The Project: Villa Park Stadium & Bodymoor Training Ground

Type of Site: Sports Stadium and Training Grounds

Number of Users / Doors: Up to 5,000 users

Solution Required: A highly secure and easy to manage access control system to manage a busy stadium with up to 5000 visitors during match days

Products used: MICROgarde, EXcel, Expert and EXgarde PRO

The prestigious 42,785-seat Villa Park stadium has hosted more Football Association Challenge Cup (FA Cup) semi-finals than any other stadium. The ground has been the home of Aston Villa Football Club since 1897 and since then has seen numerous expansions and changes as the club has evolved.

As well as the stadium, which currently hosts four main stands and associated facilities, the club also owns and maintains the Bodymoor Heath training ground and its associated facilities.

TDSi has developed and supplied an integrated access control solution for the world-famous Aston Villa Football Club, Villa Park Stadium in Birmingham and their Bodymoor Heath training ground in Warwickshire.
The Requirements
While the number of staff and visitors on a non-match day is typically around 1,000, on a day with a big game this can swell to over 5,000 people at the site. The sports ground has large public access areas and high profile players and management, along with substantial building assets. The club sought an access control vendor that could offer the wide range of product options needed, whilst also offering high quality and exceptional value for money, Aston Villa FC turned to TDSi to supply a highly secure, easy to install, manage and use access control system.

The Solution
Aston Villa FC’s Maintenance Manager, Josh Tooth commented, “We have been working with TDSi for a number of years and as the company understands the complexity of our access control needs and provides solutions that give us peace of mind, our needs have been met. Using TDSi’s access control products and software has given us a highly flexible approach to our access control; we can easily add additional access on a selected door and integrate it into the rest of the network.”

Because of the on-going programme of upgrades and dispersed locations of access control points around both the Villa Park Stadium and the Bodymoor Heath training ground, TDSI suggested Aston Villa FC use the EXgarde Pro software solution to manage a range of different access controllers across both sites.

Having organically evolved, Aston Villa FC’s facilities use TDSi’s EXcel2, EXcel4 (serving two and four readers respectively) and EXpert controllers which control individual doorways on the network. The EXgarde Pro solution can be scaled up or down with ease, as operational requirements dictate. What’s more, with unlimited user definable holidays, automatic fire door release, time-sheet reports and full integration with intruder alarm systems, TDSi’s controllers have offered Aston Villa FC the flexibility needed for future evolution of its access control needs.

Results
Josh Tooth concludes, “As well as offering a range of top quality technology, we are over the moon with TDSi’s service. The support is top class and we have an excellent working relationship with the company, as well as the current systems, we are also rolling out TDSi’s facial recognition reader as a next generation access control system which negates the need for authorised staff to carry security cards with them. This is especially useful at busy times and also means there is no risk of security cards being stolen and unauthorised people being able to gain access.”

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