



CHELTEMHAM TOWN FC

SWDFEF Newsletter November 2016

sharing experiences to improve disabled access and services for disabled fans



South West Disabled Fans' Experience Forum



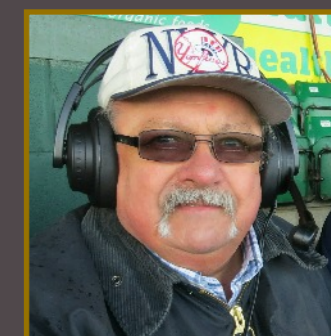
NEWS



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'I am a firm believer that if you score one goal, the other team have to score two to win.' (Howard Wilkinson)

**Bristol City; Bristol Rovers;
Cardiff City; Cheltenham Town;
Exeter City; Newport County;
Plymouth Argyle; Swansea City;
Swindon Town; Torquay United
& Yeovil Town**

Bristol City SWDFEF

The 6th SWDFEF was held at Bristol City on Thursday 13 October. Where 31 delegates from Bristol City, Bristol Rovers, Exeter City, Newport County, Plymouth Argyle, Swansea City, Yeovil Town, Level Playing Field and Mobiloo attended. A number of delegates stated that it was the best Forum so far. The Full 'Outline Report' can be seen [here](#).

YTFC DSA

We have for the last 8 seasons sent our "Disabled Information & Facilities Brief" to EVERY visiting club, two weeks before their game at Huish Park.

We rang Grimsby DSA Chair, Daphne Farquarson, on 15 October, as she does not have an email address, regarding sending her the "Disabled Information & Facilities Brief" for the game on 29 October. She said that it was the first time in 35 years of supporting Grimsby that ANY club has contacted them. They normally find it quite a bind to get the disabled information from clubs they are going to visit. She congratulated YTFC DSA on being so disabled supporter friendly. Maybe other clubs could take up our procedure?? See our Brief [here](#).

Give us your questions

Plymouth Argyle DSA have suggested that, as an enhancement to our annual Forums, anyone who has a subject that they would welcome input and comments from other clubs, in between Forums, please email them to me at d.g.munn@btinternet.com and I will circulate them. Once ALL replies are received (no more than two weeks after I have raised the question), I will send all input and comments to every club. Thanks.



Scoring: When 11 men spontaneously start dancing and kissing, regardless of any injuries, whilst 11 others droop like wallflowers

DIGNIFIED CHANGING FOR EVERYONE ANYWHERE

Mobiloo

At the Bristol City SWDFEF on 13 October, Matthew Frith & Peter Brill from Mobiloo gave the delegates a presentation on the Mobiloo facility.



The Mobiloo enables all disabled children and adults to use the toilet or be changed with dignity and respect when they wish to go to events and activities – events from which they are too often excluded by the absence of the necessary changing facilities.

With an electric hoist and changing table as well as a toilet and wash-basin, the Mobiloo means that even those wheelchair-users with the most complex requirements can get out and about to enjoy the same opportunities as everyone else.

To discuss a possible booking or for any other enquiry, please call Tel: 0300 030 1255 or email: info@mobiloo.org.uk





Swansea City DSA

The Swans DSA held a social event on Tuesday 18th October at the Liberty stadium.

Lee Trundle, our DSA ambassador, Alfie Mawson and Mark Birighitti had agreed to attend our event, and were happy to be on our "Q and A" panel where our members had a chance to pose questions to them.

Well done to Alfie Mawson on his first Premier League start on Saturday 22nd October.

David Enstone and Denise Ruffell, of our ticket office, attended and were able to answer members' queries re ticketing.

Swansea City DSA (continued)

The highlight of the evening was when our new Swansea City manager, Bob Bradley, made an unexpected appearance, and sat on the panel answering questions, and then took plenty of time getting to know our members through chatting with them, and posing for photographs.

Around 70 of our DSA members came along to the event, which included a raffle, and we are very grateful to the club for providing the refreshments.

As a DSA we also wish to thank club staff, and Huw Cooze, Swans' supporters director for attending, and being very supportive of us.

We hold 2 social events during a season, and are always pleased to see our members coming along and having fun. The age range is anywhere between 5 years old and 90 years old, and it's lovely to see members, young and old, mixing together.

