



## MINUTES OF 4th AGM HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2008

**Venue:** Phoenix Club, Crabble, Dover

**Present:** Mick Padfield, Tim Padfield, Mark Padfield, Paul Padfield, Frankie Benn, Bill Browning, Gary Cattermole, Darren Herbert, Aaron Cattermole, Mick Wright, Alan Hudson, Mark Graham, Craig Hooker, Chris Lyden, John Offord, Jonathon Burgess, Stanley Payne, Glen Virtue, Colin Kelly, Guy and Saras Wouldham, Jon Wheeler, Tony Leigh, Graham Innes, Barry Scott, Alan Bates, Paul Goodacre, Matthew Herbert, Kieron McLeod

**Apologies:** Tony & Elizabeth Homersham, David Browning, Lauren Wheeler, Sean Beer, Norman Deal, Andy Bates, Peter McRoberts. Mark Huntley, Derek Butcher, Bill Davidson, Mark & Paul Stanton, James Cattermole, John Cattermole, Rodney Otto, Ken Old, Craig Innes, Terry & Val Grant, Henry Williams, Julian Vernon, Hadley Gill, Alan Goodacre, Keith Hall, Paul & Penny Strutt, Joanne Ball, Wes Fernandez, Tim Falconbridge

**AGENDA ITEM 1-** The minutes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM were presented and adopted. There were no matters outstanding.

**ITEM 2 –** Tim Padfield welcomed the members to the 4th AGM.

- He said that the club had enjoyed another successful season and continued to flourish
- He thanked Gary Cattermole and Mick Padfield for continuing to provide the club with a tremendous service. Between them they arranged five coaches to home games in the past season.
- He pointed out that Gary orders, collects and often delivers tickets for every home.
- Mick provides the club with its own merchandising. He also organises the ordering of official merchandising from Arsenal. By passing on the full 20% discount offered by Arsenal, not all supporters club do this, members of the Dover Gooners have saved approximately £1,000.
- Mick again organised the highly successful Christmas dinner at Bluebirds. This year's guest speaker was Sammy Nelson, considered by many to have been our best speaker yet. The raffle raised £1,600, which was split equally between the Willow Foundation and Treehouse.
- In closing Tim made an appeal to the meeting to see if the club has a computer buff who could take over the role of webmaster. James Cattermole, who has set up the club's website, does not now have the time to maintain the site on a regular basis. A number of

people have contacted Tim to enquire if the club is still active, as the site has not been updated for sometime.

**ITEM 3** – Mick Padfield presented this years accounts to the meeting.

- They showed a small profit of £280.95.
- For the first time the club have shown loses on coaches, £260 over the season and merchandise for the Christmas dinner, £103
- Mick took a question from the floor concerning coaches and why they leave so early and why they are only priced at £10 per head. He said the reason for leaving early was 2 fold; firstly we have to be at the Stadium between 2 ½ and 4 hours before kick off, otherwise the roads are closed and secondly if there is ever a fault with the coach there is enough time for the company to get another coach to us and still get to see the game. Regarding the cost he said that once you start to charge over £10 it starts to get uneconomic when compared to taking a car with 4 occupants. However, he did point out that at present the coach parking is free, but this could change during the next season.
- Overall the Christmas dinner made a profit of £337.05. This is despite only charging £16 per head for a 3 course dinner, plus a guest speaker and disco. For the first time there was also an outlay of £145 on raffle prizes.
- During the past year the club have also spent £152 on a new banner.
- When taking this season's ticket purchases into account the club's turnover was about £95,000

**ITEM 4** – Again no nominations had been received for people wishing to stand against the current officials and committee, so all were returned unopposed. The officials and committee for the 2008/09 season will be:

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

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

Gary pointed out that due to the amount of time he spends on ticketing matters, he had asked for a volunteer to take on the role of Membership Secretary. He thanked all of those people who put their names forward and announced that Saras Wouldham would take on the role, as soon as he could pass everything on to her.

**ITEM 5** – The meeting voted unanimously to again hold membership fees at £5 for a single membership or £15 for a family membership. Gary pointed out that these fees only apply to people who hold no form of membership with Arsenal. For all official Arsenal members, or shareholders, there is no annual fee with the Dover Gooners. He also informed the meeting that having heard what most supporters clubs charge their members; he felt Dover offered their members the best value for money.

