

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 FIRE SAFETY AND SAFETY OF PLACE OF SPORTS 1987. - NOTTS. COUNTY F.C. MEADOW LANE, NOTTINGHAM

1.0 SUMMARY

This report deals with the annual renewal of the General Safety Certificate for the Notts. County Football Club for the forthcoming 2002/2003 football season.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee renews the General Safety Certificate for the Notts County FC for the football season 2002/2003 with a maximum capacity of 19588 spectators as detailed in Appendix 1 and accepting the deviations as listed in Appendix 2.

3.0 REPORT

Notts. County F.C. are members of the Nationwide Football League and for the season 2002/2003 will play in Division 2 of that competition.

The Stadium is all seated accommodation with an agreed maximum capacity of 19588 but an actual total capacity of 20300. The reduced capacity has been determined having regard to evacuation limitations from sections of the Derek Pavis Stand and the reduction of 712 for that Stand has been agreed and accepted by the Club.

A resume of the main activities during the past 12 months associated with safety matters are as follows:

there were no ground developments that affected the recommended capacities of the stands,

there were three meetings of the Safety Advisory Group on 20 September 2001, 13 December 2001 and 11 April 2002 (Notes of these meetings are included as background papers),

two match day inspections were carried out on 19 January 2002 v Port Vale F.C attendance 6006 (872 away supporters), and 16 February 2002 v Stoke City F.C. attendance 7501 (3173 away supporters),

a contingency plan relating to emergency evacuation of the stadium was tested on Saturday 15 September prior to the match against Brentford F.C., and was held as part of the stewards ongoing training with the exercise being co-ordinated and overseen by Charles Millett, the stewards assessor.

stewards have now completed retraining in accordance with the six modules of the Safety Management at Football Grounds document following external verification completed, by Mr C Warne National Assessor.

the average attendance during the season for a first team home game was 5956, with 15618 (Huddersfield Town F.C.) being the highest and 3140 (Colchester Utd F.C.) being the lowest attendance. During the season a total of 136,987 spectators attended first team games and during the season there were 7 reported injuries/illnesses to spectators who were attended to by either the match day doctor, personnel of the St. Johns Ambulance or Ambulance service medics.

All recognised deviations to the recommendations of the 4th edition of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds are detailed in Appendix 2 and it is recommended that the Committee accept these deviations as they are not considered by the Safety Advisory Group to be of such a significance to jeopardise safety of spectators.

The Club and their Contractors are currently completing inspections of various structures, equipment and services in order to comply with requirement H21 of the General Safety Certificate which requires the annual submission of satisfactory certificates for a range of items. All certificates will be submitted as agreed by the Club to the City Council before the commencement of football fixtures at the ground including preseason friendly matches.

Renewal of the General Safety Certificate is supported by representatives of the Emergency Services and the Football Licensing Authority who are members on the Safety Advisory Group.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

The Stadium provides access and accommodation to enable spectators with mobility difficulties to be accommodated safely.

**JANE TODD
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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List of background papers other than
published works or those disclosing
confidential or exempt information

S. A.G Meeting Notes	20.09.01
	13.12.01
	11.04.02
Match Day Reports	19.01.02
(M.Nightingale)	16.02.02

Contingency Plan Evacuation Exercise 24.09.01(R.Davy Notts County Safety Officer)

NOTTS COUNTY FC**Ground Capacity Season 2001/2002**

Stand	Area	Capacities	
Jimmy Sirrell Stand			5775
Family Stand	Seating	2139	
	Boxes	144	2283
Kop Stand	Upper Tier	2025	
	Lower Tier	3413	5438
Derek Pavis Stand			6092
Total Ground Capacity			19588

Note: In an emergency evacuation situation only 6092 spectators could be expected to evacuate the Derek Pavis Stand in the specified 8 minutes using the exit routes available. This is 712 less than the capacity limit of the stand. On the 12th January 1999 the club, therefore, agreed not to exceed 6092 spectators as a result of the recalculation exercise for the short-term until the situation can be resolved satisfactorily, this is still the current situation.

AT/LB. 14126a

APPENDIX 2

DEVIATIONS FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE GREEN GUIDE - (4TH EDITION)

Deviations	Green Guide	Remarks
1 Pavis Stand exit from Block D/E 1.90m high	Para 5.5 (a) recommends a minimum headroom of 2m	Critical only under existing structural beam
2 Pavis Stand exit from Directors Box 1.87m high	Para 5.5 (a) recommends a minimum headroom of 2m.	Critical only under existing structural beam
3 The metal constructed upper section of the stairway exiting the Kop stand towards Final Exit Gate D has open risers	Para 7.3 (c) recommends that open risers should not be used on stairways	This stairway is only used as a downward route for exiting and as such the open risers are not a safety consideration
4 Final Exit Gate F and perimeter gates 10 & 17 are not capable of opening opened inwards when used.	Para 9.15 (a) recommends that all exit doors and gates should be capable of opening outwards so that crowds can escape in an emergency without obstruction	All three gates are staffed at all times and will be opened by a steward before spectators are directed to evacuate along the route. Also when the gates are opened in an inward position they do not create an obstruction.
5 In the Pavis Stand the steps in the radial gangway risers from row D and up are 220mm.	Para 11.9 (b) recommends the risers of steps in radial gangways should not be more than 190mm and should also be uniform.	The compensatory factor (handrail) was only required at the higher levels of the stand as the installation of additional handrails would adversely effect lateral movement in the event of the adjacent vomitory being obstructed

Deviations	Green Guide	Remarks
<p>6. All steps within radial gangways of all four stands have both the tread and riser painted a conspicuous yellow.</p>	<p>Para 11.9 (d) recommends that nosings of steps in radial gangways should be clearly identified</p>	<p>Para. 145 of the 3rd edition of the Green Guide required that radial gangways should be painted with a non-slip paint in a conspicuous colour. This the Club did on construction of the stands. To meet the requirements of the 4th edition it is agreed that as the paint-work of the tread sections wear only the nosings, edgings, risers and landings be painted as necessary</p>
<p>7 Catering outlet roller shutters are not operated by fusible link. Concerns raised regarding the possibility of smoke build up which could ventilate through the exits from the seating above.</p>	<p>Para 15.10 (h) recommends catering outlets containing deep fat fryers or hot food cooking facilities should be separated from other internal areas or spectator accommodation where roller shutters are used these should be capable of operating both manually and by fusible link.</p>	<p>Due to the configuration and layout of the catering outlets, fusible links could result in entrapment of staff/spectators and therefore, the compensatory factors currently in place are adequate. Location of food bars are adjacent to open air. In the event of a fire, smoke would vent to fresh air and would not rapidly fill the rear corridor or vent via the vomitories into the stand.</p>