



NEWSLETTER

June 2018

CHAIRMAN – RON JOYNSON



I first joined the West Country Blues back in 2005 on retiring from Safeway/Morrisons and moving down to Devon and looking for a method of being able to satisfactorily afford the trip to Goodison Park throughout the season.

From 2005 till 2011, I both enjoyed the new company that I now shared and made some very good friends pertinent to this day. In this time period, EFC finished in 6th place (average) in the league placing.

I was then asked to join the Management Committee in 2011 and in the subsequent five years, EFC averaged a slightly lower, 7th place finish. However on being elected to chair the Committee in 2015, we have only averaged 9th place in the table.

What an overall success ratio!! **(Editor's Note: Morrison's have improved since 2005 as well!!)**

So at a glance one can see, what inspiration and success that I have selflessly brought to our WCB Club (ha ha!) Success that must make even Fat Sam jealous and envious!

We now go into Season 2018/19 however with a changed set of Directors along with a new CEO (Denise Barret-Baxendale MBE) a new Director of Football (Marcel Brands) a new First Team Manager (Marco Silva) and a new Head Office in the Royal Liver Building near to our proposed new football stadium site at Bramley Moor.

What a lot of positive changes!!

Let's just hope that our results and style changes too. I envisage that Marcel Brands will be a major factor at the Club and will structure the entire methods of all of our teams and age groups along similar winning style.

As our specific WCB group situation goes, we did end the season with a very successful AGM on the Southampton coach trip with the entire coach giving Committee departing Becky Martin a great cheer and grateful thanks for her WCB commitment and time in her office of Ticket Secretary.

This role will now be taken over by Mike Williams on a temporary basis / see full details and important changes to the relevant curriculum in Mike's piece below. If anybody wishes to take on this role at any stage of the season please speak to me. Mike already edits this newsletter, maintains the website, manages the pennies and books the coach.

Finally, let me welcome Craig Hunt to the WCB Committee also. Craig's specific responsibilities will be determined as the season progresses and like Jacky Mouny will be a *"Minister without Portfolio"* with duties as specific needs occur. Welcome Craig.

To finish off my ramblings a few personal thoughts about our new Manager.

It was without doubt some of the poorest performances under Big Sam towards the end of the season and I feel that a young, energetic, dynamic manager with a flair for attacking football is exactly what we need and expect.

He has managed to improve teams that he has previously managed in Portugal, Greece and here in the UK with Hull City and Watford and has a reputation of being one of the fastest-rising young managers in the European game. Anybody who can manage to make Oumar Niasse look half decent (I am sure there is a footballer in there somewhere!) has to be worth a shout and if he can get him to bang in 30 goals next season, he will do for me.

As always, I think he will bring a new coaching team with him and let us get behind them all in making this season somewhat better than the last and remember "Nil Satis Nisi Optimum."

TREASURER – MIKE WILLIAMS



Welcome to the June edition of the Westcountry Blues newsletter. The newsletter will take a back seat moving into the future mainly due to time constraints and the amount of work I am involved with this year.

As you are all aware, Becky stood down as Ticket Secretary at the end of the recently finished season. Becky told us a year ago of her pending decision, and despite trying to get somebody to take up the role we have been unsuccessful.

To that end as an **interim measure** and in order to ensure the match day travel numbers are correct I will do both treasurer and ticketing.

As recorded in the AGM minutes my financial report for last season is attached at the end of this newsletter as are the AGM minutes for those that have not seen them. The figures do not tally exactly with the AGM minutes as the finalised figures include the final coach trip to the Southampton game which as it turned out became very profitable as the 15 non-members travelled with us realising an extra £75 in coach revenue.

In summary, I think we did quite well to return a profit over the season largely due to the price restructuring we did the season before last, the Win Your Bus Fare Home initiative and match day donations which for me removes the circa £300 we pay as drivers tips each season.

I have no doubt that we will once again manage to get through the forthcoming season fairly steadily but always keeping an eye on it to ensure we can sustain the way we do our business at the moment.

Again, in order to help matters please look at our Easyfundraising page on the website for details how to help us for no cost to yourselves. I think with an aggressive approach to this we could easily offset any price increases for some time. As I have said many a time it is so easy to do, it does not cost you any extra and we make some money from every transaction you do online including click and collect options.



This season's membership details are now on the website. Please submit your membership fees as soon as possible as I am likely to miss the first game of the season as I am on holiday.

If your details have not changed **DO NOT FILL IN A NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM**. Just slip a note in with your remittance to the effect that your details remain the same and we will do the rest.

TRAVEL AND TICKETING SEASON 2018-19

There are no major changes to the way we do this.

I have the following guide which should be used when considering attending a game with the Westcountry Blues.

Please note that this may well develop further.

