



NEWSLETTER

Jan 2016

Chairman – Ron Joynson



May I wish all members a Happy New Year. As we move from 2015 to 2016, let's look at our WCB season to date:

Your new Committee and Football Team have enjoyed a good start to the season with many good key points, but first let's regard Everton FC.

We have seen probably our best attacking football for ten years or so centred on Lukaku, Deulofeu and Barkley with support from Barry, Gallaway, Coleman, Stones and several others and momentous goal hat tricks from Naismith and Kone too. Great attacking football is positive but many defensive errors have knocked us down to 11th place currently. Obviously a lot to do in 2016 to push us up toward the top where we really belong. Our Cup dreams additionally may well be fulfilled this year both from the FA Cup and corresponding Capital One Cup and our imminent semi-final legs with

Manchester City. Dreams galore! With glory to come!!!

Our current Man of the Match competition has a top three of Romelo Lukaku (26 points) Gareth Barry (22 points) and Ross Barkley(19 points). After each match, the player with the most votes on the coach gets 5 points, the second most number of votes gets 4 points down to 1 point for 5th place in the number of votes given on the day. So let the battle continue to the end with the seasonal results announced at our AGM in June.

Onto West Country Blues business. Here we welcome quite a few new members joining us this season and will hopefully share with us an improving and eventual successful season as well. Great to have you with us.

One point of business saw our Committee Secretary Jody Taylor leaving us with her employment taking her back "oop north". We wish Jody all the best of luck with her new life and good wishes from us all.

Jody's departure unfortunately briefly left us with a Committee vacancy but I'm really pleased to welcome Danni Jones who has volunteered to step into Jody's shoes. Danni has recently joined us with her dad Steve, and will be a great new addition to our team. Welcome aboard Danni from us all. Look forward to working with you.

Since the last newsletter was published we have of course lost Howard Kendall. To many, Howard was the greatest Evertonian ever and as part of the *Holy Trinity* was a great player alongside Colin Harvey and the irrepressible Alan Ball. For Evertonians it was his first stint as Manager that he became so idolised. Often seen around the ground on a match day he will of course be missed. RIP Howard lad!

Shout loud for the Blues and let's see what the second part of the season brings.

Treasurer – Mike Williams



Welcome to the newsletter. Financially we are in a fairly good state and we have a little bit of a financial buffer zone but it is sensible to try and maintain this. Games like the recent fixture against Spurs where we suffered a £300 + loss are unsustainable over a long period.

Thanks to all that donate 'to the grumpy old man tin' on a match day. This money goes towards tipping our drivers of course and it's greatly appreciated and once again just offsets the outgoings. If you can spare a few coppers, during the day then please throw them in the tin. It can normally be found on the coach at the tea making point.

One slight annoyance is we have had a number of instances this season when we have expected season ticket holders to travel and they have not. If the cap fits please wear it and remember as a season ticket holder you are automatically allocated a seat on the coach.

If you tell us we can fill those seats with other people who wish to travel on a one off basis. This of course helps us financially. I am not sure how often we have to pass this message but it does not seem to get to all members.

My message is pretty simple:

PLEASE EXTEND A LITTLE COURTESY AND TELL US IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO TRAVEL

Berry's our travel partners are incredibly flexible and provide us with a good service and we can change coach size at least a day before travel on most occasions. We have had a couple of instances where buses have been slightly late leaving Taunton but I do not think this has impacted greatly on the match day experience and in general terms I think our trips up the motorway have been successful.

In terms of Merchandise details can be found on the website. I am keen to offload as many stickers as I can as this is the best method of marketing that we have. If you do not have one please see me on any match day as I have them on the coach with me. I will also place a new order for mugs at some stage in the very near future. The rather collectable WCB lapel badges are running low so if you do want one again speak to me on the bus.

The website continues to be 'hit' on a regular basis and we get approximately 100 unique visits every week. This seems to peak towards the end of the week and I would like to think that this is members checking bus timings. If this is the case then texting Becky on a Friday night to ask what time the bus leaves need not happen quite so often!

