

EVERTON FAN ADVISORY BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 13 May 2026
Time: 6pm
Location: Online (via Teams)

Attendees:	Position/Role:
Paul Rigby (PR)	Chair – Fan elected
Julie Clarke (JC)	Secretary – Fan elected
Ken Sweeney (KS)	Member – Everton Supporters’ Club Committee (SCC)
Mark McKeown (MM)	Member – Fan elected
Fawad Munir (FW)	Member – Fan elected
Rob Galkoff (RG)	Member – Fan elected

Apologies for absence:

Tony Sampson (TS)	Vice-Chair – International Supporters’ Club Network (ISCN)
Paul McParlan (PM)	Member – Everton Heritage Society (EHS)
Jo Davies (JD)	Member – Everton Fans’ Forum (EFF)
Julie Makin (JM)	Member – Everton Women Supporters’ Club (EWSC)
Amy Wilson (AW)	Member – Everton Disabled Supporters’ Association (EDSA)

Item:	Discussion:	Action
1	Chair’s Welcome <i>(and apologies for absence)</i> PR welcomed the group and offered apologies from TS, PM, JD, JM and AW	
2	Minutes of the last meeting Minutes were proposed as accurate by MM, seconded by RG and voted to be accepted. JC to publish on FAB website following the meeting.	JC
3	Declarations of AOB RG declared one item.	
4	Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting <u>Women’s Game Subcommittee:</u> JC to agree meeting date for Women’s Game Subcommittee strategy meeting with the Club - included in JC REPORT. CLOSED <u>FAB meeting with Liverpool City Council and Mersey Travel:</u> PR to arrange meeting, postponed from. CLOSED <u>FAB response to Club pricing announcement:</u> PR to arrange meeting with the Club following pricing announcement. CLOSED	

5	<p>Chair's update</p> <p>PR reported that the FAB-initiated consultation framework with the Club, which is currently undergoing revision will be the first such agreement formalised in the Premier League and he thanked all members who were involved in drafting it. The plan is to have it completed and signed off in time for the new incoming FAB for the 2026-27 season, but there is still work to be done to make that happen. He said that, although it had been disappointing that the Club had not agreed to a price freeze on season tickets, they had made clear that their intended increases were higher than those eventually made after consultation with the FAB. He said that the most concerning issue that had come out of the survey, conducted by the FAB after the pricing announcement, was the erosion of trust the fans reported in the Club. He said the FAB's intention had always been to be sincere partners in discussions, offering sound evidence-based advice, but that the Club had not listened. He said that alternative solutions had been provided which could have ameliorated some of the price rises the Club felt were needed and that some of the increases, alongside the membership costs, were not sustainable in a successful fan engagement model. He urged those who would be on the next FAB to work hard to ensure the fan's voices are heard. He said the FAB could be proud of their achievements so far, and recognised the work and contributions of the represented groups, as well as the directly elected members. MM remarked on the Chair's effective leadership this year and said that the cohesion of the entire FAB had been demonstrated in the Consultation Framework, but that it was unfortunate the Club had not acted on the document when it was first presented last year.</p>	
6	<p>Review of key priorities</p> <p>TS had offered apologies, so this will be discussed during next month's meeting.</p>	TS
7	<p>Reserved Group Updates</p> <p>EDSA: AW had offered apologies, but a written report was submitted in her absence, saying there had been a positive initial response to proposals submitted about amendments to the accessibility ticketing system, to help alleviate some issues accessibility ticket holders face when games are rescheduled. The Club is also speaking with other PL clubs to compare accessibility ticket resale platforms. A meeting will take place about utilising unsold wheelchair user spaces in hospitality areas in the West stand as general admission tickets, to allow more wheelchair users to attend matches. The re-mapping of Nelson Dock and Western Quay car park areas has begun, to provide between 9 and 12 additional accessible parking spaces before next season. It is hoped further spaces will be available after the re-mapping process is complete. Two EDSA members were invited to Finch Farm to meet with members of the Women's Team and be interviewed ahead of the "Wings for Life" run at Hill Dickinson Stadium (HDS) last weekend, supporting a spinal cord injuries charity. Ahead of the final WSL match at Goodison this weekend, Give Vision are hosting a trial of their VR headsets to enhance the matchday experience of blind and partially sighted fans. It is the second trial with the club, following a similar trial last season at a men's fixture. EDSA has nominated six supporters who have varying levels of sight loss to be invited to the Leicester game to take part in the trial. It is hoped the Give Vision service will be implemented at Goodison next season, with further trials at HDS to test suitability. Exit passes to allow access to Nelson Dock car park post-match are working well after initial issues. Helping to speed access up without fans being questioned by stewards as to why they need access. Waiting time in the car park post-match has reduced to around 45 minutes. EDSA and EFC Disability Access Officer, Chris Massam, are looking into the possibility of having programme sales either in the club shop or the merchandise concessions inside the stadium, where cash can be used as payment rather than card or mobile devices. More information will follow later this summer.</p>	AW
	<p>EFF: JD had offered apologies, but a written report was submitted in her absence, saying FF met on 6 May and focused solely on pricing. Concerns were raised about the apparent reduction in price points, after the FF had previously welcomed the wider range of price points this season. They are concerned that annual increases, combined with a reduction in</p>	

