# The Striker's Suite: A unique Everton fan haven in Walton



From the exterior, 9 Goodison Road appears to be an ordinary terraced house nestled among the classic rows of homes that radiate the charm of Walton, Liverpool. However, stepping inside reveals a unique transformation emblematic of local football culture, particularly for supporters of Everton FC. The property is home to the Striker's Suite, an executive lounge dedicated to Everton fans and curated by lifelong supporter Ray Parr, aged 79, who acquired the house in 1998.

Ray Parr, originally from Kensington but now residing in Formby, explains the origins of this distinctive venue, which came about as a response to escalating box share costs at Goodison Park. “I shared a box with one of my mates. They put it up to £45,000 in 1998, and my business was property anyway, so I thought, let's go and buy a house across the road for half that price,” he recounted in an interview with the Liverpool Echo. This venture allowed Parr and his friends to enjoy matchday hospitality in a personalised setting—complete with a flat above for additional comfort.

Transforming the ground floor into the lounge, Ardian has curated a trove of football memorabilia, showcasing a collection that reflects Everton’s rich heritage. Items on display include signed jerseys from club legends such as Duncan Ferguson and Andy Gray, alongside notable pieces linked to global icons such as Kaka, Lionel Messi, and Pele. The suite also features a dining table accommodating over 20 guests, and its aesthetic is further enriched by a wine and beverage selection, including Guinness and various fine wines.

An interesting highlight within the collection is Howard's Corner, an area dedicated to the late Howard Kendall—Everton's most successful manager, who guided the team through some of its most glorious periods during the 1980s. Parr, who had personal ties with Kendall, stated, “Bob's been in here loads of times, Howard was in here all the time,” while showcasing a replica of a significant contract from the 1970s that pertained to player transfers.

On matchdays, guests arrive two hours prior to kickoff, indulging in a two-course meal catered by a chef reputed to have cooked for the Royal Family and even Tiger Woods. After enjoying their meals, they proceed to Goodison Park to watch Everton play, returning to the suite for refreshments in the hours following the match. The participation of notable figures has added to the allure of the Striker's Suite, with the likes of Everton legends Neville Southall and Joe Royle among its visitors, as well as musicians such as Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin fame and Chris de Burgh, both of whom have unique stories associated with their visits to the lounge.

Despite the nostalgia and pride Parr feels for the Striker's Suite, he acknowledges that this chapter is nearing its conclusion. The club is set to transition to a new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock at the season's end, marking the end of Everton's 133-year occupancy at Goodison Park. Parr says, "Most of us are in the Club View in the East Stand. We can all meet up," indicating that while he and his friends will continue their association with the club, the intimate atmosphere of the Striker's Suite will be missed.

With just three matches remaining before the suite closes its doors, Ray Parr reflects fondly on nearly three decades of cherished matchday celebrations facilitated by his distinctive ownership of 9 Goodison Road, which he describes as "the best investment I ever made." As he prepares to repurpose the space into an extended flat, the significance of his venture as a haven for Everton fans during moments of joy and celebration resonates profoundly.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://efcheritagesociety.com/kicker-sportsmagazin-visits-goodison-park/> - This link supports the significance of Goodison Park in Everton's history and the culture surrounding it, which is also reflected in the Striker's Suite.
2. <https://www.toffeeweb.com/season/19-20/comment/editorial/38954.html> - This article mentions Howard Kendall's impact on Everton, aligning with the Howard's Corner feature in the Striker's Suite, and it touches upon the idea of box prices rising, which led Ray Parr to create the suite.
3. <https://www.mass.gov/guide-to-evidence/article-xi-miscellaneous> - Not directly relevant to the article's main topic, but it demonstrates legal and procedural processes not specific to Everton or Goodison Park.
4. <https://nationalfootballmuseum.com/halloffame/ray-wilson/> - This page discusses Everton legend Ray Wilson, contributing to understanding the club's rich history, which is reflected in memorabilia within the Striker's Suite.
5. <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - Similar to the Massachusetts guide, this link provides legal context unrelated to the Striker's Suite or Everton FC directly.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as part of the original piece but does not provide specific external validation for the claims made about the Striker's Suite.
7. <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/outside-its-normal-terraced-house-31409030> - Please view link - unable to able to access data