



**Level Playing Field**

**Promoting Good Access For All Fans**

**Annual Report  
2017**

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## Presidents Forward

This is my 11<sup>th</sup> year as President and I'm pleased to welcome you to Level Playing Field's annual report.

The organisation has grown considerably in that time and this year saw Level Playing Field start the process to convert from an unincorporated charity to a charitable company limited by guarantee and prepare for an office move from Wembley.

The Premier League reported on its clubs' pledge to meeting Accessible Stadia and progress has undoubtedly been made. However, there is still work to be done in football and other sports, to ensure disabled fans have a fully inclusive match day experience.



I am very grateful to the Board of Trustees, the Ambassadors and my fellow Honorary Officers for their continued support and commitment to Level Playing Field. I am always struck by the dedication of the trustees and staff as they continue to operate so successfully with only limited resources and to ensure that the issues still facing many disabled sports fans remain high on the agenda.

I am looking forward to another exciting and successful year ahead for the charity.

With best wishes,

**David Bernstein CBE, Life President**

## Chair's Report

It has been my pleasure to serve as chair of Level Playing Field. The charity has continued to push boundaries and works on achieving greater level of access for disabled fans.

Firstly, may I place on record my appreciation for the continued support and dedication of our President, David Bernstein CBE, along with our distinguished Vice Presidents including Lord Richard Faulkner of Worcester, Lord Rosser of Ickenham and David Davies OBE and our other Honorary Officers. Their work on behalf of Level Playing Field can never be understated and I am personally grateful for their guidance, advice and general wise counsel.



The aims and objectives of Level Playing Field remain clear - to ensure that football and other live sports events are fully accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all fans in England and Wales.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the hard work of the staff at Level Playing Field. They have worked hard to support governing bodies, clubs, Disabled Supporters Associations and disabled fans. During this period, I have seen and personally experienced the positive change that has come about from their diligent work.

Access for disabled fans continues to develop as an issue and there is now a greater priority placed on this on a national perspective. Now the dust has settled on the Premier League's own pledge, we can see that the game has never been more accessible. However, we are very conscious that there is still a lot more to be done before disabled fans have an equal matchday experience across all levels of football.

We are grateful to the media who have taken up the challenge of publicising the Premier League's pledge and commenting on other accessibility issues that have been noted. We also appreciate the work of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, other government departments, as well as our friends at the EHRC, other disability charities and NGOs. Of course, we pay particular tribute to disabled fans themselves for their help in pushing for change.

## Chair's Report (continued)

The Premier League's pledge has been a significant catalyst for change at this level. Premier League Football clubs are engaging with their fan base to bring about these changes, but it is important that we recognise that this is just a starting point and not the end of the process. We look forward to this extending beyond the Premier League to all levels of football and, indeed, into other sports – we know that we will be required to work with clubs, governing bodies and other sports in general to ensure that disabled sports fans have equality of opportunity to attend and enjoy sports events.

It is pleasing to see the EFL, FA Wales and lower league football clubs continuing to develop their accessible provision for disabled fans. We see positive developments and plans in place with Premiership Rugby, the England & Wales Cricket Board, Rugby Football Union, The Jockey Club and Wimbledon, all of whom are placing a greater emphasis on providing an inclusive experience for all their fans.

There is a greater awareness across all sports regarding their obligations – not just legal, but moral – to disabled supporters, but the message is clear that more needs to be done. Level Playing Field is looking forward to working with all involved to increase access and inclusion for disabled sports fans.

In my previous report, I mentioned that Level Playing Field had carried out a thorough and comprehensive strategic review. This process has enabled the Charity to have a clear understanding of how Level Playing Field can facilitate change with our partners, stakeholders and disabled fans. There were several key actions taken forward, with most well under way and expected to be completed by the last quarter of 2018.

One of the key tangible actions that the review identified was the need to recruit a Chief Executive. I am delighted to announce that, after a thorough recruitment process, which included active involvement of stakeholders for which I am grateful, CEO, Owain Davies has been appointed and commenced in his role in January 2018.

2018 promises to be a busy and exiting time for Level Playing Field. We will be going through a rebranding process in order to better represent what Level Playing Field does and the areas we work in. As part of the process, and following on from the results of the strategic review, we are planning to launch our new website which will provide a valuable resource for fans and clubs. By necessity, as our current offices at Wembley are to be redeveloped, we will be moving to new premises by the end of August 2018.

