

# **The National Association of Disabled Supporters**

*Promoting a Level Playing Field for all Football Fans!*



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09 AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

**REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1079740**

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## President's Foreword



It was a great privilege to be invited to become the first President of NADS as I have for a number of years been an enthusiastic supporter. I am delighted to be in a position to help an organisation that is involved in such important work.

On joining I was struck by three facts. First, the extraordinary work performed by Joyce Cook and her team. Joyce has referred to this in her review but I must add how impressed I am with the level of commitment and quality of work that Joyce produces.

Secondly, I was taken aback by the extremely limited resources available to NADS. The organisation is run on a shoestring and it is an indictment of the wider football world that this under funding continues.

Finally, the desperate need for NADS and the work it does on behalf of disabled fans is even greater than I had previously envisaged.

I am committed to working with Joyce and her team to help deal with these issues and improve the quality of facilities and services offered to disabled supporters in this country.

I look forward to the year ahead for NADS and to positive progress.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Bernstein".

David Bernstein

## Chair's Report

Welcome to the 2008/09 Annual Report which will give you a good overview of NADS ongoing campaigning, works and disability awareness projects on behalf of all supporters with all types of disability.



It has been an extremely busy 12 months on all fronts with our membership at an all time high. NADS now directly represents more than 22,000 disabled supporter members, ensuring that we speak with a truly representative voice. That's a big responsibility; one that myself and the Trustees take very seriously as we continue to work hard on your behalf and we are confident that we are making significant progress.

We started the season extremely well, proudly recruiting our first ever **NADS President, David Bernstein**. David has a background in football as a previous Chairman of Manchester City and the Chairman of Wembley National Stadium and is universally respected throughout the game. He is a tremendous ambassador and advocate for disabled supporters and has considerable experience in delivering stadia with world-class facilities for disabled fans.

In the last year, David and I have met with **a number of key persons in government and football** to encourage continued improvements across football and other sports. We are delighted that he is our President and on behalf of the NADS Board of Trustees and members, I warmly thank him for his friendship and incredible support.

Our Vice Presidents are also vital to our ongoing works and campaigning and, in particular, I wish to thank Lord Richard Faulkner of Worcester who has been an advocate for disabled supporters for a very long time, first getting involved in 1998 as a co-author of the Football Task Force Report.

It is with mixed emotions that I now have to announce Lord Faulkner's resignation from NADS as he has recently been appointed a Whip in the House of Lords. This is a great opportunity for Richard who is also Deputy Speaker and we are delighted for him. However, the position means that Richard has to give up all his external interests. We will miss him greatly and the door will remain firmly open should he ever be in the position to return to NADS.

Richard, on behalf of the NADS Trustees and members, we wish you good luck for the future and a very warm thank you for your friendship and outstanding support for disabled supporters.

**Lord Faulkner joined NADS as Vice President in 2007** and has since become a wonderful friend and supporter of NADS, putting a number of written and oral questions to the House of Lords and speaking with colleagues in both Houses. He is also Vice Chair of the **All Party Parliamentary Football Group (APPFG)**.

The **APPFG Chair, Alan Keen, MP** and its members have remained staunch supporters of NADS and our campaign for equal access since we first met them back in 2007. We applaud their commitment to resolving the issues of disabled supporters and thank them for their support. You can read more about the recent **APPFG Inquiry into English Football and its Governance** and the resultant report and **recommendations for disabled supporters** later in this report.

**Ambassador and ex-player, Danny Wallace** is another great friend and supporter of NADS and disabled supporters. He regularly takes part in **NADS disability awareness events** and is happy to share his own experiences in dealing with Multiple Sclerosis. Danny is a tremendous role model in the work he does having retired early from the game with Multiple Sclerosis. A warm thanks to Danny for his wonderful support.

I must also highlight the work of **Vice President, Jim Froggatt** (author of the Accessible Stadia Guide) who continues to progress **best practice guidance within Europe**. Jim and I travelled out to Poland in October 2008 to meet with the UEFA 2012 team to discuss requirements for disabled supporters. He continues to support the work we are doing in Europe and will play a vital role in ongoing work in this area. **Thank you, to Jim and to all our other Honorary Officers and Ambassadors.**

NADS is also proud to have won the **prestigious European Football Supporters Award for 2008** for its works and most recently **UEFA awarded their Monaco Award of 1 million Swiss Francs for the establishment of the Centre of Access to Football in Europe – CAFE**. Look out for more news on CAFE in the coming months.

