



Registered Charity No. 1063184

TreeHouse would like to wish everyone a wonderful evening and thank all of Arsenal's supporters for their amazing support this season.  
020 8815 5444 [www.treehouse.org.uk](http://www.treehouse.org.uk)



**ARSENAL SUPPORTERS GALA DINNER**  
Royal Oak Suite, The Emirates Stadium  
Saturday 24 May 2008

**Willow Foundation**  
*Thank you for your support*

For those living with a life-threatening illness, every day deserves to be treated as precious

Sadly the stress and difficult realities of diagnosis and treatment mean that it's all too easy to forget that life is here to be lived.

The Willow Foundation organises and funds very special, morale-boosting and memorable days for seriously ill 16-40 year olds. The Foundation provides more than 100 special days every month for individuals living with life-threatening conditions such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, motor neurone disease and Huntington's.

The Willow Foundation was founded in 1999 by Bob and Megs Wilson as a lasting memorial to their daughter, Anna, who died of cancer aged 31. Bob Wilson is the former Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper and TV presenter.



01707 259777 [www.willowfoundation.org.uk](http://www.willowfoundation.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1106746



**REDaction**



# Welcome to the Gala Dinner

Welcome to the 2008 Gala Dinner, organised jointly this year with our friends at REDaction. For Arsenal fans like ourselves the football season just completed has often been enjoyable, sometimes exhilarating, but ultimately one of disappointment.

The nature of the football season, and especially for those of us who have become accustomed to success, is that failure to be competing for honours, even if only for the last few games, seems to negate all the good work that has gone before. But tonight we are able to get some perspective by celebrating the anniversary of the '98 double, and all the successes since then.

This evening's event has been organised by a small sub-committee who have all worked very hard, but I don't think anyone will complain if I single out Lois Langton and Steve Goodwin, the joint organisers, without whom the Gala Dinner would simply not have taken place this year.

I'm sure you are looking forward as much as me to the contributions from our special guests, their insights and stories about Arsene Wenger and about life at Arsenal. All are very special to us with their contributions to our past and our present.

We have some marvellous gifts in both the auction and the raffle. Very many thanks to the contributors, and we hope to raise a substantial sum for the two charities we are supporting this evening.

TreeHouse, Arsenal's charity of the season, is unique. It is the only autism education charity to combine the role of direct service provider and national influencer in one centre. TreeHouse aims to transform through education the lives of children with autism and the lives of their families.

The Willow Foundation provides special day experiences for young adults aged 16-40 who have life-threatening conditions. In 1998 the charity was able to provide 17 'special days'; last year the figure had grown to over 1,000 special days. Congratulations to them, and especially to Bob Wilson for his richly-deserved OBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Thank you so much for your support for the Gala Dinner, I hope you have an enjoyable evening.

Paul Matz  
AISA Secretary

# Tonight's Special Guests



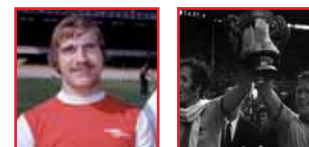
## Perry Groves

Born Bow, 19 April 1965. Joined Arsenal 4 September 1986 from Colchester United for £50,000; debut as substitute v Luton Town 13 September 1986. Honours: Division 1 champion 1989, 1991; League Cup winner 1987.



## Martin Hayes

Born Walthamstow, 21 March 1966. Joined Arsenal as an amateur, signed professional forms 2 November 1983; debut v Oxford United 16 November 1985. Honours: Division 1 champion 1989, 1991; League Cup winner 1987. 3 England U/21 caps,



## Eddie Kelly

Born Glasgow, 7 February 1951. Joined Arsenal 15 February 1968; debut as substitute v Sheffield Wednesday 6 September 1969. Honours: Division 1 champion 1971; FA Cup winner 1971, European Fairs Cup 1970. 3 Scotland U/23 caps.



## Oleg Luzhny

Born Lviv, Soviet Union, 5 August 1968. Joined Arsenal 28 May 1999 from Dynamo Kiev for £1.8 million; debut v Manchester United (Charity Shield) 1 August 1999. Honours: Premier League champion 2002, FA Cup winner 2002, 2003, Soviet Union caps 8, Ukraine caps 52 (39 as captain).



## Kenny Sansom

Born Camberwell, 26 February 1958. Joined Arsenal from Crystal Palace 13 August 1980; debut v West Bromwich Albion 16 August 1980. Honours: League Cup winner 1987, 77 England caps.



