



NEWSLETTER

Apr 2017

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS

AGM 13th May 2017. This will be a trial this year and will take place on the Coach to the game at Watford. The AGM is a requirement that we must have to maintain our status as an official Everton Supporters Club. Important decisions are made that do require voting in so please consider coming along to this game and have a say on how the club is run.

CHAIRMAN – RON JOYNSON



Welcome to the Apr 2017 newsletter. Firstly, as I write this on the morning after the Republic of Ireland v Wales game in Dublin can I take the opportunity to wish Seamus Colman a speedy recovery from what looks like a horrific leg injury. Seamus for me is undoubtedly a future Everton Captain and will be a massive loss for the final third of this season.

The current season enters a most important stage for EFC. With 29 games played, we find ourselves in 7th place, on 50 points. Our stats to date are:-

P 29 / W14 / D8 / L 7 / GD +21 / Points 50.

With 9 games still to play (4H / 5A) including difficult away games at Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal and a home game versus Chelsea (probable Champions) a possible Champions League placing seems a long way off (even though we are currently just 6 points behind 4th place Liverpool.) Who knows!!!

Internal problems involve both Romelu Lukaku and Ross Barkley who are stalling on signing new contracts but again who knows!!!

Our best game season to date, was by far, the Manchester City home game with our 4 nil victory, and those of us that travelled from the Westcountry were well rewarded. Super goals from Lukaku and Mirallas were followed by late crackers from Tom Davies (age 18) and Ademola Lookman (age 19) and a super game from Mason Holgate (age 20) Who says that kids won't win you anything. Who knows!!!

This week the Everton news was dominated by the purchase of the Bramley Moore Dock site that will hopefully become our new ground. This will be the City of Liverpool's total third, first class ground, all built for Everton Football Club / eat your heart out Kopites! We have been at Goodison for 125 years but the need to renew to this outstanding spot is the aspiration of us all. Many thanks need to go to Farhad Moshiri and Joe Anderson (Liverpool Mayor) for making this possible. The deal with Peel Holdings / Liverpool Waters along with the services of architect Dan Meis, still has a long way to go, but again who knows!!!

The forthcoming WCB AGM is a most important one for the Club. You will be asked to support your current Committee as well as our plans to alleviate the current fiscal problems that are covered in Mike's piece below. We need as many of you to support us as is possible as we do need sound finances to stay alive. But again who knows!!!

And finally

I would like to thank Chris and Olivia Howard for volunteering to represent the Westcountry Blues on the Fan Day against Burnley. They will hold the WCB Banner aloft proudly on the pitch parade at the game against Burnley and we would like to repeat this next season so if anybody wants to get involved please let us know. I would appreciate as they walk around anybody taking pictures of them from your different vantage points – thank you.



Danni Jones and Kieron Hatton carried our flag last season

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Best of luck folks.

Ron Joynson

TREASURER – MIKE WILLIAMS



Welcome to the April 2017 newsletter. Financially, this season it has been a game of cat and mouse. We have seen some coaches especially in January where significant lack of interest saw us make major losses. One of these games was the 4-0 thumping of Manchester City where of course the ground was absolutely rocking...a poor choice by so many not to make the early start!

The losses on travel this season, at the time of writing amount to £662. This is totally covered by membership fees but with a further 4 home games to go, two of which are Sunday games that normally return a loss does mean that membership fees alone may not cover it, we wait and see..

In order to mitigate some of the losses we have managed to claw back £68 from Easyfundraising (more about that below) and we have taken very

nearly £450 on match day contributions. A huge thanks to all that donate to this, it has helped enormously, I know it adds to the cost of the day but trust me it's a huge help. We have also managed to take 5.25 Euros, a Canadian Dollar, something from Hungary and a flat washer. I have donated these to a local charity in Salisbury, less the washer which is in my toolbox!

To date, £260 of this has been used to tip the drivers, so therefore I never include this figure in my loss/profit figure posted for each game on the website. The remainder of this money has gone towards the normal expenses that we accrue each season such as website hosting, stationary, phone calls and the one off match day ticket purchase for Mike Trebilcock and his wife.

I would like to thank those that have paid for missed travel as that also mitigate the losses by very nearly £100. Every penny helps and we will vote on a proposal at the AGM to make this a little more robust!