Gary Deards, the NADS Administrator is also stepping down after several years and I'd like to say a huge thank you to Gary for his hard work and commitment from everyone at NADS. Thankfully he's not going far and is standing as a Trustee at this year's AGM and will continue to support our campaigns and works.

We continue to work closely with a number of likeminded disability charities and organisations including Kick it Out, Mencap, Guide Dogs for the Blind, RNIB, the National Deaf Children's Society, Stadium Communities and others. Thank you to all, for their support in 2008/09. Alongside our campaigning and sharing of information and best practice, we have a responsibility to raise awareness. NADS has run a number of disability awareness projects with the supporter of other organisations this year with more in the pipe-line. You'll find more about these worthwhile projects later in this report.

Many club employees and volunteers within the game continue to work extremely hard to accommodate disabled supporters, sometimes working with poor facilities and limited resources. Some clubs now provide excellent facilities and NADS always promotes and celebrates all aspects of best practice. **However, many existing disabled facilities are quite simply miserable with poor views of the pitch, no shelter from the rain, no choice of seating, not able to sit with own fans and unequal access to tickets. Services such as alternative format programmes, accessible websites and audio described commentary are often non-existent.**

**Every single one of us, from the Board Room to the 'shop floor', has a responsibility** to help change this unequal and unfair situation; it can no longer be acceptable in 2009. Together as a team, we can influence and implement the changes needed to ensure that football finally provides an equal service to all fans and that clubs meet their legal obligations. It is inappropriate that disabled supporters should continue to be treated less favourably and it is now time for football to take the lead and to set the very best example. Football has a very powerful voice and can and must send out a very clear message. **Equal access is a basic human right for all people.**

To that end, **we have called repeatedly for change and for clubs to meet their access duties under the DDA in line with the government's minimum standards as described in the Accessible Stadia Guide.** Some clubs will need financial support and we again **call for the establishment of a central fund for access improvements.** This is entirely possible with, for example, the Premier League recently announcing record profits for 2008/09.



We are not alone in our opinion on this matter with the **Chairman of the Foot ball Association, Lord Triesman** recently saying:

***“.....It is always argued that it is expensive to ensure that grounds really do answer the questions of the fans who happen to have a disability, but rather unashamedly I am not very worried about that argument against it. I can see no good reason why we should say that it is okay for some fans, but not okay for fans with disabilities. We have work to do, and we must continue to have a discussion and to find funds from whatever source —stadium or (Football) Foundation —to achieve that aim.”***

Our financial situation remains critical as NADS continues to grow, providing a high level of unique support to the football family. We received a very welcome donation from the Football Association last season and also receive a funding grant from the Football Foundation towards costs for a part-time Administrator. Again, we call on the Football Authorities to provide NADS with realistic and secure funding in line with that enjoyed by our peer fans and diversity organisations. Until then, we continue to rely on the goodwill and generosity of organisations and individuals. You will find a roll call of some of these at the end of this report. Please do accept our apologies if your name does not appear, there are so many of you now doing your level best to support us - to each and every one of you a very huge thank you.

In closing, I also wish to thank the many individuals (you know who you are) who work extremely hard on our behalf and often behind the scenes. Your ongoing commitments, friendships and support are hugely appreciated by us all.

I wish you all a great summer and look forward to continuing to work with you all next season.

With warmest regards



Joyce Cook, NADS Chair

## **About NADS**

The National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS) was established in 1998 and is the only national registered charity representing all disabled football supporters. Our objective is to promote an inclusive agenda and ensure an equality of supporter experiences for all fans.

NADS represents the views, issues and concerns of disabled football supporters to football and governmental authorities and provides independent advice on disability issues as they affect the football community. NADS also heads up the disabled branch of Englandfans.

NADS is an umbrella organization recognised as the representative and co-ordinating body of all disabled football supporters and their carers/advocates. We estimate that 30,000 disabled fans regularly attend football matches in England and the success of the disabled branch of Englandfans shows that this passion naturally extends to the national team.

NADS is regulated by the Charity Commission and is also a member of the Fundraising Standards Board. We prepare audited accounts each year and have an Inland Revenue charity reference number.

