

# AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

Issue 17 – November 2006

Contents:

US Dons – News

AFCW News

Guest Column

Fundraising Activities

Contacts

## *US Dons – News*

Good to see so many of you on the Old Centrals chat room for the various matches. Nice to let the folks on the other side of the pond know we are behind our team.

We have missed Radio.Wdon for a few weeks, but nice to see their return for the FA Trophy tie against Eastleigh. Hope some of you got to listen to it.

Steve Smith, one of our West Coast member's, sent in a picture of some old Don's memorabilia, which I have attached in the body of this newsletter. A blast into the past that brings back memories.

Nic McJannet, Carolina Don, has moved, but still resides in North Carolina.

If any of you have any old memorabilia, that may interest your fellow Dons supporters, please send them to me and I will get it published.

E-mail your responses to me at: [davgarlinge@aol.com](mailto: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.

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

We have a contacts page attached, and anyone who doesn't mind sharing their 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.

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David Garlinge  
(Limeydg).

## *AFCW News*

Our Cup season to date has for the most part been positive. After progressing to the 4<sup>th</sup> qualifying round of the FA Cup, we finally met our match against Conference club Exeter City. We gave them a run for the victory and a place in the first round with a chance of a tie against a league club 1, losing by a score of 2 – 1. AFCW took around 1500 supporters to the game and the crowd will ensure a good payday for the club.

AFCW have progressed to the first round of the FA Trophy after a thrilling replay at Eastleigh (A Conference South Club). The first game at home ended in a 1 – 1 tie. The replay at Eastleigh ended 1 – 1 at the end of regular time leading to extra time. AFCW had been a goal down and fought their way back to tie the game in the second half. AFCW scored in the first half of extra time only for Eastleigh to claim another equaliser in the second half. Then came the penalties, Eastleigh scored with their first, but D'Sane bought us back to a tie. Andy Little then became the Don's hero as he saved two of the next 3 penalties Eastleigh took. In the meantime the Dons scored three more times to assure victory and a first round tie at Conference club Aldershot. The tie, to be played on December 16<sup>th</sup> will bring Marcus Gayle back to his roots, while reuniting a couple of the Don's players with their former club. The tie again should be a boost to the club's financial picture, regardless of the result. We played Aldershot in a pre-season friendly at Kingsmeadow and they walked away with a 4 – 1 victory. Let's see if we can reverse the result.

On the other cup fronts we have not done so well, playing weaker teams we lost out in the London Senior Cup and the Westview cups. While it would be nice to win some silverware, DA's use of bringing fringe players and youth players in for experience, while resting some of the first team, may pay in the long run. The crowds for these smaller clubs were too big either.

In the league we stand in 9<sup>th</sup> place, but with games in hand of the majority of the teams above us. If we win those games in hand we would be in the top 4. Bromley has lost their unbeaten record with 2 losses in a row. This weekend we play Horsham, who we beat in the FA Cup, but who have a good league run and are currently top of the table. A victory on Saturday will put us in good shape for the holiday run-up.

On the squad side, Dave Anderson has brought in Jamie Darlington, an ex Wimbledon player, and he has certainly brought a high skill level to the left

side of the field. His pin point passing could easily have won him a couple of man-of-the-match awards, but as usual the goalscorers generally lift that trophy. While we have been experiencing some injury concerns the depth and strength of the squad has carried us and this augers well for the long haul.

On the financial front, the Barclay's loan was initiated and the Khosla loan has been paid off. I know everyone will be glad to see that behind us. It will, however, mean a stricter budget will be enforced with the need to make regular payments to Barclay's as opposed to the irregular ones to Khosla. The Trust had a major fundraiser in November, with a silent auction, and raised well over 2,000.00 pounds. The Don's draw continues to grow its monthly size and contribute greatly to the kitty. Several other initiatives are also contributing. Fundraising will continue to be a major source of revenue and we need to think about what we can do to support the cause.

COME ON YOU DON'S

## Guest Column:

This month's Guest column comes from "The Wizard of Oz", a stalwart member of The Don's Down Under Supporter's Club, our Australian counterparts.

### **The Laws of Nature**

The Universe is ancient; as old as Time itself, it's even older than my mother-in-law, God bless her, and from its inception certain Laws of Nature have applied – dog owners look like their dogs, referee's assistants have no understanding of the offside rule, and married women are never, ever, wrong.

