

= Goodison Park =

Goodison Park is a football stadium located in Walton , Liverpool , England . The stadium has been home to Premier League club Everton F.C. since its completion in 1892 and is one of the world 's oldest purpose @-@ built football grounds . The stadium is built in a residential area served by regular rail and bus services two miles ( 3 km ) from Liverpool city centre .

Goodison has undergone many changes over the years and it presently has an all @-@ seated capacity of 39 @,@ 572 . Everton fans refer to the stadium as " The Grand Old Lady " and the abridged " Goodison " .

It has hosted more top @-@ flight games than any other stadium in England . Goodison has hosted the maximum number of league games since the Premier League was formed in 1992 , as Everton have remained in the top tier of English football since 1954 . The club has only been outside the top division for four seasons , having only been relegated twice ( in 1930 and 1951 ) .

As well as hosting Everton games , the stadium has been the venue for an FA Cup Final and numerous international fixtures , including several in the 1966 FIFA World Cup . The record for the highest attendance in women 's football was set at Goodison Park in 1920 , which stood for 92 years until 31 July 2012 .

= = History = =

= = = Before Goodison Park = = =

Everton originally played on an open pitch in the south @-@ east corner of the newly laid out Stanley Park , the same site where Liverpool F.C. planned a stadium , however abandoned the project . The first official match took place in 1879 . In 1882 , a Mr J. Cruit donated land at Priory Road with the necessary facilities required for professional clubs . Cruit asked the club to leave his land after two years because the crowds became far too large and noisy .

Everton moved to nearby Anfield Road , a site where proper covered stands were built . Everton played at the Anfield ground from 1884 until 1892 . During this time the club turned professional and entered teams in the FA Cup . They became founding members of the Football League and won their first championship at the ground in 1890 ? 91 . Anfield 's capacity grew to over 20 @,@ 000 and the club hosted an international match between England and Ireland . During their time at Anfield , Everton became the first club to introduce goalnets to professional football .

In the 1890s , a dispute about how the club was to be owned and run emerged with John Houlding , Anfield 's majority owner and Everton 's Chairman , at the forefront . Houlding and the club 's committee initially disagreed about the full purchase of the land at Anfield from minor land owner Mr Orrell escalating into a principled disagreement of how the club was run . Two such disagreements included Houlding wanting Everton to sell only his brewery produce during an event and for the Everton players to use his public house The Sandon as changing room facilities .

The most famous of the disagreements concerns the level of increased rent Everton were asked to pay . In 1889 , Everton paid £ 100 to Houlding in rent and by the 1889 ? 90 season he was charging Everton £ 250 . Everton had to pay for all work and stands . The dispute escalated to a rent of £ 370 per year being demanded . In the complicated lead up to the split in the club , the rent dispute is too simplistic to be singled out as the prime cause . The dispute was compounded by many minor disputed points .

The flashpoint was a covenant in the contract of land purchase by Houlding from Orrell causing further and deep friction . A strip of land at the Anfield ground bordering the adjacent land owned by Mr Orrell , could be used to provide a right of way access road for Orrell 's landlocked vacant site . In early 1891 the club erected a stand on this now proposed roadway , which was also overlapping Orrell 's land , unbeknown to the Everton F.C. Committee . In August 1891 Orrell announced intentions of developing his land next to the football ground and building an access road on the land owned by Houlding and occupied by Everton F.C.

Everton F.C. stated they knew nothing of the covenant , Houlding stated they did . This situation created great distrust and friction between Houlding and the Everton F.C. Committee . The rift and distrust between the committee and Houlding was on three levels , Houlding 's personal business intentions , politically and morally . Nevertheless , the club faced a dilemma of having to destroy the new revenue generating stand or compensate Orrell .

Houlding 's way around the problem was to propose a limited company with floatation of the club enabling the club to purchase Houlding 's and Orrell 's land outright , hoping to raise £ 12 @, @ 000 . Previous attempts to raise money from the community had failed miserably . This would have meant the club would need to find £ 6 @, @ 000 in cash with an additional £ 4 @, @ 875 mortgage . The Everton Committee initially accepted Houlding 's proposal in principle , yet voted against it at a meeting .

After much negotiating and brinkmanship on both sides Everton vacated Anfield , leaving Houlding with an empty stadium and no one to play in it . As a consequence , Houlding formed his own football club , Liverpool , to take up residence at the stadium .

The clubs themselves have differing versions of events of why it occurred .

Houlding explained why this situation arose in a match programme against Cliftonville in April 1893 . He pointed out that he had given Everton a rent free loan until the club started to make money . If the club had gone bust he would have lost it all .