## Chair's Report (continued)

Level Playing Field, like all charities, operates with limited resources and we have again seen increasing demands for our services and expertise. I would like to place on public record my appreciation of the Premier League Fans Fund, who have continued to provide us with both core and project funding over this period. Their support and general advice has been crucial in us moving the charity forward.

Others have, of course, donated and supported Level Playing Field during the year. We are grateful to the FA and the National League, as well as other benefactors, notably Veale Wansbrough Vizards LLP (legal advice), David Davies (media and PR) and Albury Associates (accounting) who have kindly provided their professional expert services as charitable pro-bono donations this year.

It was a pleasing to two more clubs (Brighton and Manchester City) achieving Centre of Excellence status and I am confident that we shall see more joining this group before long.

It is important that we thank everyone at the clubs, venues, DSAs, partner NGOs, governing bodies, the media and disabled fans for their continued support.

Finally, a final recommendation from the strategic review, was to move the charity towards incorporated status. We have worked closely with our legal advisers in progressing this. During 2018, this process will be completed in accordance with the wishes of our membership and the charity will operate through a company limited by guarantee. I am, as always, extremely grateful for the support of my fellow trustees and wish to thank them for their commitment and dedication to the work of Level Playing Field. Their work is entirely voluntary, but they play a crucial role in terms of governance and achieve the aims and objectives of the Charity.

We remain focused on the year ahead and we do not underestimate the challenges that lie ahead, but will continue to push for positive change and ensuring that access and inclusion remain at the top of the agenda.

**Tony Taylor, Level Playing Field - Chair**

## About Level Playing Field

Level Playing Field (LPF) is the trading name for the National Association of Disabled Supporters and was originally established in 1998. LPF is a registered charity acting as a campaigning and advisory organisation across England and Wales to its membership and other parties across all sports. We are recognised as the representative and co-ordinating body of disabled sports fans.

LPF is a democratically run charity led by a representative Board of Trustees that has been elected by its members. LPF is further supported by its President and Vice Presidents (Honorary Officers), including key persons within the Football, Disability and Political arenas, who act in an advisory and ambassadorial capacity. LPF also has a small team of staff and consultants who collectively provide specialist access and inclusion knowledge, support key projects and manage the day-to-day running of the charity.

LPF has a wide range of members including professional clubs, disabled supporters associations and individuals. Our key objectives are to promote an inclusive agenda, to raise awareness and to enhance wellbeing through sport by ensuring an equality of spectator experience for all fans. LPF supports the Social Model of Disability, which states that people are only disabled or excluded by the barriers within our society.

LPF also provides support services and expert advice to its members and stakeholders, and represents the views, issues and concerns of disabled supporters to football and sports governing bodies, and government. We provide independent expert advice on all matters related to accessible sporting venues and inclusive match and event day experiences for disabled fans. Our works encompass a wide range of support services and our stakeholders include architects, local planners and access officers, clubs, managers of sports stadiums, other venues, policy makers, politicians/all party groups, media representatives, other fans groups, equality and disability organisations as well as disabled people, disabled sports fans, disabled supporters associations and their advocates.

We are extremely proud of our achievements to date and the impact and influence we have had in improving the match day experience for so many disabled people who enjoy watching live sports or aspire to do so, but there is still so much more to do to ensure 'Equal and Inclusive Access for All Fans'.

## **LPF Aims & Objectives**

The aims of Level Playing Field remain very clear and they are to ensure that football and other live sporting events are fully inclusive and welcoming to all fans in England and Wales.

- To be a voice for all disabled sports spectators
- To campaign for equality of spectator experience
- To enable more disabled people to enjoy live sports
- To enrich the lives of disabled people through football and other sports
- To raise disability and access awareness

## **The Importance of Making Sport Stadia Accessible**

More than 15% of the population is disabled with one on four families having a disabled member. At any given time an estimated 40% of the population will require easy access including families with young children, pregnant ladies, senior citizens and people with temporary injuries or ill health. More than 50% of disabled people have never participated in leisure or sport activities or attended a live event.