price points in future years, could make season tickets unaffordable for many supporters. They reported on the likelihood of fans needing to move to cheaper seats. Concerns were also raised about changes to the family enclosure. A member felt that the increased cost may lead families to move into other areas of the ground, potentially creating conflict around expectations of behaviour and negatively affecting the atmosphere, while another member fed back concerns received regarding the increase in Lower South seats. The Lower South concourse is less well equipped than the Upper South, with limited space to rest food and drinks, no natural daylight, and no access for Lower South supporters to Upper South facilities. He asked whether—given that prices will be aligned going forward—there were plans to allow Lower South supporters access to the upper concourse. The club confirmed that this will not be an option next season. They queried the young adult price bracket, which covers ages 18–21, whereas at other clubs this extends to 24, recognising that many in this age group are in lower-paid jobs, not in employment or training, or still full-time students. The club acknowledged this and will review next season. They discussed the opening times of bars on the Plaza and inside the ground. At the last match, changes to the opening of the Upper South concourse and the Fan Plaza were communicated only a couple of hours before kick-off, by which point many supporters had already made plans. Timings vary, depending on the day and kick-off time, the FF requested more advance notice of changes. They discussed developments in the women’s game, including the expansion of available merchandise and the need to continue promoting fixtures across social media platforms.

SCC: KS reported that the SCC end-of season meeting with the Club has yet to happen. He expects issues on the ticket price rises to form part of those discussions. He said he and JC had attended the recent meeting with Liverpool City Council (LCC), Mersey Travel (MT) and Merseyside Police. He reported that, whilst some problems persisted, many had been addressed since the FAB called the first of these meetings and the SCC was concerned to hear of ongoing problems of MT staff being abused by irate fans when services are affected, or not running as quickly or frequently as fans would like them to. The SCC supports the Club and the Police taking action against anybody involved in such abuse. He reported that extra buses are now being laid on during fixtures from Bootle, Kirkby and Liverpool One. The journey from Liverpool One bus station now takes around 7-8 minutes. Council Leader, Liam Robinson confirmed he had now travelled those routes and, having agreed on the points raised at earlier meetings, had worked to have services increased or improved. KS said JC had raised the problem of trip hazards immediately outside the ground and on the route to the soccer buses. She had also provided photographs. LCC said they would send officers to inspect. He said there remains a problem whereby drivers who are blue badge holders are still being prevented from entering streets near the ground, which LCC had previously advised should be open to them. JC had also brought up the problems caused by the raised paving on the cycle path, immediately outside the gates, where people are tripping, as they exit the ground in large crowds, made especially worse at nighttime games, with low visibility. LCC accepts this and will consider lowering the paving outside the gates. Peel Holdings, who manage the Bascule Bridge, were also at the meeting and have agreed they will work with LCC to make improvements before next season. He said the FAB should be proud of the work they had done in the background this season to improve access and facilities around the ground on match days, although there is still work to be done and the meetings with LCC and Mersey Travel will continue. Merseyside Police reported that there had been several arrests at the derby game, as a result of fans attempting to jump over turnstiles, which is a criminal offence.

EWSC: JM had offered apologies, but a written report was submitted in her absence, saying there had been no meeting of the EWSC, but that the Chair and Vice-chair had held an online discussion with the new Commercial Director of Everton Women, Fiona Breeden. They are encouraged by a request to do some more work together and will hold regular meetings in the next season. Results of the fans’ votes for players of the season were in and

