

## Dons Trust Board Quarterly Report 03/06

This Quarterly Report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Dons Trust Board over the third quarter of 2006 in pursuing the Dons Trust Aims.

During this period, board members continue to progress their responsibilities against a background of working within the pilot Board re-organisation discussed with members at the last SGM. For some of the board members this has meant additional work, since Dons Trust board activities need to be preserved in their entirety until an acceptable alternative has been put in place. I thank all board members for their forbearance of the pilot exercise and their contribution over the last quarter, especially those whose workload has increased.

Members may recall from the last SGM that the aim was to complete this pilot in three months. Unfortunately, this has not happened due to other pressing events emerging and demanding the undivided attention of the board. These included the possible buy-out of the club and the resignation of our CEO and Chairman. However, I am pleased to report that favourable outcomes from the Pilot so far, primarily concerning transparency, has led the DT board to extend the pilot period for a further three months, effectively taking us to the end of this calendar year. This means that the new board in December will be given the opportunity to review the overall outcome and make necessary recommendations to the Dons Trust membership. Meanwhile, I must stress that it is imperative that our Aims continue to be pursued, Constitution followed and that our members' and volunteer needs are being met.

I am sure you will agree the resignation of Kris Stewart as CEO/Chairman was a shock to all of us, in view of his tremendous dedication and achievements over the last four years and beyond. However, there are times in our life when we have to "take a step back" before coming fully consumed and I feel this was the situation that Kris was beginning to experience, bearing in mind that he "only wanted to watch football". The Trust is totally indebted to Kris for his contribution, over the years, to the Trust and the Club and we all wish him every success for the future and look forward to his continued support. However, it is indicative of the quality of people we have supporting the Trust and Club when we have Erik Samuelson ready and able to take on this task on a temporary basis pending the recruitment of a permanent replacement. We thank Erik for stepping in at this time.

Our single biggest priority continues to be the reduction of our stadium debt and it is pleasing to report that our fundraising team has made significant in-roads in the reduction of our debt, which is now at £350,000. I am sure you all appreciate how deeply indebted we are to the small group of individuals and their supporters who maintain existing fund raising initiatives and continually come up with new ones. Whilst all our financial participation in these activities is gratefully received, I know the team would appreciate more help in running events. So if you are able to assist, would you please make your self known to a member of the fundraising team.

As for the refinancing of our debt through Barclays Bank, I am pleased to report that we are now in the process of finalising legal issues and anticipate completing this in next few weeks.

On a more domestic front, I am pleased to report the successful filling of the Treasurer and Dons Draw Management

vacancies. However, we are now faced with the need to fill at the end of the year, the role of Dons Trust Board Secretary. So if anyone of you would like to take on this task please let me know.

Progress made over the quarter for the DT Working areas including the Club is given in subsequent paragraphs.

## Strategic Review & Oversight

Iain McNay & Tom Adam

As chairmen of AFCW plc and the Dons Trust respectively we have taken on, as part of the Pilot exercise, collective responsibility for the Strategic Review & Oversight Board (SROB). From discussion at the last SGM, members will recall that the SROB is effectively a combination of the Dons Trust Board and PLC Board with operational issues devolved to a management committee known as ManComm, with the exception of legal and constitutional issues. ManComm is reported on separately below.

So far we have found the speed and the quality of reporting is of a higher level than hitherto has been the case. In particular at this stage, budget scrutiny has become easier and general reporting on operational issues has improved. Also a clear mandate was readily established to undertake the Strategic Review which arose from a "Mr

Smith" wanting to take control of the Club. As with any pilot exercise some previous issues being pursued can be overlooked. We can assure the membership that this is being watched very carefully and when such oversights emerge they are being addressed promptly. It is important that the "baby does not go out with the bath water".

We were a little disappointed that we are unable to report the definitive outcome of the Pilot exercise at the forthcoming SGM, but we feel sure that you will appreciate the DT Board addressing more pressing issues has meant delaying completion of the exercise until the end of the year. Meanwhile the SROB / Mancomm method of working continues to work well and we look forward to reporting on the outcome at the end of the year.