What is also true is the peoples of each nation have their own characteristics – all Frenchman stink of Gauloise and garlic, and are arrogant; Germans have square heads, slap their thighs whilst wearing lederhosen, drink massive steins of lager, and are arrogant; Italians talk too fast, strike a pretty pose on a lambretta, have hairy armpits, and are arrogant, and Jose Mourinho represents Portugal so all Portuguese must be small, have a chip on their shoulder and are, well arrogant. The English, of course, are of superior breeding, basking in the faded glow of the British Empire, they can the capital cities of both Australia and Canada, regard fish and chips as haute cuisine and would never stoop to being arrogant, simply remaining aloof instead.

Football teams, too, have characteristics that seem not to change with the passage of time. Grainy images of Bolton Wanderers in the Stanley Matthews cup final are remarkably similar to highlights from the Reebok on the plasma TV at the RSL. Has Bolton ever changed colour from black shorts, white shirts and shades of grey? Watching Watford on TV this season I recognized them immediately because the garish red and yellow outfits made them look like hornets and all they seemed to do was bash the ball up field and chase after it. At any moment I expected Luther Blisset to club the ball into the net.

Think West Ham and what comes to mind? Claret and blue images of good passing and movement, attacking play with lots of goals at both ends, occasional cup runs? Bring to mind Tottenham and you could still go back to Arthur Rowe's push and run passing game of the fifties and see no change. Consider Liverpool and whether it's a Scot or a Scouser or a Spaniard in charge you conjure up an image of a surging red tide redolent with power and pace. Think Milton Keynes and your mind goes completely blank.....

So what comes to mind when you consider Wimbledon? What you don't think of is passing and movement, brilliance and imagination, you don't think the beautiful game, the *jogo bonito*.

I watched Adelaide United in the final of the A-League pre-season cup at Central Coast Stadium. I thought I had gone back in time, Adelaide was Wimbledon. There was no attempt to play quality football, it was all long ball, chase, tackle and most of all, intimidate. From Carl Veart up front to Angelo Costanzo at the back it was brutish stuff, but none more than the scowling Ross Aloisi who constantly knocked his opponents over and argued vehemently with the officials when penalized. The A-League's very own Vinnie Jones!

Through all the great history of Wimbledon FC, the improbable cup runs, the climb to the top of every ladder that was placed in front of them, I never considered Wimbledon to be

a pure footballing side. A winning team, yes, an occasionally irresistible force, yes, but highly skilled, running intelligent angles off the ball, no.

Not for nothing was there a fanzine called “Hoof the Ball Up”. Frankly, it wouldn’t matter if our manager was Bill Nicholson, Terry Venables or Guus Hiddink, the football played would always revert to type –the Laws of Nature would apply and the true Wimbledon style would assert itself.

DA, perhaps unwittingly, understands this. He is a Wimbledon manager cast in the mould that suits perfectly the history of the team. He pays lip service to the idea of the passing game, the game of the purist, but in reality he wants a no-nonsense competitive team that is difficult to beat, wins the tough games, and wins promotion.

The Rob Ursells warm our hearts as they pass but fleetingly by, whilst the everlasting spirit of Wimbledon, carved in the granite of time, is founded on the likes of Matt Everard, Frankie Howard and Richard Butler.

Promisingly, this season Wimbledon are as mean as a merchant banker at the back, aggressive as piranha in midfield and run like Forrest Gump in attack, which is just as it should be. C’mon you Dons!

**Thanks as always to WDSA for their input and support of this newsletter.**



Courtesy of Steve Smith

## *Fundraising Activities*

Now that the Khosla loan has been repaid and the Barclay's loan been initiated, the need fundraising activity has never been greater. The Barclay's loan mandates regular monthly payments to pay off the loan as opposed to the irregular payments we made to Khosla,

It is time for us to stand up and do our part in helping to reduce this debt.

With the holiday season beginning, it may be time to re-invent the US Don's diet, or at least prepare for it in the New Year. The two that have run previously were well received and contributed greatly to the fundraising effort. What do you say to another one? There have been 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? Last year we sponsored a kit, this year we didn't. Let's get our heads together and set about sponsoring a kit for next year. With 50+ members, it would be less than \$10 per head to do.

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.

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## *Websites of interest*

Official Website - contains schedule, results and game reports:

[www.afcwimbldeon.co.uk](http://www.afcwimbldeon.co.uk)

WISA: [www.wisa.org.uk](http://www.wisa.org.uk)

Tony Kempster's site: [www.tonykempster.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.tonykempster.btinternet.co.uk)

Paul Raymond - ItmustbeDons: [www.itmustbedons.com](http://www.itmustbedons.com)

Ryman League: [www.isthmian.co.uk](http://www.isthmian.co.uk)

DonsOnline: [www.donsonline.co.uk](http://www.donsonline.co.uk)

Radio WDON: [www.wdon.com](http://www.wdon.com)

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