



It has been a busy year for Wimbledon in Sporting History, and even though we have seen many successful projects launch and be thoroughly enjoyed, the work never stops as we aim to bring many more stories from our illustrious past to life. This is part one of our summary of what has happened this year at WISH.

Since the stadium has opened, WISH has done its best to be at the forefront of the visuals around the ground. All fans are immensely proud of our history, and therefore all pieces of it that can be restored and placed within our grounds make all the hard work worthwhile. This can be down to chasing an elusive match-worn shirt, to the Womble 'Til I Die gates.

A good example of this was when the sign from The Sportsman Pub was renovated and donated to the museum. A wonderful piece of nostalgia. It is of course you, the fans, that helped us realise our dream of coming home. When an initiative to help raise funds by way of buying into Seedrs shares had a bonus of having your name added onto areas of importance around the ground, WISH helped

finalise this with plaques, and boards. It was a long process, but getting that extra buzz seeing your name in the stadium that you helped build is truly amazing.

A lot of those plaques, as well as other super graphic displays that you see around the concourses have been installed with great care and attention by our friends at The Bark Group. Ben Adams and his team have been so helpful with everything we ask of them, so a big ongoing thank you to them.

One of the biggest projects we have had this year was the reworking of A Fans Club play. Matthew Couper led this, having written and organised the majority of the work surrounding the actual production. This was the centrepiece of a Heritage weekend that saw talks by local groups, and a launch of a book written by Matthew's brother Niall. These types of events bring everyone at the Club together, so much so that there was even a bright cameo during the play by Morgan Williams. He won't be giving up his footballing career, but we thank him greatly for giving up his time to join us that evening.

For the first time we honoured one of our own

when Mick Pugh was named the first recipient of the Dennis Lowndes Trophy. Named after another volunteer who sadly passed away, this award showcases all the volunteer work done by so many for the Club and for WISH. Dennis was a cornerstone for the Club in this respect, and Mick was a worthy first name on the Trophy for all the fine work he has done down the years.

WISH wouldn't be where it is now without volunteers and we urge you, if you have time to spare, to join us in any way you can. We have many projects throughout the year that need help, this could be greeting people in our wonderful museum, or helping at a community event on the Common. You might even see a Womble there!



If interested please contact us at info@wimbledoninsportinghistory.com, alternatively if you would like to make a small donation to us for future projects – which there are plenty of next year, then please do so by using the QR code:



Last Monday evening was a great occasion for the Club, and the way we presented ourselves in front of the live television audience was something we



can all be proud of. The FA Cup holds a special place for us at Wimbledon, we have a marvellous affection for the competition that includes, of course, the win in 1988 that still has its place as one of the biggest upsets in the final.

We managed to get some of our players from that team along to The Cherry Red Records Stadium, although some were in a working capacity – Terry Gibson was co-commentator for ITV Sport. Andy Thorn is our Chief Scout and he helped parade the trophy around the pitch before kick-off, with John Scales.

The players all enjoyed their time with us on Monday, helped of course with the fine win, and Scales took time out to personally write a few lines of appreciation to WISH Director John Lynch, which we have published here:

“Hi John,

Thanks so much for inviting me and the girls to the game - we had a great time and absolutely loved it.

It was very special for me to see my girls have the opportunity to experience my Wimbledon legacy

and I'm so grateful for that privilege.

You've done a great job with the museum and all else you're doing to preserve and celebrate the Club's heritage.

Hopefully see you down here in Wimbledon again soon for that coffee.

Cheers,

John”

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