Our Facebook/Twitter pages are also pretty popular amongst the social network community and this is also a great way to market ourselves so please feel free to like us as often as you wish. We often put posts on Facebook reminding people or advising them of travel times but please the **only way to ensure that you are on the Bus List is by letting Becky know either by speaking or texting her.**

Please enjoy the read. Sorry it has quite a bit of *Army Stuff* in it but that's because I have written the stories!

You can have your stories published but you have to let me have it!

So, thanks for your support thus far and remember **IF YOU CANNOT TRAVEL LET US KNOW!!!!**

PC David Phillips



In October 2015 of PC David Philips was murdered whilst on duty. David was a staunch Evertonian and the committee felt that we should contribute something to the memorial fund set up in his honour.

For those at the home game against Manchester United cannot of felt anything but admiration for David's widow and his daughter as they stood of the pitch in order to hear the support from the Goodison crowd. In addition to floral tributes from Everton, the Manchester United travelling supporters presented a floral tribute which I thought was a superb gesture.

As a result a collection on the WCB Manchester United bus was made and £37.63 was raised. I added £12.37 from club funds and sent a cheque for £50 to the fund from all Westcountry Blues.



You have donated to Merseyside Police Federation Charitable Trust

"A small donation but one given with heartfelt thoughts from all members of the Westcountry Blues Official Everton Supporters Club - Nil Satis Nisi Optimum"

WELCOME TO RECENT NEW MEMBERS

A big WCB welcome to Ian Davies, Sean Lee, Sam Cox, Jake Wright, Will Doyle, Tom Wilson.

Travel and Ticket Requirements – Becky Martin



If you are a season ticket holder and not attending a game please ensure you let Becky or Mike Williams know as the coach seat 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 STH not telling us they are unable to travel – Please help us.

As always, it is advised that you let Becky 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 may be liable to still pay for tickets ordered. We would hope your good nature prevails!

As Mike has alluded to above, 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.

My Howard Kendall memory – Mike Williams



In light of the fact that arguably the greatest ever Evertonian passed away in October 2015 I thought I would share this rather unbelievable tale in many ways with you. It may seem improbable, but I can assure you every word is true. I am not sure even with the wildest sense of imagination I could make this up!

I got *pretty close* to Howard in Germany on a pre-season tour in about 1992 when I was serving with the British Army of the Rhine in Fallingbommel (Falling Bar Stool!). It started in a Squadron Bar of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, where late on a Friday afternoon I was drinking Cider and Becks (not a great mix!) having worked hard that week preparing Challenger tanks for a forthcoming Annual Firing period.

British Forces Broadcasting Services was on the radio and as part of the show during a weekly sports round up the presenter announced that Everton were to play SC Hameln in a pre-season friendly that very evening in the quiet city famed for its Pied Piper.

Myself and a couple of others, one of which had not been drinking decided we should go. A rather unsteady bike ride home to explain to the then wife what we were going to do, a shower and change of clothing into something far more suitable ensued. As I pulled my yellow away strip with the blue zig zag pattern over my head, a car horn outside signalled the fact that my lift had arrived. Grabbing a 6 pack of Becks I ran out the door and we were off down the Autobahn to Hameln drinking all the way.



Hameln is situated on the banks of the River Weser and we soon found the little football ground in a rather picturesque setting. Parking the car at the back of the grandstand we walked towards the ground just as the Everton team were de-bussing from their coach. As drunk as I was, I thought I would make my way over and introduce myself. The back room staff were wrestling a wicker basket out of the storage compartment on the underside of the bus. From memory, I shook hands with a number of players but recalled Alan Harper asking what the heck we were doing in Germany for a pre-season friendly....and where had I got my beer!

After explaining to the assembled staff that I was a *squaddie* living in Germany, I offered to assist with the skip containing the strips and boots etc. Making our way to the players entrance underneath the grandstand, German efficiency meant that I really should have some form of ID Card. The security man insisted that I showed him mine so

I got my wallet out and flashed my Army ID card and can only assume that because it had a picture on it was good enough!

Into the corridor under the stand I went carrying this basket and took it into the away dressing room, dumping it the middle of the floor. Exiting the dressing room I then went through the player's entrance into the stadium, and through blurred vision thought to myself though small it was very well laid out with a running track around what looked a decent playing surface. Children were playing on the pitch as the Everton players now changed came out of the tunnel and standing pitch side watched the little kids falling over all of the time, feigning injury now doubt German style!