Home Games

1. Season Ticket Holders. I will not know who has renewed season tickets etc so therefore for the first home game of the season I need to know if you are travelling so you must let me know.
2. Season Ticket Holders. If you are not intending to travel with us please let me know as soon as possible.
3. If you are a one off traveller and require a match day ticket I must know at least 5 weeks in advance of the fixture.
4. If you are a one off traveller who has a ticket privately sourced please let me know as soon as you have identified the fixture you are attending.
5. Tickets will only be ordered for members travelling to the match on the WCB coach.
6. 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!

Away Games

1. Tickets for away games work on a credit based system and we only have 7 or 8 regular away match attendees who satisfy the current Everton criteria. **It seems the best way forward is that we will purchase these individually.**
2. There may be occasions when I can get extra tickets privately sourced. Please let me know at least 5 weeks prior to the game which matches you are interested in.

Contact Details

- **IN ALL INSTANCES PLEASE DO NOT RING ME AFTER 5PM.**
- **EMAIL/TEXT IS PREFERRED AND IF THIS IS AFTER 5PM I WILL NORMALLY RESPOND WITHIN 24 HOURS.**
- **DO NOT LEAVE MESSAGES ON THE WESTCOUNTRY BLUE FACEBOOK PAGE AS I MAY MISS THEM AND I AM TRYING TO USE THIS PLATFORM LESS AND LESS.**

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WEST COUNTRY BLUES 2018 AGM MINUTES

5 MAY 2018

OPENING REMARKS

The Westcountry Blue Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 5th May 2018 on board the coach travelling to the Southampton game with 48 people present on board of which 33 were current Westcountry Blues members.

Ron Joynson discussed why we were having the AGM on the bus and not at the Almondsbury Interchange hotel. This was down to cost and the fact we would have more people on board the bus than if we were to hold it at the hotel.

There were no aspects of the previous season's minutes that were disputed.

CHAIRMAN'S SEASONAL REVIEW – RON JOYNSON

We have 2 games to go and we are likely to finish 8th or 9th place whereas last year we finished 7th. This season Everton have appointed 3 different managers. Ronald Koeman, David Unsworth and Sam Allardyce.

Ronald Koeman was given the largest budget in Everton's history of £150 million to spend on new players. After a 5-2 home defeat to Arsenal Ronald Koeman was sacked on 23rd October after managing Everton for 9 games.

After Ronald Koeman was sacked Everton appointed David Unsworth as caretaker manager. He was in charge for a total of 8 games where we only won 2 and lost 5. His best game was his last against West ham on home turf at Goodison. He was in this post until November 2017.

Everton then made the decision to appoint Sam Allardyce as the new manager and this happened 30th November 2017. His first game was at home against Huddersfield which Everton won 2-0. So far we have played 23 games. We have won 9, drawn 6 and lost 8.

The general view from the West Country Blues on Sam Allardyce is that he should be sacked as his style and methods are not favoured in Everton's style. We will just have to wait and see after the season finishes to see what decision is made.

WEST COUNTRY BLUES SEASONAL REVIEW – RON JOYNSON

As we are all aware it is getting difficult getting to some games due to sky and BT wanting to televise them. This season we had a late fixture change against Newcastle to play on a Monday night. Everton paid for the coach. Only 18 people travelled on the special executive coach which is used by Exeter City FC. We got back very late due to midweek overnight works on our motorway.

This season we have had 13 new members join the club. Many of our established members are still missing so we need to try our best to encourage them all to join us again on our trips.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE WILLIAMS

The following figures are based on the season thus far and are dated 4 May 2018.

A full verified end of season report will be available on line as a PDF file as soon as finalised figures are available after today's game.

MEMBERSHIP

This is the first year that we have dispensed with the senior member category and had one adult membership price. Membership numbers were on par with the previous season but the £5 increase has made a huge difference to our overall budget. In total we have the following:

| | | | | | |
|----|---------|---|--------------|---|------------------|
| 65 | ADULTS | @ | £15 | = | £975 |
| 3 | FAMILY | @ | £30 | = | £90.00 |
| 3 | JUNIORS | @ | £10 | = | £30.00 |
| | | | Total | | £1,095.00 |

Note:

For Info the old price structure would have realised approx. £735 (-£360)

MATCH DAY TRAVEL

We have run coaches to 15 home games thus far not including today (one of which was paid for by Everton).

We have conveyed 531 passengers to the games at an average of 36 passengers per coach.

Cost of coaches = £13,850.00 Travel Taken = £12,800.00

Straight Travel Loss = £1050

Note:

Dispensing with the senior fare this season has approximately realised an extra £190.

MATCH TICKETS

We have had **£2694.00** worth of ticket sales.

Due to a change of policy at Everton at the start of the season they instigated a membership scheme for non-season ticket holders. In order to allow us to purchase tickets for those people travelling with us before the tickets go to General Sale we took out 8 membership schemes at a cost of £200. We then placed a ticket surcharge of £2 onto each person who used it.

We have managed to recoup **£116**.

If this scheme is in place next season I think we should do the same as it is vitally important we fill seats on the coach.

EASYFUNDRAISING

We have managed to make **£99.03** this season for no real effort.

