



# NEWSLETTER

Apr 2016

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS

**AGM 4th JUNE at Almondsbury Interchange Hotel (Bristol Pick Up Point) 1900Hrs - PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND** as without it we cannot exist as a Supporters Club. Important decisions are made on the night that do require voting in so please do come along and have a say on how the club is run. There will be the normal food and raffle taking place and of course bring along the 'non footballing' partners for what is a most exciting evening!

### Chairman – Ron Joynson



Well what a season it's been so far! In the League, very disappointing. In 12th place having lost as many home games as we've won. Just 7. Strangely enough, we have also won as many away from home as we've lost. A further 2. Nowhere near good enough for a team with any aspirations whatsoever.

A better performance in our two cup competitions. Semi Final in the League Cup and a further Semi Final due against either Man Utd or West Ham Utd (still to be decided when we went to press).

Good Cup Performance but bad League Performance reminds us all of -Wigan Athletic and we all remember what happened to them and who was their esteemed Manager at the time. Well Lightning never strikes twice - allegedly!

There is no excuse in our minds for this debacle (according to the collective views collated during my Man of the Match round ups recently) and with only 3 of our remaining games due at home and 6 away, we probably can't see us winning the League this season.

Much better news from our Juniors. Kevin Sheedy and Phil Jevons have managed our Under 18 team to a super Dallas Cup Youth Competition victory in Texas where they played 4 games in 7 days and finally beat Fulham in the final, thanks to two goals from Delial Brewster a lifelong Evertonian who managed to escape from Liverpool FC five years ago to join his hero team (his whole family are strong Evertonians) and on his way to becoming our new "Dixie". What a really great set of good promising players this team represents - can't wait.

The week we publish this of course sees our individual scramble for Wembley Semi Final Tickets with the guarantee from EFC that there will be sufficient available to promise a seat for all season ticket holders....Good News!

We will not be able to run a coach for this match due to ticket and time constrictions and trust that most of our members will indeed find a ticket source as is usually the case with "our lot".

I would like to thank Kieron Hatton and Danni Jones of course for representing the Westcountry Blues on the Fan Day against West Ham. They held the WCB Banner aloft proudly on the pitch parade and we would like to repeat this next season so if anybody wants to get involved please let us know – thank you.



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 2016 newsletter. A shorter version this time as I have exhausted my stories for now and though promised nobody really submits anything for inclusion. If you have a story then please drop it to me by email. In this edition Gary Nash has very kindly submitted a story and recounts a journey that a select few made to Bournemouth on a memorable occasion for Roberto and the Squad as we progressed in the FA Cup. Of course we shortly have the chance to get to the final...let's hope that happens.

In January 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, Morrisons *et al* for supermarket online shopping, Holiday booking, John Lewis, Amazon and even **Everton Direct** via the Easyfundrasing 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 2 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!

Thanks to everyone for taking notice of the request to make seats available to couples and pairs who join us after the initial pick up at Taunton. This has proven to not be a problem. Also a huge thanks for the tips that travellers place in the tin on a match day, it goes some way to offsetting the minor expenses that we incur.

And finally although it is mentioned at the top of the newsletter can I please make everyone aware of the AGM dates. 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.

### 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 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.

### AN AWAY DAY AT BOURNEMOUTH – GARY 'CHOPS' NASH

My story revolves around my travelling partners for the day, Ron Wilson, Becky and Chris Holmes. I am Gary 'Chops' Nash and I really am the good looking one who tends to sit towards the front of the bus. (Ed Note: That could be any number of *business class* travellers then?)

Now as I live in the Principality of Wales my day started off early as normal, following a poor night's sleep worrying about the result, the travelling and if the alarm would go off! (**Ed Note:** Just like the majority of the bus then!) But, following a quick coffee and bowl of porridge (as my body is a temple), I left a damp as normal Wales for the hour and forty minute trip to the posh abode of the Blue Princess' (That will be Becky then) cafe in Curry Rivel - the service is sometimes poor but the baps are impressive and the coffee wet and warm!

A short rest stop: listening to the Princess screech from the kitchen while making the packed lunches "*I don't have to drive, I'm going to get pretty drunk!*" Moments later the Princess bursts into the living room, donning an Everton apron, handing out her warm floury baps. With the socialising done and discussions what to drink in the car concluded, we piled in to the hired high powered plastic Dacia - Not much quality. Especially when transporting a Princess but beggars can't be choosers and off we went to Yeovil to pick up Ron Wilson.

A short time into the journey, a few slurps on her Prosecco and the rabble started! An interesting insight in to the shameful life of the Princesses came via her iPod on shuffle...I'm sure at some point we were listening to One Direction...so embarrassing (**Ed Note:** I have heard you have worse Chops).

