up for the event, which will take place at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Stratford-upon-Avon, on March 20th.

The latest terrorism threats, newest additions to the SGSA Green Guide and CPD for Safety Officers are among the topics being discussed on the day, whilst there will also be an interactive workshop led by Ian Kerr, from ID Resilience, looking at who can call off a game. A range of safety solutions will be on display during the day, including detection dogs, CCTV systems, stewarding agencies, radio systems and face recognition software.

The conference will be followed with an evening dinner, hosted by the inimitable Andy Ashworth, and rounded off with talks by our VIP guest speakers, Paul Merson and Micky Quinn.

The event will officially kick off the previous evening, on March 19th, giving guests the chance to meet the FSOA's sponsors and exhibitors ahead of the main event the next day.

The main conference is once again being sponsored by Showsec, with Dallmeier returning as Associate and wine sponsors. EDD will sponsor a one-hour private drinks reception, featuring a free bar, on the evening of March 19th, whilst DCRS are sponsoring the free day delegate passes for FSOA members in League 1, League 2 and the National League.

Meet our Exhibitors:



Tue, March 19th:

15.00	Hotel reception/registration for rooms
18.00	Meet the Sponsors & Exhibitors - Seymour Bar Free bar for one hour (Wine and Beers only), Sponsored by EDD Introductions from Alan Wallace (Showsec), Steve Hodges (Dallmeier) & Collin Singer (EDD)
19.00	Curry/Fish & Chip supper - Seymouh Bar Entertainment from comedian Shaun Styles Evening hosted by Andy Ashworth

Wed, March 20th:

09.00	Registration and exhibition - Please visit the exhibitors and sponsors who are supporting the FSOA
10.00	Introduction to the day - FSOA Consultant CEO, John Newsham
10.05	Chairman's Welcome - Mark Miles
10.10	Finance - Peter Houghton
10.20	Nomination for Chair & Vice Chair - John Newsham
10.30	CPD - Dommi Lawson
11.00	Threat of terrorism update - Claire Worley
11.15	Morning break for refreshments & exhibition visit
11.45	Green Guide: What's New? TRAINING - Rick riding & Martin Girvan, SGSA
12.30	LGBT Awareness - Piero Zizzi, Proud Baggies
12.45	LUNCH & exhibition visit
14.00	Safety Officer's experience - Managing the unexpected - Ian Coulton, Leicester City FC
14.15	Met Office Weather and equipment available - Steven Davey and Ric Robins
14.30	Who can call off a game? WORKSHOP - Ian Kerr, ID Resilience
15.30	Refreshments & exhibition. CPD drop-in sessions - Domini Lawson
16.00	Open Discussion. Questions from the floor to the panel
17.00	Conference round up by FSOA Chair, with introduction to the evening's proceedings
19.00 for 19.30	Aperitifs in the bar before evening dinner, followed by guest speakers, Micky Quinn and Paul Merson. Evening hosted by Andy Ashworth

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Met Office: Working together to support Event Safety and Security Operations



By Katy Lavender, Deputy Safety Officer at FC United of Manchester

In late October 2018, I visited the Met Office HQ in Exeter to discuss the often-problematic issues Events Safety and Security professionals encounter regarding Britain's favourite topic - the weather. The primary purpose of the visit was to explore how we might build a partnership like other industries have done, and to understand what tools are available to sports grounds/events venues or sites to improve our operational preparedness and resilience.

I was given a guided tour of the HQ Operations Centre by Steven Davey (Industry, Infrastructure and Sport Manager) whereby I could more clearly see the organisations structure and how sector specialist teams worked to provide different industries with all their weather-related information; from Energy to Aviation. The information provided is consumed to support many operational activities from Facilities Management, TPM (Time-Planned Maintenance), Inspections and Testing, Transportation, or as a general input into day-to-day operations and the safety of personnel arriving and leaving a site.

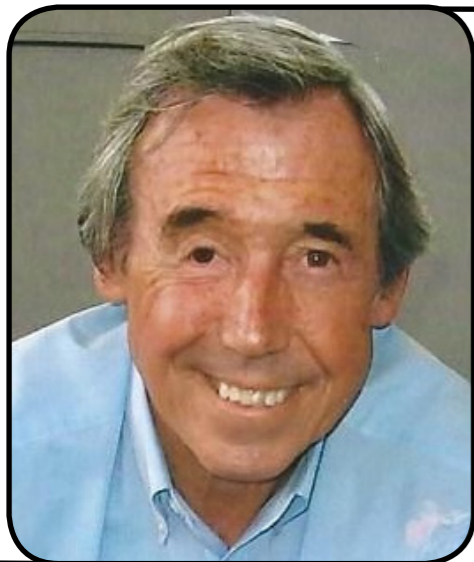
As part of the tour, I was shown some of the field equipment and sensors that measure, monitor and provide data for the evaluation of humidity, wind, precipitation, UV, and temperature. A tour of this field equipment is included as part of the public access tours, which occur on select dates across the year (check the website for details).