It is important to recognise the moral, legal and good business cases for providing truly accessible stadiums and other sporting venues. In 2017 the DWP estimated the “purple (disability) pound” is worth £249bn to the UK economy. Sports clubs looking to increase their ticket sales and to encourage a more diverse fan base can tap into new business opportunities and encourage more disabled supporters and their family and friends to attend live matches. Providing an inclusive stadium which enables disabled fans to sit alongside their fellow supporters makes good business sense.

More than twenty years after the Disability Discrimination Act came into force we are still seeing an overall shortage of wheelchair accessible viewing areas, insufficient and / or poorly identified easy access and amenity seating for ambulant disabled supporters. Often the wheelchair user spaces are at pitch side with no choice of viewing positions, sightlines are compromised by standing supporters, stewards and photographers and hospitality areas are inaccessible. There is a lack of accessible toilet facilities and other amenities at some grounds, a disparity between ticketing policies for disabled and non-disabled fans and a lack of disability awareness training amongst staff.



Poor accessibility of sports stadia is a serious issue; it is discrimination against disabled people and there is an increased demand for our expertise, services and support.

LPF currently handles around 550 enquiries per year and as the number of disabled people continues to rise within the population, their expectations quite rightly increase and as we reach out to other sports we can only anticipate that number of enquiries will increase.

Our funding and our resources are limited – we currently receive £287,400 p.a. from the Premier League Fans Fund and our work with other sports and our access audits are at charitable rates in line with our charitable status. We also rely heavily on donations, membership subscriptions, and professional pro-bono services.

LPF recognises that some clubs are making improvements for their disabled fans and we are keen to work with them to offer support and advice when changes are made to policies, procedures and the physical environment. We have many examples of achievable good design solutions for existing and new stadia as well as no cost and low cost suggestions to becoming more accessible.

New stadia, along with any other public building, are of course designed to be inclusive with minimum legislative standards in place. We are therefore disappointed when stadium design teams do not extend those minimum standards to incorporate best practice and guidance to deliver a fully inclusive spectator experience. We would like to see all sports stadium building projects appoint an accredited access consultant with suitable sports stadia experience and skills to advise throughout the whole project.

Evidence shows that some of the best progress happens where there is a proactive Disabled Supporters Association (DSA). Having an independent democratic group of disabled fans with a good working dialogue with the club helps to raise awareness and keeps accessibility on the agenda. Our 'Working Together Project' has supported many DSAs establish and drive change.

LPF also has a responsibility to campaign on behalf of disabled supporters, to raise disability awareness and to strive for an equality of supporter experience. We work closely with sports governing bodies and government and the clubs themselves to ensure we remain the "go to" organisation for advice regarding disabled supporters.

## General Manager's Report

2017 has been another busy year for Level Playing Field when we've regularly seen our topic in the national press and on the political agenda.

A lot of good work for disabled sports fans has been taking place at clubs across the country and we try to share information via our regular newsletters and social media posts.

As reported last year, in line with good governance Level Playing Field commissioned an external consultant to undertake a strategic review of the organisation and the report was presented to the Board of Trustees in July.

The review was well received and gave us a number of key areas for development in the future including commissioning a new website, re-branding and a focus on our delivery points to fans, clubs, disabled supporter associations and NGOs.

Alongside these changes we continued to support disabled fans by helping with their queries and complaints, establishing and supporting DSAs and running regional forums. In 2017 we took over 500 enquiries from fans and clubs.

We have developed our CPD accredited disability training courses for clubs and organisations and continue to offer professional access audits and design appraisals specifically written for sports stadia. Our access auditors, Ruth Hopkins and Nicky Baker, are both NRAC (National Register of Access Consultant) accredited and have a wealth of experience working with sports venues.

## We Are Moving

In Spring 2017 we learnt that our office in Wembley was scheduled for demolition as part of the Wembley Park Master Plan and that we needed to find new offices by mid-2018. This proved to be a very difficult task as we needed to find affordable accessible offices located close to accessible transport links. We spent many hours assessing premises online and many more hours viewing what turned out to be unsuitable because the agents didn't have even basic knowledge of what "accessible" means. By the end of the year we still had not found anywhere suitable and we were starting to look slightly further afield.



