

Dons Trust Board

Quarterly Report 02/05

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Dons Trust Board, since the previous SGM on the 14 April 05 in pursuance of Dons Trust Aims. The period of this report has been somewhat foreshortened to avoid duplication with previous report. Board members, working within the framework of priorities set for the year, continue to make considerable progress on their specific areas of responsibilities, as reported later in this report and in the discharge of their general board duties as well. This Quarter has seen our newly appointed Secretary fully in place supported by those Board members undertaking the re- assigned secretariat tasks, such as Constitution, SGM management and issues arising from previous SGMs.

Further to advancing our Aims, it is pleasing to report that we have, as a result of the tremendous effort by all concerned, secured phenomenal success on the field at all levels including the Ladies. Not to mention the extremely valuable work that is underway on community, membership/volunteer development and communications, all of which are critical to our future success. We thank all those DT Board and Trust members who have contributed to these successes.

Our single biggest priority continues to be the reduction of our stadium debt and as many of you will have noted from recent announcements that the Khosla debt is reducing significantly. Income arising from the five year season tickets initiative coupled with that from our fundraising will further drive this debt down. However, while the debt remains, reduction in interest payments is paramount. The Dons Trust Bond Scheme remains the “flagship” of our endeavours in reducing the level of interest payments and for those of you who have yet to take up this opportunity may I urge you to give this scheme careful consideration

Meanwhile during the Quarter our Fund Raising Group continues to go from success to success through the Dons Trust Draw, Golden Goals and Sponsor a Seat initiatives as well as events such as our Walks and the Boxing Night. May I take this opportunity of thanking all volunteers involved in fund raising for this tremendous effort so far and to all of you who have given so generously. You may recall in my earlier reports that I mentioned that when it comes to members contributing to our funds none of us have “ bottomless” pockets, so may I suggest you endeavour, where possible, to seek fund raising participation beyond our membership.

The following paragraphs set out the achievements of the various groups during the period. For completeness the name of the Dons Trust member responsible for the specific area is given in brackets against the heading. The intention is that further financial information will be available at the SGM meeting.

With promotion being the primary aim for the first team in 2004-05, the championship and Surrey Senior Cup wins were icing on the cake and rounded off a successful first campaign for new manager Dave Anderson, appointed last summer.

Work has already begun on renovating the pitch for next season, but with over 110 games having been played at Kingsmeadow in the past year we do need to look at ways of reducing the usage to protect the pitch for AFC Wimbledon and Kingstonian.

We have just received news that planning permission for a new roof over the terracing at the Athletics End has been granted by Kingston Council. We have applied to the Football Stadium Improvement Fund for grant assistance with the costs of installing such a roof and we await a decision by the fund before making any firm commitments to supporters on timing for what will be our first major improvement to the ground.

We still plan to make whatever improvements we can to the John Smith's terracing and hope to accomplish some work this summer. We are limited as to how much we can do with the current roof in place (and demolishing and rebuilding the roof would be prohibitively expensive) but we will seek to do as much as possible to improve the view.

As well as the big stuff, we will need help from supporters to clean up around the ground over the summer. On the weekends of 11/12 and 25/26 June we will be gardening, painting, cleaning, tidying, repairing the overflow car park and undertaking other jobs around the stadium. If you are available on any of those days, please drop us a line to info@afcwimbledon.co.uk letting us know who you are, what you can do, when you are free, and what, if any, equipment you could bring with you (paint brushes, gardening equipment etc).

Dave Anderson has been working on preparing a team for the new season, with Sonny Farr and Shane Smeltz contracted and Barry Moore (from Lewes FC) and Simon Sohiby (from Walton & Hersham) agreeing terms. Martin Randall and Gavin Bolger have both been released.

Pre-season games announced so far begin on Saturday 16 July away at Bognor Regis and the Ryman League Premier Division season begins on Saturday 20 August.

For more information visit the official site at www.afcwimbledon.co.uk

Fundraising

Geraldine Messenbird

It has been a busy period for the fund raising team. The main event during the period was Walk for Wimbledon 2 – this has met our expectations by raising around £10,000 – exact figures will be known very soon. This is an excellent result, for both the Ground Fund and for the Mayor of Merton's charities.

Also in the period:

- The Boxing Night was a success.

