



LEVEL PLAYING FIELDS WEEKS OF ACTION 2014

Derby County Football Club is pleased to support the Level Playing Field (LPF) Weeks Of Action 2014.

LPF is a campaigning and advisory organisation working on the behalf of all disabled supporters, which works to share good practise, raise awareness and promote improved access to sports stadiums for disabled fans and disabled people who aspire to attend live sporting events.

Derby County Community Trust held a pre-match CP Football Event, prior to the match today, inviting supporters from the Addicks to play against a selection of Rams' fans.

We have also asked one of our Disabled Supporter's to provide a 'Match Day in the Life of...' article, which can be found here:

My name is David and I first went to the Baseball Ground with my Father in October 1956. The game was Derby County vs. Carlisle, which the Rams won 3-0. 58 years on and 2,247 games later, I have watched Derby from the heady days of winning the Third Division North on 'our mud heap', to the glory days of Brian Clough and to today's magnificent iPro Stadium situated on Pride Park.

Today, as a wheelchair user, I arrive by car, driven by Chris Russell - the young man that brings me to all the games home and away. We arrive at the South Car Park waved through by the friendly Stewards onto a flat tarmac surface, where it is easy to unload my wheelchair and very easy to get to the ground. We



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approach down a purpose built path that is so much easier to get to the ground than some away grounds.

As we arrive at the front of the stadium, we see the first of the sales vans selling all manner of things, each served from a counter low enough for a wheelchair customer. The ticket office also has a lowered counter for wheelchair users and we make our way round to the north end of the ground to the food van, where we buy hot cheese dogs to eat inside the Stadium.

We make our way to Gate 'O' where Brian and Rachel, our friendly stewards, meet us with a smile and a friendly word. It is noticeable that Derby County stewards do make a genuine effort to speak to you and make you feel welcome.

Once inside we meet our friendly Family Liaison Officer - a happy lady always smiling and offering help. At Derby County everything is laid on for wheelchair users; the lift we use has two large well organised disabled toilets at the side of it, a

very important issue for disabled fans.

As we leave the lift, we go onto a flat concrete surface, clean and well-marked, it is a great view... and we are dry when it rains!

The welcome at Derby County is led by Emma Drury, a young married woman settling well into her new role at the stadium. The former Steward is now the Disabled Co-ordinator, quietly confident with an easy caring manner and is a very approachable girl, very easy to talk to and is always welcoming.

The LPF Weeks of Action 2014 runs until the 30th March. For more information about Level Playing Fields, the weeks of Action to join them or sign up to receive their newsletters, you can go online to www.levelplayingfield.org.uk, email info@levelplayingfield.org.uk or call them on 01244 893584.

