

Mike Hastie



Proposers: Russell Earl and Grace McMillan

Who am I?

My first Wimbledon game was at Selhurst Park when I was 14. We lost to Arsenal, but I was hooked and bought my first season ticket the following season. Fast forward 28 years and I'm now a debenture holder who comes to games with my two daughters.

I have worked in the public sector for 19 years where I am in a senior role in Strategy. My work regularly involves leading working groups with a range of stakeholders to inform new strategies. My strengths include the ability to identify and solve problems and resolve disputes. This makes me well placed to serve the club at this crucial time.

To be, or not to be fan owned, that is THE Question

I'll be upfront about my stance on our ownership model. We must look at increasing outside investment above what has already been approved. This means seriously considering all the various options, including the possibility of selling a majority of the club to outside investors.

We've had an incredible journey. But the past six seasons have shown that it requires money to climb the pyramid and aspire to the achievements of Wimbledon FC. We've come so far so why stop now?!

Fan ownership has a ceiling in today's game sadly, and a League 2 yo-yo club is the best we can currently hope for. Our fans have given more financially than could ever be imagined but there are huge debts to service, and we've done our bit now.

Peterborough Chairman Darragh MacAnthony's positive comments about us on the 72+ podcast proves there would be interest from potential investors that appreciate our story. Our future will look brighter with better outside investment.

Why the need for change?

We're the worst performing team in the Football League over the last 5 years. This is a direct result of the finances and structure of our club.

We struggle to fill critical positions whilst depending on our incredible part-time volunteers to cover key roles and responsibilities. There's only so much that you can put on these people before something breaks.

The stadium remains unfinished meaning we aren't utilising its potential. Under fan ownership the semi-permanent stands won't get redeveloped in our lifetimes... and certainly not before we reach the Championship at the end of the five-year plan!

Investment in the West Stand is needed to maximise its potential. It was stated at the SGM that the third floor requires £750k-£1.2m to complete. Where's that money going to come from under our current model... the fans again? Outside investment would enable us to finish the ground and be competitive again.

Relegation last year cost us £900k but we were told that we would still have a competitive budget. This turned out to be another false promise. Selling players like Jack Rudoni should be for additional player budget, not just to service the debts.

And we're still over £10m in debt. The PL Bonds are being classed as 'friendly debt', but it's still debt and £3.25m of that needs repaying in 2025. We haven't yet seen a credible plan for how we'll do this.

We need substantial investment to continue our journey and be competitive. The fans have already personally invested millions into the club. But to see a return on that investment in terms of success on the pitch, we now need to look externally.

All Fans deserve a voice

We need open and frank conversations on what direction to take to resolve our issues. This needs to be done with the entire fanbase, not just DT members.

There are many non-DT season ticket holders, away game followers, shareholders and debenture holders who have put just as much into our club. They love Wimbledon but don't want to be involved in the DT for a variety of reasons. Does that make their opinion on our future any less valid?

There's an increasing divide amongst us, and we need to involve all Wimbledon fans so that we can unite again.

My priority commitments

A vote for me, is a vote for my three key pledges:

1. Look at the ownership model by setting up a dedicated working group, and instigating a referendum that will be open to all Wimbledon fans to vote in.

2. Enable a wider representation of the fanbase within the club, including incentivising ST holders to become DT members. It's not right that they should have to pay £25 on top of their ST costs to have a vote, and we need to finally address this.
3. Review the club structure and push for experienced professionals within the club. We are a multimillion-pound club, with a multimillion-pound ground. We cannot continue to manage our club and its debts with a non-league set up. We need to evolve and become more professional.