

Level Playing Field

www.levelplayingfield.org.uk



ANNUAL REPORT 2012 / 2013

Promoting Good Access for All Fans

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Level Playing Field is the working name of the National Association of Disabled Supporters

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President's Forward

It is a pleasure to once again introduce you to Level Playing Field's annual report.

In becoming President back in 2009, I was particularly struck by the dedication and high standards set by everyone involved. The commitment of Joyce Cook and her team has been impressive when balanced against the limited resources that have been available.

However, the charity has seen some funding stability in the last year or so, with 2 project grants from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund Fans Fund enabling the organisation to further develop its important works. One of these funding streams has recently come to an end and we await news of an extension to this critical funding to safeguard our future projects and core activities in support of football clubs and their disabled fans.

The last 12 months has also seen marked progress across a number of sports including an exciting cooperation with Rugby Football League and with several other new initiatives underway.

Of course, there is still much to do and I remain committed to working with everyone at Level Playing Field to help deal with these issues to improve the quality of facilities and services offered to disabled supporters in this country.

In closing, I wish to thank the Board of Trustees, my fellow Honorary Officers and the Ambassadors for their generosity and unwavering support.

I look forward to the year ahead and to more positive progress on all fronts.

With best wishes



David Bernstein
President, Level Playing Field



Chair's Report

This year's AGM, which is our 15th, is once again being held at the Houses of Parliament at Westminster. It is a venue that our members always enjoy and one that provides an appropriate setting for us to reflect on our progress over the last twelve months. We are most grateful to Lord Rosser and Lord Faulkner for hosting us once again this year.



We've had another busy year at Level Playing Field with continued progress on all fronts and the launch of a number of new initiatives that we believe will help to ensure a brighter future for disabled sports fans whilst benefiting the clubs and venues involved.

We began 2013 by extending the role of our Development Administrator, Rachel Nickless to a full time position and I am delighted to say that she has recently been joined by Ruth Hopkins as our new Access and Development Manager. Ruth is a professional access auditor (NRAC accredited) and brings a great deal of access and projects experience to the LPF team. Both are an important asset to the charity and I wish to thank them for their support.

Our key aims as a charity remain very clear and they are to ensure that football and other live sporting events are fully accessible and inclusive and welcoming to all fans in England and Wales.

Against that ambition, the last year has been increasingly worrying for many disabled people with changes and potential cuts in independent living support and disability allowances. Alongside this, and despite robust legislation, as disabled people, we continue to face significant barriers and inequality in our daily lives. Recent reports have also highlighted the rise in the reported incidents of disability abuse (hate crimes) and we have heard again this year of a number of incidents of disability related abuse on the terraces in the UK and across Europe. If you experience or witness any form of discriminatory abuse including disability related abuse (whether verbal or physical) please do report it – we can help you to do this in complete confidence – just pick up the phone or email us. It is the only way that we will eradicate this hateful behaviour from our society and matchdays.

With that in mind, it has probably never been more important to ensure equal access to football and other sports. Watching football, rugby and cricket in particular are an integral part of our national cultures and traditions – they are engrained in our psyche and they belong to all of us. There is no better way to spend an afternoon than by sharing a live matchday experience alongside fellow fans and with family and friends. That has to be a fundamental human right and that means that clubs and sports venues must provide equal and inclusive matchday facilities and services for disabled fans.

London 2012 brought further joy to sports fans and we were all captivated by the opening ceremony, and with the breath-taking Olympic performances that followed. For me, it was difficult not to spend every day in front of the television. We should never forget the roar as Paralympic GB entered the stadium on the opening night of the Paralympics and the incredible support that followed at each event. In our wildest dreams could we truly have ever imagined such a joyous public celebration of disabled sports men and women?

The abiding message of London 2012 – inspiring a generation – resonated loudly with both non-disabled and disabled sports men and women the clear stars of the Games. But there was another ‘superstar’ of London 2012, and that was the sports fans at each event. They played their parts so well and in doing so, they showed the British people at their very best.