## Management Committee

Erik Samuelson

The Management Committee ("ManComm") was referred to in the papers which explained the SROB pilot. As a result, many people think this is a new group. In fact, ManComm has operated since the football club was first formed. It is a means of dealing with management matters without all the formal trappings that go with a board meeting.

What is different about ManComm in the pilot period is that some matters which

formerly reported into the DT board are now operated, on a day-to-day basis, via ManComm. The people who comprise the stadium working group, the finance working group, etc are all still the same people but the reporting is different.

To date, ManComm has continued to operate in its usual format of weekly meetings which deal with operational matters. The biggest changes are that ManComm now produces rather more

formal notes of actions and points of principle and these are made available to members of SROB. As a result, the supervisory

role of SROB has been strengthened compared to the pre-pilot arrangements.

## AFC Wimbledon

Erik Samuelson

Obviously, the most significant change for us has been the resignation of Kris Stewart as chairman and chief executive. Kris, along with Ivor Heller and Trevor Williams, formed this club and has been a massive force during his time at the helm. But he has decided that he wants a break and to watch from the terrace and the board respects that. The time for a public recognition of his achievements will be later in the season but, on a personal note, I want to thank him for his support and sound advice on many occasions and his ability to get quickly to the heart of a problem when offering advice. And he has always been fun to work with; I know that fellow board members Ivor Heller and Nigel Higgs have similar feelings.

Having been appointed less than three weeks ago (this note being written the night before the Margate game) I am still settling in to my role as acting Chief Executive. To my slight surprise I am enjoying it immensely although it is very hard work as I am doubling up this job with my role as Finance Director. As regards the FD role, we have had some very strong candidates for the job and hope to be able to announce an appointment round about the time of this SGM. One appointment that has been made is Keith Sillitoe as head of safety. Keith is very experienced in this area and we welcome him to the team. He will attend ManComm meetings on a regular basis and bring his expertise to bear on safety matters where he tells me he thinks we are in good shape but has some ideas for improvements.

Turning to football, at the time of writing, the first team was unbeaten and was still in the FA Cup, having beaten Horsham and now awaiting the home tie against Oxhey Jets. Nonetheless, the results are probably

about three points behind where we would have liked to be at this stage. However, there is a long way to go and we believe that the combination of quality and strength in depth in our squad gives us every chance of achieving our aim of promotion this season, preferably by winning the league.

League gates have been lower than expected, being about 16% down on last season's average. There are lots of possible reasons for the fall and many people put forward their own views as the definitive answer. In my opinion, the only effective way of finding out why some people are not coming is by asking the people who aren't at our games, not by asking those who continue to come. Therefore, we are planning to send out a questionnaire to former season ticket holders who no longer have season tickets, asking them why they don't have an ST now.

Meanwhile we have not been idle in responding to the fall in gates. Haydon the Womble was in Wimbledon, along with volunteers, leafleting and generally promoting our game against Horsham. It is always difficult to assess the effectiveness of such marketing but we were pleasantly surprised by the attendance for that game. Also, a number of fans spoke to people who were attending for the first time, having been leafleted in Wimbledon town centre or station. This form of marketing is very time-consuming and needs more volunteers than we are likely to be able to recruit in the long term, so we are looking at using posters and other ways of marketing our games.

In youth football, our main issue has been the problem getting suitable pitches after having believed that we had secured them for the winter. After an appeal to fans, we have been following up a number of leads

and at the time of writing it looked as if we had have found a solution for this season at least, which is great news.

Off the pitch, the impact of the commercial executive, Keith McGuinness is showing in a number of ways, the most visible being the increase in the number of advertising hoardings around the pitch. We have always resisted selling these too cheaply just to fill the spaces and Keith has shown that, given the time, it is possible to sell the sites at good rates.

One of the first things Ivor, Nigel and I agreed was the need to focus on a relatively small number of key areas, to make sure we tackle any big problems or take advantage of opportunities to make our business stronger. The work we've done on attendances and youth team pitches are the sorts of thing I mean.

