

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – 2010

Judging by the speed with which this, the Club's 101st, year has slipped by, it won't be long before the bi-centenary celebrations are upon us. Activity on several fronts has, no doubt, helped this rapid march of time and has also produced plenty of news and information to impart via our various bulletins. What follows will, hopefully, bring you further up to date with events, not least in the reports by the President and Secretary.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS – OFFICIAL OPENING

The Secretary has reported elsewhere on this splendid occasion and rightly mentioned the presentation made to him of a skilfully restored 'Holloway School' sign to mark his retirement as a School Governor and Vice Chair of Governors. It was a memorable moment and a fitting tribute to the characteristically dedicated service which George has given in both those capacities. Typically, George has asked that the sign should reside in the Old Camdenian Hall and, we hope, it will be in place when we gather there for the AGM/Annual Dinner on Friday 26th November. I would just add that I have not seen George so visibly moved nor lost for words since Alec Godfrey picked him for the 1st XI! Seriously though, I'm sure that all Old Camdenians will join me in thanking George for all he has done, and continues to do, for both the School and the Club.

THE SCHOOL VERSUS THE OLD CAMDENIANS

A report on the annual football match, played on 11th September, appears later in this newsletter. Unfortunately, it was not possible to stage the annual cricket match, despite the best efforts of both sides to find a mutually convenient date.

The atmosphere at Burtonhole Lane, for the faithful few supporting the football match, was extremely convivial. This was helped, of course, by perfect weather as well as a cricket match also in progress. The fixture is always well publicised and, invariably, produces good entertainment, whatever the result. So, next year, why not make it an Old Camdenian get-together and enjoy a relaxing stroll along the touchline while mulling over bygone days with old friends. At least it's cheaper than the Emirates!

RECRUITMENT/COMMITTEE MATTERS

A very warm welcome to all those new members whose names have appeared, via the website, during the year. We hope you enjoy reading our news bulletins and would be delighted if you can make it along to the AGM/Annual Dinner on 26th November.

Recruitment is, of course, a major consideration for the Committee, particularly in terms of encouraging more students and school leavers into the Club. In that regard, we are hoping that the Head Boy and Head Girl will be able to join us on the Committee to provide fresh ideas for tackling the issues involved. New young blood on the Committee is always welcome and, indeed, essential if the Club is to continue helping the School meet its future challenges. Vacancies will, inevitably, arise with the passage of time and we do, therefore, need your help in filling them. Indeed, in this respect, Pam Ives has recently stood down as Minutes Secretary after 17 years invaluable service, for which the Committee, and the Club, are deeply grateful.

We meet just two or three times a year, so if you can spare a few hours to do your bit for the Club, the Secretary will be delighted to hear from you.

IN MEMORIAM

Cliff Broad (1946-1951)

It was with very great sadness that we heard, not only of Cliff's passing on 8th July, but also that his wife, Pat, had died just a few weeks earlier.

After leaving school at sixteen, Cliff joined a shipping company as a junior clerk and rose rapidly through the ranks to become Managing Director. He was a talented footballer and, in his first season with OCFC (1958/59), helped the 3rd XI win the LOB Minor Cup – the Club's first trophy. He subsequently went on to play, briefly, for Alec Godfrey's 1st XI and remained a lifelong Arsenal supporter. Until illness intervened, Cliff was a regular attendee at the Annual Dinner, which he greatly enjoyed. His speech, in 1993, proposing the toast to the School and staff, is still remembered as one of the best heard at those functions.

Cliff's cheerful, down to earth nature will be greatly missed by his many friends as witnessed by the large gathering at his funeral and, afterwards, at the Redlibbets Golf Club, near Sevenoaks. The Club was represented by the Chairman, the Secretary and Pam Ives, Phil Cowley, Bill Rogers and George Palmer. Our sincere condolences have gone to Cliff's loving family at their doubly sad loss. A further tribute follows.

