

ALBION NEWS:  
THE OFFICIAL WEST BROMWICH ALBION MATCHDAY PRODUCTION  
ALBION V BRENTFORD ISSUE 14 DECEMBER 03 2018 KICK-OFF 8.00PM PRICE 3.50

# PROUD BAGGIES SEASON REVIEW 2018/19



The Wizards  
of  
**US**

“There’s No Place  
Like Home”

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# INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to this year's Season Report. And what a season it has been – both on and off the pitch!

Recovering from the disappointment of relegation last season then finishing a creditable 4th only to have our playoff hopes dashed by our rivals was hard to take, however, we remain optimistic and look forward to another season in what is widely regarded as one of the most competitive leagues in the world, with Super Slav at the helm; and whatever happens next season, I know that one thing will not change – that is the commitment of the club to its equality and diversity agenda.

This season off the field has filled me with immense pride, from the permanent visibility we now have in the East Stand to the recognition and award at the Football Business Awards, to name a couple of highlights; I'd like to thank every single one of you who have contributed and been part of our journey thus far, your input, inspiration and support is greatly appreciated.

Such commitment has been a cornerstone of WBA's culture over the past 40 years or so and Proud Baggies' progress is testament to that. You will see in the pages that follow how much genuine support right through the club has enabled us to strive towards providing a safe and welcoming environment for LGBT+ fans and allies on matchdays and beyond.

From the installation of the first fan group banner at The Hawthorns back in August to participation in Birmingham Pride in May, this season has been marked with unprecedented activity in pursuance of our vision, aims and objectives.

As well as our great club I'd like to thank The Football Supporters Federation, especially the Fans for Diversity campaign, our peers in the Pride in Football network as well as our ever-growing community of members who help shape our plans and without whom we would not exist!

One such member I would like to pay tribute to is David Robinson who sadly passed away in March. One of our founder members and father of Vice Chair Sarah, he was the epitome of an LGBT+ ally – championing Proud Baggies all year round at every opportunity and proving just how important it is to have support from all parts of the footballing community. Seeing how proud David was of our work and of Sarah was hugely inspiring and he will be sadly missed by all at Proud Baggies. David, we salute you.

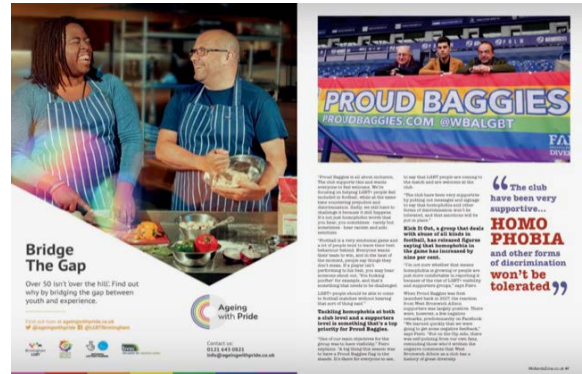
**Piero Zizzi**

**Founder & Chair, June 2019**

# PROUD BAGGIES IN THE MEDIA

One of Proud Baggies' key aims is to increase the visibility of LGBT+ football supporters both locally and nationally. In support of that, we have received a significant amount of media exposure during the last 12 months which has enabled us to spread our message more effectively. Thanks go to all the media outlets that have given us their support this season.

Our founder Piero has been particularly busy gracing newsrooms and media suites throughout the year. In November he was the feature in Jack Murley's BBC LGBT Sport Podcast 'The One with Proud Baggies' where he discussed the rise of Proud Baggies and the issues faced in tackling homophobia in football. Our Patron, Richie Anderson was also to feature in a later episode in March. You can hear them both [here](#).



Piero also featured in a BBC WM debate regarding online abuse received by WBA at the installation of the Proud Baggies banner on permanent display in the East stand of The Hawthorns; and we went international this season too, with interviews on a Peruvian radio station and a feature on Australia's Joy FM! Our member, Jordan Muckley, also featured in local podcast [Woodman Corner](#) with Joseph Chapman.