Despite making no profit in this respect , the issue that upset the members at Everton most was his plan to sell Anfield and the land adjoining , with Houlding himself profiting . He felt it was a reasonable reward for the risk he had ventured in the club for nine years . Houlding , as the ambitious businessman he was , saw a great future for the club . He wanted the club to have its own home ground and wanted them to buy land so the club could expand in due course .

Unfortunately most of the Everton FC board members failed to share his forward thinking and lacked confidence . They wanted instead a long term rent deal on all the land , but for this to be acceptable to Houlding , he wanted a rent at a price considered too high for the Club . The members reacted to that by " offering " Houlding less rent . Houlding unsurprisingly refused to accept this stating that he did not want to be dictated : " I cannot understand why a gentleman that has done so much for the club ( Everton ) and its members should be given such treatment " .

During their spell at Anfield , John Houlding decided to charge the Club rent based on the increase of gate receipts from attendances and not , as was previously the case , at a fixed rate .

" This ? along with other conflicts with Everton ? led to the Club being expelled from Anfield in 1892 and in need of a new home .... fully expecting Houlding to dismiss Everton from their Anfield home , he [ George Mahon ] acquired land on a patch off Stanley Park called ' Mere Green Field ' and also made sure that the Club kept their name . "

= = = Genesis of Goodison Park = = =

On 15 September 1891 , a general meeting took place at Royal Street Hall , near Everton Valley . Everton 's chairman John Houlding proposed that a limited company be formed and that the company should purchase his land and local brewer Joseph Orrell 's adjacent land for a combined £ 9 @, @ 237 . A club run as a limited company was unusual for the time as football clubs were usually run as ? sports clubs ? with members paying an annual fee . The proposal was supported by William Barclay , the club secretary and a close friend of Houlding .

Liberal Party politician and Everton board member George Mahon fought the proposal and put forward his own amendment which was carried by the Everton board . At the time Everton 's board contained both Conservative and Liberal Party councillors . Houlding and Mahon had previously clashed during local elections .

Both men agreed that Everton should operate as an limited company ; however , they had different ideas about share ownership . Houlding suggested that 12 @, @ 000 shares be created with each Everton board member given one share and the other shares sold to the public or Everton board members . Mahon disagreed and proposed that 500 shares be created with no member carrying more than 10 shares and board members being given " 7 or 8 " shares . Mahon reasoned " we

would rather have a large number of individual applications so that there will be more supporters of the club . "

A special general meeting was convened at the former Liverpool College building on Shaw Street on 25 January 1892 . John Houlding 's proposal was defeated once more and George Mahon suggested that Everton relocate to another site . A heckler shouted , " You can 't find one ! " Mahon responded " I have one in my pocket " revealing an option to lease Mere Green field , in Walton , Lancashire , the site of the current Goodison Park .

The Liverpool press were partisan . The proposal was deemed to be a positive move for the club by the Liberal @-@ leaning Liverpool Daily Post which described Houlding 's ousting as " having shaken off the incubus . " The Tory @-@ supporting Liverpool Courier and Liverpool Evening Express ? owned by Conservative MP for Everton , John A. Willox , a Trustee of the Licensed Victuallers ' and Brewers ' Association ? took Houlding 's side . The Courier published letters regularly criticising Mahon 's supporters ? many of which were anonymous . Philanthropist William Hartley , a jam manufacturer and Robert William Hudson , a prominent soap @-@ manufacturer supported Mahon .

The stadium was named Goodison Park because the length of the site was built against Goodison Road . The road was named after a civil engineer named George Goodison who provided a sewage report to the Walton Local Board in the mid @-@ 1800s and later became a local land owner .

The Mere Green field was owned by Christopher Leyland with Everton renting until they were in a position to buy the site outright . Initially , the field needed work as parts of the site needed excavation , the field was levelled , a drainage system was installed and turf was laid . This work was considered to be a ' formidable initial expenditure ' with local contractor Mr Barton contracted to work on the 29 @, @ 471 square yards ( 25 @, @ 000 m<sup>2</sup> ) site at 4 ½ d per square yard ? a total cost of £ 552 . A J. Prescott was brought in as an architectural advisor and surveyor .

Walton @-@ based building firm Kelly Brothers were instructed to erect two uncovered stands that could each accommodate 4 @, @ 000 spectators . A third covered stand accommodating 3 @, @ 000 spectators was also requested . The combined cost of these stands was £ 1 @, @ 640 . Everton inserted a penalty clause into the contract in case the work was not completed by its 31 July deadline . Everton officials were impressed with the builder 's workmanship and agreed two further contracts : exterior hoardings were constructed at a cost of £ 150 and 12 turnstiles were installed at a cost of £ 7 each . In 1894 , Benjamin Kelly of Kelly Brothers was appointed as a director of Everton .

