

## CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2002

No doubt, like me, many of you will have overindulged in the sporting feast served up on TV during the year. What with the coverage of the World Cup, the Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup and the usual round of major sporting events, membership of the couch potato club must have increased considerably. Whilst greatly admiring the skills displayed by those superfit performers, I was left with the feeling of just how "feeble of foot and rheumatic of shoulder" this armchair sportsman had become. Could it really be 50 years since those keenly fought inter-house competitions, when we ploughed through the mud at Bow Lane and scorched round the cinder track at Parliament Hill Fields? What indeed does it help us that once we were strong. But enough of this reverie and on to the real stuff of the Chairman's Newsletter.

### OLD CAMDENIANS WEBSITE

- <http://mysite.freemove.com/OldCamdeniansClub>
- [old@camdenians.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:old@camdenians.fsnet.co.uk)

At this point, I would normally acknowledge all those who had written in. However, as "E Mail" now seems to have replaced "Snail Mail", I will instead thank everybody who has used the Website to keep in touch. Among those who have made contact through this medium are:

- John Lanahan from Berlin (1963-68) who was a classmate of Charlie George and recalls Terry Bolas as his housemaster. Another classmate, Stephen Vincent, has all the names of the pupils in that form.
- Brian Turner and Jimmy Jones, now both living in Macclesfield and who are planning to attend the Dinner – so be warned!
- Basil Collins from Newmarket. He has a photo of himself in school uniform when evacuated to Rugby, and his original School Matric on leaving the School in 1944.
- Also Paul Gardner from Braintree (1980-85), Peter Gourri from Peckham Rye (1981-86), Eric Brown from St Albans (1963-69), John Fitzgerald from Barking (1967-73), Keith Crozier from Redditch, Eric Ray a member of the 1964 AFA Senior Cup Winning Side, Harold Bennett from Israel and Jayant Rawal in Spain.

The scattered nature of these contacts proves how effective and successful the Website has become and we are indebted to Peter Sumpter for all his hard work and enthusiasm in setting it up. Peter reports that he now has 450 names on the database and that the Website has received 298 hits, (and counting) resulting in the recruitment of 32 new members. Moreover, Peter intends to widen the scope of the Website by,

for example, using information from the Football and Cricket Clubs, such as team sheets, results, coming event etc. He also hopes to include, in due course, the dossier of Old Camdenians' achievements prepared by Bob Hartley. Finally, it would appear that there is now a real possibility of linking up with the School Website in the near future, which will be a great advantage. I am sure Peter will welcome suggestions as to how the Website might be even further developed.

#### **NORMAL CORRESPONDENCE (SNAIL MAIL)**

- Jack Field reports that he came across Andrew Wooder, Premises Manager at the Barnsbury Centre, who left the School in 1978.
- Mike Duffy has written with details of Councillor Eddie Arram and his brother-in-law, Brian Jaye. Both live in Croydon and are looking forward to attending the Dinner.
- Good to hear again from Dickie Bird (now 85) who regretted not being able to attend the School v. Old Boys match. Thanks for your kind comments, Dickie, and your continued support.
- Finally, a letter from A. H. "Gudge" Gudgin, for many years Chairman of Southgate County Old Boys F. C. "Gudge" joined the Metropolitan Water Board on the same day in 1947 as Ernie Law. They subsequently lost touch after both leaving the MWB, but are happily now back in contact. "Gudge" also mentioned his pleasure in meeting and playing against George Ives, Alec Godfrey, Dave Metzger, Frank Oirschott, Alf Mortimer and Ron Nutkins. Good to see that "friendly rivalry" is still alive.

News, views and reminiscences are always welcome, whether by letter, "E Mail", Fax or just a chat on the phone. So do please keep firing them in.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

##### **Leonard Hinton (1909-2002)**

We learned with great sadness that he had died on 4<sup>th</sup> August, just three days before his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He attended the School from 1920 to 1927 and always retained a keen interest in the Old Camdenians Club and its support for the School students. He was, until quite recently, a regular at the Annual Dinner and continued to correspond even after he was no longer able to attend. Indeed, his last letter in November 2001 mentioned having found some old photographs, which he felt would be of interest for our archives.