We also found our way into print media with a 3-page feature in Midland Zone, the UK's biggest regional gay lifestyle magazine, as well as appearing in Dean Walton's pictorial history of WBA '[Proud to be a Baggie](#)'.

Progress to the FA cup 5<sup>th</sup> round gave us an opportunity to be a part of the draw on BBC's The One Show where Neil and Piero donned Proud Baggies T Shirts for the event.

# MEMBER SOCIALS

One of our key goals for this season was to expand our membership and social activity. Proud Baggies exists primarily as a way of better connecting likeminded fans, LGBT+ and allies, and so socialising is especially important to us.



This season we've managed to meet up before most matches both amongst ourselves or with our rival LGBT+ supporter groups. We've also expanded our activities and now hold regular events outside of match day such as a trip to see the acclaimed film 'Just Charlie' and meet the



director afterwards, our [Football v Transphobia](#) night out in Birmingham's gay village or a series of world cup meet ups and even a few Birmingham Bears cricket matches!

Our WhatsApp chat group has seen significant growth during the last year. With daily chat about all things football and LGBT+ related, it's a great way of keeping everyone in touch. All members are free to join and participate as much or as little as they like in a friendly safe environment. If you want to join in, there's a link in the new member welcome email when you sign up [here](#).



Next season promises to be even busier as we plan to step up our social schedule and expand our chat group.

# RAISING AWARENESS

Over the last 12 months, issues surrounding discrimination in football have become a high-profile topic and a national agenda item. We have seen an increase in all forms of discrimination in football which has sparked a national debate.

Raising awareness of the LGBT+ community in and around football is a key priority for Proud Baggies and we have been fortunate to be engaged in a number of events on this topic.



and the lack of visible LGBT+ role models in sport.

In July, Piero joined a panel discussion alongside other inspirational people in sport at [Dentsu Aegis](#)' 'GOAL! LGBT+ People in Sport' conference, where he, Claire Harvey MBE, Ryan Atkin and Jehmeil Lemonius discussed gender stereotypes, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying

In March, Piero was honoured to be asked to address the [Football Safety Officers Association's](#) annual Conference to talk about the work Proud Baggies do at WBA FC and the role of the safety officers and stewards in supporting the LGBT+ football community. In his key note address, Piero called for all those present to go back to their clubs and engage actively with their own LGBT+ supporter groups.



A cornerstone of our activity this year has been the training we have delivered to WBA employees as part of the club's equality agenda.

In February 2019, we applied for some funds through the [Fare Network](#) to deliver high profile LGBT+ awareness training to WBA staff and players. As one of only two UK based groups to be awarded a small grant, we teamed up with Football vs Homophobia's Lou Englefield and set about designing and running a series of workshops aimed at increasing all employee's understanding of the LGBT+ community and showing how everyone can become an active ally.

During February as part of [Football v Homophobia's](#) month of action, Lou and Proud Baggies' Secretary Neil Basterfield delivered the bespoke course to more than 50 admin, marketing, operations and facilities staff, with the programme being well received and highly rated. Further training for the [Sandwell College/Albion Foundation U19](#) squad was completed in March, with additional plans to cover Stewards and match day staff, The Albion Foundation and more playing squads over the coming months.



# CAMPAIGNS

## Rainbow Laces

We kicked off 2018's Rainbow Laces campaign at [Stonewall's](#) Rainbow Laces Summit at Wembley in October, where we heard from a series of guest speakers from the world of sport about the importance of LGBT+ visibility and the key themes for the 2018 campaign.

The campaign ran from November 17<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup> as a way for everyone involved in sport to show their support for LGBT+ equality and inclusivity. National teams, leading clubs, top athletes, fans and grass roots players all laced up to come out for LGBT+ people in sport.