To read more about NADS, please read our “About NADS” document which is available to download from <http://www.nads.org.uk/about.php>

## **Aims of NADS**

- To be a voice for supporters of all disability groups
- To campaign for equality of supporter experience
- To enrich lives of disabled people through football
- To raise disability awareness



## Key achievements for 2008/09

- The start of the 2008/09 season saw NADS recruit its first ever President, David Bernstein. David, as previous Chairman of Manchester City FC and Chairman of Wembley National Stadium, has considerable experience and contacts across the football world and he has proved to be a first class President and advocate for NADS and disabled supporters.
- NADS initiated the pilot and first full implementation of the **Level Playing Field (LPF)** campaign in 2004/05. Since then this campaign has gone from strength to strength. This year's campaign focused on Supporters with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties with many clubs choosing to highlight their various projects and initiatives.
- To coincide with this year's LPF campaign and in partnership with Mencap, we produced and launched a new booklet - **A level playing field: Making sports venues and stadiums accessible for people with a learning disability.**
- NADS was also proud to join forces with Wigan Social Services launching a brand new initiative '**Never Watch Alone**'. This is a buddying project that brings together fans with learning difficulties and non-disabled fans on match days and encourages lasting friendships beyond match days and working alongside other fans groups.
- 2008/09 saw the introduction of **regional Fans Forums** with NADS going “on the road” to hear disabled supporters views and let you know what we have been up to. The response so far has been fantastic with both events at Birmingham City and Middlesbrough being very well represented. We aim to hold another in the autumn in the South West (Bristol) and one in the North West and London/South later in the year. Watch out for more information about these events in the NADS e-newsletters.
- NADS has also run two **disability awareness projects** in partnership with Kick it Out working with young people looking at access requirements for disabled people in their daily lives and at football matches. So far we have worked with Everton FC and Tottenham Hotspur; both events were a great success enjoyed by all.

- NADS gave evidence on behalf of disabled supporters to the **All Party Parliamentary Football Group's Inquiry into English Football and its Governance** in June 2008. The resultant APPFG Report was published in April 2009 and made a number of important recommendations to improve facilities for Disabled Supporters.
- The **NADS President and Chair met with the Sports Minister, Gerry Sutcliffe** to discuss access issues for disabled supporters. As a result, the Sports Minister asked the NADS Chair to write a detailed briefing paper of current facilities and services for disabled supporters of the Premier and Football Leagues for the government and football chiefs to progress improvements and dialogue.
- NADS Vice President, Lord Richard Faulkner put a number of **questions to the House of Lords about disabled supporter facilities** both at football stadia and Olympic 2012 venues.
- NADS was invited to meet with the **Equality and Human Rights Commission** to discuss ongoing access issues for disabled football supporters. The EHRC are now meeting with the football authorities and investigating various aspects and complaints across football.
- NADS supported the FA DDA workshop for clubs presenting the issues and feedback on behalf of disabled supporters at the Emirates Stadium in April 2009.
- The Premier League asked the NADS Chair to join their DLO workshop to feedback and discuss the current issues for disabled supporters.
- NADS won the **European Football Supporters Award 2008** for its works for disabled fans in football. This award supported by UEFA, the IOC and the European Union among other bodies was originally known as the Brussels International Supporters Award. It recognises the importance of the role of supporters in football stadiums and fully appreciates the originality of an award that encourages ethics in sport.

- UEFA most recently awarded their **Monaco Award for 2009 to enable the set up of the Centre for Access to Football in Europe – CAFE**. This new organisation which will be outward facing to Europe and independent of NADS, will build on the work undertaken by NADS in the UK. CAFE will launch officially on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.
- NADS has achieved its **highest ever membership in 2008/09**. We are extremely proud of this achievement which gives us the mandate and expertise to represent all disabled supporters across football and other sports.
- We continue to represent disabled spectators of all sports and sit on the London 2012 Olympic Delivery Authority Built Environment Access Panel. We also continue to give user advice to cricket and rugby.

## **Who we represent – NADS membership**

It is estimated that more than 30,000 disabled fans regularly attend a professional football match and it is unknown how many more follow the game from home as ‘arm chair’ fans. There are more than 70 Disabled Supporter Associations with varying levels of activity across the leagues. Experience has shown that disabled facilities and services tend to be better where there is a strong and open relationship between a club and their disabled supporters.

We have three tiers of voting membership; Disabled Supporters’ Associations and Individuals, Football Clubs, plus non-voting affiliated organisations (such as the Football Supporters Federation and Supporters Trusts). 43 Football Clubs have joined NADS and it is our aim that all 92 professional clubs should sign up to NADS values. We have 64 Disabled Supporter Association (DSAs) members (16 full and 48 associated members) and 6 affiliated group members, with individual and associate membership also growing rapidly and now sitting at 4,250.

NADS also runs the disabled branch of englandfans representing both tiers of fans; those who follow the team at Wembley and those that travel away with England. There are currently 499 disabled englandfans.

