



NEWSLETTER

Jan 2017

CHAIRMAN – RON JOYNSON



I welcome you all with best wishes into the New Year with a the changing style of play of our beloved Everton.

We have just passed the seasonal halfway point and are witnessing the result of Ronald Koeman's initial six month's analysis of the qualities and competence of both individual players and tactical formats.

Several new players have been purchased - Morgan Scheiderlin from Man Utd and Ademola Lookman from Charlton and several have been sent out on loan v- Niasse to Hull and Tom Cleverley to Watford.

Several Youth players have joined the principal setup - Mason Holgate and Tom Davies in particular. Additionally we have developed a new tactical format of three at the back / five in midfield (including the fullbacks) and two forward which the recent demolition of Manchester City proved to be the most effective use of the talent at our disposal.

At the time of writing (week before Crystal Palace away)We are currently sitting in 7th place having P21 / W9 / D6 / L6 / GD +9 with 33 points. Let's see how we develop our competence for the balance of the Premier League season having losing at the first stage of the two Cup Competitions.

We are under pressure with our attendance numbers on the coaches this season due to all the conditions previously recorded and have experienced three of our nine trips so far this season, with only 30 or less, attendees. It is critically important that we improve these numbers and it would be helpful that we all encourage our mates and former WCB members to come along and witness for themselves the changing and improving tactics, formations and new personnel.

One last treat. On Saturday 25th February, we play Sunderland at home (3pm Kick off) and we will have on board our coach, Mike Trebilcock the former Blue's Star and scorer of two Cup Final goals in the winning FA Cup Final of 1966. Mike Williams has written a little bit about Mike and the game below.

Mike and his wife will be our guests on the trip and are friends of one of our members. Mike will tell us of some of his EFC experiences and that great Cup winning team. So book your seat on the coach now with Becky to ensure that you don't miss this special date.

TREASURER – MIKE WILLIAMS



Welcome to the January 2017 newsletter. I guess by the time I publish this the transfer window will almost be closed. Let us hope that Messrs Walsh and Koeman with Mr Moshiri's backing have managed to replace the players that have struggled to impress this season.

As you know aside from looking after the Westcountry Blue pennies I also liaise with Berry's for our match day travel requirements. The season to date has been frustrating and fragmented travel wise for all of us due to the moving of games from the weekend to weekday and of course changing KO times at the weekend in order to accommodate TV. I am sure the early starts/late return from and to the West Country are just too much for some and I sympathise with you. TV brings so much money into the game so I suppose we have to expect it, however I wish they would leave Everton fixtures alone!

Numbers have been low since the Xmas break which is understandable. Even so, some members have booked a seat and failed to turn up for a variety of given reasons. Sometimes there are things in life far more important than Everton, I understand that but if you do book on a coach and do not make it please consider a donation the next time to travel to just temper the loss slightly. I would like to thank those that do this, you are true supporters of the Westcountry Blues.

I will raise the issue of travel pre-payment again at the AGM in June. My thought is that the majority of us Bank on line and to that end a BACS payment prior to travel is easily done. We have to have a system in place whereby those that do not show up having said they are coming pay. This may have the effect of forcing you from your beds after a Friday night session and not turning over and forgetting about it!

Two of our fixtures against Arsenal and crucially the one versus the '*lot across the park*' were games that we did not run coaches for as they moved to weekdays. These games are traditionally well attended and that normally boosts the Westcountry Blues funds considerably for the season. As I have said we are not a profit making organisation but we cannot afford to lose money every week, it is simply not sustainable.

January so far has been a minor disaster for us. We have run 3 x coaches against Southampton, Leicester City and Manchester City. Each coach has been 32 seater which costs £900 which is a total £2700. We have made a £900+ loss on these 3 three coaches so it can be seen that it does not add up. I hope that we can redress this over the next couple of months.

The fact that we were so dismal against Leicester City is a double edged sword in as much as we will not run games to any more FA Cup games this season but crucially we will not lose any money as the interest for these games is generally low until we start thinking we may get to Wembley then all of a sudden interest picks up!.

This losses are tempered by membership fees currently set at £10 (an agenda item at Junes AGM IMHO) and Easyfundraising (***we only have 5 people doing this which is slightly frustrating. If you have done online shopping or click and collect at Amazon, Everton Direct, Tesco, John Lewis or B&Q to name but only five you have missed the opportunity to help us keep this venture going***) and of course the drivers collection on the match day.

