

15 March 2004

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CITY DEVELOPMENT
in respect of

Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975
Fire Safety and Safety of Sports 1987 Pt 3
Regulated 'Grandstand', Nottingham Racecourse, Colwick Park, Nottingham

1.0 SUMMARY

This report deals with the review of the General Safety Certificate of the regulated 'Grandstand' at Nottingham Racecourse which is required to be reviewed every 4 years.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) reviews the General Safety Certificate for the Grandstand of Nottingham Racecourse in accordance with the requirements of the above legislation and permits a maximum capacity of 2100 spectators for the purpose of watching horse racing and
- b) reviews the Certificate again in March 2008 and in the intervening period, Committee Members make annual visits to the premises during July each year, along with representatives of the Emergency Services.

3.0 BACKGROUND

On 1st April 1998, when Nottingham City Council became a Unitary Authority, the responsibility for issuing, reviewing and replacing Safety Certificates for appropriate sporting venues was transferred from Nottinghamshire County Council. The Grandstand at Nottingham Racecourse is defined as a regulated stand requiring a Safety Certificate to enable spectators to watch horse racing. The original Certificate was issued by the City Council in August 1999 and in November 2001 the Licensing Committee agreed that the Certificate be reviewed in March 2004 rather than August 2003 so as to coincide with the commencement of the flat horse racing season.

4.0 PROPOSALS

The General Safety Certificate for the Grandstand requires the 'holder', Mrs Nina Coverley (Racecourse Manager) to retain control over the whole and each part of the venue and to take all necessary precautions for the reasonable safety of spectators admitted to the regulated stand.

Details of the safety arrangements, precautions and management are specified in the schedules of the Certificate and are as follows:

Schedule A	Definitions
B	Staff and Crowd Control
C	First Aid and Medical Facilities
D	Buildings, Structures, Installation
E	Fire Safety
F	Testing and Inspection by the Holder
G	Records and Certificates

In addition to the above detailed schedules, the Certificate also contains appendices which relate to:

- Deviations to the 'green guide'
- Permitted number of spectators
- Specified activities
- Drawings
- Contingency plans, fire risk assessments and general risk assessments

With particular reference to the deviations to the green guide (4th Edition of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds), there are two which relate to the height of the risers and the height of a parapet within the Grandstand. Both are considered to be so inconsequential as these deviations will not impair the safe ingress or egress of spectators.

Horse racing takes place at Nottingham Racecourse between the months of March and November and for the forthcoming year there are an intended 21 meetings, which will include 4 evening meetings. During the past 4 years, site visits to the racecourse have revealed high standards of safety management and stewarding, not just of the regulated stand but of all public areas. In addition each 'season' has seen improvements and additions to facilities for race goers, coupled with high standards of maintenance and housekeeping. During July, Committee Members along with representatives of the Emergency Services and Council Officers have visited the premises as part of their programme of annual inspection of certificated sports' venues.

Prior to the commencement of the horse racing season, all staff attend a full day's safety (re)training at the racecourse and on race days, a Safety Officer is always in attendance to manage all aspects of public safety, and is directly responsible to the Racecourse Manager.

5.0 LEGISLATION

The legislation requires a review of the General Safety Certificate for regulated stands every 4 years and unless the Committee approves the use of the Grandstand for a maximum permitted number of 2100 spectators, the facility at the racecourse cannot be used for spectating purposes.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Whilst the grandstand is terraced in construction and has limited access for persons with mobility limitations, the racecourse management has compensated for this by providing an accessible, raised, dedicated viewing area next to the finishing post providing excellent views of the racecourse as well as lift access within the Grandstand to access viewing areas within bars and restaurants.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

8.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The Racecourse has developed a number of contingency plans which cover such topics as 'Control of Beverages/Alcohol in Stand', 'Control of Theft/Robbery', 'Bomb Threats/Alerts', and these are included in the Appendices to the Certificate.

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AT/jw278
March 2004