Old Wilsonians Football Club
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24th October 2017

Dear Members

I am writing to you to know the current state of our wonderful club.

At the moment I feel as if the club is not in the state in should be and as Chairman it is my duty to appeal to you to help turn things around.

As you may know over the summer we dropped what was our 4th XI. This was due to a lack of volunteers willing to run the side and a loss of players. In all honesty I don't believe we have enough players to run 9 sides anyway so dropping this side was the right decision. On the playing side the first few weeks were relatively smooth but this has not been the case of late.

The last 2 weeks we have had over 50 regular playing members unavailable and this week we are already up to that number. One side has 12 unavailable and others are not far behind. As I am sure you are aware this is not sustainable and will result in cancelled fixtures and possibly the loss of another side if it continues.

Each side raises about £2-3k a year through annual and weekly subs. We must make a minimum £33k to break even and having already lost 1 side this is proving harder and harder on an annual basis.

To raise these funds we aim for about £22k from weekly and annual Subs which leaves £11k from club events and raffles. So far this year we ran the FIFA night. We got a club member to give up his time and equipment for free to put on an excellent night, which he usually does for companies and events all over the country. **TWO** club members turned up. This resulted in a shortfall of funds, the event being withdrawn in the future and the Ways and Means Secretary stepping down from his role.

You may think that you don't matter as an individual but without the support of the membership the club **WILL** cease to exist as an old boys club and maybe in any form at all. We have been an old boys club for over 125 years and it would be a shame to lose one of the few that are left in the country. If a decision is taken to not remain an

old boys club we need to be a position to deal with this change and I do not believe this is the case either at present.

We need your help and here are 4 simple things you can do to help your hard working committee and captains and stop this downward spiral.

1. Be available for 75% of games - I understand we are not pros and things sometimes crop up. However too many members think being available half the time or less is ok. Make yourself available as early as possible and don't drop out unless it's an emergency. Last week 5 players dropped out after 9pm on Friday. This is impossible to manage and not fair on those that do show up.

2. Try to recruit some players - One of our members has recruited a number of his friends this year. If we all did that we wouldn't have as many issues as listed above.

3. Attend socials - There aren't many and a couple of nights a year are not unreasonable for the smooth running of the club.

4. Stay around after the game and pay your subs - Too many leave straight away often without paying. The bar needs your support and staying for a drink or two is great for team morale and makes us feel like a club. It also gives you an opportunity to help with small jobs that the skipper may need help with.

Thanks for reading this. You have a band of volunteers working their socks off to provide you with well organised Saturday football. What we need is a little bit back from you to make the experience better for everyone. We are always looking for new blood on the committee so if you want to do a bit more please get in touch.

Good luck for the season and I hope you all enjoy your football.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Parkinson
Chairman