

## Paper 7 - An Introduction to WiSH



A Heritage Charity and Ltd Company Dedicated To Preserving,  
Safeguarding and Displaying Merton's Unique Sporting History

# A brief history - What led to WiSH

- 1970s to 2005 Individual Private Collectors of Wimbledon Football Heritage Items
- 2006 to 2010 Early Discussions Between Collectors Who Then Started To Collate & Share History
- 2011 Collectors/ Historians Contributed To “On Common Ground” A film & book celebrating Merton's Unique Sporting History
- 2012 to 2017 More Collectors & Historians identified from Wimbledon supporter base - All life long fans with a passion & commitment To working together on research & reference projects - Mick Pugh/ Bert Dale/ Stephen Crabtree/ David McKnight / John Lynch/ Michael Padmanthan/ Ray Armfield/ Roger Stott +++
- 2017 to 2018 - Developed the idea of creating a Museum & bringing the privately owned Heritage items back home to the new Stadium. Best practice research undertaken visiting other sporting Museums & independent organisations - Presentation & Request Made to DTB & FCB
- 2019 to 2020 WiSH Constituted as a Charity & Ltd Company, Joined National Museum Association, developed a joint Head of Terms working proposal with Club & DTB
- 2021 - Aim to create both a physical & Online Museum telling Wimbledon Football amazing sporting history & journey From 1889 to the present day including the fans contributions that make it so unique.



# What Would Be The Right Structure ?

The team involved in WiSH started a process many years ago to answer 6 questions:

1. What practices have worked and not worked in creating a Museum in the football league. Engagements with other football clubs, historians & museums took place
2. A collective of people personally own a vast amount of the Wimbledon FC memorabilia. What structure would they be comfortable with to enable them to provide their possessions in Trust for the good of the club, community & fans
3. What structure would work best for funding of a Museum and to enable free entry for educational establishments?
4. What expertise, experience and thousands of the “right” people hours needed in volunteering would be needed to achieve WiSH’s scale goals?
5. What would the DTB and FCB be comfortable with and how we could work together to achieve a common aim.
6. Should the Museum focus on football but include some of the wider unique Wimbledon Sporting History?

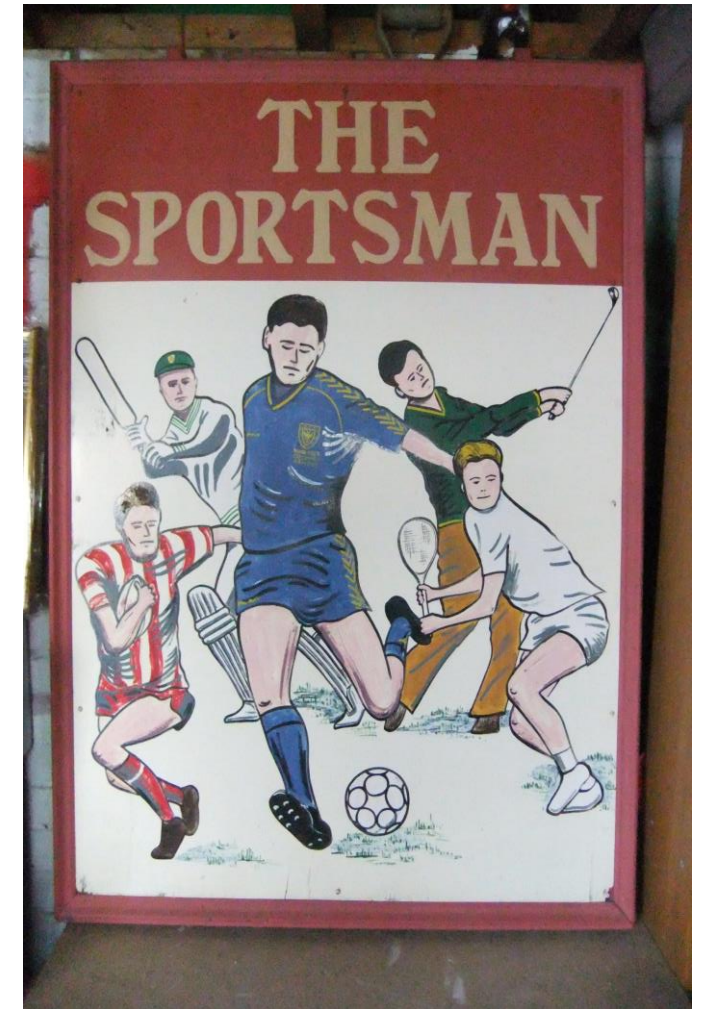
The conclusion was a separate entity would be needed to achieve these goals:

- A Registered Charity To Fully Capture The Funding Required & Safeguard The Heritage
- Fully Compliant With The Standards, Rules & Expectations Of The Charity Commission
- A Museum Registered Within The National Museum Association Working Within Best Practice & Guidelines
- An agreement with the Club & DTB that clearly identified roles, responsibilities & working practice standards.



# What do WiSH want to achieve?

- 1) To become the hub for memorabilia and artefacts which will be owned or loaned in trust to reflect a unique 130+ year footballing history. This unique story will be told through highly novel, interactive physical and digital museums (preserving/safeguarding/displaying) There will be rotational exhibitions & heritage events chosen by Wimbledon Supporters via online surveys
- 2) To constantly engage with Supporters, the Club & DTB to capture ideas to further develop & improve the Heritage Trail & Stadium Tour Content.
- 3) To expand the scope to include other sports which have impacted on the Wimbledon area and be a key visiting point for visitors to the area, adding to the vision of a true Community Stadium



# The Broader WiSH Support Team

**Honorary Life President - Maureen Batsford**

**Vice President - Dickie Guy**

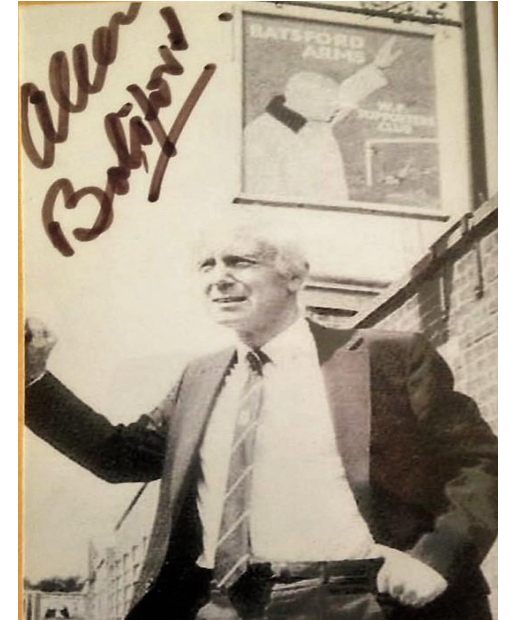
**Ambassadors - Barry Briggs Wimbledon Speedway Captain & World Champion**

**Wimbledon Football Legends From 1963 Onwards -**

**Mike Kelly / John Martin / Dave Willis / Ian Cooke / John Scales/ Terry Gibson**

**Trustees & Directors x 4 (2 Wish 1 DTB 1 FCB)**

**Diverse & Inclusive Board represented by Female/Male/BAME/Junior Members**



**Volunteers  
Supporters  
Partners  
Sponsors  
Founders  
Patrons**



This is our History, this is our Story, it's what Dreams are made of.  
The challenge is to showcase it to our community & around the world.  
In the WIDER interest of all

