

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sports Grounds Sub - Committee
Date: 14th March 2014
Report for: Information
Report of: Director of Environment

Report Title

Annual Match Visit of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee to Lancashire County Cricket Club, on Saturday 3rd August 2013.

Summary

Report describing the annual match visit 2013.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Tony Bibi
Extension: 3840

Background Papers: None

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS SUB - COMMITTEE

ANNUAL MATCH VISIT LANCASHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Each year the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee are invited to carry out a match visit to Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC). This year's visit took place on Saturday 3rd August, 2013, at the Third Ashes Test Match, England against Australia.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. The match was attended by Councillor David Higgins, Chairman of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub Committee, Councillors Dave Quayle and Paul Lally along with Council Officer's Paul Harvey and Tony Bibi.
- 2.2. Entrance to the ground which was scheduled to open at 09.00 was initially delayed for all spectators due to a delivery vehicle breaking down close to the main gate entrance, in an area unauthorised for vehicles. This untimely incident could have potentially compromised public safety at that location. Ground management eventually managed to move the vehicle across the site to an area that was made safe by effective steward control and all entrance gates to the ground were promptly opened by 09.30 hours.
- 2.3. On entering the ground the visiting group were welcomed by Richard Mulcaster, Events and Safety Manager and Peter Fearon, Senior Fire Safety Steward. Peter Fearon escorted the group on a short tour which included the new hospitality development known as The Point, the temporary 'D' stand structure with a capacity of 8,500 and a view of the operations of the adjacent 'Fan Fare' area.
- 2.4. This was followed by a meeting in Washbrook House with Anthony Mundy, Director of Operations and Richard Mulcaster who provided an overview of the venues safety to the party. In particular, feedback was provided on the safety evaluation for the previous two days play which can be summarised as follows:
 - Improved circulation for spectators along the passageway at the rear of the Red Rose Building due to the erection of temporary fencing on the footpath along Brian Statham Way. This was viewed to be successful.
 - Requirement to ensure a daily brief is given to stewards who may not be familiar with the ground to re-enforce stewarding knowledge.

- Minimal behavioural problems resulting in very few arrests, ejections or ticket touting issues.
- Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions provided by former test cricketers Mike Gatting and Shane Warne proved to be very popular resulting in a 'pinch point' in the circulation area close to the VIP entrance – the problem was later resolved by moving the sessions close to the VIP marquee.
- Minimal delays on entry to the ground by increasing stewarding and signage to facilitate spectator flow - waiting times were restricted to no more than 10 minutes with all spectators within the ground by 11.10 am.

2.5. Following this was a full tour of the stadium provided by Peter Fearon, reviewing the operational issues of a 'full house' event. A forecast capacity attendance being 25,477 for the match, with all stands, including the temporary seating structures occupied.

The group considered the following matters during the tour:

- operation of stewarding and their management, particularly concerning access, egress, congestion points and toilets. Stewarding of the bar areas to provide efficient customer service and the control of spectators in the temporary stands 'between overs' was observed to be most effective.
- the location and assistance for disabled patrons.
- medical and first aid arrangements – medical staff advised no serious accidents with the main incidents being related to sun cream affecting patients eyes and insect stings.
- food concession arrangements and litter management.
- functioning of the temporary seating structures – observed the provision of excellent 'sight lines' and suitable and sufficient gangways and access arrangements.
- Marketing of hotel rooms in The Point which had been converted to be utilised as Corporate Boxes.

The tour of the ground concluded with a visit to the new Players Media Building including the Event Control Room and a review of the arrangements for policing and management control.

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