As a DSA we want to ensure that we try and make everybody's matchday experience an enjoyable one, and if supporters need a little extra help in achieving this, we will endeavour to try and help. We provide the link between the supporters and the club.

Cynhaliodd pwyllgor cymdeithas cefnogwyr anabl tim pel droed Abertawe noson gymdeithasol yn y Liberty.

Fe ddaeth Lee Trundle, ein llysgennad, a chwaraewyr Alfie Mawson a Mark Birighitti, ac roeddem yn ffodus dros ben pan droeodd Bob Bradley i fyny, eistedd ar y panel holi ac ateb, ac aros i gael lluniau a siarad gyda'n cefnogwyr.

If anybody requires any info, please email secswandsa@gmail.com

Sam Allardyce was wheeling his shopping trolley across the supermarket car park when he noticed an old lady struggling with her shopping. He stopped and asked, "Can you manage dear?" to which the old lady replied, "No way, you got yourself into this mess, don't ask me to sort it out!"

2017 SWDFEF Newport County AFC Forum Date announcement



The next South West Disabled Fans' Experience Forum

will be held at Newport County AFC

on Thursday 19th October 2017 at 1:30pm

For further information or application,
please contact: d.g.munn@btinternet.com

2017 SWDFEF at Newport County AFC

I know that we have only just had our 2016 SWDFEF, however, we are pleased to announce that Newport Gwent Dragons RFC attended at Bristol City. As LPF have already included Rugby Union Premiership clubs in their efforts, which are focused on removing the social model of disability barriers in all sports, there was a positive response at Bristol City, when it was mentioned that, perhaps we should invite other Rugby clubs in our region to the next SWDFEF. Therefore, Bristol Rugby, Cardiff Blues RFC, Exeter Chiefs RFC, Gloucester RFC, Newport Gwent Dragons RFC and Ospreys Rugby Club will all be invited to the 2017 SWDFEF Forum.

Yeovil Town DSA

John Fry (Yeovil Chairman) held a meeting with the club's supporter sections, the Green & White Supporters Club, the Disabled Supporters Association, the Junior Glovers, Bridport Glovers and the Cary Glovers, on Tuesday 20 September, where the main agenda focused around the potential re-creation of a Supporter Alliance Group which would be named the 'Achieve By Unity' Fans Partnership. The Glovers Trust had also been invited, but declined the offer due to the implication that the meetings were for 'affiliated' supporters groups, with the Trust wishing to preserve their independence.

Between 2004 and 2010, the football club had held a series of meetings with a number of supporters groups and club directors and senior staff to discuss issues relating to the club, and in an attempt to improve the running of the club from the supporters point of view. The format went under numerous revamps and changes, with it being known as the Customer Charter Meeting, Achieve By Unity Fans Partnership and the Supporters Liaison Group, but the group meetings appeared to fizzle out around the end of the 2009-10 season and were not restarted until now.

Meetings will be held at least twice a year with agenda items being added through the 'affiliated' supporter groups, allowing for topics and concerns of supporters to be raised.

Swindon Town DSG

We had a fan who came down from Northampton, for their match against Swindon, on Tuesday 27 September and he had to have two Carers as he was on permanent oxygen. One of the Carers said that we were the most accommodating club they had been to and the only club that didn't charge for the extra Carer. They said that everyone from the person who did the booking of the tickets to the stewards in the car park and stadium had been wonderful. A very nice thing to be told and made me proud of my club. I passed this compliment onto our management. So hopefully we are winning, regarding getting our clubs to realise the importance of making life easier for Disabled fans, so that they can enjoy the environment they are seated in, even if we can't do anything about what is actually happening on the pitch as far as the play is concerned.

T.E.A.M.

Together Everyone Achieves More



What do you call an Englishman in the knockout stages of the World Cup?
A referee.

Level Playing Field

Regional Forums

The second South Coast Regional Forum took place on 15th September 2016. It was hosted by Crawley Town FC and Crawley Town Disabled Supporters Association (DSA) at Checktrade Stadium.

There was representation from Level Playing Field, Crawley Town DSA, Crawley Community Foundation, Portsmouth FC, Portsmouth DSA, Brighton and Hove Albion FC, AFC Bournemouth and Southampton DSA. Presentations were given by Level Playing Field, Crawley DSA, Crawley Community Foundation, Portsmouth DSA and Southampton DSA.

