

AFC Wimbledon US Dons Newsletter

Issue 3 – August 2005

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US Dons – News

Decisions, decisions! I was debating on whether to hold up on the August newsletter until after the first game of the new season. But with all the activity going on decided to go ahead and send it based upon the Pre-season results and news up to the start of the season.

Check out “your” US Dons web-site. We have secured a kit sponsorship, see more details in the Fundraising notes. Several donations have already been received, and for those of you who offered and have not yet sent in your pledge, please log on and let’s help our club. Dave (SoCal) is getting ready to send the money to the club.

Our membership has grown to 38 in the America’s and another 13 honorary members, from the rest of the world. Let’s keep the numbers growing.

I am going to skip the member BIO this month, due to time constraints, but will get it in for the next newsletter. Please keep them coming to me, also any guest columns would be greatly appreciated. As the season gets into full swing I hope to get some input from the club, and some of the other supporter organisations. It would be good to get each of your thoughts for the upcoming season, where do you think the club will end the season? Champions? In the playoff’s for promotion? How will do in the various cup competitions? Send us your predictions and we will publish them, tabulate them and compare notes at the end of the season.

Let the season begin, and “Come On You Dons”!

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David Garlinge
(Limeydg).

AFC Wimbledon – Pre Season News

Looks like the team makeup is set in place. Many of last years team are returning. Some, we are sad to say, have left, while other favourites are out on loan. Several new faces have joined the club, we wish them welcome and look forward to their skills enhancing the team.

It looks like we have a pretty potent strike force with Butler and Smeltz. The defense looks pretty settled, though it would have been nice to see Matt Everard back sooner rather than later, sadly he will be missing due to injury a little longer. The midfield probably looks the most unsettled at the moment, though there is plenty of potential there!

The Pre-Season friendlies were a mixed bag. Starting off with 5 victories, followed by 2 draws and finishing with 3 losses. Let's remember these games are for the management team to evaluate player's and bring together the best team for the coming season.

The highlight of the Pre-season was the victory over FCUM for the Supporter's Direct Cup, our first trophy of the new season, before a crowd of 3,300. By all accounts it was a pretty even game, and everyone attending had a good time. Hopefully we will continue to see a strong relationship grow between the two clubs.

Dave Hambly has posted the season schedule on the US Dons web-site and you can of course access the schedule, results and game reports from the Official web-site (www.afcwimbledon.co.uk).

With the new season just a week away, a home game against Folkestone Invicta on Saturday August 20th, it is interesting to note the bookie's view on our chances. We have been as high as favourites to win the premier division, but currently have slipped to second or third favourites. Good odds can be gained at between 7/2 and 9/2 to win the league! What do you think? Send us your thoughts Or do you want to wait a game or two before making a prediction?

Don't forget, you can listen to the Home games on the Internet at 'www.wdon.com', you can also meet up with fans on the 'www.weirdandwonderfulworld.com' chat-room while you are listening.

Fundraising Activities

Recently the ground debt to the Khosla's was reduced again by another 20,000 pounds. This brings the outstanding debt down to 520,000 pounds.

We, as a group, have contributed to this effort with several fundraising activities. Two episodes of the sponsored 'Don's Diet', some E-Bay auctions of some old Wimbledon programs. Our current focus is the sponsoring of a player's kit. Dave Hambly has set up a Pay-Pal account to deposit funds, this account also earns interest. The player's kit sponsorship is 200 pounds. Any extra funds will be sent to the club to help retire the Khosla debt.

Kit Sponsorship

We have secured a kit sponsorship. We will be sponsoring the away kit for one of the exciting newcomers, 19 year old Amadou Kouman. A native of the Ivory Coast, he has previously played in the Millwall, Manchester United and Aston Villa organisations. Go out to the official web-site, click on 'squad', then under strikers, click on Amadou, you will notice we are already listed.

Don's Diet II

Don's Diet II completed a couple of months ago, there were 13 participants and once again a lot of pounds lost and money gained for the ground fund. Congratulations to all the dieters and a BIG thanks to all of the sponsors. Dave has again set up the pay-pal linkage for any outstanding sponsorships. To date this effort has brought in over \$250.00.

New Ideas

Send us your ideas for other fundraising activities we could embark upon. We may hold off on the next diet until after the holiday season when some of us will be looking to lose some more weight. Don't be shy, send in your ideas.

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: 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
AFCW chatroom: www.weirdandwonderfulworld.com