



## MINUTES OF 5th AGM HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2009

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

**Present:** Mick Padfield, Tim Padfield, Mark Padfield, Paul Padfield, Gary Cattermole, Mick Wright, Alan Hudson, Mark Graham, Craig Hooker, Chris Lyden, Colin Kelly, Guy and Saras Wouldham, Barry Scott, Alan Bates, Paul Goodacre, Kieron McLeod, Rodney Otto, Alan Goodacre, Tim Falconbridge, Ollie Marlow, Katie Arbon-Davis, Don Lax, John Wheeler, Bob Gee.

**Apologies:** Tony & Elizabeth Homersham, David Browning, Lauren Wheeler, Norman Deal, Derek Butcher, Bill Davidson, James Cattermole, John Cattermole, Craig Innes, Henry Williams, Julian Vernon, Paul & Penny Strutt, Frankie Benn, Bill Browning, Darren Herbert, Aaron Cattermole, John Offord, Jon Wheeler, Graham Innes, Linda Cattermole

**AGENDA ITEM 1-** The minutes for the 4th AGM were presented and adopted. There was one outstanding matter and this was discussed at item 7, of this year's agenda.

**ITEM 2 –** Tim Padfield welcomed the members to the 5th AGM.

- He said that the club had enjoyed another successful season; unfortunately this success had not been replicated by the team on the pitch this season.
- He thanked Gary Cattermole for the continued hard work he put into ordering and distributing match day tickets. He pointed out that as a result of Gary's hard work a lot of members got to see games at the Emirates, which they would ordinarily not get tickets for.
- He thanked Mick Padfield for his continued efforts in organising the annual 'legends' dinner at Bluebirds. Tim pointed out that Mick not only organised the dinner, but also the successful raffle, which is run every year.
- It was pointed out that as a result of Mick's efforts with the raffle, the amount of money raised, this year, meant that the Dover Gooners were in the top 5 fund raisers for Arsenal's charity of the season, which was the Teenage Cancer Trust. He also mentioned the quality of the prizes collected by Mick. He pointed out he recently attended the '89 celebration dinner organised by AISA. There they auctioned a print of Highbury, which was signed by all the living Arsenal managers and a signed print of Denis Bergkamp, they went for £1400.00. We have had these prints in our raffle and they could have been won for as little as £5.
- In closing Tim said that it was disappointing how few of the tickets, for the dinner, were taken up by our actual members. He said he found this strange when tickets are sold to members from supporters clubs from all over Europe and Britain.

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**ITEM 3** – Mick Padfield presented this year’s accounts to the meeting.

- They showed a profit of £1364.57. The turnover for the year £94,000.00, which was up from £82,000.00 from the previous year.
- Mick pointed out that last year’s dinner made a profit of approximately £700.00, which was mainly down to a £4.00 increase in the cost of the tickets. He hoped that this increase would allow us to keep the price the same, for at least the next two years; however, this was dependant on whether or not we could continue to use Bluebirds to host the event. It would appear that the venue is going to be sold and to find somewhere else in Dover would either be more expensive, e.g. The Town Hall, or the venue would be smaller, e.g. The DHB Hall, which in turn would led to an increase in the price of the tickets.
- He pointed out that yet again this year we had made a loss on running coaches to games. As a result we would not be running anymore until such time that the cost of hiring coaches came down. He pointed out that the cost of hiring a coach had gone up from £380 to £490 in the past year. He also pointed out that membership fees, collected, totalled £845.00.
- He was asked what the items marked as ‘monies paid in error’ were? He said that these were cheques which had been sent to Gary, to pay for tickets, which were made out to the club, rather to Gary. So they had to be paid in to the account and then withdrawn to enable Gary to settle his credit card bill.

**ITEM 4** – Gary pointed out to the meeting that Jon Wheeler had resigned from the committee and he thanked him for his contribution. He said that the committee were looking for a new member who could assist with the merchandise orders from Arsenal. This was due to the fact that last year we had only made an order for the new shirts and had missed the Christmas order. The meeting then voted that the current committee, less Jon Wheeler, should remain. This was

**Chairman – Tim Padfield**  
**Treasurer – Mick Padfield**  
**Secretary – Gary Cattermole**  
**Membership Secretary – Saras Wouldham**

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

Gary then said that he had received a message from Henry Williams, who had expressed an interest in joining the committee, to assist with the merchandise. Paul Padfield then pointed out that Tim Falconbridge had said that he was willing to join the committee and the two of them, Paul and Tim, would deal with the merchandising. The meeting voted unanimously to allow both Henry and Tim to join the committee; no other volunteers were forth coming. Gary said he would talk to Henry when he returned from holiday

**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 holds 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.

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**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