NADS now speaks directly for more than 22,000 disabled supporter members. However NADS represents all disabled supporters, their carers and advocates and offers support to all stakeholders irrespective of membership status.

NADS works closely with the football authorities, national stadia, clubs, politicians, other disability charities and supporter organisations. We also attend forums, disability events and working groups related to disabled supporters.

## **New Stadia Consultations**

NADS plays an important consultative role in the design and build of new stadia and stadia improvements with experience showing that this involvement has a real benefit. The new Wembley Stadium is an excellent example of a stadium that has incorporated the needs of disabled supporters into its design. NADS was consulted throughout the design, planning and building stages and was able to highlight the required facilities throughout. The result is a modern stadium with world class disabled facilities, standing as a benchmark of best practice.

We are currently acting as user-consultants supporting a number of clubs who are building new stadia or adding improvements. We also work closely with the Football Licensing Authority and their Inspectors.

**The All Party Parliamentary Football Group has recently recommended that NADS should be appointed as the game's disabled supporter consultants** and extend the services they currently provide to the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF) in which they are consulted on all improvements and additions at a club that is awarded an FSIF grant.

## **Support and advice**

Many of our members come to NADS for user advice and to feedback on issues ranging from disabled supporter policies, ticketing, carer provision, disabled travel and facilities and services. We are able to share our experience and knowledge in a positive and constructive way.

We always help wherever we can and also offer user advice and encourage clubs to produce accessible media and communications, including club publications, web sites and TV. Club contacts include disabled liaison officers, ticket office staff, safety officers, stadium managers and customer services personnel.

NADS has a 0845 helpline (0845 230 6237) and [info@nads.org.uk](mailto:info@nads.org.uk) which is open to all supporters and clubs irrespective of membership.

We also have a dedicated fully accessible website which provides an information resource with a library of policy documents and advice, disability news and links to other disability organisations and information resources. It also holds a club database with details of their disabled facilities and services and dedicated contacts. The website currently receives in the region of 141,000 unique visits and 1.4 million hits per annum with traffic increasing rapidly.

NADS also produces a monthly e-newsletter with the latest NADS, disability and football news and information. This is circulated to all members and affiliates along with all contacts within the football family, government and media - in particular disabled supporters and those working directly with disabled supporters and disabled communities. If you have a news story you would like us to include, please write to [info@nads.org.uk](mailto:info@nads.org.uk)

NADS are not currently remunerated for offering this assistance and we do not wish to withdraw our support but without core funding, it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue this service.

## **Disabled Supporter Associations (DSAs)**

Around 70 clubs now have DSAs or organisations with NADS helping to set up 5 new DSAs in the last 12 months. They vary considerably in their activities and duties, with some representing their disabled supporters at fans forums and to club representatives and others having a more social aspect to their agenda, organising events and parties for their members and some publish newsletters and run web sites. NADS attends DSA meetings around the country.

## Level Playing Field (LPF) campaign



This disability awareness campaign is now in its fourth full year with around 80 clubs taking some part and running over a 2 week period each season. It provides a platform for clubs to showcase their disability works in the community, disabled football teams and to promote their disabled supporters facilities and services. There is a strong value in keeping the LPF club driven. It is important that clubs see the campaign as something positive that they can control and take full ownership of in their communities.

Following the success of the 2007/08 campaign which focused on supporters with sensory impairments, NADS continued with the theme based approach for 2008/09 where the aim was to raise awareness of the challenges for people with learning disabilities and difficulties. **NADS LPF Patron, Sir Trevor Brooking, said "I am delighted that we are focusing on supporters with learning disabilities and difficulties for 2009 and I urge everyone to get behind this important campaign".** NADS believes that they are often overlooked and hopes that by choosing this focus there will be an improvement in both awareness and the services to these fans.

To support this year's focus and in partnership with Mencap, NADS was delighted to launch a joint booklet entitled "A Level Playing Field - making sports venues and stadiums accessible for people with a learning disability". We have posted a complimentary copy of the booklet to all our football club and community contacts along with a copy for each County FA and we hope you found this helpful in providing for supporters with learning disabilities.

### **NADS Awards 2008/09**

Last year, NADS rolled out an awards scheme to recognise the excellent work done by some club staff and we recognised Penny Ryan from Cambridge United for the outstanding work she does as a steward at the club.

This year we wanted to expand on these awards and we were delighted at the response and in the end we had 3 categories recognising outstanding achievement or someone who goes that "extra mile".

**The 2009 winners were:**

1. NADS Disabled Supporter of the year 2009 - Mark Stevens, Charlton Athletic



'There are football fans, cricket fans and boxing fans; the list goes on. Then there is Mark Stevens, the ultimate sports fan.'