THE AGM/ANNUAL DINNER – FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER

Details appear in the Secretary's Report and have been circulated. If you can attend, do please ensure that you join a tour of the new school buildings. It is sure to be quite an eye-opener. For those unable to join us in person, you can still do so in spirit (in every sense) by raising a glass at 9:00pm for the toasts to 'Absent Friends' and the 'Old Camdenians Club'.

Finally, my thanks, as usual go to George and Pam Ives and the Committee for their patient support, not forgetting my 'unpaid secretary' for typing the above. I look forward to meeting you on 26th November.

Alan Meyer

Chairman

ANNUAL FOOTBALL MATCH – 11th SEPTEMBER 2010

OLD CAMDENIANS V THE SCHOOL

The turnstiles at Burtonhole Lane remained idle as the fans, once again, deserted this well publicised annual fixture. What they missed was a lively, end to end match played in an excellent spirit which prevailed long after the final whistle. Clearly intent on retaining the trophy, the Old Camdenians quickly established a 3-0 lead but a spirited recovery saw the School twice reduce the arrears and come within a whisker of equalising. Both sides continued to play open, attacking football which produced plenty of chances and goalmouth incidents but, as their opponents tired, the Old Camdenians side took full advantage to come out comfortable 8-2 winners. The result did not, however, reflect the commendable

commitment and skill shown by the students, for whom the Man of the Match award deservedly went to Tom White.

With a cricket match also in progress, it was good to see the clubhouse buzzing, particularly when a splendid feast was unveiled. Alan Eeles and Michael Lee were among the faithful few enjoying BHL at its best and Pam Ives, with sister Judy, took a creditable £65 on the tombola. Our thanks go to George Ives, Bill Wood, Paul Roberts, Roger Gravett and all those involved in organising another fine afternoon in every sense.

Alan Meyer

O.C.'s Secretary's Notes (Annual)2010

Just after the AGM at about 6-30 we plan to have the first formal presentation of Books donated by the Camdenians to the Library. We have purchased some 45 books of "Teenage Fiction" which have been acquired for us by the School Librarian Kellie Hodgson and also plan we to hand over the first of the Books written by Old Camdenians. If you visit the Website, you will see that listed under Eminent Old Camdenians Authors there are over 320 Books written and published by Old Camdenians. It is our ambition to acquire as many of these Books as possible, and the Head has promised they will be displayed in a special separate section in the Library. Further to this, Beryl Martin is bequeathing a significant sum, via the O.C.'s to commemorate her Husband "Twink" Martin and details of this we hope to be able to announce at the AGM. A volunteer to help research where copies of the other relevant Books are available, would be most welcome.

The AGM this year will be held in the Camdenians Hall which has been completely renovated and is now the main Music and Drama Room.. As we have said before, the War Memorial Boards (First and Second World War) are to be re-installed there. I did appeal recently for any information regarding possible casualties in the more recent conflicts like Korea, Malaya, Cyprus etc. and if anyone has information please contact us.

50+ Club

Once again a reminder that the 50+ Club still has Numbers available at a cost of £60 per annum or £5 per month Standing Order. Prizes awarded on the last Saturday of the Month to those holding the First and Second number drawn in the National Lottery. First Prize wins £65 (£200 in November) Second Prize is £20 (£50 in November).

At the AGM this year, there will be an item on the Agenda to discuss the Dinner Ticket Price. We have maintained the cost at £25 inclusive of Wines etc. for the past 16 years, but rising costs mean we will have to re-evaluate. Indeed, we have had an unexpected significant cost imposed this year, which means the Dinner will be run at a loss.

On a happier note, I was contacted by the nephew of a very Eminent O.C. namely Sydney Hutchison, who many remember became the Secretary of the Royal Academy. Many of us will remember Sydney playing "The Old School Song" at the Annual Dinner. Evidently his nephew had been going through some of his papers and discovered many artefacts relating to the O.C.'s and has promised to make them available to us. I explained to him that we are looking to make a collection of Books by O.C. Authors (some 320) and that we would be looking to find the three that Sydney wrote to which he replied that he had a copy of one of them and would donate it to us. We are extremely grateful to him for his generosity. The "Collection" has started.

