



Paddy Power calculated odds of there not being a gay footballer in the Football League and Scottish Football League (8 leagues altogether) as one in over a quadragintillion.

Lily Parr came out in the 1920s and enjoyed a successful career, now we've got prominent, active and out players and coaches in the women's game talking about their private lives in the media.

It's not our business to out people. It IS our responsibility as ultras to stamp homophobia out of the game that we love, so that if a player, coach or spectator wanted to come out, then the terraces wouldn't be a concern. Anti-homophobia, alongside anti-racism, anti-sexism and other struggles is more about celebrating diversity and supporting a better culture to target discrimination.

We do not tolerate homophobia, not only in the scaffold, but outside of football. But if there is an incident at the Dog, try and let someone know and we'll talk about how you want to deal with it.

We hope this zine gives you food for thought and inspires conversation.

In solidarity,



# FOOTBALL FANS AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA EVERYWHERE

In recent decades, homosexuality has moved from being illegal or at least marginalised to being widely accepted in many parts of central European society, such as in politics and the cultural sector. However, in another area of popular culture, football, being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender is still seen as a taboo. Around the world football is still a stronghold of masculinity, mostly watched by, supported, and run by men, for many of whom being gay is another word for weakness. As in every other sector of society, there must be gay football players, but almost none of them dare to openly declare their sexuality.

Football Fans Against Homophobia was founded in Berlin for the Fare Action Weeks 2011 to help creating a more LGBT friendly atmosphere in the game we all love. A banner was made to travel clubs, terraces and football-related projects all over Germany, reaching more than 50 destinations in two years only. Following that success, an English version of the banner was produced, which has by now been presented at matches in Croatia, Denmark, Greece, Norway, the Netherlands and the UK.

Let's stand together to show there is no place for homophobia and other forms of discrimination. Together we can make a powerful statement: Against Homophobia – in football, just like everywhere else.  
Contact us: [international@fussballfansgegenhomophobie.de](mailto:international@fussballfansgegenhomophobie.de)





# A FEW WORDS WITH THE PRIDE OF IRONS

Launched on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, we had a quick chat with West Ham's first LGBT supporters group...

## Can you tell us a little bit about why Pride of Irons came about?

Well the group was initially just a twitter group set up by my close friend Jim Dolan following an incident we were witness to at Upton Park last season. It was a pretty horrible affair, in which one of our fans - for want of a better word - was yelling vile homophobic and racist insults at the opposition team. Although the abuse was not aimed at us, we found it very upsetting and hurtful. It kind of reminded us of football back in the 1980s when racism was rife. It's kind of funny because when Jim and I talk about this incident it's clear that I was probably more affected by it, despite him being homosexual and me not. So I guess that's an indication of my intolerance of bigotry and I'm sure I'm not the only one at West Ham that feels this way.

A lot of credit goes to Jim *[Dolan, Pride of Irons founder]* as he was the one who really highlighted the lack of representation at West Ham United for the LGBT community. Arsenal have the Gay Gooners, Everton have Rainbow Toffees ([twitter.com/RainbowToffees](https://twitter.com/RainbowToffees)) and Tottenham have the Proud Lilywhites and we felt the time was right to let people know that West Ham is an inclusive and welcoming club regardless of race, gender, age, or sexuality.

## How supported were you by the club?

From the off we've had great support from West Ham. We recently had our official launch which was a fantastic success, and we got to meet Chairman David Gold who was really accommodating.

We did have to make one small sacrifice when coming under the West Ham umbrella. The original name of the group was The Ginger Beers (cockney rhyming slang for queers). They thought it may be a little too controversial and cheeky and from a business side of things we can see why. But we have a good name now, which we are happy with and things are going well, so onwards and upwards.

## How about support from other supporters clubs and organisations?

So far we've been really fortunate and haven't come up against any real issues. We've had great support from GSFN (Gay Football Supporters Network) who have played a key role in helping us become established. Alongside that we've also had fantastic support from fellow LGBT supporters groups including the Gay Gooners and CPFC LGBT. Being relatively new in comparison they've been great in giving us advice and information which allows us to learn from their successes and mistakes. They couldn't have been more supportive. We're actually planning on meeting up with some of the groups in the near future.



## What's next for the Pride of Irons?

Looking forward we're really pushing to establish ourselves throughout the West Ham and greater footballing community. That will include being a bigger presence at West Ham throughout all levels and engaging more with other organisations.

