

AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

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Contents:

US Dons – News

AFCW News

Guest Column

Fundraising Activities

Contacts

US Dons – News

The good news is the 18 point reduction was reduced to 3 points and we are still in the playoff picture. This weekend is “D” day! If we win we are guaranteed at least one playoff game, and the possibility still of promotion. Even without a win we could conceivably gain a playoff spot.

It is hard to imagine the team with the least amount of losses and the least amount of goals scored against them is not walking away with the league. Unfortunately, we also lead the league in the number of games drawn, and consequently we do not have enough victories!

Anyway, nail-biting time again this weekend watching Paul Raymond’s website (Itmustbedons.com) for updates and talking to the other unfortunate fans, that can’t make it to East Thurrock, in the chat-room. What better way to spend a Saturday morning?

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.

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David Garlinge
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AFCW News

A series of draws and a defeat in the run-in have cost the team automatic promotion, and a victory in the last game of the regular season is needed to ensure a play-off spot. Even with a victory it looks like we will need to win two away games to gain the second promotion spot. Hopefully, Hampton & Richmond will secure the title and the automatic promotion spot. Based on our record against them we do not need to meet them in the play-offs. I think it is five games in a row we have lost to them. We can hold our own against the other teams in the playoff picture, which look to be Bromley, Chelmsford and Billericay. For Margate to make the playoff picture, we would have to lose our game at East Thurrock, while they win their final game at Hendon. Let's hear a cheer for Hendon, they owe us one. It is hard to look back at a season with so much potential ending in this way. The exploits in the cups are not diminished by our eventual exit for rules violations and we can be proud of the teams' performance. The league left a lot to be desired, too many draws and not enough wins. If just two or three of the draws were converted to wins we would be the team in the automatic promotion berth, carrying the Ryman league title with us. With one game to play over 40% of our league games were drawn. Oh! How a little more fire-power could have helped us to our desired goal.

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 and “Barnsley” Dave Norris for his tasty article:.

Who Ate All the Pies? ‘Barnsley’ Dave Norris

There’s a lot at stake this season. Or should that be a lot of steak?

Well, there will be if you buy one of the succulent steak and kidney pies that are on sale at Kingsmeadow. Plenty of meat in there unlike some of the pies on sale at other outlets, which seem full of gravy and other bits of flotsam which may or may not contain meat! Not cheap at 2 pound .50pence a time but worth the extra without a shadow of a doubt. Remember, these pies have had glowing endorsements from such well-fed Dons as Big Fat Cat and Chalfers ye Buffet Slayer, who know a thing or three about pies!

Well, food in general if the truth be known. Since earlier glitches regarding availability and warmness or otherwise have seemingly been sorted out there’s nothing nicer after a couple of hours Golden Goal ticket selling than tucking into a nice warm pie. They even cater to those strange veggie people with veggie pasties!

Elsewhere in the Ryman League, the food can be a bit hit and miss especially when the Wombles come to town. Slough/Windsor last season, do a mean bacon roll, except when their team is playing Wimbledon. Not enough time apparently because the ovens are too small, much to the chagrin of the food guru Big Fat Cat!

Staines put their burger price up for the Wombles visit last season and liked it so much they kept the price on a permanent basis this season.

Ashford do a quite reasonable pie for 1 pound 50 pence a time and while it is nothing special (sexist [police look away for now) one of the ladies in the tea bar is more than ample compensation.

Aldershot were cheap and cheerful pies with a decent selection and served by friendly helpful staff, but for me the best pie this season was the chicken balti on sale at Exeter. Maybe it was the nearly four hour journey without food (though I did have 2 rolls in a drinking establishment pre pies) or the fresh Devon air, but the two pies really hit the spot. Plenty of chicken and a nice spicy tangy taste got me all primed for a great day, which Exeter didn’t manage to spoil, despite the result.

One sad thing to report was that I was only third in the queue when the pie kiosk opened, a fact I attribute to being too busy watching the hordes of Wombles arriving. Must learn to get my priorities right!

Sadly, staple Northern fare of pie and mushy (sloppy) peas are in very short supply around Southern non-league grounds. In fact they have been non existent so far. Burgers and hot dogs seem much more commonplace, probably because they are easier to pre-cook. However, I feel it is my duty to hungry Wombles to carry on searching, and in the meantime carry on testing the food that is available. All in the interests of research of course. Watch this rather large space!

On the Trevor Williams situation, I think it's a disgrace that some people are calling for his head over the 'clerical error' on the international clearance for Jermaine Darlington. He made a genuine slip-up and we got punished severely for it, far too much in my view. Trevor works tirelessly for the club, travels to many reserve and academy games working for the club and is a genuine nice bloke. Having got a copy of the Ryman handbook, the rules and regulations that have to be followed are endless. While I'm not sure exactly what Trevor's job entails I presume he is involved in transfers, player registration, contacting various bodies regarding club matters, Health and Safety as well as traveling to various matches with the academy team. He also has various matchday duties and if memory serves me correct he does part of the groundsman's job as well. He's put in countless hours for the club and he was absolutely gutted at the slip-up. He missed the Harrow game but was there for the visit of East Thurrock. My opinion is that we learn from the mistake, and if at all possible put procedures into place where this can't happen again and try our bloody hardest to persuade Trevor to carry on as club secretary.

Fundraising Activities

There have been several responses in favour of trying to sponsor a kit for next season. I will contact SoCal and see how we can set something up for this. We have a couple of months before this would have to be sent in. Check next month's newsletter for news on this.

If we can't collect the funds to support a full kit (around 200 pounds / \$400), there are other options like socks and goalie gloves which are cheaper.

Let's all stand up and get behind 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!

AFCW and Cancer Research:

For those members who helped support cancer research by joining the grid, mentioned in previous letters, Thank You. The grid site is closing down. Not that the research is closing down. The efforts of the many people linking to this site and sharing their computer resources has helped researchers make many important strides in how to treat and beat Cancer. The fight is by no means over, and as something similar is ushered in we will again let you know how you can help fight the threat of cancer. Again, Thank You all who participated.

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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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>