Those spectators fortunate to have been at an event during London 2012 will never forget their experiences. The feeling of collective pride and passion in being in a stadium at an iconic sporting moment is not easily described – you have to be there to really understand how it feels – ask any sports fan. It’s such a great experience, feeling included, ‘one of the fans’, cheering together and sharing the highs and lows – there’s nothing quite like it. We’re a sport loving nation and there are naturally an increasing number of disabled people who also wish to attend live events. London 2012 has undoubtedly inspired even more disabled people to want to watch live sports in their local area.

But for disabled spectators that can only happen if our stadia and sporting venues are accessible and inclusive - truly fit for purpose in the twenty-first century. That means providing equal and fair proportions of accessible seating (i.e. wheelchair user spaces and easy-access seats alongside fellow fans, family and friends), accessible services (i.e. audio-description for partially sighted and blind fans), accessible information (i.e. websites, easy read, text services and clear signage), provisions for assistance dogs, accessible amenities, accessible transport links, drop-off points and parking and so on. That’s where we come in and in reflecting on the sporting events of the last year, it is clear to me that Level Playing Field’s works have never been more important than now.

In closing, I wish to thank my fellow Trustees, with a special mention for my Vice Chair, Gary Deards and the staff and volunteers for their incredible support and dedication. Without them and their predecessors, we would not be where we are today. I would also like to pay a warm tribute to our President, David Bernstein and his fellow Vice Presidents and the LPF Ambassadors who, in spite of very busy schedules, continue to give their unwavering support to LPF and our works. Their commitment and friendship is unconditional and their advice, counsel and services are quite simply priceless. A huge thank you to each of you.

And finally, I wish to offer my personal thanks to those of you who continue to work hard at club and DSA level to ensure progress by supporting us in pressing for continued access improvements to live sports – you know who you are and we salute you! Please keep up the great work whether it is at a local, national or international level - it really matters.

Wishing you a great summer and happy season ahead, with warmest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joyce Cook, OBE
Chair, Level Playing Field

About Level Playing Field

Level Playing Field (LPF) is the trading name for the National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS). LPF was originally established in 1998. In March 2011, NADS changed its trading name to Level Playing Field as we feel this name better embraces the social model of disability and our works and projects.

Level Playing Field, a registered charity in England and Wales, acts as a campaigning and advisory organisation to its membership across all sports. We work together with our partners and stakeholders to share good practice, raise awareness and promote improved access to sports stadiums for disabled fans and disabled people who aspire to be match-going fans, non-match day visitors and/or employees/volunteers at clubs/stadiums. Our wide-ranging membership includes professional clubs, equality and disability NGOs and governing bodies alongside disabled supporter groups, their advocates and individual members.

To ensure meaningful change and the sharing of good practice, it is important that we continue to work closely with disabled fans and their groups and associations. In addition, our partnerships and cooperation with football, cricket and rugby clubs and their governing bodies and leagues remains critical along with our on-going works with equality and disability organisations and the various fans groups.

About disabled sports fans

There are more than 10 million disabled people in the UK, approximately 12% of the population, with a spending power in excess of £80 billion per annum. Yet, disabled people remain significantly less likely to participate in cultural, leisure and sporting activities than non-disabled people.

LPF estimates that approximately 30,000 active disabled football fans regularly attend professional football matches in England and Wales and it is unknown how many more follow the game from home as 'arm chair' fans. That is not enough when you consider how many people attend live football matches each season. For example, during season 2011 to 2012 13,148,465 fans attended Premier League matches and a further 9,791,690 attended Football League matches. With more accessible facilities and services at football stadia more disabled fans would be able to follow live football alongside their peers.

Many sports clubs are looking increasingly for new ways to improve their matchday revenue and ticket sales to better fill their stadia on matchdays and to encourage a more diverse fan base that best reflects their own local community. It is LPF's view that each should seek the new business opportunities offered by the "disabled £" and encourage more disabled supporters and their family and friends to attend live matches.