**What would you prefer to see: A scenario where there are loads of LGBT and similar groups at every club; or one where they don't need to exist at all?**

In an ideal world there wouldn't be the need for groups such as this, however we feel that it's important to raise and maintain awareness while also ensuring that we remain vigilant when it comes to making sure that bigotry stays out of the game.

## Anything you want to add?

Anyone looking to support the group can do so by following us on twitter and facebook here:

[www.facebook.com/prideofirons](http://www.facebook.com/prideofirons)

Twitter: @prideofirons

# FOOTBALL AND TRANS\* INCLUSION

In 2011 Jaiyah Saelua became the first transgender woman to compete in a men's World Cup Qualifier, playing for American Samoa, which is featured in the incredible documentary Next Goal Wins about the qualification process of the American Samoan national football team. **The chants from the terrace, "that the times are changing" roar through the winds of time.** However, this, unfortunately, has become quite the anomaly. Homophobia, sexism, and yes transphobia are still rife within modern football.

As anyone who loves football and identifies as trans\* knows, **inclusion is hard at the best of times.** Not only does someone face abuse from the stands, in a still masculine dominated game, but their ability to participate in competitive football also narrows down to a set of laborious rules, set out by the FA.

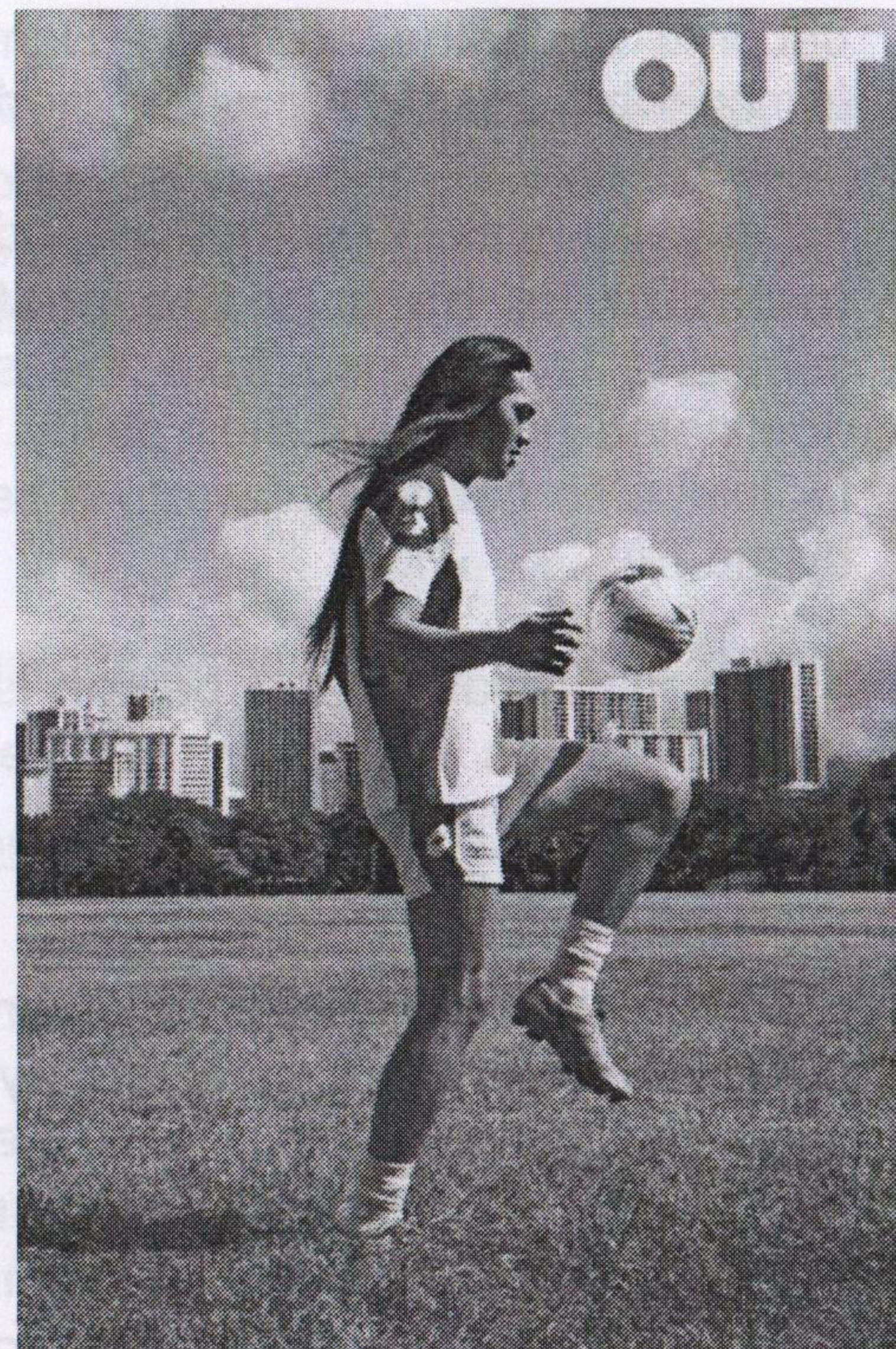
These rules state that a person is not allowed to compete in football games with their identified gender, unless they can prove that they have undergone certain medical transitions. This brings up many issues.

