



MINUTES OF 2nd AGM HELD ON 27th JUNE 2006

Venue: Centre Spot, Crabble, Dover

Present: Mick Padfield, Tim Padfield, Bill Browning, Gary Cattermole, Mark Padfield, Darren Herbert, Paul Padfield, Don Lax, , Jon Wheeler, Aaron Cattermole, James Cattermole, Mick Wright, Paul Strutt, Eric Parker, Penny Strutt, Frankie Benn, Alan Hudson, Mark, Graham, Craig Hooker, Chris Lyden, Paul Neat, Peter McRobert, Ken Old, Andy Lowe, Keith Hall

Apologies: Tony & Elizabeth Homersham, David Browning, John & Simon Wheeler, Sean Beer, Julian Vernon, Bob Gee, John Cattermole, Norman Deal, Danny Bourne.

AGENDA ITEM 1- The minutes from the first AGM were presented and adopted by the meeting. There were no matters outstanding.

ITEM 2 – Tim Padfield welcomed the members to the 2nd AGM. He said that during the second year the membership had grown and flourished, in fact the membership had grown by approximately 50% over the first season. He said that the growth of the club had been mirrored by the improvements in the club's website, from comments that he had received via e-mail; the site is viewed all over the world. He said that one of the benefits of being an affiliated club was highlighted on the eve of the final game at Highbury and the Champions League final, when we received a last minute extra allocation of tickets. He also pointed out due to the official affiliation the members had benefited to the tune of approximately £1,000 by way of discounts offered to the club by Arsenal on merchandise purchased. He said that 3 functions had been arranged through out the past season, the fun golf day at Stonelees, which was won by Mark Stanton, the end of season bbq, which attracted more Dover Gooners than the first one. The third event, which is considered to be the clubs 'jewel in the crown', was the Christmas dinner. He felt that this years surpassed the previous year's event; Charlie George was the guest speaker and 175 people attended. He informed the meeting that arrangements were already in hand for this season event and that Terry Neill has already agreed to speak. In closing he praised the efforts of Mick Padfield and Gary Cattermole for all of the effort that they put into club, without which the club could not survive.

ITEM 3 – Mick Padfield presented the accounts to the meeting. He pointed out that even though we never set out to make a profit the club's closing balance had risen from £384.82 at the close of the first season to £678.76 as of 31st May 2006. He said that this balance would enable the club to pay for the hire of a coach, should one every need to be booked, 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 during the past year the club

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had sponsored one of its members, Julian Vernon, who had gone on a charity walk in the foothills of the Himalayas to raise money on behalf of cancer research and we had purchased a shirt which signed by the 2005/06 Arsenal squad and then raffled at the Christmas dinner, this raffle had raised £1,100 for the David Rocastle Trust. He also pointed out that this year the club had purchased a laminator in order that it could produce its own membership cards, this one purchase would save the club approximately £200, which would have been the cost of purchasing credit card style cards from an external company. It was also pointed out that this season the club had spent about £26 on purchasing more space for the website. He said that he hoped to keep the price of this year's Christmas dinner about the same as last year's and due to problems with service at Bluebirds he would limit numbers at this event to 175. He pointed out that the accounts did not reflect approximately £28,000 which had been spent on the purchasing of tickets for the members over the season. He also pointed out that due to the fact the club had subsidised the coach, which was used to transport people to the end of season BBQ, over the 2 years this event showed a small loss. He presented the account books to the meeting and these were signed off by Paul and Penny Strutt.

ITEM 4 – Due to the fact no nominations had been received to stand against the current officials and committee the meeting returned them all unanimously. The officials and committee for the 2006/07 season will be:

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

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

ITEM 5 – Gary Cattermole told the meeting that one of the reasons why the Dover Gooners had been set up, in its current state, was to ensure that people continue to support Arsenal in the years and decades to come. He said that the committee had realised that one of the ways to do this was to encourage parents to take their children to watch Arsenal play at Ashburton Grove. As a result of this, at a meeting on 15th May 2006 the committee proposed the following addition to rule 6

(a) From 2006/07 season the Dover Gooners are introducing a family membership, which will be known as 'Parent and Children'. This membership will be for 2 parents and at least 2 children, aged 16 or younger. The cost for the 2006/07 will be £15. The parents and children must be named on the membership form and the children's ages must be added.

This addition was put to the meeting and it was passed unanimously. The meeting was informed that the membership fee for members, who do not hold an official membership with Arsenal, would remain at £5 for the coming season

ITEM 6 - Gary Cattermole informed the meeting that as at the end of last season there were 157 registered members of the Dover Gooners, plus about a further 7 people who had submitted applications in about April, these were being withheld until now. To date approximately 110 people had already renewed their memberships and there were now about 37 silver members, which is an increase of about 4 on last season.