We arrived at Royal Yeovil. ID checked, fingerprints taken and the car searched we were finally given permission to enter the electric gates of the Wilson estate. Ron Wilson appeared pretty much like Mr Benn but without the cross dressing, decked instead in Everton bling. Ron quickly called shotgun blagging the front seat, with the two kids relegated to the back. With only a small pout and a doff of her tiara, the Princess was back bullying Chris the 'Gorp' and demanding lager and pick and mix!

Just 30 minutes in, the lager was flowing and the noise was deafening. Almost resembling a school coach trip, without the snogging on the back seats....well I hope not! As, even before we arrived at the Wilson estate the young rabble had all but drunk the car dry, a necessary quick refill and powder stop for the Princess at the Dorchester happy shopper was made, bargains to be had for all!

One we go, restocked and merry. Ron complained about the poor choice in music and demanded the Beatles before he carried on talking to the bottle that had recently become his best friend. One bottle despatched after another, and through slurred speech I was given instructions how to drive, approach a roundabout and when to signal. I was looking forward to parking up as the rabble was getting rather boisterous! The general topic of conversation hovered between the gutter and football - pretty typical for a Westcountry Blues away day and to be honest, I wouldn't change it for anything else!

The first part of journey had come to an end and the pleasant sight of the car park meant that I could get these lot out of my car! Whilst Ron and I went to sort out the important things - like paying for the car park - Chris acted as a humble servant while the Princess did the well-rehearsed "*do I want my coat and hat dance*". This lasted for some minutes and it was decided that Chris would carry it all. Great. Let's get to the pub! The sight of the Sir Percy Shelley, the local Weatherspoon's and favoured haunt for many Everton fans, a welcome reminder of the recent league trip which had fallen on the Princess' birthday. There we had sadly witnessed what happens when you over celebrate, throw away a two goal lead to end with a 3-3 draw. Just how, I just don't know, but it's an all too familiar occurrence.

The decision was made not to go for the full English, but opt for the more refined alternative of a Thai lunch prior to watching the mighty blues. I had an inkling how the day was going to go by the first round bought by Ron, 2 pints for everyone! To begin with there were a few Everton fans scattered around and I do recall, at one point, a discussion on Europe. No, really it did happen! The drinks were despatched and the next round fetched. Two more all round. The slurred speech arrived along with more Everton fans. The atmosphere grew and the stomach started to churn. It wasn't long before the mighty Mike Williams turned up sipping water and donning a full on goatee, that looked like something a physics teacher would cultivate. He'd also made the unusual fashion choice of wearing two belts! (**Ed Note:** I heard it was all the range in Milan actually!).

The WCB flag came out and the singing was in full swing. The Barkley song at full pelt and Ron *'the Don'* Wilson singing his lungs out with the boys. We have video evidence! The Princess and Chris slumped in their respective corners, only for me to remind them that we have an executive table booked across the road at the Thai. After a few more Princess pouts, we were crossing the road to restaurant: the door swung open by Chris to allow the Princess to enter. A few seconds in, with the gutter talk continuing, we were shown to a table to partake of the local 'fine dining'. Coke for me and a bottle of Chang each for the gang! The other diners did their best to ignore the rabble and, only when the food arrived did the noise subside! The food, to be fair, was good and cheap, but hard to concentrate when an important fixture is looming - especially when Everton is concerned. You know what I mean don't you??!!

With the food finished and bill paid, back to the pub we headed. By now it was a sea of blue noise, with a burst of 'and if you know your history...' as we walked through the doors. it warms the soul and a brings a smile to my face as we squeeze our way to the bar. Two more pints and back to the table where most of the Westcountry Blues contingent had now gathered. With various football conversations in full flow, Ron necks another pint and shortly makes another trip to the bar. At some point in between, he was seen running up and down the pub with the flag draped over him like the Virgin Mary. As the drinking and singing continues, it's soon time to make our way to the ground. With only I and *'Double-Buckle'* Williams sober, I donned my coat and walked out the front, expecting everyone else to follow. No! There I stood, 'Norman No-Mates' so decided to walk to the ground. Those lot were seriously bladdered, just how they were going to get to the ground was anyone's guess but they are (allegedly) adults, surely they can manage it?

Ambling to the ground on my lonesome, I follow the noise of the announcer and swarm of shirts and I'm in. Front row behind the goal. A few minutes later and to my relief and amazement, the others arrive too! No sign of Ron (it seems they put him further back – didn't want to upset the TV audience I guess) but the Princess is just behind the goal and busy taking drunken 'selfies' - see Facebook for evidence...☺

The game is a typical FA Cup game of missed chances and a saved penalty by the mighty Robles. Half time and Ron appears, again like Mr Bean, donning a big smile, blood all down his face and big cut on his nose. "*How did you do that Ron?*" We all ask. "*Fell over and face planted the pavement*" he beams back!