Len served in India during WW2 rising rapidly from Private to Captain. He worked mainly in the North of England and the Midlands and on retiring became a stalwart of the local British Legion. He was a cricket fanatic and played for his village side, Belbroughton Worcs, on whose grounds his ashes are scattered. To his wife, Mary, and his family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

### OLD CAMDENIANS SHOWCASE/MUSEUM

George Ives has located a suitably prominent site at the School to establish a wooden Showcase/Museum to house Old Camdenians memorabilia. The estimated cost of construction etc is £350 - £500. Your Committee feels that this would be a suitable subject for sponsorship by an Old Camdenian and/or his company. Recognition of any such sponsorship would, of course, be clearly displayed on the cabinet. Anyone interested in sponsoring this worthy project, either wholly or in part, should please contact the Secretary.

### CAREER TALKS etc

Savvas Savouri has very kindly offered to provide remedial or other extra curricular teaching to pupils at the School, should the occasion arise. If you can offer similar assistance or would like to give career talks related to your profession, please contact the Secretary with details.

### OTHER NEWS

In similar vein to last year, contributions are attached covering the following news items:-

- The School Year by Dr John Hudson
- The School versus Old Boys Football Match by Alex Williamson
- The exploits of the Football and Cricket Clubs over the past year
- The situation at Burtonhole Lane by Paul Scott
- The first Golf Day and possible future events by Phil Cowley

### AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER (FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2002)

As ever, the last Friday in November has been set aside for these events at the School. For the 5<sup>th</sup> year running, the ticket price has been pegged at £25, which is a real bargain offering a 4 course meal with wine, beer and soft drinks in nostalgic surroundings and in convivial company. As an added attraction, Professor Robert (Bob) Pinker has kindly agreed to propose the toast to the School and Staff.

To avoid disappointment, please send your completed application form and cheque NOW to George Ives. If you can stretch to a little extra to pay for schoolboy guests and help with projects at the School, it would be greatly appreciated. We need another 20 or so to break through the 100 barrier, so why not round up a few of your contemporaries to swell the numbers. If you really cannot attend, we will be toasting "absent friends" at 9 o'clock - so have a glass ready.

As usual, transport will be laid on from Kings Cross (York Road where the buses stop) at 6.15 pm with the return trip leaving the School at about 10.30 pm. ?

*building works  
going on!*

### REMINDERS

Club ties can be purchased from the Secretary – price £7.50. Also still available are copies of:-

- Richard King's Jubilee Prospect 1907 – 1957 and 90 Years Young – a potted history of the Football Club.

### STOP PRESS

- Earlier in the year, with George, I attended the Annual School Leavers Ceremony. We will be similarly representing the Old Camdenians at the School's Prizegiving event on 15<sup>th</sup> October, when we traditionally lay on some wine and nibbles for the staff.
- Alan Mitchell, formerly groundsman at Bow Lane, has won two Football Association "Groundsman of the Year" awards for his work at Wingate/Finchley F.C. in the Ryman League.
- Alex Williamson reports that the 46 girls now at the School are a joy to teach and are impeccably behaved – an example the boys are finding hard to match!
- Thanks to Mo Hales for his generous contribution towards expenses for the School v. Old Boys football match. The School triumphed again 4 – 1 (See Alex Williamson's totally unbiased report!). Bill Wraight, Bob Cairns and Peter Thompson (who actually got a game) were in attendance but otherwise Old Camdenian support was disappointingly conspicuous by its absence – hence the result.
- Apparently the schoolboys so enjoy their visits to Burtonhole Lane that the School has asked if more of their football and cricket matches can be played there. Some thought is being given as to how best this can be achieved.
- Photographs, school magazines and other memorabilia will be on show at the AGM/Dinner. We always welcome more items for display, particularly group photos at special events and school camps etc. If you can help in this respect please contact the Secretary.
- One of George Ives' many taxi rides from Marylebone Station to the School produced two more new members. The cabbie was Richard Butterfield (1971 – 76) now living in Dagenham. A friend of his was also an Old Camdenian and both are now on the mailing list. You never know where an OC will turn up next!

My thanks to your Committee for their support during the year and, of course, to Pam and George Ives for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Club and the School.

**Alan Meyer - Chairman**