

INTERNATIONAL DONS FANS GROUPS KEEP GROWING

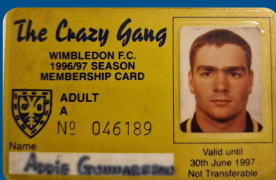
As much as Wimbledon in Sporting History is about preserving our fantastic sporting legacy, it also encourages, and embraces, fans from around the world. You may recall our fabulous link-up with Argentinian club Boca Juniors earlier this year. The Club kit drew the attention of our South American friends, and from there, a friendship was born.

At last count, we have over 30 countries with recognised dedicated fans that follow the Dons, and we are sure there are many more that we have not been in contact with yet. Our worldwide community is very important to us, showing how far our reach goes. The fans could be fans who have moved abroad for varying reasons or ones who have found our story over the last two decades compelling and watched us grow.

To finish the season we extend the hand of friendship to our friends from Iceland. Helgi Gunnarsson has written to us ahead of his visit to the stadium today, and as you will see from his words, the reasoning behind his visit is one of sadness, but also inspiration.



"Last year my older brother Arnar Gunnarsson passed away (committed suicide) just days before he turned 45-years-old. The last year has had an enormous effect on my family and friends and has been very difficult.



"Arnar was a lifelong Wimbledon supporter and had been many times in England to watch them play and went a few trips to away games as well. He was also in contact with people from the Club. Here in Iceland, there have not been many Wimbledon supporters that we know of.

"In his memory, we are now starting an Icelandic supporters club here in Iceland, since that is the best way to keep his memory alive. On the 13 March (which was his birthday) we officially started the supporters club. We would really like to

connect our supporters club to AFC Wimbledon and get to know all the wonderful people around the Club.



"A few of us have already bought plane tickets from Iceland to England in April to come and see the last home game of the season against Walsall."



It has been a busy year for WiSH with many successful projects completed in and around the stadium, with several more ongoing. Some of these will be visible in the coming weeks, such as the Heritage Trail, which we are very excited about.

Each time that a project is completed we take immense pride in seeing the positive feedback from you, the fans, that all the work is intended for. This could be from an old Plough Lane turnstile to the WTID gates, through to a new set of graphics that display our history.

As well as this we have deliberately chosen to honour and preserve the rich sporting legacy that took place on this site over the many years before our return. Some of you may have attended the recent Mick the Miller mosaic unveiling. If you have not seen this fantastic piece of art featuring a legend, then please do so. It is located at



the bottom on the left of the main stairway entrance to the Club.

There is an event to back up the unveiling, a film, that has its premiere on the 1 June. And our commitment to other sports continues next year when we have a special event planned to commemorate Speedway at the stadium. Details of both of these events can be found on the following pages.

As the season comes to an end our work continues, and we have some dates for your diaries that coincide with other club-related activities. We look forward to seeing you!

Your support over the year has been amazing, and we have been extremely grateful for any help you have given us. This may have been through volunteering time with us or a monetary donation. We appreciate all your support if you have managed either of these with us. It is not too late to do so either, as the list of events that are coming up over the coming weeks, some of which are listed below.

If you can help out with set up for these events you can contact us at info@wimbledonin-sportinghistory.org and if you are in a position to do so, you can donate by scanning this QR code:



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| 21 May | Fair Game event at the stadium |
| 26 May | DLAG Family Fun Day at the Old Ruts (Morden) |
| 1 June | WiSH 3rd Annual Celebration / Mick Pugh Challenge match / Greyhound film premiere / other events to be confirmed |
| 8 Sept | Wimbledon and Putney Commons Day |
| August TBC | Merton Heritage Discovery Day at Crown House (Morden) |



Greyhounds return to Plough Lane for one afternoon only!

Wimbledon in Sporting History and Digital-works proudly present a film premiere of **Going to the Dogs**

The History of Greyhound Racing at Wimbledon Stadium 1928 - 2017

Followed by a Q&A

2.30pm - 4pm
Saturday 1st June 2024
 The Cherry Red Records Stadium
 Plough Lane, London, SW17 0NR

Free Entry
 but please reserve seats by emailing info@wimbledoninsportinghistory.com with your requirements.

There will be displays of Greyhound memorabilia and artefacts on show and the famous, newly-restored Mick the Miller mosaic is on display at the front of the stadium.

A complimentary buffet afterwards from 4.30pm refreshments, cake & biscuits

Finally at 6.30pm sit back and watch round 2 of the Greyhound Derby live from Towcester on the screen and the bar will be open as well.

Listen to the full project interviews and watch the film at www.goingtothedogs.org.uk



Photos by Steve Nash Photography

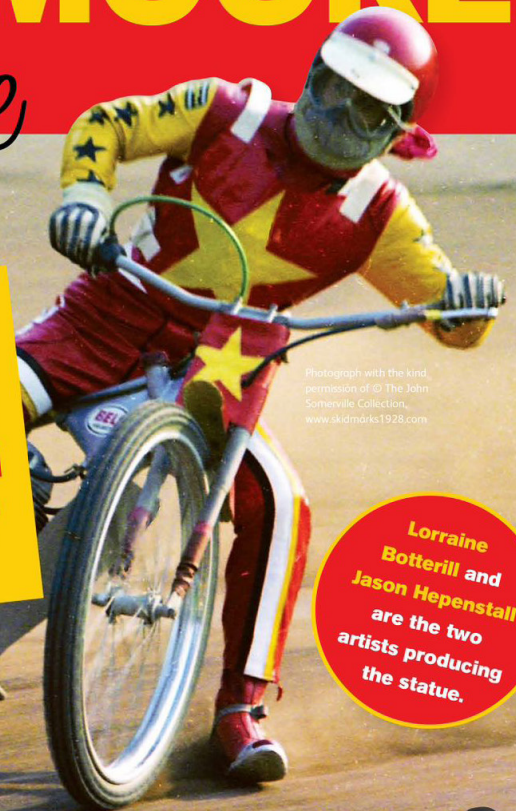
digital-works
 documenting life-stories through creative participation



★★ **RONNIE** ★★
MOORE

Statue

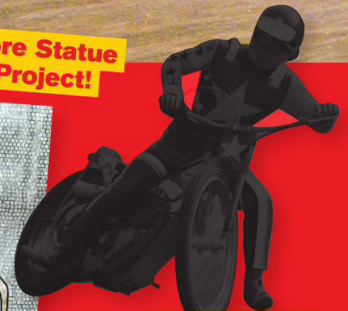
PLANNED UNVEILING:
2025!
 Please keep sending in your donations so we can meet the target of £13,000. Any queries can be emailed to TheDonsDen@hotmail.com



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Lorraine Botterill and Jason Hepenstall are the two artists producing the statue.

Ronnie Moore Statue Heritage Project!



SCAN ME

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