

AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

Issue 10 – April 2006

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US Dons – News

One of our members, Steve Smith will be leaving the warm California weather and sandy beaches behind him as he flies back home at the end of April to give some US Dons support to the push for the playoffs and possible promotion to the Conference. He wanted to know if anyone else from the US Dons contingent was thinking of making a trip over during this time, and, if so would like to get together with them for a beer and a cheer.

John French, a US Don is Connecticut sent in the following: “Why do you think the Dons are so relatively poor at home? Do the other teams raise their game for the crowd? Do the Dons feel pressured? This is looking like it could be pivotal. I just had a look and they are so much better away”.

This was following the disastrous 4 – 0 loss at home to Hampton & Richmond. *How do the rest of you feel about our chances to reach the playoffs and/or promotion?*

Send your comments to me and I will post them in the next newsletter.

We are still in the running for a playoff position and have secured a repeat Surrey Senior Cup Final appearance. Let the rest of us know how you feel we will finish the season?

On the loan front: In a near unanimous decision at both the Dons Trust meeting and the follow-up AFCW meeting the decision was taken to move forward on the Barclay’s loan offer. In a further show of support from the AFCW supporters a further 20,00.00 pounds worth of Dons Trust Bonds were pledged, which means the amount required from the Barclay’s loan to pay-off the Khosla debt will be even smaller than originally stated.

As the season is drawing to a close, we should think towards next year. This past year we supported the program by “Sponsoring a players kit”. Are you ready to commit to this project again this year? Send us your thoughts, lets make an early commitment. With almost 50 members, \$10 from each of you would cover the cost of such a sponsorship!

As always I will take any letters and/or articles or anything you feel may go well in this Newsletter. Any contributions, including BIO’s, is gratefully accepted.

Some of our existing members have changed your e-mail addresses, as your newsletter is not being successfully delivered via e-mail. Be sure to update either Dave Hambly or myself for continued e-mail delivery.

We have a contacts page attached, and anyone who doesn't mind sharing their info, let Dave Hambly (SoCal) or myself know. I try and send the newsletter to your e-mail as well as have SoCal post it on the website.

Don't forget you can listen to the home games, LIVE on the web (address is posted later on in the newsletter) and join the chat-line during the game and converse with other supporters worldwide. Look forward to seeing you out there!

“Come on you DON'S”

You can reach me:

via e-mail: davgarlinge@aol.com,

phone: (281) 482-6034

mail: 206 Winding Road, Friendswood, TX 77546

David Garlinge
(Limeydg).

AFCW News

Well the season is down to final 5 matches! A disastrous 4 – 0 defeat at home to Hampton & Richmond dropped us out of a playoff spot. But there are 4 clubs vying for the final 2 play-off spots. It looks like Braintree will be champions and gain automatic promotion, while Fisher and Heybridge Swifts look to have secured two of the four playoff positions. That leaves Hampton & Richmond, Staines and Worthing all on 66 points and AFCW on 65 points. All have 5 games to play. AFCW do at this point in time have a better goal difference. Worthing appear to have the easier schedule while Staines looks to be the hardest. Both AFCW and Hampton have a couple of tough games on paper. So it is anybody's guess who will make the playoffs. The Hampton game was a sad affair, before the largest crowd of the season. AFCW were never in the game. Listening to the game on WDON it sounded like they barely even turned up, the defense seemed non-existent. They have to throw that game out and get their collective heads back into the next few games and put us in a position to have a chance at promotion. This was a sad end to a series of good results and strong performances.

A midweek game following the Hampton game saw the Dons reach the final of the Surrey Senior Cup for the second successive season. It will be a homely final, as Kingstonian won the other semi-final to ensure the cup remains at Kingsmeadow.

Latest Up-to-date news on the play-off hunt: Another disastrous result at Billericay, a 2 – 1 loss and had Shane Smeltz and Dwayne Plummer sent off in the second half. This could affect our playoff chances as both Shane and Dwayne will have to miss three games. Couple that with goalie Andy Little having to miss a game for his sending off against H & R, and you can see we have an uphill climb. The good news from this past weekend was the clubs above, except for Staines (who beat Walton), all lost. Hampton lost again and Worthing also lost. So we are still in with a shout. However, the team will have to step up a little better than they have done in the last 2 Premier league games. John French, may be our hope and lifeline to the playoffs. Cheer them on John!

On the Surrey Senior Cup final front, after some controversy about the venue for the final, they had proposed Imber Court (Met. Police's ground), the Surrey FA have decided on Woking as being the venue for the final.

If my memory serves me right it is scheduled for Friday 12th May. Romour has it SoCal is planning a repeat trip. He was there for the victory last year and hopefully he can handle the cup a second year in succession.

Let's keep the faith and help our boys get to the playoff's and bring a cup home again!