Another key area for us is the need to increase the income we get from functions rooms and bars at Kingsmeadow. We are taking a number of steps to improve things; some of these steps have been planned for a long time, some of them are new. The main initiative is "Kingsmeadow Live" which offers a range of quality entertainment,

including tribute bands to comedy nights and themed nights, every Friday and Saturday night. We need this initiative to succeed to increase the income we make from our bars and function rooms so that, with the profits, we can continue to recruit the quality of players we want. So please support it.

Another area I want to focus on is looking after our volunteers better. The volunteers are critical to our success and we need to make greater efforts to recognise them. Therefore, as a start we have announced the volunteers' party on Friday 24 November with a buffet, some free drinks and a ticket for the comedy evening for those who wish to use it. In addition, we plan to hold regular meetings with the volunteer team leaders to try to understand their concerns better and to be able to respond to some of the problems they face.

Financially, the results for the first two months of the year are likely to show the effects of the lower crowds on, obviously, gate money but also bar takings and, to some extent, merchandise sales. As described above, we are working on getting gates back up and on the other initiatives to improve our profitability.

## Ladies

Bert Dale

After what had appeared to be a reasonable pre-season, the loss of Lizzie Laws and Vicky Elcome, on top of Beth Sims, Carly Hunt and Rachael Axon's close season departures, left the senior ladies team rather depleted. Pre-season trials successfully strengthened the reserve team, but failed to find much talent for the first team. The newly appointed reserve team manager, Colin Gascoigne, resigned after only one game, and the first team manager, Lance Patey, soon followed after five successive defeats, despite the committee's vote of confidence. On brighter notes, Rick Hack has rejoined as reserve team manager after two seasons at Hampton & Richmond and ex-

Dons and England legend Marie-anne Spacey has joined the club as Senior coach. Experienced senior player, Andrea McGrady, has stepped in as caretaker manager and coincided with the return of Beth Sims and Carly Hunt. This was the catalyst for our first win, at Southampton Saints. Hopefully the run will continue and we'll move up the table accordingly.

The youth section continues to go from strength to strength, with four teams starting this season in the Surrey County Girls League at all ages from Under 12 to Under 15. Last season's managers, Nick Flinders and Toby Crisp have both stepped up a year, with

their gaps being filled by Alistair Campbell and Mick Whelan. All four teams have enjoyed good early season victories and are looking to continue building on the high standards set both on and off the field. Special mention must be made of co-ordinator Jackie Saddington for her tireless effort to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible. The youth section is also committed

to self-funding - anyone interested in sponsorship details or with fundraising ideas should contact the club.

The ladies committee have also worked in conjunction with the Community section, lead by Marc Jones, to set up the link with the Morden Girls League.

## Fundraising

Erik Samuelson

**F**undraising comprises three parts:

- ♦ Regular income from long-established sources, i.e. the Dons Draw and Golden Goals
- ♦ One off projects such as another sporting dinner, silent auctions and a further Walk for Wimbledon
- ♦ Smaller scale fundraisers, such as recycling, collecting change etc

Overall, the group has set a target for 2006/07 of about £90,000 with the majority, as always, coming from the regular income. Nonetheless, dates have been set for two

silent auctions and Walk for Wimbledon III, with a provisional date set for a further sporting dinner.

Meanwhile, in the background we continue to raise very useful sums from recycling, loose change collection, sales of old programmes, and raffles.

The group has recently appointed Jill Stratton as its secretary and is always looking for other volunteers to join the team. All you need to do is email [fundraising@thedonstrust.org](mailto:fundraising@thedonstrust.org) if you want to help.

## Stadium Working Group

Tom Adam

Over this quarter Stadium Working Group (SWG) members have been active across the following areas:-

**Stadium Maintenance** – Has included ensuring replacement of stand cladding on the John Smiths Stand, completion of concreting at the Home End and drawing together the maintenance schedule for the stadium as well reviewing various safety issues.

**Stadium Improvement** – Although some budget capital constraints at this time have tended to put such improvements on hold, some preparatory/estimating work continues on the toilets, middle bar and main stand roof extension.

**Local Development Framework (LDF)** – Liaison continues with the London Borough of Merton (LBM) on the possible encapsulation in their LDF of opportunities to meet our longer term stadium aspirations. LBM expect to release their LDF proposals later this year. Concerning the LDF for the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK), liaison has commenced with RBK. It is understood that RBK plan to release their LDF proposals early next year.

