

Words: Rob Sawyer

A delve into the Everton Collection



Some of this season's EFC Heritage Society articles will be produced in partnership with the Everton Collection, the unrivalled archive of more than 10,000 historical football treasures.



In 2007, in order to ensure the archive remained intact for future generations, an initiative was formed with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to purchase David France's memorabilia.

Everton Football Club also gifted its own memorabilia to form The Everton Collection Charitable Trust. The Collection is located at the Liverpool Record Office in Liverpool Central Library. It is preserved and conserved in purpose-built archive accommodation meeting the highest standards for long-term preservation and under the care of professional archivists and conservators. The exhibits can be viewed at the Liverpool Record Office by appointment and items continue to be added – including Joe Mercer's 1938/39 League Championship medal last year.

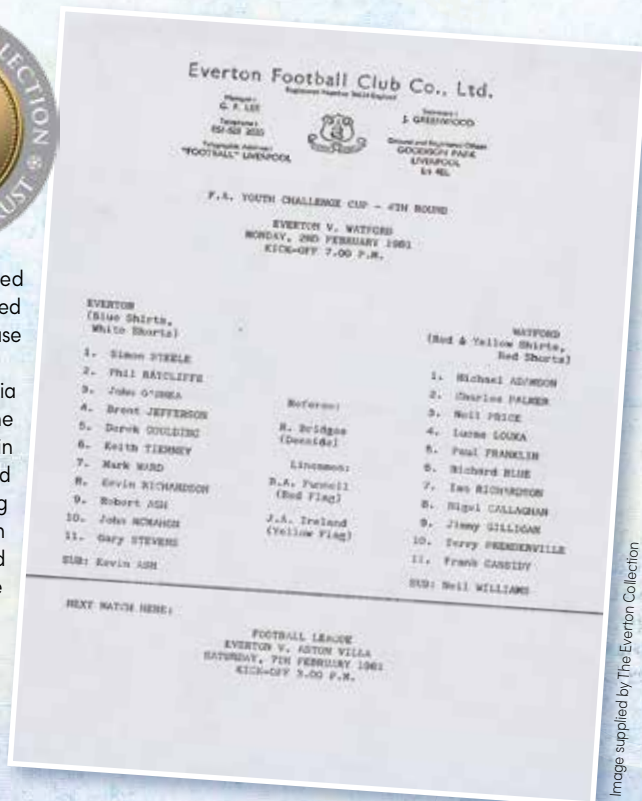
A crowning glory of the Collection is the series of Board minutes ledgers. These 'Everton Scriptures' are a series of 29 books documenting, in forensic detail, the inner workings of the Club from October 1887 to July 1964. They provide a back-story through the decades, detailing player transfers, boardroom reshuffles, the appointment and dismissal of managers and the momentous move from Anfield to Goodison Park in 1892.

Now fully transcribed and digitised, the 10,000 pages of minutes can be viewed and keyword-searched alongside the rest of the Toffee treasures in the Collection at evertoncollection.org.uk.

An online search for today's visitors Watford rendered 124 hits.

For example, four years before Goodison Park's floodlights were commissioned the minutes of 5 January 1954 record a proposed visit to Vicarage Road:

'It was reported that some new types of lights would be on view at Watford on Tuesday next, and it was agreed that



Messrs J. C. Sharp, C. E. Balmforth, F. Micklesfield and the Manager should attend.'

Everton would first play Watford in a Football League match in August 1982, but 18 months earlier they met in the FA Youth Cup.

The hosts won this encounter 3-1 and a copy of the teamsheet resides in the Everton Collection. Three future first-teamers featured in the Blues' line-up: Mark Ward, Kevin Richardson and Gary Stevens. Two of the Hornets' team would come up against Richardson and Stevens three years later in the FA Cup Final. Nigel Callaghan had, by then, established himself as a right winger while Neil Price endured a torrid time against man-of-the-match Trevor Steven.