

EVERTON FAN ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Date:	Tuesday 12 December 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
Apologies for absence:	
None	

Item:	Discussion:	Action
1	Chair’s introduction The Chair welcomed the group.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting A vote was held to accept the minutes as accurate. Proposed by RG, seconded by KS and voted as accepted. PM will post the minutes to the FAB website.	
3	Declaration of AOB None declared.	
4	Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting <i>The Homebaked community bakery operating at St Luke’s:</i> DK confirmed that he has spoken with the organisers and hopes to meet them personally, to discuss the continued use of the venue. Ongoing.	DK
5	Chair’s Update DK reported on his meeting with the Premier League (PL). He had been invited to speak at the PL’s Clubs Supporters’ Meeting, following a request by the FSA. The meeting included members of the FSA, as well as supporters’ representing several PL Clubs. Everton had been on the agenda, following the sanction of a 10-point deduction by a PL-appointed Commission. DK summarised what was said and confirmed that the PL would publish meeting notes in due course. He	

	<p>confirmed that the question of broadcasting of games had also been on the agenda, as well as the Fan Engagement Standard.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Reserved group updates</p> <p>EDSA: KD reported that EDSA had sent an open letter to the PL about the disproportionality of the sanction against the Club, but had also brought up the important issue of the PL failing in their obligations to enforce regulations at many PL grounds to facilitate disabled supporters. KD also reported that EDSA's long-time Treasurer, Pat Rooney had passed away. Amy Wilson has now taken on the role of EDSA Treasurer, as well as maintaining her role as Secretary. He said that issues with disabled car parking remained and EDSA held a meeting with the Club's Fan engagement Manager, Christine Prior, to discuss the matter.</p> <p>EFF: AV reported that the EFF's last meeting with the Club was held on 30 November. The appeal process which the Club has confirmed, against the 10-point sanction, was discussed at length. Members of the EFF attended the protest outside the PL headquarters in London and AV confirmed it was a peaceful one, with police reporting no issues. The Club has issued communications to fans ahead of the Nottingham Forest game, related to the sanction. The EFF remains concerned about issues at the turnstiles for cup games and has urged the Club to look at its technology for future cup games. The Club gave a presentation about the results of the recent ground migration survey. The Club's diversity framework was discussed, as 23 December marks the 25th anniversary of the 'All Together Now' initiative. A new permanent range of clothing will be available, with profits going to charity. There had been issues with away fans chanting about foodbank collections. The EFF asked the Club to display signs on the large ground screens, showing that many clubs have followed this initiative and reiterating its backing for the scheme. DK thanked the EFF for their support, on behalf of the 'Fans for Foodbanks' charity.</p> <p>SCC: KS reported the SCC held their regular quarterly meeting with the Club on 6 December and recorded 57 different supporter clubs in attendance (online). They spoke in depth about the PL sanctions. The SCC believes that the Club needs to make clear its intentions about the move to Bramley-Moore Dock (BMD) as soon as possible, so that there can be some assurances about season ticket costs. The ground capacity has been confirmed at 52,888 and all current season tickets holders are guaranteed a renewed season ticket for BMD, but the details for further tickets has still to be decided, although it is accepted that there will be a higher number. The Club has set up a working group, to work with represented fan groups to finalise the arrangements and publicise the details, once confirmed. The cost of 2024-25 season tickets will be announced in early January. The SCC has asked for the longest possible notice to be given for pre-season friendly fixtures, if they are proposed, to assist fans and groups in making travel arrangements. The group discussed the decision to make the FA Cup fixture against Crystal Palace, which is a notoriously difficult ground to reach for travelling supporters, an evening mid-week kick-off. The Club reported that it had primarily been a decision which considered the Metropolitan Police's concerns about the amount of London-based games in a short period and the ability to provide sufficient cover. The SCC has contacted their counterparts at Crystal Palace, to record their support for the FA Cup ticket pricing policy, where tickets were capped at £15 each.</p> <p>ISCN: TS reported on the publication of the open letter to the PL, about the sanction and the support of overseas groups. A meeting with the North American supporter groups is in the process of being arranged, followed by an international groups' meeting. The ISCN has highlighted the need to liaise with</p>	

	<p>international sports broadcasters, who may not be aware of the Club’s global following and TS is in the process of speaking to some broadcasters, who have indicated that they are happy to speak to the group and cover activities.</p> <p>EWSC: Technological and connection issues prevented JM from making her report, so this will be included in the January meeting.</p> <p>EHS: RG reported that the EHS Chair and former sports journalist, Ken Rogers, had written to the PL, expressing the Society’s concerns over the 10-point sanction imposed on the Club. The next event the Society will hold is the Dixie Dean Memorial Trophy Award, in partnership with the Liverpool Echo, which will be held in early 2024. There are ongoing discussions about the use of the ground floor of St Luke’s to provide catering for match-goers, especially seniors, and there is a need for more tables and chairs, which the EHS hopes to be able to provide, after discussions with the Club.</p> <p>EFSA: PM reported that the FSA held a meeting on 14 November. A referees’ working group has been set up to discuss issues around the PGMOL and VAR. The group discussed the Fan Led Review, which had been mentioned in the King’s Speech and said the FSA would be consulted throughout the process of setting up the Independent Regulator in English Football (IREF) body, following its successful progression through parliament.</p>	TS
7	<p>Elected member updates</p> <p>JC said that she has worked with fellow officers and others to agree a strategy for the FAB’s representation in a response to the PL sanctions. A working group has been set up, which she will lead, and further details will follow.</p> <p>PR said that his impression of fans, including those from other clubs, was one of solidarity and support in what the FAB is doing in the wake of the PL sanctions, although there is still work to be done and the pressure to highlight the injustice of the issue should be maintained.</p> <p>SM said that, during the last match, fans he didn’t know had approached him to show support for what the FAB was doing in response to the PL sanctions and that he is encouraged by their positive messages, which he believes is a reflection on the hard work of his fellow FAB members.</p>	JC
8	<p>Sub Committee Updates</p> <p><u>FAB Communications:</u></p> <p>PM said that the fan engagement event at The Winslow was a success and well received by local and national media representatives. He continues to advertise the FAB drop-in sessions before each home game and hopes the numbers will increase once the café in St Luke’s is up and running again. He thanked FAB members who had attended, but said more support was needed from the Club to facilitate a café at St Luke’s. He said that TS and SM were working to analyse data from the recent fan engagement survey and that information would be available in due course. He is currently inviting FAB members from visiting teams to meet us when they attend matches at Goodison Park. He noted that other teams’ supporters were supportive of our stance, following the PL sanctions and of the open letter we issued. The followers on the FAB’s X account continue to rise and spiked sharply following the publication of the letter to the PL.</p> <p><u>FAB Women’s Game Working Group:</u></p> <p>JC said that, in light of the FAB’s response to the PL sanctions and some members’ time-consuming involvement in that, a women’s group meeting had</p>	

	<p>not been held since the last FAB meeting, so could not be reported on. However, the Club had agreed to a meeting between the group and relevant parties at the Club, including Alan McTavish, Women's Team Director, early in the new year. JC will provide an agenda, based on group discussions.</p> <p><i>FAB Business & Finance Working Group:</i> PR said he was in the process of calling the next group meeting, but agenda items were not finalised, so discussions would carry on outside this meeting, for a report back at the next meeting.</p>	JC PR
9	AOB No declarations.	
10	Date/location of next meeting The next virtual meeting was agreed to be Tuesday 9 January 2024, 6pm – 8pm	