

EVERTON FAN ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 14 June 2023
Time: 6pm
Location: Online (via Teams)

Attendees:	Position/Role:
Jazz Bal (JB)	Chair – Fan elected
Dave Kelly (DK)	Vice-Chair – Fan elected
Julie Clarke (JC)	Secretary – Fan elected
Julie Makin (JM)	Member – Everton Women Supporters' Club (EWSC)
Helge Grunnevag (HG)	Member – International Supporters' Club Network (ISCN)
Tony Whittaker (TW)	Member – Fan elected
Ken Sweeney (KS)	Member – Everton Supporters' Club Committee (SCC)

Apologies for absence:

Richie Gillham (RG)	Member – Everton Heritage Society (EHS)
Keith Done (KD)	Member – Everton Disabled Supporters' Association (EDSA)
Barry Williams (BW)	Deputising – Everton Fans' Forum (EFF)

Item:	Discussion:	Action
1	<p>Chair's introduction</p> <p>JB welcomed the FAB and thanked all members for their efforts this inaugural year. He confirmed that TS was not present due to his tenure on the EFF finishing. JB has extended his thanks to TS outside this meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>A vote was held to accept the minutes as accurate. Proposed by TW, seconded by JM and voted as accepted.</p>	
3	<p>Declaration of AOB</p> <p>One item from JB</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting</p> <p><i>ISCN Difficulties Holding Meetings to Discuss Boundaries:</i></p> <p>There was no update. JB asked HG to ensure that the next ISCN representative is aware of their responsibilities to the FAB, in terms of reporting activities. HG said that he had spoken to other regional leads and they will hold a vote to identify a new representative for the next term. JB added that as Europe provided the ISCN rep and deputy this season, the ISCN may wish to consider a representative from a different region. JB also suggested closing this action as the FAB was now operating and this may be HG's last meeting. Closed</p>	

	<p><u><i>EFC Mobile App Not Including Everton Women Players Within Favourite Player Section:</i></u> JB reminded the FAB that the Club were intending to add this to the application update ahead of the next season. He proposed leaving the action open so that progress could be monitored. Ongoing</p> <p><u><i>Away Travel to Everton Women's Matches:</i></u> JM reported that the Club had offered to trial transport to the Manchester City fixture at the end of last season. This was declined by JM as the match was relatively local. She had proposed to EFC that the trial should be completed at the start of the 2023/24 season, ideally for a fixture requiring significant travel. Ongoing</p> <p><u><i>NSNOW Meeting:</i></u> JB shared the link to the audio file on 11 May. Closed</p> <p><u><i>FAB Attendance at the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) AGM:</i></u> JB confirmed he will be attending the FSA AGM on 24 June. Ongoing</p> <p><u><i>Timeframe for Responses from the Club to FAB Communications:</i></u> RG was absent but had brought up the subject at the last meeting. JC confirmed that both RG and DK had expressed concerns about the Club either not responding to correspondence in time, or to maintain that correspondence had been responded to when the reality was that the responses referred to were simply acknowledgements (DK had cited his request for a Shareholders' meeting) and this did not constitute a response. JB to raise with EFC. Ongoing</p> <p><u><i>JB To Attend the FSA's Premier League (PL) Structured Dialogue Meeting:</i></u> JB attended the meeting; update in item 5. Closed</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JB</p> <p>JB</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Chair's Update JB updated the FAB on each agenda item discussed between the PL and the FSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAR. Howard Webb provided the VAR update. He understood that improvements were needed for match-going fans and informed that FIFA restrict live broadcasts during matches. This was not the case following matches, which was why PL Productions and Sky TV had recently produced content to explain decisions. He added that the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL)'s fear is the inconsistent use of VAR and that subject matter experts have been brought in from other sports. • Fan Behaviour. Areas of concern were pitch encroachments and this has led to a focus on stewarding. Also tragedy chanting was now deemed a criminal offence and a toolkit was being developed to educate fans of all ages. • Fixture Scheduling. The FSA had produced a paper that has been presented to the PL; the main area of concern was fixtures which had been changed twice. • Fan Engagement. JB had spoken about Fan Advisory Boards and specifically highlighted difficulties that the EFC FAB had experienced since January 2023. • Sustainability. The PL is encouraging clubs to move towards sustainable practices. JB also informed the FAB that the EFF lead a fan sustainability working group, which is open to all Evertonians and led by Chris Halsall. He recommended any FAB members should get in touch with Chris Halsall if they were interested in joining the working group. <p>JB updated the FAB regarding a motion that will be submitted to the FSA for discussion at its AGM. The submission will be seconded by the Brighton & Hove Albion FAB and proposes that a new category of organisational membership should be created for FABs, which has the same access as Affiliate Members.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	<p>JB had raised the 'ring of steel', which had been implemented after the Manchester City fixture, with EFC. The Club's response was that the PL were concerned about pitch encroachments, and the Club did not want a repeat of the fine that took place after the Crystal Palace fixture last season. The 'ring of steel' was a demonstration that EFC were taking the issue seriously.</p> <p>JB briefed that he attended a police meeting on 25 May, prior to the Bournemouth fixture. He also informed the FAB that the end-of-season police meeting was scheduled for 27 June and DK would be attending in accordance with the FAB's constitution. KS will also be attending on behalf of the SCC.</p>	DK
6	<p>Reserved group updates</p> <p>EDSA: KD had offered apologies, but his short report was read out by JC. The EDSA Committee met virtually on 30 May and further discussed the issues of home and away match review and ticketing update together with feedback from the Events and Merchandise presentation given at the previous meeting. EDSA supports the amended FAB budget proposal, to be discussed in item 8.</p> <p>EHS: RG had offered apologies, but his short report was read out by JC. The EHS continues to be present (upstairs) at St Luke's Church for two hours before each home game to offer sales items and fund-raise for initiatives to promote the Club's heritage. Since the last meeting, the group has released a video on YouTube, showing the re-dedication of the grave of former Club Director, historian and author, Thomas Keates. The group is also asking for help, via Twitter for kit donations.</p> <p>EFF: JB reported that he had received late apologies from the deputy EFF FAB rep. BW had informed JB that he was the new EFF Chair, with Chris Halsall and Andrew Vernon assuming Vice-Chair roles. Also, the EFF would be voting to determine who their FAB rep/deputy will be for the 2023/24 season.</p> <p>SCC: KS reported that the SCC end-of-season football tournament had recently taken place with 16 supporter clubs attending Goodison Park; it was very successful and well-received by those who attended. KS informed the FAB that the SCC are highlighting the need for the upcoming season's membership information to be provided as soon as possible, especially given that the new season fixtures are to be released imminently. He confirmed that the SCC had elected himself as the FAB rep for the next season and that Tony Sandle will remain as deputy FAB representative.</p> <p>EWSC: JM reported that the upcoming meeting on 16 June will include a vote for the EWSC FAB representative next season. Also on the agenda will be season tickets and memberships. A report of the meeting will follow at the next FAB meeting.</p> <p>ISCN: HG Reported that ISCN members had heard about the pre-season friendly against Stade Nyonaise, in Switzerland, which would be relatively easy for some European-based fans to go to; and they were hopeful of getting tickets, but that the Club had only been allocated 500 tickets.</p>	
7	<p>Elected member updates</p> <p>DK reported that he had attended a peaceful fan protest outside the offices of RLB last week. He said it was relatively well attended and marshalled. DK also reported that he is still waiting for Richard Kenyon to respond with dates for a shareholders' meeting (see issue referred to in item 4).</p>	

