



OUR YEAR
2015/2016

OUR YEAR AS A COMMITTEE

Welcome to the second annual review of the Proud Lilywhites. Since our AGM last July we have continued to grow our membership and campaign against discrimination based on sexuality and gender identity in football.

Throughout the season we have worked collaboratively as a committee to deliver against the objectives set by you, our members, in the start of season survey. We planned to be a prominent voice campaigning for safe, secure and visible presence for the club's LGBT fan base. We also wanted the Proud Lilywhites to be a place for friendships to foster and socialise. And finally, we wanted to work in alliance with the club, the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and other partners to educate, inform and campaign on LGBT issues.

We are proud to have:

- more than 3000 Twitter followers
- 600 Facebook 'likes'
- run a training session with Senior Stewards at White Hart Lane
- acted as judges for the Premier League Enterprise challenge
- asked an important question during the fans Q&A last November
- developed a relationship with Karen Hills, manager of the Women's team to determine how to work with them going forward
- featured in a national television piece about the Proud Lilywhites and Gay Gooners.
- a permanent banner at White Hart Lane; a real and visible presence of our

strength and solidarity with the club and its supporters.

We continue to play a core role in the growth of [#PrideinFootball](#), the alliance of LGBT fan groups in the UK and were recently represented at a [#PrideinFootball](#) event hosted by the FA during England's friendly V Turkey at the Etihad.

Most importantly the group is nothing without its members, so thank you for your support over the past year. If you haven't had the chance to make it to an event yet then we hope that by reading our review it will inspire you to come along to one of our events next season. It's our final year at White Hart Lane, so we want to continue with our pioneering and inclusive approach and will be working hard to engage our Trans members.

So sit back and read on about pioneering approach and spread the word:

Come on you Spurs!

Chris and Simon, Co-Chairs



FROM OUR PATRON

Our Patron, England and GB Hockey midfielder maestro Helen Richardson-Walsh won a gold medal in the European Championships in August 2015. Part of her celebration was to bring the European Cup to White Hart Lane and be interviewed pitch side. She was also talked about how much she believes in what the Proud Lilywhites is doing in her match day programme feature.

What an incredible season 2015/16 has been on and off the field! The men's team have given us plenty to cheer, delivering outstanding performances week after week, the Women's team have made us proud by winning a 'double' of the Premier League Women's Cup and the Ryman Cup and more importantly the fight against discrimination in football continues in full force

through the tireless work of the Proud Lilywhites. I am extremely proud to be the Patron of the Proud Lilywhites on the long journey towards full inclusion and diversity in football.



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



185
MEMBERS



BIG
APPEARANCE
ON TV



**FEATURE IN A MAJOR
NEW BOOK ABOUT
WOMEN AND SPORT**



**{ 1 SPURS
PROGRAMME
FEATURES }**



1 .
**FIRST TEAM
SQUAD HOLDING
THE FOOTBALL
V HOMOPHOBIA
BANNER**



**85,000 SOCIAL MEDIA
REACH PER RT OR
ORIGINATED TWEET
FROM SPURS OFFICIAL**



4,000
**SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWING**



4

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

I am, indeed, a very Proud Lilywhite.

Well, it's pretty great being a Spurs fan at the moment... And for the last year and a half it has been pretty great too to be a Proud Lilywhite.

Explaining football and the love and passion you have for it isn't always easy and that's why watching a game with those that 'get it' is always a lot more fun. Having loved football, both playing it and Spurs, for as long as I can remember, I get the community of a fan base, of wearing the same colours. Having more recently been able to acknowledge my sexuality and be OK with it, I've also been able to really appreciate the importance of an LGBT community and support. So, combining these has been wonderful. Moreover, bridging activism,

social change and football has been special bringing my two greatest passions together in a sense of united community.

I'm an LGBT woman and so sometimes when you then say you love football, people aren't surprised you are. Let me tell you now, this has never made me comfortable or more accepted. It only accentuates stereotypes and discrimination. I've known I was a Spurs fan since day dot. I didn't know that about who I do or don't love and want to be with. That's for me to decide, for me to work out and no-one else.

I went to an event quite early on after Proud Lilywhites formed after meeting some members at a Stonewall LGBT Women in Sport event. It was at White Hart Lane, in the Bill Nicholson suite, and I felt excited and I felt safe.