Proud Baggies worked together with WBA to ensure 2018's campaign was a huge success - a celebration of the LGBT+ community at the club and a show of support to LGBT+ people across the country. Our dedicated Rainbow Laces fixture was set for 3<sup>rd</sup> December, our opponents, Brentford FC.

The match, which was broadcast live on Sky Sports was the culmination of a two-week long campaign from the club which saw West Bromwich Albion collaborate with Proud Baggies to raise visibility of the LGBT+ community.



During the campaign, WBA updated their social media profiles to include rainbow colours as well as producing [video messages of support](#) from the manager and players which featured as a news item on the website. In addition, West Bromwich Albion's Women's team backed the initiative by wearing rainbow laces at their fixture against Bedworth United which was attended by Proud Baggies members.



The Brentford game saw the players warm up pre-match in Proud Baggies' T Shirts with the stadium decked out in rainbow colours. Sky Sports also interviewed two Proud Baggies'



members in front of our banner, which is a permanent fixture at the ground, on an evening that also featured: West Brom's well known mascots Baggie Bird and Boiler Man in rainbow laces; Darren Moore, team manager, interviewed wearing a Proud Baggies badge; as well as the official matchday programme being dedicated to the campaign, with a full page spread, specially written to highlight the importance of LGBT+ visibility.



Piero Zizzi, Proud Baggies founder commented: *"this represents a great show of support by West Bromwich Albion to the LGBT+ community and we are especially proud of this club's rich history of diversity and breaking down barriers. The Hawthorns is welcoming and inclusive of all."*



## Football v Homophobia

This year our focus on [Football v Homophobia](#) month of action in February centered around workshops for WBA employees, coaches and players, Foundation Staff and Stewards and Matchday Staff. Following the award of funding under Fare's European small grants scheme, we set about designing a series of tailor made programmes for each of the distinct groups.

The [Fare Network](#) works across all levels of the game to advance social inclusion of marginalised and disenfranchised groups and to engage policy makers, key players and governing bodies in the anti-discrimination movement.

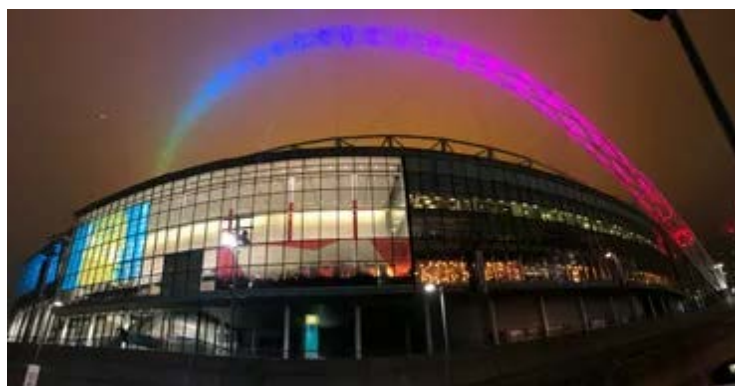
Working alongside Lou Englefield, Director of [Pride Sports](#) and Campaign Lead for Football v Homophobia in the UK, we were able to produce a series of workshops that covered key topics on LGBT+ awareness bringing them life with real examples and experiences of Lou and co-tutor, Proud Baggies' Neil Basterfield.

There are further plans for next season to include the creation of a short video on the topic as well as producing pocket-sized printed guides for all staff.

During the year, Proud Baggies were actively engaged in a number of additional activities: supporting the Football Association at their LGBT+ History Month reception, hosted by Chairman, Greg Clarke at Wembley in February; as well as helping Football v Homophobia celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the campaign at London's



City Hall in February.



Chairman, Piero, also played a key role as Partnerships lead for [Pride in Football](#), in organizing their annual 'Call it Out' Symposium. Held this year at Nottingham Forest,



panelists from across the LGBT+ sports community joined representatives from the 40+ LGBT+ Football Fan Groups for 2 days of debates, workshops and networking in support of building a stronger community aimed at raising awareness of and tackling homophobia across all levels of football.