Thanks to all that donate '*to the grumpy old man tin*' on a match day. The odd change that you throw in normally always covers the driver's tips and is an important way of offsetting the losses. Any residue will go towards other expenses that we accrue such as the website hosting and stationary. If you can spare a few coppers, during the day then please throw them in the tin.

Just a reminder that as a season ticket holder you are automatically allocated a seat for Premier League games however **YOU MUST** let Becky know if you have activated your season ticket for the Cup Games. I am looking at next season obviously!

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. I also have fridge magnets/whiteboard magnets aplenty.

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.**

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 AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE!!!!**

GUEST TRAVELLER – MIKE TREBILCOCK BY MIKE WILLIAMS



As some of you now know we are delighted that Tony Williams has managed to get Mike Trebilcock and his wife to travel with us to the forthcoming Sunderland Game as a guest of the Westcountry Blues. Mike now resides in Tavistock having returned home from Australia.

He is the reason that I support Everton really as the game that he will always be remembered for was The FA Cup 1966 and was the first game I recall watching on TV where it was proudly sat in the corner of the Williams household in Tiverton.

For about 70 minutes I was a supporter of Sheffield Wednesday until Everton and Trebilcock scored twice and then Derek Temple hit the winner.

We often hear that song "*If you know your History, it's enough to make my heart go woaaaaahhh*" so therefore even if he was around a long time ago I am sure his name is one that we all know?

Mike will sign autographs etc (I have purchased a Everton 1966 FA Cup Final shirts especially through Everton Direct via Easyfundrasing) and chat about his brief period with the club. I plan to have a group photograph done on the journey up at Keele, weather permitting. Interest in this game may be high so please let Becky know if you wish to travel to this game.

As an insight into what he did I have unashamedly copied a tabloid match report from the 1966 FA Cup final detailing what an important part he played in the history of Everton FC.

Please let's make Mike's day out with us on 25th September a great WCB day!

From the Daily Mirror Saturday May 14th the team news.

EVERTON

Blue shirts, white shorts, blue and white stockings.

2—Wright West 3—Wilson

4—Gabriel 5—Labone (Captain) 6—Harris

7—Scott 8—Trebilcock 9—Young 10—Harvey 11—Temple

REFEREE
J. K. Taylor
(Wolverhampton)

LINESMEN
W. Marris (Kettering)
E. D. Wallace (Swindon)

11—Quinn 10—Ford 9—McCalliog 8—Fanthom 7—Pugh

6—Young 5—Ellis 4—Eustoce

3—Megson (Captain) 2—Smith

Springett

White shirts, white shorts, white stockings.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

SALUTE TREBILCOCK By Sam Leitch (Sunday Mirror 15th May 1966)

Cornishman Mike Trebilcock, socks jammed down to his ankles, sweat drenched Everton Jersey flapping outside his shorts took the cup to Merseyside after one of Wembley's most sensational smash and grab performances.

Unsung Sheffield Wednesday led 2-0 with little more than half an hour to go and the blue banners of Everton sulked low on the terraces.

Enter Trebilcock last minute Cup Final choice, his name not even on the Wembley programme, with two acts of devilish opportunities in six minutes.

And to complete a quarter of an hour of woe for Wednesday, their left half Gerry Young made a calamitous error of judgement to present left winger Derek Temple with a massive gift of a match winner.

MIKE'S MAGIC

Trebilcock was the obvious hero of an entertaining and dramatic Cup Final, though I was delighted to see Sheffield Wednesday become the first Wembley losers ever to make a lap of honour at the finish.

The 21 year old Cornishman joined Everton from Plymouth on New Years Eve for £18,000, chicken feed by today's huge transfer prices.

After a frustrating first half where Everton just could not get going; when their forward line made not one concerted advance on the goal of England 'keeper Ron Springett, it was Trebilcock who changed the whole course of the Final.

He had only three shots at goal, scoring with the first two – and fluffing the third, the easiest chance of all, in the seventy seventh minute.

But it was definitely Mike's day.

Wednesday opened with eye catching confidence, their football hard, simple direct and telling.

Within four minutes they had forced Everton to do what they had not done in 660 Cup minutes this season – surrender a goal.

Wednesday right half Peter Eustace took a quick throw-in on the left, found unmarked David Ford, whose low drive across the Everton Goal was gobbled up by young Jim McCalliog. His left foot drive struck the leg of England left back Ray Wilson and Gordon West, committed to McCalliog's shot had no chance with the sudden deflection.

