



# NEWSLETTER

October 2016

## Chairman – Ron Joynson



Firstly through the medium of this season's first newsletter can I offer the warmest of welcomes to new members that have joined the Westcountry Blues this season. I have met most of you on the coach of course and hope you have enjoyed the trips so far. To long standing members, thank you for renewing your membership – it's great to see you all again after the most disappointing of seasons!

The day out at Goodison Park is of course a special one for all of us and with the style of football that we have seen so far under the leadership of Ronald Koeman means that we really do look forward to the match day and hopefully fill the coaches. To that end, to assist Mike and Becky complete the administration required to get the bus on the road let them know your requirements as soon as possible. If these change then let them know!

After seven Premiership games thus far we have reached the October International break when our international players disappear off to represent their countries. Good to see Kevin Mirallas recalled to the Belgium squad who are now managed by Roberto Martinez of course.

It has been a good start for Everton and at the time of writing our record is Played 7 Won 4 Drawn 2 and Lost only the one. We have therefore attained two thirds of the available points (14/21) and are lying in a respectable 5th place in the league table. We would all have settled for this at the time of our last Newsletter and we shall soon see how good we are in our next two games which are both away of course at Manchester City and newly promoted Burnley.... I can't wait!

We have at our disposal 5 new players this season. Maarten Stekelenburg (the "Stek") in goal, Ashley Williams, Idrissa Gama Gueye, (who must be one of the buys of the season!) Yannick Bolasie and Enner Valencia (loan). We also have recruited a Director of Football, Steve Walsh, from Leicester City who will overlook the recruitment of new players on our march to further glory.

Our best performers so far have been Gareth Barry, Idrissa Gueye and the central partnership of Phil Jagielka and Ashley Williams, in addition to the outstanding youngster Mason Holgate, who came in for the injured Seamus Coleman. His performances earned him an England U21 call up along with Brendan Galloway who of course is now at West Bromwich Albion on loan.

Mention should also be made of Romelu Lukaku with him scoring 5 goals in the 7 games – a good start.

Everton have also made changes to the Club's structure and composition with Farhad Moshiri (the major shareholder but not a Board Member) and 5 Board Directors. Bill Kenwright CBE (Chairman), Jon Woods (Dep Chairman), Robert Elstone (CEO), Denise Barrett- Baxendale OBE (Dep CEO/ Everton in the Community) and Alexander Ryazantantsev (Faihad's eyes and ears on a day to day basis).

So all in all, we West Country Blues members, await further positive advancement in our season with 3 coach trips behind us and the West Ham trip next in line on October 30th. Let's get into them!

Enjoy the read!

### **The Editor/Treasurer – Mike Williams**



A huge Welcome to a whole load of new WCB Members and to the first newsletter for this season. We publish this short newsletter on a quarterly basis. Newsletter Stories and pictures are more than welcome from any member and can be sent to me for inclusion.

Hopefully the football will be attractive enough and the match day arrangements that we adhere to will make you stay with us for seasons to come. I will miss the game against West Ham due to a work commitment but look forward to seeing you all for the game against Swansea.

Recently I was asked why we do not send out newsletters anymore. The whole reason is mainly a cost saving one. To print 60 copies of the newsletter and send them out was one of the reasons we were averaging a £300 postage bill each season. I do not think many of us cannot download a version so I will continue to resist the urge to keep the Royal Mail afloat!

With my Treasurer hat on I implore you to think carefully about cancelling seats on the bus at the last moment. Becky, and I to a lesser extent, work hard at getting the bus on the road to Goodison for match day, but it's quite frustrating to have to cancel, add, cancel seats again and even worse cancel match day tickets which becomes a massive burden on the budget. With this in mind our travel arrangements have thus far worked out ok this season – thank you. We have run 3 coaches to Goodison and only made a loss on one. Thank you for your continued generosity with driver's tips, this helps us to keep our heads above water and alleviate the season losses.

Unfortunately, we did not have enough interest to attend the Friday night fixture versus Crystal Palace on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> but a large number of WCB members still made the trip up. Ron Joynson gave Mark Thomas and myself a guided tour of the docks currently being muted as a new ground option. In doing so we visited the Titanic Hotel and stood on a staircase that was used in the film of the same name.

The other notable experience was stood outside Goodison when the newly appointed interim England Manager walked past. A quick handshake and a word of congratulations from myself followed by the offer of a chip from Ron Joynson obviously made a lasting impression – Ross Barkley was omitted from the England Squad to face Malta!



In addition, we have experienced larger volumes of traffic on each trip so far on the M6. We have discussed this as a committee and decided that we will shorten slightly the stop at Keele Services. Please do your business at the services and return to the coach as soon as possible. We are aware that it takes a little longer for members at the rear of the coach to get off and you may require a little longer if you have children but the plan is to make the stop a '*long 10 minutes*' so please use that as the bench mark please. We will not leave without you and if the service station is overly busy especially if queuing in the Gents to use the limited facilities then we will stay a little longer to allow you to complete anything you require to do. If you have any views on this please speak to Ron Joyson.