- The Dons Draw continued to raise over £3000 a month for the Ground Fund.
- Loose change poured in (on average £200 per game).
- Recycling continued successfully

Our thanks also go to other fundraising activities carried out by individuals and groups on behalf of the Ground Fund – such as the Dorset Dons raising money by cooking dinner for friends, the boat trip to Walton and Hersham, the release of the Everstrong single and those hardy chaps who “Walked Further for Wimbledon”.

As the summer approaches look out for the following events:

- Dons Trust / AFC Wimbledon 5 a-side football competition
- Race Day
- Golf Tournament
- E-bay auctions
- Finally – although there is no football please do not forget our ongoing fundraising initiatives:
 - Recycling of printer toner cartridges (all sizes and makes please)
 - Recycling of mobile phones
 - We will also recycle your unused foreign currency from your summer holidays
 - Dons Draw

Communications Steve Butterick, Marc Jones & Chris Phillips

DT Comms continues to support the distribution of information and placement of Trust news as usual ongoing. Recently work has continued with regards migrating the old DT site to the official AFC Wimbledon website (OS) with new design and new sections appearing.

We have also redesigned the membership form so that one form covers all types of application for membership (JD/Adult, New/Renewal). The application form is now permanently online in the Dons Trust section of the OS.

Comms continues to try and support and streamline the presentation of all events and promotions as themed and under one banner as with the very successful Family Fun Day.

Community

Steve Butterick

New DT Board member SB has undertaken a new initiative to open, strengthen and renew links with local neighbourhoods, under the heading of community. The DT Board has agreed to the setting up of a Community Chest, which will take the form of a small sum of money being available for community grants, to groups who already have, or would like to open up, links with the club.

To begin with, the focus will be in Wimbledon and Merton area, though it is clear that the AFC Wimbledon community reaches far beyond there. We welcome the views and ideas of all fans and Dons Trust members, because the aim is to be inclusive, to make inroads into and give something back to the communities in which we live and work.

Some of the other Trust owned clubs have gone much further down this road than we have, using the slogan "the club's the hub", and there is no doubt that there is a great deal of work that can be done to re-establish the club at the heart of the local community.

It is also important to re-establish links with local authorities, in order that we can work together with them and explore the areas which might be mutually beneficial. So far we have had an encouraging response.

Finance

Erik Samuelson

The Finance Working Group has met only once since we last reported. Since then the group has:

- Prepared a briefing jointly with a Supporters' Direct representative as part of our preparation for seeking professional advice on a number of tax matters that potentially affect all Football Supporters' Trusts. We will be attending a joint meeting with SD and the advisors in the near future.
- Made good progress with our review of the five-year forecast that was prepared for the prospectus that was issued in 2003. The purpose of the review is to identify improvements that can be applied to our medium term budgeting and planning.
- Continued to pursue possible sources of commercial funding to replace the debt to Mr Khosla.

Meetings are open to all DT members.

Stadium

Tom Adam

This quarter, the Stadium Working Group on behalf of the Dons Trust Board, continues to actively pursue, either collectively or as individual assignments, on repair and maintenance of the stadium, conversion to a reality some of the planned improvements, extension of planning periods and liaison with London Borough of Merton senior council officials concerning future football facilities in Merton. This has led to the submission to RBK of planning period extensions for increasing capacity to 6000, approval of planning permission application to put roof over the athletics end terracing for which the work is in the course of preparation, work in the pipe-line to improve terracing in John Smith's stand and general resurfacing areas around the ground together with further discussion with LBM in regard to suitable football facilities in Merton.

AFC Wimbledon Youth and Community Football Nigel Higgs

One aspect of the section that we take very seriously is Child Protection. As part of our drive to achieve FA Charter standard Eileen Samuelson has been appointed as the Dons Trust and AFC Wimbledon Child Welfare Officer. Eileen has organised a Child Protection Seminar for everyone at the club who comes into contact with young people. This ranges from managers in the Youth Academy, through the senior team and U18 staff to those responsible for mascots on a match day. Eileen has also gathered and submitted the necessary Criminal Records Bureau forms, which are administered through the FA. This is a great achievement when you consider that the forms have to be meticulously completed and some subjects find it hard to remember their own middle name or where they lived a couple of years ago! We have also agreed to fully adopt the FA codes of conduct and guidelines throughout the youth and community areas. These are available on the FA website and will be linked into the Official Site soon.

Now that the final whistle has gone we can reflect on a fantastic season for the AFC Wimbledon Youth Academy.