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He informed the meeting that due to added security being implemented by Arsenal this season all members of the Dover Gooners would be issued with membership cards, which must be produced to stewards should they be requested too. This measure was being introduced by Arsenal as it appeared that some supporters clubs may be purchasing tickets and then distributing them to their friends, rather than their members. Gary told the meeting that this measure would mean that he would have to supply Arsenal with a list, which would detail which members had been allocated tickets and which seat they had been allocated. He made it clear to the meeting that should any member find that they could not attend a game at the last minute, the ticket must be returned to the committee, so that if the ticket could be placed, the new occupant of the seat could be notified to Arsenal. He pointed out to the meeting that following concerns raised with Jill Smith, at various supporters club meetings, the box office had agreed that supporters clubs would continue to be issued with paper tickets for games, rather than having to collect all of the silver memberships in and then distribute them for each game. However, this privilege would come at a cost, with Arsenal adding a fee to each ticket to cover this extra cost. It was pointed out that unlike other supporters clubs, the Dover Gooners do not add any fee to the tickets, the only extra cost charged to the members was £1 if the tickets had to be sent out by recorded delivery. He informed the meeting that if the box office had insisted that supporters clubs would have to follow everybody else and use the activated silver membership cards then the future of the Dover Gooners, as an affiliated supporters club, would have been in doubt, due to the added work that this would have meant for himself and other committee members. He also drew the meetings attention to the fact that Arsenal had now introduced level A & B games from next season. Gary also told the meeting that at the last supporters club meeting Arsenal were encouraging all supporters clubs to encourage all of their members to become at least Red members at Arsenal. They pointed out that at most other premier ship clubs; members of the official supporters club have to be members with the club as well. He pointed out that in the long term this could assist the Dover Gooners, because if people become red members they would eventually become silver members which then meant that the club could apply for more tickets. In closing he pointed out that at some of the 'smaller' games last season and the earlier CL rounds we did not use our full allocation of tickets, in fact at one of the Carling cup games we only applied for 10 tickets, some of which were season ticket holders. He pointed out that any 'big' premier ship game, which was midweek and the last 3 games in the CL we had many more applications for tickets than we could service. He pointed out that because of the lack of 'interest' in the smaller games our overall average for ticket applications was below our maximum allocation and come the Wigan game, the final game at Highbury, our allocation was 5 short of what we applied for, however, this was made up when we were offered 5 late return tickets by Arsenal, on the Saturday before the game.

Following a question from the floor, Gary told members how tickets were applied for and allocated. He told the meeting that if we had 35 silver memberships and we had requests for 35 tickets or more for a game then we would make a full application to Arsenal, however, if we only had requests for 25 tickets the application to Arsenal would reflect this figure, the would mean that 10 tickets would not be applied for. He then pointed out that if a full application was made the silver members would have first call on the tickets, once this allocation had been made then any 'spares' would be made available to non silver members, who had made a request. This allocation would be made on the basis of the people who had attended most games would get the first bite at the cherry.

ITEM 7 – Gary informed the meeting that the website had been upgraded to a package offering 1GB of space, there was plenty of spare space, and so if anybody had any ideas for the site they could be adopted. He told the meeting that he had earlier sent out an e-mail to everybody encouraging members to submit ideas for the site, only one member had taken the time to reply. He then pointed out that he was aware of a number of members who run their own companies. Gary told the meeting that the club were willing to set up a page on the website which would carry

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a link to the member's business website. He pointed out that this page would have to carry a disclaimer, to protect the club; he also said that there would be no cost to the members to use this page. He then pointed out that currently the site had been visited about 1780 time, but that it had been hit about 8,000 times a month, on average.

AOB – Gary and Mick informed the meeting that Arsenal was launching the new kit for the coming season on 18th July. They expected to hear from Arsenal soon as to when members could apply for this kit. The meeting was informed that to get the 20% discount all applications had to be submitted via Mick. Again, it was pointed out that unlike some supporters clubs the Dover Gooners pass on the full discount to its members.

A question from the floor asked if there was a cap on the number of members that the Dover Gooners would accept. The committee replied that it was not yet felt necessary to impose a limit, but it was something that had been discussed and that they kept a constant eye on the membership numbers.

A silver member asked what would happen if originally he said that he could not attend a game, but after the application had been submitted he found he could attend. Gary told him that as long as the tickets had not been received and distributed, he would get his ticket. If the tickets had been sent out this would make it more difficult to supply him with a ticket

The meeting closed at 2115