Eventually, the kid's game ended and the players were able to complete their match preparations by loosening up on the pitch. I took the opportunity to join in of course and smiled as I sent Big Nev the wrong way from the penalty spot, sadly I was seeing 2 goals as I had consumed so much alcohol and missed *both* by a country mile!

Dave Watson, the then captain asked me to leave the pitch as he felt I was disrupting things. I disagreed, I had refused to allow Alan Harper and Mo Johnson a bottle of beer on the side-lines as apparently Howard had banned all drinking on the tour so therefore I felt that I was more than responsible. *Waggy* got a little insistent that I left the pitch so in order not to wind him up decided that I would return to my friends on the grass terrace. Rather drunkenly, I decided that I would steal Matt Jackson's boots as he had warmed up in trainers. With a brand new pair of *Adidas Predators* I made my way back to the terrace. Lying down in the warm evening sunshine I rested my head on my new footie boots and closed my eyes only to be woken a few minutes later by Jimmy Martin the Kit Man who wanted Matt's boots back!

I followed Jimmy back pitch side going, carrying what remained of my 6 pack. We went through a small gate to the running track but felt that in order to make sure I did not upset Dave Watson again I would sit in the dugout. Obviously I chose the away team bench. A short time later both teams emerged for the game and there was a lot of activity around the bench. Peter Beardsley, Mo Johnson, Colin Harvey, Jimmy Martin and Howard Kendall all came into the dugout. Slightly shocked that I was there, Howard sat next to me and simply asked that I sit back and enjoy the game...which I did, although I was distracted from watching the game trying to stop Mo Johnson drinking my lager!

I have no idea what the result was but after the game I attempted to get Colin Harvey to give me his T Shirt but he was not having it, insisting that the club were skint....a sign of things to come!

Because I had consumed a rather large amount of alcohol I needed food. We came across a *Bratty Stand*. The *bratty* (short for Bratwurst, the famed German Sausage) was exactly what I needed so I ordered Bratty and Chips with a liberal amount of ketchup. Now with the best will in the world I was never going to not get covered in red sauce, and on completion of this snack I did resemble somebody who had been the victim of a claymore mine attack!

Never mind, it would come out in the wash I remarked as I got into the back seat of my friends fairly new VW Passat for the drive back up the Autobahn back to Fallingbostal. I only awoke when sadly I had come to the final part of wetting myself. I kept it quiet but did have to suffer sitting on a rather wet back seat for the remainder of the journey home. On arrival at my married quarter I attempted to let myself in and due to the commotion my then wife opened the flat door. I promptly fell in the door and that is where I was left for the remainder of the night!

A couple of days later Everton concluded their tour of the Fatherland with a game against the German Bundesliga side Borussia Monchengladbach in a North German town called Cuxhaven, not far from Bremen.

I had not planned to go and certainly had not spoken to the wife about it as we were really on vision no sound due to the Hameln trip. Anyway, my mate convinced me that we should go and that I should take Linzi my daughter with me to keep from getting in more trouble. As we got in the car, Linzi made the comment that it smelt like pee in the back seats that I was strapping her into!

On arrival at Cuxhaven, we went to a petrol station to get a drink and there were the majority of the Everton Squad buying ice creams. So with chat and one or two smiling nods from the players we left them to it. After parking the car we got to the ground, which really was a park pitch. It is worthy to note that the Bundesliga teams often do play pre-season friendlies on small village pitches for the benefit of supporters.

The players dressed in a hut at one end of the ground and to a tremendous cheer emerged to do battle. Linzi was stood outside the dressing room with my EFC scarf held proudly above her head shouting for all she was worth. As Howard emerged from the dressing room he gave her a pat on the head and said hello to her. He also asked her where her dad was so she pointed in my direction and the great man simply said "*A great night on Friday eh?*"

BETWEEN THE STICKS – QUIZ (Answers on Page 7)