Dr. James Baxter of the Everton committee donated a £ 1 @, @ 000 interest @-@ free loan to build Goodison Park . The stadium was England 's first purpose @-@ built football ground , with stands on three sides . Goodison Park was officially opened on 24 August 1892 by Lord Kinnaid and Frederick Wall of the Football Association . No football was played ; instead the 12 @, @ 000 crowd watched a short athletics event followed by music and a fireworks display . Upon its completion the stadium was the first joint purpose @-@ built football stadium in the world ; Celtic 's basic Celtic Park ground in Glasgow , Scotland was inaugurated on the same day as Goodison Park .

The first football match at Goodison Park was on 2 September 1892 between Everton and Bolton Wanderers . Everton wore its new club colours of salmon and dark blue stripes and won the exhibition game 4 ? 2 . The first league game at Goodison Park took place on 3 September 1892 against Nottingham Forest ; the game ended in a 2 ? 2 draw . The stadium 's first competitive goal was scored by Forest 's Horace Pike and the first Everton goal scored by Fred Geary . Everton 's first league victory at their new ground came in the next home game with a 6 ? 0 defeat of Newton Heath in front of an estimated 10 @, @ 000 spectators .

It was announced at a general meeting on 22 March 1895 that the club could finally afford to buy Goodison Park . Mahon revealed that Everton were buying Goodison Park for £ 650 less than the price of Anfield three years earlier , with Goodison Park having more land and a 25 % larger capacity . The motion to purchase Goodison Park was passed unanimously . Dr. Baxter also lent the club £ 5 @, @ 000 to redeem the mortgage early at a rate of 3 ½ % . By this time the redrawing of political boundaries put Walton , and hence Goodison Park , inside the City of Liverpool .

In 1999 , The Independent newspaper journalist David Conn unexpectedly coined the nickname "

The Grand Old Lady " for the stadium when he wrote " Another potential suitor has apparently thought better of Everton , walking away on Tuesday from the sagging Grand Old Lady of English football , leaving her still in desperate need of a makeover . "

= = = Structural developments = = =

The Goodison Park structure was built in stages . In the summer of 1895 a new Bullens Road stand was built and a roof placed on the original Goodison Road stand but only after five directors , including Chairman , George Mahon had resigned over what was described in the club minutes as ' acute administrative difficulties ' . In 1906 , the doubled @-@ decker Goodison Avenue Stand was built behind the goal at the south end of the ground . The stand was designed by Liverpool architect Henry Hartley who went on to chair the Liverpool Architectural Society a year later . The club minutes from the time show that Hartley was unhappy with certain aspects of the stand and the poor sightlines meant that the goal line had to be moved seven metres north , towards Gwladys Street . In January 1908 , he complained that his fees had not been paid and the bill for the stand was near £ 13 @,@ 000 . There were 2 @,@ 657 seats on its upper tier with a terrace below .

Archibald Leitch designed the Goodison Road Stand with construction in 1909 . In September that year Ernest Edwards , the Liverpool Echo journalist who christened the terrace at Anfield the " Spion Kop " , wrote of the newly built stand , " The building as one looks at it , suggests the side of Mauretania at once . " The stand was occasionally referred to as the " Mauretania Stand " , in reference to the Liverpool @-@ registered RMS Mauretania , then the world 's largest ship , which operated from the Port of Liverpool .

The two @-@ tier steel frame and wooden floor Bullens Road Stand , designed by Archibald Leitch , was completed in 1926 . The upper tier was seated , with terracing below , a part of the ground called The Paddock . Few changes were made until 1963 when the rear of the Paddock was seated and an overhanging roof was added . The stand is known for Archibald Leitch 's highly distinctive balcony trusses which also act as handrails for the front row of seats in the Upper Bullens stand . Goodison Park is the only stadium with two complete trusses designed by Leitch . Of the 17 created , only Goodison Park , Ibrox and Fratton Park retain these trusses .

Everton constructed covered dugouts in 1931 . The idea was inspired by a visit to Pittodrie to play a friendly against Aberdeen , where such dugouts had been constructed at the behest of the Dons ' trainer Donald Colman . The Goodison Park dugouts were the first in England .

The ground become an entirely two @-@ tiered affair in 1938 with another Archibald Leitch stand at the Gwladys Street end . The stand completed at a cost of £ 50 @,@ 000 , being delayed because an old man would not move from his to be demolished home . The original Gwladys Street having had terraced houses on either side , with those backing on to the ground making way for the expansion . Architect Leitch and Everton Chairman Will Cuff became close friends with Cuff appointed as Leitch 's accountant with Leitch moving to nearby Formby .

