

EVERTON FAN ADVISORY BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 8 October 2024
Time: 6pm
Location: Online (via Teams)

Attendees:

Dave Kelly (DK)
 Tony Sampson (TS)
 Julie Clarke (JC)
 Richie Gillham (RG)
 Julie Makin (JM)
 Ken Sweeney (KS)
 Paul McMonnies (PM)
 Sarah Twigg (SW)
 Mark McKeown (MM)

Position/Role:

Chair – Fan elected
 Vice-Chair – International Supporters’ Club Network (ISCN)
 Secretary – Fan elected
 Member – Everton Heritage Society (EHS)
 Member – Everton Women Supporters’ Club (EWSC)
 Member – Everton Supporters’ Club Committee (SCC)
 Member – Football Supporters’ Association (FSA)
 Member – Everton Fans’ Forum (EFF)
 Member – Fan elected

Apologies for absence:

Amy Wilson (AW) Member - Everton Disabled Supporters’ Association (EDSA)
 Paul Rigby (PR) Member – Fan elected

Item:	Discussion:	Action
1	<p>Chair’s introduction DK welcomed FAB members to the meeting and accepted the apologies submitted by AW and PR.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting A vote was held to accept the minutes as accurate. Proposed by MM, seconded by TS and voted as accepted. PM will post the minutes to the FAB website.</p>	PM
3	<p>Declarations of AOB None declared.</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting</p> <p><i>Meeting to be held of the North American Toffees:</i> TS confirmed that a meeting had taken place in September. Closed.</p> <p><i>EHS/EDSA Christmas Fair:</i> RG and AW met to discuss the time and venue of the Christmas fair. See item 7. Closed.</p> <p><i>IT Training for FAB members:</i> PM to put out a request, offering training to those who would like help on teams or other IT. See item 9. Closed.</p> <p><i>Update to prospectus for new bidders:</i> PR update the prospectus document. Closed.</p>	

6	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>DK appealed to FAB members not already on subcommittees to make themselves available, for short periods of time, to use their skills and add value to the FAB's activities. He explained the issues behind the FSA's 'Stop Exploiting Loyalty' campaign and said there would be a national weekend of action at PL football grounds, including at Goodison Park, for the Fulham game on 26 October. He thanked JC for attending the campaign at Anfield, for the fixture between Liverpool and West Ham. DK said that he had been invited by the PL to a national FAB network meeting in London. He had requested JC accompanies him, as she did for the last meeting in March and the FAB agreed this should happen. There will be a presentation to the Shareholders' Association (SHA) by Football lecturer and economist, Keiran Maguire and DK said that any FAB members who would like to attend should let him know in advance. MM said he had made representation to the SHA, to enable FAB members to attend their regular meetings, in order to better understand the issues discussed. He is awaiting a response and will report at our next meeting.</p>	MM
7	<p>Vice-Chair to address FAB on season priorities</p> <p>TS thanked FAB members for their time, during a series of phone calls this week, to discuss FAB priorities and to agree project Leads. He said goals and objectives need to be agreed, aligned and relayed to the fanbase, so that they understand what work will be carried out this season. JC asked whether we needed to convene a fan engagement session to publicise the information and, if so, when? TS suggested a notice needed to go out within 10 days and that the Comms subcommittee should meet to discuss.</p>	Comms
8	<p>Reserved group updates</p> <p>EDSA: In the absence of the EDSA representative, JC referred the FAB to the written report which had been distributed by e-mail, and included the following: Ill health had caused the Treasurer, Sandra Williams to step back and to be replaced, on a temporary basis, by Vinny Keating. Measures have been put in place for temporary signatories. The Christmas market event will take place before the Brentford fixture on 23 November, on the ground floor of St Luke's. Following criticism at a reduction Southampton FC has increased its wheelchair access from 12 spaces to 16, although this is still fewer than there formerly were. The measure was brought about following Manchester United's threat to take action, on behalf of their disabled fans, on grounds of discrimination. Following a meeting with the Club, EDSA are pleased that the Club has confirmed there will be no change to the arrangement for complimentary companion tickets, with accessibility ticketholders, following the move to Bramley-Moore Dock (BMD). EDSA were also told that the over 65s pricing category will also remain in place, following the move. There will be no charge for onsite accessible parking spaces and the Club will have the responsibility of allocating those spaces.</p> <p>EFF: ST reported that the EFF held their last meeting on 26 September. They discussed season ticket holder migration into BMD and fans' expectations from the perspective of new season ticket pricing. The Club is due to provide details within this month. There were issue at the Aston Villa away game with digital ticketing and the Club had contacted Villa, who confirmed that there had been changes to the stewarding regime, as well as IT entry systems. There were discussions about awareness of mental health needs of fans after the transition and the Club confirmed there would be facilities, including a "Happy to chat" bench at both BMD and Goodison Park, with an organised walk between both. The EFF has been asked to make fans aware of changes at Walton Hall Park ahead of the Women's match against Manchester United.</p> <p>ESCC: KS reported that the SCC held their last meeting on 11 September. They discussed problems with digital ticketing, particularly access, following the Aston Villa away game. They were concerned to have been given several different reasons for the issues and were</p>	

