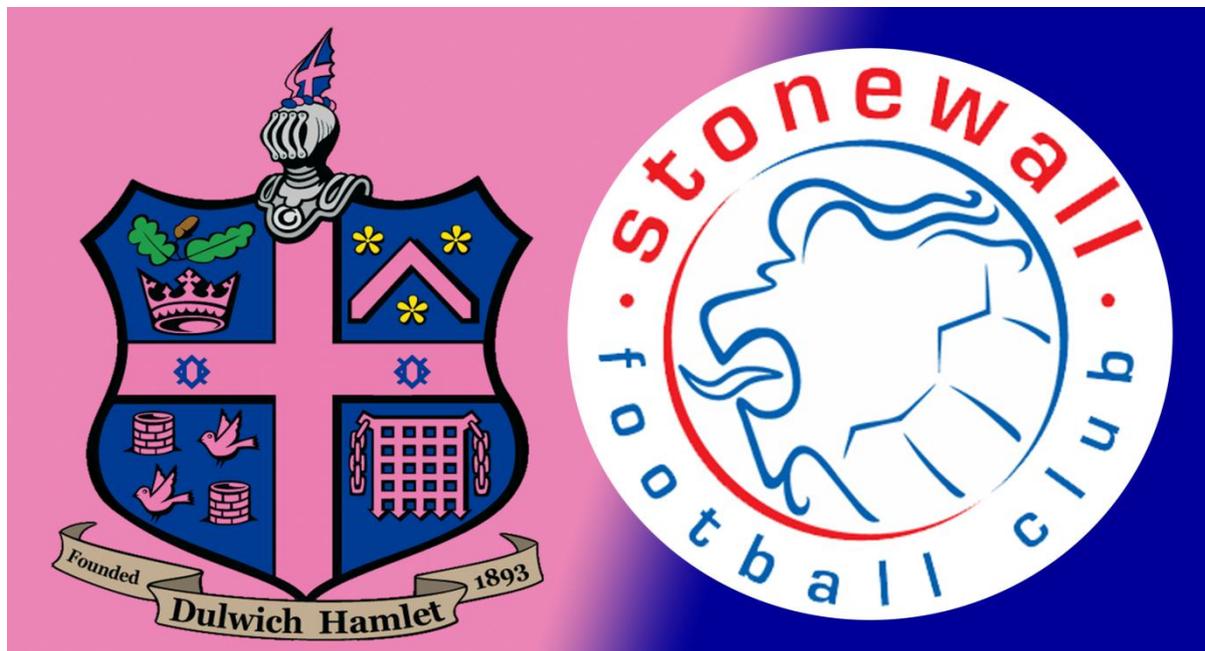


## PRESS RELEASE

### **Anti-homophobia friendly - Dulwich Hamlet FC vs Stonewall FC**

**Wednesday 11 February 2015, KO 7.30pm**



Dulwich Hamlet are staging a ground-breaking friendly against Stonewall FC, the Gay World Champions, on Wednesday 11 February (KO – 7.30pm). The match coincides with Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History Month, which takes place throughout February. It also forms part of Dulwich Hamlet's ongoing anti-homophobia campaign this season. Entrance is only £3 for adults and £1 for concessions. The club have agreed to donate all proceeds from the evening Stonewall's chosen charity – the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

We are pleased that the local Southwark Branch of the UNISON trade union has agreed to be co-sponsors of the match, alongside the national Hope not Hate campaign group. Support this season has also been provided by the Kick It Out campaign, the Fare Network and the Football Association.

Mishi Morath, Dulwich Hamlet Football Club Committee member, said "We are honoured to host Stonewall FC in a friendly, with such a high-profile & important message being sent out to the rest of the Non-League football community. We have set the admission prices low, to encourage as many people as possible to come along".

Duncan Hart, from the Supporters' Trust, commented "We are really looking forward to this friendly. It is a clear commitment from the club that we are committed to inclusion and making Champion Hill a welcoming place for everyone. It's proof that the Trust and Fare funded anti-homophobia banner behind the goal at the car wash end is not just tokenism, but something that we are living up to."