1. Which keeper made his Everton debut as a substitute for Neville Southall in the 7-1 victory over Southampton at Goodison in November 1996?
2. Who was the first Everton keeper to take part in a penalty shoot-out, against Borussia Monchengladbach in the European Cup in 1970?
3. Who made 2 league appearances for Everton as a replacement for the injured Tim Howard in September 2007?
4. Which post-war goalkeeper has won a league title with Everton and another side?
5. Who played in goal for Everton in all 5 league games Neville Southall missed in the nine years after October 1987?
6. Who's only season at Goodison was the 1980/81 campaign, when he made 48 appearances?
7. From which club did Harry Catterick buy David Lawson for a record fee of £80,000 in the summer of 1972?
8. Steve Simonsen left Goodison in 2004 and joined which side on a free transfer?
9. Who made his only Everton appearance in the 4-3 defeat at Spurs in January 2003?
10. Which goalkeeper famously injured himself at Stamford Bridge before an FA Cup fourth round replay in February 2006, when he was warming up in a prohibited area?
11. Howard Kendall signed two keepers in the summer of 1981 – Neville Southall and who else?

WESTCOUNTRY BLUES VISIT THE BRITISH ARMY – Ron Joynson and Mike Williams

In November 2015, the British Army held a Firepower Demonstration on Salisbury Plain. The rather drearily named Land Combat Power Visit is actually a full on live firing exercise, staged for the benefit of politicians, civil servants and other defence decision makers, as well as visiting diplomats. It is a truly amazing spectacle really.

With Challenger tanks from the Royal Tank Regiment (RTR), 155 mm artillery rounds, mortars, a brief cameo by the backbone of UK air power, the RAF Tornado GR4, the Army Air Corps Apache attack helicopter and dismounted infantry in Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicles storming an objective, it really does have it all.

While there's no question that the people that have come to see this demonstration are wowed by the sheer power on display, there is a serious side too. It is a way of the British Army's 3rd UK Division showing that, as the army's reaction force it is ready for whatever it may be called upon to do.

In my capacity as a former member the RTR, I was able to go along and see the might of the Armoured Battle Group demonstrating how it combines manoeuvre, firepower and all arms integration. I also totally abused my position to get invites for fellow Westcountry Blues, Ron Wilson, Ron Joynson and Debbie Andrews. So on a cold but bright October day we met at Amesbury Services for the short onward trip up to Larkhill Camp on the edge of Salisbury Plain where the fire power demo was to take place.



On arrival we walked a short way to the firing point some time before the demo. Making our way to a marquee set up for dignitaries we met a number of my old comrades from my service days. Amongst the assembled were members of the RTR Associations.



The Liverpool Branch of the association was well represented with 4 of the chaps all in their seventies there. They were really great old guys with two of them being Everton season ticket holders. One old boy produced his season ticket and it seems he sits with all the older ones not far from Ron Wilson in the Lower Bullens! Ron Joynson spent about an hour talking with them before the demonstration about historical games at Goodison Park, Highbury, Old Trafford, Maine Road, St James Park, Elland Road, Hillsborough and other famous old battlegrounds that they had served on.

As can be seen above we took the opportunity to unfurl the flag alongside a Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle. Once the

pictures were taken, we returned to the marquee where an urn had appeared with coffee. Unfortunately the large urn had been used the day before to provide a curry to the soldiers. Coffee with a hint of curry, actually it was curried water with a hint of coffee brought back many great memories for me but disgusted everybody else...but I did have a backside like the start of Bonanza the next day!!!

As the demonstration was due to start we braved the now sharp wind and sat on benches immediately behind the firing point. A brief overview was given on what was about happen. An enemy force was advancing to the Battlegroup area and the Brigade Orders were simply to defend the position. This is fairly easy when the defending force is experienced and well trained. Zonal marking or non-zonal marking, taking control of the area, keeping calm and organised, having a decent reserve force are all part of the requirements of this tactic but like our very own defence this can all be undone when one part of the cog does not work....and we all know about that!



Initially, Artillery and Mortar fire was brought down onto the approaching enemy force. Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicles then withdrew from down range and as they did so the vehicle commanders sent information over the radio nets which was broadcast over a PA system.

They explained that enemy tanks supported by infantry carrying fighting vehicles were advancing towards them.



The Battlegroup commander on the friendly side decided that he needed to unmask his tanks and ordered the Challengers to conduct a counter penetration task which effectively is a hasty defense line set up to combat a fast moving enemy formation. The tanks capable of engaging and destroying enemy tanks at ranges of approximately 2 kilometres on the move were using their 120 main armaments to great effect as they crossed the rugged terrain.