Providing an inclusive stadium with equal facilities and services, which enables disabled fans to sit together with their own fans, families and friends, makes such good business sense. LPF has many examples of achievable good practice design solutions that have been adopted by forward thinking clubs and sporting venues to improve both their facilities and services. Many of these are low or no cost smart solutions that are applicable to both existing and new stadia. The LPF professional audit helps clubs to find these solutions and in turn to grow revenue and the overall fan base. LPF continues to work with the sporting family to promote inclusion for all fans.

Aims of LPF

- To be a voice for all disabled fans
- To promote an inclusive agenda and ensure an equality of experiences for all fans
- To enable more disabled people to attend live football and other sporting events
- To raise disability and access awareness through football and other sports
- To utilise the unique voice of football to raise awareness and improve the situation more widely across our society



Key achievements for 2012 - 2013

Without question, 2012 was certainly a year to remember, and sport played a huge part in that. We will surely never forget the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London, and there have been so many other sporting achievements alongside them. Level Playing Field are proud of the behind-the-scenes role we played in making the Games more accessible for disabled fans (although there is always room for access improvements and especially at existing venues) as well as our work throughout the year across many other sports and sporting events.

2012 was a landmark year for us, and we have compiled this review of some of our stand-out memories of this exceptional year.

Launch of our new website: We have taken on-board your comments and feedback over the last few years and have completely re-designed the new website from the ground up, ensuring a sharper and more accessible experience for all users. That means fewer mouse clicks, quicker navigation, social media integration (with direct feeds from our Facebook and Twitter pages) and a host of additional features. Additionally, there is a large amount of information on disabled fans facilities and services at sports clubs and venues throughout England and Wales, and not forgetting the fans comments section which allows real-world experiences to be shared between disabled fans and the clubs. These pages now have the option to include much more information from an individual club and its disabled supporter association (DSA), for example, club information sheets about their matchday services and latest developments and DSA newsletters.

Presenting our new Level Playing Field logo: As we continue to grow, it is important that our 'brand' is easily identifiable to our members and that our logo should also represent the work we do. We believe that we have now found a brand identity that is fitting and easily recognisable and would like to thank those of you who helped us to develop the new LPF logo.



LPF logo



LPF Audited



LPF Centre of Excellence

Announcing our new LPF Access Audit accreditation: Last year saw the launch of the LPF professional audit programme with clubs, stadiums and other sporting venues able to commission a professional LPF Audit which would be undertaken by an NRAC (National Association of Access Consultants) accredited auditor. Following the success of this programme, we recently took the decision to endorse each of the clubs and venues that commission an LPF audit and in so doing sign up to our principles in working with LPF towards meeting the minimum accessibility standards for

sports stadia and venues on match (or event) and non-match days. Every club and sporting venue that commissions a professional LPF audit is now presented with an 'LPF Audited' accreditation and is entitled to display the 'LPF audited' kite mark at their venue, as a demonstration of their commitment to improving access and inclusion standards.

In addition, those clubs and venues that demonstrate the highest access and inclusion standards in accommodating disabled fans and visitors also receive the **LPF Centre of Excellence award**. To qualify for this, the club or venue must first commission an LPF Audit and demonstrate that it meets the requirements of existing equality and access legislation, building regulations and accessible sports grounds and stadia good practice standards.

The first LPF Centre of Excellence awards were presented to Wembley National Stadium and to the Emirates Stadium, home of Arsenal FC, in November 2012. We have received many enquiries about the Centre of Excellence award, and we hope to be in a position to present it to more clubs and venues in 2013/14. If you wish to commission an LPF access audit which will be conducted by one of LPF's professional auditors who are specialists in accessible stadia and sporting venues on both match (or event) days and non-matchdays.

Rugby Football League (RFL) Access Audits: In September, we were delighted to announce a ground-breaking new initiative which will see Rugby League become the first sport to conduct full access audits at all stadiums as part of their competition licensing system with a view to improving the quality of facilities available to disabled and non-disabled spectators. RFL has commissioned Level Playing Field to conduct these audits which marks the start of a long term commitment by Rugby League to improving the existing facilities and services at its clubs to ensure an inclusive welcome for all Rugby League fans.

