

IAN ROBINSON DTB ELECTION MANIFESTO

I am a lifetime supporter of Wimbledon FC and AFC Wimbledon, having become a fan of the club during the famed cup run of 1975. This was difficult as I lived up north at the time and was the only kid in my school who had heard of Wimbledon FC let alone followed them. I moved south in 1988 and was finally able to attend my first match. Owing to a massive stroke of luck it was the FA Cup final against Liverpool. Following that I was a regular attendee at the old Plough Lane and then at soulless Selhurst Park.

I am a season ticket holder and have run my own business, Tempus Delay Analysis, since 2012. The business provides consultancy advice and expert witness services when large construction projects are delivered late. We have been a club sponsor since 2016 and have been the scoreboard sponsor for the club since before the move back to Plough Lane. I can't tell you how proud it makes me feel when I see my company's logo on the same scoreboard as 'AFC Wimbledon 3 – 0 MK'. We have also supported both DLAG and the Wimbledon Foundation over a number of years.

For me the most important issue facing the club at the moment is how to deliver success on the pitch while navigating the financial challenges faced by the club. It is vitally important that this issue is addressed in a transparent and accountable way which properly engages with the fans and carries the majority of them with it. While it is principally the PLC Board which controls the club, the DT Board has a vital role in protecting the interests of Members (and the wider fan base). This includes matters around ownership of the equity in the club on which DT Members will shortly be voting. It also involves effective oversight of the PLC Board on behalf of the DT Membership.

Many fans will be aware of the debt carried by the club arising from the construction of the new stadium, and of how this limits the club's freedom of movement when investing in the squad. While much of this debt is 'friendly debt' owed to fans who invested in the Plough Lane Bond, it needs to be repaid in due course and the recent cost of living crisis is likely to mean that more of it will need to be repaid earlier than was anticipated when it was launched.

Fans will also recall a number of difficult years in terms of results on the pitch, in particular the club's first ever relegation in 2022. I remember the frustrations of seeing two goal leads repeatedly thrown away in stoppage time, week after week without a win, and our best players leaving the club one after another. There is no doubt that, thanks to the efforts of recent years, we now have a fantastic stadium which is the pride and joy of the club and the envy of many

others. However, fans support football clubs primarily to experience success on the pitch and AFC Wimbledon is no different. Weekends can be made or broken depending on success or failure by 5pm on Saturday. Happily the last two seasons have seen a distinct improvement, bringing the joy back to Saturdays (although not without some frustrations). However the financial challenges remain and it is vital, in my view, that they are addressed by the DT Board and the PLC Board while retaining a firm focus on our performance on the pitch. Another relegation will only bring significant further financial problems.

If elected to the Board I will ensure that matters pertaining to the success of both the men's and women's teams remain at the centre of any wider discussions on matters affecting the club. I will also aim to ensure that, as far as possible, matters are dealt with transparently and that the fan base is kept as well informed as possible about important issues affecting the future of the club. I will also, to the best of my ability, ensure that the concerns of DT Members are clearly communicated to the DT Board and can be seen to be acted upon and responded to. I have been motivated to stand for election to the Board as a result of a recent meeting at which a number of proposals from Members were defeated by the use of absentee proxy votes notwithstanding that they received overwhelming support from those in attendance at the meeting. I do not consider such a lack of accountability to be acceptable. Regardless of my sponsorship of the club, I am not part of the club's 'establishment' and am running as a candidate who will challenge the status quo.