Clearly, we have to do something extra to mitigate the losses further and we will propose some more changes at the AGM on the Watford game.

On to my normal moan really and I know that I am sounding like a broken record but this is more of a necessity really. In January 2016 I started an Easyfundraising page for the Westcountry Blues. If you buy anything on line but access your online shopping experience via an Easyfundraising account you could support us. Effectively, you go to one of over 3000+ retailers who support this including Tesco, even Morrison's for those that choose to spend money here for supermarket online shopping, Holiday booking, John Lewis, Amazon and even **Everton Direct** via the Easyfundraising page and make your purchase.

The retailer of your choice then donates a few pence to the cause which in this case is us. **YOUR PURCHASE DOES NOT COST YOU ANY MORE.** So sign up at Easyfundraising, then find the Westcountry Blues and support us. It really is money for nothing. Currently, we have 5 members supporting the cause which is rather disappointing but I will persevere! If everybody did it I am sure we could sort out a way of subsidising a coach trip or something each season. Just have a look at a snippet of my purchase history at the end of my report to see how it could add up (Deb the Everton Direct purchases were Xmas gifts for Kieron!). If you put a little sticker by you PC or laptop to remind you about it we could actually make a bit of money!!

Thanks to John Williams our current highest spender who booked his holiday to Australia through it last year!

And finally although it is mentioned at the top of the newsletter can I please make everyone aware of the AGM date. This is an important part of the 'season' and it is where we make decisions etc for the good and benefit of all. Please make every effort to join us on that coach. In terms of financial statement and end of season accounts these will obviously not be available on the Watford coach but they will be reconciled by the end of May and I will make them available on the website. I will prepare an up to date account record for the coach AGM.

Typically, I will not be on the Watford coach as its pretty common knowledge that Deb and I will drive up to the game as we move on to the Lake District post match to get married on Tuesday 16th May.

Shopped on 22nd Feb 2017	with Argos	you spent £67.99	→	you collected 51p	for Westcountry Blues
Shopped on 22nd Feb 2017	with Amazon	you spent £12.00	→	you collected 18p	for Westcountry Blues
Shopped on 2nd Feb 2017	with Amazon	you spent £14.88	→	you collected 22p	for Westcountry Blues
Shopped on 8th Jan 2017	with Expedia	you spent £97.76	→	you collected £5.87	for Westcountry Blues
Shopped on 4th Jan 2017	with Everton Direct	you spent £25.00	→	you collected 63p	for Westcountry Blues
Shopped on 11th Dec 2016	with Everton Direct	you spent £62.97	→	you collected £1.57	for Westcountry Blues
Shopped on 4th Dec 2016	with Levis	you spent £85.00	→	you collected £3.40	for Westcountry Blues
Shopped on 1st Dec 2016	with Amazon	you spent £37.24	→	you collected 56p	for Westcountry Blues

TRAVEL AND TICKET REQUIREMENTS – BECKY MARTIN



If you are a season ticket holder and not attending a game please ensure you tell Becky or Mike Williams as the coach seat THAT IS AUTOMATICALLY ALLOCATED TO YOU can be offered up to others. If your season ticket is also **desirable** we may be able to get rid of that as well. We have already lost money this season with STHs not telling us they are unable to travel – Please help us make the whole concept of running the coach to Goodison Park sustainable.

As always, it is advised that you let me know as soon as you can when you know which fixture you wish to attend, this will avoid any last minute requests that could result in failure to get a ticket or of being allocated a restricted view. **Tickets will only be ordered for members travelling to the match on the WCB coach.**

Everton are not obliged to provide a refund on cancelled tickets so in the event that you cannot attend a game, having ordered a ticket, you will be liable to still pay for tickets ordered.

The only way to really ensure that you are included on the bus list is to speak to me personally or by text as I may miss Facebook messages.

PLEASE NOTE THAT I SUBMIT ALL TICKET REQUESTS AT LEAST 5 WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE GAME BOTH HOME AND AWAY – DECIDE EARLY IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND.

LITTLE DRIBBLING VISITS GOODISON – BILL BRYSON (TYPED BY MIKE WILLIAMS)

I came across this is a book written by Bill Bryson recently and would be staggered if he came across this article and perused me so therefore I have unashamedly copied it! It is a great book and I can recommend it to anybody really as he vents his feelings about a number of places around the country in a rather amusing manner. The book is called 'The road to Little Dribbling' and well worth a read.