Access Audits FA of Wales: The FA of Wales has commissioned Level Playing Field to provide a professional access audit for each of the 12 clubs participating in the FAW Premier League. We believe that this project marks the start of a fruitful partnership between the FAW and Level Playing Field and to improving existing facilities and services at their grounds and thereby creating an inclusive welcome for all Welsh Football League fans.

Our Fans Fund Projects (a more detailed project summary can be found in the next section of this report):

- Our core project, '**Working Together**' provides on-going support to football clubs and disabled fans, where no disabled supporters association (DSA) currently exists. The initiative enables us to support the establishment of pan-disability, user led DSA's. This project is progressing well and helping to forge more positive working relationships between disabled fans and their clubs which in turn improves disability and access awareness and inevitably can lead to a more accessible matchday experience for all fans. We have received a large amount of interest in this project, with eight clubs and their disabled supporters currently in the process of establishing a new DSA and with other clubs keen to take part in 2013/14.
- The '**Match Buddies**' project, which takes a partnership approach to matching disabled people with a 'buddy', who has a shared passion for attending matchdays, and creating a buddy approach to going to the game. This idea was born out of a scheme we first established with the Wigan Learning Partnership Board and Wigan Warriors and Wigan Athletics. This project, Never Watch Alone, has attracted a great deal of interest across a number of sports. With funding from the Fans Fund, we have been able to conduct a pilot research project to

better inform a long-term roll-out of this initiative across the game. The pilot project is now complete with a tool-kit created for use by clubs interested in setting up their own local initiative. A number of clubs have already shown a keen interest in setting up 'Match Buddies' locally and we currently await news of an extension to this funding stream to safeguard the future of the project.

LPF Weeks of Action: The campaign, which is now in its 8th year, ran from the 6th to the 21st April 2013, and once again provided a great opportunity for clubs to celebrate the positive steps they have taken towards better inclusion and good access for their disabled fans. This initiative is popular with many clubs and their disabled fans and seems to have gained further momentum this season following the successes of the Olympics and Paralympics London 2012. Many clubs focused their initiatives around the matchday with pitch-side presentations, disability football showcases and disabled mascots escorting players onto the pitch. Other clubs and organisations chose to host non-match day events. LPF continues to run this yearly campaign with absolutely no funding and we are mindful that we could do so much more if we could find the resources for promotional banners and other merchandise; yet again, we had a large number of requests from clubs and organisations. We are therefore very keen to find a like-minded sponsor able to support this important initiative to ensure greater visibility and awareness during our 2 weeks of action. Please do contact us directly if you can help with merchandise, campaigning expertise or direct funding.

Annual General Meeting 2012: Last year's AGM was hosted at the House of Lords on 30th May 2012 and was opened by LPF Vice-President Lord Rosser.

As well as the usual AGM business, the undoubted highlight of the afternoon was provided by LPF Ambassador June Wratten, who gave an impassioned speech about why good access is so important for disabled fans. June shared her very personal, powerful and emotional story about her and her son Joseph's experiences and the important part that attending live sports played in their daily lives and the hope that it gave Joseph from day-to-day. In addition, June described the significance of holding on to her bonds with LPF after losing Joseph.

In summary, June explained why it is so crucial that we continue to work with clubs for long-term improvements to ensure a brighter future for all disabled sports fans. June now acts as an LPF ambassador speaking with groups and clubs about the work we do.



AGM 2012, House of Commons, Palace of Westminster

In closing the AGM, LPF Vice-President Lord Faulkner described how essential it was for our subject to gain wider exposure and called for greater support.

Following their election at the AGM, Rex Burton, Keith Graham, Kush Kanodia, Christine Peacock and Mike Rice joined the Board of Trustees, with Alan Turvey as a co-opted Board member.

The LPF Annual Awards: LPF believes it important to recognise and praise good practices wherever they exist and firmly believes that this creates a more positive culture for change. We have once again asked clubs, disabled fans and our other stakeholders to nominate their unsung heroes. The LPF Awards panel consists of June Wrattan (the Joseph Wrattan Award is named in honour of her late son), LPF volunteer Elaine Brown and a nominated Trustee (this year - Michael Rice); LPF will be announcing the winners of this year's awards soon. Please look out for the announcements in upcoming newsletters.

