



Welcome to the Wombles

We've been hoping for a home cup tie for a while, but we couldn't have predicted it under these circumstances.

The history of our opponents is one of interest, particularly to those who support the concept of fan ownership. Formed in 2002 by a group of supporters who wanted to create a community-based club named AFC Wimbledon -we'll leave out the history behind so as not to give any publicity to anyone else -they originally entered the ninth tier of English football by joining the Premier Division of the Combined Counties league. To put this in context, that's the same level as the Northern League First Division. They made their way throughout the league pyramid and got promoted to the Football League in 2011, where they have remained ever since. A tremendous achievement for a fan owned club, and demonstration of what exactly can be done under the banner of fan ownership.

Whilst they were initially based at Kingsmeadow, they moved into a new stadium at Plough Lane in 2020 on the site of the former Wimbledon greyhound Stadium. The ground is only 250 yards away from the original Plough Lane, a ground which doesn't hold many fond memories for travelling Mags since we struggled to get any decent results there in the 80's and 90's.

AFC Wimbledon are under the ownership of the Dons Trust, and like most Trusts incl NUST, are an industrial and provident society -subject to the rules of the Society- and are registered with the Financial Services Authority as 'Wimbledon Football Supporters Society Limited.' The club play a massive role in the local community-in fact in 2010 their Community Football Scheme was awarded the FA Charter Standard Community Club Award, the highest graded award in the FA Charter Programme. Their work in the local community has continued ever since, something to be proud of and a greatly admired within the Supporters Trust movement.

It was of course, sad to read about the problems encountered with their ground last week which caused our original tie to be moved. We can only hope that any issues are resolved quickly so that they are able to return to their home ground. It was great to see the wider football community come together and support their fundraising efforts- the respect for their achievements clearly demonstrated. It was food to see a contribution from NUFC.

Whilst we wish them all the best for the future, those best wishes don't start until Wednesday.

To end the article, all we'll say is...AFC Wimbledon 3 MK Dons 0...if you know, you know.

NUST