

WIMBLEDON INDEPENDENT SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Ordinary General Meeting

**The Back Bar, The Fans' Stadium, Kingsmeadow
Saturday 29th January 2005, 12.30pm.**

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies had been received from Charlie Bell, Sandra Lowne, Helen Andrews, Les Shears, Lou Carton-Kelly, Colum McAndrew, Richard Bishop, Roger Dennis, Tim Hillyer, Geoffrey Hammond, Roger & Maria Stein.

2. EGM Minutes 15th November 2004:

The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 15 November 2004 were agreed, with no matters arising.

3. Plough Lane Update:

- A protest lodged at the previous town council planning meeting in relation to the development of Plough Lane for residential purposes was over-ruled by the planning committee present at the meeting.
- In view of the recent Freedom of Information Act, Ian Pollock has written to the Council requesting all details of the dealings of the Council and other parties in relation to the Plough Lane Covenant in the late 1980s / early 1990s. The Council have 10 days to reply, although it is possible that they will not provide any information due to confidentiality issues.
- "Womble Till I Die" Gates – Gail Moss has been in discussion with David Wilson Homes about the gates and they seem to be happy to provide the gates to the Fans when they are no longer protecting the Electricity Sub Station on the Plough Lane site. WISA have had informal discussions with the Club about the gates, who are positive about their return to us. The key factor, however, is where the gates can be placed safely. The gates are very large and will need to be protected from the elements. Is Kingsmeadow the appropriate place for the gates? If you have any ideas on where they can go, please get in contact. Equally, we may also have to transport / store the gates in the short term, there have been a few offers in relation to storage and transportation, if, however, you can help with the storage / transportation please get in contact. It was noted that the majority of members present were very keen on the return of the gates to the club.

4. FSF Update:

The MK Dons Supporters Club have applied to affiliate themselves to the FSF. This has led to a lot of debate amongst the FSF fraternity. The National Council of the FSF have recommended that the Decision on allowing the MK Dons Supporters Club to join should be made at the National Conference in Cardiff in June, and have agreed a motion recommending that the members reject the application for the time being.

It is important that as many members as possible join the FSF and attend the Cardiff meeting as possible as it is possible that the MK Dons Supporters could turn up in numbers. Equally the MK Dons Supporters Club are actively seeking support of other Supporters Clubs for their application, so it is also important that members with contacts at other clubs contact them to seek support for the rejection of the MK Dons Supporters Club.

The Council are proposing to recommend that the MK Dons cannot join until the FA closes the Franchising loophole. But they also recognise that the rejection of the MK Dons Supporters Club cannot be indefinite. With this in mind, a subsequent review process may be agreed at the meeting in relation to their entry. NH to check whether a "time limit" can be applied to delaying the Mk Dons' entry into the FSF.

It was observed that an amendment to the motion accepting the MK Dons into the FSF in return for the History could be proposed from the floor in June.

5. Elections:

Karim Nanji and Lou Carton-Kelly were both elected to the General Committee.

6. Reports from the Treasurer:

The WISA bank balance as of 29th January 2005 was £6,400. The Sponsorship of the Bashley match was paid just before the meeting.

7. Share Purchase Update:

Sean Fox confirmed, that as per the Dons Trust Members Instruction, WISA would wait on the decision made by the Review Panel in relation to future share purchases. Sean Fox, responding to rumours, confirmed that at no stage were WISA asked to withdraw our motion.

At present WISA has not been contacted by any member of the Trust to be part of the review body as mentioned in the previous Trust meeting. The money has been set aside for the purchase of the shares, which should only take three months to conduct as advised at the previous meeting.

8. MK Dons / Wimbledon History Update:

A very positive & polite response by the FA has been received after WISA had sent both the FA and Pete Winkelman a letter requesting a meeting to take place under "Chatham House" rules in relation to the History of Wimbledon FC. The FA highlighted that they were anti franchising, but an Independent body had made the decision on WFC's relocation. The FA, however, were happy to mediate, if Pete Winkelman agreed to a meeting.

WISA will be writing back to the FA to thank them for their response / support and will also re-write to Pete Winkelman seeking a meeting.

9. Supporter's Direct Update:

The Mk Dons Supporters Club with the assistance of the club, have been raising their profile within the footballing community. This has "ruffled the feathers" of a number of Supporter's Clubs who are now working to prevent the recognition of the MK Dons in the wider football community.

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

Tim Hillyer has highlighted that there is no provision for professional football / Semi-professional football (or even tennis) in the Council's long-term plan for the Borough. Ian Pollock is going to create a draft letter that can be used by residents to send to the council to remind them of the lack of senior football within the current plans.

11. AFC Wimbledon / Dons Trust Update:

Ian Pollock questioned the need / high expense mentioned in a previous programme, if the Athletics End was roofed / John Smith's Stand improved. Where would the funding come from?

Kris Stewart advised that the above matter would be discussed at the Open meeting scheduled for the 12 Feb. The decision on the above would have to be made by the Dons Trust & its members. Kris' personal opinion was that the proposed ground improvements were a good idea, but the funding for it should not be taken out of the Club's operating budget. Thus further funding would be required to complete the above (if approved).

KS confirmed that no work had taken place to verify if the attendance would increase if the ground improvements took place. Equally, he confirmed that this would be very difficult to ascertain!

12 Announcements and AOB:

The following merchandise is still available:

- “ Not in the Wider Interests ” @ £8 or £6 if you re-join WISA
- FSF - Anti Franchising @ £2.
- “ Clubs in Crisis” trilogy.
- “Our Aim was Success “

Please note that WISA is sponsoring the match today, so 10 lucky members and a guest are our representatives at the game and have access to the President's lounge with the opportunity to pick the man of the match.

Ross Maclagan
WISA Secretary