Forum minutes can be found [here](#) and a summary can be found [here](#).

The South Coast Forum is one of two established as part of Level Playing Field's [Working Together Project](#). The first South Coast Forum was hosted by [Portsmouth in September 2015](#) and the first [Welsh Forum](#) took place on 6th April 2016. Plans are already being made for Regional Forums in 2017 including the second Welsh Regional Forum, third South Coast Regional Forum and first North West Regional Forum

DSA Questionnaire

As part of the LPF "Working Together" project we are asking for your help to take the project forward by completing our new DSA (Disabled Supporters Association) questionnaire.

We would like to hear about your recent achievements and activities as well as your plans and projects for the future. Your responses will help us identify how we can best support you and the work of DSAs.

Please send your replies by email to kieran@levelplayingfield.org.uk with the subject title "DSA Questionnaire" and the name of your Disabled Supporters Association (DSA). (The boxes will expand as you insert your answers.)

If you prefer to give your response by phone, please call Kieran Reynolds on 0208 621 2487 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Level Playing Field (continued)

At the request of DSA's we have extended the deadline to **10am on Monday 21st November 2016**. You can download a copy of the questionnaire [here](#).

Weeks of Action

Weeks of Action 2017 will take place from 4th-17th March 2017. Please contact Level Playing Field if you are planning any events or would like the LPF logo to use in your activities. If you have any other questions about the LPF Weeks of Action please email info@levelplayingfield.org.uk or phone 020 8621 2403.

Plymouth Argyle DSA (PADSA)

PADSA had its AGM on the 29th September and the committee remained the same.

The Chairperson Steve Helley and Vice Chairperson Roger Daw enjoyed the SWDFEF at Bristol City. They have come back with some ideas that could be implemented here at PAFC.

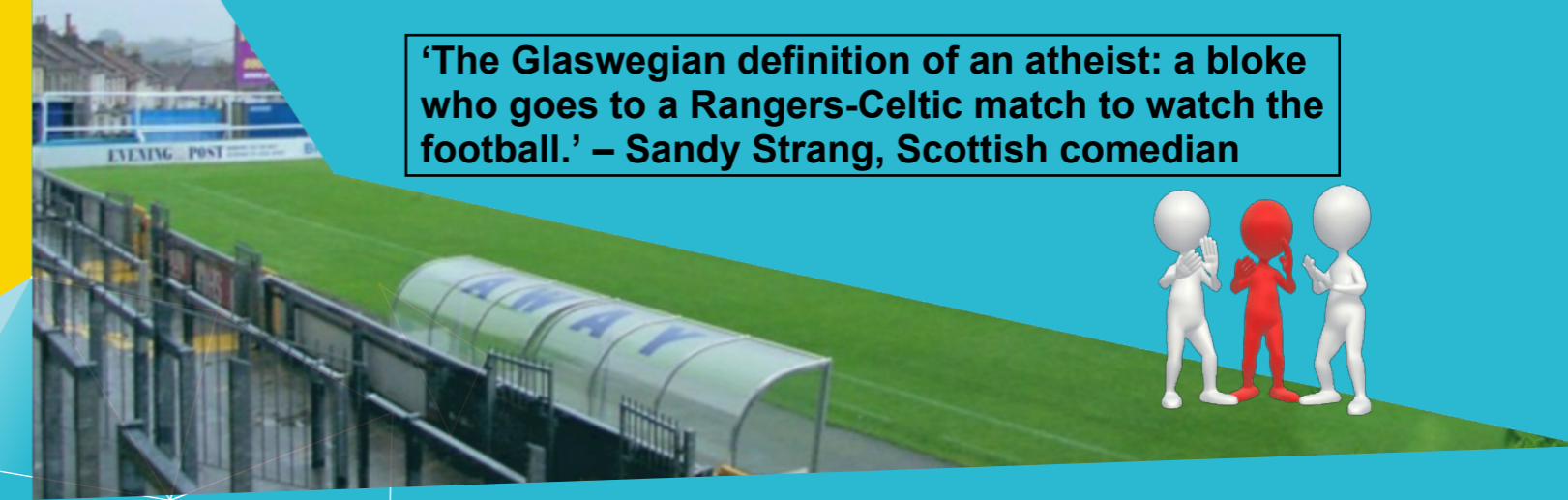
Filming hopefully will start on the social story we have had a grant for. Unfortunately rain has stopped this on home games.