Firstly: what business is it of anyone else which stage of transition (if any) a person may be at? It's intrusive and degrading. The thinking from the FA is that without these 'necessary requirements' **a trans-man might be 'too weak' to compete and a trans-woman might be 'too strong'** to compete in respective games.



This brings me on to my second point. This way of thinking only furthers negative gender stereotypes (which occurs not only in football, but all other sports) that men are more adept to compete than women are. I guess it's not all bad - at least the FA have a trans-inclusive policy, even if it totally misses the point by appearing sexist and encouraging masculinity within football... LOL.

However, the future is bright and there is a light at the end of the tunnel. At the beginning of February, I attended a workshop organised by a wonderful organisation, Gendered Intelligence, in collaboration with the FA. The workshop was designed to talk about how football can be more trans\* inclusive. It was held at Wembley, in a boardroom with a great view of the stadium and pitch. There were a great number of really inspiring people there who are all motivated to change the views of trans\* people and their inclusion in modern football.



We heard some negative stories in regards of experience which include but not exclusive too things such as **violence, being mis-gendered, being excluded from playing competitive football and being made to feel uncomfortable** at stadiums and grounds.

Despite this, the meeting overall however was overwhelmingly powerful and positive. Since the meeting, progression seems to be in motion. There is a newly formed Gendered Intelligence Football team, which will have regular meet ups and start socializing and playing with other trans\* identifying people but not excluding anyone; people involved will have the opportunity to invite friends and family to play and spread the positive message. Those at the meeting have been invited back by the FA to attend an England match at the end of March (trans\* solidarity, in force), and I am sure there will be ongoing discussions with the FA to get football to be more inclusive and keep people included. Meetings such as this are a step in the right direction, however there is still a lot of work that need to be done to change the attitudes within football but I'm excited to be a part of the work being done to make football more inclusive.

Gabriyas Martens



Treat yourself and

# FLY TO THE SPOTTED DOG

for the Tons last game home!

18.04.2015 - 3PM

Clapton FC vs Stansted FC

£6.00

Excluding Tyskie cans

**claptonultras**

Tuesday, 17th March 2015, 7.45pm

**CLAPTON FC v Enfield 1893**

GBTQF

Saturday, 21st March 2015, 3pm

**Bowers and Pitsea v CLAPTON FC**

ESL

Tuesday, 24th March 2015, 7.45pm

**CLAPTON FC v London Bari**

ESL

Saturday, 28th March 2015, 3pm

**CLAPTON FC v Enfield 1893**

ESL

Tuesday, 7th April 2015, 7.45pm

**CLAPTON FC v Takeley**

ESL

Saturday, 11th April 2015, 3pm

**Greenhouse London v CLAPTON FC**

ESL

Saturday, 18th April 2015, 3pm

**CLAPTON FC v Stansted**

ESL

Tuesday, 21st April 2015, 3pm

**London Bari v CLAPTON FC**

ESL

TBC

**Hullbridge Sports v CLAPTON FC**

ESL

TBC

**Takeley v CLAPTON FC**

ESL

TBC

**Barking/London Bari v CLAPTON FC**

LCCSF

Check [facebook.com/claptonultras](https://www.facebook.com/claptonultras) or follow @ClaptonUltras on Twitter for updates.  
Matches may be rearranged due to poor weather.