On the business front, as mentioned earlier, by an almost unanimous vote the membership of the Dons Trust and AFCW approved the resolution to enter into a loan agreement with Barclay's Bank. This will facilitate the early retirement of the Khosla loan and a reduced interest rate on the new loan facility with Barclays. This new loan facility will provide access to 600,000.00 pounds. Of this, something less than 400,000.00 pounds will be used to pay off Mr. Khosla, while the remaining 200,000.00 pounds (plus) will be available for other purposes such as the possible purchase of the surrounding lease and any possible improvements required to make the ground suitable for conference play (Hopefully)!

Don't forget, you can listen to the Home games on the Internet at 'www.wdon.com', and while enjoying the game you can hook up to the new chat-room at: '<http://www.afcwgb.co.uk/gb.php>' and chat with some of your fellow Dons. Several of the US Dons are on there as are some of the other distant supporters and the home based supporters who can't make the game in person. Hope to see some of you out there in the coming weeks.

Guest Column:

No Input for the guest column this month

I know there are some silver tongued devils out there who would love to send in worthy piece of news

Any and all is welcome

Fundraising Activities

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, it is time to begin thinking about if we want to again “Sponsor a Player’s Kit” for next year. Based on last years cost, and with almost 50 US Dons members, a small donation of approximately \$10 per member would cover the cost. It is a small price to pay for our long distance support. It let’s the club and players know they have our support, despite the distance between us. It is encouraging to see so many of you on the “Old Centrals” chat-room every weekend and hear the US dons mentioned over the Dons network. Let’s keep our support going for our club!

Despite the Khosla debt being distinguished in the not to distant future, the Barclay’s loan agreement will require continued fundraising support. We can still do our part and we need your help to come up with some ideas. An idea Nic McJannet put forward last year was to develop a “US Don’s” calendar with hot spots from the states of our members. Maybe even slap a picture of the US Dons from that state? What do you think? Send in pictures that may fit the bill. I am working with someone to see how we could do it. If this works we need to start on it now and have it ready for sale by September at the latest. We could probably even ship some over to the Club shop to sell!

If you look on the “ItmustbeDons” website, Paul Raymond, webmaster, lists an Amazon.com web click-thru. For any purchases initiated from the “ItmustbeDons” web-site, Amazon funds a donation (commission). This is paid quarterly and Paul passes on the donation to the AFCW Stadium Fund. For the year Paul indicated this enterprise netted over 850.00 for the Fund. SoCal, maybe we could set up a similar setup on our website? What do you think.

We need some:

New Ideas

Send us your ideas for other fundraising activities we could embark upon. One thought is to have some US Dons team shirts made up, which we could proudly wear on our trips back to the homeland. Any takers on this?

AFCW and Cancer Research:

OK ... I'm still plugging the cancer research – It does not impact you while you are on the computer and it does not cause you or your computer harm. Give it a try! If it doesn't work for you, then remove the driver.

AFC Wimbledon has always had an affiliation with supporting Cancer research (it has been one of the recipients of the Walk(s) for Wimbledon sponsorships). There is a program that has been in operation for some time, whereby, you can link your home computers to a Grid supporting cures for cancer. The program runs in the background of your PC and will not inhibit your use of the computer, but will run programs when your computer is idle and utilise any free CPU time. A couple of us have set up an AFC Wimbledon team on the grid and are donating our free CPU time to the cause. If you would like to join, I have attached a link to the team below. Click to this site, download the driver and join the team. Each participant and team gain points. It is a good way to advertise and promote the club. Later on we may be able to gain some sponsorships, based on points earned, that could be shared amongst the club and cancer research.

'<http://www.grid.org/services/teams/team.htm?id=C89CDDA3-BE3D-4D7B-8601-87BB77C8329A>'

There are at least 16 football clubs with 'teams' associated with this research, the largest being Liverpool. We are working on a table that will rank the football club teams, by points, by members, etc. Obviously the more team members you have the more points you can accumulate. We can make this a fun thing that can derive great benefits for everyone. So come on all of you, go out to the above link and join the fight against cancer.

If any of you have had trouble getting on to this site, they have had a few problems during a system upgrade. Things are back to normal now, so please take a look and feel free to join up for this worthy cause.

Contacts

Here we will list contact information for those of you who want to share. Who knows, in our travels we may be in a fellow supporters area and get together for a beer and chat. Sign up is optional.

David Garlinge (Limeydg)
206 Winding Road
Friendswood, Texas 77546
e-mail: davgarlinge@aol.com
phone: (281) 482-6034

Dave Hambly (SoCalDon)
Burbank, CA.
e-mail: dave@usdons.com

Nic McJannett (Carolina Don)
Charlotte, NC
e-mail: nicmcj@aol.com

Robert Smith (WDSA)
Australia
e-mail: wdsa@optusnet.com.au

Websites of interest

Official Website - contains schedule, results and game reports:

www.afcwimbldeon.co.uk

WISA: www.wisa.org.uk

Tony Kempster's site: www.tonykempster.btinternet.co.uk

Paul Raymond - ItmustbeDons: www.itmustbedons.com

Ryman League: www.isthmian.co.uk

DonsOnline: www.donsonline.co.uk

Radio WDON: www.wdon.com

NEW chat-room: <http://www.afcwgb.co.uk/gb.php>