

WHO ARE YA?!

AFC WIMBLEDON

THE CLUB

Founded 2002
Colours Blue and yellow
Nickname The Dons, The Wombles
Stadium Kingsmeadow
Record Attendance 4,870 v Accrington Stanley, 2016
Record Win 9-0 v Chessington United, 2004 & Slough Town, 2007
Record Defeat 5-0 v York City, 2010
Most Appearances Sam Hatton, 241, 2007-2012
Most Goals Kevin Cooper, 104, 2002-04
Honours FA Cup winners, 1988; Fourth Division champions, 1982-83 (as Wimbledon FC); Conference South champions, 2008-09 (as AFC Wimbledon)
FIFA 19 Rating ★★

Imagine being told your local team are moving 50 miles away, and there's nothing you can do about it. When exactly that happened to Wimbledon fans 17 years ago, they started their club again from scratch. As AFC Wimbledon they're stronger than ever, and looking forward to soon having a brilliant new stadium in the heart of their south-west London community!

THE MANAGER

Wally Downes made more than 200 appearances for Wimbledon in a career that saw the midfielder suffer four broken legs – ouch!

THE BOSS WALLY DOWNES



Since retiring as a player he has managed Brentford and coached at several clubs in England and India. In December last year Downes got the call to take over at the Dons, and he turned around their fortunes to secure League One survival.

THE HISTORY

The original Wimbledon FC had a long and famous history, including winning the FA Cup in 1988, but in 2001 their owners decided to move the club from south London to Milton Keynes – that's a long way! Lots of fans were very angry that this had been allowed to happen and decided to form their own club: AFC Wimbledon. They started from nothing in the ninth tier of English football, but a huge crowd of 4,657 came to their first game in July 2002. That support

backed them through five promotions in nine seasons, and when they beat Luton on penalties in the 2010-11 Conference (that's now called the National League!) play-off final, Wimbledon had earned back their place in the Football League.

A Wembley play-off win in 2016 earned them a spot in League One, though they've had to

There's plenty to celebrate at AFC Wimbledon!



DID YOU KNOW?

When the club was formed, open trials were held on Wimbledon Common. More than 200 players turned up, and the best were picked for the squad – no Wombles got in, though!

ON

For two weeks every summer, Wimbledon means tennis – but for the rest of the year, it's all about football!



HOME SHIRT



Dons fans can't wait for their new stadium

work hard to keep it. The Dons were ten points adrift of safety in February but went on an amazing run, losing just two of their 15 remaining games to stay up on goal difference. This club never give up!

THE STADIUM

AFC Wimbledon have played at **Kingsmeadow** since they were formed, but they have always wanted to build a new stadium near the **Plough Lane**

ground where the original Wimbledon played until 1991. That's exactly what's happening! Their 9,000-capacity new home should be ready to open next year, complete with a museum telling the story of their amazing journey.

THE FANS

Ever heard of **The Wombles**? These famous furry book characters lived under Wimbledon Common and kept it tidy, so Dons fans call themselves Wombles too – check out our pic of mascot Haydon to see what the characters look like!

THE RIVALRY

It's no surprise there's a rivalry with **MK Dons**, who took Wimbledon's Football League place. The two sides first met in 2012 and will play each other three times this season!

THE STAR PLAYERS

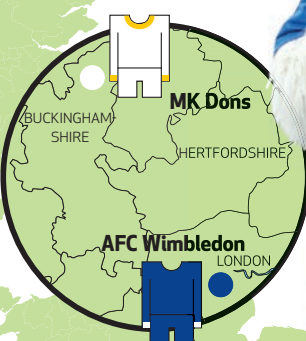
Will Nightingale has been at the club since he was nine and is a commanding presence in central defence. Striker **Joe Pigott** is dangerous in the air and will be trying to beat the 18 goals he scored last season.



Will Nightingale



MASCOT HAYDON THE WOMBLE



The original Wimbledon lift the FA Cup