

WIMBLEDON INDEPENDENT SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Ordinary General Meeting

Wimbledon Community Centre
Thursday 24th November 2005, 1930 hrs.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies had been received from Nicole Hammond, Charlie Bell, Helen Andrews, Colette Mulchrone, Rupert Jeffrey, Mags Hutchinson, John Lloyd, Kevin Hillyer, John Fox, Roger & Marian Stein

2. OGM Minutes 25th August 2005:

The minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 25th August 2005 were agreed, with no matters arising.

3. Report From the Treasurer:

Sean Fox presented the current set of accounts. The WISA accounts have been boosted by renewals, which are coming in steadily, with membership now over 300. The main expense since the OGM in August has been the purchase of a further £4,000 of Shares on behalf of the WISA membership.

Other out goings includes the Sponsorship of Matt Everard, four AFC Wimbledon Ladies players and sponsorship of the home match against Slough on the 28 January 2006. During the current season, WISA has invested more money in the club than ever before.

Further out goings are expected due to the imminent production and distribution of the WISA Newsletter and the provision of training shirts to the youth teams.

Ronan Warde to discuss provision of training shirts for the ladies with Ross Maclagan.

4. Conflict of Interest Clause:

For some time, WISA has been trying to set out rules which would bar it's Committee members from holding certain positions with AFC Wimbledon and / or membership of the Dons Trust Board, with the aim of preventing a conflict of interest. Sean Fox advised the membership that more work needed to take place before this clause could be presented to the membership. This will be presented to the membership at the next OGM at Kingsmeadow on 28 January 2006.

5. Motions:

No motions were received.

6. Elections:

Jill Stratton successfully stood for election on to the General Committee.

Rob Crane has decided to step down from his position of Newsletter Editor, in order that he can concentrate on his social life! Simon Wheeler on behalf of the Committee and the Membership thanked Rob for all his hard efforts in producing the newsletter and work undertaken on behalf of the Committee.

7. Plough Lane / WTID Gates:

Gail Moss advised that David Wilson Homes now have full planning permission to build on Plough Lane, although work is not expected to start until the New Year.

The WTID gates, are likely to remain in position now, research is currently underway to try and find a sensible way to remove the paint that has masked the "WTID" slogan.

8. MK Dons / Wimbledon History Update:

Simon Wheeler advised that recent communications with the Milton Keynes Dons Supporters Association (MKDSA) has been less than productive. At present the MKDSA have not responded to the last letter sent to them over two months ago.

It is believed that the MKDSA, now believe that the Honours & History should be given to a neutral venue and have proposed to the FA that this should be housed in the FA museum in Preston. It appears, however, that Peter Winkelman is keen to keep hold of the History, which is leading to some strain in the relationship between the MKDSA and the hierarchy of the MK Dons.

The FSF have intimated that they do not feel that the History should be returned to AFCW. Simon Wheeler has made it clear to the FSF that the History & Honours should be returned to AFCW or the community of Wimbledon.

The Dons Trust, represented by David Cox have been in touch with WISA to see what both parties can do to return the History & Honours to their rightful owners.

A venue for the History & Honours is yet to be ascertained. LTA Museum will concentrate on tennis only and the Wimbledon Museum may not have enough space.

The Football League, have put forward a proposal to close the franchising loop hole, the FSF have reviewed the proposal and have responded to the FL as they do not believe it is "water tight".

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

Ian Pollock and Tim Hillyer 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.

The consultation period has been extended until the end of January.

A letter has been drafted by Ian Pollock and is available for all WISA members to write to the council. This letter is available on the website.

Tim Hillyer advised of Area Forums within the Borough that members could attend and lobby councillors and a new document on the Council website, which makes little if no reference to AFCW, but mentions Tooting & Mitcham much more.

At present, Sport and Leisure is only mentioned once in the Local Development Framework!

Multi-borough links on sport could help to aid funding in the future as many differing authorities could support resources.

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.

10. FSF / Supporters Direct Update:

WISA have been exonerated by The FSF after the accusations made by a MK Dons Fan at the friendly match between the MK Dons and Carshalton Athletic proved to be false.

Carshalton Athletic Football Club and the local police advised the FSF that without WISA's presence trouble could have been a stronger possibility.

The FSF Southern Division Meeting will take place at the Madejski Stadium, Reading on Sunday 27 November at noon. All FSF members are urged to attend.

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:

The membership present discussed and voted on the resolutions proposed for the up coming Dons Trust and AFCW PLC AGM, so that the committee had guidance on how to vote on the relevant motions.

Further discussions took place on the merits of having members on both boards, business interests of candidates, control & ownership of the ladies and youth teams and the auditing of the accounts.

It was proposed that, where relevant, the WISA Committee should seek more detail and vote on the memberships' behalf as appropriate.

12. Wimbledon Community Centre Update:

Fran O'Toole was not present. Gail Moss gave a brief resume of the current position. Namely, the majority of WCC members do not want to move. Merton Council is keen on the groups moving and still will not extend the lease on the property, which in turn means that it is virtually impossible to fund renovations of the WCC.

13. Membership Renewal:

Membership renewals are higher than they were last year. Please encourage all lapsed members to re-new and encourage new members to join up!

14. Announcements and AOB:

Simon Wheeler thanked Fran O'Toole for providing a room and spending numerous hours helping to post the membership cards out to the members. A "token of appreciation" for his help will be provided to him at the earliest opportunity.

Wimbledon Old Players Association (WOPA) update:

- Seventy five members now on board, with more signing up every week.
- Initial response from Old Players is very positive.
- Players will receive two Newsletters a Year and entry into a "Masters" competition (subject to age).
- An 11 a side match against Ajax is also going to take place.
- A benefit dinner for Syd Neal is also being planned.

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 drink and a chat.

Ross Maclagan
WISA Secretary