# PARIS YOUTH GROUP

THE ONLY SUPPORT FOR NEWHAM'S LGBT YOUTH

'Paris' is the only group in Newham dedicated to the needs of LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender or Questioning) youth. Organised by Forest Gate based charity Aston-Mansfield, it supports young people aged 13 to 19 year olds through a weekly support group that allows members to develop relationships outside of school and receive intensive one-to-one mentoring and expert advice from qualified youth workers. Educational sessions also equip teachers and other youth providers with the skills to properly support LGBTQ young people. Since 2011, Paris (the name chosen by the group's members) has worked with 35 LGBTQ young people, with 14 now attending its regular weekly session.

Evidence from Stonewall suggests that 55% of LGBTQ young people experience homophobic bullying at school and 49% of gay pupils who are bullied have symptoms consistent with depression. There is a higher prevalence among LGBTQ young people of depression, damaging behaviours and, most worryingly of all, of suicide. It is estimated that as many as 1 in 4 will attempt to take their own life.

The Paris group makes a difference by encouraging young people to grow in confidence, become more resilient to the world around them and learn to deal more successfully with conflict. It has enabled its members to overcome harmful behaviour, to make better decisions and to equip themselves with knowledge and understanding both about their own sexuality and about safe sex and conduct. For example, four young people who are members of

the group are no longer in damaging situations and struggling at school, but instead are starting university later this year.

Currently Paris has very little funding and there is a real possibility that without it, the group may close. Neither Aston-Mansfield nor the group's members want this to happen - Paris has helped to change the lives of LGBTQ young people in Newham.

Paris, Aston-Mansfield and the Clapton Ultras are therefore asking you to help us fight to protect and defend this essential service.

**Please help us keep supporting Newham's  
LGBT youth by donating here:**

**[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/parisyouth](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/parisyouth)**

If you see any of our delicious pies about, go buy one – all proceeds are going to Paris, alongside proceeds from this zine. So do yourself, and your stomach, a favour!

Paris are also organising a screening of the amazing film *Pride* on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at the Stratford Picture House at 6pm. This is an amazing film about solidarity shown from an LGBT group to the miners, go watch it!



# ESSENTIAL LIST

- Read up Casey Stoney being an openly out England captain and Hope Powell for being an openly out England coach and playing for England.
- Lily Parr for paving the way in the 20s by playing for England and being openly out. That's the 1920s, not the future.
- Connor Natella's story of coming out and still being involved in football: <http://www.footballvhomophobia.com/connor-natella-coming-out/>
- How many fascists does it take to steal a Football v Homophobia banner? How many feminists does it take to get it back? What happened when fascists tried to attack a Football v Homophobia event in Warsaw last month: <http://www.farenet.org/news/youtube-video-ridicules-homophobic-attack-lgbt-football-tournament-poland/>
- If you speak German, check out 'Der Tag Wird Kommen' video on YouTube;
- The stories of major players who came out after retiring, like Thomas Hitzelsperger.
- Or Robbie Rodgers, who came out and then went to the US to play Major League Soccer.
- Experience homophobia? Or discrimination of any kind? Kick It Out, FARE, Football v Homophobia, GFSN, The Fashanu Campaign, Football Beyond Borders are just a few great organisations are resources.
- Liam Davis, who came out whilst playing for Gainsborough Trinity in the Conference North, the highest level where an openly gay male footballer plays.

# I GREW UP A CELTIC FAN

I was never one of the kids who was mad into sport. I liked Pokemon cards and Warhammer, but I was always a Celtic fan. I never had a season ticket but my uncles did. Whenever one of them couldn't make it to the game I'd get the call. I was lucky enough to be at Henrik Larsson's last competitive game at Parkhead (playing for Celtic anyway).

A catholic kid in a protestant town my love of Celtic made me part of a club that gave me a shield against external threats to my identity, sometimes real and sometimes imagined, and meant I always could imagine my sixty thousand allies at Parkhead, each of whom had my back. That was football to me, **being part of something bigger than myself and the protection that affords. I suspect I'm not alone in this. I suspect that's what football is about to many people.**

Move forward a number of years and with immense pride I was finally old enough and with enough money in the bank (well enough of an overdraft anyway) to buy my very own Celtic season ticket.

Scottish football was of course a different place now in terms of the quality and the absence of Celtic's eternal rivals Rangers. I was different as well though, older, more confident, more critical less in need of vague unspecified buttresses for my under construction identity.