Second half underway and Ross' shot deflects in. The crowd goes mental, a sea of happy faces. Bournemouth press and miss a few chances until big Rom walks in our second. A great settler, but everyone still thinking we were here before! FINAL WHISTLE AND WE'VE DONE IT!!!

We're walking back a lot happier than the previous time, which had felt like a defeat. The kids are pissed but happy and Ron smiling despite the claret all down his face. Back to the Weatherspoon's where Ron sinks a few Bacardi and cokes to celebrate. The Princess is getting tired now but then she needs her beauty sleep!! Off to the car, the journey home a lot quieter, but the box of Bud still getting attacked! Ron gets dropped off at the mansion and the kids divert for a cheeky kebab – excusable as they are seriously drunk now but I'm stone cold sober yet still chowing on a large pitta. The princess is home and drapes across her throne moaning her chilli kebab has too much chilli...apparently this is a ritual before retiring to her Princess bed! Chris has his chores to do (clearing up the kebab detritus) before he can sleep of his excesses in the servant's quarter. For me a lonely but happy journey back to South Wales. A great day out, albeit a rather drunken one for some with the Westcountry Blues.

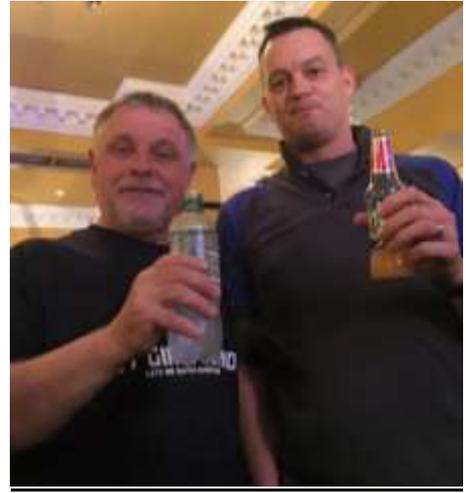
Gary 'Chops' Nash

And below are a few pictures from the day.





Spot the Difference!



### **QUOTE OF THE SEASON – POSSIBLY OF ALL TIME!**

I promised not to mention this one which is a promise I have failed to keep of course but because I have failed so miserably, to protect the person who came out with this gem I will not mention the name....I love her far too much to embarrass her and actually there is an element of truth in it!

*“That Lakaku scores loads of goals but is not good enough to play for England!!”*

### **THE PRIZE FOR BEST BUS SLEEPER GOING TO GOODISON GOES TO – IAN (RIP VAN WINKLE) DAVIES**



### **GOLDEN OLDIES – QUIZ (Answers on Last Page)**

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?

**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. **PLEASE HELP ME OFFLOAD THESE SO I CAN WORK ON A NEW DESIGN.**



**NEW WESTCOUNTRY BLUE MUG**

We plan to roll this new mug design or something very similar out at the start of next season.



**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES (Correct as of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016)**

Date/KO	Comp	Opponents	Ticket Orders	Travel Timings	Notes
09/04/16 3 pm	Premier	Watford 	CLOSED	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
13/04/16 8 pm	Premier	Crystal Palace 	NOW PLEASE	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
16/04/16 3 pm	Premier	Southampton 	COACH FULL	Taunton - 7.45 am Bristol - 8.30 am J13 - 9 - 9.15 am	THE BUS IS NOW FULL AND WE ARE TURNING PEOPLE AWAY. IF YOU HAVE TOLD US YOU ARE COMING WE EXPECT YOU TO PAY FOR THE SEAT REGARDLESS IF YOU TRAVEL OR NOT.
20/04/16 8 pm	Premier	Liverpool 	CLOSED	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
23/4/16 5.15 pm	FA Cup Semi Final	TBC	N/A	No Travel to this game	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share.
30/04/16 3 pm	Premier	Bournemouth 	CLOSED	Taunton - 7.45 am Bristol - 8.30 am J13 - 9 - 9.15 am	SEASON TICKET HOLDERS YOU HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED A SEAT SO WE ARE EXPECTING YOU TO TRAVEL UNLESS YOU HAVE TOLD US DIFFERENT.
07/05/16 3 pm	Premier	Leicester City 	21/4/16	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share.
11/05/16 7.45 pm	Premier	Sunderland 	25/4/16	No Travel to AWAY games	Please let us know if you have room in cars so we can car share
15/05/16 3 pm	Premier	Norwich City 	28/4/16	Taunton - 7.45 am Bristol - 8.30 am J13 - 9 - 9.15 am	SEASON TICKET HOLDERS YOU HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED A SEAT SO WE ARE EXPECTING YOU TO TRAVEL UNLESS YOU HAVE TOLD US DIFFERENT.

## 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.**

## ANSWERS TO THE GOLDEN OLDIES QUIZ

Answers: 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.

**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!**



COYB

Mike Williams

Email: [michaelwilliams7358@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelwilliams7358@yahoo.co.uk)

Twitter: @mikewilliams358

Mob: 07885738785