

EVERTON FAN ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 6 November 2023
Time: 6pm
Location: Online (via Teams)

Attendees:	Position/Role:
Dave Kelly (DK)	Chair – Fan elected
Tony Sampson (TS)	Vice-Chair – International Supporters’ Club Network
Julie Clarke (JC)	Secretary – Fan elected
Richie Gillham (RG)	Member – Everton Heritage Society (EHS)
Julie Makin (JM)	Member – Everton Women Supporters’ Club (EWSC)
Keith Done (KD)	Member – Everton Disabled Supporters’ Association (EDSA)
Ken Sweeney (KS)	Member – Everton Supporters’ Club Committee (SCC)
Paul McMonnies (PM)	Member – Football Supporters’ Association (FSA)
Andy Vernon (AV)	Member – Everton Fans’ Forum (EFF)
Paul Rigby (PR)	Member – Fan elected
Scott McAllister (SM)	Member – Fan elected

Item:	Discussion:	Action
1	<p>Chair’s introduction</p> <p>DK thanked the FAB for attending and proposed the group reflect, with a minute’s silence, to mark the passing of the late Club Chairman, Bill Kenwright.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>A vote was held to accept the minutes as accurate. Proposed by TS, seconded by PR and voted as accepted. PM will post the minutes to the FAB website.</p>	PM
3	<p>Declaration of AOB</p> <p>None declared.</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting</p> <p><u>Amendments to the FAB Constitution:</u> DK said that he had requested the amendments for this season, edited by JC, be held until after the proposed takeover, as there are likely to be further changes to be voted on by the FAB. Ongoing.</p> <p><u>St Lukes Matchday Cafe:</u> The three-match trial for the Homebaked community bakery to provide refreshments, in place of the café closed down by the Club, has been very successful and DK thanks everybody who turned up to both promote the café and make themselves available for the FAB drop-in session for fans. Closed.</p>	DK/JM

5	<p>Chair's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DK confirmed that he and TS had held a number of calls and online meetings with the Club, following the passing of Bill Kenwright. They discussed the necessary postponement of the FAB/Club meeting and DK said the Club had undertaken to hold the meeting, due on 8 in November, but that it was likely to be at the end. A possible date was the 29 November, but the FAB would be informed as soon as possible. DK has asked the Club to consider the possibility of continuing to fund the facilities at St Luke's, where chairs, tables and cleaning services were still needed, whilst Homebaked provide the catering service. 	DK
6	<p>Reserved group updates</p> <p>EDSA: KD Reported that EDSA's October meeting had to be cancelled and the November meeting doesn't take place until 16 November. The committee laid a wreath at Goodison and signed the Book of Condolences on Friday. EDSA wanted to record the fact that Bill Kenwright was a fervent supporter of EDSA and a great help in the early days assisting the EDSA founder, Steve Henigan, in setting up the Association. Melissa Wylie continues to monitor and report on the unprecedented non-attendance of car parking permit holders.</p> <p>EFF: AV reported that the EFF met on 26 October and the group discussed the BBC Sports podcast produced by Giulia Bould, Everton: Nothing Will Be the Same. The group was impressed by the production and the content. The group believes that the proposed meeting with Kevin Thelwell was delayed due to the Podcast and they hope it will be reconvened soon. The derby match at Anfield was easier to navigate this season, due to the ongoing works on the ground. There were fewer numbers, making it easier to gain access into the ground. Despite this, the group is extremely unhappy about the refereeing decisions that contributed to the team's loss and will support the Club if they make a complaint to Professional Game Match Officials Ltd (PGMOL). The group was encouraged by the number of fans responding to the stadium migration survey and expect focus groups to analyse the survey in the next two weeks.</p> <p>SCC: KS reported that he has attended the Ground Safety Advisory Committee (GSAC) meeting prior to the derby game and had been advised that the police intended to escort fans who were exiting buses on Priory Road. The group are disappointed to learn that a letter from the Club, apologising to fans who were affected by delays at the turnstiles, when the Club hosted Burnley in the Carabao Cup, had still not been received by many fans. AV said he had received a letter, but was disappointed to find that it did not reference the problems at the upper Gwladys Street stand, which was the worst affected. RG said there was a concern that the longest queues were not marshalled and that he believed women and children were put at risk. KS said that he had spoken to the police and was told that there was no safety issue. AV said that there should have been a public address outside the ground, to keep waiting fans informed.</p> <p>EWSC: JM reported that the group had not held a meeting since the last FAB meeting, but that she was still awaiting confirmation from the Club about extending the pilot for free coach travel to women's away matches. The group is still concerned that fans attending away games still have to apply to the host club for tickets. This is contrary to the WSL regulations and separates Everton from other clubs, who offer tickets sales via their own ticket office for women's away games. Season ticket holders are sold tickets, selecting a dedicated seat, but there are no seat numbers on the covered stand and this is causing a lot of confusion on match days. JM has spoken to the ticket office and the problem is still unresolved. Away supporters are taking up seats in amongst the home supporters and this makes it difficult to create a supportive atmosphere. There needs to be a dedicated area for each Clubs' supporters and numbered seating will help this. DK</p>	