In 1940 , during the Second World War , the Gwladys Street Stand suffered bomb damage . The bomb had landed directly in Gwladys Street and caused serious injury to nearby residents . The bomb splinter damage to the bricks on the stand is still noticeable . The cost of repair was £ 5 @,@ 000 and was paid for by the War Damage Commission .

The Director 's minutes read : " It was decided also that Messrs A. Leitch be instructed to value the cost of complete renewal of damaged properties and that a claim should be forwarded to the War Damage Claims department within the prescribed 30 days .

" The damage referred to included the demolition of a wide section of the new stand outer wall in Gwladys St , destruction of all glass in this stand , damage to every door , canteen , water and electricity pipe and all lead fittings : perforate roof in hundreds of places .

" On Bullens Road side , a bomb dropped in the school yard had badly damaged the exterior wall of this stand and the roof was badly perforated here also . A third bomb outside the practice ground had demolished the surrounding hoarding and had badly damaged glass in the Goodison Ave and Walton Lane property . "

The first floodlit match at Goodison Park took place when Everton hosted Liverpool on 9 October

1957 in front of 58 @, @ 771 spectators . Four pylons 185 feet ( 56 m ) each with 36 lamps installed were installed behind each corner of the pitch , at the time they were tallest in the country . There was capacity for 18 more lamps per pylon if it was felt the brightness was insufficient for the game . Each bulb was a 1 @, @ 500 watt tungsten bulb 15 inches in diameter and cost 25 shillings . It was recommended that the club made a habit of changing them after three to four seasons to save the club performing intermittent repairs . MANWEB installed a transformer sub @-@ station to cope with the 6 @, @ 000 volt @-@ load .

The first undersoil heating system in English football was installed at Goodison Park in 1958 , with 20 miles ( 30 km ) of electric wire laid beneath the playing surface at a cost of £ 16 @, @ 000 . The system was more effective than anticipated and the drainage system could not cope with the quantity of water produced from the melting of frost and snow . As a consequence the pitch had to be relaid in 1960 to allow a more suitable drainage system to be installed .

The Everton chairman Sir John Moores who presided over the club between 1960 and 1973 provided finances for the club in the form of loans to become involved in large @-@ scale redevelopment projects and compete with other clubs for the best players , for a period of time under his stewardship Everton were known as ' The Mersey Millionaires ' .

Goodison Park featured in the filming of The Golden Vision , a BBC film made for television . The matches featured in the film were Division One games against Manchester City on 4 November 1967 ( 1 ? 1 draw ) and 18 November 1967 versus Sheffield United ( 1 ? 0 win ) ? the scorer of the winner that day was Alex Young , also known as The Golden Vision or Golden Ghost after whom the film was named .

Everton were the first club to have a scoreboard installed in England . On 20 November 1971 Everton beat Southampton 8 ? 0 with Joe Royle scoring four , David Johnson three and Alan Ball one . The scoreboard did not have enough room to display the goal scorer 's names and simply read " 7 9 7 9 8 9 9 7 " as it displayed the goal scorers ' shirt numbers instead .

The Goodison Road Stand was partially demolished and rebuilt during the 1969 ? 70 season with striking images of both old and new stands side by side . The new stand opened 1971 , at a cost of £ 1 million . The new stand housed the 500 and 300 members clubs and an escalator to the tallest stand in the ground ? the Top Balcony . However , not everyone thought that the upgrade was necessary at the time . Journalist Geoffrey Green of The Times wrote " Goodison Park has always been a handsome fashionable stage for football , a living thing full of atmospherics @-@ like a theatre . And now it has stepped into the demanding seventies with a facelift it scarcely seemed to need compared with some of us I know . New giant stands in place of the old ; the latest in dazzling floodlight systems that cast not a shadow . A cathedral of a place indeed , fit for the gods of the game . "

The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 saw the Bullens Road Stand extensively fireproofed with widened aisles , which entailed closure of parts of the stand . Because of the closure , Anfield was chosen over first choice Goodison Park for a Wales vs. Scotland World Cup qualifying tie .

Following Moores ' exit from Everton 's hierarchy , minimum changes have been made to Goodison Park 's structure due to costs , two British Government Acts ; the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 and Football Spectators Act 1989 have forced the club 's hand into improving the facilities . Upon Moore 's death the club was sold to Peter Johnson .

Everton legends William Ralph ' Dixie ' Dean and former manager Harry Catterick both died at Goodison Park . Dean suffered from a heart attack aged 73 in 1980 , whilst Catterick died five years later , also suffering a heart attack aged 65 .