# PROUD BAGGIES IN THE COMMUNITY

## Birmingham Pride 2018 & 2019

May bank holiday 2018. A handful of Proud Baggies joined by the one & only Baggie Bird took to the streets of Birmingham in the glorious sunshine for the annual [Gay Pride Parade](#).



Thousands of revelers lined the city centre streets from Centenary Square to Thorpe Street in the heart of the Gay Village to cheer on representatives from over 150 groups in what is the UK's largest 2-day LGBT festival. Proud Baggies received plenty of support along the route as well as some good-natured banter from rival fans! An interview with Richie Anderson on Radio WM and special guest appearance by Albion legend Geoff 'The Horse' Horsfield

rounded off a fantastic day.

Such was the success of the event that we made even bigger plans for 2019 and turned out in greater numbers once again in the glorious midlands sunshine.



This year Baggie Bird (who we couldn't keep away!) was joined by our very own media sensation Boilerman, both of whom lead our 40 strong contingent through the crowded streets of the city lined with 75,000 well-wishers.

Our Patron Richie was on hand again for an interview alongside our friends and rivals [Villa & Proud](#) who joined the parade for the first time.

This time we came prepared with Proud Baggies' stickers and hand wavers to give away as we marched with our Proud Baggies and Albion flags and banners.

Once again, we were joined by the LGBT+ friendly local football team [Blaze FC](#) as well as representatives from WBA's media team. A massive thank you for everyone who made time to come along and support us.

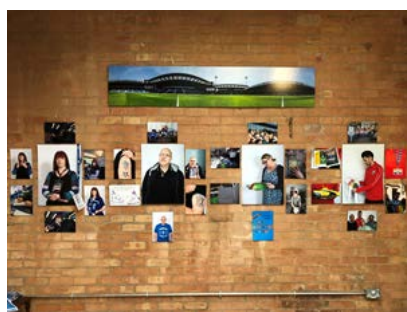
## Blast! Festival

Proud Baggies were delighted to be asked to take part in a project as part of the [Blast! Festival of Photography](#), Talks and Walks in and around the Black Country. *The Lord's My Shepherd* by [Stephen Burke](#) honours and celebrates the fans of West Bromwich Albion, exploring the emotional connection and role the club plays in the identity of West Bromwich and the wider Black Country area. The exhibition is a series of portraits of fans associated with the club. Accompanying the photographs is an audio work of interviews with fans, recordings of the crowds at matches and music associated with the club. Proud Baggies members were photographed and recorded for the exhibition. You can see and hear some of them [here](#).



## A Fan For All Seasons

Early in the season we were approached by photographer, Godfrey Pitt to take part in a project as part of his final year degree course at Birmingham City University. The resulting exhibition took place during June at the Iron House Gallery. We're delighted to say that Godfrey passed his course with flying colours! Subsequently Godfrey joined us at Birmingham Pride and we're pleased to have him as such a supportive ally. You can see more of his work scattered throughout these pages and [here](#).



## Together in Pride North Birmingham



Proud Baggies are pleased to be associated with this important [community group](#) supporting LGBTQ+ individuals and families in North Birmingham to reduce isolation and provide safe spaces. Piero is a Patron and as well as offering valuable guidance based on our experiences with Proud Baggies, we are also pleased to promote their work at every opportunity.

## Squad Social

[Squad Social](#), a programme developed by Rob Curtis, former Managing Director of Gaydar, designed to end loneliness in the LGBT+ community by helping people connect around common interests and events. Proud Baggies have been involved from an early point, specifically around supporting the development of the sports and football communities on the App, which forms the centre of the project.

## School Outreach

In June 2018, Proud Baggies were delighted to be asked by a local school to support their annual Pride week by giving a talk on our work to pupils. Our Health & Well Being lead, Jordan Muckley was on hand to share our story and his own experiences.