	<p>suggested that the Women’s Group subcommittee requests a meeting with the Club’s Director of Women’s Football, Alan McTavish (AM).</p> <p>ISCN: TS reported that an international group meeting will take place between the Asia Pacific group and the European group on 9 November and he will report on that at the next meeting. He hopes that the Americas groups will hold a meeting the following week. TS asked DK if he could ask the Club to set up a meeting with USA Toffees.</p> <p>EHS: RG reported that a group headed by Paul and Jean Kelly had arranged the Armistice Day service at the Dixie Dean statue on the 9 November. He said it had been a superb occasion, with members of the Services, the Club and Everton in the Community (EITC) attending, as well as members of the general public. An EHS member, Lewis Royden had been involved in a Podcast “The Brazilian Shirt Name”, where he discussed the 21st anniversary of Wayne Rooney’s debut against Arsenal and his first Premier League goal. RG said the group has requested a meeting with Richard Kenyon, to discuss arrangements for the Society’s collection and activities, as well as The Everton Collection at Bramley-Moore Dock (BMD). He reminded the FAB that The Everton Collection is recognised as the greatest collection of football heritage and memorabilia in the world and the Club is reviewing all options for the Collection and participation of the EHS at BMD. The Club and the charity are actively supporting the society with kits for under-privileged people around the world. EHS is still talking to the Club about the team kit for the last season at Goodison Park.</p> <p>FSA: PM Reported that the FSA were concerned with refereeing standards in general and had made representation to the PGMOL. Some member Clubs met the Premier League and broadcasters, to ask that further consideration be given to the changes to Christmas fixtures, but their requests for this had been unsuccessful. The next meeting of the FSA will be on 14 November, but PM cannot attend. RG will deputise for him, if available.</p>	<p>WGroup S/C</p> <p>RG</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Elected member updates</p> <p>JC said she had commenced work on the amendments to the constitution, but had paused this, by request of the Chair, so that it can be reviewed after the impending takeover. She asked that the Club make available the date of the reconvened FAB/Club meeting as soon as possible, to allow FAB members to arrange their diaries and ensure the highest possible attendance. She has worked on proposals for the Women’s game working group and will report on that work in the relevant report.</p> <p>PR said he had been reaching out to fans who elected him to get their thoughts on initiatives like the recent Zoom calls and X Space. Fans had suggested that it would be helpful to see an agenda, in advance, for future meetings and PR agrees with this.</p> <p>SM said that the FAB’s fan engagement survey had yielded 350 comments amongst its responses, which need to be analysed, so he will be taking time to review those. He had experienced problems in accessing the ground for the Burnley Carabao Cup game and agreed with earlier comments. He spoke to fans who reported that they had not received a link to the Club’s migration survey, even though they were long-term season ticket holders.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Subcommittee Updates</p> <p><u>FAB Communications Subcommittee:</u></p> <p>PM reported that since the last meeting the group had published the comments arising from the fan engagement online sessions. Two videos had been recorded at St Luke’s before the last home game. One featured DK, who gave an update on the informal meeting he had held with a representative from 777 and the other was a report on the re-opening of the community café pilot at St Luke’s which will hopefully be available before all weekend home games. PM will edit them and get them released on the FAB</p>	

	<p>website and social media accounts shortly. The final number for the responses to the fan engagement survey was 649. TS and SM will be analysing the data from that to report back to the FAB. The drop-in session at St Lukes had been very well-attended and yielded some useful comments and queries from fans, who also gave positive feedback about the FAB's work and initiatives.</p> <p><i><u>FAB Women's Game Working Group:</u></i> JC reported that the group had held a meeting to discuss the possibility of utilising funds which are available from the Premier League's Fans' Fund, to improve the matchday experience at Walton Hall Park for fans of the Women's team. JC held a phone call with AM, to discuss the issue, but discussions about the use of the limited space available are ongoing with the Club, so the suggestion was that the issue is discussed at a later date. JC asked the FAB to consider another use for the funds and asked members to get back to her with alternative suggestions which she will report back on at the next FAB meeting.</p> <p><i><u>FAB Business & Technology Working Group:</u></i> PR said he was concerned about recent problems at the turnstiles, through use of purchased Carabao Cup tickets on season tickets and apps, having specifically brought up the matter of the Club's technological strategy at the last meeting with them. He was assured that they have the expertise in place to manage the process and, where they didn't, they had access to contractors who had. He asked how the Club would manage customer satisfaction data around the issue and asked DK about the possibility of requesting a meeting between the Club and the Business and Technology subcommittee to address the issue.</p>	<p>TS/SM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DK/PR</p>
9	<p>Preparation for the November FAB/Club meeting TS gave short presentation on the FAB's priorities, in readiness for building the agenda around those. He asked for smaller issues to be taken directly to the Club by the relevant subcommittees, in between FAB/Club meetings.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
10	<p>Date/location of next meeting The next virtual meeting of the FAB will be on Tuesday 12 December, 6pm – 8pm</p>	