Everton F.C. celebrated the centenary of Goodison Park with a game against German club side Borussia Mönchengladbach in August 1992 . In addition , 200 limited edition medals were created and Liverpool based author and journalist Ken Rogers wrote a book One Hundred Years of Goodison Glory to commemorate the occasion .

== = Post @-@ Taylor Report == =

Following the publication of the 1990 Taylor Report , in the wake of the Hillsborough disaster , top

@-@ flight English football grounds had to become all @-@ seated . At the time three of the four sides of the ground had standing areas . The Enclosure , fronting the main stand , had already been made all @-@ seated in time for the 1987 / 88 season and was given the new name of Family Enclosure . The Paddock , the Park End terrace and the Gwladys Street terrace , known as ' the Ground ' , were standing and had to be replaced . The fences around the perimeter of the ground fronting the terracing ( which were to prevent fans , notably hooligans , running onto the pitch ) were removed immediately post Hillsborough , in time for the rearranged league fixture with Liverpool . The Everton match versus Luton Town in May 1991 was the final time that Gwladys Street allowed standing spectators . Seats were installed in the Paddock , while the Lower Gwladys Street was later completely rebuilt to accommodate seating with new concrete steps .

Everton opted to demolish the entire Park End stand in 1994 and replace it with a single @-@ tier cantilever stand , with the assistance of a grant of £ 1 @. @ 3 million from the Football Trust .

= = Current structure = =

Goodison Park has a total capacity of 39 @, @ 572 all @-@ seated and comprises four separate stands : the Goodison Road Stand , Gwladys Street Stand , Bullens Road Stand , and the Park End Stand .

= = = Goodison Road Stand = = =

Built in sections from 1969 to 1971 , replacing the large double @-@ decker 1909 Archibald Leitch designed stand . The Goodison Road Stand is a double @-@ decker stand with the lower deck being two @-@ tier . Each level is given a separate name . The middle @-@ deck level is known as the Main Stand and is fronted by another seated section known as the Family Enclosure . The Enclosure was originally terracing prior to the advent of all @-@ seater stadia . The Top Balcony is the highest part of the stadium . The stand became all seated in 1987 and now has a capacity of 12 @, @ 664 .

The back wall of the stand cuts into the stand because of the non @-@ square nature of the Goodison Park site . The Goodison Road Stand is also home to the conference and hospitality facilities . On non @-@ match days Goodison Park holds conferences , weddings , meetings and parties on a daily basis .

= = = Bullens Road = = =

On the east side of the ground , the Bullens Road stand is divided into the Upper Bullens , Lower Bullens and The Paddock . The rear of the south end of the stand houses away supporters . The north corner of the stand is connected to the Gwladys Street Stand . The current capacity of the stand is 10 @, @ 546 . The stand takes its name from the adjacent Bullens Road . The Upper Bullens is decorated with Archibald Leitch 's distinctive truss design .

= = = Howard Kendall Gwladys Street End = = =

Behind the goal at the north end of Goodison Park , the Gwladys Street Stand is divided into Upper Gwladys and Lower Gwladys . This stand is the " Popular End " , holding the most boisterous and vociferous home supporters . It is known colloquially as " The Street End " . If Everton win the toss before kick @-@ off the captain traditionally elects to play towards the Gwladys Street End in the second half . One of the traditions of the stand is also to applaud the visiting goalkeeper as he runs out to the goal of the stand . The stand has a capacity of 10 @, @ 611 and gives its name to Gwladys Street 's Hall of Fame .

= = = Sir Philip Carter Park Stand = = =

At the south end of the ground , behind one goal , the Park End Stand backs onto Walton Lane which borders Stanley Park . The name of the stand was originally the Stanley Park End but it 's commonly referred to as the Park End . The single tiered stand broke from the multi @-@ tiered tradition of Goodison Park . The Park End has the smallest capacity at Goodison Park . The current layout of the stand was opened on 17 September 1994 with a capacity of 5 @,@ 750 . It was opened by David Hunt , a Member of Parliament . During the structure 's development , fans were able to watch matches by climbing trees in neighbouring Stanley Park .

In the late 1970s and 1980s the stand accommodated the away fans . Previously it was open to home supporters . The lower tier of the old stand was terracing and this was closed off by the turn of the 1980s due to it being a fire hazard as the terracing steps were wooden . The front concrete terracing remained and was one of the last standing areas at a Premiership ground . During the 1960s and 1970s , both ends of the ground featured a large arc behind the goals . This was created as a requirement for the 1966 World Cup because the crowd had to be a required distance from the goals .