## Worcester City non-league Day



On a cold and blustery October Afternoon, Piero joined the Board of [Worcester City](#) at their game in support of 'Non-league Day' after they teamed up with our friends at Fans for Diversity to extend an invitation to supporter groups from all communities around the region. We were also honoured to be presented with a commemorative T-Shirt signed by the squad at half-time.

## National Football Museum

Manchester is home to the [National Football Museum](#), the world's biggest and best football museum. As a way of being a part of Manchester Pride in 2018 and increasing representation of LGBT+ football in the museum going forward, as well as commemorating the anniversary of Justin Fashanu's death, a number of LGBT+ supporter group flags, including Proud Baggies' were hung from the balconies of the impressive atrium in the centre of the building.



# THE 1968 CLUB

In October 2018, we launched a campaign to reach out to the over 50 LGBT+ community and in particular those who, for whatever reason, may have lost touch with their community.

In association with [Ageing Better Birmingham](#), and with support from [Birmingham LGBT's Ageing with Pride](#) programme, the '1968 Club' offers free tickets, travel and refreshments at all WBA home games throughout the season for LGBT+ people over 50 who find themselves disconnected from the community.

The idea has received significant interest and we have hosted a number of new members as a result – people who would not normally have engaged or attended matches alone.

Research shows that older LGBT+ people are especially vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation as they are more likely to be single, live alone and have lower levels of contact with relatives. They are also less likely to engage with local services, with a recent survey finding that four fifths of older LGBT+ people do not trust professionals to understand their culture or lifestyle.



## PROUD BAGGIES

1968 CLUB

Older LGBT+ people tend not to socialise in 'usual' LGBT+ communities, which tend to be focused around bars and clubs and target younger audiences as a result. The macho/aggressive and often homophobic nature of football has also been shown as a barrier to LGBT+ people attending games particularly among older generations who may have lost touch with fellow supporters as a result of lengthy absences from matches.

Piero Zizzi, Proud Baggies founder, says of the project: *“we have a unique opportunity to support older LGBT+ people who otherwise would not engage with other LGBT+ people, by offering a safe environment to attend football matches accompanied by members of our group. The 1968 Club is a fitting title since to be eligible you have to have been born before we won our 5th and most memorable FA Cup”.*

The Club is open to anyone over 50 who identifies as LGBT+ and will continue into next season.

You don't need to be a West Brom fan or even a football fan! Anyone else, of course, can still join us for games and/or become a member.

Anyone interested in joining us for a game or finding out more, can contact us [HERE](#) or call/text [Neil](#) on 07825 110814.



# WORKING WITH WBA

## Flying the Flag



One of Proud Baggies' early objectives was to have permanent visibility at The Hawthorns in the form of a flag displayed at the ground, so we were delighted pre-season when the club agreed to our and other supporter groups' banners to be displayed in prominent locations across the East Stand.

Visible support of our community is extremely self-affirming for LGBT+ people, particularly in football stadia where unfortunately homophobic language is still in evidence. Whilst there was some initial criticism and frankly, in some cases, abuse surrounding its installation, the overwhelming support for the banner was very positive indeed.



Our flag was also featured when we were fortunate enough to be invited to join the Albion Fan Family's flag parade at the first game of the season, alongside [Polish Baggies](#), [Apna Albion](#) and the [Disability Supporters Club](#) to welcome our team and their opponents Bolton Wanderers onto the pitch before kickoff.

## Pride in Print

We've been lucky enough to have been featured on a few occasions in Albion News since our launch and this season has been no exception – the triple award winning matchday programme for WBA has included several features on Proud Baggies and our work.

In December, the entire issue was dedicated to the Rainbow Laces campaign with a fitting front cover following the season long theme of parody film posters and a full-page article on the importance of the Rainbow Laces campaign.



