

Carers United!

Despite the motorway being closed and Chesterfield town centre gridlocked - Carers from around the area managed to make their way to 1866 Sheffield Road for a behind the scenes visit around the brand new Chesterfield Football Club ground.

The Derbyshire Carers Association originally planned this event to give male Carers a break, an alternative to the very popular pamper days - but it seems the ladies were eager for a look-around the 10,300 capacity ground too!

Geoff Mitchell the knowledgeable media officer for the club, escorted everyone around the various lounges, board room, TV interview room, boot room, changing rooms and even the showers! Although much to the ladies disappointment - there were no hunky footballers in residence!

The new ground is absolutely fantastic, a credit to everyone concerned - from directors, players and staff down to the groundsmen and volunteers. Everyone has a great pride in the club - which clearly shines through.

A spokesperson for DCA said: 'Comments from Carers included: 'I'll remember this for the rest of my life.' 'It makes you want to come and support the team!' 'Isn't it lovely - makes you proud!'

Quite a few Carers have resurrected their old CFC football shirts and are now regularly visiting home matches.

Thanks goes to Geoff and CFC Community Director John Croot and his team for all their help and support with the visit.

The ground itself has disabled/wheelchair seating for 100 of which 28 are pitch-side and 72 in elevated positions, along with disabled car parking for 26. Carers taking anyone in a wheelchair to the home matches are allowed into the ground free of charge.

For the visually impaired the club also provides full match commentary with a dedicated wide band aural aide and hearing assistive UHF radio and loop system with receivers that provide a choice of headphones or ear pieces for listening comfort.

Chesterfield FC chief executive Carol Wilby said; "We are delighted that all our supporters can enjoy a wonderful match day experience at the B2net including people who in the past would not have been properly catered for."

Supporters can get further information regarding disabled facilities from CFC Disability Liaison Officer - Melanie Cooper, on 01246 209765.

If you are a Carer or know someone who is looking after a person with disabilities, mental health problems or is elderly and frail, please call Derbyshire Carers Association on 01773 743355 for help, advice and support.