

Minutes of Meeting Between ATAC and SFA on 10/08/06 at 3.00 p.m. Hampden Park Glasgow

Present:

Tam Ferry (EASTA)	Tam Coyle (WESTA)	Freda Mathews (ASOW)
Stevie Rodger (KTA)	Simon Johnston (ETA)	Stevie Morris (TSTA)
David Taylor (SFA)	Derek Kirkwood (SFA)	Alison Jack (SFA)
Angela Forbes (SFA)	Colin Banks (SFA)	

1. Lithuania

Derek gave a full brief on what has been gleaned from speaking to his Lithuanian counterparts, The British Embassy and the police. He gave a handout of a map of the stadium.

Thanks to excellent work by Alison and Angela extra match tickets were secured giving a total of 3,400 for Scotland fans in Sections F and G (2,500 approx) behind the goals and in nearby Section E (800 approx).

Huge message from Derek is get there early. He couldn't stress this enough as the entrances are poor in terms of size. Match kick-off is 7.30 p.m. local time and it is hoped the ground will be open 3 hrs before kick off.

[Action: ATAC to spread the word]

ATAC asked if they knew rough split of those staying in Kaunas and those in Vilnius. Tam C suggested 80:20 which was agreed as a good guesstimate by the rest of ATAC.

Derek would like as much information as possible on how people are getting to and from Kaunas. Note the public transport stops well before the end of the game. (Ally from Longforgan TA is running some busses).

[Action: Tam F to supply as many details as are to hand to Derek]

Derek said the Lithuanians are really looking forward to our visit as our presence went down well with the locals the last time and the police praised the Tartan Army. Typical Eastern European reply to Derek's question to the Lithuanian police on how many officers will be on duty. The reply of "Sufficient!" raised a smile.

Alison will be in Kaunas NOT Vilnius on Tuesday and will have a temporary office at the ice rink adjacent to Section C of the stadium and will be there at the stadium from 4pm on the day of the match for the usual helpdesk.

Tickets & Travel guides will be out by Friday 25 September 2006.

Tickets are expected to be delivered to Glasgow Monday or Tuesday of next week and they will be issued with the usual SCC travel guide, which is always, appreciated by ATAC members. (Simon gave a contact to help Alison and Angela obtain information for future guides).

Tam Ferry put forward the embryonic idea of trying out some kind of fans embassy. David agreed this was a good idea.

[Action: Tam F to put forward a suggested format].

2. Ukraine

The venue will be the Olympic Stadium, Kiev Kick off time will be announced approx 15 Sept We do not know our allocation or ticket prices yet therefore will have to send out forms without this info (sorry!)...therefore will need blank cheques or a credit/debit card as guarantee.

It will also be a quick turnaround now with deadline approx 15 Sept so gather your details now and please don't add anyone who isn't a current member.

3. SFA/ATAC Relationship

David said communication/meetings/pre-meeting e-mails were all a good thing. He said the SFA are keen to hear what we say as customers and as football supporters and we are natural partners.

It is much easier to use this forum than to try to attempt with dealing with so many individuals.

4. New Scotland Strip

Colin said the new version can be ordered on-line soon it's a navy and gold version with the ATAC lobbied "Alba" on the back for the very first time. A success brought about from these meetings. The launch of the strip is 24/08/06.

5. The 60 day rule

SFA fully understand where ATAC are coming from with this and explained the position in relation to the Faroes game as ATAC members had criticised what had happened. ATAC felt it was unfair to Faroes fans, our own fans who have to travel from for example, Shetland, Holland and even Thailand to keep them in the dark for so long and of course because of the Robbie Williams Concert hotel beds in Glasgow were long sold out.

Tenders were put out to selected member clubs and only two clubs bid for the tender in namely, Celtic and Aberdeen. The SFA could not say any earlier for commercial reasons who had bid and who had not. A further issue was the change in fixture dates themselves. The closing date for tender was the end of April and a decision was made on 05/06/06 to make it Celtic Park for size of stadium basis more than anything else given the last Faroes match attracted 41,000. Murrayfield was not considered as it is not a football ground and the exits are not as good as the alternative sites (example was last night's Champions League Qualifier where Derek and Steve encountered problems).

ATAC were happy with the clarification and insight into the Tendering/Selection process, although ideally, we would have preferred the venue/City to be named earlier to assist with travel arrangements for both Faroese and Scotland fans. Naming of the venue is closely linked to ATAC's campaign for an extension to the "60 day" rule on naming stadia. ATAC are in discussions already with their English, Welsh and Irish counterparts with a view to drafting a letter to football's international governing bodies.

