



NEWSLETTER

March 2015

The Chairman Speaks

I write this note for inclusion in the newsletter on the eve of the Newcastle game, which I will be absent from. I have other commitments, which I am unable to reorganise, which will result in my missing a further game this season. This is something which I am deeply unhappy about, although it does come on the back of our success in the Europa Cup competition.

I am one of those old-fashioned supporters, who believe that every football match should be played at 3 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon and the constant movement of our games to different dates and different times, is something which I continue to be upset about. As a local preacher within the church, I find it difficult getting the balance right between Sunday football and church attendance/commitments. I do make it a practice of trying to avoid taking preaching commitments on those Sundays when I believe our boys will play at home, but it is not possible to always achieve this. This is a constant source of frustration and irritation to me.

I am not sure how things will look in the season after next, when the TV companies will, I believe, have far more power over when our games are played. I have to say that the thought of playing on a Friday evening is one that fills me with dread. At my age, after a hard week, the only thing I am fit for on a Friday evening, is the armchair, where I sit gazing into space until sleep takes over!

Our league form continues to give us cause for concern, whilst the Europa Cup form leaves me speechless. Do we support a schizophrenic team that are only capable of playing good football when in a European competition? From my own point of view, the Europa Cup was not a competition that I was wildly enthusiastic about and our league form appears to have suffered terribly for from our involvement in that competition.

Let us hope, starting with Newcastle tomorrow, that we can put our bad form behind us and start to rise up the table.

Andy Maxwell

The Editor Speaks

Firstly I am fully aware that Derek Temple did not score for Sheffield Wednesday in the 1966 Cup Final as implied in the last newsletter – many apologies, the editorial team have been chastised.

Secondly, Electronic copies of this newsletter will appear on the Westcountry Blues website this week. Please download as you see fit!

Moving swiftly on, in moments of boredom, I have trawled a few books that I have and came up with a couple of things that most certainly amused me.

“Its Arsenal 0 Everton 1.....and the longer it stays like that the more you you’ve got to fancy Everton” – John Motson BBC MOTD Commentator

Interviewer: So William (Dixie Dean), were you ever spoken to by the Referee?

Dixie: Yes Just the Once

Interviewer: What did he say to you?

Dixie: Would you like a peppermint William?

Records indicate that in preparation for the 1888/89 season the Anfield pitch was dug up levelled and re-sewn but not until 15 tons of Horse Manure was dumped on there – explains an awful lot!

BIG RON AND HIS UNFEASIBLY LARGE PLUMS (AKA the Old Greengrocer)



This tale of woe began with Chris Holmes and myself deciding to travel to Yorkshire to see Everton play Sheffield Wednesday in the League (Carling, Milk or whatever it was called then) Cup on Wednesday 26th September 2007 at Hillsborough in Sheffield.

We had set off early for this night match and had arranged to meet up with my son Gary at a local pub near to the Ground. Gary had been working in Yorkshire and was coming to meet us after work.

On discovering this very handy place, I texted the whereabouts to him accordingly, although I will be the first to admit to send this text took me about three hours – technology just seems to confuse me!!

In the pub, we met up with three Evertonians, a pensioner and his two sons from the Chester area and after the normal deviant jokes chatted away with them all the while becoming more jovial after I sank pint after pint of lagerwell halves of shandy!

(Editor Note: Shandy.... I never knew they did cocktails in Yorkshire Pubs!) and enjoyed the normal ale induced joyful chat etc. At the bar, I overheard the pub manager tell 2 massive "doormen" (big lads with muscles in their spit) not to let any Evertonians into his pub as they were likely to cause trouble with the many Wednesday fans that were beginning to fill the pub.

I interrupted their conversation by saying that we 5 were Evertonians already here. He said *"Yeah but you're alright and have been in for some time now"*. I expressed my concern that Gary.my son was due in about half an hour and of course he was an Evertonian.

"What's your name then mate" asked the barman. I told him my name was Ron and for some reason he told me I had nice teeth!

"Well when your son arrives outside tell him to say to the Doormen that he is with 'Big Ron' and they will let him in - ok".

'Big Ron' I mused.....now withstanding the fact that is was 90% of the Safeway's female staff in the country knew me as Big Ron on account of my unfeasibly large plums I could not work out why this knobhead called me that. After asking him if he had any sisters and if so had they perhaps worked in the produce department of either Safeway's or Morrison's in the last 25 years which would have been pretty coincidental but you just never know and getting a negative answer I concluded that the daft knobhead thought I was a Liverpool gangster or something!

I then rang Gary to tell him and also I got to Chris to confirm that this was the case and that I was being serious as he could not stop laughing at what he had to say to get into a Sheffield pub for a pre match bevvvy.

After 10 minutes or so a mighty noise occurred outside the pub as a mob of about 50 people tried to get past the two giant doormen (to no avail) whilst we were in the pub corner chatting away as I supped my third Lager Shandy.

Then, as I was sat contemplating a 4th Shandy a Doorman Giant comes up to our table holding my son's hand (Gary was only 37 then) and asked - *"Are you Big Ron scouse?"* Having replied in the affirmative, he released Gary (I thought that I needed to sign a receipt) and he went back to the Battle of Hillsboro by then outside.

Gary had not questioned the fact that he was given his own very special parking space outside the pub, again a sign of the importance that I had managed to portray to the very nice publican who may have been impressed of course with my hefty plums!