If you make purchases from Amazon, Booking.Com, Trivago, John Lewis, Tesco or Everton Direct plus another 3000 retailers you can help. Put a little sticker on your monitor to remind you. Of course you have to follow the West Country Blues on Easy fundraising but that is pretty simple as well. Links are on the website.

MATCH DAY COLLECTIONS

We have taken **£375.12** on match day voluntary contributions. A huge thanks to all that donate to this, it has helped enormously. To date, **£280** of this has been used to tip the drivers.

The remainder of this money goes towards the normal expenses that we accrue each season such as website hosting, minor operating expenses and reducing the losses. It will also help to offset the expected 5% rise in coach fares next season.

Just as a note no committee members have asked for any general expenses to be paid.

WIN YOUR BUS FARE HOME

Thanks to Ian Davies for this fantastic initiative. This season we have raised **£195**.

EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

The excess income over expenditure to date is **£257.57**

SUMMARY

After a turbulent season at the club I think it's fantastic that we have returned a small profit to take forward to next season.

Thanks to Chris, Jacky and Becky for helping during the season.

A huge thanks to Becky for the help over the last three years in making the club run as it has and it will be a hard task to fill her shoes.

Lastly, thanks to everybody for your support this season and of course a huge thanks to Deb for lending me here fingers and toes to count with and taking the money to HSBC.

MARKETING AND MERCHANDISE REPORT- IAN DAVIES

This season we have sold a total of 37 items of merchandise which totals to £130.

Win your bus fare home has been very well supported and 2 people have won it twice.

We have sold items that mike made such as car stickers ect but we introduced two new lines. We had coasters and tote bags. The coasters went well but the tote bags didn't get much response from supporters. An idea for next season was doing pens as it would be low cost but the problem we would have is the minimum order quantity. Any further ideas would be welcome.

Mike has some great and unusual snaps of Goodison so we may have some fresh ideas for next season.

I also had a polo shirt and hoodie made but interest from supporters was mild and did not get enough people to make it cost effective.

One final idea for next season is to do a quiz based around who we are playing. The papers will be handed out and back in before our stop at Keele services. They will be marked before we get to Goodison so the winner can be announced. It will be £1 to enter and winner will get 50.

MAN OF THE MATCH REPORT – RON JOYNSON

Today's game will be only the 13th match covered compared to the 15 last season. 20 different players have been selected over the course of the season.

The results are as follows:

- 5th place- Phil Jagielka and Idrissa Gana Gueye with 13 points
- 4th place- Wayne Rooney with 14 points
- 3rd place- Oumar Niasse with 15 points
- 2nd place- Leighton Baines with 18 points
- And the winner in 1st place- Jordan Pickford with 21 points.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS – RON JOYNSON

The current committee will remain in place for the 2018/2019 season as they were all formally voted in.

- Chairman - Ron Joynson
- Treasurer - Mike Williams
- Assistant Treasurer - Chris Holmes
- Secretary - Danni Jones
- Marketing - Ian Davies
- Member - Jacky Mouny

Craig Hunt was formally voted into join the committee with a role to be decided.

The ticketing role will be undertaken by Mike Williams as an interim solution. There will be guidelines announced in due course changed disciplines and timings which will be published in our next newsletter.

MEMBER AGENDA INCLUSIONS – RON JOYNSON

There were no member Agenda inclusions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – RON JOYNSON

No other business was bought up by supporters during the AGM.

We then auctioned a signed Steve Watson away shirt. Thank you to Andy Geen for donating it. Howie Cheetham was the winner with the highest bid of £25.

INCOME

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| MEMBERSHIP 2017/18 | |
| 65 ADULTS | £975.00 |
| 3 FAMILY | £90.00 |
| 3 JUNIORS | £30.00 |
| COACH FARES | £14,055.00 |
| MATCH DAY TICKETS | £3,084.00 |
| MERCHANDISE SALES | £146.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | |
| <i>Easy fundraising</i> | £99.03 |
| <i>Matchday Collections</i> | £375.12 |
| <i>EFC Membership</i> | £132.00 |
| <i>Win Bus Fare Home</i> | £210.00 |
| <i>Auctioned Steve Watson Shirt</i> | £25.00 |
| <i>Bus Float</i> | £29.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £19,250.15 |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| COACH HIRE | £14,900.00 |
| MATCH DAY TICKETS | £3,084.00 |
| WEBSITE HOSTING/DOMAIN RENEWAL | £49.99 |
| MERCHANDISE STOCK | £180.09 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | |
| <i>Coach Driver Tips</i> | £300.00 |
| <i>EFC Membership</i> | £200.00 |
| <i>Berrys Thankyou Card/Chocolates</i> | £13.45 |
| <i>Bus Float</i> | £29.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £18,756.53 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Excess Income over Expenditure | £493.62 |
| Balance Carried forward from 2015/16 Season | £3,813.84 |
| Balance at Bank 11.05.18 | £4,307.46 |