



“What do you mean only five accessible spaces?” Help me to become a loyal customer...

Trevor says that football brings, “A great enjoyment to my life.” He went to his first game at just four years old, and has clocked up around another five hundred since then. He sums up being a supporter as, “Brilliant, exciting, frustrating, agonising and exhilarating!”

Trevor drives to matches in his hand controlled car, and meets other disabled fans from his local area to go to the match together. He says, “It’s the best feeling in the world to be with fans who think like me – singing, chanting, laughing...and the elation when we score..!”

But Trevor’s passion for live football is somewhat marred. “I love seeing the Premiership club I support play, whenever I can. But I’d also like to go to games closer to home. It would be easier and cheaper too, so I could go more often. But it can be hard to get a ticket because there are so few accessible places. It can be virtually impossible if you want to go with a few disabled friends, as I like to do. Football is a social event for me...”

“One club told me once that they didn’t need more than four accessible seats because only four disabled people in the local area regularly came to matches. But how were they ever going to get a fifth person without an extra seat? I’ve also heard about some clubs where you either can’t buy a season ticket or can only go to one in every three games just because you are disabled; for me, being a fan means going to as many games as possible and creating a real ‘link’ to the club and people around you on a regular basis. I wouldn’t be able to support a team that treated me as a part-time supporter.”



So how does Trevor feel about this experience? “It’s so frustrating when you’ve virtually got your money out ready to pay for a ticket, only to be turned away. It doesn’t make sense for me or the club. On one occasion, I did manage to get a ticket, but when I arrived they didn’t have enough accessible parking, so I ended up having to park some distance away, outside of the ground. I very nearly went home instead. It put me off going there again, which is such a shame. If I heard the situation had been rectified though, I’d be happy to go back - I’m a supporter at heart. I want to support clubs, not criticise them. The chance to do that at all levels of the game would be brilliant.”