

AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

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US Dons – News

Well back to normal. Hurricane season is nearly over and I have exhausted my vacation for the year.

I am happy to say this last vacation, brought about a resurgence in AFC Wimbledon's form. (I can't take all the credit, as they seem to have been improving now for several weeks). I did, however, seem to help them find their goal scoring ways. I witnessed a 4 – 0 victory at Windsor and Eton, followed by a 3 – 0 home victory against Maldon Town. To be honest the main reason for this was also down to the forward line getting back to health and playing together again. Richard Butler, Shane Smeltz and Matt Fowler are a forward line to be feared in the Ryman Premier League.

Unfortunately, due to some late scheduling of the Staines cup game, I left that morning on my return trip. Though it didn't seem to slow the Don's down as they had an impressive victory to move into the next round of the Westfield Cup (formerly Bryco Cup).

I am again going to skip the member BIO this month, due to time constraints, and this time I won't promise to get it in for the next newsletter. I am still looking for input from a lot of you out there. Please keep them coming so we can get to know one another. Also you can help me out with some guest columns or anything else of interest to fellow Don's supporters.

The guest column this month is again from Robert Smith of the WDSA (Wombles Down-under Supporters Association). Previously I had noted they had just delivered their 150th newsletter. This article recognises their 20th anniversary. What an accomplishment. I wonder if we will be able to reach those lofty heights? Their newsletters are hard copies. I will try and download one and send you all a copy. It is impressive and I would only hope we could come close to duplicating it.

Our membership continues to grow, with another new addition from North Carolina, NicMcJ, haven't yet got his full name and details, but will expect a Bio from him soon.

We have also been supportive of the WISA groups effort to locate old Wimbledon players to build the ranks of the Wimbledon Old Players Association (WOPA). We located Terry Phelan, who now resides in

Pennsylvania. He has since joined WOPA. Visit the WISA website for information and check out all the old players that have joined the AFCW clan.

Don't forget, send me your BIO's and any newsworthy items you would like to submit. We are still interested in any ideas you might have to assist in fundraising activities to help the club.

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AFCW News

The good news is the Don's team form has been improving over the last month and a half. Dave Anderson's squad is finally overcoming some early season injuries and he is getting his strongest squad out on the pitch at the same time.

An early exit from the FA Cup has been followed by our best showing in the FA Trophy. We have just moved into the third qualifying round with a 2 – 1 replay victory at the Meadow, following a weekend 1 – 1 draw at Ramsgate. The victory sends us to the next round at Dartford at the end of this month. This victory brings a well deserved boost to the finances of 2,000 pounds. A good run in this competition will once again help reduce the ground fund debt to the Khosla's.

The league form has improved too. Instead of the run of draws we have since a string of victories. Our one recent loss, at Bromley, was due primarily to being short three suspended players.

It was nice to see us mentioned in the Home programme as kit sponsors for Amadou Kouman. I will attach a copy in the next newsletter, for you all to enjoy.

Don't forget, you can listen to the Home games on the Internet at 'www.wdon.com'. While listening visit the new chat room '<http://www.afcwgb.co.uk/gb.php>' and visit with some of your fellow members. Several of the US Dons are regulars and join in the friendly conversation with fellow supporters across the globe. Hope to see some of you out there. .

Guest Column:

This latest guest column has again been submitted by Robert Smith of the Wombles Down-under Supporters Association, and recognises their 20th anniversary. What an achievement! Thanks Robert and Congratulations to you and the rest of the Wombles Down-under.

WDSA's 20th birthday
By Robert Smith

YOU want to hear something scary? WDSA turned 20 in October. That's right, WDSA has been going for 20 Wimbledon seasons and what's more remarkable is that it's still alive in non-league!!! For those of you who have been along for the ride for a great part of that time, it's become like wearing an old comfy shoe. The *Wombles Downunder* newsletter has chronicled the joyous and traumatic events through the eyes of the supporters. Much of what you read in each issue, you would have to agree, comes from the heart. Opinions are expressed, some forthrightly, some with sagacity, but the newsletter has become a forum of ideas and views as it was originally intended. In our time we've seen Wimbledon attain the 'unthinkable' and gain promotion into the old Division One and what's more beat Manchester United, Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal, Tottenham, Everton as well. Then came that momentous day, May 14 1988... the day that shook English football when the rank-outsiders Wimbledon beat the 'Culture Club' Liverpool with that unforgettable goal from Lawrie Sanchez and Dave Beasant's penalty save. People may dismiss the impact of the Dons, but it is well worth remembering that the Dons were in the top flight for 14 years before that traumatic day (May 14) at Southampton when a 2-0 loss relegated Wimbledon and triggered the much-despised hijack of the club from its south-west London roots afield to Milton Keynes. The club's disenfranchised fans gained national fame by starting their own club from scratch, the one we now follow in their climb to, hopefully, a place in the Football League. For such a club with humble origins there is much to be proud about following Wimbledon. The ups-and-downs, the shady and inspiring characters have conditioned us all to football 'life' and with which makes our club so special. I can't say how long WDSA will go on for, I really didn't think it would last this long, but raise a glass today and toast what we have. One of the great legacies WDSA has provided is a means for Wimbledon supporters, whether here or overseas, to share a common link, and if just for that these past 20 years have been well worth the ride.

Fundraising Activities

It looks like Amadou Kouman, our kit sponsorship player is nearing a return to first team duty. He has now had a couple of games under his belt in the reserves and is regaining his match fitness. We wish him Good Luck and a speedy return.

Our latest recruit, 'NicMcJ' of North Carolina, has offered a fundraising idea. Nic has suggested we design a calendar with some of our supporters wearing their AFCW kit in their state of residence. Sounds like a good idea, but a little late for this coming years calendar. I think I will be able to produce a calendar and get them printed. What I need from the rest of you are the pictures. Each of us live in States that have some unique features and would make a desirable calendar. We could even ship a supply of the calendars to the Wimbledon shop at Kingsmeadow. Thanks Nic for the idea. Let's keep the ideas coming:

We need some more:

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.

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Websites of interest

Official Website - contains schedule, results and game reports:

www.afcwimbledeon.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>