

May 2012

Sports Ground Safety Authority – Reappointment of Board Members

Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport and the Olympics, has reappointed Dr Pauleen Lane, Peter Rowley, Ronald Wilkie, and Derek Wilson as Board Members of the Sports Ground Safety Authority, for one year commencing 13 July 2012.

Biographical details

Dr Pauleen Lane CBE FICE FRSA

Dr Lane is a civil engineer by training with a first from Manchester University, a PhD in numerical modelling and an MBA (Open). She is now the Group Manager for National Infrastructure with the Planning Inspectorate and a part-time lecturer at the University of Manchester joint engineering school.

She was previously an elected member of Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council and served on a number of Local Government Association bodies. She has been a Non-Executive Director of English Partnerships, the North West Development Agency, the Coal Authority and the Tenant Services Authority. She is currently a board member of the Liverpool Women's Hospital Foundation Trust, and is the specialist engineering trustee and a board member of the Theatres Trust (both unremunerated). She was awarded CBE in 2005 for services to local government and was recently elected a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Peter Rowley

Peter Rowley retired as a director and Chief Executive of Darlington Building Society in 2009 and is now an advisor to public, private, charitable and not for profit sector organisations. Previously Chairman of Sport England North-East he is the Regional Champion for Community Sport in the North East, an independent member of UK Sport's Audit Committee, a lay member of the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, a director of Coachwise Ltd., (the trading subsidiary of sports coach UK) and a trustee of the British Sports Trust which trades as Sports Leaders UK and Tees Valley Community Foundation. He is a board member of Sport England, to which he dedicates approximately 2 days per month and receives £218 per day in return. He holds no other public appointments.

Ronnie Wilkie LVO

Mr Wilkie is a Main Board Director and the Operations Director of Ascot Racecourse and has been involved in all aspects of the redevelopment, certification and operation of the site. After beginning his career in the British Army, Mr Wilkie was Group Administration Manager for Erskine House Group plc (1986-88), and then held various Director roles within the consultancy firm Booz Allen & Hamilton, until switching to his Ascot role in 2002. He holds no other public appointments. He is Chairman of Born Free USA and Secretary of the Army Benevolent Fund in Herefordshire. He is a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order and a Serving Brother of St. John.

Derek Wilson

Mr Wilson is a practising architect. He was a Principal of HOK Sport until 2006, and was previously a Director of Lobb Sports Architecture. He has specialised in stadium design and sports event masterplanning (including London Olympic Park) for 20 years. He was Head of Design and Overlay for the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG), and now runs his own practice. He holds no other public appointments.

Background

The Sports Grounds Safety Authority was established to build on the success of the Football Licensing Authority, an independent public body set up under the Football Spectators Act 1989, and the critical role it played in transforming spectator safety at football grounds in the UK over the last 20 years. As the SGSA, its aim is to expand its advisory functions in relation to other sports and internationally. Its mission is to ensure that all spectators are able to attend sports grounds in safety, comfort and security.

Board Members are appointed by the Secretary of State, and the process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Board members receive £255 per day worked, on the basis that they will devote approximately one day per month to the task.

All public appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for defined political activity in the last five years to be made public. Dr Lane was a Local Councillor in Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council until 2011 and has been its Mayor, and has held office at the local branch of the Labour Party. Mr Rowley, Mr Wilkie and Mr Wilson have each declared no political activity.