**Planning Permissions** – With the two planning permissions now secured for the stadium, SWG is now focussing on how best to take these forward so to make recommendations to Dons Trust Board. Since both

permissions call for the purchase of the periphery lease and that planning permissions are now confined to three years, progress on this work has now become high priority.

## Communications

Comms has taken a back seat while the SROB/Man Comm pilot has been unfolding. It is one of the working groups which reported to the Don's Trust Board, under the ongoing pilot it will now report to Mann Comm. As has been noted elsewhere, the three months of the pilot have been dictated by events rather than focussing on longer term strategy.

In terms of more information being available more quickly to members, Comms can be said to be performing adequately, but there is case for Comms being more involved with

## Community

Having previously mentioned in despatches the "Football and its Communities" report being compiled (I mentioned it in terms of how it looked as if it would inform our fledgling work within our own 'communities') I can now confirm it has been published. It can be found on the Football Foundation website here: <http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/news-and-media/publications/football-and-its-communities-final-report>. It weighs in at a hefty 84 pages including cover and I'd like to invite as many of you who have a passing interest to take a look. My intention for the next 12 months is to raise the awareness of us all in order to accurately understand just what we as a people / club wish to do in this area.

So far we have run a couple of pilot ideas. Nearby to Kingsmeadow is the Dickerage Lane Adventure Playground – a genuine oasis for local youths and somewhere I have personally been proud to support within my capacity as "community hat-wearer" for the

Morden Park – Further to the collective submission which was put to the London Borough of Merton (LBM) in early May, it is understood that LBM have yet to fully consider the submission.

## Stephen Butterick & Rob Dale

the wider communication strategy of the club, and this clearly has not happened. In the future members may wish to decide whether Comms is simply the publishing arm of the DTB, making sure information is quickly accessible on websites, or whether the Comms team might be more central to the club as a whole. At the moment the club and the different boards sometimes have several messages being delivered by different means – it may be that the new Boards and their members will feel the need for a more unified and coherent communications policy.

## Marc Jones

DTB. The Community Football Scheme provided a week of coaching during the summer holidays which was attended free of charge by 25 boys who all enjoyed it immensely. Further to the coaching we have also supplied the group with 1 adult and 4 kids' season tickets to be shared amongst the boys and girls that attend. The day we handed the tickets over saw all 4 boys attending wearing England shirts and when they were asked why they didn't have club colours on the inevitable answer came. I hope that by this time next year the Chelsea fad will have passed and the Dons will have a few more fans! Another area of support has been the Morden Girls League. The DT have funded the League to the tune of £500 which will have paid for 50% of all pitch fees as well as sponsoring a fair play trophy and adding support to "The Crazy Girls" team. This work goes some way to addressing the concept of "sport for all" which is another facet I wish to explore further this year, hopefully with the help of the membership.

A strategic meeting is planned with Nigel Higgs whom I report to directly on this work. This is an attempt to bring the work of the Trust and the club closer together on the issue of community in order to be at its most effective and strongest.

Have a look at the report mentioned at the

## Dons Trust Treasurer

Sean McLaughlin

Whilst the completion of the annual accounts is well under way, and with the results planned to be issued as soon as is practicable, there are still a number of issues that need to be resolved relating to income as well as to costs. As such, and taking into consideration the fact that the financial year end has already passed, it has been considered inappropriate to prepare unaudited management accounts for the full year.

Given that at the previous SGM, I did not present any figures, as having recently taken over the role as Dons Trust Treasurer I wished to take some time to familiarise myself with the accounts, I feel that it is important that the membership receives some financial information and therefore I present the unaudited results for the eleven months ending 31st May 2006, which have been considered by the Dons Trust Board (see page 13). As can be seen there has been a surplus of income over expenditure in the eleven-month period of £91,751. Whilst a creditable result it should be noted that the full year results for 2004/05 showed an excess of £123,725, and the budget for this eleven month period projected an excess of £98,384.