The area around Goodison Park when built was a dense area full of terraced housing , and Goodison Avenue behind the Park End stand was no different . Oddly housing was built right into the stand itself ( as shown on old photographs of Goodison and in programmes ) . The club had previously owned many of the houses on the road and rented them to players . One of the players to live there , Dixie Dean later had a statue erected in his honour near the Park End on Walton Lane . By the 1990s the club had demolished virtually the whole street and this coincided with the redevelopment of the Park End stand . However at present the majority of the land is now an open car park for the club and its Marquee .

= = = St Luke 's Church = = =

Goodison Park is unique in the sense that a church , St Luke 's , protrudes into the site between the Goodison Road Stand and the Gwladys Street Stand only yards from the corner flag . Everton do not play early kick @-@ offs on Sundays in order to permit Sunday services at the church . The church is synonymous with the football club and a wooden church structure was in place when Goodison Park was originally built . Former Everton players such as Brian Harris have had their funeral service held there .

The church can be seen from the Park End and Bullens Road and has featured prominently over the years as a backdrop during live televised matches . It is also the home to the Everton Former Players ' Foundation of which the Reverend is a trustee .

The church has over the years curtailed development of the ground . Everton did attempt to pay for its removal in order to gain extra space for a larger capacity . One of two jumbotron screens ( both installed in 2000 ) has been installed between the Goodison Road stand and Gwladys Street stand partially obscuring the church from view . The other is situated between the Bullens Road and Park End .

Imaginative spectators would climb the church and watch a football game from the rooftop however they have now been deterred from doing so with the installation of security measures such as barbed wire and anti @-@ climb paint . In addition , the introduction of the ' all @-@ seater ' ruling following the Taylor Report has meant that spectators no longer resort to climbing nearby buildings for a glimpse of the event as a seat is guaranteed with a purchased ticket .

= = The future = =

Since the late 1990s the board of Everton have been seeking a new , alternative stadium to replace Goodison Park . Plans for a possible relocation were first mentioned in 1996 , when then chairman Peter Johnson announced his intention to build a new 60 @,@ 000 @-@ seat stadium for the club . At the time , no English league club had a stadium with such a high capacity .

In January 2001 , plans were drawn up to move to a 55 @,@ 000 @-@ seat purpose @-@ built arena on the site of the King 's Dock in Liverpool . The proposed stadium would have had a

retractable roof enabling it to be used for concerts and chairman Bill Kenwright had hoped to have it ready for the 2005 / 06 season .

However , the plans were abandoned in April 2003 due to the club not being able to raise adequate funds . Following this , plans were made to move to Kirkby , just outside the city , in a joint venture with the supermarket chain Tesco . The scheme was greatly divisive amongst supporters and local authorities , but was rejected in late November 2009 following a decision by Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government .

The site of Goodison Park was earmarked in 1997 and 2003 for a food store by Tesco who offered £ 12 million which was valued at £ 4 million for the site but Liverpool City Council 's advisor 's advised against allowing planning permission . The club were advised that the planning permission required would not necessarily be granted , and chose not to take the scheme further .

Supporters ' groups have fought against the club moving to a new stadium twice . In 2007 a group was established called Keep Everton in Our City ( KEIOC ) whose aim is to keep Everton FC inside the city of Liverpool . The KEIOC attempted to prevent the club moving to a new stadium in Kirkby , just outside the city limits . The supporters ' groups have argued that it is possible to expand Goodison Park , despite the odd shaped landlocked site being surrounded by housing , local authority buildings , and have produced image renders , architectural drawings and costings for a redeveloped Goodison Park . The then Liverpool City Council leader Warren Bradley stated in November 2009 that a redevelopment of Goodison Park was his favoured option , and that relocation of the homes , infrastructure and businesses in streets adjoining the ground is " not a major hurdle " . The current Council leader Joe Anderson stated , " the setback for Everton was an opportunity for both clubs to go back to the drawing board " .

Everton 's current position regarding the future of Goodison Park is that they are considering all options , including relocation , redevelopment of the current ground , or a groundshare with Liverpool F.C. , in a new , purpose @-@ built stadium in Stanley Park , stressing that finance is the main factor affecting decision @-@ making .

In 2010 , Everton supporters approached University of Liverpool and Liverpool City Council to initiate a dedicated ' Football Quarter ' / ' Sports City ' zone around Goodison Park , Stanley Park and Anfield . The University and City Council met with the North West Development Agency , Everton and Liverpool F.C. representatives but no further action has been taken .