LPF special recognition awards: The Board of Trustees and LPF Awards Panel took the decision to bestow 2 special recognition awards this year and we are delighted to announce the winners at this year's AGM.

Keith Marson, the retiring Disability Liaison Officer at Derby County FC, will be recognised for his many years of service and his dedication to ensuring accessible facilities and services at the club on matchdays. His personal commitment and drive led to the implementation of many innovative and low cost solutions that have ensured that many more disabled fans can enjoy live football each week at Pride Park. In meeting accessible stadium standards, Derby County FC now stands as a benchmark of good practice and a testimony to what can be achieved when there is a true desire by all involved. Keith was able to convince the Board and Chief Executive of the good business sense in making the matchday more accessible with an additional 900 disabled supporter season tickets being sold last season. Pride Park has since been recognised by stakeholders across Europe for setting the standards in creating good access in an existing stadium and so by proving that it is not just new stadia that can be truly inclusive. We wish to thank Keith for his devotion to this topic and to the disabled fans at his club; they quite rightly recognise him as a true local hero within the game. Keith will be presented with his special award at the AGM and will join Derby County FC in becoming an honorary life member of LPF).

Rugby Football League (RFL) is also to be honoured with a special recognition award for its bold steps in being the first sports governing body to require its clubs to commission a professional access audit as part of the requirement of its club licensing in 2013 with the intention that audits will become part of RFL facility standards from 2014. The RFL has commissioned LPF to conduct an access audit at each of its championship clubs over the coming months and has instructed its super league clubs to do the same. We wish to thank and recognise the RFL for this important new governance ruling which will help to ensure that Rugby League clubs are inclusive and welcoming for all fans. It makes good sense for the RFL, their clubs and all their fans and we would implore that other sports governing bodies follow their lead in also setting and ensuring the standards required. The LPF special recognition award will be presented officially to the RFL at an event to be confirmed in the near future.

We have continued to work with sports governing bodies and their clubs throughout 2012 to ensure more accessible facilities and services for disabled sports fans, these include; the Football Association, Premier League, Football League, Football Conference, Isthmian League, Independent Football Ombudsman, Football Association of Wales, Rugby Football League, Canterbury and Rugby

Union, the English Cricket Board (ECB), LOCOG (for the Olympics and Paralympics London 2012), Sport England, Football Stadia Improvement Fund and the Sports Ground Safety Authority.

Alongside this, Level Playing Field continues to work in partnership with like-minded disability and equality organisations both within sports and the wider disability sector. LPF is working alongside Kick It Out to help implement their Equality Standards to ensure that access and inclusion forms part of the criteria of these standards and we continue to offer our support to the Football Supporters Federation, Supporters Direct and other fans organisations. We share an office and close bond with our sister charity, Centre for Access to Football in Europe and continue to work together as critical partners in our on-going works. In addition, we will continue to work with the All Party Parliamentary Football Group and key politicians in the sporting and disability sector. LPF would like to say a huge thanks to all the organisations that we have worked so successfully with in 2012, and we look forward to building on those important relationships and to making many new friends in 2013.



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson & Joyce Cook, OBE at a recent Access Association meeting

Fans Fund Project Updates

Match Buddies Pilot

In 2012, LPF conducted a one year Match Buddies Pilot Project funded by Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF) Fans' Fund. The principal objective of Match Buddies is to take a partnership approach to matching a disabled person with a volunteer 'buddy' who shares their passion for sport, for the purpose of simply enjoying the game, the socialising and the atmosphere together, just like anyone else.

During the pilot, we aimed to develop and test a structure for establishing Match Buddies schemes within Football Clubs.

