**DSA and COMMUNITY UPDATE FOR WYCOMBE WANDERERS TRUST MEETING – APRIL 2022**

**Disabled Supporters Association**

Membership of the DSA continues to increase.

The third DSA away coach trip to AFC Wimbledon saw an almost full to capacity coach and was enjoyable for all concerned. We eagerly await Phil Catchpole’s Road Movie adaptation of the outward journey. The coach should be run to Play Off matches if available. Thanks to OWWSA and Trust Directors for support.

Steve Copp, together with DSA, have put in a joint bid to WWFC Board for funding for the PicturePath App which helps supporters with autism, dementia and anxiety. If the Trust could also support this, it would be excellent.

After a year of anxious anticipation, the renovated accessible toilets at the South (Family) Stand are now in use; one of the first improvements the DSA originally asked for.

The DSA continues to be represented on WWFC’s EDI and Safeguarding Working Group by myself and Liam O’Rourke. 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.

The DSA’s first birthday was happily celebrated at Adams Park at the Rotherham match - <https://www.wwfc.com/news/2022/march/14/dsa-anniversary-celebrated-at-rotherham-fixture/> - coinciding with the Weeks of Action of our charity partner Level Playing Field, and attendance at the match by LPF’s Chief Executive, Owain Davies.

The DSA will shortly begin to campaign / fundraise so that Box 1 can be sponsored next season to allow for its use as a Sensory Room, with additional /alternative accessible seating outside. It has been used for this purpose on occasion, on a (successful) experimental basis, this season. We hope that the Trust will give its wholehearted support to this campaign when it is launched. I hope that further information will be available before the Trust’s April Board Meeting.

**All Quarters**

The DSA continues to support this valuable WWT / WWFC / WWSET community initiative, with several members in attendance each month.

**Royal Star and Garter Care Home**

This modern care home in High Wycombe houses elderly people who have been in the Services and their immediate relatives. On my last visit there I discovered that the gentleman who is almost certainly WWFC’s oldest surviving player (his appearances were in the late 1940s) is resident there. We have arranged for a group of residents to visit Adams Park on 21st June, where Neil Peters of WWFC has kindly agreed to act as guide.

THE RS&G also has a further WWFC connection. A floor of the home is named after Frank Adams. This is from the RS&G website:

Adams House is named after Frank Adams, a hugely influential figure in High Wycombe. He served in the Army and then the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War, and in the RAF following the outbreak of the Second World War. The ground floor will be named after him.

**Other Initiatives**

Also very much worthy of mention in the Community Update are the **WWFC Ramadan Day**,and the **opening of the Multi-Faith Room at Adams Park.** Trust Directors have been very active in ensuring that both initiatives have been successful and will be able to update the meeting as required.

**Your Sands**

Finally, it’s good that WWFC Supporter, DSA Friend and All Quarters regular Jeff Brydon is active and influential in Our Sands, the new name for what used to be the Sands Residents Association. Complaints from that part of High Wycombe, which is closest to Adams Park, have been many and often highly justifiable in past years, about road congestion, inconsiderate parking, and poor behaviour on matchdays. Even though matchday attendances are rising, these complaints are now considerably less, thanks in particular to the efforts of Jeff together with Neil Peters at the Club. Our Sands are holding their Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Lunch at Adams Park, on 3rd June.

**Peter Lerner 25th April 2022**