

Level Playing Field

For disabled sports fans

Monday 4th November
Stadium MK



**National Forum
2019**



#LPFNational



About Level Playing Field

Level Playing Field is a registered charity in England and Wales that acts as a campaigning and advisory organisation for disability access and inclusion across all sports. We have a team of dedicated staff with specialist knowledge, skills and experience to facilitate access improvements.

“Promoting a positive, inclusive experience for disabled sports fans.”

We embrace ‘the social model of disability’ (see more on this below) and promote the removal of barriers that might prevent a disabled spectator from attending or enjoying a live sports event. Level Playing Field wants to ensure that disabled people have a matchday experience that is equal to a non-disabled supporter’s, whenever they attend live sport. We do this through our four key pillars:

- FOR THE FANS
- FOR THE CLUBS
- KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
- CAMPAIGNS

Facts and figures



21% of the UK population has a disability. This equates to...

13.9
million people



There are around 5000 guide dog owners in the UK

Disability is the largest minority group in the UK



8%
of all children



19%
of working-age adults

Life costs you
£570
more on average per month if you are disabled



50%
of disabled people have never attended a live entertainment or sports event



45%
of retirement-age adults

...have a disability.



1.2 million
UK wheelchair users



9+ million
deaf or hard-of-hearing people in the UK

Social Model of Disability

Equality Act (2010) Disability definition - “A physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ adverse effect on your ability to do ‘normal’ daily activities”.

Social vs Medical - The outdated ‘**Medical Model of disability**’ considers disability to be a problem caused by an individual’s mental or physical limitations. Conversely, the ‘**Social Model**’ says that disability is created by barriers in society, and empowers disabled people by encouraging the removal of these barriers for a more inclusive society. The three key barriers are:

> **Environments**

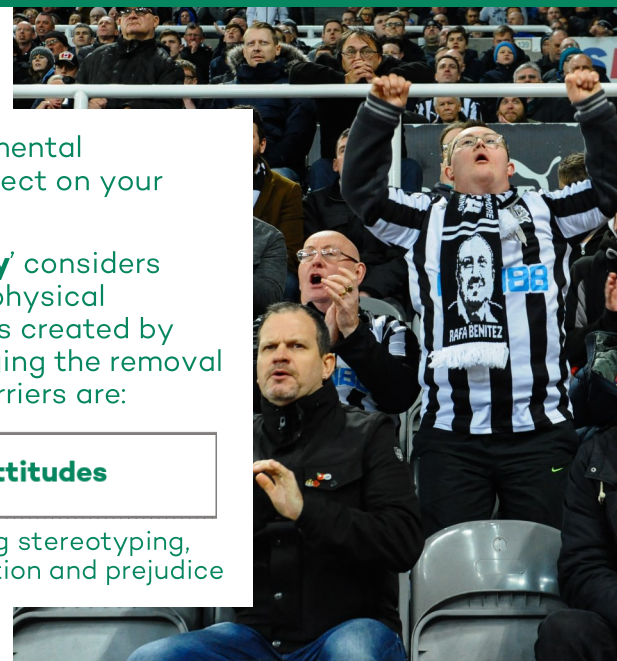
which includes accessible buildings and services

> **Organisations**

such as inflexible policies, practices and procedures

> **Attitudes**

including stereotyping, discrimination and prejudice



Welcome to Level Playing Field's inaugural National Forum.

Level Playing Field regularly hosts regional forums across the country to gather opinion, talk about the matchday experience of disabled fans and to share best practice, with the aim of improving matchdays and making them as accessible and enjoyable as possible for disabled fans.

We want this national forum to continue to bring people together, creating beneficial networks and partnerships between fans, disabled supporters associations, clubs and governing bodies.

Today will provide an opportunity for panel discussions and questions, key note speakers, along with break out sessions to look at important areas in detail.

The national forum is taking place at Stadium MK, home of MK Dons. Over the past few seasons the stadium has experienced a number of developments that have improved accessibility and it is a great venue to host this event.

Level Playing Field firmly believe that driving greater standards comes through a partnership approach of clubs working with fans and other partners to improve facilities and services. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to network with fans, clubs, disabled supporter associations and governing bodies, whilst also visiting exhibitors supporting the event.

We hope you enjoy the day.



Tony Taylor - Chair



Owain Davies - Chief Executive

General information



There is free WIFI available
Network : DoubleTree Public
Password: Doubletree19



Presentation, Slides will be available for delegates following the conference.



Hashtag, We want you to share your forum experience so please use **#LPF National** and tag in **@lpftweets** when posting on twitter.



Stadium Tours, For delegates who are interested in a short stadium tour please make your way to the registration area when the forum closes.

#LPFNational

**9:00
AM**

Registration, Refreshments and Networking

**10:00
AM**

Welcome and Open of National Forum

-**Presidents Welcome**, David Bernstein, CBE

-**Chair's Introduction**, Tony Taylor

**10:30
AM**

How to Drive Greater Access & Inclusion?

Panel Q & A: **Chris Harris** West Bromwich Albion -Disability Access Officer, **Joanna Deagle** Centre for Access to Football in Europe - Managing Director, **Rachael Lomax** Everton - Access Advisor, **Morgan & Stephen Parry** Fans

**11:30
AM**

Know Your Rights

Guest Speaker: **Chris Fry** from Fry Law is a specialist lawyer working within equality law.

**12:15
PM**

Lunch and Networking

**1:15
PM**

2nd Half - Kick Off

Reassemble in main hall for a few words ahead of the break out sessions.

**1:30
PM**

Break Out Session

Fans and DSAs

Maximising your voice

Club engagement

Liam Bird Fans Liaison

Clubs and Governing Bodies

Proof of disability

Making improvements

Ruth Hopkins General Manager

**2:00
PM**

Break and Networking

**2:30
PM**

The Critical Friend, The DSA

Panel Q & A: **Anthony Joy** Arsenal DSA - Chair, **Mark Davies** Fulham DSA - Chair, **Amy Wilson** Centre for Access to Football in Europe - Fans Liaison & Access Officer, **Mark Phillips** Swansea City - Disability Access Officer

**3:15
PM**

Guest Speaker

Stephen Miller, MBE 3 x Paralympic Champion and Newcastle United Disabled Supporters Association Secretary

**4:00
PM**

Forum Round Up

Owain Davies, Level Playing Field, Chief Executive brings the forum to a close.

**4:15
PM**

Full Time and Stadium Tour

For those wishing to take part in the stadium tour please make your way to the registration desk where the tour will start.

#LPFNational



Level Playing Field

The Junction, Station Rd
Watford, WD17 1ET

levelplayingfield.org.uk

01923 545370

info@levelplayingfield.org.uk



@lpftweets



@lpftweets



@levelplayingfielduk

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