While this was taking place Ron Joynson had his back to it all, and was in heated discussion with a bloke from the

Liverpool Branch of the RTR association about the Battle at Elland Road or something...the fact that an Artillery Barrage similar to the Battle of El Alamein was going down range was lost upon him although he did briefly look upwards when the Tornado flew in low from behind us...frightening everybody!!!

Altogether a very exciting and informative couple of hours was enjoyed by all in attendance. Two video links to the day are below which will work on the downloaded version of the newsletter.

<https://www.facebook.com/BBCSouthToday/videos/929452547145336/>

<http://www.military.com/video/forces/combat-readiness/british-army-firepower-demo/4584215577001>

FOUND ON THE INTERWEB

Take a walk down Goodison Road and you smell the history. Breathe in the smells – fish and chips, the beer fumes, sometimes topped off by the piles of dung left by Police Horses. It does not sound pleasant, does it? Yet somehow it works. There is a soul here, created over 100 years that cannot be found or re-created at a gleaming out of town bowl, with a park and ride scheme and a Frankie & Benney's next door!

Below is an article that sums this up written by Oliver Holt in the Mail on Sunday and provided by Bill Mounty

Goodison Park awaits tomorrow, a first visit of the new season. It should be the louisiest of places for a working journalist – the legroom in the press box would shame a budget airline, while a pillar blocks the view to the goal at the Gwladys Street End – but somehow it remains a thrill.

It is one of those grounds, so rare in the era of the homogenised matchday experience, that still has atmosphere inside and out. It has soul. Walking down Goodison Road, the Dixie Dean statue at one end, St Luke's Church at the other, you are struck not just by the smell of fish and chips, from Lucky's Blue Dragon, or ale, from the Winslow Hotel, but by the intoxicating whiff of history, mapped out by the photographs that chart Everton's existence – 135 years and counting.

One by one, English football's old cathedrals are disappearing. Ayresome Park, Burnden Park, the Baseball Ground, the Victoria Ground, Roker Park, The Dell, Maine Road and others have been bulldozed to make way for housing developments, often with barely a nod to the monuments that stood there before. Highbury, at least, has been tastefully preserved, with apartments built into its art deco stands, but Upton Park will be vacated next year. White Hart Lane will be entirely redeveloped and in time Stamford Bridge, the City Ground and perhaps even Goodison might go too.

There is something terribly sad about this characterisation of Goodison and, by extension, Everton, once one of the great aristocrats of English football, as some kind of crumbling relic. We lament so much that is distasteful about the sport these days – the growing number of ignorant, uncaring, carpet-bagging owners, the detachment of clubs from their communities, the avarice that sees owners regard brand-exploitation and money-making not as a means to an end but as an end in itself – then we see a proud old club lambasted for being weighed down, supposedly, by the twin millstones of local ownership and an old stadium with little scope for redevelopment.

Unless they can maintain an extraordinary show of defiance, Everton will end up selling John Stones, the young England defender, to Chelsea between now and September 2. Unless something has changed since the days when they sold Wayne Rooney, Joleon Lescott and Marouane Fellaini, Everton can repel the advances of the richest clubs only until a certain valuation is reached.

The same depressing principle applies to all but a handful of clubs in world football these days, when, in the most recent accounts, Manchester United earned £129 million more than Arsenal, who earned



Back in time: arriving at Goodison Park remains one of English football's great experiences

£48 million more than Liverpool, who earned £75 million more than Tottenham Hotspur, who earned £60 million more than Everton.

Those figures reflect the wretched inequalities of the football business as it has evolved since those five clubs, the "Big Five" as they were at that time, led the breakaway to form the Premier League in the early 1990s. If that new era has been unkind to Liverpool and Tottenham – with Chelsea and Manchester City, with wealth from Russia and Abu Dhabi, spending their way towards the top of a new elite – it has been far crueller to Everton and, for example, to Aston Villa, to say nothing of clubs such as Leeds United, Nottingham Forest and Sheffield Wednesday, languishing in the Championship, yet to recover from the calamitous mistakes they made about the turn of the century.

