



ASSOCIATION OF TARTAN ARMY CLUBS

Minutes from the meeting between the SFA/SSC and ATAC
Tuesday 4th September 2007 at Hampden Park, Glasgow

Attendees:-

SFA: George Peat (President), Gordon Smith (Chief Executive), Derek Kirkwood (Security Officer), Colin Banks (Commercial Manager), Alison Jack (Customer Services Manager), Siobhan ?? (Scotland Supporters Club)

ATAC: Tam Ferry [EASTA & SFA Coordinator], Hamish Husband [WESTA & Spokesman], Simon Johnston [ETA], Tam Coyle [WESTA], Freda Mathews [ASOW], John Kaylor [Perthshire TA], Jim Rowbotham [Kirkcaldy TA], Liam Brindle [WEBATA]

Welcome and overview of the Association of Tartan Army clubs:

Tam F opened the meeting, thanking the SFA for seeing ATAC at such short notice but it was felt that the issues surrounding the Ukraine match needed brought up early so we can identify if any lessons can be learned for the future safety of Scotland Fans.

Welcome and Introductions:

TF started by welcoming everyone and thanking them for taking time out of their schedule to have this meeting.

TF continued with an overview of who ATAC were and that ATAC represent 14 Tartan Army Clubs and their 1500 members.

ATAC have never and will never claimed to represent the "Tartan Army" however, we do recognise that any of the work we do will have a knock on effect to all of the Tartan Army

GS asked if there were any other groups or Associations. TF said there were not, although there has been an attempt to set up other groups in the past but they have not got off the ground.

ATAC are not a pressure group, and while the relationship between the SFA and ATAC is a mutually beneficial ideas and information exchange, there have been and will be disagreements.

TF went on to talk about ATAC evolving from tickets and travel to Fans Embassy and working with other international fans groups.

DK went on to praise ATAC for the work they do and said we have been a great help to him personally and the SFA in general and that we sometimes undersell our contributions.

Paris & Fans Embassy:

DK will pass on contact information for Steven Donnelly from the British consul.

All travel arrangements to Derek Kirkwood.

Tartan Special Train - Will be escorted by British Transport police and French police.

There will be no drink allowed on the train.

There will be a fair amount of focus on this trip so please remember you are representing the country.

March - No permit has been requested therefore the Police can stop this at any time.

If this is the case, again please remember you are representing the country and just make your way to the ground.

There are bus passes available for buses on Avenue Gordon Bennet (seriously that's the name!).

Any clubs taking buses contact TF as soon as possible and will arrange for bus pass.

There will be a Fanzone underneath the Eiffel Tower as part of the Rugby world cup, all Scotland fans are welcome.

Paris is on a high state of alert to the possibility of terrorist attacks, so watch you.

Be vigilant.

Stadium: Scotland fans will be in Sections E and F and these sections are well serviced for food etc.



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Get to the stadium early.

Video of the route is now on the www.ScotlandSupportersClub.com website.

Alison and Siobhan will be at the stadium for ticket enquiries from 7pm.

Gates will open at 7pm.

There have been 8000 internet sales for the match according to the French FA but with tickets limited to 6 seats together, there are no problems anticipated.

DK will be bringing additional Police and stewards to assist him at this match.

[Action: Fans Embassy reps] Any Ticket issues directed to SSC office in the Stadium or Alison Jack.

Whyte and Mackay:

The Whyte and Mackay sponsorship of the Scotland Supporters club runs till summer 2008 although there is a renewal clause from Jan 2008.

National Anthem:

GP explained what happened when asked about FoS as he was getting up from a news conference and all he said was, "when it's sung at Hampden its great, when it's sung away from home it's a dirge".

GS asked round the table the opinion on FoS and everyone agreed it was the Fans choice and wanted it to stay. SFA offered to take Ronnie Brown to Paris to sing FoS but the French FA declined. It is customary for the home FA to source the Anthem or singer.

Ronnie will be singing FoS on Saturday.

TF mentioned that sometimes the crowd didn't know the order of the verses before hand;

Verses 1, 2, 3 or Verses 1, 3, 1.

CB stated that the lyrics will be in the programme and on the big screen and it will be V1, 3, 1.

Halftime entertainment - normal service will be resumed after the unsuccessful experiment with the drummers.

Loch Lomond here we come.

Booing opposition Anthem:

GS wanted to raise the issue with Scotland Fans booing the opposition National Anthem.

This gives the wrong impression of the friendly Scotland fans.

GS asked that we get the message out to respect our opposition and preserve our great reputation.

Team GB Olympic Football Team:

TF updated everyone on the fans campaign for No Team GB and the www.NoTeamGB.com website. All 4 home nations fans groups, ATAC (Scotland), FSF (England), FSF Cymru (Wales) and AONISC (northern Ireland) are against entering a Team in the Olympics as this poses a real risk to the survival of the independent FA's and out Football Teams.

GS admitted that before he took over as SFA Chief Executive, he wasn't that bothered about the Olympic football, its was only a wee tournament and it was under 23.

However, since taking his new role he has found about more about the historical reasons for the Independent associations, the politics behind it all and the possible implications of entering.

The board of the SFA are unanimously against participation in a Team GB football team at the Olympics.

This was wholeheartedly backed by ATAC.