Final word goes to Eric Najib, manager of Stonewall Football Club: "As a Club we are proud, honoured and pleased to take part in this game at Champion Hill, and we really applaud everything Dulwich Hamlet are doing in terms of this match. It will be a great experience to play this friendly match, and we're all looking forward to it."

Dulwich Hamlet Football Club play at Champion Hill Stadium, Edgar Kail Way, East Dulwich, SE22 8BD & compete in the Ryman League Premier Division. The ground can be reached on foot in 5 minutes from East Dulwich train station or 20 minutes from Denmark Hill. Buses 40, 185,176,484 & P13 also pass the ground.

Dulwich Hamlet will also be providing free tickets to LGBT fans for the home game against Metropolitan Police on 21 February. This provides a great opportunity for new fans to experience the fantastic atmosphere and welcome at Champion Hill. More information on how tickets will be distributed for this game will be published on the official website in due course.



#### Notes to editors

1. Further information on the game has been published by:
  - a. the official website: <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/dulwichhamlet/news/come-out-to-football-1357535.html>;
  - b. Stonewall FC at <http://www.stonewallfc.com/index.php/news/latest-news/entry/stonewall-fc-to-play-ryman-isthmian-league-team-dulwich-hamlet-in-a-anti-homophobia-friendly-match>;
  - c. Fare (anti—discrimination umbrella organisation) <http://www.farenet.org/news/fans-english-club-dulwich-hamlet-lead-way-tackling-homophobia/>; and
  - d. the local independent Brixton Buzz website at <http://www.brixtonbuzz.com/2015/01/11th-feb-dulwich-hamlet-continue-their-anti-homophobia-campaign-with-friendly-against-stonewall-fc/>
2. In September, Dulwich Hamlet FC invited players to take part in the national Rainbow Laces Day. The Supporters' Trust also raised funds for Gay Football Supporters Network- <http://www.gfsn.org.uk/> - as part of the day. More information on this game can be found at: <http://www.brixtonbuzz.com/2014/09/dulwich-hamlet-fc-becomes-first-non-league-team-to-support-anti-homophobia-rainbow-laces-campaign/> and <http://dhst.org.uk/dulwich-hamlet-backs-rainbow-laces-campaign/>
3. In October, the Dulwich Hamlet Supporters' Trust obtained part-funding from Fare (a Europe-wide anti-discrimination group) to produce a permanent anti-homophobia banner. This was launched at our home ground before the Bognor Regis home game on 11 October. A 2<sup>nd</sup> banner was also made that was given to our football friends from Hamburg in Germany - Altona 93.

More information can be found here: <http://dhst.org.uk/anti-homophobia-banner-presented-to-altona-93/>.

4. The club has agreed to provide free tickets to LGBT fans to come and experience the fantastic atmosphere and welcome at Champion Hill for the home game against Metropolitan Police on 21 February. More information on how these will be distributed will be published on the official website in due course - <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/dulwichhamlet>.
5. Stonewall FC compete in the Middlesex County League Division One Central & East Division. This is a few levels below Dulwich Hamlet. Therefore, Gavin Rose, Dulwich Hamlet manager, will be using the game as an opportunity to field a mixture of the first team squad, reserves and youth team. We are not looking for a miss-match on the pitch, and are instead looking to address the huge miss-match in the game, off of the pitch.
6. A poster for the game has been created and we encourage all media outlets to publish this alongside any story. Further information can be obtained from [Mishi Morath](#) (football club committee member) on 07752 121495 or [Duncan Hart](#) (DHST spokesperson) on 07812 366730.



**DULWICH HAMLET**  
**v STONEWALL FC**  
7.30pm Wednesday 11th February  
Champion Hill  
Edgar Kail Way  
SE22 8BD  
£3 ADULTS / £1 CONCESSIONS  
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE  
ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION  
**ANTI-HOMOPHOBIA FRIENDLY**