



Blackpool Football Club Safety Advisory Group

Neil Diamond Concert

Meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2015

Present	Company
Michael Ashworth (chair)	Blackpool Council
David Snelson	Blackpool Council
Michelle Wilson	Blackpool Council
Tony Pinder	Blackpool Football Club
Steve Needham	Blackpool Football Club
Dan Cuffe	Cuffe and Taylor
Joe Robinson	Cuffe and Taylor
Shaun Foy	RSS Events
Laura Foy	RSS Events

		Action before	by	1
1.0	<u>Apologies</u>			
1.1	None			
2.0	Special Safety Certificate			
2.1	MA stated than an application must be submitted to the Council for a special safety certificate along with the event management plan. MA confirmed he would like this information as soon as possible.	Cuffe		
3.0	Public Protection Committee			
3.1	The next sitting is the 17 th March and MA confirmed that he would like to get approval at this meeting. The most important aspect is the capacity, DC confirmed that the capacity of 19983 gained at the Rod Stewart concert would be ample.	RSS/Cut	ffe	

4.0	Structural Issues-Stage on North Stand	
4.1	MA queried the position of the stage and the specified stage company. DC stated that the stage will no longer be erected off the North stand but on the pitch perimeter and partially on the pitch. The company erecting this are Starr Events, full details to follow.	RSS/Cuffe
5.0	Capacity	
5.1	MA queried whether the numbers on the pitch are to be the same as last time, RSS Events have a pitch plan which shows a different configuration than last time and approx. 1000 more seats on the pitch, although the overall capacity within the stadium would not exceed the Rod Stewart concert.	
5.2	The type of seating will be different with a tip up seat thereby allowing them to be closer together, details to follow. MA queried the number of seats in a row. It has been designed as 40, the green guide permits 28. This needs clarifying with calculation to show exit times are not adversely affected.	RSS/Cuffe
6.0	Event Management Plan	
6.1	SF stated that this is still early days however will endeavour to complete by the 6 th May.	RSS
	MA stated this needs supporting with medical and stewarding plans.	
	DC confirmed that he is looking to employ specialised pitch stewards to prevent the crowd from moving position. TP expressed concern that these will not come under the overall control of the safety team.	
	MA also queried whether the outside of the stadium will be used again for WC's and bars, it was confirmed that this would. MA stated that signage and communication to fans should be improved to reduce queues for female WC's.	
7.0	<u>Ticket Scanners</u>	
7.1	MA requested that this issue be resolved as soon as possible to prevent the issues that arose last time with fences to the turnstiles and consequently the lack of access around the stadium.	Cuffe

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8.0	Preliminary Emergency Service Comments	
	These comments were gained by MA regarding feedback from the Rod Stewart concert:	
	Police 1. The road closure on Seasiders was fine at the end, but the mass of people then went onto Lytham Road which was then swamped at the Bloomfield Rd / Lytham Rd junction. We need to consider how the rolling crowd will hit pinch points, especially if the initial road closure has caused it.	
	2. Whilst there were 2 parking enforcement officers on the car park the traffic management pre event was poor, and my officers had to step in to alert incoming traffic to using the car park at Yeadon Way / South railway station. Bloomfield car park opposite the venue was full by 4pm, but traffic was coming up to it and then trying to turn around, or out into the same, to then go south, this created a jammed section. There should have been either better signage or someone directing traffic into the two more southern car parks, especially as so many of the visitors were from out of town. Fortunately I found a yellow sign up at Foxhall and sent it down to the round-about. I also sent messages out via traffic link (radio) but what had the event organisers done to highlight the use of the southern car parks?	Cuffe/RSS
	3. The NHP style operation during the day and evening was clearly valuable as we saw/spoke with loads of people and got to put a very good crime prevention and visibility message out. We have to repeat it if such a big gig happens again.	
	NWAS The ambulance service confirmed that the first aid room was too small last time and requested bigger areas be provided. DC confirmed the the home/away dressing rooms could be utilised. FIRE AUTHORITY No comments to make	Cuffe/RSS
9.0	AOB	
9.1	MA queried the pitch covering as the Rod Stewart pitch was prone to lifting. DC confirmed he is using a different product, details to follow.	Cuffe
10.0	Date of next meeting	
10.1	TBA	
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Distribution:

All Advisory Group Members + attendees