Euro 2016:

TF asked if bidding for Euro 2016 was a possibility and GS said that they had not ruled out making a bid, but didn't have any more information at the moment.

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Homeless World Cup Winners:

Scotland won the Homeless World cup and TC asked if the SFA were considering recognising this fantastic achievement.

GS said the SFA were trying to get in contact with the organisers of the team to try and get them together on Saturday to be paraded at Hampden.

SFA/ATAC relationship and moving forward:

TF stated that the SFA/ATAC relationship had worked very well over the last 7 years and hoped this could continue and grow over the coming years.

GS said that he sees ATAC along the same lines as Football Trusts and is very keen for the dialogue to continue. GS is keen to attend the quarterly SFA/ATAC meetings if available.

CB will look at including ATAC/Fans Embassy information in the Programmes.

[Action: TF] Send CB info and contacts on clubs

Club information will appear on the new SSC website due to be launched early next year.

Feedback on Austria and Faroes tickets:

There were minimal non-pickups of tickets for both these matches.

Tbilisi information:

DK briefed us on his recent trip to Georgia.

Tbilisi is a 20 minute taxi ride from the Airport.

You should only get in official Licensed Taxis.

5 Georgian Lari (£2) will get you anywhere in Tbilisi and the Taxi driver will still think he is ripping you off!

There is no specific intelligence on hooligans but there is the potential for some kind of incidents as in Kiev as groups may use this event as a way to get back and embarrass the government.

As with Paris, there is a high state of alert to Terrorist attacks but there may be indiscriminant attacks on tourists with the potential for violent crime.

Normal commons sense applies here, stay together, don't wander about on your own, be wary of wandering off the beaten track, and in particular AVOID the VAKE and SABARTALO areas of Tbilisi.

Kidnapping of westerners does happen in Georgia.

Lifting of the kilt is EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE to Georgians and is an arrest able offence, and you do NOT want to end up in a Georgian prison.

Georgians are a very religious people so again please respect your hosts.

If that's not enough, there was a major earthquake in downtown Tbilisi in 2002!

Due to a large BP base, there are anything up to 2000 UK citizens trying to get through from BAKU for the match. They will not be seated in the same area as the Scotland fans but most likely in the next section.

One of the main squares is the Freedom Square which is a tourist area and well policed.

The consul is nearby.

The pedestrian areas of the old town are excellent and Georgians believe that "good hospitality is a gift from God"

The Georgian hospitality is superb and DK believes that the TA will have a fantastic time in Tbilisi.

The Hanger Bar might be a suitable venue for the Fans Embassy.

Medical facilities however are very poor.

The Stadium is a 55K seater and is 3/4 covered.

It is only recently refurbished and is in excellent condition with great facilities.

Scotland fans will go through their own gate which is segregated.



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Fans will then be met by English speaking students who will direct fans to the correct area up the stairs.

[Action: DK] Pass on contact details to Tam Ferry for Karen Morgan of the British consul.

Tickets for Georgia and Italy:

Forms for the Georgia and Italy matches will be out soon.

Deadlines are 19th Sept for Georgia and 1st Oct for Italy matches.

No price for Georgia yet (so will be a blank cheque) and Italy will be frozen at same price as Lithuania/Ukraine matches.

SSC apologise for the short turnaround.

Special delivery is now £5 and normal delivery is now £1.

Tickets for groups can also be picked up at Hampden, just write this on a cover letter.

SSC members will be able to apply for 2 tickets for Italy. It is expected that based on the average of 1.5 per member, we should be able to allocate 2 to all who apply, however if in the event this rises and we cannot meet demand we would have to restrict a proportion to 1.

SSC in 2008:

CB admitted the Web and ticketing systems not as robust as they need to be and the France information was placed on the website with the best intentions to save all the phone calls.

Website and ticketing will be revamped and SSC are working closely with the SECC ticketing division for a new website and new ticketing system.

There will be a revamp of the SSC website in 2008 and more information for home matches as well.

There will be an online questionnaire on the SSC coming out before Christmas.

There were 36000 tickets presold to SSC members for the Lithuania matches and CB stated he would be delighted if every ticket was presold and there was no need for a public sale.

There is no legal requirement to keep back tickets for the general public.

Take up of tickets is sitting around 1.5 per SSC member therefore no need to impose 1 ticket only for Italy match.

Italy will still be 2 tickets per SSC membership.

Family memberships are being looked at for 2008

Season tickets also being looked at with the possibility of Group/Individual season tickets.

Home and Away games are looked at separately and the SSC are looking at options to reward the loyalty of fans who attend every Home match.

Loyalty may be both length of time in the STC/SSC or number of games.

Affinity Card:

SFA's partner sponsor Nationwide hold the rights to an Affinity (Credit) Card but as yet, its not something Nationwide want to consider at the moment.

South Africa Away match:

There is the option of a return match against South Africa in the future.

There is no date or venue at the moment.

Commercial:

Overseas fans will be able to see all 3 remaining home games live on the internet for a one off fee of £4.99.

UK fans can pay £3.99 for delayed coverage and archive matches and interviews.

See www.ScotlandSupportersClub.com for more information.

Buses to Paris:

DK asked for info on travel of buses to be sent to him by Friday.

[Action: All Clubs] forward bus info to TF for passing on to DK.