In brief, our pilot project overview included:

- Building a framework to roll the pilot project (with a view to a broader national roll out of Match Buddies beyond the pilot phase).
- Identifying three regions in which to set up pilot Match Buddies schemes and recruiting key partners (e.g. clubs, fans groups, Primary Care Trusts, Learning Disability Partnership Boards, local charities) willing to implement and support the project locally.
- Extending local partnerships to include fans with learning difficulties and mental health conditions and looking at the possibility of extending the buddy service to include other groups of disabled fans who may not currently be able to attend match days due to the lack of someone to go with them.
- Working with each pilot Match Buddies scheme to establish steering groups and partnership launch plans.
- Assessing and compiling the lessons learnt during the Match Buddies Pilot Project and preparing a toolkit that can be shared with other regions wishing to implement a similar project.
- Seeking funding for a year 2 roll out of Match Buddies in further regions.



The project has now concluded and an application for years 2 and 3 made to the Fans Fund. You can read about our pilot activities in detail in the Match Buddies Toolkit. In brief, key activities have included:

- Consultation, research, promotion and calls for interest in Match Buddies, which resulted in three geographical areas being selected for the pilot project – London, the South West and the Midlands. In these areas, LPF worked with Exeter City, Birmingham City and West Ham.
- A wide range of potential disability partners were identified across the areas selected. The groundwork was also laid for possible national partnerships should funding for years 2 and 3 be granted (such as a partnership with the new My Guide programme from national organisation Guide Dogs).
- Our South West club worked hard on the project but found that Match Buddies would not be financially sustainable for them at present. With further research, we identified that some other clubs (typically smaller clubs), are likely to face further such challenges in securing the time and funding to implement Match Buddies. To counteract this, we have planned in the roll out phase of this project to incorporate time for the Development Officer to research funding avenues and assist with the application for funds within the local area of relevant clubs. This will ensure that sustainable Match Buddies schemes are set up, and will ensure that smaller clubs are not prevented from applying to run a scheme in the future.

- Our other clubs went on to set up Steering Groups, and the active launch of their schemes is anticipated shortly. Within our funding bid, we have included time to support these schemes to an established level throughout years 1 and 2 of the planned national roll-out.
- We have produced a Match Buddies Toolkit to be launched at the AGM. This creates a strong call to action for clubs to establish their own Match Buddies schemes, as well as a resource kit for doing so. The Toolkit identifies the advantages for both disabled and non-disabled buddies in terms of activity, learning and employment. It also highlights the many areas that need to be considered when setting up a Match Buddies scheme, in addition to highlighting some of the issues we encountered during the pilot phase. Finally, it provides a number of useful templates and documents developed for the use of those interested in setting up their own Match Buddies scheme.

For more information on this project please contact LPF at info@levelplayingfield.org.uk or call 01244 893584.

Working Together

The Working Together project underpins our core works and aims to help clubs and disabled fans to set up a self-sufficient user led Disabled Supporters Association (DSA). To this end, Level Playing Field is working with clubs where no DSA exists. This three year project sees Level Playing Field working with a minimum of 9 clubs and their disabled fans to help establish DSAs. In almost all cases, where there is an active and democratic DSA working in partnership with its club, there will be a more inclusive and accessible matchday experience for all fans.

As a part of the project, clubs are encouraged to share and implement good practice solutions to help improve their facilities and services for disabled football fans. LPF is also assisting DSAs to recruit local Ambassadors to work with both the Club and the DSA to highlight the work being done for disabled fans. This initiative also helps to forge links between the club and DSA and local community organisations and charities that provide alternative/accessible services such as Braille documents, audio commentary etc.

A number of clubs expressed an interest in the project from the outset and some have already set up Disabled Supporter Associations. These include: Norwich City, Swansea City, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Wrexham FC. Other clubs involved in the project are in the early stages of setting up DSA's. LPF will be working with their steering groups over the next few months to help them set up and call their first AGM's. Meetings have also taken place with a number of other clubs who have shown an interest and LPF are currently following these up. The next stage will see LPF continue to work with clubs already part of the project while finding additional clubs to work with.

For more information on this project please contact LPF's Development Administrator, Rachel Nickless at rachel@levelplayingfield.org.uk or by calling 01244 893584.

Treasurer's report - year ended 31 August 2012

The accounts of the National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS), trading as Level Playing Field, for the year ended 31 August 2012, 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 the Charity and to support our members, the football family and other sports with a modest level of funding and with an ever increasing membership. We continue to strive for an equality of facilities and services for all supporters.