## Welcome

In January 2017 we appointed our new Development Officer, Owain Davies, who joined us from Saracens RFU and was brought in to manage and build our relationships in other sports and to develop our disability training. We have continued to develop our relationships in other sports including; Rugby Union, Rugby League, Athletics, American Football, Horseracing and Tennis.

In September 2017 we appointed Helen Pownall as our LPF Team Administrator. Helen has a civil service background and brings a wealth of office administration experience.

## Premier League Pledge

Level Playing Field has been campaigning for 20 years for improvements for disabled sports fans to ensure they have an inclusive and equal match day experience. In August 2015 the Premier League clubs pledged that all its clubs would meet Accessible Stadia by August 2017 and as that deadline drew closer there was a lot of media coverage about the clubs that would not meet their targets



and the threat of legal action if they did not. At the same time, we were also being told about the clubs that were on target and meeting the pledge. Unfortunately, the expected deadline of August came and went without comment but we knew that a lot of work was still going on. The report was finally issued in October 2017 and Level Playing Field issued the following statement:

Level Playing Field has welcomed the Premier League Accessible Stadia Guidelines Report.

In September 2015, the clubs pledged to meet the Accessible Stadia guidelines by their self-imposed deadline of August 2017 and earlier this year it was clear that a number of clubs would not achieve this. We hope that those clubs that have failed to meet the pledge will have identified the work they still have to do and have credible plans in place.

## Premier League Pledge (continued)

### Tony Taylor, Chair of Level Playing Field said:

*“LPF has worked for almost twenty years to ensure disabled football fans have a fully inclusive match day experience. That has to include the removal of physical and procedural barriers, along with the provision of appropriate facilities and services for all disabled people. We were delighted when the Premier League Clubs made a commitment to meet their pledge two years ago. We saw this as an opportunity for the clubs to set the benchmark for all sports stadia and to demonstrate what can be achieved.”*

*“We are therefore disappointed that a number of clubs have failed to meet the requirements of that self-imposed pledge and have let their disabled fans down. We are seeking urgent assurance regarding what happens next and how much longer the existing Premier League clubs will be given to meet their obligations. LPF welcomes the Premier League Board’s decision that newly promoted clubs will be required to meet the terms of the 2015 Shareholders’ resolution, and disabled supporters must know ultimately what sanctions will be put in place for those clubs who persistently fail to meet their obligations.”*

*“It’s not all bad news and LPF is keen to recognise the improvements that have been made. There are now more wheelchair user spaces at Premier League football clubs than ever before, more easy access and amenity seats have been identified, more Changing Places facilities provided, more Sensory Rooms and more Audio Descriptive Commentary (ADC) provision. Every Premier League football club now has a Disability Access Officer (DAO) who liaises directly with disabled fans.”*

*“West Bromwich Albion FC, for example, is a club that has made incredible changes for disabled fans since the pledge was announced. The club operates from an older stadium, but has still managed to meet the Accessible Stadia numbers for wheelchair users (Home and Away), installed easy access and amenity seats, provided additional accessible toilets, a state of the art Changing Places facility, a Sensory Room, accessible refreshment areas and new signage. This just goes to show what can be done and they should be congratulated. The club is now working closely with its Foundation to reach out to the community so that disabled people know there are more spaces and seats available for them at The Hawthorns and that they will be made welcome”.*

## Premier League Pledge (continued)

Accessibility at Sports Stadia for Disabled People is now high on the agenda for government, the media, clubs, leagues and disabled people themselves.

LPF will continue to meet regularly with the Premier League's Supporter Relations team to provide support and expertise to clubs and disabled fans.

Naturally we will monitor the situation at the Premier League clubs and throughout the football pyramid going forward.

As the year ends, work is still going on at a number of clubs where there were unforeseen issues regarding the construction work, relocating existing supporters etc. but we are confident that disabled access is now a priority at all Premier League clubs. Also, newly promoted clubs from the EFL Championship League will only have two years to meet Accessible Stadia, which is a big step forward.

## Disabled Supporters Associations

Level Playing Field has continued to help establish new and support existing Disabled Supporters Associations.

Headlines in 2017 include the establishment of Bristol Rovers DSA, Walsall FC DSA, Aston Villa DSA and Wimbledon DSA, the launch of FC United Manchester DSA, the re-establishing of Arsenal DSA and celebrations for Leeds United DSA (25 years) and Crystal Palace DSA (First Anniversary).

