

WIMBLEDON INDEPENDENT SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Ordinary General Meeting

Wimbledon Community Centre
Thursday 25th August 2005, 1930 hrs.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies had been received from Nicole Hammond, Charlie Bell, Lou Carton-Kelly, Karim Nanji, Peter Bowles, Helen Andrews, Gail Moss, Geoff Hammond, Sandra Lowne and John Fox.

2. AGM Minutes 10th May 2005:

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th May 2005 were agreed, with no matters arising.

3. Report From the Treasurer:

Sean Fox presented the current set of accounts. As of the end of July 2005 the WISA balance was £7,000.

The Dons Trust appears to have accepted our proposal for shares; this will lead to £4,000 being used from the current balance.

Wristband sales continue with over £500 having been raised, which will be re-invested into AFCW. Further sales on the wristband continue.

Players sponsorship on behalf of the WISA membership of Matt Everard and four ladies players will lead to a further reduction in the current funds.

4. Update on Share Purchase:

As mentioned above, Sean Fox is confident that The Dons Trust will accept WISA's proposal to buy £4,000 of shares. This is subject to confirmation from the Trust.

5. Motions:

No motions were received.

6. Elections:

All Candidates standing for election were approved as follows:

Position	Candidate
Membership Secretary	Karim Nanji
Newsletter Editor	Rob Crane
Gen Com (12)	Kathryn Cork-England

7. Plough Lane / WTID Gates:

Simon Wheeler updated the attendees on the WTID gates. As most members are aware the gates at Plough Lane were recently painted over. WISA has been in discussion with all parties involved in the work on the site and all parties have denied responsibility. Simon explained that the developers have agreed to try and help WISA to remove the layer of paint without causing any damage to the WTID slogan. Investigations are underway to find the most optimum way of removing the paint. If this is not possible then the gates may need to be re-painted.

WISA are also looking into locations for the gates, once they are removed from Plough Lane. Richard Pope has agreed to transport the gates. Simon Wheeler will discuss possible suitable locations for the gates at Kingsmeadow with Kris Stewart. WISA will also contact Merton Council to discuss alternative venues for the gates if Kingsmeadow is not feasible.

Health and Safety issues must be taken into account when choosing an acceptable location for the gates.

8. MK Dons / Wimbledon History Update:

The FSF held their annual conference on the 4/5 June. A minibus was organised by WISA to transport FSF members from Wimbledon to the conference. The Milton Keynes Dons Supporters Association (MKDSA) were seeking acceptance into the FSF as a supporters body. After intense debate, the FSF membership approved a motion that would not allow the MKDSA association to join the FSF until the FA and the FL tightened up the rules on Football Franchising.

A subsequent motion put forward by WISA was also ratified which would prevent the MKDSA joining the FSF until the History and Honours pre 28 May 2002 are returned to AFC Wimbledon or the Community of Wimbledon.

Two years must elapse before the MKDSA can apply to join the FSF, subject to the criteria above being met.

Simon Wheeler updated the membership further on the History and Honours campaign. At present Peter Winkelman seems unwilling to discuss the return of the History and Honours. WISA will continue to seek the return of the History and Honours with the FA offering to facilitate any discussions on this matter.

WISA are also looking into providing the club with a History and Honours Board, subject to the club wanting a board and having an acceptable location to display the board.

9. Merton Council's Long Term Plan for the Borough:

Ian Pollock updated the membership on Merton's Council long-term plan for the borough. There is a good opportunity to push Merton Council to include professional football in the long-term plan.

Our interest needs to be registered with the council by October. Ian Pollock and Tim Hillyer will investigate further with the council.

Ian Pollock will draft a letter, with a view to members and non-members writing into the Council. Like minded businesses and other groups within the community should also be sought to support the campaign to include a facility for professional in the borough.

Local elections are due in spring 2006; members should mention this to any potential candidates.

Ronan Warde pointed out that this campaign is essential in getting a ground in the UDP.

Fran O'Toole updated the members on the current situation with the Wimbledon Community Centre. The WCC have advised the council that the Wimbledon Community Association (WCA) members do not want to vacate their current premises.

If the WCC is sold, the WCC is only entitled to a third of the proceeds.

WCC has hired solicitors to investigate further.

Details of WCC meetings have been leaked to Andrew Judge. The Council will not give the WCC a lease, which in turn would allow the WCC to invest in improving the building.

WCA members will work together to support the WCC.

Kathryn Cork-England suggested that local residents could write to the Wimbledon Guardian to highlight the plight of the WCC.

10. FSF / Supporters Direct Update:

The FSF have sought WISA's view on any potential disturbances at the recent friendly match between the MK Dons and Carshalton Athletic.

Ross Maclagan and Simon Wheeler have given clear accounts of WISA's presence at the game and made it clear that no WISA member was involved in any "trouble" at the game.

The FSF Council have also suggested that the History should not be returned to AFCW, but to the community of Wimbledon only. Considering the recent vote at the FSF AGM, WISA will discuss the issue with the FSF Council further.

It is important that WISA members join the FSF to ensure that our interests and other like minded supporters groups are protected.

Supporters Direct - Meetings have been held with the MK Dons and they have been advised that if they want to form a Trust, they will have to accept that they are a new club, as a trust already exists to represent Wimbledon - The Dons Trust.

11. AFC Wimbledon / Dons Trust Update:

No representatives of the Club or the Dons Trust were present.

12. Match Sponsorship Update:

WISA will sponsor the match against Slough Town on Saturday 28 January 2006. Members will be drawn to attend on WISA's behalf as the match day sponsors.

The OGM will also be co-ordinated to take place on the same day.

Other sponsorship opportunities will be looked into.

13. Membership Renewal:

Membership renewals are now due. Membership forms have been posted and will arrive over the next couple of days.

There will be a big drive to increase the membership so that we can invest further money in AFC Wimbledon.

14. Announcements and AOB:

WISA is helping to support the formation of the Wimbledon Old Players Association (WOPA). Initial response from Old Players is very positive. Players will receive two Newsletters a Year and entry into a "Masters" competition. WOPA will provide a route for old players to keep in touch with their colleagues.

Jacki Harvie offered to provide a list of contacts for old players that she has used previously.

WISA has contacted the National Association of Disabled Supporters to discuss what WISA can do to help support the club in improving the facilities for disabled supporters at Kingsmeadow.

The following merchandise is still available:

- “ Not in the Wider Interests ” T-shirt @ £8 or £6 if you re-join WISA
- FSF - Anti Franchising T-shirt @ £2.
- Anti Franchising Wristbands @ £2,
- “ Clubs in Crisis” trilogy. @ £7.99 per book.
- “Our Aim was Success “ @ £10.

To come..... “Not in the Wider Interests of Football II” Limited edition T-shirt

A number of members then adjourned to the Alex for a swift half!

Ross Maclagan
WISA Secretary