For those attending the Dinner.

Upon arrival please go to the Assembly Hall where the Dinner will take place signposted **O.C. Dinner**. Deposit your coats and collect your Agenda/Table Plan and your Name Badge, then proceed down the corridor following signs **O.C. Reception**. This will bring you to the Camdenian Hall (Old original Hall) where the Reception at 6p.m. and the AGM at 6-3-p.m

followed by the Presentation of Books ceremony will be held. Dinner is at 7-30 p.m. sharp, which will mean a return to the Assembly Hall. Please remember, as you are leaving after Dinner, to please deposit your Name Badge in the Box at the Hall Exit.

Old Camdenians 50+ Club

Projected Financial Return

Income		Totals
17 Numbers Annual Sub. £60	£1020-00	
1 Number Annual Sub 10 months	50-00	
6 Numbers Annual (9 months) £45 x 6=	270-00	
22 Numbers Standing Orders	1320-00	
2 Numbers Standing Orders 8 monthsx5	80-00	
2 Numbers Standing Order s 5 monthsx5	50-00	
49 Numbers issued		£2790-00
Prizes Awarded		
2 x £200	£400-00	
10 @ £65 (1 No Winner)	650-00	
1 @ £50	50-00	
14 @ £20	280-00	
		£1380-00
Winnings Donated to the Club		
3@ £65 & 3 @ £20	£255-00	£255-00
	Total Surplus	£1665-00
Expenses		
Stationary, Postage etc.	£25-00	£25-00
Excess Income over Expenditure		£1640-00
Donations to Sports and Social Club	£1000-00	
Legal & Surveyors Fees paid to Barnet Council re Trustee Transfer	713-00	
Cost of Documents & Postage	16-35	£1729-35
Carried F/wd 7/10	Deficit	£88-65
Brought F/wd 7/09	£865-00	£865-00
Carried F/wd to 2010/2011		£776.35

O.C's Secretaries Notes

2010-1

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM – 27th NOVEMBER 2009

- The Chairman warmly welcomed all those who had gathered to celebrate the centenary of both the Old Camdenians Club and the Football Club. These were significant milestones of which all Old Camdenians should be rightly proud. He was disappointed, however, that the numbers attending had not also reached the hundred mark.
- The Chairman had heard from Peg Lerner, Val Castle and Nora Wraight, all of whom had sent their warmest congratulations to the Club. Among those tending their apologies, and their good wishes, were Charles Fellows, Mo Hales, Tony Mann and Ted Warwick from Canada.
- The Chairman thanked all contributors to the Chairman's Newsletter. He commended the School on another successful year both academically and on the sporting scene, especially in view of the disruption caused by rebuilding work.
- The Chairman expressed his appreciation to all those members who had given so generously in donations, particularly those unable to attend the Dinner.
- The Chairman reported that the lease of Burtonhole Lane had been extended for a further five years. Richard Brown had stood down as Chairman of the Trustees after long and valuable service in that capacity and two new trustees had been appointed. By agreement with Barnet Council, the rent arrears would be cleared over a two year period. Additional contributions from the 50+ Club and individual members had further helped to reduce the debt. The Chairman thanked Mike Duffy for his sterling efforts on all these issues.
- The Chairman reported, with great sadness, the passing of Dr John Hudson OBE and Gordon Clarke, former Head and Deputy Head at the School. The Club had also lost several notable Old Camdenians namely: Fred (Dickie) Bird OBE, Harold (Twink) Martin, Alan Spaul, Allan Burnett, John Castle, John Allen and Ken McDonagh. All would be remembered in the Toast to Absent Friends.
- The Chairman paid tribute to George and Pam Ives, and the whole Committee, for their support and commitment during a busy year for the Club.