Some Everton supporters resent the Bill Kenwright regime. They look, for example, at what Chelsea and City have become and

ask why those clubs won the lottery and Everton, with a richer history, did not. They lament not just the bigger capacities but the better corporate facilities at other grounds – even at a similarly landlocked Anfield, which, even before the new Main Stand expansion, generated £51 million in matchday revenue to Goodison's £19 million in 2013-14. They look at Everton's commercial activity and they ask why their sponsorship deals (Kirby, Crabbies, Flannels, EZTrader and StubHub, an exchange company that allows fans to fleece each other by trying to sell tickets far beyond face value) seem so parochial compared to the global companies lining up to associate themselves with United, Liverpool and others.

These are legitimate gripes; something has gone wrong, dating way back to the 1990s, if Everton's commercial income is lower than West Ham United's and four and a half times lower than Tottenham's. Goodison is severely restrictive, though the

Kenwright regime cannot be accused of sacrificing Everton's dreams at the altar of sentimentality. Soon after buying the club in 1999, they set their sights on a new home at King's Dock, but failed to raise enough cash to remain preferred bidders. That remains Everton's great missed opportunity – it seemed the perfect location – but even since then there have been attempts to move to new sites in Kirkby (too cheap and cheerless, involving a tie-in with Tesco and thrown out by the government) and, more appealingly, but still tentatively, at Walton Hall Park, less than a mile from Goodison.

It is clear that something must change if Everton are to remain a club who look upwards – as they always have done in the Kenwright years, albeit never quite through the glass ceiling, while developing their own players and playing a tie-in transfer market shrewdly under the astute management of David Moyes and now Roberto Martinez – rather than anxiously over their shoulders.

What will that change be, though? New ownership? It is wildly overrated. For every Sheikh Mansour (desperate to build a club, even if the motives remain questionable), there is a Fenway Sports Group, a Randy Lerner, a Mike Ashley and an Ellis Short (unashamedly in it for profit, not to strive for excellence) and a Massimo Cellino, a Tony Fernandes, a Fawaz Al-Hasawi and a Vincent Tan (well intentioned in a couple of those cases, but dangerously misguided when it comes to football).

Everton's supporters, more than most, like to regard themselves and their club as special. "We are chosen," goes the slogan on the club's quite brilliant season-ticket advert (which they really could do with pitching to potential commercial partners rather than preaching to the converted). "We are born, not manufactured." That might sound self-righteous, but it speaks of an authenticity and – that word again – soul that is increasingly rare at a time when, even across Stanley Park, Liverpool fans lament how the atmosphere at Anfield is being sanitised by the club's eagerness to attract a different demographic.

Football's landscape has changed. Everton have not. They are one of precious few clubs who remain under local ownership, playing in a ground that reverberates with history. Is that a curse or a blessing? No doubt there are times when it is a cause of immense frustration, but, in other ways, it is a virtue. It is certainly part of what makes the club unique. Would Everton retain that uniqueness under overseas ownership or in a different ground or with a renewed focus on money-making? It rarely seems to work out that way, which is one reason why Goodison Park, cramped press box and all, remains an exceptional place to visit.

ANSWERS TO BETWEEN THE STICKS QUIZ

1. Paul Gerrard, who had just signed from Oldham in a £1 million deal. 2. Andy Rankin. 3. Stefan Wessels. 4. Bobby Mimms (Everton in 1986/87 and Blackburn Rovers in 1994/95). 5. Jason Kearton. 6. Jim McDonagh. 7. Huddersfield Town. 8. Stoke City. 9. Espen Baardsen. 10. Richard Wright. 11. Jim Arnold.

WANTED – 2014/15 EVERTON HOME SHIRT

Ron Wilson had one, gave it away and now wants another. If anybody has an L/XL 2014/15 Season Home Shirt that they wish to sell please speak to him. He will pay more if it has Lakaku on the back

EVERTON TOFFEE – RON WILSON



In the October newsletter we published the history behind Everton Toffee. A short resume is listed below:

Everton Toffee is a Butterscotch-type toffee slightly flavoured with lemon. Firm tradition traces Everton Toffee to Molly Bushell, a confectionery-maker of the 1760's in what was then a picturesque village outside Liverpool. The company she founded passed down through her family, to be sold in 1894 to Nobletons of Liverpool, makers of Everton Mints. It appears that, following the takeover, Nobletons started using a slightly fanciful image of Molly Bushell as a

trademark, but later changed her name to 'Mother Nobleton', leading to some confusion as to which company was actually responsible for which Everton sweet.