We think you'll agree that Mark is a worthy winner. Not only does he travel extensively following football at home and abroad. Mark has also found time to complete a referee's course and is a committee member at Charlton Athletic's DSA.

2. NADS Volunteer of the year 2009 - Nicholas Saunders, Exeter City



Nicholas was nominated by the Exeter City Supporters Club Chairman and is clearly a real hero at Exeter City working tirelessly to improve the provision for disabled supporters.

His commitment to Exeter City and the disabled supporters is to be commended and we are delighted to celebrate his achievements as a volunteer at the club.

### 3. NADS Club Volunteer/Employee of the year 2009 - Warner Duff, DLO Ipswich Town



Warner was nominated by his colleagues at the club for going the extra mile again and again for their disabled supporters, on both match and non-match days. Warner is the club DLO at Ipswich Town and works hard for local disabled supporters to improve facilities and services.

On top of his duties as the club DLO, he also supports various community projects and initiatives for disabled people at the club.

Warner has always been active at a national level and we want to thank him for his ongoing commitment to equality for disabled supporters.

## **UEFA and Europe**

We have regular dialogue with UEFA and have raised various issues that affect disabled supporters who travel into Europe with club and country.

NADS has advised UEFA on disabled supporter issues for the UEFA and Champions League cup finals and in October 2008 met with the Poland 2012 team to discuss access key issues for disabled supporters for the UEFA 2012 European Tournament.

NADS Vice President, James Froggatt sits on CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and has recently produced a European Technical Report – CEN/TC 315 (similar to the Accessible Stadia Guide) for European Stadia. This report which will be available in key European languages will be published and available in the summer of 2009.



## European Football Supporters Award

NADS was awarded the 2008 European Football Supporters Award for its achievements for disabled supporters and the Level Playing Field Campaign. This prestigious award is supported by UEFA, IOC and EU among other prestigious organisations.

In recognition of the work undertaken by NADS in the UK, UEFA has recently given the 2009 Monaco Award to establish the Centre for Access to Football in Europe – CAFE to improve facilities and services for disabled supporters across Europe. The new organisation will be up and running by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

## Lobbying for change - State of the Game

NADS has a continuing responsibility to campaign on behalf of disabled supporters, raising disability awareness and striving for an equality of supporter experience. It is also important that we encourage more disabled people of all ages and disability groups to get involved in football. Going to a game of football can quite simply be life changing for a disabled person.

Strides have been made over recent years to improve facilities for disabled fans that most of us take for granted – as simple as equal access to tickets, a decent view, under cover and seated with your own fans, accessible toilets, bars, club shops, museums and accessible media (club TV and literature) and web sites. **In most cases however there is still a clear deficit between the matchday and overall supporter experiences of disabled and able-bodied fans.**

To that end, NADS has produced various reports on the State of the Game, given evidence and continues to lobby a number of bodies on behalf of disabled supporters.

We continue to request a central fund to support football clubs across the pyramid in making access improvements and to ensure that clubs meet their DDA duties and call for independent access audit of all clubs, their facilities and services, with the necessary improvements identified and costed and a clearly defined business plan prepared.

Following a meeting between the Rt Hon Gerry Sutcliffe and the NADS President and Chair in October 2008, the Sports Minister asked the NADS Chair to provide him with a detailed briefing paper for the attention of the government and football chiefs ahead of his meetings with the football authorities with meaningful discussions now underway.

## **All Party Parliamentary Football Group (APFPG) - recommendations**

NADS meets regularly with members of the APFPG to discuss the issues and challenges for disabled supporters. As a direct result of this support, NADS Vice President, Lord Faulkner of Worcester and several MPs have continued to table a number questions both in the Houses of Lords and Commons concerning equal access to football and improvements to disabled supporter facilities.

NADS also gave evidence on behalf of disabled supporters to the APFPG Inquiry into Football Governance in June 2008 and their final report supported NADS recommendations:

1. ....we support NADS' recommendation for **an independent access audit of all clubs, their facilities and services, with the necessary improvements identified and costed and a clearly defined business plan prepared**
2. We believe that where finances prove to be an issue for individual clubs, **funds should be made available from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund.**
3. We recommend that **NADS should be appointed as the game's disabled supporter consultants** and extend the services they currently provide to the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF) in which they are consulted on all improvements and additions at a club that is awarded an FSIF grant.
4. We recommend that **NADS should be afforded the same level of financial support from the game as that enjoyed by their non-disabled peers.**

## Equality and Human Rights Commission – EHRC

Earlier this year, NADS was invited, along with other disability groups, to meet with the EHRC and to give evidence of current facilities and services for disabled supporters within football. NADS has been informed that the EHRC will now investigate various allegations of discrimination within football and discussions between the EHRC and football authorities are now underway. We'll keep you posted.