	awards will be presented to the players, on the pitch at the end of the final game of the season, against Leicester City, on Saturday.	
	ISCN: TS had offered apologies, so a report will be provided at next month's meeting.	
	EHS: PM had offered apologies, but a written report was submitted in his absence, saying the last EHS Social event was at the Denbigh Castle on 07 May. It featured a presentation on the medical treatments of Everton players over the years and there was also a presentation on James Precott; the first architect of Goodison Park. The annual "Everton in Everton" event took place on 9 May, hosted by the EHS, with visits to Prince Rupert's Tower and the former site of Everton village. Both events were well attended and further details are available on the EHS website and social media platforms.	
8	<p>Elected Member Updates</p> <p>JC reported that she had attended the meeting of the Premier League (PL) FAB Leads at Villa park yesterday. She had written to the PL beforehand to ask for the subject of re-scheduling, and particularly Monday night games, to be added to the agenda. She had made particular reference to the fact that Everton would play more Monday night fixtures this season than other PL Clubs and also brought up the case of the Arsenal game, having been changed with only a weeks' notice, to 8pm on the Saturday night immediately before Christmas. LFC's representative who was also at the meeting, agreed that it was an extremely unpopular decision within the city, causing huge problems for fans, traffic and family arrangements at the time. Many fans had been unable to attend, due to pre-arranged family and Christmas holiday commitments. She had told the PL that, whilst understanding the position for Arsenal, with European fixtures, there were other times the game could have been played, which appear not to have been considered by the PL and broadcasters. The PL had undertaken to re-visit the process of broadcast allocation and report back.</p>	JC
	MM Reported that he was leading the working group on the consultation framework and would report on this in item 10.	
	RG Reported that he, along with TS, had attended a meeting with the Club following the publication of results from the FAB survey, put out immediately after the Club announcement on season ticket price rises. The Club had asked about the validity and efficacy of the data and he and TS had provided solid evidence of the process and data analysis. They made clear to the Club that they were confident that the final report was a true and accurate reflection of fans' feedback, which the Club now accepts. He said the inaugural Fans' Conference had been a success and thanked JC for editing the footage to enable an hour-long video to be published on the FAB's YouTube channel. He also thanked FM, who had worked on the arrangements for the event and KS, who had provided help on the night. PR said that next year's conference should be fully aligned with the FAB's priorities and ongoing activities.	
	FM Reported that the conference was a success and noted the excellent contribution Giulia Bould made, as the guest host. He suggested that next year's conference should be planned earlier than this year's, which had been a learning curve, but had resulted in a very busy schedule for those involved in arranging it as the time grew closer.	
9	<p>Subcommittee and Working Group Updates</p> <p>Communications: JC reported that the Fans' Conference was a success and was particularly happy with the amount of women fans who were able to attend. She had made efforts to invite women from the fan groups she is aligned with, many of whom had never attended a FAB fan engagement session and found the evening to be extremely informative. She thank</p>	

	<p>both Fawad and Rob for their efforts in arranging the event and thanked TS for securing the appearance of renowned football journalist, Henry Winter, to appear on the panel. She also thanked other members who had worked hard to secure the appearance of other panellists. She said she had thanked Giulia Bould personally and publicly on the FAB's social media channels. She thanked JD, who introduced younger fans on the panel, and spoke about an initiative to involve young fans in the FAB's fan engagement work and she made particular reference to the contribution of Paul McParlan (EHS) for his comments on Everton's Heritage and the urgent need for the Club's owners to embrace its heritage and for there to be more visual evidence of this around the stadium. She said Paul's remarks completely aligned with those made by Henry Winter and hoped the Club would listen. She said the video was available on the FAB's Youtube channel.</p>	
	<p>Business and Technology: MM said he would include this in item 10.</p>	
	<p>Women's Game: JC reported that the subcommittee finally had a date in the diary for 20 May. She was unsure how many members would be able to attend, as the proposed meeting had been put off for quite a long time, despite the FAB offering several dates to the Club, but she said it was extremely important the meeting happens this season, as she was leaving and would have to pass on the leadership of this important committee to the new FAB. She said it is important they know what the Club's strategic vision is for the women's game and for development or improvement at Goodison Park, to enable them to be as effective as possible in their work next season.</p>	JC
	<p>Community Engagement: PR reported that the FAB had given support to Everton in the City (EitC), with their application for Premier League funding for one of their initiatives. JC said she has spoken to them in recent days, to find out whether they had been successful, but they will not hear until June and will let the FAB know.</p>	
10	<p>FAB Consultation Framework and Club Discussion Document MM thanked those members who had contributed to the discussion document received from the Club, in response to the second presentation of the FAB's Consultation Framework document, which, having been present to the Club last year but not acted upon, had been re-presented to the Club. Following an initial recent single issue meeting, the Club provided a discussion document, which included its responses. There followed a discussion about the form the framework should take and any further proposed amendments to the discussion document. PR said the FAB has a very short window to finalise the framework before the new FAB is convened in July. MM said he is gathering all the comments and will re-group in due course to respond. JC said she had spoken about the formation of the framework at the PL meeting and that Everton's FAB was the only FAB putting a formal written framework in place. The PL are keen to follow up and will speak to the Club once the process is in place.</p>	MM
11	<p>AOB RG asked about arrangements for a FAB members' handover, given that some long-standing members of the FAB and Officers will be leaving this summer. JC said she had already started some of the handover process, with members who will be staying on, that she is formulating a document. She said that, administratively, the FAB's operational processes and procedures are well-documented in its two governance documents; the Terms of Reference and the Constitution. She urged remaining members to re-visit those documents. PR said there will inevitably be background practices and protocols that will not be included in the governance documents, as well as communications and external meetings, such as those with the PL and the FSA and these should be the subject of a handover meeting in the summer, which JC will convene.</p>	JC
12	<p>Date/location of next meeting The next meeting of the FAB will take place on Wednesday 11 June at 6pm (via Teams)</p>	ALL