

# EVERTON FAN ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday 13 February 2024  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Location:** 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)
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>	
Keith Done (KD)	Member – Everton Disabled Supporters’ Association (EDSA)

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Chair’s introduction</b> The Chair welcomed FAB members to the meeting.	
<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 TS and voted as accepted. PM will post the minutes to the FAB website.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Declaration of AOB</b> Items to be discussed which are <i>not</i> included in the agenda. TS declared two items.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting</b> <u>St Luke’s Café</u> RG has been liaising with the Club to re-introduce Homebaked community bakery back to St Luke’s for pre-match services, but further funding is needed to make the space suitable and to furnish it with more seats and tables. Ongoing  <u>Meeting between the Women’s Group Subcommittee and Alan McTavish</u> JC said that a meeting had been convened and took place on 5 February. Closed.	RG
<b>5</b>	<b>Chair’s Update</b> DK reported that he, PM and PR had visited a small home studio, with a view to filming a FAB podcast and he welcomed comments from the FAB about the pilot episode that had been distributed.	

<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Reserved group updates</b></p> <p><b>EFF:</b> AV reported that the last meeting between the Club and the EFF was held on 25 January. The EFF asked whether there was an update on ticket allocations for both the Luton and Bournemouth away fixtures. The Club advised that there are no further developments to report. Any updates will be communicated as they become available. The EFF advised of some reported auto-cup scheme payment issues owing to the short turnaround for the Luton FA Cup fifth round fixture. RG remarked that payment for those in the auto-cup arrangement had been taken at extremely short notice. AV said that the Club explained that discussions between Everton and Luton regarding allocation resulted in a shorter timeframe than usual for this fixture and that where possible, 24 hours' notice is given prior to monies being taken. Fans are advised to pre-empt any payments being taken, should they be enrolled in the auto-cup scheme. AV said that the Club had undertaken to give more notice in future. The EFF asked for an update on season ticket details for the forthcoming season. The Club advised that discussions are ongoing with the Board but fans should expect an announcement shortly. The EFF had requested to be involved in conversations regarding ticket prices for 2024/25. The club confirmed that the sentiments from the Forum had been captured in the proposals presented to the Board. Following the EFF letter to Howard Webb at the PGMOL, the EFF Chair has been invited to a meeting with Howard Webb to discuss the points detailed in the letter. The EFF enquired as to whether there were any updates that the Club could share with regards to the appeal for the first PSR charge and the subsequent charge. The Club reiterated that they are not able to share any information publicly in the ongoing processes. The Forum enquired as to whether there are any confirmed plans regarding pre-season. The Club advised that there were no finalised plans to share at the time. Discussion was held over a report in the media regarding employee walkouts at the new stadium. The Club confirmed that the reports were not accurate.</p> <p><b>SCC:</b> KS Reported that the SCC had held a meeting with the Club immediately prior to the FAB meeting. More than 30 members had attended. The majority of the discussion was taken up with the transition to Bramley-Moore Dock (BMD), including the possibility of changing seats. Also discussed was the subject of difficulties included in digital ticketing and, particularly, the delays in entering the digital turnstiles at the Etihad stadium for the Manchester City game. Some fans reported missing the kick off.</p> <p><b>EWSC:</b> JM reported that there are still problems with ticketing for women's team games and she had to email the ticket office three times to enquire about tickets for the cup game against Nottingham Forest before receiving a response. She said she had thought the problems might have been resolved following the meeting of the Women's Group Subcommittee, which Steve Richards (SR), from the ticket office, had attended. He still has not contacted her, which she had expected, following that meeting.</p> <p><b>EHS:</b> RG Reported that the Dixie Dean Awards evening, the previous Friday had been extremely successful and had sold out the day after tickets went on sale. The EHS continues to meet with the Club to discuss arrangements for including historical and heritage elements into the final season at Goodison Park. He reported that there would be a re-dedication event, with a new gravestone, for George Farmer, one of Everton's first professional players. The ceremony will be held at Anfield Cemetery on 23 March.</p> <p><b>EDSA:</b> KD Apologies accepted – report to be included in March meeting.</p> <p><b>ISCN:</b> TS Reported that three online meetings had been held with overseas supporter groups on 18 January: Asia Pacific, Europe and the Americas. The primary aim was to</p>	
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	<p>show the groups what activities the FAB had been engaged in and to explain more about its involvement in the PL sanctions appeal hearing. He thanked members of the FAB who had made themselves available to join some or all of the meetings. RG said that, via the EHS, he had received enquiries from supporters in the Caribbean and New Zealand. TS asked him to forward the details, so that he could make contact with them. RG will forward details on.</p> <p><b>EFSA:</b> PM reported that his workload in communications, which has increased significantly, including organising drop-in sessions, publicising meetings after the 10-point sanctions and reporting to the fans on the appeal hearing and the 2<sup>nd</sup> charge, had left him with insufficient time to devote to FSA matters, so it had been agreed with the Chair that PR would assume responsibility for FSA liaison, but was able to report that the minutes from the recent PL meeting, which included fan representatives including the Everton FAB Chair, had been published, after a significant delay. PR reported that he is speaking to the FSA regarding Everton's place on the National Executive Committee, which has been vacant since the former FAB Chair resigned and which the FAB would like to maintain. He has written to the FSA and awaits a response.</p>	<p>RG/TS</p> <p>PR</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Elected member updates</b></p> <p><b>JC</b> said she had attended the meeting between Alan McTavish (AM), the CEO of Everton Women, and would report on that in the upcoming subcommittee report. She also discussed her visit to Parliament, for the DCMS Select Committee questioning of PL CEO, Richard Masters. She said that Mr Masters had spoken to her following the committee meeting and that she had made clear to him what issues the FAB had with the PL's processes, including the lack of transparency and the wholly disproportionate 10-point sanction. She also made clear to him that the FAB would canvass to have the fans' voice heard at the subsequent appeal.</p> <p><b>PR</b> said that he had attended the meeting between AM and the Women's Game subcommittee on 5 February and was disappointed that AM could not articulate a clear strategy for the women's game. He said he had asked the Club during the meeting on 7 February whether its strategy included the women's game and still didn't feel this has been made clear.</p> <p><b>SM</b> said that he echoed what KS had said and that he had heard reports of fans who used digital tickets were unable to enter the stadium in time for the kick off against Manchester City. The technology is not new and these types of problems shouldn't be arising so frequently.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p><b>Sub Committee Updates</b></p> <p><u>FAB Communications:</u></p> <p>PM said that plans to transition from group WhatsApp to Teams was progressing and invited FAB members who are still experiencing difficulties with Teams, or require some additional training, to contact him. He referred to the pilot podcast with DK and PR and asked FAB members to let him have feedback. He said there was positive feedback from the engagement meeting which included Andy Burnham and Steve Rotherham, prior to the Aston Villa game on 14 January. He continues to invite FABs from visiting teams to meet at the drop-in sessions in St Luke's before each weekend game.</p> <p><u>FAB Women's Game Working Group:</u></p> <p>JC reported on the meeting held with AM and a representative from the ticket office, Steve Richards (SR). She said that the ticketing problems, which had repeatedly been flagged by JM had gone on too long and that Everton risked being left behind by other clubs, who's women's game ticketing processes far exceeds Everton's. It is</p>	

