

# Level Playing Field

# LEVEL PLAYING FIELD (LPF) 'WEEKS OF ACTION'

**WE ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE LEVEL PLAYING FIELDS 'WEEKS OF ACTION' CAMPAIGN TODAY. THE CAMPAIGN AIMS TO SHINE A LIGHT ON THE POSITIVE WORK BEING DONE BY CLUBS, DISABLED SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATIONS, FANS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TOWARDS ACCESS AND INCLUSION.**

## **Burnley FC Disabled Supporters Association.**

**Hi. I'm Kevin Holden; Chair of the Burnley FC Disabled Supporters Association or BDSA as we're better known. Burnley FC and your BDSA are today demonstrating their support for the Level Playing Fields "Weeks of Action" event, when we take on Arsenal.**

Level Playing Fields work full time to promote inclusivity and equality of match day experience for all football fans with disabilities. Your BDSA works alongside LPF and more importantly as very active members of the Premier League Disability Advisory Group. We work tirelessly to represent the interests of all Clarets supporters with disabilities to the club, the League and wherever necessary.

We have been delighted to assist the club in organising today's Level Playing Fields "Weeks of Action" event, and welcome the club and the team standing alongside LPF in promoting the aspirations of all supporters with disabilities. The players will be joining in to support LPF and the BDSA by warming up in LPF T-shirts prior to the game, and there will be more info on the Club website.

We are, of course, living in very difficult times with the impact of COVID-19, Coronavirus lockdown restrictions, and empty stadiums.

However, with the recent government road map out of restrictions, there is some light at the end of the tunnel, so let's hope we can all make it back into Turf Moor as soon as possible.

Whatever happens, the BDSA will be working with the club on the plans for readmission. Although the stadium may be empty of Clarets supporters, we can still celebrate our dedicated North East and South East corner stands. A great achievement and step forward in improving facilities for supporters with disabilities, with numerous other initiatives in the pipeline.

The BDSA needs your support as members, so please join us. Membership is free and we invite all Clarets supporters

with or without a disability, their family and assistants, or anyone just interested in supporting us, to join the BDSA.

Visit our website; [www.bfcDSA.com](http://www.bfcDSA.com) or simply contact Anita the Club SLO / DLO.

## **Laith Ritchie; our BDSA Youth Ambassador...**

**Hi my name is Laith Ritchie; Youth Ambassador. I have Quadratic Cerebral Palsy. Football is a huge part of our lives. As a wheelchair user I know how important a match day is.**

As Kevin said, the Level Playing Fields are a huge part of why the Premier League is so disability inclusive. Today is a day we celebrate the wonderful diversity and inclusion within the Burnley FC's family.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have not been able to attend a Burnley match since March last year. I know going back to the stadium will be scary for some of our community. But I would like to reassure you, as a person with Cerebral Palsy, that, the BDSA will work in partnership with Burnley FC and other relevant organisations to make sure that you are able to get back into the stadium as quickly and most importantly safely as possible.

Even though we cannot be together we can look forward to celebrating our North East and South East corner and being back on the well-loved Turf!

I would like to mention about our brilliant work behind the scenes. The BDSA's steering committee have and will continue to be communicating with the club's board and also the much-cherished Burnley in the Community throughout this pandemic to plan a brighter future for our Burnley FC supporters.

Last but no means least, on behalf of the BDSA steering committee, stay safe and well.

Enjoy the match today.