In March, as part of the Diversity Festival celebration (see below), we featured in a double page spread in the Birmingham City game programme, showcasing our main achievements and activities throughout the previous 12 months.



### Supporting our Team

We were very lucky this year to have the opportunity to sponsor two of our first team players over the course of the season, giving us regular visibility in the matchday programme and on the big screens at half time during home games. Again, such a visible high-profile presence and support from the club and players makes a huge difference to the LGBT+ community at WBA. We started the season as sponsors of Oliver Burke, who departed for a much needed loan spell with Celtic in January, at which point we picked up the incoming loanee Mason Holgate who has featured heavily down the right wing during the second half of the season. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Oliver & Mason for their support in this regard during the season.



## Proud Baggies For Sale



Another wish fulfilled (alongside the permanent display of the flag) was the production and sale of Proud Baggies' merchandise. Again, our fantastic club were more than accommodating with our request and within a few weeks of a meeting with the head of retail Paul, our fabulous, high quality enamel pin badges were on sale in both club shops and online. If you don't have one yet (shame on you!) they can be purchased [here](#).

## Diversity Festival

Every year, The Albion Foundation, the charity of WBA FC, celebrates its work in diversity & inclusion across the local community. This year, Proud Baggies joined in their Festival of Football, entering two teams supported by our friends and partners, LGBT+ inclusive local team Blaze FC.

Representatives from Albion's pan disability team went head-to-head with Blues, while Apna Albion - the official supporters' club that promotes equality and diversity in the Asian community - took on their Birmingham City counterparts, [Blues 4 All](#).



World-famous dhol drummer 'King G' was also on hand to entertain as attendees entered the rhythm and spirit of proceedings.

The Proud Baggies' teams played each other in a highly entertaining game full of goals, ending 8-3!



Check out the video [here](#) to see how the day unfolded!

## WBA Women



No review of the 2018/19 season can go by without mention of the fantastic achievements of [WBA Women FC](#). Sealing the title and winning promotion back to the National League Northern Division at the first attempt. Proud Baggies have supported the team on numerous occasions during the season and we stopped



by during the Rainbow Laces campaign as they lent their support! Congratulations to Louis Sowe, Hannah George and the rest of the team for a fantastic season! We look forward to working with you again next season.

## Representing

WBA is a very inclusive club and seeks at all levels to involve the supporter population as much as it possibly can. Various members of Proud Baggies are pleased to support a number of committees and organisations within the club. David Price, our Treasurer, represents us specifically at the [Albion Assembly](#) which gives fans a direct line of communication with the club and enables two-way dialogue on all aspects of the day to day running of it off the pitch. David is always on hand to ask questions of the senior leadership on behalf of our members.

Neil Basterfield (Proud Baggies Secretary) and Sarah Robinson (Proud Baggies Vice Chair) act as Chair and Secretary respectively for the [Albion Fan Family](#) (AFF), the newly formed coalition of official supporter groups. The AFF was set up to provide a link between the club and the numerous official supporter groups around the world and to assist those groups with growing their membership.



Neil is also part of a small group of external advisors as part of the Equality Advisory Group, set up to support the development and execution of the club's Equality Action Plan and drive the diversity and inclusion agenda across all protected characteristics.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The support of our members and committee of volunteers is integral to everything we do at Proud Baggies and so it is especially nice to have that hard work and dedication officially recognised.

This season, we were fortunate enough to be nominated for three awards in recognition of our work supporting the LGBT+ community in the West Midlands.



[The Football Business Awards](#) (FBA) recognise both the business units within the clubs responsible for commercial success and off-pitch activity and professional services, as well as businesses dedicated to supporting clubs and the game itself. The event has gone from strength to strength with over 450 applauding the triumphs of the 2018 winners. Proud Baggies were nominated in the category of best supporter group and club relationship and were awarded bronze in a fiercely competitive group. As the only LGBT+ organisation present, we were especially pleased to have our work acknowledged alongside some of the best and most innovative sports organisations in the country and are proud to see our certificate gracing the walls at The Hawthorns alongside other trophies and iconic memorabilia.

