

Wimbledon Independent Supporters Association

Annual General Meeting

Wimbledon Community Centre, St George's Road, Wimbledon
Wednesday 12 May 2004 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence received:

Charlie Bell, Colin Dench, Joanne Fotheringham, Jamie J, Colette Mulchrone, David Silsby, Sandra Lowne, Laurence Lowne, Gail Moss, Erik Samuelson, Dave Boyle & Kris Stewart.

2. Minutes of Last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting (OGM, 29 January 2004) were agreed and there were no matters arising.

Ron Trayhorn complimented Ronan Warde for his exceptional Chairing of the "Drink for your Club" WISA Meeting held at Kingsmeadow on 15 April 2004!

3. Set Membership Fees for 2004/05:

A nomination was received suggesting a 10% increase in Membership fees. The general consensus was that this would be difficult to manage for the Membership Secretary and Treasurer, as membership fees would no longer be round figures.

A further motion was put forward suggesting that life membership should also include other members of the life members family. Concerns were raised over family members living in differing locations and the complexity of managing a "Family life membership"

It was agreed that membership should remain at current prices (Adults £5, concessions £3, £10 per household, £100 life membership)

Note: Membership year runs from 1 September to 31 August.

4. Report from the Treasurer:

Sean Fox reported on the accounts from the 1 October to 31 March 2004 inclusive. The WISA balance remains in a healthy state, with a balance of £4,967.48 as of 31 March.

It was noted by Sean Fox and Mike O'Shaughnessy, that the opening balance for 2004 was slightly out (in our favour), it was agreed that this would be reviewed with the examiners and Treasurer and a conclusion will be delivered by the next OGM.

The examiners have declared that they were satisfied with the accounts being a true reflection of the current status.

5. Re-appoint account examiners for the current year:

Mike O'Shaughnessy and Trevor Pearce were thanked for their work and were unanimously re-appointed as examiners for the current year.

6. Election of the Committee:

Nicole Hammond highlighted the stature of the individuals who were stepping down from the committee and on behalf of the membership, thanked all of them for their hard efforts over the previous years.

All candidates were duly elected.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Chair	Nicole Hammond
Vice Chair	Simon Wheeler
Secretary	Ross Maclagan
Treasurer	Sean Fox
Publicity Officer	Gail Moss
Club Liaison Officer	Colin Dench
Membership Sec	Gavin Ainslie
Newsletter Editor	Peter MacQueen
Webmaster	Peter Bowles
General Committee	Charlie Bell Richard Fraser Dennis Lowndes Ian Pollock

7. Update on recent/planned activities:

7.1 What direction do the membership wish WISA to follow in the future?

Should the two-pronged approach remain (Anti Franchising & Supporting AFC Wimbledon)?

It was noted that the two-pronged approach was fine, but WISA as an entity should highlight more to the membership what it does to support AFC Wimbledon.

It was suggested that WISA should still follow its anti franchising policies, due to the recent formation of the Franchise FC Supporters Club.

It was felt that WISA should investigate and encourage fans of other clubs to discourage their Boards from organising friendlies against Franchise FC. Currently it is believed that friendlies have been organised against Leicester, West Ham and Glentoran.

Wimbledon Fans should not be seen to have given up. Franchising of football should be resisted and all support should be given to other clubs under similar threat.

Links with Division 2 Clubs need to be developed to inform them of the history of Franchise and encourage them to not attend matches at Franchise FC/condone their existence. Links with Brentford should help to spread the message.

Until Franchise FC are no longer called Wimbledon and claim our History, we must continue to fight for what is rightfully ours.

NH reported that her Anti-franchising portfolio on the National Council of Football Supporters Federation meant that there is still a lot of crossover between the FSF's work and WISA's.

Many of those present felt that Wimbledon supporters currently following Franchise g should still be made welcome if they chose to come to AFCW games, as encouraged previously by WISA.

7.2 Franchise Insolvency

Ian Pollock advised on the current situation with Franchise FC's insolvency and their prospects of getting out of administration. These depend partly on the Inland Revenue's efforts to recover the debts currently owed them in the face of the Football League's decision to support the preferential payment of football creditors. The FL has stated, however, that if Franchise FC are not out of administration by 31 July, they will be expelled from the League.

28 May 2004 is the 2nd anniversary of the FA Decision to allow Franchise to move to Milton Keynes. A lunchtime process is currently being planned; with the possibility of new banners/T-shirts being produced "Not in the Interest of Football" could be the potential slogan. Peter MacQueen to be involved in design.

8. Motions:

Charlie Bell put forward a Motion of thanks to the founder members of WISA, which was seconded by Ian Pollock:

Today, the last of the original founders of WISA is stepping down from the WISA Committee.

WISA has been able to campaign against franchising and help build the Dons Trust because of the support from fans for its aims and its methods, but the fact that WISA was in place and ready to fight the Milton Keynes move was in no small part due to its fight against Dublin.

That fight, though fought by many, was begun by a few, and we recognise the contribution those people made. Anyone could have started WISA and started a campaign against Dublin, but anyone didn't.

These four could not have know at the time where their efforts would lead, but the democratic ownership of our club, the incredible on the field success and the outstanding fundraising successes off it can be traced directly back to that act of several years ago.

And so, WISA places on record its cordial thanks to Marc Jones, Xavier Wiggins, Lee Willett and Laurence Lowne.

8.1 Re-wording of the Conflict of Interest Clause:

No suggestions have been received, this clause will be reviewed and adjustments will be advised at the next OGM.

9. Dons Trust & AFC Wimbledon Issues:

Ron Trayhorn fielded questions about the Dons Trust.

- New Board still finding it's feet.
- Board happy with the appointment of the new manager, Dave Anderson.
- Ian Cooke has been appointed as a Non-Exec Director to provide advice on the footballing side of the business.
- A Non-Exec Director is still required with extensive business skills. Any recommendations of possible candidates would be gratefully received.
- 30 different fund raising events are taking place over the summer.
- Brian Goodwin has not called for any further support, although this does not mean that it would not be appreciated.
- Lou Carlton-Kelly & Luke Mackenzie are heading up the fund raising committee.

10. Announcements and any other business.

- Family Fun Day at Kingsmeadow Sun 16 May 11am to 4pm, Posters were made available by Roger Dennis to advertise the event. Numerous attractions for kids and adults alike.
- Any further volunteers for the Family Day would be most welcome.
- Civic reception & Open Top Bus ride to celebrate our Double success scheduled for Sun 23 May.
- Dons Trust SGM Thu 27 May 7.30pm at Kingsmeadow (changed from 26/5 to avoid clash with Champions League Final).
- FSF Meeting 4-6 June at Walsall, Fans Parliament on Sun 6 June, 5 passes available, please speak to Nicole Hammond if you are interested in going.
- Dons Trust Football Tour to Norway 4-6 June, more players welcome.
- AFC Wimbledon 5 a side Tournament, Sat 26 June. 32 teams, free entry, nominal charge for car parking. Further details available from Mark Lewis.
- Exeter City Euro 2004 raffle tickets were bought by WISA after memberships approval.
- Kris Stewart has passed on his thanks for WISA's Congratulations letter, which was presented to him at the Wallingford match.
- Surrey Comet, four page AFC Wimbledon special was mentioned.
- A number retired to the Alex after the meeting for liquid refreshment!

Next Meeting: WISA OGM Thu 19 August, 7.30pm Wimbledon Community Centre.