In the stands of a professional football stadium it became quickly apparent that the favoured pitch side insults of many, **even fans of perpetual occupiers of the moral high ground Celtic, were still brutally homophobic, racist, or sexist.**



Perhaps not coincidentally my time as a season ticket holder coincided with **my increasing involvement with anti discrimination grassroots club United Glasgow**. Through them came my knowledge of Clapton FC and many other clubs with a strong anti-discrimination message.

The tragedy is that being anti-discrimination marks these clubs out as special in the footballing landscape. Football Vs. Homophobia is tackling one of the many strands of discrimination that still exists in football.

There are those who will dismiss some of the slurs hurled at the direction of players as banter. The fact is though that supporting a football team means you becoming part of something larger than yourself, joining the club as it were. **How can any member of the LGBT+ community possibly feel welcome when the standard touchline banter is targeted at them as much as the players, and comes from someone who is meant to be on their side?**

It might be counter intuitive but part of me longs for that far off day where clubs like Clapton FC and United Glasgow are a little bit less special, because every team takes as strong a stance against discrimination as they do currently. For now though campaigns like Football Vs. Homophobia are helping us move in that direction and I can continue to look forward to my next trip to see the mighty, sometimes antisocial always anti fascist, Clapton FC.

Liam Patrick Hainey

## SOLIDARITY NOT CHARITY

History will see the growth of food banks, providing emergency provisions for people in crisis, as defining the period of the Coalition government's harsh austerity programme. Before 2010, there were around 22 nationwide and now there are over 1000. They provide a lifeline for many who have faced delays in paying benefits or the arbitrary system of welfare sanctions, for example, but charity is far from a long-term solution to an increasing unequal society. A referral typically means a food parcel that lasts for no more than three days and there is also something deeply nauseating about the sight of Tory MPs posing for photos at the opening of a food bank, or David Cameron praising them as an embodiment of the discredited concept of the "big society".

Clapton fans are not the first to collect food for those who desperately need it but we have chosen to specifically show our support for people unable to claim most benefits because of the UK's draconian immigration controls. Undocumented migrants are the worst affected but anyone who has "no recourse to public funds" is at a high risk of homelessness and destitution.

The food we collect therefore goes to Newham's Refugee & Migrant Project (RAMP). Whilst it cannot solve the problems of local poverty – only a transformation of society can make that possible – it represents a deliberate choice to stand with a much maligned group of individuals and families, as an act of solidarity rather than simply an act of charity.

**The Clapton Ultras are collecting for RAMP at our home games throughout March. Please help by donating dried and tinned food.**



# FROM ANON

It was a couple of years ago that I really started to feel conflicted about my sexuality and football. It felt like, even as an innocuous fan, I was being secretive, hiding something. Most Saturdays, I was being surrounded by noise, atmosphere and people having a good time, but what was I doing there?

Chants about shagging a player's missus, sister, dog or mum didn't sit right. If someone said that to me, genuinely don't know how I'd react. Worse, it felt like the same guy had finally found his feet and had a nice rotation of homophobic insults to yell at any of the opposition, or one of our players when he felt like it. "GET UP, YOU FAGGOT", whistling or cat-calling when a player bends over, you know - the normal, unfunny shit. All I could think was what would they do to me if they knew I was gay?

I didn't stick around to ask. I couldn't do it anymore. I stopped going. Dread about what they'd say about me turned into guilt over not saying anything. I wonder what I'd do now in that situation. I call out individual incidents when they happen, but any more than that and I don't know.

I'd like to believe that more often than not, people at the football don't realise they're being offensive, they don't see the banter as homophobic abuse. Often, that's what's said. And fair play, you can't make assumptions about someone's upbringing or education, you don't know their story. But, you might have made an impression on them and make someone feel more confident saying something next time.

The other scenario is that they take it badly, an attack on their free speech. You know what, though? Fuck them. They're lost causes to me, anyway. Nothing I can say will change their minds, just got to

hope that as fewer people have this attitude and that homophobic and other shit banter just becomes extinct naturally.

There is the fear that it will get nasty. You just don't know what will happen. But you don't know if you'll get run over the next time you cross the street.

Unhelpful scenarios aside, what I will say is: do what you're comfortable with. Don't put yourself in danger. But I hope if you're reading this feeling uncomfortable confronting anyone at all, take this away: you are in the majority. You are not alone.

Even though I've asked for this to appear anonymous, I've got your back. And I'm pretty sure there are others that feel the same way that stand under that grotty scaffold.

Still not sure how I feel about football, though.