	<p>concerned that stewards did not appear to be trained to help with this particular issue. Some fans missed up to 20 minutes of the game. The SCC would like confirmation of whether, were there is a digital failure in future, the Premier League will allow the kick-off to be delayed, especially since it is the fault of the design of some grounds which prevents phones from working at the turnstiles. The SCC had made representation to the Club about fans being unable to purchase their own seats at the AS Roma game. The Club has confirmed that fans who purchase bottled water at the bars in the stands may ask for them to be refilled with tap water, free of charge.</p> <p>EWSC: JM reported that supporters are still having problems obtaining away tickets for WSL games direct from the Club, despite there being a WSL requirement that they should be able to do so. She said the EWSC had taken delivery of some new merchandise and would be selling that at St Luke's, alongside the EHS merchandise. Unfortunately, the women's side has lost two players to ACL injuries for an indeterminate time and, although they are playing incredibly well in light of this, the issue is severely hampering the team, due to the very small squad size. JC said she would add the Women's game strategy to the next Club meeting, as agreed by the WG subcommittee.</p> <p>ISCN: TS reported that a meeting of the North American Toffees went ahead in September and he is in the process of organising the October meeting, which has been slightly delayed, and he will report on that at the next meeting.</p> <p>EHS: RG reported that, following elections, Ken Rogers had been elected EHS Chair, with Mike Royden Vice-Chair, Paul Kelly Treasurer and he was re-elected as both Secretary and FAB representative. He was pleased to report that the group has been offered space to display and sell their merchandise in the function room of a new bar/restaurant which will be opened in time for the move to BMD. This was a welcome move for the group, who have been trying to secure space at, or near BMD for some time and had not been able to secure facilities through the Club. The EHS has been working with KitAid for 10 years and are planning an event to celebrate this milestone. They would like the Club to print more programmes for each match in this last season, since programmes are now being sold at inflated prices online.</p> <p>EFSA: PR had submitted apologies, but DK confirmed that he and PR had met Kevin Miles (FSA CEO) prior to the last home game and had spoken about the overbearing security practices at Brentford FC, where fans are being asked to provide their wallets, to be searched. Brentford had previously said they had been asked to do this by the Premier League (PL), but the PL refuted this. KS said that he had been told by the Police at Brentford that the only people who could conduct a wallet search were police officers. The FSA will raise the matter directly with the Club.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>TS</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Elected member updates</p> <p>JC said she had spent this month updating the FAB's Terms of Reference and Constitution, after convening a working group. The documents would be discussed and voted on later in this meeting. She had also spoken to other national FAB representatives about sharing initiatives and supporting campaigns.</p> <p>MM said he would like to work on a plan for the FAB's response to the upcoming takeover, suggesting a working group and asked whether members could let him know if they wanted to be involved.</p>	<p>MM</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Subcommittee Updates</p> <p>Communications: PM reported that there had been a Comms group meeting on 1 October, mainly concerning communicating the group's agreed priorities. A space has been set up online for FAB members to contribute to, so that documents are recorded and version controlled. The pre-match drop-ins are well received, with FAB/Trust members and fans</p>	

	<p>from both Crystal Palace and Newcastle United visiting during the recent home games. He asked for members to continue to visit and help out if they arrive early enough. He will shortly be contacting FAB members to clarify which level of training, if any, is required in group communications. He will also start work on the next Fan Engagement Session.</p> <p>Women's Game: JC said she had drafted a strategy document for the Women's Game subcommittee and had distributed it for comments. Once received, a final document will be drawn up, to be presented to the Club for the upcoming meeting.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>JC</p>
10	<p>Discussion on upcoming FAB Documents Review</p> <p>JC introduced the draft Terms of Reference and Constitution, which had been distributed for this meeting and had been amended through the working group set up to review them, before being discussed with a selection of FAB members. They were presented to the group for voting and sign-off. There was a proposal to adopt them by MM and this was seconded by PM and the FAB unanimously voted to adopt the documents, which will be forwarded to the Club.</p>	JC
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>RG said the 6pm start of the meetings made it difficult for some to attend, after their working day. There was a short discussion about the possibility of a later start, but some members said they did not want a later finish. A vote was held and it was agreed to keep the start time to 6pm.</p>	
12	<p>Date/location of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next FAB meeting should be held (virtually, on Teams) on Tuesday 12 November at 6pm</p>	