

AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

Issue 1 – June 2005

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As a lifelong Don's supporter and a 28 year ex-pat, I was surprised to receive an e-mail, a few short months ago from Dave Hambly. Another Don's supporter and a fellow ex-pat. We had been listening to a Don's game on www.wdon.com and messaging on www.wierdandwonderful.com and getting on different associated don's websites. He had hatched a plan to put up a US Don's website. Did I think it would work? What were views on it, etc. How quickly things take off! Here we are now, with 34 North American members and fourteen Honorary members. I think we can grow even bigger. We haven't even tapped the whole market. I know of other potential members, and I am sure many of you do too.

Dave Hambly (SoCalDon), has done a superb job with the website.

We are but one of many arms of a worldwide network of Don's supporters clubs, joining groups from Australia, Norway and Sweden to name just a few. You troll the chat rooms and the various Don's related websites and you see fervent supporters from all over the globe.

We are a well spread-out group, and it will be tough to do a lot of things together. However, I will be glad to publish a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter to try and keep us all on the same page.

If you like the idea of a newsletter, please feel free to send comments, ideas, suggestions or even topics to add.

Several of us have made trips home during the season and been to see the team play, Dave Hambly, Alex Low and myself to name a few. Send us your comments and we can add those to the next newsletter.

Another thought was to have a member bio each newsletter, our ties to Wimbledon, the reason we support the club and what we want to see in the future.

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David Garlinge
(Limeydg).

AFC Wimbledon – Champions Again

At the time of writing this, it has been another successful season for AFC Wimbledon. A second successive season where the league and cup double was achieved. Only this time in a stronger league and a more competitive cup campaign. They also had a hugely successful run in the F. A. Cup. The club, as a whole, has acquired many more trophies, with success in the junior programs and the ladies program:

The Ladies won the Surrey Senior Cup.

Several of the junior teams had success in their leagues as well as successful runs in their respective cup challenges.

This has been a very successful 3rd season for the NEW Dons. Congratulations to the playing staff, the management team and to the faithful fans, sponsors and volunteers.

What a tribute to the club and the fan base. Of all football league clubs, AFCW were the 93rd best supported team in the country. A non-league club that beat many teams in several divisions higher than the Ryman League division 1. I think the Ryman Premier division will be glad to have AFCW in their ranks and helping each team to bolster their finances when we come calling at their grounds.

Next year will bring new challenges. Stepping up another class and playing more formidable teams. Some we have beaten in this current campaign. Other's have shown us a thing or two. It will take another sterling effort from the whole team to keep our run of titles going. The Division title may be a tall order, but a playoff spot will be expected by most of the fans. Hopefully another successful run in the F. A. Cup will help us further reduce the ground fund debt.

What Next?

Just as AFCW has decisions on what is next on their agenda, and how to tackle the new season, we too have some questions:

Where do we want the “US Dons” to go?
How can we make a difference?

We are a diverse group, spanning the North American continent. Hard to meet up, but with communication channels the way they are today, we can certainly keep in touch, and most certainly do our fair share for our club. I assume most of us are share owners, part owners or in some other way supporting the club (AFCW, The Don’s Trust, WISA, etc). But we can’t support the club and the activities the way we could (and would) if we were back home.

What can WE DO?

Dave Hambly and I have kicked this around several times in e-mails. One thing we talked around was possibly sponsoring a kit or part of a kit for one of the players next season. The costs vary, starting from 20 pounds for sponsoring the socks for a single player. With 34 member’s, as of now, that is little more than \$1.00 per member. This brings a mention in each program of the “US Dons”, and lets the team know they have support over here.

Please give us your ideas and thoughts of where you would like to take this.

Don’s Diet II

Dave Hambly began the first diet earlier this year and had good success with it as a fundraiser (several dollars and pounds were raised). Don’s Diet II has just completed and with more participants. The numbers are still out on it’s success as a fundraiser. All funds raised go to reducing the ground debt.

Other Fundraising Opportunities

Memorabilia:

Dave Hambly recently auctioned off some old Wimbledon programs on E-Bay, the funds going to the AFCW ground fund. Amazingly two of the programs raised over \$150.00 each (both were from the 1930's era). If any of you have old Wimbledon memorabilia you want to find a home for and would be willing to donate to the cause, please contact Dave or myself.

AFCW and Cancer Research:

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 the 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>'

US Dons – BIO – David Garlinge

David Garlinge:

Born in Rose Hill, raised in Wimbledon. Lived on Haydon's Road until I was transferred over to the States in 1976. Lived in the Houston, Texas area ever since.

I have been a Wimbledon supporter all my life. From Isthmian League to their current status back in the Ryman League (still Isthmian League to me). Grew up with the likes of Mike Kelly, Roy Law, Eddie Reynolds and the Martin's (John and Brian), to name a few. Been to Wembley with them twice to savour two cup final victories. The Amateur Cup against Sutton where Eddie Reynolds headed the 4 goals to beat Sutton United 4 – 2. And then, flew home from Texas, for the FA Cup final victory over Liverpool. In between those games travelled to the FA cup victory at Burnley and the following two games against Leeds that propelled them into the Football League.

Get back home usually twice a year and manage anywhere from 3 – 6 games a year.

Employed in the computer software business.

Over here support the Houston Texans, Rockets and Astros. Currently have a small side bet with SoCalDon (Dave Hambly) on who will do better, the Astros or the Dodger's. The loser donates a few dollars to the AFCW ground fund (looks like I am on the short end of the stick right now).

Would like to see us all make a go of the US Dons and help AFCW make it back to the league and in a strong financial position.

Come On You Dons!!

If any of you are down Houston way, give me a call.

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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