Key features regarding the finances of the Dons Trust, and in particular the adverse performance against last year actuals and budget are touched upon below:

Membership – As noted in the Membership report a strong membership is key to the Dons Trust. As can be seen membership

start and pass on your thoughts to me directly as you see fit. Also, please do take part in the forthcoming process that has been put into place which is designed to determine what we, as a set of supporters, believe our club is about and what it should attempt to achieve.

income is down on last year, and as at 31st May we had had 1,670 paid up members, against 1,974 for the full year. As a result membership income for the period is £6,980 below the eleven-month budget. The Dons Trust Board is currently investigating the reasons for lapsed members. We are currently investigating the possibility of taking membership renewals by direct debit.

Fundraising – The Dons Draw continues to grow in popularity, with revenues of £41,004 year to date. Golden Goals has also performed well, with some revenues still to be accounted for from the 2005/06 season. The other highlight of the year was the Dinner with Dave, which raised £16,345. However as highlighted by John Owen in his March report, fundraising revenues are currently under budget due to the higher number of events that took place in the previous year.

Balance Sheet – In the eleven-month period we have received almost £60,000 from the issue of new bonds. This together with the surplus of income over expenditure enabled the Dons Trust to lend £187,000 to AFCW PLC during the eleven-month period. As noted by John Owen, during the year the Dons Trust subscribed for a further 300,000 A Ordinary shares in AFCW PLC at a cost of £180,000, which helped to reduce the outstanding debt from AFCW PLC.

## Community Events

Barrie Scott

As discussed in the last quarterly report, during the close season, we attended both the Mitcham Carnival, the Wimbledon Village fair and a number of school fairs in the area. All proved highly successful with a great deal of interest in the progress of the club and the trust, with the Speed game proving the most successful in terms of raising funds and the stocks not far behind. Wimbledon fair proved a great success as we also had a 'human football' game organised by the 'football in the Community' group and were allocated a superb plot by the organisers. Our games were busy all day and alone raised over £700. It was very much appreciated that a number of new volunteers attended to help run the stalls enabling others to have a break in the extremely hot weather. Once again it proved an excellent way of promoting the existence of the club and trust. On the subject of school fairs we have already been invited to attend Beresford School sometime in July 2007!

There was one sad note during the quarter. Richard Coyte, a big AFC Wimbledon fan and very active member of our group together

with being a volunteer for various matchday activities, died at the age of 56. Sincere condolences go to his wife and two daughters and he will be surely missed but remembered forever.

The group is currently planning the Junior Dons Christmas party with a provisional date of 10th December set. Nina Smith has volunteered once again to be the main organiser. It is hoped that we can have the same DJ as last year (Rocking Paddy, a fellow supporter) as it was an outstanding success particularly the 'mummy' game. So look out for details in the programme and on the AFC Wimbledon website. Over the coming months we will also be considering our next Funday as the earlier we can plan the event then the more outside organisations we can attract.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to assist the group and so if you think you can spare the odd evening to attend a meeting and assist with running the games at the various fairs during the close season then please get in touch.

## Finance Working Group

Erik Samuelson

The Finance Working Group continues to meet on the first Monday of every month. In the period since I last reported the group's main activities have been:

- ♦ Reviewing the terms of reference and initial plan for the strategy review

- ♦ Giving feedback on the FD recruitment process and job specification
- ♦ Developing thoughts and questions on corporate governance and discussing them with some of the PLC non-executives, and following these with recommendations for improvements

## Membership

Sandy Lawrence

The recent approach by a businessman to acquire the club was a reminder of how AFC Wimbledon came about and a warning against complacency. Having a strong Trust, particularly in terms of membership

numbers, is vital to safeguard the future of all we have achieved in this unique football club.



As a result of this approach, it was announced in July that a long-term strategy is being developed "setting out the aspirations for the club and identifying the most appropriate business model for realising those aspirations". In other words, the time has come for us to decide what sort of club we want to own.

Furthermore, this strategy is being devised with the full participation of Dons Trust members, with the Board emphasising that there is no presumption in favour of changing the current ownership structure, and that any decisions on such fundamental issues should be made by the members of the Trust.