Following success at the Football Business Awards, we were further delighted to hear of our nomination for the Football Supporters Federation, [Fans For Diversity](#) award, alongside Birmingham City's disability fan group [Accessi Blues](#), Tottenham's LGBT+ group, [Proud Lilywhites](#), Charlton's LGBT+ Fan Club, [Proud Valiants](#), [Lady Imps](#), Lincoln City's fan group promoting women in football and our friends and fellow WBA supporters [Apna Albion](#).



Whilst it wasn't to be our night, we were thrilled to have been part of such wonderful company and so highly thought of in our first season of operation and offer our warmest congratulations to all our fellow nominees and the winners on the night, Proud Lilywhites, who dedicated their win to their Supporter Liaison Office, Jonathan Waite who sadly passed away in November.

Our final accolade of the season is a nomination for the [National Diversity Awards 2019](#), an event that celebrates the achievements of grass roots communities in tackling issues in today's society. At the time of writing we await to see if we will be shortlisted as finalists at the event in Liverpool in September in the Community Organisation category.

# PLAYER OF THE SEASON

There have been some fantastic stand out performances from many players this season, but none more so than from our inaugural Player of the Season, Dwight Gayle.

Taking an unprecedented 51% of our members' votes, Dwight has been the stand out performer in a team of standout performers! Let's face it, it can't be easy to be the best when you're surrounded by players of the quality of Ahmed Hegazi, Kieran Gibbs and J Rod!



Dwight told us how pleased he was to have been voted for when we presented him with the award after the last home game of the season against Rotherham and although he didn't score that day, it was another hard-working performance supporting his team mates, as ever.

## SEASON 2019/20 AND BEYOND...

In our review of last season, we set out our ambitious plans for 2018/19. The preceding pages show how much of those plans we achieved. From further developing links with local charities and organisations, supporting the club's equality agenda and growing our membership and social activities.

Our plans for next season are equally bold. They include completing the roll out of our LGBT+ Awareness programme across the club and forging closer links with our fellow supporter groups.

On the social side, we hope to further grow our membership and expand our chat community which has been incredibly successful this season. We will continue our matchday meet-ups come rain or shine and hold more activities outside of matches.

Locally, we plan to forge ever closer links with our LGBT+ partners in the local community as well as our fellow LGBT+ supporter groups from our rival clubs. Further afield we will look to work with like-minded organisations to support the LGBT+ community across the footballing spectrum in sport in general.



# OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Without whom we would not have made it this far! Thanks to each and every one of you – you don't know how much your support means!



**Lou Englefield**

Campaign Lead Football v Homophobia UK, Director – Pride Sports

Quite simply a legend in the LGBT+ Sports community! We are indebted to Lou for all the work and support she has provided this season.



**Anwar Uddin**

Lead – Fans For Diversity

Tireless advocate of the LGBT+ community in Football. Fantastic supporter of diversity & inclusion and good friend to Proud Baggies



**Jehmeil Lemonius**

Sports Campaign Manager Stonewall UK

Jay has been a great supporter of Proud Baggies since its inception and we can't thank him enough for the work he does with Stonewall all year round from which all of us involved in sport benefit!



**Richie Anderson**

Patron Proud Baggies TV & Radio Presenter

As a super fan and Patron of Proud Baggies, Richie has done so much to raise the visibility of the LGBT+ community at WBA. His national presence and popularity has given us a huge boost.



**Maria Hughes**

Network Enabler, Ageing Better LGBT Hub, Birmingham LGBT

Maria is the reason for the success of the 1968 Club. Without her assistance we would not have been able to connect or market ourselves as effectively. Thank you so much!

And not forgetting...