## Disability Awareness Initiatives

NADS has hosted a number of disability awareness initiatives with football clubs in co-operation with Kick it Out and worked in partnership with Wigan Social Services on the Never Watch Alone Initiative. We are also in discussions with Stadium Communities to deliver a disability awareness project with young people in the Midlands, we'll keep you posted.

### The Never Watch Alone Initiative

The unique Never Watch Alone Initiative, set up in partnership with the Wigan Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, has proved to be a terrific success.



NADS was delighted to be approached early in the year by Terry Mann and colleagues from Wigan Social Services who put forward the proposal of a project that enabled fans with a learning disability or difficulty in the local community to go to the football or rugby league not with a professional carer but with a buddy.

We saw immediately the potential of this initiative, engaging the community through sport, breaking down barriers, focusing on inclusion and in essence bringing fans with the common interest and passion together at Wigan Athletic and the Wigan Warriors.

At the beginning of February this year the initiative was publicised at a social evening at the JJB stadium. The interest generated far exceeded expectations with over 80 people attending including local and national fans groups and the full launch of the NWAI, both at the football and rugby league games, occurred at the end of March.

The feedback since has been nothing but positive. The number of fans requesting a buddy has continued to grow as has the number of buddies themselves. The initiative has caught the imagination and interest of the local and national media and has gained endorsements from the football and rugby league authorities and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Andy Burnham. Most recently, Terry has been able to present the project to both the Queen and Prince Philip during a royal visit to Wigan. Watch this space – we'll keep you posted as this project develops.

## **Community based activities**

NADS were delighted to organise two events this year in conjunction with Kick It Out, Everton in the Community and the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation whereby we arranged a day of activities for local schoolchildren highlighting disability awareness with the football club as a focal point.

The events saw young people taking part in a number of activities aimed at raising their awareness of the experience of disabled people and in particular how this impacts them in attending football matches.

Over the two events, colleagues and friends from the RNIB, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) took part in various workshops showcasing how to do an audio described commentary, demonstrations on how Guide dogs are trained and a sign language workshop with a football theme. Finally, the children went around the Stadiums to identify any access issues and what has been done to overcome these.

The days culminated with a Q&A session with NADS Ambassador, Danny Wallace (a former England, Southampton and Manchester United star), talking about his experience both on the pitch and his life after being diagnosed with MS.

## Treasurer's Report



### Results for the Year

It has been another trying year for NADS financially. We continue to operate without major or secure core and project funding and spend a considerable amount of our time on trying to raise finance.

However, despite this and thanks to the hard work and dedication of the NADS Board, administrator and volunteers, we have continued to support the football authorities and provide user advice to many football clubs as well as to disabled supporters generally.

### Fundraising activities

The Football Association provided us with a very welcome £10,000 funding donation for June 2008-June 2009 and met our expenses for an electronic note taker to ensure that our meetings were fully accessible. We also received a further £1,000 for the 2008/09 season from our friends at the Football Conference and prize funding of Euros 6000 for our EFSA 2008 award. Alongside this we continue to receive part funding for the Administrator post from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund.

As well as these kind and very welcome donations and awards we have received various donations from organizations and individuals that have enabled us to carry on with our important works and campaigns throughout 2008/09.

Unfortunately, the current climate for raising charitable funding is extremely difficult and we have yet to secure significant core and key projects funding leaving our limited resources considerably over stretched and it is crucial that a secure funding source be identified to ensure that NADS can continue to lend its considerable support its members and the football family and to continue campaigning for equal access for all fans.

I would like to say a very special thank you to everyone who has helped us to raise money in the last 12 months. Your generous support is vital to all we do and I am proud to include the NADS Roll of Honour 2008/09, listing our kind benefactors at the end of my report.

If there are any companies or organisations willing to support NADS with sponsorship, donations or in-kind resources please contact our Administrator, via our **helpline 0845 230 6237** or by email at [info@nads.org.uk](mailto:info@nads.org.uk)

Finally I am pleased to submit a summary of our financial position in conclusion of this report with a full copy of accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

Janet Ireland, NADS Treasurer

NADS is regulated by the Charity Commission and is also a member of the Fundraising Standards Board. We prepare audited accounts each year and have an Inland Revenue charity reference number.