Well done to all the players, coaches and parents who work so hard to make this possible. Particular thanks to Academy Director Paul Bentley, and his team - Assistant Director Ben Canham, Treasurer Jane Williams, Youth Secretary Reg Beard and all the age group managers. In 2 short years Paul and his team have established AFC Wimbledon as a force in local youth football. Paul has created a set-up that is in line with league club academies and he has established links with Chelsea, Fulham and other professional clubs. This enables AFC Wimbledon to manage situations where our boys are the target of these clubs and to gain benefits in return for maintaining a good relationship. In a number of instances promising youngsters have chosen to stay with AFC rather than succumb to the temptation of a 6 week stint with the big guns.

We also owe a great deal to all our sponsors, from the backing provided by Sports Interactive – who produce the hugely successful Football Manager computer game and have sponsored the senior club since its inception in 2002, through the individual players sponsorships, to all the family and supporters who have contributed throughout the season and last but not least the Dons Trust Board and you the membership who underwrite any shortfall in the budget.

For the record here is the final round-up of the season. Whilst our aim is to provide quality players to move up to the U18 and senior squads rather than to win silverware, we are still more than happy with any success that comes our way. You will note with pride that the AFC Wimbledon Youth Academy has appeared in 10 cup finals, winning 7 of those and has won 6 league championships and finished runners-up in a further 2.

Team	Final League Position	League Cup	County Cup
U8	6th	Final Vs Banstead Rangers Won 3-0	n/a
U9	5th	Final Vs Rocks Lane Lost 2-0	n/a
U10 G&S	5th	Final Vs Ockham Athletic Lost 2-0	n/a
U10 E&E Prem	5th	3rd Round	n/a
U10 E&E Div 1	7th	2nd Round	n/a
U11 WSYL	1st	Final Vs West Ewell Wanderers. Won 2-0	Final Vs Chipstead FC Won 3-1.
U11 G&S	1st	Final Vs Milford Pumas Won 2-0	Prelim Round
U12 WSYL	4th	Quarter Final	4th Round
U12 G&S	2nd	Final Vs Sunbury Celtic Won 2-1	2nd Round
U13 WSYL	1st	Prelim Round	Semi Final
U13 G&S	1st	Final Vs Hersham FC Won 6-1	3rd Round
U14 WSYL	3rd	Final Vs Hayes FC Lost 1-0	4th Round
U14 G&S	1st	Final Vs Meadow Sports Won 8-3	4th Round
U15 WSYL Colt	1st	Prelim Round	Quarter Final
U15 WSYL Youth	2nd	1st Round	Semi Final

G&S = Guildford and Shere League

E&E = Epsom & Ewell League

WSYL = West Surrey Youth League

Finally, we are always looking out for referees to add to our list, so if anyone wants to get involved please contact us through info@afcwimbledon.co.uk

The Community Football Scheme has continued to provide a full range of courses and activities, there have been no further developments since the last report in April, but to reiterate our position here is the current status. *(continued over)*

- Current coaching staff of 30
- Coaching sessions have been put on at approx 30 schools
- Mini soccer coaches between 180 – 200 children each weekend
- A minimum of three courses have run every half term and holiday since the scheme launched
- Increased popularity of birthday parties
- Many enquiries about school fairs
- CFS entry in every programme
- CFS has its own section on the new website and is directly update-able so keep a watch for developments
- Easter holiday courses running at several venues
- Six week summer programme of soccer courses being planned at a variety of venues including Raynes Park, Wimbledon Park, Kingsmeadow and Cannons
- Girls funding in place for two years – development centre, kick start and girls festival
- Match Day Academy running every home game on Saturdays
- Sports Interactive Sponsored half-time penalty shoot-out
- Advanced centre launched
- New venue at Goals, Wimbledon just off the A3 Shannons Corner
- Very successful Friday soccer club at Goals
- NHS Direct sponsorship secured
- CFS continues to be profitable and profit is increasing

There is a section dedicated to the Community Football Scheme on the Official Website, just click on the tab labelled CFS. Details of all courses and other information can be found there.

At the previous SGM that took place on 14 April 2005, the Dons Trust Board were questioned as to whether they had inadvertently breached the Constitution by presenting financial figures, including a balance sheet, that had not been audited.

Section 86 of the Constitution does in fact state that the Dons Trust Board "is not to cause to be published any balance sheet unless it has previously been audited by the auditor". However, this section is contained within sections 84 to 92 of the Constitution that clearly relate to the annual financial audit - not to quarterly accounts. Indeed, the purpose of section 86 is seen by the Dons Trust Board to be a safeguard to ensure a financial audit is performed on an annual basis rather than as a means to deprive members of unaudited quarterly accounts as they become available.

