



WELCOME TO AGE UK HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

FOR A third consecutive season, Fulham Football Club are delighted to provide tickets to Age UK Hammersmith & Fulham, giving women they care for the opportunity to attend today's Premier League fixture against Brighton & Hove Albion.

As a Fulham resident of over 40 years - as well as being a board member of Fulham Supporters' Trust and the Fulham Lillies - Tamara Dragadze established the link between Age UK and the Club, mindful of how challenging it might be for older women, particularly those living in isolation, to attend a football match.

"I remember being at a match with a friend and we were sitting just behind some female supporters," recalls Tamara. "I'm an anthropologist by profession, so I always like speaking to people. I got speaking to these women and asked them if they had come to the match together. Then one explained that she had previously stopped attending matches when her husband had passed away until she started coming with her friend whose brother sat a few rows down.

"It was at that moment I thought there must be women in my borough of Hammersmith & Fulham who live on their own, especially the elderly and disabled, who don't feel they can go to matches on their own. I approached Age UK soon after and asked them, if I was able to secure tickets, whether they would be able to find women alone who might like to attend and they said 'of course'.

"I wrote to Alistair Mackintosh (Fulham FC CEO) about the provision of tickets for a Fulham match for women in isolation. Alistair wrote back and said the Club would love to support the local community in that way. That was almost three years ago, and they first attended as a group for the Fulham match against Huddersfield Town."

After visiting Craven Cottage for that Championship game on 19th February 2022, the following year another group from Age UK

attended our Premier League match against West Ham United at Craven Cottage on 8th April 2023. Again, the Club also gave them snacks, hot drinks and a matchday programme.

"All the arrangements for the tickets and the passes for our minibus have been arranged by Nicola Walworth, the Club's Supporter Relations Manager, so I would like to say a huge thank you to her. I also have to thank our three volunteers who, for the third time, will be helping the ladies to their seats this afternoon - Miriam Busani, Reena Pindoria and Phil Butler.

"As far as Age UK are aware, Fulham are the only professional football club in the country to be delivering this kind of initiative. That makes me very proud to be a Fulham fan.

"This year, some of our previous attendees will be at today's match along with some first-time visitors. Some women with us today have never been to a football match in their entire life. Football is very much part of natural tradition in England and everyone deserves that opportunity to attend at least one game in their lifetime to see what it's all about."





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