Anyway a great game - we won 3-0 with James McFadden scoring twice on his best match ever as an Everton player and me becoming 'Big Ron' from that day onwards for the three Chester lads who I still see at our Home Games in the Top Balcony at Goodison (as well as many a supermarket cold room!)They are "made up" to be known as 'Big Ron's' mates and have introduced me to their sons as such.

One last thing that I remembered was, after the match crossing a road with a narrow pavement serving to separate the oncoming traffic. I leapt over and tripped thus bashing my knee and leg with blood oozing down my sock all the way home as I was driving. This last important point is the reason for West Country Blues colleagues lining up to cross me over Walton Lane each home game to ensure my safety (it's their Nil Satis duty) Usually it takes at least 4 of them in turn, two to carry me over and two to hold up oncoming traffic.

Editor – I would like to thank Big Ron for this story – we must all have one so why not let me have them!

Wicked Scouse English

Kirkby Kiss – Head butt to face

Paddy's Wigwam – RC Cathedral

Across De Park – Rival footie team ground

De Footie – The football match

Avvee – Afternoon

On de Bevvee – On the beer

Bezzies – Best clothes

Quiz – An Assortment of Toffees

- 1 Who, on New Year's Day 2012, became the first Everton player to appear in a century of Premier League victories for the Toffees?
- 2 Who did Howard Kendall say this about in 1985: "He was a big-time player who needed the big stage, which I was no longer able to provide him at Goodison, so he needed to move on."
- 3 Who was the first Everton player to score 2 goals in our triumphant 1994/95 FA Cup winning campaign?
- 4 Which two teams played in the most recent full international staged at Goodison, in June 1995?
- 5 Which was the first full season that Goodison was fully seated?
- 6 In 2013, who became the first Everton player to score in the FA Cup third round in four successive seasons?
- 7 In the 1998/99 season, who became the first Everton player to be sent off in all three domestic competitions in the same campaign?
- 8 In 1976/77, who became the first Everton player to score in a League Cup and FA Cup semi-final in the same season?
- 9 Who made 129 consecutive appearances for Everton from August 2006 to February 2009?
- 10 Who were the only two post-war players to be capped for England whilst playing for Everton, who happen to have the same surname?
- 11 What caused a suspension in play at Goodison for the only time ever, in a match against Manchester United in December 1975?

Merchandise – Clothing

I am still in discussion with a supplier but it is not easy! The issue is the logo and the new club badge that sits within it – it's such a fine image it is difficult to copy. Please bear with me.

Merchandise - Stickers

I have a number of car stickers now that are now available. The 2 larger ones are priced at £2 and the smaller square one at £1.50. There is really minimal profit but what there is I will plough back into merchandise. So please think about buying one or two.



Merchandise WCB Mugs

I have now placed an order for 2 designs and they should be with me in time for the Southampton game. Both with Images of Goodison Park and the WCB Logo on it. The 2 images I have used are below. These are for sale at £6 each which covers my outlay including the postage and packing. There is a minimal profit which will go back into the club.

I will have a few mugs on the coach each time I travel and I can normally be found sat to another mug!



Answers – An Assortment of Toffees

- 1 Leon Osman.
- 2 Andy Gray
- 3 Matt Jackson, against Bristol City and Spurs in the semi- final.
- 4 Brazil and Japan in the Umbro Cup.
- 5 The 1994/95 campaign
- 6 Leighton Baines, the full-back doing so when netting against Cheltenham Town
- 7 Marco Materazzi
- 8 Duncan Mckenzie
- 9 Joleon Lescott
- 10 Alan and Michael Ball
- 11 The floodlights failed, stopping the game for some 14 minutes

Upcoming Fixtures

 <p>QPR v Everton Sat 21 MAR 15 - K.O. 1500</p>	<p>Ticket Orders to Becky Now Please</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS GAME MAY TO MOVE TO SUNDAY DUE TO EUROPA LEAGUE</p> <p>TRAVEL</p> <p>There will probably be members travelling to this fixture by car. Let us know if you require a lift and we will try and put you in touch with them so you can arrange a car share.</p>
 <p>Everton v Southampton Sat 4 Apr 15 - K.O. 1500</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Ticket Orders to Becky by 4 March Please</p> <p>07:45am M5 Junction 25 (Taunton)</p> <p>08:30am M5 Junction 16 (Almondsbury)</p> <p>08:45am M5 Junction 13 (On the bridge)</p>
 <p>Swansea City v Everton Sat 11 Apr 15 - K.O. 1245</p>	<p>Ticket Orders to Becky by 11 March Please</p> <p>TRAVEL</p> <p>There will probably be members travelling to this fixture by car. Let us know if you require a lift and we will try and put you in touch with them so you can arrange a car share</p>
 <p>Everton v Burnley Sat 18 Apr 15 - K.O. 1500</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Ticket Orders to Becky by 11 March Please</p> <p>07:45am M5 Junction 25 (Taunton)</p> <p>08:30am M5 Junction 16 (Almondsbury)</p> <p>08:45am M5 Junction 13 (On the bridge)</p>

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL DATES TO GET TICKET ORDERS AND TRAVEL DETAILS TO BECKY BY.

Man Utd Home – 18th April **PLEASE NOTE Will now kick off at 1:30pm on Sunday the 26th.**
Aston Villa Away – 1st April
Sunderland Home – 1st April
West Ham Away – 15th April
Spurs Home – 15th April

SEASON TICKET FOR SALE

My season ticket in the Park End is for sale for the Burnley and Man Utd games due to work commitments – please email me at michaelwilliams7358@yahoo.co.uk

COYB

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