## **NADS Roll of Honour**

**The following individuals and organisations have generously raised funds and made kind donations to NADS in 2008/09.**

Gary Deards, Janet Ireland, Dr Malcolm Clarke, the Gawthorpe family, Jack Pegram, A C Crowe, Gil Clayton-Hewson, Sheffield Utd DSA, Mike Jackson, Arlene McCarthy MEP, Nori Rucker, Karen Hampshire, QPR Official Supporters Club, Middlesbrough DSA, Liverpool DSA, John Garbett, Paul Jamieson, Cindy Albright, the European Football Supporters Award, Kick It Out, and the Blue Square Football Conference.

We also received funding from the Football Association and Football Stadia Improvement Fund.

**Special thanks for in-kind donations also go to:**

**For loans of venues and hospitality for NADS meetings:** Wembley National Stadium Ltd.; Chelsea FC; Liverpool FC; Manchester City FC; Sheffield United FC; West Ham United FC; Birmingham City FC and Middlesbrough FC

**For Design, Logo and graphics** - Voysey Graphic Arts Limited, Tel: 0118 9472504, <http://www.vgaltld.co.uk>

**For legal advice** - IPS Law LLP, Tel: 0161 830 4710, [www.ipslaw.co.uk](http://www.ipslaw.co.uk)

**For media and PR** - Bird Consultancy, Tel: 0161 839 4846, [www.birdconsultancy.co.uk](http://www.birdconsultancy.co.uk)

**For accessible website design** - Pan European Consulting Limited, Tel: 0845 225 1232, <http://www.pecdesigns.co.uk>

**For photographs** – Paul Smith

**Thank you for your ongoing friendship and support.**

Please do accept our apologies if your name does not appear; there are so many of you now doing your level best to support us - to each and every one of you a very huge thank you.

## **Appendix 1 – 2008 Accounts**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008  
FOR  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED SUPPORTERS**



## THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED SUPPORTERS

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## **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED SUPPORTERS**

### **CHARITY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

#### **TRUSTEES:**

J M Ireland (Treasurer)  
J Polk (Vice Chair)  
J Cook (Chair)  
E Ellison  
H Dudley  
J Dodd (resigned 24 June 2008)  
T Dickman (resigned 24 June 2008)  
C Johnson (resigned 24 June 2008)  
J Garbett  
T Schlovogt (resigned 24 June 2008)  
K Graham (elected 24 June 2008)  
R Hovey (elected 24 June 2008)  
P Jamieson (elected 24 June 2008)  
V Archbold (elected 24 June 2008)

#### **ADDRESS:**

PO Box 2909  
Reading  
RG1 9LD

#### **REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS:**

Marriott Gibbs Rees Wallis  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Registered Auditors  
13-17 Paradise Square  
Sheffield  
South Yorkshire  
S1 2DE

#### **BANKERS:**

LloydsTSB Plc  
14 Church Street  
Sheffield  
S1 1HP

#### **CHARITY NUMBER:**

1079740

## **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED SUPPORTERS**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The accounts of the National Association of Disabled Supporters for the year 2007/2008 reflect another challenging fiscal year for the Charity. During this period the Board of Trustees has continued to safeguard the good name and values of NADS and to support the football family and other sports with a comparatively low level of funding support and with an ever increasing membership.

The charity is increasingly proactive in raising disability awareness through football with the advent of several new projects including the Never Watch Alone Initiative and the continued success of the Level Playing Field campaign. We welcomed the increased support from the Football Association from June 2008 and very much hope that funding from across the football family will be further increased to reflect the important works and support we provide to all stakeholders towards ensuring an equality of facilities and services for all supporters (for further information about NADS and a review of the year, please see our annual report).

**Prepared on behalf of the Trustees**

**Janet Ireland (NADS Treasurer)**

**6 June 2009**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED SUPPORTERS**

We report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2008.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention.

