

# EVERTON FAN ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 9 January 2024
<b>Time:</b>	6pm
<b>Location:</b>	Online (via Teams)

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Position/Role:</b>
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
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	None

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Chair’s introduction</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> A vote was held to accept the minutes as accurate. Proposed by PM, seconded by AV and voted as accepted. PM will post the minutes to the FAB website.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Declaration of AOB</b> ( <i>items here may not be brought up in AOB, if discussed beforehand</i> ) RG proposed one item. PM proposed two items.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting</b> St Lukes’s church hall DK held a meeting with proprietors of Homebaked, who are still keen to operate a café, but more funding is needed for tables and chairs. Ongoing RG and TS have discussed fundraising for St Luke’s, jointly with Fans Supporting Foodbanks. Ongoing.	DK RG/TS
<b>5</b>	<b>Chair’s Update</b> DK reported on discussions surrounding a Fan Engagement meeting on Sunday 14 January, prior to the home game against Aston Villa, at Arnott Primary School, near Goodison Park. Fans had reported that they wanted to meet to discuss a response to the Premier League (PL) 10-points deduction sanction against the Club. Andy Burham, Regional Mayor of Manchester, and Steve Rotherham,	

	<p>Regional Mayor of Liverpool both wanted to attend as speakers. TS raised the importance of ensuring that other fan and stakeholder groups be part of the meeting, including 1878s, Fans Forum and EFC Shareholders' Association, as was the case with the earlier fan engagement meeting at The Winslow. This was agreed by the FAB. The FAB also agreed that the meeting should include a live broadcast if this is possible and permissible.</p>	DK/TS
6	<p><b>Reserved group updates</b></p> <p><b>EDSA:</b> KD Reported that there had been no EDSA meeting since the last FAB meeting, due to work being completed on its regular meeting room. He also said that some EDSA members had been granted a visit to Finch Farm, which was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by those who were able to attend. The funeral was held for EDSA's long time Treasurer, Pat Rooney, who passed away in December.</p> <p><b>EFF:</b> AV Reported that EFF's last meeting was held on 3 January and the subject of the support that the Club had given, following some away-supporting poverty chanting was welcomed. The matter of the technical problems at the turnstiles around the Burnley cup tie was also addressed and the EFF are still awaiting a report, explaining the malfunction. The Club has stress-tested every turnstile ahead of the upcoming Fulham cup tie and the EFF has pushed for improved lighting outside the ground if a similar incident happens again. On the question of renewed season tickets, the Club has confirmed that the auto-renew opt out will be the end of January. The deadline for all renewals will be in April. Some fans had asked about problems with tickets being cancelled due to missed or changed direct debit issues and the Club explained that tickets would only be rescinded two weeks after the last communication was sent to holders. The issue of there being no vegan options at stadium food outlets has been passed to contractor, Sodexo. The question of overseas supporters applying for tickets en-masse was discussed and the Club said that such groups would need to be members of official supporters clubs to access tickets. The EFF discussed proposals for half-time entertainment and has asked fans to contribute ideas.</p> <p><b>SCC:</b> KS reported the last meeting was in December, but apart from this, they had also spoken to the Club about upcoming season ticket prices. He said that people would need to know as soon as possible, so that they can budget. The SCC had discussed the 2024-25 'legacy' season and had expressed a wish for the club to make a special request for the last game to be a home fixture, especially since it will be played on a bank holiday weekend. DK suggested that the FSA may be able to assist with a representation. RG asked whether the many supporters in Chile could be offered membership as part of their ticket prices, when they are able to visit, to save on costs.</p> <p><b>EWSC:</b> JM said that there had been no meeting of the EWSC since the last FAB, but she was considering questions for the expected meeting between the Women's game Subcommittee and Alan McTavish, the Everton Women's Team Director. She said ticket purchases for away games continues to be a problem, as they need to be bought from the host club. She asked JC whether a representative from the box office could be asked to attend the Women's game meeting. JC agreed to request his attendance.</p> <p><b>ISCN:</b> TS reported that he was still in regular contact with US broadcasters about ensuring fair coverage of the 10 point deduction campaign. He also confirmed that three online meetings would take place in the week following the fan engagement meeting at Arnott School for supporters in Europe, Americas and Asia</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>TS</p>