I was in Liverpool for a football match: Everton v Manchester City. I can't pretend that this was an event of huge moment to me, or even necessarily too many people who follow football, but it was a big deal for my son in law Chris who lives and dies for Everton. This is a trifle odd as he grew up two hundred miles away in Somerset.

He became an Everton supporter simply because Everton won the first match he ever watched on TV as a ten year old and because he quite liked their blue uniform (**Bryson is therefore an American!**). I find this endearing and pathetic in roughly equal measures.

In all his years of support he has never seen Everton play at home, so for his birthday his dear wife, my dear daughter, had bought him four tickets to today's match for him, his two little boys and me, It was going to be a guy's day out. I was very excited.

Chris and his boys Finn, aged nine and Jesse, six – had travelled up from London the day before, so we arranged to meet in the city centre for lunch. I spied them walking towards me up Chapel Street, all three of them dressed, without embarrassment, as if for a competition called 'How many things can you wear that say "Everton" on them!

They would have easily won for they were the only people in the centre of Liverpool wearing anything at all with *Everton* on it. You will soon discover that Everton Football club is something of a secret even in its own city. (**Not strictly true!**)

We had lunch, then took a cab to the ground, or at least to within half a mile of the ground, which is as close as it could get on a match day. Here there were tens of thousands of people dressed in Everton jerseys, scarves, hats and other tribal regalia – a sight that staggered my two grandsons. These boys live in outer London. Every one of their friends supports Chelsea or Arsenal. They had never seen another Everton supporter before, and now here were forty thousand of them. It was as if they had died and gone to heaven, albeit a heaven populated largely by people with enormous bellies and neck tattoos. (**Fair one this!**)

Everton Football Club is not actually in Everton. It is in Walton, a neighbouring district full of boarded up pubs, mean terraced houses and vacant lots filled with builder's rubble. Google Walton, Liverpool and you get a succession of entries like '*Off Licence in Walton targeted by ram raiders*', *Walton burglary gang jailed*, '*Two men arrested after stabbing in Walton*'. I had never seen an area quite this rough. I stayed close to Chris. He's a London policeman and, more to the point a retired Metropolitan Police Force middleweight boxing champion. The boys and I held his jacket.

Everton's ground is Goodison Park, which is not merely the most venerable (**commands respect, dignified etc**) stadium in English football, but in the world. It was built in 1892 and is evidently the oldest surviving purpose built football ground anywhere. This sounds charming, but what it means in practice is that even places like Liberia and Burkina Fans have more modern, up to date stadiums. Still, because of its cherished history we assumed reverential countenances as we entered the stadium and found our way to the tiny vice like numbered spaces that are called seats. They were unbelievably uncomfortable so narrow that I could only sit one buttock at a time, but eventually both cheeks became so numb that I lost any active awareness or discomfort.

And so the match begins. I do love a live sporting match. I had brought a small pair of binoculars and I spent much of the first half looking at all the peripheral things that aren't shown to you when you watch on television, like what the goalkeepers do when play is at the other end of the pitch (stand there with their hands at their sides and occasionally jump up and down once or twice, then do some neck roils, then

stand some more) or what the players do when the ball is nowhere near them. I particularly liked watching the linesman run sideways up and down the side line, as if imitating a giraffe.

I noticed, as I often noticed at English football matches I was the only person in the stadium enjoying himself. The rest of the spectators, on both sides were perpetually stressed and dismayed. A man behind me was simply full of despair.

"Now why did he do that?" he would say. *"What was he thinking?"* *"Why didn't he pass it?"*, then he would say it all again often with loads of swear words.

His companion seemed to have some issues with 18th century German metaphysics because he kept saying *"F***** Kant!"* I am not quite sure how he was relating this to the actions before us but every time Everton failed to score he called them a "load of *"F***** Kants!"*

"Oh, now why did they do that?" said the despairing man.

At half time the score was 0-0. Naively I said to Chris *"Well you must be reasonably happy with that for Everton were the underdogs"*, and he said *"Are you kidding", we had so many missed chances. We were rubbish"*. He looked wretched.