A GOAL TONIC

It was just what this Cup Final needed, the powerful tonic of an early goal, a wonderful gift for Alan Brown and his young Yorkshire side.

Everton flopped so badly in attack that it began to look if manager Harry Catterick's decision to drop Fred Pickering was going to prove a costly error of judgement.

Still, Everton should have had a penalty in the 19th minute when I thought Springett brought down Alex Young in a dive which would do justice to next week's Rugby League Final.

Eustace was all over the place for Wednesday. But Jimmy Gabriel the Everton midfield link man, was making no impact on his forwards.

The excessive Wednesday energy was to prove an error of pace. It was noticeable immediately after the interval that Everton had much more running power.

GREEDY FEET

Four minutes after half time only a remarkable England class and one handed save by Springett thwarted the unlucky Young.

Wednesday's luck stuck grimly to their boots for their second goal in the 57th minute.

John Fathom's deadly dribble into the guts of the Merseyside rear-guard left four trailing Everton defenders.

His drive rebounded from the chest of goalkeeper West to the greedy feet of Ford who had a simple goal at his mercy.

So Wednesday were two up and few people in the crowd could have given Everton any chance.

But within one minute Trebilcock lashed a right foot half volley past Springett after left half Brian Harris and left winger Temple set up the goal.

By now Wednesday were missing the experience of injured centre half Vic Mobley, and six minutes later hesitancy in the Wednesday goal area let in Trebilcock for his second unstoppable shot.

An Alex Scott free kick sailed into the Wednesday goal area, the ball was headed hesitatingly down by Mobley's young deputy Sam Ellis and the ball spun away for Trebilcock's eager and lethal right foot.

The squat Trebilcock may not be the classiest ball player Wembley has ever seen but his rapid-fire trigger happy shooting in front of goal pinched the cup from Sheffield Wednesday.

AMAZING SCENES

There was an amazing scene after the equaliser when Trebilcock was thrown to the ground by two over joyed Everton fans who had invaded the pitch.

One London copper dashed on to the field, dived at one fan, missed him. A second policeman then sprinted after the fan and crash tackled him to allow six policemen to lift him struggling from the ground.

All this in front of Princess Margaret and all soccer VIPs.

Those two Everton "invaders" must have wished they had stayed to see the winner ten minutes later, the result of that deadly error by Gerry Young.

A harmless punt up field by Everton goalkeeper West should have been trapped by Young, but the ball flew from his boot – "Ninety Nine times out of a Hundred I would have tamed that ball, but the hundredth had to be in the Final" said a disappointed Young at the finish.

Temple collared yet another Wembley gift ball.

PERFECT SHOT

He had plenty of time and space to advance on goal. Springett came out to narrow the angle, spat on his hands, then saw a perfect shot flash past. The Cup had been lost a quarter of an hour.

Sheffield Wednesday deserve a lot of sympathy. Their first half football was excellent and they had the Cup in the palms of their Yorkshire hands.

But Everton refused to panic when all seemed lost, a reflection of the experience and determination of their star performers.

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.

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. Failure to honour your debt will seriously jeopardise any future ticket purchases!

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 a Facebook message!

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.

GOLDEN OLDIES – A PLUG

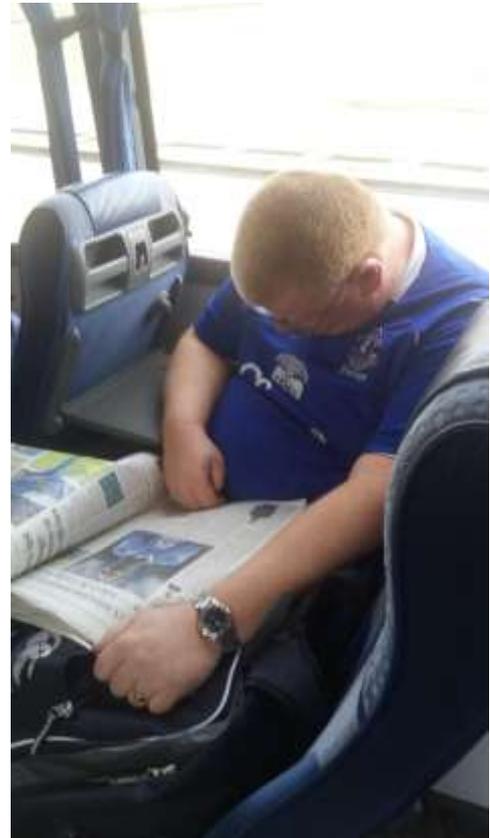
Just a reminder that in St Luke's church upstairs on most match days a Blue from Yesteryear can be found signing autographs plugging a book. The EFC Heritage society also put on some pretty good displays so it's always worth a look. Tony Williams did just that and happened across Bob Latchford recently.