HAROLD MARTIN ("Twink") 1920-2009
(School years 1932-37)

Harold was affectionately known to his classmates and all Old Camdenians as "Twink" - a name he derived as a young pupil because of his "starlike" qualities. Twink was a bustling, busy person with a quick and active brain. He had an in depth knowledge of The Club, being one of the few remaining Old Boys who spanned the pre and post war years. He was Secretary to the now defunct "Camdenians' Society" and was for a time Secretary to the main club. In 1994 he was made Honorary Life Vice President of the Old Camdenians Club. Shortly after the war, when notices to members were sent out by hand addressed envelopes at committee meetings, he would stop at many of the names and tell an anecdote about the person (not possible now with computers). He was jointly instrumental in drawing up the club constitution, which remains to this day. He was a keen badminton player in the days when the old hall doubled up as a badminton court. Prior to joining the Old Boys Dramatic Society he had joined several touring theatrical companies, performing a number of tasks and roles both back and front of stage. He was also heavily involved in the reforming of the Tavistock Players Company and the renovation of Canonbury Towers where his skills learned as a maintenance fitter during his wartime RAF days were put to good use. Whilst he had several different employers, he spent most of his working life at Gerald Eve, a large company of Chartered Surveyors. In retirement, Twink became heavily involved with the local residents association, the local Civic Society, the Docklands Forum and the local Council on environmental issues and planning applications. We send our sympathy to his wife Beryl. They had been married 46 years.

Richard Brown

Allan Burnett (1943-47)

Allan (or Bunny to his friends) enjoyed a wide variety of interests, all of which he pursued with great enthusiasm. He grew up in the Tufnell Park area, the eldest of three children and, from an early age, was a keen cyclist, an activity which took him to all parts of the country and abroad. After leaving school, he helped his father with the stage lighting at theatres, including the Finsbury Park Empire, from which sprang his lifelong passion for the theatre and the music hall. He had a particular penchant for the Arts and Crafts Movement and became a guide at William Morris's Red House. During his civil service career, first as a Customs Officer, then as a VAT inspector, he acquired a comprehensive knowledge of public transport, the River Thames, and London as a whole. In retirement, he trained as a guide at St. Paul's Cathedral and for the City of London, and delighted in giving illustrated lectures about London and the Thames which were always popular.

For several years, Allan was a regular attendee at the Annual Dinner where he was always good company, with a fund of anecdotes and reminiscences. It was through the Old Camdenians that Allan linked up again with Johnny Castle, his best friend at Burghley Road School and Holloway Grammar, and a former cycling companion.

Allan's very full life was underpinned by a deep Christian faith and his love for his family. His quirky sense of humour, innate kindness and selfless generosity will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Alan Meyer

Welcome to New Members

Larrie Noades 1948-53

Bernie Taylor 1937-40

Barry Bassom 2004-09

Sky Diaz 2004-09

Club Web Site: www.oldcamdenians.info

Club e:mail address: oldcamdenians.club@ntlworld.com

School Web Site: www.holloway.islington.sch.uk

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2010

With the excitement of the centenary celebrations now a distant, but happy, memory, the return to a more normal routine has, nevertheless, continued to keep our ever industrious Secretary fully occupied. This newsletter reproduces, in hard copy, the various notes and news items he has issued this year by email, plus updates in other areas. I would just like to add the following:

- After twenty years, George Ives has stood down from the post of School Governor. It should be recorded that both the Club and the School are greatly indebted to George for the dedicated service he has given in that capacity and for the thoroughness with which he has undertaken those duties.
- The tribute to Dave Bowen marks the sad loss of yet another old friend and colleague. His genial nature, reliability and ready willingness to help were attributes rightly highlighted at his funeral which the Secretary and I attended, along with Howard Embleton, Mick Kennedy, Ken Ranson and John Smith. Dave will be greatly missed by all who knew him.
- The Club 'shopping list' details various items of Old Camdenians memorabilia for sale at very reasonable prices. Of particular note is the centenary dinner dvd, which includes a humorous narrative in verse, written and read by Bob Pinker - a vintage memento whether or not you were there.
- Finally, I fully share the Secretary's views of the impressive new school buildings and the refurbishment of the old building. The official opening will be on Friday 16th July, at which the Club will be represented by Committee members. Also, Saturday 17th July is 'open house' day, to which all are welcome. However, you can, of course, see for yourselves by attending the Annual Dinner on Friday 26th November in the splendid new school hall, with the AGM/Reception in the Old Camdenian hall.

