

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Licensing Committee
Date: 22nd May 2013
Report for: Information
Report of: Director of Environment

Report Title

Annual Match Visits of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee to Altrincham Football Club on 29th January 2013 and to Manchester United Football Club on 2nd March 2013.

Summary

Report describing the annual match visits 2013.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Alan Finney
Extension: 1011

Background Papers: None

ANNUAL MATCH VISIT ALTRINCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Each year the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee are invited to carry out a match visit to Altrincham Football Club. This year's visit took place on the 29th January 2013 at the Blue Square Bet North League fixture, Altrincham FC v Boston United.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. Councillors Higgins, Weston and Quayle attended with Council Officers Iain Veitch and Alan Finney. They were met and welcomed by Derek Wilshaw, Club Secretary and Alison Lewis, Stadium Safety Officer.
- 2.2. It was a cold and wet evening and the party was invited to undertake a walking tour of the Stadium internally.
- 2.3. Members were taken on a tour of the ground that highlighted the commitment and voluntary support given to maintain the stadium to a good standard. The Members observed that there had been no changes to the fabric of the Stadium and ground safety, stewarding, security, and pitch security were discussed with representatives of the Club.
- 2.4. In particular, the matter of steward sharing between local club's was discussed which was proving to be a success.
- 2.5. The Members commented that the Stadium continued to be maintained in a good condition. There were no areas of concern raised as a result of the tour.
- 2.6. The match ended with a seven goals to one victory for Altrincham. The match was attended by 561 spectators of which 28 had travelled to support the visiting team.
- 2.7. Issues that were raised during the walkabout were:
 - Stewarding accreditation.
 - Steward sharing arrangements.
 - Pre-match procedures and steward briefing.
 - Control Room facilities.
 - Attendance figures.
 - Turnstile operation.
 - Visiting supporters.
 - Stadium Security.
 - Segregation.
 - TV Gantry & access security.
 - Manchester United reserve matches.

3. RECOMMENDATION.

- 3.1. That the report be noted.

ANNUAL MATCH VISIT MANCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Each football season the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee is invited to carry out a match visit to Manchester United Football Club (MUFC). This season's visit took place on Saturday, 2nd March at the Premier League fixture, Manchester United versus Norwich City.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. Councillor David Higgins, Chairman of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee, and Councillor David Quayle, attended with Council Officers Paul Harvey, Iain Veitch, and Alan Finney. The Group were greeted on arrival by George Johnstone, Head of Group Property Services and Gary Hebblewhite, Group Project Manager.
- 2.2. George Johnstone outlined the programme for the visit and the party proceeded to the pitch perimeter track to view the proposal to install new electronic pitch perimeter advertising boards. The party were then informed of the improvements that have been made to the disabled spectators viewing areas.
- 2.3. The requirement, of the television companies, to build a second TV Studio, was outlined by Gary Hebblewhite. From the groups location on the pitch perimeter track they could observe where the new studio would be located.
- 2.4. The Group then attended the Stewards' Briefing in the Press Conference Room where Steward Supervisors were given the specific matchday intelligence along with the routine safety management information.
- 2.5. This was followed by a visit to the Stadium Control Room when George Johnstone and Gary Hebblewhite gave an overview of the proposed remodelling of the Stadium Control Room.
- 2.6. The Group then proceeded to the visitor's concourse area where it is proposed to install new additional visitor's turnstiles and concourse segregation. This will enable more flexible arrangements to accommodate the visiting spectators dependant on ticket sales.
- 2.7. The party were then taken to view one of the North Stand remodelled kiosks. It was explained that this is a trial which if successful will be rolled out around the Stadium.
- 2.8. The visiting party then walked through the ground floor concourses and observed the deployment of the stewards throughout these areas.
- 2.7. The group considered the following matters during the tour:
 - the location and assistance for disabled patrons;
 - the disabled viewing platforms.
 - CCTV.

- Security Control.
- Planning issues.
- Pitch replacement.
- Crowd behaviour.
- Police Communications.
- The museum.
- Stadium Betting.
- Safety Control.
- Forward evacuation.

2.8. The visiting party were joined for refreshments by Michael Bolingbroke, the Chief Operating Officer, Manchester United Football Club and Guy Smith, Director of Operations.

3. RECOMMENDATION.

3.1. That the report be noted.

Financial Implications:	N/A
Legal Implications:	N/A
Human Resources Implications:	N/A
Asset Management Implications:	N/A
E-Government Implications:	N/A
Risk Management Implications:	N/A