The unaudited quarterly accounts are therefore attached again (Appendix A) - this time for the 9-month period to 31 March 2005, and in the absence of comparative figures for the 9-month period to 31 March 2004, the audited results for the 12-month period to 30 June 2004 are shown. Direct comparisons of income and expenditure between the 9-month period to 31 March 2005 and the 12-month period to 30 June 2004 should be made with caution due to the differing lengths of the two reporting periods under review as well as quarterly fluctuations that may still unravel in respect of income and costs.

However, this said, the results for the 9-month period to 31 March 2005 are strong. Previously a £66,705 surplus was reported for the 6-month period to 31 December 2004, and in the 3-month period to 31 March 2005 a further surplus of some £32,699 was achieved, making in total for the year so far, a surplus of £99,404 - this is already in excess of the £74,180 surplus realised in the whole of the previous financial year to 30 June 2004.

This result has principally been achieved by continuing strong income from fundraising as well as efforts made to reduce, where appropriate, ongoing expenses. In respect of fundraising, a handful of major fundraisers (Weird and Wonderful rematch, Dons Draw, Golden Goals, Evening with Ossie and Sponsor a Seat) have between them, and with others, already raised £72,633 this year.

However, membership income is running lower than in the previous year, and 301 new members during the 9-month period this year has been outstripped by some 425 lapsed memberships. The £425 surplus occurring from lapsed membership has not been incorporated into these interim figures at this time whilst the Dons Trust Board addresses the issue of lapsed memberships.

Turning to the balance sheet, this continues to strengthen as a result of the surpluses that continue to be realised and retained by the Dons Trust.

The loan account with AFCW PLC increased by a further £52,428 during the 3-month period as surplus cash arising principally from membership renewal and fundraising, as well as further funds received from new Dons Trust Bond applicants, have been transferred. In total during the 9 month period to 31 March 2005, the loan account with AFCW PLC increased by £187,433 - made possible by the surpluses of £99,404, the receipt of new Dons Trust Bonds of £77,990 and the reduction of the bank balances and other balance sheet movements of £10,039.

Funds transferred to AFCW PLC are used at the present time entirely to reduce the debt owed to Mr. Khosla.

Looking forward to the final quarter of the year, further fundraising events have already occurred, including the Boxing Night II and the Walk for Wimbledon II, and the Dons Draw and Golden Goals continue to raise further significant income.

As such, and barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Dons Trust Board expect that a further surplus will be realised in the final quarter of the financial year.

AFC Wimbledon Ladies

Ron Trayhorn

At the end of an inconsistent season both the 1st team and reserves finished 5th in their respective leagues. The high spot of the season, however, was the Surrey Cup Final played at Horley where the 1st team beat Chelsea, who were the runaway league leaders, 2-1. The team were grateful for the support of a large number of fans who made the trip at 10-30 on that Sunday morning.

The subject of integration was considered by the Dons Trust board at their last meeting where, as well as the original plan, an alternative submitted by Ray Downham was considered. After due consideration the board decided that the original plan for incorporation of the Ladies team was the preferred solution and this has now been referred back to the Ladies committee for their agreement.

Membership and Volunteers

Niall Couper

The last few months have been a busy period and I'm pleased to announce the following appointments:

Membership Development Officer (South West London and North Surrey): John Lynch.

Membership Development Officer (National and international): Ray Armfield.

Resource co-ordinator: David Bugg.

Volunteers' co-ordinator: John O'Brien.

With these people now in post, we hope to make significant strides forward in the months ahead. We hope to have a car-sharing scheme up and running by the start of next season, to get 100 lapsed members to rejoin by December 2005, and to have five or more supporters' groups with 20 or more members. In addition we hope to have a detailed timetable for events, fundraising and membership in place by August 2005.

With volunteers, we hope to have a detailed database of our volunteers in place by October, an effective volunteer recruitment service and a 10 per cent increase in our volunteer pool by August 2006.

In the last few days we have contacted all lapsed members asking them to rejoin. We've also enclosed a simple form that will help us discover why they let their membership lapsed, which we will use to help us in the future.

Overall, it is an exciting time and hopefully all supporters will notice the difference next season and feel inclined to get involved with the running of their club.

Legal, Constitution and AGM & SGM Management

David Cox, Stephen Butterick

The Legal & Constitutional Working Group has met once since the last quarterly report.