On 10 February 2011 , Liverpool City Council Regeneration and Transport Select Committee proposed to open the eastern section of the Liverpool Outer Loop line using " Liverpool Football Club and Everton Football Club as priorities , as economic enablers of the project " . This proposal would place both football clubs on a rapid @-@ transit Merseyrail line circling the city giving high throughput , fast transport access . This would entail Liverpool FC abandoning the relocation plans from their Anfield ground to the planned nearby Stanley Park Stadium .

= = = Walton Lane development = = =

In August 2010 , Everton announced plans to build a new development situated between the Park End stand and Walton Lane , the site is currently used for a hospitality marquee . The £ 9m scheme was designed by Manchester @-@ based Formroom Architects . In September 2010 the club submitted a planning application to Liverpool City Council .

The proposed development is a four @-@ storey building which include a retail store , ticket office , offices , conference and catering facilities and a museum . The project has been delayed twice and is currently on hold .

= = Transport = =

Goodison Park is located two miles ( 3 km ) north of Liverpool City Centre . Liverpool Lime Street railway station is the nearest mainline station . The nearest station to the stadium is Kirkdale railway station on the Merseyrail Northern Line which is located just over half a mile ( 800 m ) away . On match days there is also a frequent shuttle bus service from Sandhills railway station known as "



SoccerBus " . In 2007 Sandhills underwent a £ 6million renovation to help encourage people to use the rail service .

Walton and Anfield railway station located on Walton Lane ? the same road that the Park End backs onto ? was the nearest station to Goodison Park until its closure in 1948 . It is possible that the station could be re @-@ opened should the freight only Canada Dock Branch line once again run passenger trains . A new Stanley Park railway station is proposed for nearby Liverpool FC , being near enough for use by both clubs .

There are on @-@ site parking facilities for supporters ( limited to 230 spaces ) and the streets around the ground allow parking only for residents with permits . The Car Parking resident parking scheme is operated by Liverpool City Council .

= = Records = =

Everton has staged more top @-@ flight football games than any other club in England , eight more seasons than second placed Aston Villa . Everton have played at Goodison Park for all but 4 of their 106 league seasons , giving Goodison Park the distinction of hosting more top @-@ flight games than any other ground in England . Goodison is the only English club ground to have hosted a FIFA World Cup semi final . Until the expansion of Old Trafford in 1996 Goodison Park held the record Sunday attendance on a Football League ground ( 53 @,@ 509 v West Bromwich Albion , FA Cup , 1974 ) .

Everton won 15 home league games in a row between 4 October 1930 and 4 April 1931 . In the 1931 ? 32 season Goodison Park was the venue of the most goals scored at home in a league season , 84 by Everton . Between 23 April 1984 and 2 September 1986 Everton scored consecutively in 47 games . , registering 36 wins and 7 draws and scoring 123 goals in the process while conceding 38 . Scottish striker Graeme Sharp scored 32 of these goals .

Jack Southworth holds the record for most goals scored in one game at Goodison Park , scoring six versus West Bromwich Albion on 30 December 1893 .

The most goals scored in a game at Goodison Park is 12 , this occurred in two Everton games ; versus Sheffield Wednesday ( 9 ? 3 ) on 17 October 1931 and versus Plymouth Argyle ( 8 ? 4 ) on 27 February 1954 .

= = Attendances = =

Whilst at Goodison Park the club has had one of the highest average attendances in the country . The stadium has only had six seasons where Everton FC has not been amongst the top ten highest attendances in the country .

The highest average attendance in the club 's history has been 51 @,@ 603 ( 1962 ? 63 ) and the lowest was 13 @,@ 230 ( 1892 ? 93 ) which was recorded in Goodison Park 's first year .

The five highest attendances for Everton at Goodison Park are :

Source :

The five lowest attendances for Everton at Goodison Park are :

Source :

= = Other uses = =

Despite being purposefully built for Everton F.C. to play football , Goodison Park has hosted many other types of events .

= = = Goodison Park as host stadium for football = = =

Goodison Park became the first Football League ground to hold an FA Cup Final , in 1894 . Notts County beat Bolton Wanderers , watched by crowd of 37 @,@ 000 . An FA Cup final replay was staged in 1910 with Newcastle United beating Barnsley 2 ? 0 .

On 26 December 1920 , Goodison Park hosted a match between ; Dick , Kerr 's Ladies & St Helens Ladies . An estimated 53 @, @ 000 attended the match , at a time when the average gate at Goodison Park in 1919 ? 20 was near 29 @, @ 000 . Dick , Kerr 's Ladies won 4 ? 0 . More than £ 3 @, @ 000 was raised for charity . Shortly after , the Football Association banned women 's football . The reasons given by the FA were not substantial and it is perceived by some that the women 's teams were a threat to the men 's game . The ban was lifted in 1970 .