## Regional Forums

The Level Playing Field Disabled Supporter Regional Forums are becoming

Increasingly popular and the aim has always been to cover all of England and Wales. In 2017 the first North West Forum was held at Manchester City FC, second Welsh Forum was held at Wrexham AFC,

the first London Forum was held at Arsenal FC and the first Midlands Forum was held at Derby County FC. We were also pleased to attend the South West Disabled Fans Experience Forum at Yeovil Town FC.

Plans are to continue these on an annual basis and to set up new forums in 2018. Level Playing Field is very grateful to all the clubs that have kindly hosted the events for us.



## Centre of Excellence

In September Brighton & Hove Albion FC was awarded a Level Playing Field Centre of Excellence.

The American Express Community Stadium is the second in the English Football League to achieve this award and sits alongside Wembley, Pride Park (Derby County FC) and the Emirates (Arsenal FC) Stadiums as the only football grounds to have reached this standard.

The “Level Playing Field Centre of Excellence Award” is presented to sporting venues that demonstrate the highest access and inclusion standards in accommodating disabled spectators and visitors on match (or event) and non-match days. To qualify for the award, the club or venue undergoes a Level Playing Field professional access audit and must demonstrate that it meets all good practice standards, equality and access legislation and building regulations for accessible sports stadia.

Brighton & Hove Albion FC has been innovative in making many excellent improvements and provisions for its disabled fans. These include several smart and low cost ground breaking solutions that have established good practice examples for existing stadiums that Level Playing Field now hopes other clubs will look to adopt.

Level Playing Field recognises Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club as an excellent example of a club making continued improvements to its disabled fans facilities. We are particularly impressed by the “can do” culture throughout the club and based on the findings of the access audit and in recognition of the work that has been done and continues to be done, the LPF Board of Trustees are delighted to award the “Level Playing Field Centre of Excellence”

The award was made by David Davies OBE, Level Playing Field Vice President.



## Audio Descriptive Commentary

There has been an increase in the provision of Audio Descriptive Commentary at clubs for blind and partially sighted fans. This year alone we have been told about ADC being provided for the first time at Luton Town FC, Crawley Town FC and Mansfield Town FC.

## Sensory Rooms

Providing a sensory room in a sports stadium means many people can attend a match who would not otherwise be able to. In 2017 we ran news stories on the new sensory rooms at Southampton, Arsenal and Crystal Palace.

## Changing Places Facilities

Since August 2015 Accessible Stadia (Supplementary Guidance) has recommended Changing Places facilities are provided at all sports grounds. These larger accessible toilets include an adult sized changing bench and a hoist to enable people with more complex toileting requirements to attend a match. Level Playing Field will continue to support the Changing Places campaign and our access audits all recommend a CP facility is installed. Most of the Premier League clubs now have a Changing Places or a mobile facility available on match days and an increasing number of EFL clubs and other sports are recognising their importance and installing them.

## Weeks of Action 2017

Our Weeks of Action in 2017 was the most successful to date with a record number of participants. The campaign saw a significant increase in demand for Weeks of Action materials, most notably banners and t-shirts.

This is the ideal opportunity for clubs and organisations to champion the good things they are doing for disabled sports fans. This year's theme was chosen as #GameChangers to give everyone the opportunity to share information about something or someone who has made a difference.

Name	2017	2016	2015
Premier League	11	13	6
EFL	37	33	15
Non-league	2	2	4
DSAs	19	14	15
Others ( Partners / Bloggers )	21	13	8
Non-football clubs	2	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>49</b>

## Weeks of Action (continued)

Social Media played an important part in the two weeks and we were delighted to share photographs that included Premier League players in Level Playing Field T Shirts, Mascots in T Shirts and waving Level Playing Field flags and contributions from Disabled Supporters Associations and across the football pyramid.



Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to the success of Level Playing Field Weeks of Action 2017. We are very grateful to the EFL who gave us a lot of support from the start this year and we hope to build on this success in the future.

## Gary Deards Memorial

In August Level Playing Field were invited to a ceremony at Wembley Stadium to unveil a plaque in honour of the former Vice Chair of Level Playing Field, Gary Deards.