	<p>JC reported on her use of the Blue Base, and its' value to disabled supporters before matches at Goodison, particularly at the last game of the season, when it was very full. She asked whether there had been any further news about a facility to replace it at Bramley-Moore Dock (BMD), since she had asked the question during the FAB/Club meeting on 31 May and had been told that no decision had been made. JB said that, since the facilities at BMD had been designed to be fully accessible, he was not sure if a specific venue had been deemed necessary, although he had not heard anything from the Club. JB suggested that this should be raised through EDSA.</p> <p>TW did not have an update due to a recent change in personal circumstances preventing this.</p>	JC
8	<p>Sub Committee Updates <i>FAB Communications:</i> JB read out TS' notes from the recent Communications subcommittee meeting. It covered three matters the sub-committee needs to focus on and continue to campaign for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement and outreach – to develop further fan events/conference. • Broader supporter engagement – to explore extending beyond the reach of social media and looking into membership models. • National advocacy of the fan-led review – through letters to peers in both Liverpool and Westminster. <p><i>Fan Attendance at Board Meetings:</i> JB informed that this subcommittee had put activity on hold until the new EFC Board structure becomes clear.</p> <p><i>FAB Women's Game Working Group:</i> No further report, as issues already captures in earlier items.</p> <p>JB reminded all groups with reserved positions that their representative and deputy need to be identified and the FAB informed by 30 June.</p>	Reserved Groups
9	<p>FAB ring-fenced budget proposal (amended) The proposal submitted in March was amended, at the club's request, to give more details and voted unanimously as accepted, to be re-presented. JC to present to the Club.</p>	JC
10	<p>Terms of Reference (amended) JB informed all that the agreed recent 'further amendments' to the 2023/24 season need to be approved at a FAB meeting. Proposed by JM, seconded by HG and unanimously passed.</p>	
11	<p>AOB JB thanked all members of the 2022/23 FAB for their hard work in establishing the FAB and the strategic engagement activities that had taken place since the FAB inception.</p>	
12	<p>Date/location of next meeting The next meeting (virtual) meeting of the new FAB will be Tuesday 11 July 2023, 6pm – 8pm.</p> <p>A provisional date had also been set for the next FAB/EFC hybrid meeting; Wednesday 9 August 2023, 5-7pm.</p>	

