

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: THE SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS - CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS, CLIFTONHILL STADIUM, COATBRIDGE
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 22 June 1998	Ref: CON/KM	

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1. The Council has, at a series of earlier meetings, adopted practices in relation to its responsibilities for the certification of "designated grounds" in North Lanarkshire and agreed to the establishment of a Safety of Sports Grounds Officers' Working Group representing a variety of disciplines which will assist the process of certification.
- 1.2. The Council has also agreed that a Programme of Annual Inspections be established and, over the past few months, Officers of the Working Group have carried out a series of inspections at Cliftonhill and have met with the representatives of the Club to discuss a number of issues relating to the general Safety Certificate for the Stadium.

2. **Current Position**

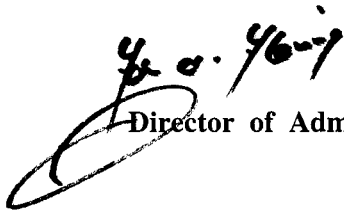
- 2.1. As a result of these inspections the undernoted issues have been identified which require attention. Details of these have been passed to the General Manager of the Club for his attention and a copy of his reply dated 7 May 1998 is attached to this report which addresses a number of these issues:-
  - 2.1.1. The gaps in the seating deck located at the West End of the Main Stand, which appear to be caused by woodworm, should be repaired in order to stop any litter or refuse accumulating in the void immediately below the seating deck. It is recommended that the full timber stand be examined by a competent person in order to ascertain the extent of damage caused by the woodworm and to check that the timber structure has not been materially weakened.
  - 2.1.2. The ground floor laundry should be separated from the remainder of the premises, by a non-combustible partition having a minimum fire resistance of one hour, imperforate and close fitting to the floors, walls and ceilings.
  - 2.1.3. All holes/gaps created by the recent repairs to the electrical system, between the void under the seating deck and the lower accommodation should be suitably infilled/repared, as necessary, using non-combustible material which provides a minimum fire resistance of half an hour. All service ducts, cables or pipework through walls, ceilings or floors must be adequately "fire stopped" using suitable non-combustible materials.

- 2.1.4. Both the external walkways leading from the north enclosure leading to East Stewart Street and the east end of the Main Stand leading to Main Street should be examined during the hours of darkness in order to ascertain if there is adequate “borrowed light” to assist evacuation from these areas, in the event of power failure. If there is insufficient “borrowed light” then these areas should be adequately covered by emergency lighting which is installed and maintained in accordance with BS 5266: Part 1: 1988. The aforementioned examination must be carried out prior to the restriction on the ground operating during the hours of darkness being withdrawn.
- 2.1.5. Roller Shutter Doors which are on the doorways (a) over the main entrance; (b) leading to the laundry, and (c) leading to the pitch should be secured by padlocks and in an open position when those parts of the premises are occupied.
- 2.1.6. The Safety Officer should be easily identifiable on match day e.g. wearing a tabard etc.
- 2.1.7. The existing Fire Warning System should be extended by the provision of (a) two break glass call points located at the final exit doors from the laundry and the home changing room; (b) additional smoke detectors located within the physiotherapy room and the void which is entered from the ground floor level. The additional detectors in the void are required because of electrical wiring and ancillary equipment in the void, and possible breaches in the fire resistance between the ground floor accommodation and the void. The Fire Alarm System should be tested during working hours to ensure that it is clearly perceptible throughout the premises, particularly in the laundry area. Additional alerting devices should be provided as necessary.
- 2.1.8. On match days the operational procedure for the PA System should ensure that any warning messages broadcast are clearly perceptible throughout the stadium.
- 2.1.9. Fire Routine Notices should be provided and situated adjacent to each break glass call point.
- 2.1.10. The door leading from the home changing room direct to fresh air which is fitted with a panic type fastening should have a notice indicating the method of operation -  
 e.g. “PUSH BAR TO OPEN” or “PUSH PAD” permanently displayed immediately above the fastening, white block capital letters minimum height 50 mm on a green background.  
 The fire exit should also be clearly indicated by an approved pictorial graphic symbol.
- 2.1.11. The condition of the structural steelwork in the North Stand continues to give cause for concern, mainly at the basis of all the columns which are badly corroded.
- 2.1.12. The existing floodlighting towers are badly corroded. These are now redundant and should be removed without delay.
- 2.1.13. In the Main South Enclosure, one barrier post has broken a concrete foundation and the post was removed. Remedial action should be undertaken.
- 2.1.14. Exposed electrical cables were evident in the North Enclosure of the Main Stand. These cables should be removed even if found to be redundant.

- 2.1.15. The roof steel work in the main stand is also showing signs of corrosion and is in need of repair.
- 2.1.16. An annual risk assessment of barriers, handrails and boundary walls is outstanding and should be carried out by a competent person and submitted to the Certifying Authority.
- 2.1.17. An annual risk assessment of fire safety is outstanding and should be carried out by a competent person and submitted to the Certifying Authority.
- 2.1.18. The Annual Certificate of Structural Adequacy is outstanding and should be submitted to the Certifying Authority.
- 2.1.19. It is noted that records are not maintained in relation to inspections and test on maintenance, defects and remedial action, stewarding etc. The process of recording should be initiated.

### 3. Recommendation

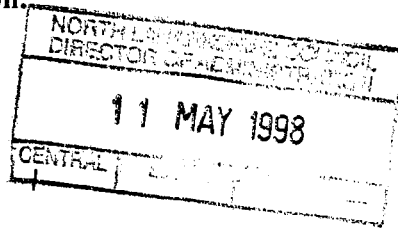
- 3.1. That the Sub-Committee hear verbal updates on these outstanding issues by the appropriate Officers and representations from the General Manager of Albion Rovers Football Club and considered the renewal of the General Safety Certificate.

  
Director of Administration

**Any Member requiring further information should contact Mrs. Claire O'Neil on extension 2208.**

7 May 1998.

Mr. T. Gaffney  
Department of Administration  
North Lanarkshire Council  
PO Box 14  
Civic Centre  
Motherwell ML1 1TW.



Dear Mr. Gaffney,  
Annual Inspection Report -1998.

I refer to your letter of 29 April 1998 relative to the above and have to advise you as follows viz:

Findings 1 - 5, 7, 14 - 22 will be addressed by the Board of Directors during the close season.

Findings 6, 8 - 13 have already been addressed.

In relation to Finding 24 I find this confusing since the records in question were inspected by Officers from the Working Group and were found to be in order.

Finding 16 is not specific in relation to which particular areas, apart from fire safety, require a risk assessment and I would be grateful for clarification on this point.

Finally, your letter advises that inspections (Findings 1 & 16) should be carried out by a competent person. Whilst the Green Guide refers to this person as someone with the appropriate skills and experience, when I sought advice from some members of the Working Group I was unable to obtain a definitive answer on the type of person who would meet this criteria. Consequently I would be grateful to receive advice on this matter to prevent the Club obtaining the services of an individual who does not meet the standards required by your Council.

I trust the foregoing will be of assistance and I will look forward to your clarification of the points raised.

Yours faithfully

John Reynolds  
General Manager  
for Albion Rovers F.C.

# ALBION

Football Club Ltd.



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