The Old Everton Toffee Shop

Everton Football Club are known as 'The Toffees', and the sweet-dispensing 'Toffee Lady' is a pre-match feature of their home games. It is generally assumed that the original Toffee Lady was Molly Busshell herself, engaged in some promotional give-aways, "On the other hand," as the 'Toffeeweb' Everton supporters website says, "*this yarn may be just so many old half-chewed toffees...*" noting that Molly died in 1818, more than 60 years before the club was founded. Nowadays a sprightly girl is selected from the ranks of Everton's Supporters Club to perform the honoured task.

Everton Toffee - Original Receipt in The Frugal Cook By E. Carter, 1851

Boil half an ounce of bruised ginger in half a pint of water till it obtains the flavour of the ginger; strain it put the liquor into a saucepan add two pounds of sugar and one ounce of butter; let them simmer gently over the fire for some time then take a piece of clean tobacco pipe dip it into cold water, then with it stir the mixture round plunge the pipe into the water, if the sugar adheres to it and becomes crisp pour it into tins which have been buttered ready for use.

Everton Toffee - Original Receipt in A Treatise on The Art of Boiling Sugar By Henry Weatherley, 1865

This article varies with the different makers as some make it with loaf sugar for the sake of colour, but it is not so good in flavour, others put the butter in with the sugar when first put on the fire which method possesses no advantage but on the contrary causes loss of time in boiling, weakens the sugar, and spoils the flavour, this however is the old process of making it. The best method is as follows;

To 7 lbs of best raw sugar put 3 pints of water and boil it between the ball and crack or 245 degrees; put into the boil 1 lb fresh butter, boil it nearly to the crack over a slow fire, add a teaspoonful of essence of lemon, just boil it in and pour into the frames. For special purposes 4 to 8 ounces more butter can be used.

Now the challenge – Can anybody even have a go at making this – Ron Joynson and Ron Wilson do not think it's possible whereas I think somebody could!

QUOTE OF THE SEASON!

Jacky Mounty in conversation with her husband Bill:

Bill: *Oih we missed Mastermind last night...there was an Everton Supporter on there!*

Jacky: *Oh was there?*

Bill: Yes

Jacky: *What was his specialist subject then?*

Bill: *eh...?*

There had been an Evertonian on and of course his specialist subject was.....?

MERCHANDISE

Car 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.

Lapel Badges – Really collectable and only a few left



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES Correct as of 9th January 2016

Date	Comp	Opponents	Ticket Info	Bus Timings	Notes
13/01/16 7.45 pm	Premier	Man City 	CLOSED	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
16/01/16 3 pm	Premier	Chelsea 	CLOSED	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
24/01/16 1.30 pm	Premier	Swansea City 	ORDERS NOW	Taunton - 6.30 am Bristol - 7.15 am J13 - Between 7.45 - 8 am	COACH FULL - PLEASE SPEAK TO BECKY
27/01/16 7.45 pm	Capitol 1	Man City 	Purchase Own Tickets	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
03/02/16 7.45 pm	Premier	Newcastle Utd 	NOW PLEASE	No Club travel to this game	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share

Date	Comp	Opponents	Ticket Info	Bus Timings	Notes
06/02/16 3 pm	Premier	Stoke City 	22/01/16	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
13/02/16 3 pm	Premier	WBA 	28/01/16	Taunton 7.45 am Bristol - 8.30 am J13 - Between 9 - 9.15 am	IN ORDER TO GET THE CORRECT COACH SIZE PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO TRAVEL ASP
28/02/16 12 am	Premier	Liverpool 	This game is yet to be confirmed due to Capitol 1 Cup		
02/03/16 7.45 pm	Premier	Aston Villa 	18/02/16	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share

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

Mike Williams

Email: michaelwilliams7358@yahoo.co.uk

Twitter: @mikewilliams358

Mob: 07885738785

And lastly there is now a collection tin on the bus – please spare a few coppers to offset the driver’s tips budget!

If the tin is not obvious just give a few coppers to Mike or Becky!