Gary first became involved with Level Playing Field in 1999 and devoted so much of his own time and energies to working towards a better landscape for disabled people. He was also a much-respected member of the Centre for Access to Football in Europe disabled fans advisory group, where his specialist knowledge helped to bring about real change in Europe.

The plaque is located on the official stadium tour route, meaning that many visitors to the stadium will learn more about the impact of Gary's works and reads: "In memory of Gary Deards. A key advisor on accessibility at Wembley Stadium. Leaving a lasting legacy for disabled supporters."

## Thank You

I would like to thank all the staff for their support and hard work during the past year and a big thank you to our Chair, Tony Taylor and the Board of Trustees for all their support.

We will continue to represent and support disabled sports fans, the clubs and sports governing bodies and to increase disability awareness and to help keep our topic right at the top of everyone's agenda.

**Ruth Hopkins, Level Playing Field - General Manager**



## Thank You to all our supporters

LPF shares offices with our sister charity, the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE). We value that relationship and the support they give us as part of our ongoing work.

Level Playing Field wishes to thank our President, David Bernstein CBE and our Vice Presidents, Ambassadors and volunteers for their continued support.

Finally, a big thank you to our members and supporters who continue to promote the work of Level Playing Field.

## Level Playing Field Trustees, Honorary Officers and staff:

### Trustees:

Tony Taylor, **Chair**

Steve Evans, **Secretary**

Jo McNicol

Jamie Beddard

Rex Burton

Mo Mohammadi

Kristine Green

### Vice Presidents:

Lord Rosser of Ickenham

Lord Faulkner of Worcester

Chris Bird

Chris Heaton-Harris, MP

David Davies OBE

Jim Froggatt

Phil Friend OBE

### President:

David Bernstein CBE

### Patron of the LPF Weeks of Action:

Sir Trevor Brooking

### Ambassadors:

Danny Wallace

Danny Mills

Steven Johnson

June Wratten

Janet Ireland

### Staff:

Ruth Hopkins, General Manager & Head of Access and Development

Owain Davies, Development Officer

Nicky Baker, Access and Development Officer

Helen Pownall, Administration and Communications Officer

Kieran Reynolds, Project Coordinator - Working Together Project



# Level Playing Field

**Promoting Good Access For All Fans**

**Level Playing Field**

**The Junction**

**Station Road, Watford, WD17 1ET**

**Registered Charity No: 1079740**

**Tel: 01923 545370**

**E: [info@levelplayingfield.org.uk](mailto:info@levelplayingfield.org.uk)**

**W: [www.levelplayingfield.org.uk](http://www.levelplayingfield.org.uk)**

**@lpftweets**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1079740

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS  
LEVEL PLAYING FIELD  
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Albury Associates Limited  
79 College Road  
Harrow  
HA1 1BD

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

1079740

**Principal address**

National Association of  
Disabled Supporters T/A LPF  
1 Olympic Way  
London  
HA9 0NP

**Trustees**

T Taylor	
K Graham	- resigned 23/8/2017
K Kanodia	- resigned 23/8/2017
J Beddard	
J McNicol	
S Evans	
K Green	- appointed 23/8/2017
M Mohammadi	- appointed 23/8/2017
R Burton	- appointed 23/8/2017

**Independent examiner**

Albury Associates Limited  
79 College Road  
Harrow  
HA1 1BD

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

During the period 1 January 2017 - 31 January 2017, the board of trustees has continued to safeguard the good name and values of the charity and to support our members, partners and key stakeholders with a relatively modest level of funding.

2017 saw a change that brought the successful 'Working Together' project into our main core funding activities by the Football Stadia Improvement Fund 'Fans Fund'.

The LPF Access Audit programme engaged with football clubs from the Premier League and the EFL across England to deliver Access Audits. Along with this Level Playing Field's Disability Inclusion and Etiquette Training (DIET) was delivered to a number of clubs and governing bodies across Football, Cricket, Rugby Union and Horse Racing.

Pro-bono professional services have been generously donated to the charity by Veale Wasbrough Vizards (legal advice), David Davies (media and PR) and Albury Associates (accounting).

LPF have shared resources, such as office space and communications, with Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) to help minimise overheads.

LPF continues to seek further funding through other funding streams and sponsors but in the current economic climate this is not an easy task.

