

**Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 (As Amended)
Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sports Act 1987
Tranmere Rovers F.C., Prenton Park, Birkenhead**

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to record the present position and advise members of matters relating to safety aspects and spectator provision at Prenton Park.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 During the 2000/2001 Season my Building Control officers carried out a total of 1 pre season inspection, 12 pre match inspections and 12 inspections during matches. The ongoing safety of spectators was closely monitored throughout this period with particular regard to stewarding arrangements and crowd control when it was noted that all arrangements worked well throughout the ground.
- 2.2 Changes in the way the ground was managed were introduced during the 2000/2001 Season to allow for visiting supporters to be accommodated in the Cowshed Stand instead of the Kop Stand. The arrangement has worked extremely well despite early fears that queues of visiting supporters could cause problems at the busy junction of Borough Road and Prenton Road West. Efficient policing and stewarding arrangements outside of the ground have ensured a minimum of problems in this area.
- 2.3 During the recent closed season the opportunity was taken to carry out a general review of the Safety Certificate and as a consequence amendments were made to ensure that the Certificate reflected all current standards. The main amendments were to reflect the increased office accommodation under the Main Stand and installation of additional fire detectors within the Main Stand voids.
- 2.4 During the 200/2001 season one Special Certificate was issued for a Firework Display on the 5th November 2000 and two temporary amendments were issued to allow for the use of additional advertising boards around the pitch perimeter and the provision of a temporary Press Room under the Main Stand. The temporary amendments were for one game only and worked satisfactorily.
- 2.5 Overall the ground has been maintained in good condition and management have co-operated fully with my Building Control Officers.

During the past two seasons a number of safety issues were to be tackled by the Tranmere Management in accordance with an Agreed Phased Action Plan and I am pleased to report that the undermentioned works are now completed.

- (i) Lightning protection now provided to all lighting towers.
- (ii) Emergency lighting systems in the Cowshed, Kop and Borough Road Stands have been upgraded and supplemented by additional lighting units.
- (iii) New battery power supply has been provided to the emergency lighting system in the old Stand and additional light units have been connected to the system within the seated areas.
- (iv) The fire alarm system has been extended to provide automatic fire detection within areas previously not covered.
- (v) Upgraded turnstyle monitoring equipment has been installed.
- (vi) Treatment of steelwork throughout the ground floor of the Main Stand with a fire retardant paint system.
- (vii) The public address system has been upgraded to provide effective communication to spectators outside of the ground.

3.0 Financial and Staffing Implications

- 3.1 An annual charge is made to Tranmere Rovers Football Club in connection with works associated with the Safety Certificate.

4.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 4.1 Unfortunately even though an induction loop and headphones have been installed for use by partially sighted persons to listen to the game, it has still not been possible to use the system as Tranmere has not been able to arrange for a replacement commentator following the decision by Hospital Radio to discontinue the service. Tranmere's management are still actively pursuing this matter.

5.0 Human Rights Implications

- 5.1 As a consequence of the Human Rights Act, Local Authorities and other Public Bodies will need to ensure that their decisions and procedures do not infringe convention rights. In some circumstances, Local Authorities will need to act positively to protect these rights.
- 5.2 The participation of the Building Control Service in the Council's corporate 'Enforcement Concordat' will ensure equity and fairness in the application of the Authority's responsibilities.

6.0 Local Agenda 21 Implications

- 6.1 There are no Environmental Implications envisaged.

7.0 Community Safety Implication

7.1 The Building Control Service will continue to contribute as its top priority to the provision of the highest standards of safety for the public.

8.0 Planning Implications

8.1 There are no planning implications.

9.0 Local Member Support Implications

9.1 Tranmere Rovers Football Club is located in Egerton Ward.

10.0 Background Papers

10.1 The following background papers have been used in the preparation of this Report.

- (i) Building Control Safety of Sports Ground files
- (ii) The General Safety Certificate for Prenton Park (as amended 2000).
- (iii) Current 'Guide to Safety in Sports Grounds'.
- (iv) Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 (As amended).

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 That the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Planning & Economic Development be noted.

This report was prepared by Dave Jones who can be contacted on 691-8169.