In the second half Manchester City scored a goal, leaving us sitting in suicidal silence, but the Everton came back and drew level and it was like Mardi Gras. When the referee blew the final whistle with the score 1-1, I though honour had been satisfied but we were so gloomy once more at our end of the pitch.

I chose to look on the bright side.

It is all after all just a game I pointed out philosophically

*"F***** Kant!"* Said the man behind me, still philosophical himself.

MIKE TREBILCOCK TRAVELS WITH THE WESTCOUNTRY BLUES



Mike Trebilcock travelled with the WCB to the home game against Sunderland on 25th Feb. For those that were not on the bus you missed a treat.

On the journey Mike was invited to speak to the travelling members about his time, albeit a short one with Everton. He explained how Fred Pickering the England Centre Forward was injured in the lead up to the semi final against Manchester United at Burnden Park the then home of Bolton Wanderers. Everton won the game 1-0 with Colin Harvey scoring the only goal. Pickering although fit for the Final itself was to be disappointed as Mike explained that Harry Catterick the Everton Manager sat them down and told them

that he was paid to make decisions and Mike Trebilcock would lead the line against Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley - an inspired choice if not universally popular amongst Evertonians!

Mike signed autographs and happily posed for pictures. A huge thanks to Mike and his wife Ginny who seemed quite happy that her husband spent most of the day chatting to others!

Thanks also to Tony Williams for ensuring that they were chaperoned throughout the day.

FAREWELL TO COLIN EVANS



It's a sad farewell to Col' who leaves us as a travelling WCB member very soon. I say this as Colin still wishes to remain a member of the club which is superb commitment.

Colin is moving back to Liverpool and has bought a property quite close to Goodison Park where I am sure he will be happy.

Thank you for your superb support over the years and best wishes from us all.

I should add that the flower stall at Keele Services will be sad to see you go as well mate!

MERCHANDISE

On every coach I have the normal car stickers, fridge magnets and badges. I will place a order for a new style mug over the close season and will have them on the first coaches of next season hopefully.



LOST PROPERTY ON BERRY'S COACHES

So that everybody is aware if you leave any items on the Coaches Berry's do charge a admin fee of £1 for its recovery on a subsequent coach. This money goes to a local charity. If you leave something let me know and I will speak to them on your behalf.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES (Correct as of 25th March 2017)

All fixtures are updated on the website

Date/KO	Comp	Opponents	Ticket Orders	Travel Timings			Notes
01/04/17 1230	Prem	Liverpool 	CLOSED	No Travel to this Fixture			
04/04/17 2000	Prem	Man Utd 	CLOSED	No Travel to this Fixture			
09/04/17 1600	Prem	Leicester City 	CLOSED	Taunton 0845	Bristol 0930	J13 Lay By 1000	Ticket Orders closed but travel still available
15/04/17 1500	Prem	Burnley 	CLOSED	Taunton 0745	Bristol 0830	J13 Lay By 0900	Ticket Orders closed but travel still available
22/04/17 1500	Prem	West Ham Utd 	CLOSED	No Travel to this Fixture			Please let us know if you are going so we can arrange car shares
30/04/17 1405	Prem	Chelsea 	CLOSED	Taunton 0700	Bristol 0745	J13 Lay By 0815	
06/05/17 1500	Prem	Swansea City 	AS SOON AS POSSIBLE	No Travel to this Fixture			Please let us know if you are going so we can arrange car shares
13/05/17 1500	Prem	Watford 	10/04/17	Taunton 0745	Bristol 0830	J13 Lay By 0900	
22/05/17 1500	Prem	Arsenal 	AS SOON AS POSSIBLE	No Travel to this Fixture			Please let us know if you are going so we can arrange car shares

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Once tickets are ordered they have to be paid for unless we can re-sale. FAILURE to do so means that we lose money.
- Season Ticket Holders - PLEASE advise if you are not intending to travel as we can often fill seats. We are trying to avoid so many games where we actually lose money by not filling the seats.
- If you do book a seat on the coach and do drop out we lose money so PLEASE bear this in mind. Consider making a donation towards it at least!
- **THERE ARE 3 PICK UP/DROP OFF POINTS (J25/J16/J13) AND THERE IS ONE DROP OFF POINT AT PRIORY ROAD IN L4. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PASSENGERS TO APPROACH THE COACH DRIVERS TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.**



COYB

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