In the summer of 2011, the football authorities decided to implement a new system for funding 'Fans Groups' on a matched funding and project basis; this has been implemented by a new 'Fans Fund' which is operated by the Football Foundation. We are pleased to say that the Charity was successful in obtaining funding for two projects (a 3 year project and a pilot project) and a progress report and summary on these are reported elsewhere in the Annual Report.

The pilot project has now come to an end and we are currently in discussions to secure further funding through the Fans Fund to support the continuation of both this project and our wider works. In addition, we continue to pursue other funding streams but in the current economic climate, this is no easy task.

Our access audit programme has gained some momentum with recent commissions received from the Football Association of Wales, Rugby Football League and a number of football stadiums. We also welcome the continuing support from the Football Association, the Football Conference and our full membership along with our other generous donors and pro-bono service suppliers (see the Annual Report's Roll of Honour) and we very much hope that additional funding (from the football family and other sports) will be forthcoming to enable us to continue with our important projects and core activities that see an ever increasing demand on the charity and associated levels of work.

Janet Ireland Treasurer, Level Playing Field

For more details, please refer to the charity's full accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2012.

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



LPF Roll of Honour – 2012 / 2013

The LPF Board of Trustees wishes to thank the following individuals and organisations who have generously raised funds, made donations and given in-kind support to LPF during 2012/2013.

For Donations, Grants and Fundraising

The **Football Association** has continued to provide much need match funding support of £15,000 per annum and with an additional donation of £5,445 in 2012 towards our costs in supporting other projects.

The **Football Stadia Improvement Fund, Fans Fund** for funding 2 key projects (Working Together and Match Buddies) during the last fiscal period (£42,751 in 2011/12) and further details can be found in the accounts to year end 31st August 2012. Please note that the funding grant for the Match Buddies project has now ended and we are awaiting further news on further funding to enable us to take this project forward.

Individual donations were also received from Mike Bold, John Garbett, John Gawthorpe and family Chris Johnson, Alan Montgomery, David Munn, Flora Nelson, Jack Pegram, Steven Powell and Colin Street.

Additionally, the **Football Conference** once again generously donated £1000 and we received a donation of £357.00 from the **Isthmian League**.

For in-kind pro-bono donations and professional services and advice:

For loans of venues and hospitality for LPF meetings: The House of Lords, Westminster Palace

For legal advice: Bevan Kidwell Solicitors, Tel: 0207 843 1820 and www.bevankidwell.com

For media and PR advice: Bird Consultancy, Tel: 0161 839 4846 and www.birdconsultancy.co.uk

For preparing an independent examiners report of the annual accounts: Katherine Woods, ACA, Kavanagh Woods Consulting Ltd, Ash Grove, Royles Head Lane, Huddersfield

For providing a data management system: Customers Really Matter Limited, Tel: 0845 310 9973 and <http://www.customersreallymatter.co.uk/>

For office space: Centre for Access to Football in Europe, info@cafefootball.eu | www.cafefootball.eu

For payroll and bookkeeping services: Rosie Perkins

For accountancy and tax advice: Gary Deards

For Access Auditing advice: Mike Elkerton, NRAC Auditor

For volunteering activities throughout the year: Elaine Browne and June Wrattan

Warmest thanks to each for their continued friendship and generous support. Please accept our apologies if your name does not appear in the above roll of honour; 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.

Level Playing Field Honorary Officers and Ambassadors

President: David Bernstein

Vice Presidents: Lord Rosser of Ickenham; Lord Faulkner of Worcester; Andrew Shaw; Chris Bird; Chris Farnell; Phil Friend; Jim Froggatt

