

AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

Issue 21 – March 2007

Contents:

US Dons – News

AFCW News

Guest Column

Fundraising Activities

Contacts

US Dons – News

Very little news to report on the US Don's front this month. SoCal has set up a fantasy baseball league for any of you who are interested. The season is only a few weeks away, so e-mail him if you want to join.

I am sure you are all aware of the efforts underway to put pressure on the Football League as they prepare to hear our appeal, for the points deduction by the Ryman League, next Monday 3/26/07. An Early Day Motion (EDM) was placed in parliament and has been supported by a host of MP's. Also, a petition was posted on the Prime Minister's web-site that has already received well over 8.000 signatures. If any of you have not signed, be sure to go out to the site and sign. The more votes the better and the publicity for the club is also increased. The question even came up in the commons during the Prime Ministers question time, and even he thought it was "daft"! This piece even made it to Sky Sports News, a link to the clip can be found on itmustbedons. Wonder if that will put any additional pressure on the committee hearing the appeal?

As always, we are looking for input from any of you. Any tid-bits to share, history of yourselves or the club that other members would find entertaining. Do you have any old memorabilia, that may interest your fellow Dons supporters, or any other tidbit that might interest your fellow supporters, please send them to me and I will get it published. E-mail your responses to me at: davgarlinge@aol.com.

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

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

The team has experience a couple of disappointing results, a loss away to Hendon followed by a home draw against Worthing. Both of these teams are firmly placed in the lower half of the league and are teams we should beat easily, although Hendon have since followed up with a victory over Bromley. Unfortunately, this has been a major failing of the team all season long. Too many poor results against the lower teams. This weekend will be a big test, an away game at Hampton & Richmond, our nemesis team! They are one of the clubs that could overtake us! A victory would keep us in fairly good stead.

We remain in the top three (pending our appeal for the points' deduction), but have two or three teams below us with points in hand that could move above us. At this point in time, if the appeal goes against us, our hopes of even making a playoff position are looking bleak. Even a 9 point deduction (half of the original penalty), will mean we would have to win our remaining 8 games and hope for some good results with the other top teams. This is not beyond possibility; the last couple of weeks have seen several results go our way.

Let's keep the faith!

COME ON YOU DON'S

Guest Column:

Thanks to Robert Smith and the WDSA for once again sharing some articles for the guest column:

Fats Domino and the Dons Wizard of OZ

There's a scene somewhere in the long and tedious Lord of the Rings trilogy where Gandalf (a life-long Wimbledon supporter) emerges dressed in white on a white charger and stills the seething commotion for a moment before clinching Good's extra-time victory in the penalty shoot-out over Evil. The scene, I am convinced, was based on a real-life incident I witnessed at that fortress of Scottish hatred, Hampden Park, in 1968. 134,000 baying Picts were laying siege to England's Wall; amid the maelstrom the white-shirted Bobby Charlton emerged and stilled the seething commotion. Defending on the edge of his penalty area he stepped over the ball as 134,000 Scotsmen were leaving the stadium, turning, he calmly passed the ball to safety and the 134,000, returning to their seats like the tide, afforded him an appreciative and generous round of applause. An event such as this is a life-long memory, a memory so vivid that it travels with you to the grave (not that I can confirm this yet, but should it be the case, Rob Smith will receive his first posthumous contribution to his newsletter).

Some events are trivial, some of great importance. For instance, were you there when self-appointed hard man Tommy Cunningham bit the nose of the opposing centre-forward? Sent off for his troubles he was but we all thought it was worth it. Or when the free-scoring centre forward Ted MacDougall (he really was 'free scoring' – he once scored eight goals against Bournemouth in one game) ventured to take a corner at an evening match at Plough Lane on a winter's night. A wag shouted at him from the dark "Oi! MacDougall!" The striker ignored him but the voice repeated, and insisted again as MacDougall moved forward to the ball. In his annoyance he stopped his run, turned and replied "What?" and the voice in the dark called "You're useless!" The West Bank collapsed in laughter.

