



Don't make my disability your excuse...it's time there was a level playing field

Quotes from interviews:

“When sitting in the home section at an away game [due to a lack of accessible spaces in the away section] I've had abuse from the home fans when our team scores...I've been called many names.”

“I've often found accessible toilet facilities to be inadequate.”

“Once I had to sit with the home fans at an away game, where it was impossible for me to see past the press photographers.”

“As a visually impaired supporter, a lack of commentary equipment is often a problem for me.”

“Away clubs don't often suggest easy access seats for minimal walking for ambulant and visually impaired fans.”

“I've experienced aggression from non-disabled supporters.”



“It can be really hard to get a ticket to matches as a disabled fan, as there are so few accessible places at some clubs.”

“In the past I’ve had abuse about being disabled from the home fans at my own club as well as the opposing supporters.”

“I could’ve gone to a game for free because I’ve got learning difficulties. But I paid because no one told me.”

“I am ambulant disabled. Parking - even with a blue badge – is an issue when going to away games. It’s no help to be told by clubs that there’s a drop off point when I don’t have anyone to drop me off...once there was a shuttle bus to take you from the car park to the stadium, but it didn’t stop near the away end, so there was still a lot of walking. On the way back, I was dropped in a different area to where I was picked up, and had to walk uphill back to the car in the dark and the rain.”

“It is not helpful when non-disabled supporters use the accessible toilet facilities. There are precious few as it is. Use of a RADAR key would address this.”

“I’m a wheelchair user and I have a big problem at my club with people standing up in front of me. This especially happens whenever my team are near the goal...it’s so frustrating to miss the most exciting moments. It happens a lot when it’s coming up to half time or full time too.”

“I’ve nearly been pushed out of my wheelchair in crowds, and I’ve had problems parking when spaces haven’t been correctly allocated. I think there should be better disability awareness training for stewards at some clubs.”

“More stadiums need to have a hearing loop.”



“Steward training should make it clear that all disabled people are different and have different needs...they should be aware of all types of disability and how it affects the individual disabled fan.”

“As an ambulant fan, I appreciate just being able to park and get a seat.”

“Sadly, discrimination exists. It’s a problem when it’s not challenged and addressed.”

“Once I was left at the coach stop, which turned out to be nearly a mile from the stadium. No helper came. There was a hill for me to get up, and there wasn’t even a pavement.”

“I’ve been abused by fans about my disability. I felt totally humiliated.”

“It’s very difficult to get some clubs - including my own - to acknowledge our problems and help us to fully enjoy the football experience in the same way as non-disabled fans.”

“The low number of tickets for wheelchair users is a problem for me, as well as protection from the weather. I’m often left exposed to the wind and rain.”

“I’ve needlessly paid full price before because concessions for disabled fans weren’t advertised anywhere. I only found out about them because another supporter told me.”

“I once had coins thrown at me.”

“Some stadiums still have poor wheelchair access after all this time.”