Alex Lester – BBC Radio WM  
 Allan Maull – National Football Museum  
 Andy King – The Fox  
 Ant Lowe – Birmingham Blaze  
 Catherine Edmunds - EFL  
 Chris Paouros – Proud Lilywhites  
 Claudia Krobitzch – Fare Network  
 Dave Guard – Sandwell Beam  
 David Beckett – Joy FM  
 Davina Cave – Midland Zone Magazine  
 Dean Walton  
 Deborah Dilworth – Supporters Direct  
 Di Cunningham – Pride in Football  
 Emy Mendoza – Dentsu Aegis  
 Ethan Spibey – Proud Beer  
 Godfrey Pitt - Photographer  
 Ian Bradshaw – Blind Monkey Beer  
 Jack Murley – BBC  
 James Wharton – Birmingham LGBT  
 Joe Chapman – Birmingham Mail  
 Joe Lycett - Comedian  
 John Newsham – FSOA  
 Jon Holmes – Sky Sports  
 Jon Sutton – National Football Museum  
 Josh Fletcher – Gay Times  
 Lawrence Barton – Birmingham Pride  
 Lucy Keeling – Aston Villa Foundation  
 Luke Cox – Worcester City Supporters Trust  
 Lyndon Roberts – Inclusion in Sport  
 Mandy Rayment – Dentsu Aegis  
 Mark McAdam – Sky Sports  
 Martyn Black – Stamp Productions  
 Matt Wilson – Express & Star  
 Neil Parker – Sandwell College  
 Paul Suart – Birmingham Mail  
 Rico Johnson – Birmingham LGBT  
 Rob Curtis – Squad Social  
 Sam Timms – Villa & Proud  
 Sandra Hughes  
 Scarlett Smith – EFL  
 Sean Keasey – Gorgeous Nightclub  
 Simon Baker – Birmingham Pride  
 Stephen Burke – Photographer

#### WBA & Associates

Adam Brearley  
 Adam Fradgley  
 Adrian Dove  
 Alan Roberts  
 Baggie Bird & Boilerman  
 Bruno Daniel  
 Carol Hill  
 Clive Whitfield  
 Craig Punfield  
 Craig Simmonds  
 Dale Brookes  
 Darren Moore  
 Dave Bowler  
 Dave Lawrence  
 Dave Rogers  
 Drew Williams  
 Gez Mulholland  
 Gurdial Singh  
 Haden Tye  
 Heidi Lockyer  
 Ian Skidmore  
 James Mackay  
 Jane Taylor-Kane  
 Jonathan Ward  
 Karen Pay  
 Laura Gabbidon  
 Laura Northall  
 Laurie Rampling  
 Mark Miles  
 Martin Swain  
 Megan McBurnie  
 Natalie Whittle  
 Paul Bradbury  
 Rebecca Davis  
 Rob Lake  
 Sean Byrne  
 Shin Aujla  
 Simon King  
 Tom Chadwick



# OUR COMMITTEE

The small but perfectly formed committee currently consists of six hardworking volunteers:



Piero Zizzi

Chair

Not as Italian as he sounds, born and brought up in Birmingham, been a Baggie all his (relatively short) life.



Sarah Robinson

Vice Chair

Hardcore supporter and serial campaigner for good causes. Likes to commit to impossible cycling expeditions on a whim.



Neil Basterfield

Secretary

Devastatingly handsome, intelligent with a youthful appearance and exuberance. Also the author of this page.



David Price

Treasurer

Seasoned globe trotter and our money man. Effortless recall of useless Albion information from any era. Test him if you dare!



Jordan Muckley

Campaigns

Quiz Master and Drag Race super fan. If you can't find him at the Hawthorns try at Eden Bar.



Richie Anderson

Patron

When he's not on every radio and TV show in the area, he's probably in the middle of a ridiculously difficult charity challenge.

You can find out more about our committee at [ProudBaggies.com/meet-the-team](https://proudbaggies.com/meet-the-team)

# CONTACT US

You can follow our progress or get in touch with us via a variety of channels:



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