

Floyd Amphlett

Kennel hand, greyhound historian and journalist

Born 1960, Wimbledon. Used to walk down the Effra Road and Queens Road as a school boy. Went to the stadium in 1973 and it was a life-changing event and greyhounds became an obsession ... he went off to White City to become a kennel hand. Has been writing for Greyhound Star since 1987. His father owned and trained greyhounds and had dogs with Phillip Rees and with Norah McEllistrim.

He has a deep interest in the history of greyhound racing and knows more about it than most people – he has the original archive of Greyhound Express. Produces a 'Remember when' column for Greyhound Star. For example, first meeting at Wimbledon was 1928 (greyhound racing only started in 1926 and it was the hounds that didn't make it for coursing that were used. This was around the same time that Mick the Miller was born.

Prior to the 2nd World War, greyhound racing was as popular as 1st Division football but after it was taxed into the ground by the Labour government - 19 shillings and six pence in the pound. Legend has it that when Wimbledon was bombed in the war there was a game of cards going on in the stadium and the pot went missing. Has original race cards for the first meeting.

Paddy McKellistrim, Norah's father, was Irish and in his 50/60s when she was born. He brought some of the original greyhounds over from Ireland – failures in the coursing field. Met other major figures from the past including members of the Cearns family who owned Wimbledon stadium. They made their money in reinforced concrete and built West Ham's stadium.

Was involved in the campaign to save Wimbledon Stadium. Remembers going into Mayor Lambert's office and seeing all the AFC Wimbledon memorabilia. There had to be a government inspector to agree to changes to use. Local planners had given to Sam Haman for Plough Lane.