It would have been great to have seen more women in the room (something I'll come back to) but I felt welcomed and embraced by many people on the committee and especially by some hilarious women. I didn't really tell anyone I was going to this (I said I was going to a fan group's thing) because I still struggled with pride. That is a big reason why I'm writing this piece because Proud Lilywhites supported me and created the space where I was able to feel more proud. The more I was struck by how amazing the group was and by how much they were able to influence things at the club with their hard work, the prouder I became. I told my Mum, my Dad and my brother that I was a Proud Lilywhite and wore the badge proudly. Seriously, what a fantastic badge. I put it in my bio and I was able to talk about

it. My brother came for a drink with us before we went to a match one Saturday.

In some conversations that were said light heartedly, there was the point raised – 'What about a fan's group for non LGBT people?' to which I responded, 'oh you mean like the other 35,000 people at a football match?' They have their majority and their voice is loud. Sadly, so is, far too often, their homophobia. This is a serious point – the reason Proud Lilywhites exists is to make it feel safer for people like me, for us to ultimately work to change things and make things better for the game and fans overall. Proud Lilywhites have certainly done that.



MEMBER CONTRIBUTION - CONT'D

Another significant part of being in Proud Lilywhites for me was being able to raise concerns about the idea that to be a 'proper fan' you have to be a season ticket holder. I love Tottenham Hotspur but even if I somehow could afford the large amounts of money for a season ticket and match day miscellaneous costs, it's a seven year wait for one at White Hart Lane. That shouldn't be used to question my loyalty to or love of the club. Proud Lilywhites welcome this reminder.

In our cup final last season, I joined Proud Lilywhites at someone's house who I hadn't actually met – we had so much fun (despite the score). Another incredible highlight was the trip to Wembley. The FA had given LGBT fan groups tickets to see the England game and there we were with some of the best seats in the house. Our flags

were up. I remember being very aware that the photos being taken would be shared and people may see them who I hadn't spoken to about my sexuality. I was okay. I stood there, grinning, delighted to see the the Spurs cockerel and the rainbow flag, and to be stood beside it at Wembley Stadium. It was slightly surreal but it felt wonderful. I felt safe and confident because I was stood with people like me, people who loved Tottenham, who loved football, who wanted to be themselves and who wanted to be able to be proud and loud.

I am fully aware there is only one team in North London, the Pride of North London...

I will say that the commitment from Proud Lilywhites to make the world of football better for the LGBT community has been demonstrated with the

collaboration of fan groups, across North London and the rest of the country. We are united by our love of the game and our goal to smash homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia from the game. That is special and something that has been inspiring to see.

Football, sadly, is still dominated by men. Being involved in Proud Lilywhites, I've become more convinced of the need for women's groups and action against sexism in the game and in the industry. More positively, I've been able to watch incredibly inspiring women in Proud Lilywhites stand up for what's right and calling out all forms of discrimination. That has made me feel safe and feel encouraged.

I'm currently living in Spain but am always keeping up to date with Spurs (what a season!).

When I watch MOTD and see the flag flying, I grin and I show friends. When I see the Spurs lads warming up in their Football against Homophobia shirts (and then support for which is tweeted by Tottenham Hotspur Official), I get a warm fuzzy feeling because I know the people who have made that happen and because I know how important and how progressive that really is. I keep up to date with Proud Lilywhites because I am proud. I am a proud LGBT woman. I am proud of all the work Proud Lilywhites do; they are hitting the back of the net time and time again and it's fab to see how they've grown and how they support fans across the country to be proud.

I am, indeed, a very Proud Lilywhite.



OUR YEAR WITH SPURS

Our relationship with the Club goes from strength to strength as we continue to show that LGBT supporters are a vital part of the fan base,

Working closely with Jonathan Waite, Head of Supporter Services, we have been able to promote Proud Lilywhites to the wider Spurs fans and achieve three major milestones. We have:

- Been able to get the first team wearing Football V Homophobia (FvH) t-shirts in a photo call with the FvH flag for the FvH Month of Action
- Conducted our first anti-homophobia training event with the Senior Stewards
- Been able to get a permanent banner up in the stadium

These are really significant milestones in our relationship,

and these, coupled with our asking a question about homophobia in football to Mauricio, Hugo and Daniel Levy at the Fans Q&A forum in November, means that our work with Spurs goes from strength to strength.

We have also built a great relationship with the Spurs PR and social media team. Our statistics show that when we are promoted on the Clubs channels we inevitably reach more supporters and let people know we exist. Spurs PR and social media team have supported us throughout they year, specifically around the creation and promotion of the One Show piece, supporting FvH month of Action, our attendance at the Soho Orlando Vigil and Pride in London.