Prior to mentioning technology solutions were Members aware (I certainly wasn't) that there was a General Public telephone service that can be used to get a local weather forecast read to you, and if more detailed information is required there is further 'Talk to a Forecaster' credit-based telephone service where you can acquire a more in depth forecast from a trained Forecaster. Both services are available 24/7/365.

Steven also demonstrated some of the software solutions available to support weather forecasting like Visual Eyes™ and explained how some sports organisations already have an established relationship and used this technology to support their events namely Tennis (Wimbledon) and Golf (R&A for the Men's and Women's Open Championships 2018). Furthermore, we discussed the infrastructure requirements for the technology and a tiered and scalable approach around accessibility, in order to suit different budgetary requirements that might deter some sports clubs or events venues or sites from considering this as a solution.

It was also a privilege to have a short meeting with Ric Robins (Head of Business Operational Meteorology) where we discussed the evolution of weather technology and its use in various industries and shared a discussion around the Event Safety and Security industry issues in which Steven and I shared our strategy for a tiered and scalable approach for access to technology. Finally, we discussed the appetite for access to location specific weather data, and the trending discussions the FSOA and its members have had around the EFL guidelines for the postponement of football games. The Met Office will be in attendance at The FSOA's upcoming Conference, providing further awareness on topics alluded to in the above article, and they will also be participating in the planned workshop 'Who can call off a game?' In order to take advantage of this opportunity to speak with the Met Office, FSOA members are encouraged to recall/consider scenarios where weather has posed an issue around planning or execution of an event safety and security operation and attend with those in mind to enable the Met Office to them in future.





National Roundup

Tributes paid to football hero, Gordon Banks

Tributes have been paid from around the world following the death of Gordon Banks, widely regarded as England's greatest ever goalkeeper. The 81-year-old former Chesterfield, Leicester and Stoke goalkeeper, who made 73 international appearances, had been suffering from kidney cancer. He was among England's 1966 World Cup-winning side although his reputation for being virtually unbeatable, almost certainly the best in the world at the time, was largely based on the World Cup 1970, with his spectacular save of a Pelé header catapulting him into the ranks of lasting legends. He won Fifa's goalkeeper of the year award on six occasions, and was voted Footballer of the Year in 1972. An online campaign has now been launched for the much-loved football legend to be given a posthumous Knighthood. Under Honours rules, however, knight-hoods cannot be awarded if a would-be recipient has died. But Banks' supporters say they made two separate nominations for him - in 2016 and one in 2018 - one of which was lost by the Honours Committee. They want a change in the law, so that Banks can be honoured posthumously.

Academy players die in horror blaze

Ten rising football stars of Flamengo's youth team died in an horrific fire at the Brazilian club's training centre in Rio de Janeiro. The blaze started in the sleeping quarters of Flamengo's youth centre that had been expanded only two months ago. The victims were aged between 14 and 17. Flamengo President, Rodolfo Landim, said: "We are distraught. This is the worst tragedy to happen to the club in its 123 years." Flamengo is one of the best-supported clubs in Brazil and known around the world. Known by fans as the Red-and-Black, the club won the Copa Libertadores, South America's version of the Champions League, in 1981 and lifted the Intercontinental Cup a few months later.

Thousands line streets for funeral of Emiliano Sala

Thousands of tearful mourners lined the streets for the funeral of late footballer, Emiliano Sala. Relatives and friends of the footballer, including Sala's Nantes team mate, Nicolas Pallois, and brother, Dario Sala, carried his coffin to a hearse following a service at San Martin de Progreso, Sala's boyhood club in Argentina. Cardiff City manager Neil Warnock and club CEO Ken Choo were among the mourners. They joined locals from the small town of Progreso for the service, which took place in the club's gym. Mourners wore black suits with yellow daffodils pinned to their suits in tribute to the footballer. Cardiff's players have also worn shirts bearing the flower in memory of Sala, who became the club's record £15 million signing days before his death. He died on January 21 when the plane he was travelling in crashed in the English Channel after he had visited players at his former French club, Nantes. His body was pulled from the plane wreckage on February 7 but the pilot, David Ibbotson, 59, from Lincolnshire, has still not been found.