Given the relative newness of the group members to the subject a significant amount of time has been spent developing an understanding of the issues including how we got where we are and researching potential solutions. This process has taken longer than we initially imagined however given the importance of the topic we are satisfied it is the right thing to do in postponing any reports to the membership until we are certain we have addressed all areas:

The Legal & Constitutional Group will endeavour to make some future Meetings open to all DT members where confidentiality and potential risk to business does not prohibit. These will be notified on the OS as soon as possible.

We are also looking for DT members to join the group on a permanent basis especially individuals with a Legal background, anybody interested should at first correspond with David Cox at david.cox@thedonstrust.org to express an interest.

Additionally we are actively seeking a dialogue with the membership, we wish to understand what issues you feel we should be reviewing and receive input into those topics under review again these should be addressed to the above e-mail account.

Those issues under review since the last report include:

- Integration of AFC Wimbledon Ladies
- Electoral System
- Multi Layer Director Involvement on Boards
- 2 X Dons Trust Member SGM resolutions

Secretariat

Mark Davis

Mark Davis took over from Roger Cassells as Dons Trust Secretary in April. The Board wishes to thank Roger for the tremendous support he gave during his tenure as Secretary and his ongoing assistance in support of the new Secretary.

Since the last report, the main emphasis has been on supporting the Board in its meetings and in preparation for the SGM. Attention is now being given to records retention, renewal of insurances and supporting the Constitutional Review process.

In line with wishes expressed by Members at the AGM, Members will note that more detailed minutes of Dons Trust Board meetings are now published on the website.

Members wishing to put resolutions to future meetings of the Society are encouraged to contact the Secretary as early as possible (either by mail or via secretary@thedonstrust.org) in order to ensure that a workable resolution can be put to Members.

Conclusion

It is pleasing to be able to report that the DT Board is “firing on all cylinders” in the dedication of reducing our debt, ensuring that we have teams we can be proud of at all levels, providing a stadium we can all enjoy and establishing us as the “hub” of our community, so that we can become acknowledged as the centre of excellence for everything that is good in football. All this cannot be possible without the hard work and dedication of Dons Trust members and others. I thank you all.

Last but not least, may I extend on behalf the Dons Trust Board and our members our heartfelt congratulations to AFC Wimbledon for securing the League and Cup double for a second year. Well done and thank you.

Tom Adam

Chair Dons Trust

APPENDIX A**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	2005		2004	
	Unaudited		Audited	
	9 months to 31/03/05		12 months to 30/06/04	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Membership income - Adults	29,872		46,853	
Membership income - Juniors	2,132		2,020	
Sponsorship Income	11,500		10,000	
Donations	5,177		4,731	
Forfeiture of shares	0		626	
Other	17		2,969	
		48,698		67,199
Administrative expenses				
AFC Ladies	(12,000)		(21,568)	
Membership expenses	(6,711)		(12,579)	
AFC Wimbledon Youth Academy	(2,500)		(10,233)	
Community Football Scheme	(890)		(1,000)	
Other	(38)		(8,384)	
		(22,139)		(53,764)
Fund Raising				
Weird & Wonderful Rematch	19,025		0	
Dons Draw	15,274		0	
Golden Goals	12,343		15,606	
Evening with Ossie	9,170		0	
Sponsor A Seat	7,476		0	
Donations	5,279		9,562	
Other	4,066		35,438	
		72,633		60,606
Bank interest received		212		139
Excess of Income over expenditure		99,404		74,180

BALANCE SHEET

	2005		2004	
	Unaudited		Audited	
	At 31/03/05		At 30/06/04	
	£	£	£	£
Investments				
Shares in AFCW PLC		179,623		179,623
Current Assets				
Amounts due from AFCW PLC	356,700		169,267	
Sundry debtors	293		3,694	
Cash at bank and in hand	23,739		34,971	
	380,732		207,932	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors falling due within one year	(835)		(5,730)	
Net Current Assets		379,897		202,202
Total assets less current liabilities		559,520		381,825
Other Creditors				
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(221,075)		(143,085)	
Net Assets		338,445		238,740
Share Capital				
Opening balance		1,751		2,200
Shares issued in the period		301		177
Less: Forfeitures		0		(626)
Closing balance		2,052		1,751
Reserve Fund				
Opening		236,989		162,809
Surplus for the period		99,404		74,180
Closing		336,393		236,989
Members Funds		338,445		238,740