[Action: ATAC's work to continue]

6. Under 19s

Congratulations from ATAC on Scotland's team making it to the Final of the European Championship and qualifying for the World Cup in Canada. Tam C and Freda were at the final and said the lads done us proud.

David said there is a good chance we will also be one of the top seeds giving rise to playing in one of the better venues (Vancouver or Toronto perhaps)

7. Euro 2016 Bid?

England are possibly bidding for the 2018 World Cup and we have the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Politics will play a large part in any potential Euro 2016 bid as central Government hold the purse strings. Running a 2016 and 2018 campaign in tandem leads to issues. The Irish are keen on a joint bid. Overall it's too early to say so for the time being David was not optimistic about a possible bid at this stage.

The 2008 vote was very politically charged and Scotland needed to be voted into the top 3 and it didn't happen. The process David felt did not lend itself to success for us and "tactical" voting led to us losing out.

As well as finance, the numbers of compliant stadiums is still our problem particularly as stadiums of 30,000+ are being talked about as a possibility of being the minimum criteria for capacities towards the end of the decade for Champions League matches.

8. Away tickets

Confusion arose as ATAC thought that if home fans were charged a price to attend a match then the away fans should pay the same. This came about due to some ATAC members complaining that the Lithuanians surely won't be paying £20 for their seats.

The rule is not quite set that way. Instead as £20 was set as the price for us, then we in turn will now charge the Lithuanians the same at Hampden.

[Action: Alison to provide reference to Paragraph in Uefa rules affecting pricing]

Ammendment after meeting - Response from Alison:

I had been advised verbally from a ticket contact at FIFA of the point I made at the meeting. My understanding was that as long as there was a similar charge between the 2 nations when we travelled to a country and then we hosted that country this was acceptable.

I have sent a message to the Lithuanians asking what they are charging their home support.

It's been difficult tracking down paperwork but I managed to find a document entitled "Binding Safety and Security Instructions" 2004 on UEFA's website with nothing specific for the 2008 championships so it wasn't obvious ticket info would be lodged here!

Quote " Unless agreed otherwise the price of tickets for supporters of the visiting team must not exceed the price paid for tickets of a comparable category that are sold to supporters of

the home team"...which is a bit different to what I'd previously been advised....and I may need to make further checks with UEFA to ensure validity.

Now the Lithuanians will definitely state they've had to put in extra seating and policing arrangements due to the volume of travelling fans otherwise we wouldn't have received all the tickets but I'll let you know what the Lithuanians say re their own support and whether their price is "comparable".

Update 22nd August:

The Lithuania FA have responded to the ATAC's request through the SFA for ticket pricing information for home fans and have advised that the tickets are they've advised 100 lt(£20) & 150lt(£30)...same as us.

9. Availability in the shops of Scotland shirts

ATAC mentioned it is difficult to get hold of the shirts just now. Colin pointed out that this was because the new design will shortly be ready and retailers won't want to hold old stock.

Merchandise stalls will be set up outside and possibly inside Celtic Park for the Faroes game as well as some Scotland merchandise being available in the Celtic Shop outside the ground. The new kit can be ordered on-line from tomorrow on www.officialscotland.com. There is also a new away kit available from March 2007.

10. Points for away games

ATAC asked could SSC members be awarded points for games they go to where they are unsuccessful in a ticket ballot. Alison and Angela said no for the reason that it would become an administrative nightmare. The SSC membership now sits at 18,500 with 17,300 adults within this number. Imagine the mayhem if everyone applied for an away game and wanted points awarded for unsuccessful applications?

11. TA Exhibition at the Hampden Museum

Tam F asked how successful this had been. Did it add extra visitors?
[Action: Colin will find out]

12. Ticket Applications

Would member clubs please help Alison and Angela by checking member lists before sending them and by using just one payment method for group applications. It's been a headache for them for the recent applications.

13. Ticket outlets for non-SSC sales

Morrisons/Safeway agreement has ended but may be resurrected in some way. Instead the following will sell tickets:

- Hearts
- Hibs
- Dundee Utd
- Aberdeen
- Rangers
- Celtic

- Kilmarnock - *Kilmarnock did not become an outlet for this match but we hope to have them on board for the next match.*
- Hampden
- SECC

14. 2012 Olympics Team GB

SFA and ATAC agree it is a non-starter full stop and will work in unison on this issue.

Meeting closed at 16:35