Proud Lilywhites: Our Year



OUR YEAR OF RAISING AWARENESS

This year our FvH Month of action was spread across a number of events. To launch the month, the first team were photographed at training with the FvH flag, and this was closely followed by Proud Lilywhites and Canal Street Blues joining forces for Spurs away at Man City.

Both teams wore FvH t-shirts and at half time, Proud Lilywhites and Canal Street Blues members took part in a penalty shoot-out and other football related fun! Proud Lilywhite Sarah Meeks was also interviewed pitch-side and was broadcast on the big screen.

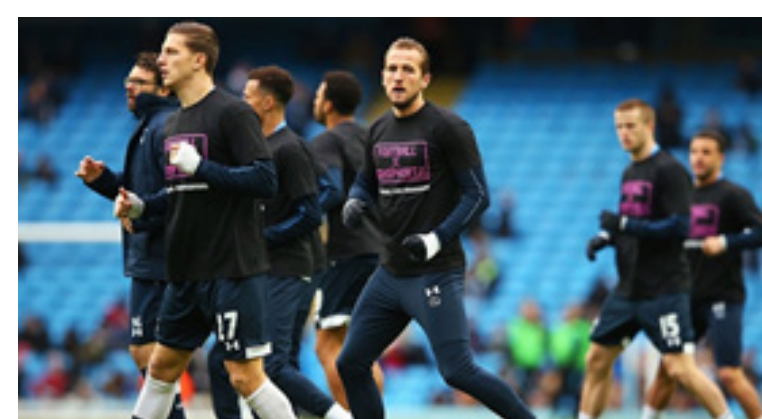
Proud Lilywhites also took part in the Fans for Diversity 5-a-side tournament with other LGBT and LGBT friendly teams. It was a great morning – aside from our friend Greg Latham damaging his ACL and having to go home early!

Finally, we made sure Proud Lilywhites we represented at the annual Kick It Out fundraising dinner where we made sure Ledley King signed some stuff for us!



Proud Lilywhites: Our Year





OUR YEAR OF FUN

The year we have tried to create more social events around Spurs matches, meeting for pre-match drinks in Tottenham and to watching away games at Café Kick in Farringdon. We know that things haven't always gone to plan, and we will look to put that right next season – but it has been great to meet so many new people through our match day meet ups.

We also held a joint pool-night social with the Gay Gooners and supported our friends Pride of Irons with their fund raising pub quiz.

As part of Pride In Football, we also joined other LGBT fan groups, as guests of the FA, at the England V Turkey friendly at the Etihad. The Proud Lilywhites flag flew proudly at the Etihad.

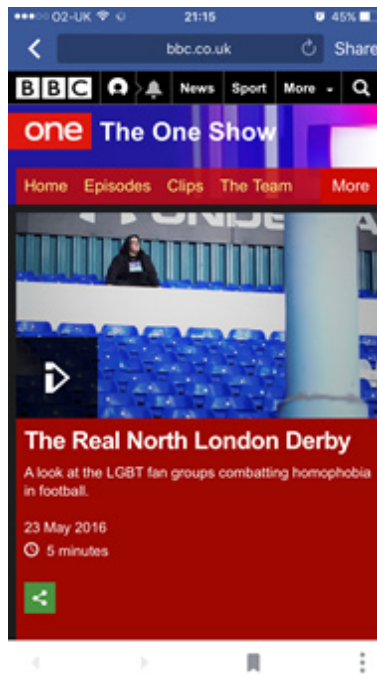


Proud Lilywhites: Our Year



OUR YEAR OF FUN

We have commented on various news stories throughout the year, and appeared in the match day programme.



Proud Lilywhites: Our Year

Our biggest piece was working with film-makers for the One Show to make an important film about the LGBT fan groups combatting homophobia in football. You can watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/161743955>

Once again Proud Lilywhites joined Pride in Football to march through Central London for Pride in London. The year our message was simple - whilst Pride is a celebration, its also a protest and we march to give a voice to people around the world who are not able to have one



NEXT YEAR

“ It is planned that this coming season will be our last at White Hart Lane, and we want to build a lasting legacy which will carry us through to our temporary home and back to our new stadium.

We'd love to hear your suggestions to make this season one to remember, and we'll be working with the Club to ensure that we say goodbye to WHL in style when the time comes.