



WiSH x The Dons Den

The Dons Den continues to work in collaboration with WiSH, developing further projects ongoing to give people an insight into the heritage of Wimbledon Speedway and most recently more up to date events to whet the appetite of supporters that have not had a club or team to support in track action since the Wimbledon Dons racing ceased racing in 2005.

The Dons Den led by Speedway curator and former Wimbledon racer Jon Stevens. With the imagination and inspiration, the idea was borne for The London Tournament. A key event in this year's 2024 speedway calendar in Kent. With the Wimbledon Dons still without a place they call 'Home'. The Kent Kings played host to the event on 4 August. To renew old rivalries between Wimbledon, those north London clubs of old, White City and our deepest rivals the Hackney Hawks.

The event was backed by WiSH, Dons Local Action Group and gained huge support from Kingsley Hamilton. The trip from Plough Lane to Iwade in Kent was made possible by Kingsley offering the journey free of charge for all supporters that wished to jump aboard for the fun and there was plenty of it to be had.

The venue was set up in carnival style, Wimbledon banners all over the arena, red and yellow Dons bunting streamed across the terracing, along with red and yellow smoke streaming from the presentation green. It was rather emotional to see the big red Routemaster bus arrive with an army of red and yellow supporters disembarking. The sound of blaze away echoed from the rear of the bus and war cries.

The trifle feeling of being around those red and yellow supporters, all



wanting the team to win, reignited the old times that I recall at the old Wimbledon. To see the Dons Racers in that famous red and yellow with a splash of blue, which now reflects

the transition colours between both Football and Speedway, Dons fans. The yellow in that star forms the bond that unites us all.

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The collection buckets on the day had a total donation of over £500 towards the Ronnie Moore statue fund which we plan to unveil in April 2025, made entirely from recycled metal parts from the old stadium.

Wimbledon were narrowly defeated by two points, however the carnival atmosphere and the rejoice of seeing Wimbledon racing again made it a great day. Let this be a new start of things to come and not the very end.

Jon Stevens & John Lynch

