

AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

Issue 14 – August 2006

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Finally, Pre-season friendlies are over and the real season begins! What is in store for our Club? I think after a satisfactory finish, in the playoffs' last year, the expectations this year will be promotion. Last season was a holding season, a chance to settle the spurt and put the roots in place for a stronger team, in an effort to solidify our promotion chances. What are your feelings? Has Dave Anderson and his staff done a good job of recruiting? We have seen a hefty turnover since the start of last season, the revolving door has been spinning. Do you think the team is stronger? Where do you think the team will finish this year? Will we gain automatic promotion with a top-spot finish or will we have to endure the playoffs' for promotion to be gained?

Send in your views and we will publish them and give a synopsis of where the US Dons Supporters feel the club will finish. E-mail your responses to me at: davgarlinge@aol.com.

Not too much news on the US Don's front. The proposal to renew our kit sponsorship did not receive much interest. A good deal of you continue to hit the Don's chat line and I'm sure interest will resurface as the new season gets underway.

Don't forget to check out the club news on the official website. Also Paul Raymond's "Itmustbedons" website is a great source for Wimbledon news. For Home games you can dial up "Radio Wdon" and listen to some interesting commentary as well as some interesting and little known statistics. And while listening to the commentary you can go to the Old Central web-page for some spirited chat with other Don's fans from all over the world, and I mean all over the world. This past weekend for the first game at Carshalton, there were chatters from Bulgaria, France, Canada, The US (west coast, east coast and southern Gulf coast) as well as several places in the UK from fans who couldn't make the game.

The web-sites are listed at the end of the newsletter.

Anyone interested in playing in a Premiership fantasy league, a free one, can log into 'www.fantasy.premierleague.com' and sign up. There is an AFC Wimbledon league (go to the Join a League section and enter the code: 8341-2232), as well as the overall league and various country leagues. If there is any interest we can also set up a US Dons league as a little rivalry

amongst ourselves. Let me know if you're interested and I can set up the league.

As always, any news items, comments or ideas are welcome.

We have a contacts page attached, and anyone who doesn't mind sharing his or her information, 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.

Stay in touch.....

“Come on you DON'S”

You can reach me:

Via e-mail: davgarlinge@aol.com,

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David Garlinge
(Limeydg)

AFCW News

The new season began this past weekend with an away game at Carshalton, who were relegated last year from the Conference South. Wimbledon took a 1 – 0 lead into half time and doubled that in the second half. As was the habit of the Don's last year they had to make it interesting! And, after Carshalton halved the lead in the closing minutes it was nail-biting time as Carshalton set up shop in the Don's penalty area in an effort to gain the equaliser. Some stout defending saved the day and the Dons came away with a 2 – 1 victory and the three points. Our goals were scored by Richard Butler, who looks like he is back to full strength after missing most of the Pre-season, and Roscoe D'Sane, our new signing from Aldershot.

Last night, the Dons played their first home league game of the season, against newly promoted Ramsgate, who had won a convincing opening game on Saturday. The Dons had most of the chances in the first half and were unlucky not to score on several occasions and the score remained 0 – 0 at halftime. The second half was a little more even, though the Dons still were the dominant team. However, they could not breakdown the Ramsgate defense. The Final score was 0 – 0, and judging by the antics of the Ramsgate players, they were elated at going home with a point. It will be interesting to see Dave Anderson's comments on the game, but I would expect him to be sorry to not get all three points, but impressed with the workload of the team as a whole. A little bit of luck and we could have had all three points. The crowd for the game was 2,290, not reaching the averages of last years home attendance, but probably a good crowd for a midweek game. There are a couple of teams that have managed two straight wins and we are locked in a tie for second with several other teams on 4 points.

Another home game this coming Saturday (8/26/06), so be sure to tune in Radio Wdon on the web and join in the chit-chat at the Old Centrals chat room.

COME ON YOU DON'S

Guest Column:

This month's Guest column is a BIO of "Carolina Don", Nic McJannett. My apologies to Nic, he sent me his Bio in December of 2005, and I somehow misplaced it. But what better time than to share it with you all than the start of the new season. Hopefully, it will encourage more of you to send your BIO's in and share you details with your other US Dons supporters.

I was first introduced to Wimbledon FC by my Granddad and Uncle, Freddie and Jamie Mead. My Great Granddad had actually played for the Dons at Plough Lane, probably in the late thirties, I'm guessing, and my Granddad used to mess about on what would become the away-end next to the River Wandle, while he played. Though Freddie stopped going regularly to the games in the early nineties, Jamie is still heavily involved at AFC.