We very much hope that much needed additional funding will be forthcoming from other sports in the years ahead. This will enable us to continue with our important projects and core activities that see an ever-increasing demand on the organisation and its associated levels of work.

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 August 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



S Evans - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 set out on pages four to eight.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Independent Examiner.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

My 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.


**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Kiran Patel BA FCA  
Independent Examiner  
Albury Associates Limited  
79 College Road  
Harrow  
HA1 1BD

30 August 2018

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 Unrestricted funds £	2016 Total funds £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>			
Voluntary income		302,660	200,112
Activities for generating funds	2	38,776	91,443
Investment income	3	-	193
<b>Other incoming resources</b>		-	10,748
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>341,436</b>	<b>302,496</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>			
Costs of generating voluntary income		288,911	186,527
<b>Governance costs</b>		<b>2,160</b>	<b>1,020</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>291,071</b>	<b>187,547</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>50,365</b>	<b>114,949</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>257,940</b>	<b>142,991</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>308,305</b>	<b>257,940</b>

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.



**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	Notes	2017 Unrestricted funds £	2016 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	11,507	6,918
Cash at bank and in hand		306,443	255,435
		<u>317,950</u>	<u>262,353</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(9,645)	(4,413)
		<u>308,305</u>	<u>257,940</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<u>308,305</u>	<u>257,940</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
		<u>308,305</u>	<u>257,940</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
		<u>308,305</u>	<u>257,940</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted funds	9	308,305	257,940
		<u>308,305</u>	<u>257,940</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			
		<u>308,305</u>	<u>257,940</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 August 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:



T Taylor -Trustee



S Evans -Trustee

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

**Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings - 33% on cost

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Income from Audits	<u>38,776</u>	<u>91,443</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2017	2016
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>-</u>	<u>193</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2017 nor for the year ended 31 December 2016.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2017 nor for the year ended 31 December 2016.

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

**5. STAFF COSTS**

	2017 £	2016 £
Wages and salaries	144,451	109,490
Social security costs	14,889	8,311
Other pension costs	1,779	-
	<u>161,119</u>	<u>117,801</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2017	2016
Administration	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures and fittings £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017	<u>2,367</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017	<u>2,367</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 December 2017	-
At 31 December 2016	-

**7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade debtors	<u>11,507</u>	<u>6,918</u>

**8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade creditors	4,339	470
Taxation and social security	4,286	2,923
Other creditors	1,020	1,020
	<u>9,645</u>	<u>4,413</u>

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/1/17 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/17 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	257,940	32,220	290,160
Donations	-	18,145	18,145
	<u>257,940</u>	<u>50,365</u>	<u>308,305</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>257,940</u>	<u>50,365</u>	<u>308,305</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	321,758	(289,538)	32,220
Donations	19,678	(1,533)	18,145
	<u>341,436</u>	<u>(291,071)</u>	<u>50,365</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>341,436</u>	<u>(291,071)</u>	<u>50,365</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/16 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/16 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General fund	142,991	96,804	239,795
Donations	-	18,145	18,145
	<u>142,991</u>	<u>114,949</u>	<u>257,940</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>142,991</u>	<u>114,949</u>	<u>257,940</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	284,351	(187,547)	96,804
Donations	18,145	-	18,145
	<u>302,496</u>	<u>(187,547)</u>	<u>114,949</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>302,496</u>	<u>(187,547)</u>	<u>114,949</u>

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED  
SUPPORTERS  
TRADING AS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Gifts	-	-
Donations	19,677	18,145
Grants	282,983	181,967
	<u>302,660</u>	<u>200,112</u>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		
Income from Audits	38,776	91,443
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	-	193
<b>Other incoming resources</b>		
Other Income	-	10,748
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>341,436</u>	<u>302,496</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>		
Wages	144,451	109,490
Social security	14,889	8,311
Pensions	1,779	-
Office fees & communications	70,757	47,128
Telephone	-	-
Sundries	12,045	4,517
Management and Administrative Costs	44,990	16,752
Fixtures and fittings	-	329
	<u>288,911</u>	<u>186,527</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy	2,160	1,020
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>291,071</u>	<u>187,547</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u><u>50,365</u></u>	<u><u>114,949</u></u>