



Celebrating Manchester Pride Weekend with Fran Level, City Matters' LGBTQ + Rep

What are the plans for this year's Pride Weekend?

It is great to have Pride finally back to what we know after the last two years, and I am so happy that the Club is so actively involved. There are going to be events across the city centre and also in Gay Village. Not all of the events are ticketed either so it is worth checking the free ones online! It will be great to see the whole city buzzing again - as it should be.

What is the role of football in supporting the LGBTQ+ Community?

It still feels a taboo within men's football to be out. Josh Cavallo made massive waves coming out last year and the same with Jake Daniels earlier this year. It is important we have these conversations off the pitch so that eventually it will be totally accepted across all aspects of

the game. Also, members of the LGBTQ+ community will be able to see someone like them succeeding and believe in themselves too.

How can football help to create an equal space for everyone?

It is just being willing to have those conversations and always being open to change. Also, to always be welcoming to anyone.

How has your role at City Matters helped our LGBTQ+ supporters to feel represented?

I think most of the time, it is just being a voice and making sure the points are raised. I want supporters to be able to talk about any issues they may be experiencing so then positive change can be made. The Club is so good at tackling any kind of discrimination so it is important to not feel like you can't speak out - because the Club will deal

with it in an efficient manner. Alternatively, it is important to give feedback and let us know how you think we should change.

How influential has Canal Street Blues (CSB) been in connecting the club with it's LGBTQ+ fan base?

I think CSB is incredibly inclusive - it is a very safe and friendly environment. Again, like the club, they are top of any issues the fans experience and will listen to you. It is a collaborative effort between us. On their own, they are great and have a huge impact on creating safe spaces for fans to be together at games but also between us all, I think we can make a huge difference.