Ambassadors: Danny Wallace; Danny Mills; Steven Johnson; June Wratten

Patron of the LPF Weeks of Action: Sir Trevor Brooking

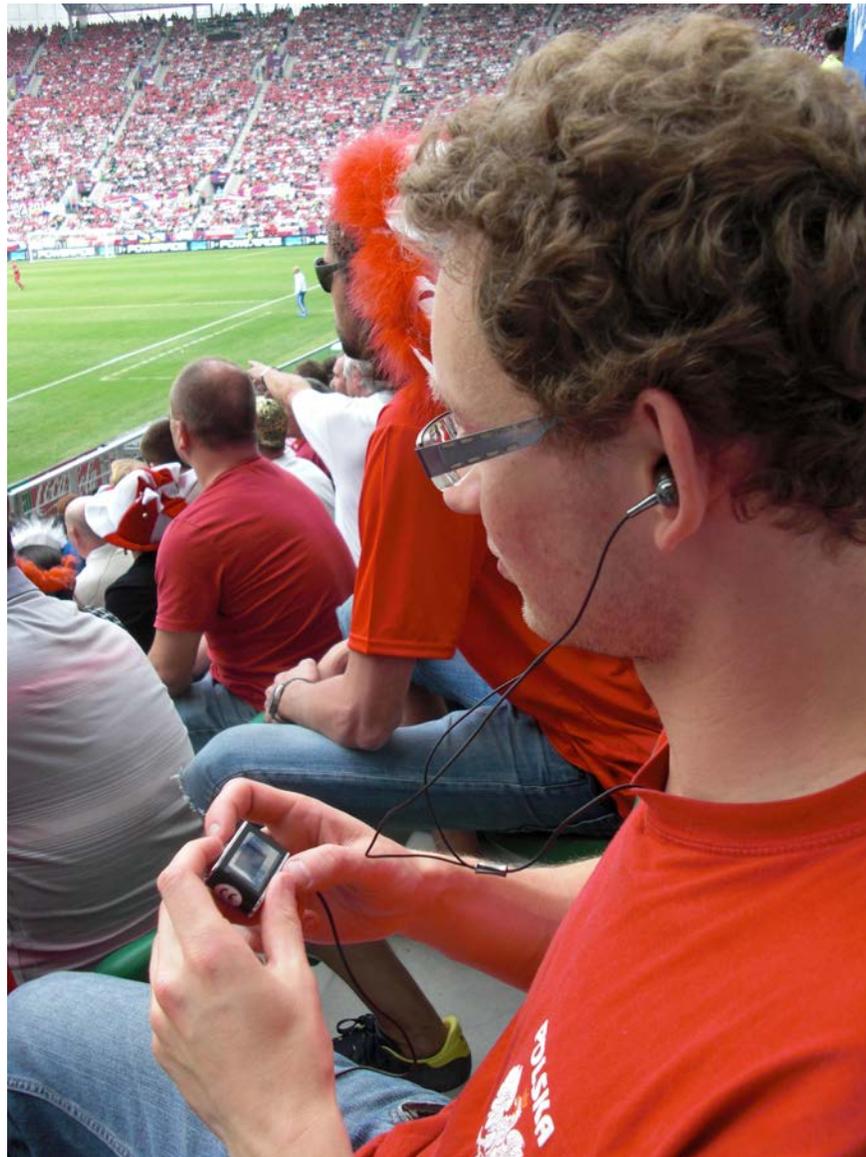
LPF project volunteer: Elaine Browne

Level Playing Field Trustees, Co-optees and employees to 16th May 2013

Trustees:	Joyce Cook, OBE	Chair
	Gary Deards	Vice Chair
	Janet Ireland	Treasurer
	Anthony Taylor	Secretary
	Rex Burton	
	Keith Graham	
	Kush Kanodia	
	Christine Peacock, MBE	
	Michael Rice	

Co-optee: Alan Turvey

Employees: Ruth Hopkins, NRAC Auditor
Rachel Nickless



A partially sighted supporter watching the match using audio-descriptive commentary

If you would like to become an LPF volunteer or to apply for a position as an intern at the charity, please contact Level Playing Field by email at info@levelplayingfield.org.uk or by calling 01244 893584 for more details or alternatively please send a current CV and reason for applying.

The charity's offices are based at Chester Business Park and volunteer and intern positions may be either office or home based. We are currently seeking specialists in IT, report writing and preparing fundraising applications.