

Robert 'Bob' Boswell

Dog owner and chair of Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare

Born south London 1956. Good talker with lots of stories and contacts among the Wimbledon greyhound racing community. He started off by noting lot of antipathy amongst the greyhound crowd towards AFC Wimbledon taking over their stadium. Bob won't go down Blackshaw Lane anymore ... despite having gone to Wimbledon matches at Plough Lane. That said had some great stories and tips on people to interview.

Always lived south of the river and used to walk retired greyhounds. His neighbour had a hound called Billy which he used to take out and then when he was working for Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare - <https://www.hershamhounds.org.uk/> - he bought one home for the weekend and he never left. Very nervous dog who took a long time to settle in. Took him to Newcastle once and left him in the hotel room; so quiet that the cleaners didn't know he was there until they went into the bathroom where he was sleeping.

When he was made redundant his wife forbade him to go out spend the money but he was allowed to buy a racing greyhound, which he named Hartlepool Scout (he used to be a scout for Hartlepool FC) around 1993. This dog was trained by Nora.

He came in through Greyhound Welfare which was set up by passionate people – one woman was running it on her own and advertised for board members and trustee. Needed to become a charity. Became Chair of Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare. Also Kennel Rep for Nora McEllistrim. Attended 20 Derby nights and went round rattling the bucket for greyhound welfare.

He was also chairman of the Committee of Owners Association at Wimbledon and also involved in the charity raising money for the welfare of retired greyhounds. On one occasion he arranged for Jimmy White to come and play all-comers for £100 a go in the bar after the race. This was watched by about 400 people. Highlight of the evening was a 90-year old snooker player who had known Jimmy as a teenager took him on using his walking stick as a cue.