	<p>unacceptable that season ticket holders for the Women’s game could not be provided with either a physical or digital ticket, but were instead given a two day window, before each home game apply for tickets, which were then emailed. She did not accept the Club’s explanation that this couldn’t be done due to the current ticket technology providers and the Club appears to be content for the problem to remain until the move to BMD. Funding was a major factor in the failure to enhance the matchday experience for fans attending the women’s games at Walton Hall Park (WHP). JM said that the Club had recently sold three players, including Gabby George to Manchester United and Nathalie Bjorn to Chelsea for significant fees, so it was disappointing not to see some of the revenue used for improvements to WHP. RG said that he is disappointed in an apparent lack of appetite by the club to celebrate the heritage of former women players and asked, at the meeting, whether the club would consider a Hall of Fame event for the women’s game. The Club agreed to consider the matter. RG to monitor and report back.</p> <p><i>FAB Business &amp; Finance Working Group:</i> PR said the group remains concerned about the complexities surrounding the 777 takeover, but he would draft a paper, in an attempt to clarify the situation for the FAB, in readiness for a response, should the takeover progress.</p>	<p>RG</p> <p>PR</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>TS said that there is concern about the legislation to introduce an independent regulator and much depended on how quickly the Bill can be introduced, considering that there will be an election this year, which will result in a new Parliament. He suggested setting up an IREF subcommittee to agree a strategy to monitor and support the Bill. He reminded the group that around 45 supporters would be visiting later in the month, from the USA Toffees and asked that FAB members who are able to, make themselves available to meet the group.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Date/location of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next virtual meeting was agreed to be Tuesday 19 March 2024, 6pm – 8pm</p>	