**Team Mates**

After a particularly bad defeat, Kamal was chatting to some of his mates from the school football team about the game they had just lost. A couple of the boys started talking about Ben, one of the players. They said Ben was acting like a ‘gay’ with some other lads in the changing room. Then Ben came over and joined the group. The boys stopped their conversation and became quiet; all apart from Marcus, that is, the team captain.

“Listen Ben” sneered Marcus “We might have won that game if we didn’t have ‘queers’ like you on the team!” The rest of the boys looked uncomfortable at Marcus’ outburst, but said nothing. Ben looked hurt, but he challenged Marcus “gay or not, I’ve got as much right to be in the team as you have”.

There was a stony silence.

Then Kamal spoke up “Ben’s right Marcus....we’re not losing our best striker just because you don’t like gay people!”

Ben felt relieved. Although Kamal was the only school friend Ben had told about being gay, the others knew, but kept quiet.

“Well, you better keep away from me, try anything on me and your dead” said Marcus as he walked off mumbling about being sick in the head.

Taken from the case study ‘The Football team’ produced by [www.stance.org.uk](http://www.stance.org.uk)