## Tom Watt

Born Wanstead, 14 February 1956. After starring in EastEnders for three years he appeared in West End hits, national tours and several tv series. Tom is the author of 'The End', an oral history of Arsenal's North Bank, and is lead presenter for BBC London's weekend football coverage, and hosts a weekly phone-in show for Arsenal TV.

## Win the Arsenal Opus

Tonight is your final opportunity to obtain the Arsenal Opus classic edition, personally signed by Arsene Wenger, for just £50. That is the price of a ticket in the second AISA charity raffle, with all profits to TreeHouse. And if that isn't enough, a second fantastic prize in the raffle is a personally signed Emmanuel Adebayor replica shirt.



# Celebrating the successes of the Wenger era



Aiming to do consistently well, but not taking major risks in a desperate bid to win trophies is, arguably, a strategy that Arsenal Football Club has followed for the last 60 years. It's a strategy that seems to be part of our DNA. As an economist it's an approach that our manager well understands.

That's not to say Arsene Wenger is anything but a very bad loser of any football match, making it even more remarkable that he manages to maintain such an intelligent, civilised approach in public when we fail to win, or even occasionally lose.

Tonight, however, is a celebration. It is ten years (and a very few days) since Arsene became the second Arsenal manager to achieve the domestic double. The feat was repeated in 2002, and then the Premiership won again in 2004 by the 'Invincibles', with two more FA Cup victories to savour either side of that most special year.

A European trophy still remains elusive; two losing finals, in 2000 and 2005, being bittersweet memories. Nevertheless Arsenal are one of only four teams to have qualified for the Champions League in each of the last ten years. Can you name the others?

The table elsewhere on this page demonstrates the consistency of performance of our team since Wenger arrived at our club, the images that surround this page demonstrate some of the successes and the key decisions made over the last 12 years.



The programme from Arsene Wenger's first game in charge at Arsenal.

## Arsenal's record under Arsene Wenger

	Premiership	Champions League	FA Cup	League Cup
1996-97	3rd	2nd round (UEFA Cup)	4th round	4th round
1997-98	Winners	2nd round (UEFA Cup)	Winners	Semi-final
1998-99	Runners-up	Group stage	Semi-final	4th round
1999-00	Runners-up	Group stage (and UEFA Cup final)	4th round	4th round
2000-01	Runners-up	Quarter final	Runners-up	3rd round
2001-02	Winners	2nd Group stage	Winners	Quarter final
2002-03	Runners-up	Quarter final	Winners	3rd round
2003-04	Winners	Quarter final	Semi-final	Semi-final
2004-05	Runners-up	2nd Group stage	Winners	Quarter final
2005-06	4th	Runners-up	4th round	Semi-final
2006-07	4th	Round of 16	5th round	Runners-up
2007-08	3rd	Quarter-final	5th round	Semi-final

Nigel Winterburn and Ray Parlour are unfortunately unable to be with us this evening but this is what they have had to say about Arsene Wenger



### Nigel Winterburn

"I have great admiration for Arsene, not least because he was always very honest. He was a person who studied the players in training and seemed to know if you had a problem - football-related or otherwise - and he would approach you before you ever got round to approaching him.

"In my final season at Highbury, he told me was going to start changing the back four and that I wouldn't be playing as much.

"One of his greatest assets is the fact that he recognises the need for a team to evolve. There is not a single survivor at the club from the day he walked through the door and yet this team has been in development from that very moment. It is incredible to think of it that way, but he has been refining it ever since.

"In 10 years, football has changed, but Arsene wants players who are technically gifted because he believes he can work on everything else. It is always about technical ability with him and ball retention was a constant theme of his training sessions."



### Ray Parlour

(speaking about the infamous Premiership match at Old Trafford in February 2001)

"We were 5-1 down at half-time" he says. "The manager really tore into us. I worked with Arsene for eight years and it was the first - and only - time I heard him swear like that. Poor old Igor Stepanovs had a tough time. One of their players asked me in the tunnel at half-time whether we'd found him on the A1 on the way to the game!"

( before one Arsenal game, Wenger had to excuse himself to go to the toilet just as the players were heading down the tunnel. Immediately afterwards a security alert was raised and the team was sent back down the tunnel to the dressing room. Wenger soon reappeared, surprised to find the players still there, and asked what was going on. Before anyone else could answer, Ray, affecting his best Peter Sellers impression, intoned:

"There is a burm.' Now utterly confused, Wenger replied, perfectly: 'A burm?' As the team erupted into paroxysms of laughter, Parlour managed: 'Yes, a burm', before joining in the hilarity. When the laughter had subsided Wenger said, 'Raymond... I do believe you are having a joke with me.'





