

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee
Date: 21st September 2016
Report for: Information.
Report of: The Deputy Chief Executive

Report Title

The Annual Match Visit of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee.

Summary

Report describing the annual match visit to Manchester United Football Club on Saturday 16th April 2016 at the match against Aston Villa.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Tony Bibi
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Background Papers: None

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS ADVISORY GROUP

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 16th April at the Premier League fixture, Manchester United versus Aston Villa.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. Councillor Paul Lally, Chairman of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee and Councillor Matthew Sephton, attended with Council Officers Helen Jones, Iain Veitch, and Tony Bibi. The Group were greeted on arrival by Alan Dawson Group Operations Director, Gary Hebblewhite Head of Group Property Services, and Guy Smith Director of Venue Operations.
- 2.2. The programme for the visit commenced with a visit to the bowl of the stadium where the party were advised about disability seating and carer requirements and the future planned provision to meet the requirements of the Premier League. In addition, discussions included planned improvements to extend and improve the Control Room as well as highlighting the seating segregation for the away fans at the day's fixture.
- 2.3. The party then attended the match day stewards briefing for the steward supervisors which was presented by Phil Rainford (Head of Stadium Safety and Security) and his deputy Jon Hornby. The match was designated as a category 'A' risk rating with 1400 away fans due to attend, it was emphasised that there was a need to be focussed because the away fans behaviour could not be predicted if their club were confirmed to be relegated from the Premier League, at the end of the game. The usual match day controls were in place and awareness was further raised as regards alcohol sales, suspect packages, safety procedures for pyrotechnic devices etc. with the emphasis of the need to be vigilant at all times.
- 2.4. Following the stewards briefing, Phil Rainford then gave a comprehensive and detailed talk on the precautions and actions taken by the Club to safeguard the stadium and visitors from terrorist security risks. The Club had increased the security checks and controls following the Paris terrorist attack in November 2015 which was clearly evident to those attending the ground e.g. increased personal searches, bag searches, use of wand scanning, the outer ring security maintained prior, during and after the game etc. Additional training as well as refresher training in security matters had also been given to stewards including the completion of on-line courses and the attendance of training sessions.

- 2.5. The Group then proceeded to the Stadium Control Room where they observed how match day safety operations are controlled by each of the relevant responsible agencies. CCTV and real time data information on spectator entry to the stadium were highlighted as effective safety controls.
- 2.6. The visiting party then walked through the ground floor concourses and observed the deployment of the stewards throughout these areas.
- 2.7. The visiting party were then welcomed by the Club to refreshments and to watch the game which ended in a 1 – 0 victory with the resultant relegation of Aston Villa from the Premier League. There were no match day safety incidents noted of any concern.

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