Then there was that Eddie Reynolds moment, except it wasn't Reynolds, it was Stewart Evans, launching, literally, his Wimbledon career when he met Mark Elliot's cross with his forehead, parallel in a full length dive, to burst the back of the net against Moscow Dynamo.

Again, in front of the West Bank on a cold dark evening. The floodlighting enhancing the scene with luminosity you could not have in daylight. I bumped into Stewie Evans in a pub in Carshalton, an unassuming bloke; the team were celebrating promotion to the then First Division. Players' wives and girlfriends were there too including Kathy Cork. Corkie was all sharp ironic wit, happily taking the piss out of team-mates but she quietly told me "He'll never score in the First Division....." Neither of us could imagine that he would be in the side at Wembley in 1988.

This, obviously, brings me to Fats Domino, who penned his famous classic "I found my thrill, on Wimbledon Hill" the night the FA Cup came down Wimbledon Hill. It sat at the front of the team coach, gleaming like Frodo's Ring against the black of the evening,

with Bobby Gould sitting alongside with a grin to match. The coach stopped at the lights outside the Alex; as the air brakes hissed and groaned the crowd raised their pints of Young's Ordinary in salute; it was at this moment that Fats became a life-long Wimbledon supporter.

Not many people know this!

I wasn't there when the black balloons soared into the sky from Selhurst; I wasn't there when Terry Eames inspired the pioneers at the Fox & Grapes in the bar that used to be the changing room of the Old Centrals, nor when Joe Sheerin led out the new Wimbledon at Sutton United, but Gandalf was there (some thought it was Concorde flying by...) and so were 6,000 fans and their memories of the moment will likely last a life-time.

As I have said before, it is history, the history of a football club that lasts forever in the mind. Moments that still burn brightly when the rest of your memory cells are fading into the mists of time. Moments that help define why you support your club, moments, that the flat battery of a football club 70 miles north of London can never hope to enjoy. And perhaps this season will provide more of those moments as the team, flirting and teasing like Kylie (yes, you guessed it, another Wimbledon supporter) tantalizes us with the prospect of a third promotion in five seasons?

The dark events of ineligibility (the FA are not Wimbledon supporters) seem to have galvanized the team into positive action so will the faceless men at the Ryman League (maybe they support Wimbledon, maybe they don't) defy Erik (Now, there is the definition of the true Wimbledon supporter!) and place a speed bump in the progress of AFC Wimbledon?

"I found my thrill on Wimbledon Hill..."

C'mon you Dons!

Fundraising Activities

The club continued their evermore famous luncheon with a star, this time it was Lawrie Sanchez, scorer of our FA Cup winning goal and current Northern Ireland manager. The event was its usual success and a few quid raised to help reduce the debt. Another fundraiser is in operation “the Walk for Wimbledon”. Funds raised from this event are split between the club and charities.

With the season drawing quickly to a close, and the new season just a few months away, it is time to bring up the question! Do we want to sponsor a kit for the next season? We sponsored a kit two years ago, but didn't get it together last year, for this season.

It is a relatively cheap affair if we all kick in. A full kit is around 200 pounds, with things like socks and goalie gloves, etc. cheaper options. We have about 50 US Dons supporters, so a full kit would cost us approximately \$10.00 each.

Let us know how you feel about this and between SoCal and I we can set it up and get it going in time for the new season.

Let's all stand up and support our club and help make a difference! We can't engage in the day to day activities but we can let them know we care and still support our club!

In the past we have had a couple of E-Bay auctions of Don's memorabilia, courtesy of SoCalDon. Does anyone have some interesting memorabilia that could induce some big spenders to help the cause?

These are just a few ideas, does anyone have any other 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.

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 (Old Centrals): <http://www.afcwgb.co.uk/gb.php>