



## National Association of Disabled Supporters

*Informing, Uniting, Supporting*

### LEVEL PLAYING FIELD – QUOTES

Sir Trevor Brooking, The FA's Director of Football Development and Patron of the '**Level Playing Field**' campaign said last year that this project will help to promote inclusion in football. "We are delighted to be working in partnership with NADS on this unique initiative to celebrate opportunities for disabled people in football."

These comments were endorsed by The FA's National Development Manager (Disability Football), Jeff Davis, who said: "The FA is committed to ensuring that disabled people have equal opportunities to play and watch our national game. We have introduced a plethora of initiatives for football for disabled people through both playing and coaching opportunities. The '**Level Playing Field**' is proving a highly successful campaign, which I am sure will have enormous benefits."

We have received the following quotes from clubs that took part in 2006:

Birmingham City FC, Vicki Gough, Assistant Football Secretary, said:

"As a club, we look forward to continue our ongoing work with NADS and enhance the lives of our disabled supporters within the local community"

Bradford City, Ian Ormondroyd, Football Community Officer; said:

"For our players at Bradford City FC to come to BCFC games and then be able to play a game here gives them something to look forward to and brightens up their lives. The fans last year were in uproar when they saw how much these players loved playing at their ground. Ask your local club if they have a disability section, and try and get involved."

Fulham FC, Simon Morgan, Head of Community, said:

"Fulham FC runs an extensive disability programme catering for a diverse variety of impairments ranging from ages 3 - 65. A Level Playing Field highlights the awareness of this fantastic inclusive programme"



Gillingham FC, Steve Lovell, FITC Officer, said:

“The beautiful game can be watched by all kinds of "beautiful people”

Brentford F.C Community Sports Trust, Peter Shears, Disability Officer, said:

“Will be running a disability awareness day in April 2007 in support of the Level Playing Field campaign”

Northampton Town FC, Neil Dowd, Disability Football Officer, said:

“Northampton Town back NADS and the Level Playing Field campaign 100% and look forward to a truly Level Playing Field in the near future”

Oldham Athletic, Alan Hardy, Director/Chief Executive, said:

“Oldham Athletic is delighted to continue to support the Level Playing Field initiative. This campaign is very important in promoting disability awareness and highlighting the excellent work done by clubs for disabled people in their local communities”

Scarborough FC, Derek Megginson, Secretary, said:

“Scarborough football club is pleased to support the level playing field campaign”

MK Dons FC, Andy Gardner, Football Operations Manager, said:

“The objectives of the Level Playing Field are of great importance and more than worthy....”

Ipswich Town FC, Warner Duff, Disability Liaison Officer, said:

“As a club we are proud of the work we do to make football accessible to all those who want to play one game. Ipswich Town players were proud to support NADS last season by wearing armbands before the game and we're happy to be involved with their work this year.”



Sunderland AFC, Jamie Wright, Disability Programme co-ordinator, said:

“This has been a superb project that has offered my group of children opportunities that they may not have otherwise been able to experience.”

Hartlepool FC, Keith Nobbs, FITC Development Officer, said:

“Hartlepool United Football in the Community Scheme fully supports the Level Playing Field disability awareness campaign and will continue to provide opportunities for disabled people to participate and enjoy grass roots sports.”

Bristol Rovers FC, David Harper, Safety Officer, said:

“It is important to make the beautiful game available to all”

Watford FC, Gareth Jones, Football Development Officer, said:

“A positive campaign which highlights issues which affect disabled supporters.”

Wycombe Wanderers FC, Dave Evans, Manager of Community Scheme, said

“Wycombe Wanderers FC actively promote the LPF campaign – by working in special needs schools the whole academic year”

Bolton Wanderers FC, Steve Obertelli, Senior Community Officer/Disability Officer, said

“Although Football is one game, it is not just for one group. It is to be played, watched and enjoyed by all”

Bristol City FC, Jayne Maggs, Disability Liaison Officer, said

“Participation without Discrimination”

Gary Trollope, Watford FC supporter, said

“I was determined to join NADS after attending the “Level Playing Field” presentation at Wembley Stadium on 2 April 2007. NADS has opened my eyes as a disabled supporter.”



Blackburn Rovers FC, Gill Kinloch/Christine Peacock, Head of  
Community Affairs/Disability Liaison Officer, said

“The Level Playing Field initiative serves to highlight the work being done to ensure that the match day experience and opportunities to play the game are open to everyone.”

Portsmouth FC, Rosie Francis, Community Manager, said

“PFC are happy to lend their support to the LPF Campaign. We pride ourselves on our commitment to providing everyone with the opportunity to take part in any sport.”

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Please accept my apologies for not being able to join you for today's launch of the 2007 Level Playing Field campaign. I would have been delighted to attend but regret that existing diary engagements have not made it possible for me to do so.

For the nation to become more active, it is crucial that everyone has the chance to take part in sport and physical activity. This Government has a commitment to increase participation levels in sport amongst people with disabilities by removing barriers and widening access.

Sport can enrich people's quality of life, raise self esteem and confidence levels and provide enjoyment to individuals. It is vital that opportunities are made accessible to all, not only through participating - but also being able to enjoy it as a spectacle.

The Level Playing Field campaign is helping to ensure that football clubs throughout the country recognise the needs of their disabled supporters and have the proper facilities in place for them to enjoy their match-day experience.

I am sure you will all agree that this magnificent new Wembley stadium is a wonderful example of the facilities that can be made available to disabled supporters.

I commend NADS for their work through the Level Playing Field Campaign, and Scope for their Access Equality service. Both of these initiatives are bringing about real progress in the quality of facilities and services on offer to disabled football supporters throughout the country. Their good work will only be enhanced by this new campaign partnership.

Please send my best wishes to everybody involved in today's event which I'm sure will be a great success.



RT HON RICHARD CABORN MP  
Minister for Sport