	<p>Pacific regions. This would be aimed at updating them about FAB activities, and get their feedback &amp; ideas.. All FAB members are welcome to join.</p> <p><b>EHS:</b> RG reported that the Christmas break meant there had not been an EHS meeting since November and the next meeting will be on 23 January. The EHS continues to press the Club for a meeting at the earliest opportunity to discuss the future of the heritage project after the move to Bramley-Moore Dock. The EHS is also awaiting confirmation on details of the shirts provided by the new sponsor.</p> <p><b>EFSA:</b> PM Reported that the FSA has continued to make representation on behalf of fans about the hastily and largely unwelcome fixture changes over the holidays, including a game on Christmas Eve. They have also pressed for the release of the PL's meeting summary, following their fan groups' engagement session, including the FAB's Chair, who had been invited following the 10-point deduction sanction. They reported that it has been an unusually long time for the summary to be published and it was unclear why. PM will notify the FAB as soon as the meeting summary is available.</p>	PM
7	<p><b>Elected member updates</b></p> <p><b>JC</b> said that she has been working on the upcoming meeting for the Women's Game subcommittee, as well as working on the FAB's response and input into the PL Commission appeal. She will discuss both issues in the upcoming Subcommittee updates.</p> <p><b>PR</b> said that he had contacted the club directly about the turnstile issues and had suggested they need better engagement with their system provider, not just to ensure no repeat of the earlier problems, but to identify what caused them.</p> <p><b>SM</b> Said that he had been contacted by fans about season tickets and pricing, so would like to have the information to go back to them. He said he was pleased to hear of a proposed live broadcast for the meeting on Sunday, which will enable him to join, as he cannot be there in person.</p>	
8	<p><b>Subcommittee Updates</b></p> <p><i>FAB Communications:</i> PM reported that a FAB drop-in session was held before the Manchester City home game and thanked the EHS for making available a space in the upstairs hall, amidst the EHS sales stalls, after the St Luke's downstairs café closure. He produced an end-of-year video, letting fans know what the FAB had been doing in 2023 and offered help to TS with the upcoming international online meetings. He is also busy preparing to stream the fan engagement meeting on Sunday.</p> <p><i>FAB Women's Game Working Group:</i> JC reported that the request for a meeting with Everton Women's Director, Alan McTavish has been agreed and the date will be confirmed shortly. There will be three main areas of questions: Strategy, Walton Hall Park facilities (including the matchday experience) and heritage. There will be a meeting of the subcommittee to agree issues and questions before the meeting.</p> <p><i>FAB Business &amp; Finance Working Group:</i> PR reported that there had been no meeting of the group, due to the protracted negotiations around the proposed new ownership, but he continues to monitor progress in the UK and the USA.</p> <p><i>PL Commission Appeal Working Group:</i></p>	ALL WG

	<p>JC reported that the fan’s witness statement, authored by various members of the FAB, and overseen by two barristers, who had agreed to work on a pro-bono basis, was now completed and is under review, before a final version is to be sent to both the Club and the Premier League, with a request to both to submit it to the PL Commission for consideration at the upcoming appeal against the 10-point deduction sanction. She said it was the remarkable result of a huge amount of work, which FAB members had spent many hours writing, reflecting fans’ views, the impact on fans and the impact on the wider community. It deserves to be considered, especially in light of the Fan Led Review’s guiding principle about fan voices being heard in decisions affecting their clubs. JC will release the document to PM, to be published on the FAB website, with a notification and link from the FAB X account.</p>	<p>JC PM</p>
9	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>PM said he is now routinely inviting FABs and Fan Trusts from visiting Clubs to meet members of the FAB at our drop-in sessions. In doing so, he had received requests from other groups to hold virtual meetings with Everton’s FAB. JC said she was happy to assist other Clubs’ fan groups when they are setting up fledgling FABs and can provide sample documents and processes. She said, however, that some Clubs appeared to be attempting to set up FABs which include Club employees and she did not think she could help with this, as it defeated the object of a truly independent FAB.</p> <p>PM asked about the merit of seeking an update on the proposed takeover by 777, prior to the next meeting with the Club in February. JC asked whether the FAB would like to call an online meeting, but DK said that he didn’t believe they would be able to give any further information than they already had, since the PL’s enquiries were still ongoing. Given that the Club meeting would be taking place in less than a month, it would be advisable to wait until then. It may be possible that they will be able to tell us more at that stage. He undertook to call an immediate meeting with the Club should anything change between now and then.</p>	<p>PM/JC  DK</p>
10	<p><b>Date/location of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next virtual meeting was agreed to be Tuesday 13 February, 6pm – 8pm</p>	