**COMMUNITY UPDATE FOR WYCOMBE WANDERERS TRUST MEETING – 25th NOVEMBER 2021**

**Disabled Supporters Association**

Many of the improvements which the DSA has asked the Football Club to implement are now being undertaken, including disabled toilets, signage and ramps. Thanks to Steve Copp and Mark Wengler for helping to push these through.

The second DSA coach trip to an away match takes place this Saturday (Sheffield Wednesday). There are currently 19 DSA members planning to be on board, including 4 wheelchair users. Thanks to OWWSA for their friendly co-operation with all the arrangements.

The DSA is represented on WWFC’s EDI and Safeguarding Working Group by myself and Liam O’Rourke. At my instigation, training for WWFC / Trust / WWSET on EDI (September 2021) and Mental Health and Wellbeing (January 2022) is being provided by Bucks Adult Learning, one of whose trainers is DSA member Wendy Tilby.

I have been receiving all emails to date addressed to dsa@wwfc.com and answering all queries. The support of Steve Copp and Ben Griffiths at WWFC has been sterling and highly valued.

The Trust are members of Level Playing Field, the charity supporting disabled sports fans, and I currently receive their regular newsletters etc. The DSA enjoy a warm and supportive relationship with this Watford-based organisation.

The Trust Board should carefully consider the future organisation and direction of the DSA to ensure that it does not founder after a reasonably promising start.

**Autism Project**

The DSA is working with the Trust and WWFC to create media (either written, video or both) to assist people with autism, and their carers, to feel safe if they come to Adams Park for a match. This was the brainchild of DSA member Louise Brown, and she and fellow DSA member Luke Wright are part of the team (including Matt Cecil, Steve Copp and Mark Wengler of WWFC, and myself) who are making this happen

**Mental Health Initiative**

WWSET, with the Trust as partner, have succeded in obtaining a five-figure grant from Heart of Bucks towards the establishment of a project to help prevent suicides in young males. We already have links with Sunderland AFC who have developed a similar project. The plan is for it to be ready to be introduced before the end of the year. Nigel Kingston and I are currently on the project group. This is the progression of the Terrace Talk initiative which was reported to the Board earlier this year.

**All Quarters**

The fourth meeting was held on 2nd November, and the next will be on Tuesday 14th December. All Quarters came out of our (Trust) Community Plan, and was greatly assisted by the enthusiasm of WWSET and their ability to attract grant funding. I have been pleased to work on this directly with Paul Foley.

The meetings have already attracted the attention of a number of interesting and enthusiastic people who want to assist WWSET, WWFC and the Trust jointly develop supporter groups for Women and Girls, LGBTQIA+ communities, and Ethnic Minority Communities, to sit alongside our DSA. If you would like to attend but are not already on the AQ mailing list, please register before the meeting with Paul Foley, paul.foley@wwfc.com

WWFC’s Rainbow Laces match vs Burton Albion on 7th December is a direct outcome from November’s All Quarters meeting, where LGBTQIA+ issues had a good airing, and a projected Ramadan Celebration Match later in the season is also in the planning stage.

**Community Outreach**

In recent weeks, I have been able to undertake a considerable amount of community work. This includes:

* Visiting a Caribbean Day Centre in High Wycombe, and inviting their representatives to attend a match
* Liaising with the High Wycombe SV2G (St Vincent and The Grenadines Community) group regarding potential linkages with WWFC
* Addressing the AGM of the Bucks BAME Network about Adams Park and All Quarters
* Visit to Royal Star and Garter Care Home in High Wycombe, with Karen Adams (WWT President) to discuss an Adams Park tour for elderly residents
* Advising WWT / WWSET on the recruitment of Yvette Thomas as WWSET Trustee
* Advising WWFC EDI Group on the potential recruitment of a High Wycombe resident, currently a member of the Scottish FA EDI committee, as an independent member

**PL 21st November 2021**