I do hope you can join us in November. In the meantime, have a relaxing summer however, and wherever, you choose to spend it.

Alan Meyer - Chairman.

O.C. Secretary's Mid-Year Notes (2010)

New Members.

Emmanuel Bob Jolley 1953-60

Roy Kelsey 1946-51

Barry Seller 1958-63

Ravinda Walia 1973-79

I have been reminiscing about our Old School now that I am about to finish my “stint” as a Governor after 20 years. When I was first elected, I was extremely disappointed with the state of the buildings and appalled at how, through lack of funds, they had been allowed to enter a condition of complete disrepair. I tried with limited resources, as Chair of the Premises Committee to do what one could to rectify this situation but it was a formidable task although I did receive some magnificent help from some Camdenians who were in the Building Trades.. I was also very concerned with the lack of achievement the students were showing in their exams. This was borne out by the result of the OFSTED Report, and the School was put into “Special Measures” .

Now I am proud to say that the School has never looked smarter and the rebuild and refurbishments are quite magnificent and very imaginative in its concept. It is gratifying to note that the original buildings have been preserved but the interior has had a complete revamp. The Head, Bob Hamlyn, has reported that although it is early days, the Students are showing great respect for the classrooms and corridors which although they are predominately white have not been defaced or disfigured in any way.

Bob has also reported that the Exam results are now also showing great improvement and in some respects the School is back into one of the top 5% of Schools in the Country. This is borne out also by the excellent OFSTED and H.M. Government Inspectors Reports which have stated that the School is a rapidly improving School.

The Chairman has informed you that the School has an “Open Day” on July 17th., but if at any time you would like to visit the School and tour the facilities please just contact me and I will endeavour to arrange it. However, you can also attend the Dinner on **Friday November 26th**. when we shall be arranging tours of all the various buildings both new and old and enjoy an evening with your friends in the magnificent new Assembly Hall and enjoy a Reception in the Old (Camdenian) Hall.

Another date for your diary is the traditional Football Match against the School which will take place on Saturday September 10th. at the Old Camdenians Sports Club, Burton Hole Lane, Mill Hill. The Bar will be open before, during, and after the Match so that you will all have an opportunity to “Buy me One “! Alf and Peter, I know it is not a Leap Year but exceptions can sometimes prove the rule!

The 50+ Club has had a successful year although we have lost some “punters” due to various circumstances. Your Committee is also considering widening the beneficiaries from the 50+ profits. Up to now the only beneficiary has been the Sports and Social Club but they are looking to perhaps generating some benefits for the School and its Students. The Head has been asked to look into this suggestion and of course we would be interested in suggestions from any Camdenian.

The 50+ Club is a “Draw” which takes place on the last Saturday each month and pays out 2 prizes. The first is £65 (£200 in November) and the second is £20 (£50 in November). The joining fee is £60 per annum or £5 per month by Standing Order. Winners are decided by the first 2 numbers drawn in the National Lottery. We shall be naturally interested in any thoughts you may have re the possible changes to the beneficiaries and, of course, if you are interested in joining, please contact me because the end of the year for the Club is the last Saturday in August. Those who are already members will be contacted individually nearer the date.

I am attaching a Price list of all the “Club Items “ for sale and if you are interested please let me know, even if you only express an interest in those items which at the moment are in the process of completion. It helps when judging what “orders” to be placed.

O.C.'s Secretary's Notes 2010- 4

School Opening Friday 16th July, 2010

The Chairman Alan Meyer, Vice Chair Ken Ranson and I were privileged to attend the Official Opening of the new School Buildings and the refurbishment of the original School. The Opening was performed by Lord Neil Kinnoch and the outgoing Chair of Governors, Peter Rees in front of a very large gathering drawn from the local dignitaries and Staff of the School. It was the last official function for Peter Rees as it marked his retirement as Chair of Governor: it was obviously a surprise for him when he was presented with a Plaque which commemorated the fact that the new library was to be called the "Peter Rees Library."