The **Arsenal Independent Supporters' Association** was formed on 1 October 2000 (the day of the Thierry Henry wonder goal v Manchester United). From that date until the summer of 2006 AISA played a prominent role in supporting the Club's application for planning permission for the new stadium.

AISA has a substantial membership base, communicating every week with over 8,000 Arsenal supporters, spread throughout the UK and abroad.

A close working relationship exists with REDaction and with the Arsenal Supporters' Trust, and AISA also works in co-operation with Supporters Clubs and the three Arsenal fanzines.

AISA campaigns on a range of issues that affect supporters, including the annual football week of action against racism, as well as broader concerns, such as ticket pricing and allocation. Our charity work over the last three years has raised over £30,000, and other initiatives include an annual survey of fans, and regular newsletters.

To join AISA, please email [aisa@fsmail.net](mailto:aisa@fsmail.net) ; our annual subscription is just £10.

**REDaction** is a group of matchgoing fans who have united with the intention of bringing even more fun and noise to match days. We're an open forum which anyone can join to contribute to or suggest ideas for adding vibrancy to the average home match experience.

The main core of REDaction comprises twelve fans from other organisations and several who were there at the start of it all. We were originally formed when the club wanted a group of fans to form and suggest ideas for Highbury events. We've gone to build a fantastic network in the Arsenal community and while we work closely with various facets of the club, we are very much independent and strike the balance to ensure fans are as happy with what we do as possible.

We count Arsenal World, AWIMB, The Gooner, Ham & High, Islington Gazette, Arseblog, AISA, AST and Arsenal Mania as much valued allies in our efforts and that list is growing all the time.

Our mission statement: "To bring Arsenal back to its faithful fans and buck the trend of growing indifference in English club football". Simple really. Nobody can doubt football in this country has changed massively and we want to bring back an element of colour and eccentricity which has been slowly disappearing in the top flight.

To subscribe to the REDaction mailing list please email [redaction-gooners-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:redaction-gooners-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk)

The 2008 Arsenal Supporters Gala Dinner was organised by a committee consisting of Geoff Bedingfield, Tony Bernhard-Grout, Mark Brindle, Ben Dimech, Steve Goodwin, Christine Langton, Lois Langton, Paul Matz and Jane Pearce.

Thank you to everyone who contributed auction and raffle prizes, and in many other ways to the organisation of the Gala Dinner (approx 35 names to be added) followed by "Apologies to anybody who has been accidentally omitted and finally not forgetting the contribution from staff at Arsenal FC, TreeHouse and the Willow Foundation."

All profits from tonight's auction and raffle will be donated to **The TreeHouse Trust** and **The Willow Foundation**. More information about these charities at [www.treehouse.org.uk](http://www.treehouse.org.uk) and [www.willowfoundation.org.uk](http://www.willowfoundation.org.uk)

## Auction

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Lot 1</b> Framed picture of Emmanuel Adebayor, personally signed by him  | shirt signed by Bob Wilson; matchworn shirt and gloves both signed by Manuel Almunia, and matchworn Jens Lehmann shirt      | <b>Lot 9</b> Apple latest state of the art i-Phone and 12 months line rental   |
| <b>Lot 2</b> Two tickets to an Arsenal home match of your choice during season 2008-09 plus a Legends tour of the stadium | <b>Lot 6</b> Theo Walcott framed photo poster and personally signed Impact Art print  | <b>Lot 10</b> Two framed limited edition prints, Inside Highbury on Bergkamp Day, signed by Dennis, and Outside Highbury, signed by the 5 living Arsenal managers  |
| <b>Lot 3</b> A painting of Arsene Wenger signed both by the artist and by Arsene  | <b>Lot 7</b> Four club level tickets to an Arsenal home match during season 2008-09   | <b>Lot 11</b> Double delight; first-ever Outside Emirates print, signed by Thierry Henry and Arsene Wenger; together with an Inside Emirates print, signed by Van Persie, Fabregas, Walcott and Gilberto |
| <b>Lot 4</b> 2 fantastic framed Polaroid photo posters of Cesc Fabregas and Kolo Toure                                    | <b>Lot 8</b> Replica shirt signed by key players from recent years, including Henry, Bergkamp, Pires, Campbell and Fabregas |  |
| <b>Lot 5</b> Goalkeeper's special! 1971 replica cup final   |   |  |