

MINUTES OF THE MET POLICE FOOTBALL IAG HELD ON 4TH JANUARY 2024 AT STAMFORD BRIDGE

PRESENT Tim Hillyer (AFCW)(ACTING CHAIR) Margaret Wittich (CFC) Sue Couch (FFC) Ian Clarke (FFC) Cliff Auger (CFC) Stephen Cavalier (THFC) Nigel Kleinfeld (CAFC) Keren Harrison (LOFC) Rachel Major (AFC) Rachel McFetridge (WHUFC) Dave Minkley (BFC) Paul Hay (CFC) Vicki Goodfellow (FSA) Simon Brooker (Met Police) Pete Dearden (Met Police) Lee Sparks (Met Police) Ramesh Counter terrorism

APOLOGIES Sue Maisey (CPFC) Kevin Hind (WHUFC) Dave Lane (MFC) Iain Jones (Met Police)

A gentle reminder, if you are unable to attend please let us know and also give us any thoughts that you have on the agenda items.

Green text not be shared widely blue text covered by official secrets act red text action to be taken

	Action
<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p> <p>Margaret began the meeting by announcing that Sue Watson had resigned from the position of Chair, for personal reasons. The group will now look to elect a new Chair. Tim Hillyer agreed to act as Chair for this meeting.</p> <p>Tim welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked Chelsea for their hospitality. He welcomed Ramesh from the Counter Terrorism group.</p> <p>It was Simon Brooker’s last meeting with the group before his retirement. He thanked everybody for their support. He said that he felt that the meeting had always been honest. He felt that this would continue with CI Pete Dearden, who is not new to the role of public order planning. He has a good knowledge of football too.</p> <p>Pete thanked the group for inviting him to attend the meeting. He stated that he has a commitment to carrying on with the group, with the help of Iain and Lee. He said that he has been in the police for 25 years and supports Blackburn Rovers. He added that he is blunt and honest!</p> <p>RAMESH FROM COUNTER TERRORISM PROTECTIVE SECURITY</p> <p>Ramesh described his role as a Counter Terrorism Security Adviser and explained how football fans can support the police. His presentation and answers to questions is in the Appendix to these Minutes.</p> <p>Tim thanked Ramesh for advising us as to how we can help.</p> <p>The meeting thanked Ramesh for his presentation.</p>	<p>MET to inform supporters when information is not covered under Official Secrets Act and items that are not to be shared widely.</p>

CATEGORISATION OF GAMES - THE MATRIX

Simon demonstrated to the meeting how the DFO fills in the risk assessment matrix, which determines the category of a game. It is the starting point for the police response to the game.

There is a meeting when the fixtures are first announced, in June. Each game is given an initial risk assessment. Then kick off times are considered. European fixtures are often considered to be high risk.

Categories in the matrix include teams, date, kick off, history between 2 clubs, away attendance.... each category is given a risk score by the DFO. Local derbies automatically get more points. Changes can be made according to kick off time. This kind of assessments are made at all levels in London. The away attendances is added and issues with transport is included. A large number of coaches expected would increase the risk. The DFO for the away team can add assessments too. The history of behaviour by, and between, each set of supporters is considered. Intelligence might be received closer to the game. This includes history between the two clubs but can be difficult when new clubs come into the division. Other factors to be considered could be demonstrations and fans marches. There is a comment box on the matrix where the DFO can add their justification for the score that they have given.

What do the scores mean?

- 0 - 30 CS club security considered safe
- 31- 45 low risk
- 46 - 60 medium risk
- 61+ high risk

Low risk means less police are needed.

High risk means riot gear

Dave M (BIAS) asked if the SAG have to take notice of the police assessment of a game? Simon said no. They put their case forward. Generally they challenge the 5:30 Saturday kick off for high risk games. He felt that progress is being made with the relationship between the Premier league and the TV companies and the police. The TV companies select the games that they want to show and then it goes to the SAG and the police. Cliff (CST) suggested that supporters need to be consulted too. Simon said that some SAGS have supporter representation on them. The police do not object to this but the SAGS are owned by the councils. Pete added that it is not statutory to have supporters representation. Keren (LOSC) asked if the matrix is sent to the way DFO? Simon responded that yes it is sent to the away DFO and the away police force. Keren spoke about a game in the past, between Leyton Orient and Oxford. As the game took place more than 6 years ago would the history between the two clubs be considered? She was advised to contact their DFO.

Rachel (AFC) asked about the Women's games and the difference in policing between The Emirates and smaller games. Simon said that, for the women's games, fewer officers were needed and there is a chance to engage with supporters. There is no requirement for police at the women's games.

Stephen (THST) asked if the police involvement stops once the TV fixtures are announced. Simon replied that challenges are made at the initial stage but this is not always 100% set in stone.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DEFERRED TO THE NEXT MEETING DUE TO THE MEETING OVERRUNNING

- Drugs initiative
- Violence against women

FACIAL RECOGNITION PROJECT

Simon reported that the operation at the Crystal Palace v Brighton game had not been successful. It had only taken place for an hour due to IT problems. There had been no challenges from supporters and no arrests. There were no false arrests. Next time it will be deployed in a different location. Simon said that there have been positive steps made and the project would continue.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Hay asked if any progress had been made in collating the data, submitted by supporters, re games in Europe? Simon said that supporters are treated differently in Europe. Pete said that our officers visit and observe at a venue to be visited by our supporters.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 14th March

VENUE Millwall

AGENDA ITEMS

Policing European games - home and away

Drugs initiative

Violence against women

Facial recognition

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