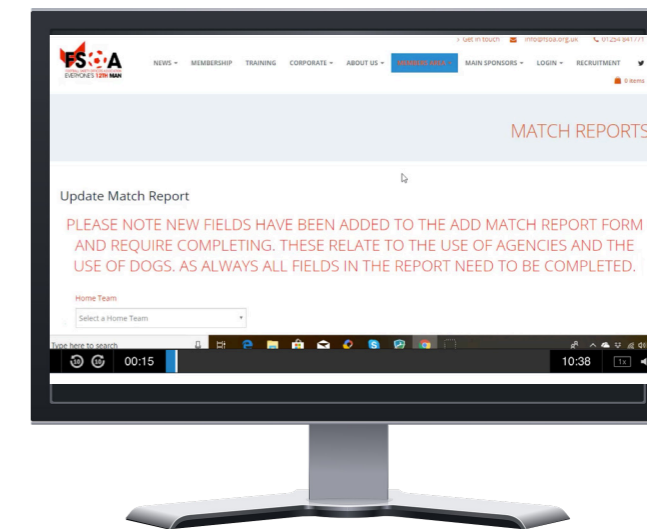


*The thoughts of all at the FSOA are with the family and friends of Gordon Banks, Emiliano Sala, David Ibbotson, and the victims of the Flamengo fire.

News for Members

New 'how to' guides launched for FSOA members

Two new 'how to' guides have been created to help members successfully navigate their way around two important sections of the website. The video guides have been created to aid members searching for the contact details of peers and colleagues within the organisation, as well providing instructions on how to successfully complete a match report. John Newsham, FSOA Consultant CEO, said: "One of the most important aspects of the FSOA is the fact that members can share their knowledge and expertise, and in return ask for guidance and advice from fellow members from other clubs. Every one of our members has their contact details and information contained with the members' forum of the website so peers can get in touch if they require assistance or guidance. There have been a few instances recently where the office has been contacted to provide contact information of a member, so we thought it was important to create a step-by-step guide for all members to see just how simple it is to access all of the relevant information within the portal. "Similarly, the filling out of match reports is vital to ensure Safety Officers are able to plan their own upcoming fixtures efficiently and safely. This step-by-step video has been created to ensure all members are filling out their match reports to the same standard so they provide the most comprehensive information." The link for the video guide on finding members' information can be found at <https://screen-cast-o-matic.com/watch/cqnq650VZ4> The link for the video guide on completing a match report can be found at <https://screen-cast-o-matic.com/watch/cqnIXx3MZD> These links will also be added to the website shortly.

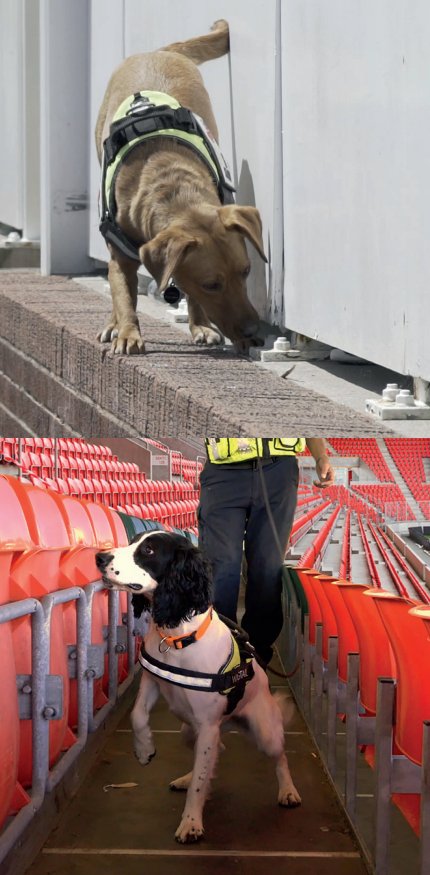


FSOA welcomes new Corporate Partners



Please join us in welcoming new FSOA Corporate Partner, M4 Facilities Management. We are also delighted to announce that Digital Barriers will be returning as a Corporate Partner, and will be exhibiting at our Conference on March 20th.





Providing safety, assurance and security in an uncertain world

EDD are specialists in explosive, pyrotechnic, firearms and drug detection.

We provide highly visible qualified detection dogs and qualified professional handlers to support and enhance your existing security measures.

Helping to ensure stadiums and arenas are safe and secure before, during and after an event.

Why Choose EDD:

- Proven track record at Premier League and UEFA Champions League Matches
- Fully qualified and accredited handlers and dogs
- Flexible, bespoke solutions including the training of your own inhouse detection dog teams
- Fully licensed by the Home Office to store and keep explosives and drugs
- ISO 9001 Accredited
- £10 Million Public Liability Insurance

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info@edd-uk.com

EDD is part of Wagtail Holdings Limited, international specialists in detection dogs and dog handler training. Wagtail Holdings Limited currently has contracts with government agencies in the UK and overseas for explosives and drug detection dogs and related services.