We have of course changed the J13 pick up point this season and for those members who join us there we will continue to use the Layby on the A419 as it seems far more sensible than stopping on the fly over.

For new members please be aware we have a small amount of merchandise items on sale whenever I am on the coach. Currently, I have fridge magnets, two styles of car sticker and some highly sought after lapel badges. All items are less than £3 at the moment so please consider buying some. With the money I take I will look at other small items hopefully in time for Xmas.

Just a plug for Easyfundraising of course in the lead up to Xmas. Remember that every time you spend in over 3000 online shops, **including Everton Direct**, having visited them via the Easyfundraising portal will make us money. We currently have about £60 for our cause. Full details on how to use this very simple process can be found on our website under the Easyfundraising tab.

COYB

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## Travel and Ticket Requirements – Becky Martin



**If you are a season ticket holder and not attending a game please ensure you let me or Mike Williams know as soon as possible as the coach seat can be offered up to others.**

If your season ticket is also available **please let me know** as we may be able to get rid of that as well.

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 although due to increased season ticket sales this may be the case anyway.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

- **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 may be liable to still pay for tickets ordered.** We would hope your good nature prevails!
- **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.**

As anticipated, with the increased number of season ticket sales, availability of home match tickets is more limited this season. Some areas in the ground (Park End, Paddock, Upper Bullens) are now all or very nearly all season ticket occupied. Lower Gwladys has very limited availability and available seats tend to be the very obstructed ones towards the back. Given these issues, when requesting tickets, I have stated a preference for area but also ask that, if availability is very limited, they use their discretion to supply the best views available for the numbers and groupings required. Whilst we are still unavoidably supplied with 'obstructed' views on occasions this approach should mean that the seats we get still offer a reasonable perspective. I appreciate that this is not ideal but will do all I can to get the best possible for our members.

The away ticket situation has been no picnic so far this season either!

With adult tickets capped at £30 it seems that most who qualify are taking their allocation. Everton set criteria for away tickets on a match by match basis. The base criterion is that a customer must be a season ticket holder and then there is a variable number or 'away credits' required on top of that. At this stage of the season the away credits criteria relates to last season and later that switches (usually in Nov) to this season. The number of away credits required for each game generally depends on the size of ground. Therefore, for fixtures such as Bournemouth and Burnley where the overall away allocation is small, the number of credits required was very high (17 for Bournemouth!). For bigger grounds it will be a little more lenient.

Within the club we have a small number of season ticket holders who regularly attend away games and therefore have enough credits to qualify for a ticket to at least some away fixtures. Beyond that, we are no longer afforded a 'club allocation' (in times gone by supporter's clubs were granted a small allocation for distribution to members who did not qualify individually).

Members who do meet the normally attend the away games they are eligible for. However, all are happy, if they are not attending, that their ticket is used by another WCB member. **Therefore, please do feel free to ask if you are keen to attend an away fixture but understand that the chances of obtaining a ticket are very slim.**

Again, I will do what I can but it is a very tough season for tickets and, with the match criteria so high, it will be increasingly difficult for season ticket holders to build their credits.

### **Merchandise - Stickers**

This is the easiest and cheapest way to market the club. Sticker designs are as below and I have loads. Please buy and distribute around the place. The 2 larger ones are priced at £2 and the smaller square one at £1.50. There is really minimal profit but what profit there is I will plough back into merchandise.



### **Forthcoming Fixtures**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT DATES AND KICK OFF TIMES MAY CHANGE SO KEEP AN EYE ON WEBSITE**

Date	Comp	Opponents	Ticket Info	Bus Timings		
30/10/16 1330	Prem	West Ham 	CLOSED	Taunton 0630	Bristol 0715	J13 Lay By 0745
05/11/16 1730	Prem	Chelsea 	CLOSED	No Travel to this Fixture		
19/11/16 1500	Prem	Swansea City 	19/10/16	Taunton 0745	Bristol 0830	J13 Lay By 0900

Date	Comp	Opponents	Ticket Info	Bus Timings		
27/11/16 1630	Prem	Southampton 	06/11/16	No Travel to this Fixture.		
03/12/16 1500	Prem	Man Utd 	12/11/16	Taunton 0745	Bristol 0830	J13 Lay By 0900
10/12/16 1500	Prem	Watford 	19/11/16	No Travel to this Fixture		
14/12/16 2000	Prem	Arsenal 	23/11/16	No Travel to this Fixture		
17/12/16 1500	Prem	Liverpool 	28/11/16	Taunton 0745	Bristol 0830	J13 Lay By 0900
26/12/16 1500	Prem	Leicester City 	01/12/16	No Travel to this Fixture		
31/12/16 1500	Prem	Hull City 	08/12/16	No Travel to this Fixture		

## 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.**