



MINUTES OF 1st AGM HELD ON 6th JUNE 2005

Venue: St. Paul's Social Club, Dover

Present: Mick Padfield, Tim Padfield, Bill Browning, Gary Cattermole, Mark Padfield, David Browning, Darren Herbert, Paul Padfield, John Cattermole, Norman Deal, Don Lax, Julian Vernon, Bob Gee, Mark Lambert, John & Simon Wheeler, Graham & Craig Innes, Sean Beer, Jon & Debbie Wheeler, Glen Virtue, Danny Bourne, Aaron Cattermole, Derek Butcher, Darren Dominic & Jonathon Herbert, Mick Wright, Paul Strutt, Haydn Powlter, Bob Lawson.

Apologies: Tony & Elizabeth Homersham, Lucy Coates, Eric Parker, Penny Strutt, Frankie Benn & Richard Simmonds

AGENDA ITEM 1- Tim Padfield welcomed the members to the 1st AGM since the Dover Gooners became an official Arsenal supporters club. He said that in the first year we had become known as an active and vibrant supporter's club amongst other supporters club, he quoted a number of events that had led to this growing reputation, including the 'alternative cup final' trip to Calais in 2004, the video evening held after one of the committee meetings and the recent end of season BBQ. However, he felt that 2 major events had dominated our first season, the launching of the website, for which he thanked James Cattermole for his efforts. He said that the site had opened up new contacts and led to considerable praise and comments from not only British based supporters clubs, but also those from Ireland and the continental. However, Tim felt the 'jewel in the crown' was the Christmas lunch, which drew universal praise from all of those who attended and has even led to him being introduced to a member of the London supporters club, by one of their committee members as 'This is Tim who belongs to the Dover Gooners who hold that wonderful day function at Christmas'. High praise from such a respected club! He then went on to thank Mick Padfield and Gary Cattermole for all of the effort that they put into club, he pointed out that they do it for no other reward than the benefit of the members. In closing Tim stressed that we had come a long way in the first year, but we should strive to continue to flourish and make ourselves even better.

ITEM 2 – Mick Padfield presented the accounts to the meeting. He pointed out that even though we were a non profit making club we do in fact have £384.82 in the bank at present. He said that we should aim to hold a balance in the region of £500 to £600, which would mean that in the future should the club book a coach for any trips the cost would be covered from its account, instead of himself or Gary Cattermole having to pay for it and then claim the money back. He then went through the accounts explaining every item of income and expenditure. He pointed out that these accounts did not include the £14,371 which had been spent on the purchasing of tickets for

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the members over the season. He pointed out that the end of season BBQ may have made a small lose, at present all the money has not yet been collected. He said that the accounts had not been audited, but he invited the members to inspect the books at the end of the meeting. The accounts were proposed by Jon Wheeler and seconded by John Cattermole.

ITEM 3 – Due to the fact no nominations had been received to stand against the current officials and committee the meeting returned them all unanimously. At this point Tim Padfield said that as the membership of the club was now in excess of 100 people he felt the committee should be made up of 5 or 6 members, therefore spreading the responsibility a bit further. He therefore invited members to nominate some new committee members. Jon Wheeler put himself forward and the meeting unanimously voted for him. The officials and committee for the 2005/06 season are:

Chairman – Tim Padfield
Treasurer – Mick Padfield
Secretary – Gary Cattermole

Committee – Paul Padfield
- **Mark Padfield**
- **Bill Browning**
- **Darren Herbert**
- **Jon Wheeler**

ITEM 4 – Gary Cattermole explained that the following proposed change to rule 6, had been put forward by Mick Padfield at a committee meeting on 4th April 2005:

‘All members of the Dover Gooners who are Bond Holders, Season Ticket Holders, Silver or Red members, Family Enclosure or Cannon Club Members, Junior Gunners or on the Season Ticket waiting list, will not pay an annual fee. Any member of the Dover Gooners, who is not one of the above, will pay an annual fee of £5. Anybody who joins part way through a season and is not one of the above will also pay the full fee of £5.’