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**ITEM 6** - Gary Cattermole then gave the meeting an update concerning club membership and ticketing issues.

- He informed the meeting that at the end of last season the club had 301 members (up from 287 in 2007). Of those there were 44 silver members, 26 Gold, 54 red (up from 46) and 32 JG/ Cannon club (up from 24). He believed that in the next couple of seasons about 4 or 5 cannon club members would be upgraded to silver, thus enabling the club to apply for near on 50 tickets per game. These figures again meant that about 50% of the membership hold no form of official membership with Arsenal.
- As in previous years he urged any member who does not hold a membership with Arsenal to consider taking out a red membership. At present, this was not required by Arsenal to be a member of a supporters club, but he did inform the meeting this is something which could change in the future.
- He informed the meeting, that in his estimation, there was about 50% of the membership who did not take any part in club activities, including applying for tickets. He could not understand this, but as they paid their fees it was a matter for them.
- He then apologised for the fact that there was a delay in getting membership cards out to new members. Mick informed the meeting that Gary had not sent him an updated membership list, Gary again apologised to the meeting!! He then pointed out that once Saras was up and running as Membership secretary she would also deal with the issuing of membership cards, which should mean a better service in getting cards out to new members.

He then moved on to ticketing:

- Over the past season the club had purchased tickets to the value of about £35,000, this was very slightly down on the previous season. The club had earned a total of £80 on the cash back credit card it uses, unfortunately this was slightly down due to the fact that on 3 or 4 occasions the box office had charged tickets to the backup credit card.
- He again reiterated that the only fee charged on the tickets was the 30p charged by Arsenal. He also informed the meeting that, unlike other clubs, the Dover Gooners do not impose an admin fee on tickets. The fee charged by other clubs appeared to vary from £1.50 to £3.50 per ticket.
- There were still some of the ‘smaller’ games, whereby the club was not taking up its full allocation of tickets. Gary felt that this was scandalous and urged non silver members to consider applying for tickets for these games.
- He then told the meeting that when people were applying for multiple tickets during the coming season, they must supply the names of all of the members who the application covered. This was to come in line with an edit from Arsenal toward the end of last season. He informed the meeting that Arsenal were now instructing stewards, in the supports club area, to check tickets against membership cards. He again reiterated that any member found to be passing tickets on to non members would, in all probability, have their membership with the Dover Gooners cancelled.

**ITEM 7** – Tim again urged any member who had a knowledge web building to volunteer to take over the running of the club’s website as it was impossible for James Cattermole to now spend the time updating and redesigning it. Mick did point out that if any member had a child doing an IT ‘A’ level perhaps they would be interested, as James had used the site, which he designed and maintained, as part of his course.

**ITEM 8** – Mick then updated the meeting regarding this years Christmas dinner

- As yet no date had been set, he was still waiting to see what matches SKY and Setanta would be showing before Christmas.
- Unfortunately Bluebirds, the usual venue, had informed him that they had no free Sundays in December. He was considering a number of alternative venues, but it was difficult to find one which could take 200+ people. A number of these venues also charge a fee for the hire of the premises, which could have an impact on ticketing costs.
- He had considered moving it forward to the International weekend in October, but unfortunately this was now not possible. He was considering whether or not to move it to a Saturday night.
- He had already spoken to Ray Parlour and Mickey Thomas about the possibility of being the speaker this year, both had agreed, subject to other commitments. He then pointed out that he was still in contact with Sammy Nelson and he had promised to find us a speaker if both Ray Parlour and Mickey Thomas could not make the date when it was set.
- Mick informed the meeting that he already had the vast majority of raffle prizes. He hoped to get a few more in Austria.
- He hopes to have everything booked and confirmed by the time he travels to Austria for the pre season tour. Once he was in this position he would inform the members.

**AOB** – Mick urged any member who had any ideas as to what events the committee could organise for the membership to come forward. He pointed out that a number of events had been organised in the past, but in general had been poorly supported, e.g. the end of season BBQ, which was cancelled after 2 years due to a lack of numbers.

Mick said that if any members wanted tickets for away games they should go through him. He has 4 gold memberships which a good credit history and a number of other ones which could be put forward, if more than 4 tickets were required.

Gary was asked if he intended to circulate a list which indicated the final dates for ticket applications for home games. He said that this was on his list of things to do, once he could find some spare time.

The meeting closed at 2115