GOLDEN OLDIES – QUIZ

1. Which legendary keeper is our oldest ever player, appearing in 1952 at the ripe old age of 42 years 282 days?
2. Who in April 2001 set a new record for being the club's oldest Premier League outfield player, at 39 years 23 days?
3. In the Europa League clash against BATE Borisov in December 2009, who made his only appearance for the Toffees aged 36 years 95 days?
4. Which outfielder made his final appearance for the Toffees aged 36 years 213 days, against Portsmouth in December 2006?
5. Who in 2012/13 became our oldest scorer in a League Cup game, aged 34 years 284 days?
6. Who was Everton's oldest player of the 1980s, appearing against West Ham in the FA Cup in January 1982, aged 35 years 225 days?
7. Likewise, who was our oldest player of the 1970s, appearing in his last game aged 32 years 3 days in the 1971 FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool?
8. Who scored his final goal for Everton at White Hart Lane against Spurs in August 2007, aged 35 years 312 days?
9. Who is Everton's third oldest hat-trick scorer and oldest in the league since 1948, aged 32 years 181 days?
10. Who is the most recent player to appear for the club across three different decades?
11. Which 35-year-old was signed by Walter Smith in February 2002?

EVERTON ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2017 - IAN 'RIP VAN WINKLE' DAVIES



My family originally had two shares in our beloved club, but sadly a great great uncle decided to re marry after his first wife died. In a moment of madness he married a much younger lady (and why not?!) who was a Kopite and when he subsequently died, she sold the share out of the family resulting in her being excommunicated and sent to Coventry.

My father was very worried that when he died (which he did twenty years ago this year) my sister, who is also a fanatical Evertonian, and I would fallout over who got the share. Thankfully my sister said she was happy for me to have it and as a thank you I take her (and whoever is her husband this year) to a game each season...which this year was the Leicester City FA cup tie....sorry Helen!!!

- I go through the reports when they thump threw my letter box with a fine tooth comb and below are random findings that might interest you.
- The club are one of three Premier league clubs selected to review the League's strategy and whilst the other two are unnamed the suspicion is they are Arsenal and Manchester United.
- A statue of the "Holy trinity" will be erected, although it is to be hoped this will be outside the new ground on the waterfront which looks like it might actually happen...it helps when The Mayor is a blue, but infrastructure such as roads and a train station have been promised which is good news.
- Less good news was the £10m it took to pay off Bobby brown shoes due to the fantastic contract he was awarded after his first season. The value of the playing squad leapt from £50m to £69m in a year which may seem low to you and this is because home grown players are valued at zero. Turnover was the second highest in the history of the club, being beaten only by the previous year and this is despite sponsorship being down £1m due to not competing in Europe.
- The club made an overall loss of £6m during the season against a profit of £17m the year before. But this is nothing to worry about because in the first time in living memory the club have cancelled the overdraft limit due to the fact that our new owner has given the club an £80m interest free loan.
- Our new unnamed sponsors for next season replacing Chang (to whom we owe a great deal) are going to be paying 400% more than Chang and it is interesting to note that Finch farm is now sponsored by USM at a vastly over inflated price....which is good news.
- Did you know that our charity EITC is involved in over 2,000 projects in the north –west and is seen as the leading light in football charities.

Overall I'm more positive now about the future of our great club than I have ever been during my time as a shareholder. I believe Mr Moshiri will bring even richer friends into the club and a new chapter will be written. However, this is a tipping point for our club and if none of the improvements on and off the pitch happen in the next 12 months I can see us going down the path of Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn... but personally I believe they will happen and we will be great again.

On a personal note I would like to thank you all for your warm welcome since I joined the WCB. I only wish I knew you picked up in Bristol years ago!!

Ian Davies

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.



Answers to Golden Oldie quiz: 1. Ted Sagar. 2. Richard Gough. 3. Goalkeeper Carlo Nash. 4. David Weir. 5. Sylvain Distin, against Leeds United. 6. Howard Kendall, who was making his last appearance as a player- manager. 7. Sandy Brown. 8. Alan Stubbs. 9. Louis Saha, in his 4 goals against Blackpool in February 2011. 10. Dave Watson (1986-2000) 11. David Ginola.

COYB

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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!