

**FINAL** Minutes

SSAG Meeting held on Friday 1 March 2024 @ 11am  
at the London Stadium

<b>Attendees:</b>	Sheila Roberts (SRO)	LBN – Licensing and Regulatory Services - Chair
	[REDACTED]	LBN – Licensing and Regulatory Services – minutes
	Leah Pratten	LBN – Licensing and Regulatory Services
	Edward King	LBN - Licensing and Regulatory Services
	Judith Bowdler	ABBA Voyager
	Nicole Schulak	British Transport Police
	Pip Thomas	LLDC
	Tony Tolley	LLDC
	Darren Raczkowski	London Stadium 185 Limited
	Jason Eglash	London Stadium 185 Limited
	Vanessa Ferreira	London Stadium 185 Limited
	Andy Fraser	London Stadium 185 Limited
	Malcolm Gillespie	Metropolitan Police Services
	Andy Sheldon	Metropolitan Police Services
	Ann Ramage	Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA)
	Stuart Phillips	South Eastern Rail
	Gary Ashe	Transport for London
	Darryl Morgan	West Ham United Football Club
	Nicola Keye	West Ham United Football Club
	Rob McIntosh	University College London
	Alison Stuart	Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield

MINUTES	ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	Action
1 Aug 23	<b>Persistent standing in lowers &amp; banning update</b> LS185 informed members they are reviewing the whole process, from banning, enforcement and messaging to develop a concise and overarching strategy to deal with the issue. WHUFC will look to support and work with the Stadium on implementing changes.	Ongoing
5 Sept 23	<u>Update on Persistent standing in lowers &amp; banning update</u> Ongoing discussions between LS185, WHUFC and the SGSA reviewing mitigation actions for persistent standing in the lowers.	
1 March 24	<b>Further update:</b> Banning order scheduled to be shared with LBN. WHUFC announce ban stats twice yearly to fans. There is positive narrative around the bans and reasoning for issuing them.	
20 Oct 23	<b>Ingress / egress / road closures</b> No formal process for vehicles parked in the bus lane during road closures. EK to follow up with LBN Highways.	
5 Jan 24	<u>Update</u> Issues have been raised with LBN and Highways and currently going through the legal process - work in progress.	

AGENDA ITEMS	Actions												
<p><b>1. Introductions and apologies</b></p> <p>Meeting convened and apologies received from: Bes Yemane (Stratford Cross), Catherine Wattle (MPS), Chris Betts (URW), Christopher May (LFB), Howard Clark (Sadler’s Wells), Jim Jordan (LBN), Thomas Bleach (MTREL), Sara-Ellen Williams (LLDC)</p>													
<p><b>2. Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes from the last meeting held on 5 January 2024 agreed.</p>													
<p><b>3. Strategic learnings and actions</b></p> <table border="0" data-bbox="108 792 863 943"> <tr> <td>07 Jan 24</td> <td>WH vs Bristol City (FA Cup)</td> <td>KO: 2pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Feb 24</td> <td>WH vs Bournemouth</td> <td>KO: 7.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 Feb 24</td> <td>WH vs Arsenal</td> <td>KO: 2pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26 Feb 24</td> <td>WH vs Brentford</td> <td>KO: 8pm</td> </tr> </table> <p>Overview of the above four fixtures shared. 200,486 attendees across the games with 103 ejections, which included 82 away fans in the home ends at the Arsenal game.</p> <p>Close collaboration between LS185, MPS and WHUFC for each fixture, reviewing and risk assessing based on intelligence and bans. This operation and early intervention ahead of each game works effectively. Licensing Authority acknowledged that the proactive prevention work behind the scenes is invaluable and takes pressure off the police and other resources.</p> <p>There is clear and concise briefing at each game reminding stewards that alcohol must not be permitted off Stadium island to ensure compliance of the licensing objective. MPS recommend an addition of a loud speaker on egress reminding fans.</p> <p>No major issues noted from police and partners on the above fixtures.</p>	07 Jan 24	WH vs Bristol City (FA Cup)	KO: 2pm	1 Feb 24	WH vs Bournemouth	KO: 7.30pm	11 Feb 24	WH vs Arsenal	KO: 2pm	26 Feb 24	WH vs Brentford	KO: 8pm	
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<p><b>4. Upcoming fixtures</b></p> <p>Police shared their risk categorisation for all upcoming fixtures.</p> <p><u>WH vs Burnley</u> No concerns BAU fixture.</p> <p><u>WH vs SC Freiburg</u> TFL announced ongoing issues with reduced central line times, which will have an impact on fixtures. UCL added that weekday fixtures affect access for disabled students. MPS reviewing ingress route for away fans.</p> <p><u>WH vs Aston Villa</u> No concerns or issues noted.</p> <p><u>WH vs Tottenham</u> Resourcing and planning according to police categorisation and risk.</p>													

<p><u>WH vs Fulham</u> No concerns, BAU fixture.</p> <p><u>WH vs Liverpool</u> Fixture being reviewed, no immediate intelligence.</p> <p><u>WH vs Luton</u> Categorisation shared and still under review.</p> <p>Ticket touting has reduced and there is ongoing discussions on ticketing procedures for all fixtures.</p>	
<p><b>5. Persistent standing update</b></p> <p>There is ongoing proactive and positive work between LS185 and West Ham Football Club. Improved pre-match comms in place with on screen messaging on match days. Persistent standing short video is under development for socials, showing experience of standers and the effect on disabled, children’s viewing and those unable to stand for long periods as part of a preventative strategy.</p> <p>WHUFC added that the lower bowl migration and gangways is all under control. Home uppers reviewed and there are enhanced control measures in place. SGSA will be working closely with LS185 on reviewing persistent standing. This is an ongoing work in progress.</p> <p><b>SGSA requested sight of all ongoing works/notes on persistent standing and added that it will need reviewing across the season.</b></p>	<p><b>LS185</b></p>
<p><b>6. SGSA update</b></p> <p>SGSA are carrying out the Stadium ground assessment today (1 March 2024). AR (SGSA) will be attending the UEL fixture on the 14 March for a match day inspection. <b>AR to be invited to all pre match meetings.</b></p> <p>SIA sports ground inspection is underway.</p> <p>Giles Smith appointed as the new CEO for the SGSA and will be in place in May 2024.</p>	<p><b>LS185</b></p>
<p><b>7. UEFA progress</b></p> <p>WHUFC have had discussions with UEFA and shared their concerns in relation to away fan allocation in the home section requesting a review with support of the police, SGSA and Licensing Authority.</p>	
<p><b>8. Safety related issues raised by fan groups</b></p> <p>New West Ham United Fan Liaison will start on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and fan group meetings will commence following the appointment.</p>	
<p><b>9. Any other football safety related business</b></p> <p>MPS thanked LS185 and WHUFC for their involvement with the violence against women and girls (VAWG) initiative at the Brentford game which was a success.</p>	

**10. Date of next Football SAG**

Friday 5 July 2024 – end of season review.