During the Second World War , Goodison Park was chosen as a host venue for the " Football League ? Northern Section " .

In 1949 , Goodison Park became the site of England 's first ever defeat on English soil by a non @-@ Home Nations country , namely the Republic of Ireland . The ground hosted five matches including a semi @-@ final for the 1966 FIFA World Cup . In April 1895 Goodison Park hosted England versus Scotland and so Everton became the first club to host England internationals on two grounds ( the other being Anfield in 1889 when England won 6 ? 2 versus Ireland ) . The city of Liverpool also became the first English city to stage England games at three different venues , the other being Aigburth Cricket Club .

In 1973 Goodison hosted Northern Ireland 's home games against Wales and England .

===== 1966 FIFA World Cup =====

Goodison Park hosted five games during the 1966 FIFA World Cup . The original schedule of the 1966 World Cup meant that if England won their group and then reached the Semi final , the match would be held at Goodison Park . However , the organising committee were allowed to swap the venues , with England playing Portugal at Wembley Stadium .

===== Group stage =====

===== Quarter Final =====

===== Semi Finals =====

Portugal 's Eusébio won the tournament 's Golden Boot scoring nine goals , six of them at Goodison Park . Eusébio later stated that " Goodison Park is for me the best stadium in my life " . In Garrincha 's 50 caps for Brazil , the only defeat he experienced was in the game versus Hungary at Goodison Park .

===== FA Cup Final =====

Two years after construction , Goodison Park was chosen by the Football Association to host the final of the FA Cup .

===== British Home championships =====

===== England =====

Goodison Park has played host to England on eight occasions during the Home Championships . When Everton player Alex Stevenson scored for Ireland in the 1935 British Home Championship versus England , he became the first player to score an international away goal on his club 's home ground .

===== Northern Ireland =====

On 22 February 1973 the Irish Football Association announced that Northern Ireland 's home matches in the 1973 British Home Championship would be moved to Goodison Park due to the civil unrest within Belfast at that time .

Both Northern Ireland goalscorers Dave Clements ( vs. England ) and Bryan Hamilton ( vs. Wales ) went on to play for Goodison Park 's club side Everton later on in their careers .

= = = Other neutral matches at Goodison Park = = =

= = = Non @-@ football usage = = =

On 11 July 1913 Goodison Park became the first English football ground to be visited by a reigning monarch when King George V and Queen Mary attended . The attending royals had opened Gladstone Dock on the same day . A tablet was unveiled in the Main Stand to mark the occasion . During the First World War Goodison frequently hosted Territorial Army training drill sessions .

On 19 May 1938 George VI and Queen Elizabeth attended Goodison Park to present new colours to the 5th Battalion the King 's Regiment ( Liverpool ) and the Liverpool Scottish ( Queens Own Cameron Highlanders ) in front of 80 @, @ 000 spectators .

In 1921 , Goodison Park played host to Lancashire 's rugby team when they took on Australia national rugby union team and lost 29 ? 6 . Goodison Park was chosen as one of two English venues for the Sox @-@ Giants 1924 World Tour . On 23 October 1924 , 2 @, @ 000 spectators witnessed US baseball teams Chicago White Sox and New York Giants participate in an exhibition match . One player managed to hit a ball clear over the large Goodison Road Stand . The other English venue selected was Stamford Bridge .

In September 1939 , Goodison Park was commandeered by military , the club 's minutes read : " The Chairman reported that our ground has been commandeered as an anti @-@ aircraft ( Balloon Barrage section ) , post . " During World War Two , an American forces baseball league was based at Goodison Park . In addition , a baseball game between two Army Air Force nines watched by over 8 @, @ 000 spectators raised over \$ 3 @, @ 000 for British Red Cross and St. John 's Ambulance fund .

The Liverpool Trojans and Formby Cardinals were the last two teams to play baseball at Goodison Park . This was in the Lancashire Cup Final in 1948 .

Goodison Park is used as a venue for weddings . More than 800 fans ' ashes have been buried at Goodison Park and since 2004 the club have had to reject further requests because there is no room for any more . Tommy Lawton wanted his ashes to be scattered at Goodison but his son chose to donate them to the national football museum because of Goodison 's uncertain future .

Goodison Park was the venue for the boxing match between " Pretty " Ricky Conlan ( played by Everton fan Tony Bellew ) and Adonis Creed ( Michael B. Jordan ) in the 2015 movie Creed . The stadium hosted the first outdoor boxing event in Liverpool since 1949 when Bellew defeated Ilunga Makabu on 29 May 2016 to claim the vacant WBC Cruiserweight title .