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Reporting accountants**

**Marriott Gibbs Rees Wallis**

**Chartered Certified Accountants and registered auditors**

**13-17 Paradise Square Sheffield South Yorkshire S1 2DE**

**15 June 2009**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

	Notes	2008 £	£	2007 £	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Subscriptions		2,075		1,745	
Donations	2	2,107		14,374	
Access appraisal		-		120	
Fundraising	3	13,739		-	
Funding, grants	4	<u>4,365</u>		<u>-</u>	
			<u>22,286</u>		<u>16,239</u>
<b>Other income</b>					
Advertising		-		350	
Administrator funding	5	<u>19,802</u>		<u>9,458</u>	
			<u>19,802</u>		<u>9,808</u>
<b>Investment income</b>					
Interest received			<u>306</u>		<u>462</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>			<u><u>42,394</u></u>		<u><u>26,509</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

	Notes	2008 £	£	2007 £	£
<b>Total incoming resources</b>			<u>42,394</u>		<u>26,509</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure					
Postage		457		2,156	
Catering and food		138		59	
Stationery etc		521		260	
Telephone		1,445		908	
Travel		5,112		5,208	
Depreciation	6	1,311		2,029	
Printing, artwork etc		1,991		11,905	
Carers and interpreters		456		1,251	
Subscriptions	7	347		311	
Website maintenance etc		800		215	
Sundries		21		346	
Accommodation etc		437		-	
Legal and professional	8	<u>235</u>		<u>-</u>	
			13,271		24,648
<b>Management and administration</b>					
Administrator		17,000		9,919	
Accountancy		<u>762</u>		<u>911</u>	
			17,762		10,830
<b>Total expenditure</b>			<u>31,033</u>		<u>35,478</u>
Net surplus/(deficiency) for the year			11,361		(8,969)
Unrestricted fund brought forward			<u>7,748</u>		<u>16,717</u>
Unrestricted fund carried forward			<u>19,109</u>		<u>7,748</u>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**31 AUGUST 2008**

	Notes	2008 £	£	2007 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	9		<b>134</b>		1,445
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	10	1,667		175	
Bank balances	11	<u>21,018</u>		<u>10,044</u>	
		<b>22,685</b>		10,219	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors	1 2	<u>3,710</u>		<u>3,916</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b><u>18,975</u></b>		<u>6,303</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<b><u>19,109</u></b>		<u>7,748</u>
<b>Unrestricted fund</b>					
General purpose fund			<b><u>19,109</u></b>		<u>7,748</u>

Approved by

**J M Ireland**  
Trustee

**J E Cook**  
Trustee

**10 June 2009**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

1. Accounting policies – The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

2. Donations of £1,000 or more have been received from the following:

£

Football Conference	1,000
---------------------	-------

3. Fundraising income is from MBN – proceeds of Grosvenor dinner.

4. Funding, grants have been received from The Football Association £1,667, Saddlers Company Charity Fund £1,000 and LloydsTSB £1,698.

5. Income towards the funding of the post of administrator is made up as follows:

£

Stadium improvement funds	11,500
Football Association	2,500
Premier League	2,500
LloydsTSB	<u>3,302</u>

**19,802**

6. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over a period of four years.

7. Subscriptions etc made up of:

£

Football Supporters Federation	50
Fundraising Standards Board	50
Just Giving	212
INFO Commis	<u>35</u>

**347**

8. Legal and professional charges is for taxation advice.



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

9. **FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Web site £</b>	<b>Sundry equipment £</b>	<b>Totals £</b>
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 September 2007	<u>3,378</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>3,565</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 September 2007	2,112	8	2,120
Charge for year	<u>1,266</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>1,311</u>
At 31 August 2008	<u>3,378</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>3,431</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 August 2008	<u>-</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>134</u>
At 31 August 2007	<u>1,266</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>1,445</u>

10. Debtors is the proportion of the funding, grant due at the year end from The Football Association.
11. The bank balances are made up of number 1 account £15,218 and number 2 – administrator account £5,800.
12. Creditors are made up of funding in advance from the FA and Premier League for final payment to period 31 January 2009 £1,042, amount due to administrator £1,417 and general expenses £1,251.

## Appendix 2 – Honorary Officers

<b>Honorary Officers</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Appointed:</b>
<b>President</b>	David Bernstein (Chairman Wembley National Stadium)	2008
<b>Vice Presidents</b>		
Politics, football, charities	Lord Richard Faulkner of Worcester	2007-2009
Football, commercial	Mr Andrew Shaw (Board member of the Football Conference)	2007
Football, media and PR, commercial	Mr Chris Bird (Chairman of Bird Consultancy)	2007
Football, legal	Mr Chris Farnell (Senior partner of IPS Law)	2007
Disability, charities	Mr Phil Friend, OBE	2008
Stadia Access and Design and Europe	Mr Jim Froggatt	2008
<b>Ambassadors</b>		
Football, ex-player	Danny Wallace (Southampton, Manchester United and Birmingham City)	2008
Disability Football, England amputee team	Steve Johnson	2009 (tbc)
<b>Patron Level Playing Field campaign:</b>	Sir Trevor Brooking	2006