## Legal & Constitution

I make no apologies for replicating a significant part of last quarters report below as it remains both valid and current.

The past quarter has seen a heavy work load for the L & C Group including such issues as the "Mr Smith" offer and the SROB / Man Comm Pilot, again these have distracted us from our core objectives however they are challenges that need and must be addressed so it is time well spent.

The Constitutional Review Group continues its work, in three significant areas; whilst these are being dealt with separately they are intrinsically linked and as a consequence work is consistently cross referenced to ensure thinking is joined up.

As stated previously the Constitution will evolve over time and will probably always be considered "work in progress" as it tries to reflect the changing needs of the Dons Trust.

Members should never hesitate in bringing issues forward for consideration, or be deterred if they are not initially accepted, as it may just be a case of timing rather than content or objection.

It is therefore more important than ever at this critical time that you as a Dons Trust Member have a say in the future of our football club. So spread the word – if you know any lapsed members, try to get them to rejoin.

Finally, I would like to repeat the plea made in the last quarterly report, in that the Board would welcome any suggestions from members as to how new members could be attracted, so if any of you have any ideas at all as to how to do this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

David Cox

In the last report I said "When we launched the Constitutional Review in 2005, we published a route map on the O/S that detailed the process we hoped to adopt, as with all complex journeys of this type the path has proved more time consuming than first considered and whilst we are making significant progress and are heading in the right direction we have, as I flagged up during Decembers AGM, slipped behind schedule".

I apologise for the delay but would like to reassure the membership we will be delivering a significant discussion document in the near future.

I would refer anyone interested in the work to date to the O/S where you will find the minutes of meetings and the process map referred to above.

The work has been separated into three separate areas:

Technical Areas – These are essentially areas of the constitution that require tidying up and or re-drafting, the first draft of this document has been released to the DT Board and it is hoped will be available for the

broader membership to view shortly. As with all changes to the constitution the work will eventually be presented as recommendations and will require the membership to vote on individual or group recommendations. The Constitutional Review Group considers these items to be non-controversial and as such should pass without too much trouble.

Matters of Principle – This refers to areas of concern that may have a bearing on the future of the DT or its stewardship of AFC Wimbledon PLC and subsidiaries. It is a case of building in safe guards whilst allowing the business to continue thriving.

Issues such as: – Insufficient People wishing to become Board Members. – Significant drop in DT membership

This work is proving more difficult to progress as it will ultimately require a significant input from the membership. The following extract from the minutes of a recent meeting outlines how we propose tackling this:

“A consultation approach more akin to a Green Paper. A short consultation document (e.g. an A5 booklet of around a dozen pages) would be produced for distribution to all members. The document would present key issues, indicate in broad terms some possible solutions and invite members to respond on questions. Specific proposals would then be drawn up following consultation.

- ♦ Produce and distribute consultation document by (Month);

- ♦ Workshops with members in (Month) (broken up into small, themed discussion groups rather than a large meeting - Kingsmeadow would not necessarily be the only venue);
- ♦ Written consultation responses by end (Month);
- ♦ Produce findings by end (Month) and move thereafter to recommendations and drafting.”

Lastly we have produced a “blue sky” document for the DT Board, considering how we might work in the future, this paper considers what would / should happen in the event of different situations coming to bear. Essentially the document is the output from the joint DT / AFCW PLC Board meeting and looks to address how we can be more efficient and effective.

Clearly any member who wishes to challenge the groups recommendations will have the opportunity to do so however it is hoped they would have engaged in the process at an earlier stage.

We are actively seeking a dialogue with the membership. We want to understand the issues that you feel need reviewing and receive input into those topics under review. Again, these issues should initially be addressed to the following e-mail account.

Again I would encourage anyone wishing to input into the process to e-mail me on [david.cox@thedonstrust.org](mailto:david.cox@thedonstrust.org).

## Secretariat and AGM / SGM

Mark Davis

The pilot of the Strategic Review and Oversight Board (SROB) has been a key feature of the third quarter of the year. You will hear more at the SGM about Board members’ findings from this exercise and the reasons for continuing the pilot for a further period.