Mick then explained his reasons for this proposed rule change. He said that he was aware that most supporters club charge their members an annual fee, regardless of whether or not they have any form of membership with Arsenal. He also pointed out that some clubs even charge a levy on the tickets that they sale to their members. He was aware that some people had said that the reason that they wanted to join the Dover Gooners was that ‘they had heard that it was a good way to get tickets’, he did not think that this was the right reason for joining the club and felt that we should discourage this attitude. He accepted that not everybody wanted to become a member of Arsenal FC, but felt that they wanted to be a member of a supporters club; he therefore thought that asking these people for a £5 annual fee was not unreasonable. **THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A number of questions concerning the whole matter of tickets were then raised. It was restated that the £5 would be payable at the start of a season, or if any spare tickets were available and a non member wanted one then the first ticket purchased by that person would carry a £5 fee on top. It was pointed out that if a member purchased a ticket for a match, but then found that they were unable to attend the ticket must be returned to the committee for them to reallocate it. The reason for this is that a list of non silver members wanting tickets for matches is held by Gary Cattermole, he also logs who every ticket is allocated too, so that in the event of there being any problems the committee can provide Arsenal with as much information as possible. It was pointed out that our rules did allow us to cancel the membership of any member should they not comply

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with these rules. Darren Herbert then pointed out that club's rules did not cover the allocation and return of tickets and he thought that they should be amended to stipulate that

1) The silver members get first choice of any tickets for games; if there were any spare tickets then they would be offered to non silver members who were on the spares list. If the club reached any final then the silver members would get first choice of tickets and then any spare would be allocated to the other members who had attended most games that season.

2) That if a member could not attend a game the ticket must be returned to the committee for reallocation and if the ticket cannot be placed then that member is still responsible for the cost of the ticket.

It was pointed out by Gary Cattermole that any amendments to the rules should be proposed 21 days in advance to the AGM; however, the meeting gave the committee the authority to draft suitably worded rules to cover the points raised by Darren and add them to the constitution.

Simon Wheeler then said that on occasions he had spare tickets for away games. They often became available late in the week, but sometimes there was a week or 2 notice. It was agreed that if he had any spares he should contact Gary or Mick and they would then offer them to the members.

ITEM 5 - Gary then informed the meeting that as at the end of the current season there were 108 members of the Dover Gooners. Of these members 9 were gold members, 20 were silver members, 11 were red members, 13 were family enclosure, cannon club or JG's and we had 1 Bond Holder. This meant that of the 108 members exactly 50% held some form of membership with Arsenal. He then pointed out that mainly due to the efforts of Don Lax , who is from Folkestone, we already have a further 18 people wanting to join next season. Of these there were 4 silver members, 3 red members and 2 JG's, this again meant that exactly 50% hold no form of membership with Arsenal. Gary pointed out that due to the increase in silver memberships this meant that we could apply for more tickets for games next season. He also pointed out that if the committee felt that the club was beginning to out grow itself then they would consider putting a cap on the number of members it would take, however, it was felt that we were no where near that point yet. Gary did point out that he felt with the introduction of the £5 fee for non members the original number of 108 members could drop next season. He then said that all the points he was going to cover re: tickets had been covered earlier. He informed the meeting that last season we only had one ticket that had been returned which we could not place, on that occasion the member involved still paid for the ticket.

AOB - Gary Cattermole said that some of the extra money raised from the annual fees could be used to update/ upgrade the website as James was having trouble loading up sections of video from the Christmas lunch.

Tim Padfield pointed out to the meeting that at last seasons Christmas lunch we did not have to pay a fee for Perry Groves to attend, it only cost us the price of 2 lunches, for Perry and his partner. This season we may not be so lucky and if we have a guest speaker this might cost a few hundred pounds, Mick Padfield told the meeting how much Kenny Samson had quoted us. Tim pointed out that any extra costs for the lunch could also come from the extra money raised from the memberships.

Jon Wheeler also suggested that if the balance became too large then we could make a further donation to ChildLine or a similar charity.

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Mick Padfield then told the members that we sell the GunFlash for £2, for every copy we sell the club get 40p. We usually sell 20 copies so we make £8 per issue. He then pointed out that we also have metal pins, which cost £2 each, cufflinks, which cost £10 per set and polo shirts, as modelled by Tim Padfield, which cost £15 each.

Gary Cattermole then told the meeting that we get a 20% discount on all merchandise from the club shop and that this discount is passed on in full to the members, unlike some clubs. He pointed out that orders for the new commemorative shirt; which would cost an adult £32, should be with Mick Padfield by Wednesday 15th June so he could collate them and get the order to Arsenal by 17th June. He asked that £1 be added to each order to cover the costs of collection and delivery.

The meeting closed at 2110

The draw for the shirt, signed by the Arsenal first team squad, was then made by Colin Todd; the Chairman of St Paul's, the winner was Debbie Wheeler.