

**Dons Trust Article reproduced from Scunthorpe Programme**

**Elections really do matter! Join an important debate at the next SGM**

Dons Trust Secretary David Hall looks ahead to the Special General Meeting next month and explains why there's an important debate on the agenda.

As DT Board Chairman Matthew Breach explained in the Wycombe programme, part of the upcoming SGM (16 September at 7.30pm at the CRRS) will update members on the Club's proposed move back to Wimbledon and the DTB's strategy in preparing for that - including important issues around future funding and governance.

Less high profile perhaps, but one other key item on the agenda is this autumn's DTB elections. The Board has been looking afresh at the election process, being very mindful that last year's saw a disappointing shortage of candidates. Although Mick Buckley subsequently joined the Board as a co-opted member, we're keen to ensure that, if possible, there is an election this year and that we get some new candidates coming forward.

The Board is conscious that there is a perception among some members - rightly or wrongly - that some people are discouraged from coming forward, with members generally tending to vote for existing (or previous) Board members whom, they perceive, to have the most experience.

Under the DT Rules, the Board is responsible for agreeing the procedure by which elections take place. To help inform that process, the Board would like an open debate at September's SGM on ways in which we can encourage more candidates to stand for election. We really want to increase our members' engagement in the wider election process - both for this year and in future years. If we can do that, we stand a much better chance of ensuring that the Board's membership is regularly refreshed and energised with new people, who bring in new ideas and perspectives.

We will again have five Board spaces available this year, so please come along to the SGM if you can, and help us explore practical options that will enhance opportunities for new candidates to stand for our Board and represent the views of all members.

You can share ideas in advance of the SGM by posting them on the DT website. Follow the Contact Us button from the homepage. Or tweet us @thedonstrust, using the hashtag #dtbelections.