Setting up the pilot occupied a fair amount of time and effort, as it was necessary to think through not only what the overall concept was, and how it might eventually be reflected in the Rules, but also to how to make it work during the pilot phase within the confines of the Society’s existing Rules.

I'm indebted to Kris Stewart for sharing some of the load on this work.

The need to keep the Dons Trust Board going in the background, with the right to intervene at any time in the pilot, was seen as a procedural nicety at the outset of the pilot. Yet, within just a few days of the pilot starting, we were faced with a totally unexpected situation, in the form of a potential takeover of the club by "Mr Smith". In these circumstances, pilot or no pilot, it was necessary to convene a DT Board meeting to bring the DT Board fully into the frame on such a fundamental issue. In fact, the total number of DTB and SROB meetings has been relatively high over what should normally be a fairly quiet quarter for the DTB. My thanks go to Tim Hillyer and Sandy Lawrence for deputising at those of the meetings that I was unable to attend.

If you want to look at the minutes of DTB and SROB meetings, then these are available on the Dons Trust section of the AFC Wimbledon website. One thing that can be seen from the minutes is that the e-mail voting procedures introduced earlier this year have been utilised to quite a significant extent. These are mainly for issues that are uncontroversial and do not require further face-to-face discussion among the Board. It is my view that this has been successful not only in smoothing the conduct of time-critical business but also in slightly reducing the amount of time that needs to be spent on routine issues in Board meetings.

Most members will be aware that Geraldine Messenbird resigned from the Board recently owing to illness. In order to maintain the number of elected Board members (including

Board members appointed to fill a casual vacancy) at twelve (as currently required by the Constitution), the only co-opted member of the Board, Sean McLaughlin, resigned from the Board and was immediately re-appointed to fill the casual vacancy created by Geraldine's resignation. I wish Geraldine well in her recovery; it has been a pleasure serving on the Board with her.

I said in the last Quarterly Report that I would report this quarter on some of the other priorities that were set for the year, such as reviewing our record retention and data protection procedures. As it happens, with all the activity surrounding the SROB pilot on top of the regular secretarial workload, most of these activities will need to await the input of a fresh DT Secretary in the New Year. Rest assured, however, that I shall be making sure that a new Secretary (and perhaps some support) is in place to replace me by then. If you haven't yet registered your interest, then please e-mail [secretary@thedonstrust.org](mailto:secretary@thedonstrust.org).

I will be contacting members shortly after the SGM to call for nominations to the 2006 DT Board elections. The rules for those elections are to be put to members at the forthcoming SGM. I will be happy to answer any questions members may have about what being a Board member entails, and I hope a good number of you will be thinking about whether you would be willing to stand for election.

Finally, as a date for your diary, it is currently contemplated that the 2006 Dons Trust AGM will be held on Monday 11th December. This will be confirmed at a later date.

## Conclusion

As you will read in this report, Dons Trust Board members continue to take forward their assigned responsibilities with enthusiasm currently through the reporting arrangements set up for the Pilot namely,

the Strategic Review and Oversight Board (SROB) and the Management Committee (ManComm). I must admit, it was a little disappointing that the Pilot was not completed on time but I feel members will

Tom Adam

agree that when urgent decisions are required of the Dons Trust Board they have to be dealt with and more specifically in accordance with our constitution. However, sufficient benefits have already emerge from the Pilot to warrant an extension to the trial period, which in due time if deemed successful, could lead to changes in our constitution. Running the Pilot has meant less work for some board members but for others it has been extra work. I believe the extra work now, will be more than compensated if we are able to ease the work load on all board members and at the same time strengthen transparency and accountability. I thank all DT Board members for the effort they are putting in to ensure a meaningful outcome of the Pilot.

It is great to see our regular major fundraisers such as the Dons Draw, Golden Goals continually doing so well, as are our other fundraising initiatives. For us to fund the realisation of our objectives, it is so important for our fundraising to continue to be part of our way of life. This could be more so as we draw on our Commercial Loan. Once again, I thank the fundraising team who make the initiatives a reality and to every one else who contributed financially. Whilst some of you may feel our debt is under control it still needs to be cleared and therefore remains top priority. Thus support from all trust members in our fund raising initiatives remains paramount.

