



## Worldwide Wombles Review

Two weeks ago we hosted our first ever Wimbledon in Sporting History (WiSH) Worldwide Wombles Weekend in partnership with the Club, welcoming Dons supporters from all over the world. These groups have grown organically, inspired by "The Greatest Story in Football" and we wanted to bring them together, celebrating with our global ambassadors.

On the Friday 14 February it was a Crazy Gang Valentines Special in the Phoenix with yellow and blue hearts present.

Hosted by Ivor Heller and joined by our VIP guest Hans Segers, who'd flown in from Holland that day, we welcomed all who'd made the journey, possibly the furthest was Hang from China, who, after an absence of 25 years, came to be part of this special occasion, given a valentines pass by his wife in return for a shopping list from Selfridges. It was a great evening culminating in Hans leading the whole pub in an Icelandic football hand clap – I'm looking forward to seeing the video!

It was a record take in the Phoenix for a Friday evening, an 800% increase on the average! These Dons know how to party, especially the large Viking contingent.



With that in mind we're including two more stories one from HP & the Norse Dons and the other from Helgi and the Icelandic Dons.

These events take a lot of planning, time and passion, not just from the WiSH and WOPA volunteers but the superb support received from the Club. Everybody wants a replay so as soon as next season's fixtures come out we'll be nominating a match to host the international sequel, we hope to welcome you all

back along with new countries and supporters as we reach out and continue to tell our unique story around the globe.

**John Lynch**  
Managing Director of WiSH



## Norse Dons

Hi all,

My name is Hans Petter Bakke, most of you will know me simply as HP.

I am from Stavanger, Norway, and I've been a Dons fans since the mid-80s. I believe my first game at Plough Lane was back in Feb/March of 85, big win against Sheffield United, 4 or 5 nil I think.

I come to follow the Dons seeing as I lived in Reading from 84-86, but went to Norwegian School in Wimbledon, in Arteberry Road.

I followed the Dons from Norway and was always pleased with us being the giant killers quite often. Loved the Crazy Gang spirit and the spirit of the fans when we reformed as the continuation of Wimbledon FC in 2002.

In the early days of non-league many of you might remember this Norwegian who came over eight to nine times a season, man I thought those were really good times. Wouldn't have missed it for the world.

A very proud moment was when Kris Stewart, Lou Carton-Kelly and Trevor Williams co-signed the founding charter of The Norsedons, making a Norwegian supporters club – the very first official one. Plenty of good Nogs out there you know. Also spent plenty of time that trip to recruit English members to the Norsedons. You might have a yellow t-shirt in your



closet, with a Viking long boat on it, that says Founder Member.

Many times friendly banter with Dave Anderson over a couple of pints, actually bottles of Budweiser – he preferred that – after games voicing my opinion over poor goalie selection and/or other players. No, we never agreed on anything, but had bundles of laughs.

I got myself a Double winners tattoo before the cup final against North Greenfield United at Woking. Only thing is, I had it done a week BEFORE the final. Many of my mates in London thought it was an unnecessary tempting of the footballing gods and a really bad idea and move. I do remember bending over the boards pitchside showing the players, sitting on the pitch stretching before the game, my new Double Winners 2004 tattoo, and I promised there'd be hell to pay if they didn't win. Dobbo Junior looked really scared. One nil down at half-time, but it ended 4-1 I believe. Had a good laugh with the players, and Dobbo Junior after the game though.

I remember well when Marcus Gayle signed my Norwegian flag, on the white stripe of course, while I told him my son Marcus Maximilliyen was named after him. It means Marcus the Great. He was really humbled by that. What a guy, and what a player.

Many memories, shared with lots of friends from the greater London area, many of whom are really close and many have visited me, some multiple times, in Norway. I love you all to bits, and long may this fairytale and adventure continue.

See you in the ground and in the bar after.

Womble till I Die!

HP

## Icelandic Dons

Greetings fellow Wombles! It was a great honour and privilege to attend last week's game against Salford during the Worldwide Wombles Weekend as Match Day Ball Sponsor. We had a stadium tour prior to the match where we got to meet the great Dutch, Hans Segers. We were treated amazingly by the Club over the two days and really appreciate this special moment for our Icelandic Supporters Club. This is such a special club and we feel so welcomed every time we visit. All the best from the Official Icelandic Supporters Club.

COYD! We can do this!

Best wishes,

Helgi