This year changing places are celebrating 10 years. Lots of campaigning is taking place to highlight the issue. Here in Plymouth there are only 3 places that offer this facility. When our new Stadium plans are submitted, hopefully a changing room facility will be included.

We are very saddened that grants are only available to the Premiership to help install sensory rooms at stadiums. This is especially when many Premiership clubs are not going to meet the standards that have been requested of them for disabled supporters. Many other clubs in the rest of the Football League would like to provide facilities like a sensory room but finding funding for this can be an issue.

The PADSA Christmas event will be held on Sunday the 11th December 2016 at 1.30pm. Contact susanclarky62@gmail.com for more details.

'The Glaswegian definition of an atheist: a bloke who goes to a Rangers-Celtic match to watch the football.' – Sandy Strang, Scottish comedian



Newport County AFC DSA

The Quiz night raised £291 for the radar lock system and was generously matched by club sponsor Pure Vans Ltd; locks are being fitted and keys are free to DSA Members. We are preparing for our annual Children's Halloween Party supported by the club, Gwent Dragons and their Supporters Club, it will include Pumpkin Decorating Competition (donated by Morrison's), Fancy Dress Competition, apple dunking, party games, a raffle and a Mascot race for local companies to raise a little bit of money for the Believe charity. Please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dsamascotraces> (If you would like to donate). Our Ambassador and goalkeeper Joe Day will be attending and our new Manager Graham Westley has promised to do his best to support us also. With Westley's appointment hopefully we can increase our status and presence in the club and community.

A friend of the DSA, Richard Twose who coached the Transplant Sport team for "Match for Life" at the end of last season, has been selected for the GB Transplant Team to compete in the World Transplant Games. Unfortunately, there is no funding for these athletes and Rich needs to raise £1500 to take part. Anyone interested in donating or organising a fundraiser please contact him at richardtwose77@gmail.com

We didn't get a chance to mention this at the recent Bristol City Forum; as supporters we can apply to Kick It Out for "Fans for Diversity Funds" towards events that raise awareness for minority groups in the game. For further details go to <http://www.kickitout.org/fansfordiversity/fans-fund/>. We hope to use this for a Mental Health Awareness Open Day before our fixture at home to Yeovil over the Easter weekend, incorporating a fun day and information from local and national groups.

Finally, We are kicking off our "Buy a Brick" campaign to raise money for away supporter's facilities; if anyone is interested in purchasing please contact us at nacafdsa@gmail.com for further details; you can have your DSA name up at Newport County AFC permanently. If anyone wishes to use the scheme to raise funds, we can give you the details on the company we are using.



Newport County
AFC Founded 1989

Exeter City DSA



Back (left to right) – Andrew Barge, Sue & Trevor Harwood, David Jones, Martin Robertson, Mike Mullarkey. Front Nick Saunders, Juanita Turner & Nick from Signs Express

Exeter City Disabled Supporters Association recently took delivery of two banners which will help promote their organisation which have been generously donated, free of charge, by Signs Express (Exeter).

Nick Baxter-Sibley of Signs Express says "When Nick Saunders [chairman of **ECDSA**] approached us to quote for some banners to help them publicise the work of the association we were delighted to be able to offer to donate the items they needed. The work that **ECDSA** do on behalf of supporters affected by some form of disability is fantastic and we hope that the items we have supplied help them promote that to a wider audience within the fan base"

Nick Saunders says "This is a fantastic gesture and we are very grateful to Nick Baxter-Sibley and everyone at Signs Express for their generosity. Our motto is 'A Voice to be Heard' and these two banners will help us enormously to promote the work that we do here at St James Park for home and away supporters with disabilities.

The new banners will be put to good use in Red Square on 22nd Oct at the Cambridge Utd game when **ECDSA** will be selling Christmas draw tickets. Anyone who would like to buy/sell tickets please contact Nick Saunders at: ecfcdsa@gmail.com.

For more information about **ECDSA** please visit <http://ecfcdsa.co.uk>