I trust members will have noted in this report our intention to give to our Volunteers more collective recognition and put in place more effective communication arrangements. I am sure this will no doubt benefit everyone, particularly as Volunteers are the "life blood" of the Trust and the Club. Sustaining and extending Dons Trust membership is another key issue and I trust members continue to encourage non members to join and lapsed members to rejoin. The strength of our membership is paramount in achieving to our on going success.

I must admit the resignation of Kris Stewart as our club CEO and chairman was

something of a shock to me but I fully appreciate his desire to be less consumed by the work, as has been the case for a number of years and also his wish take on new challenges. I thank Kris for his dedication and successes he has achieved over the years and wish him well for the future. With Erik Samuelson taking over the task as CEO on a temporary basis, I am sure we are in safe hands.

On the football side, whilst we all would like a few more points on the table, I am sure members will appreciate that during the close season the Club has secured quite a lot of additional strength and depth to the side. This should bode well for our campaign over this season. On behalf of the membership, I wish to offer convey our best wishes to the Club as they embark on their quest to secure promotion.

Finally, I would like to remind all members that it is now that time of the year when the election process for Dons Trust Board membership commences. So if any of you wish to gain an insight on the work of the board and shape it for the future, as well as being a decision maker, please be ready to offer yourself for election to the board. I am sure you will find being a board member extremely rewarding. For those of you not so inclined towards board membership, please do exercise your right to vote at these elections

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made the work of the Dons Trust a success so far this year and to confirm that the Dons Trust Board remains fully committed to full transparency and accountability.

Tom Adam,  
Chair Dons Trust

## Wimbledon Football Club Supporters' Society Limited

<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>2005/2006 Unaudited 11 months to 31/05/06</b>	<b>2004/2005 Audited 12 months to 30/06/05</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Turnover</b>		
Membership Income - Adults	32,300	39,646
Membership Income - Juniors	2,540	2,620
Sponsorship Income	0	1,500
Donations	3,767	6,252
Bond Interest Receivable	4,400	3,990
Other	249	4,123
	<b>43,256</b>	<b>58,131</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		
AFC Ladies	(15,000)	(12,060)
Membership Expenses	(7,309)	(8,425)
Bond Interest Payable	(4,400)	(3,990)
Other	(3,474)	(3,969)
AFC Wimbledon Youth Academy Sponsorship	(2,500)	(10,758)
Community Football Sponsorship	(1,000)	(2,844)
	<b>(33,683)</b>	<b>(42,046)</b>
<b>Fund Raising</b>		
Dons Draw	41,004	25,042
Golden Goals	13,897	15,402
Dinner with Dave	16,345	0
Loose Change	2,728	598
Donations	1,452	6,380
Sponsor A Seat	100	8,066
Weird & Wonderful Rematch		19,025
Walk for Wimbledon II		9,694
Evening with Ossie		9,170
Boxing Night II		2,180
Other events less than £2,000	6,652	12,083
	<b>82,178</b>	<b>107,640</b>
<b>Excess of Income over expenditure</b>	<b>91,751</b>	<b>123,725</b>
 <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
	<b>Unaudited At 31/05/06</b>	<b>Audited At 30/06/05</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Shares in AFCW PLC	355,603	179,623
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Amounts due from AFCW PLC (net)	397,815	385,631
Sundry debtors	663	9,305
Cash at bank and in hand	11,913	41,505
	<b>410,391</b>	<b>436,441</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors falling due within one year	(12,481)	(13,777)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>397,910</b>	<b>422,664</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>753,513</b>	<b>602,287</b>
<b>Other Creditors</b>		
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(299,455)	(239,980)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>454,058</b>	<b>362,307</b>
<b>Share Capital</b>		
Opening balance	1,593	1,751
Shares issued in the period	0	179
Less: Forfeitures	0	(337)
Closing balance	<b>1,593</b>	<b>1,593</b>
<b>Reserve Fund</b>		
Opening	360,714	236,989
Surplus for the period	91,751	123,725
Closing	<b>452,465</b>	<b>360,714</b>
<b>Members Funds</b>	<b>454,058</b>	<b>362,307</b>