My first game was definitely against Shrewsbury Town – I remember this as we had moved from Shrewsbury to Leatherhead in 1980, and then on to Chessington in about '83 – and I think that first game would have been about 1985. If I remember correctly, we won 2 – 1, and although I would always remain fond of the Shrews, I was forever a Womble after that day! That Christmas, I spent most of the holidays walking around in my new Wimbledon kit, and pretty much lived for Saturday afternoons down at Plough Lane. For several years, until work, relationships, and the move to Selhurst interrupted my near continual existence at Plough Lane, I would religiously arrive at midday to claim our regular spot on the West Bank with my best mate DJ. We never had much cash in those days (nothing's really changed there, then), so we would often be confined to one program between the two of us, sharing a box of Basset's Allsorts (humourously sold by the rather shady looking vendor inside the West Bank turnstiles), and bottle of tasteless pop.

I have to say, those afternoons were pure magic! Wimbledon were fairly invincible for the next few seasons, and yes, DJ and I were there in '88. But other great memories were, going so crazy when the Dons equalised against Norwich on their way up to the old Div. 1 that we missed the fact that we scored AGAIN within about 45 seconds! We actually got all the way home before realising we had won and not drawn! Beating Everton 3 – 1 in our first live televised game in the FA Cup, and nearly getting killed by a Vinnie Jones free kick up at Mansfield on the way to Cup Glory. The crazy thing is, I think it was an indirect free kick inside the area – we were so tightly packed in to that little terrace we couldn't get out of the way when Vinnie somehow missed the goal from eight yards out. We ducked, but some poor guy behind us never got up again....!

But life moved on, DJ moved to Perth, Australia, and my interest waned in the Selhurst years. I can distinctly remember thinking on one of those increasingly rare visits to Thornton Heath station that I would rather watch Wimbledon in the non-leagues at Plough Lane than continue this pointless pilgrimage. In fact, had my mother not become the secretary to the head of Football in the community at WFC, I probably would have stopped going altogether. As it turned out, for a couple of years in the late nineties, my

involvement with the club was mainly as coach on the kids summer soccer courses, and sometimes working in the club porta-cabin offices at Selhurst while at university in Strawberry Hill. But when WFC went North, I have to admit, my enthusiasm went South, and I really couldn't be bothered to even try and stay involved.

I had never been involved in WISA, or any of the protests and campaigns at Selhurst to turn the club and FA's decision around, except for writing one or two letters to the local newspapers. To be honest, my enthusiasm had dipped too much at that stage, so I couldn't claim any personal involvement in the formation of AFC, or the Dons Trust. But as soon as I heard what was going on, I joined the Trust, and found my way to the Sutton United game for the first ever AFC kick-off. As I stood on the terrace of Gander Green Lane with my younger brother Les, I just knew that the Dons that got me through my teenage years, the Dons that changed me from a Shropshire wanderer to a true Londoner, the Dons that won me over and made Saturdays magical, were BACK. And so was I...!

Well, long story short – after two years of renewed Womble-magic at the meadow of Kings, I met my now wonderful wife Amy. The only problem was she rather inconveniently lived in Charlotte, North Carolina! But when you're hooked, your hooked, and although I miss the Dons terribly, Amy was well worth the 4,000-mile trip and the ongoing battle with the US immigration service! (Anyone else been there...??). I think the Dons would understand, and by the wonder of technology, I get to listen to the games on Radio Wdon. Between my wife, the warmer weather, the Charlotte Bobcats and the Carolina Panthers, I just about get through without being at KM, but one day soon I'd love to get back for a game.

Away from football, I work as a payroll technician in Downtown Charlotte, am a regular chess-player on the wonderful 'chessworld.net' website (playing under the nick-name of AFCDon!), and enjoy trying to find real English Ale in the supermarkets of North Carolina ☺

Come On You Dons!

Nic (a.k.a. Carolina Don)

Thanks Nic, and again apologies for being so late in publishing your BIO. Welcome, belatedly to the US Dons. Also as a side note, does DJ know about WDSA? There is a link to Robert Smith of WDSA at the end of this newsletter, be sure to pass it on to him.

OK fellow US Dons, its not hard Keep (Start) sending those BIO'S and let your fellow Dons know who you are!

SoCal You owe me yours! Or do I have to make one up?

Fundraising Activities

Not much interest seems to have been generated lately on the fundraising front! In the past we have had two “Don’s Diets”, there has been a couple of E-Bay auctions of Don’s memorabilia and last year we sponsored a kit.

Anyone have any ideas of how we can show support of our club?
Send in your suggestions and let’s show the club they have our support.

Anyone with ideas to help us show support for our club is encouraged to send their ideas to us. E-mail them to Dave Hambly or myself.

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.

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.

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Dave Hambly (SoCalDon)
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Nic McJannett (Carolina Don)
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Robert Smith (WDSA)
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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 (Old Centrals): <http://www.afcwgb.co.uk/gb.php>