During the occasion the audience were entertained by School student musicians and two excellent vocalists. Indeed, one youngster who could not be much older than 12, entertained with a rendition of "Nessan Dormer". The power of his voice was quite extraordinary and he was given a standing ovation. Hopefully some day he will perform the Old School Song for us.

The new facilities and equipment are "first class" and I urge all of you to come to the Dinner (Friday November 26, 2010) and see for yourself.

It also marked my last "appearance" as a Governor and Vice Chair of Governors and in a complete surprise (Pam said that it was the first time she had seen me at loss for words) as two Students presented me with a sign "Holloway School" that had been discovered during the refurbishment of the "Victorian Buildings". It was made of cast iron and evidently had been covered in many layers of paint. It had been completely restored and I have requested that it be hung over the War Memorial Boards which are going to be situated in the old "Camdenian" Hall.

The hall itself has been completely renovated and is now the "Music and Drama centre". The O.C. Committee are delighted that permission has been granted for this to be the venue for the Reception and the AGM prior to the Dinner on Friday November, 26. The Dinner itself will be held in the new Assembly hall which also is "state of the Art"

I shall be shortly sending out reminders regarding the end of year for the "50+ Club" which is the 25th, September 2010. Don't forget that we are still looking for supporters for this venture which has raised quite a sum which has been donated nearly £4,000 to the "Sports and Social" Club. Indeed the Committee have plans to extend the beneficiaries to include the School and the Head is at present considering suggestions that have been put forward. We hope to give you up-to-date news on these proposals before the AGM (November 26th, 2010)

N.B 50+ Club Details

Cost of membership £60 annually, or £5 monthly standing order. First prize £65 (£200 in November)

Second prize £20 (£50 in November)

Old Camdenians Club

Founded 1909

President: Bob Hamlyn

Chairman: Alan Meyer

please reply to:

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O.C.'s Secretary's Notes 2010-6

50+ Club

The New Year has started and I have some numbers available. Annual Membership is £60 or £5 per month Standing Order. Prizes are for the first 2 numbers in the National Lottery on the last Saturday in the month. Winners receive £65 or £20 respectively. In the Month of November the first Prize is £200 and the second is £50. Just in time for Christmas Shopping. The final accounts for the year 2009/10 will be forthcoming in time for the AGM.

However I can inform you that a total sum of £1700 was donated to the Old Camdenians Sports and Social Club.

Annual Dinner

I shall be sending out the Booking Form for the Annual Dinner taking place on the traditional date of the last Friday in November which this year is on the 26th. of November. I can thoroughly recommend this year's venue at the School, which will take place in the brand new Assembly Hall. The Reception, however, will be in the Camdenians Hall, the original hall in the old Building; the latter has been completely refurbished and the War Memorials are going to be a feature.

Reference the Memorials, it has occurred to us that it was likely the School suffered casualties in later conflicts like the Korean War, Malaya, Cyprus etc. If anybody has relevant information, we, would be pleased to receive it. Many of you will remember the magnificent rendition of the Old School Song by a young Student, Paije Richardson in the Camdenians Hall at an Annual Dinner. Watch out for Paije because he is appearing on the "X Factor".

If any of you have visited the Club's Website you will have probably noticed that there are many books whose authors are Old Camdenians. We are endeavoring to obtain as many of these as possible to be in a special section

in the new library. There are in excess of 320! If any of you who are the authors of Books recorded on our Website, or not, we would be extremely happy from you!

The Committee are in consultation with the Head and the Librarian about the Club donating other Books to the Library. We are also in discussions with them because Beryl Martin is considering financing a memorial to her late Husband the renowned Old Camdenian Harold (Twink) Martin. Many of you know that Twink's great love was in the Theatre, and, indeed, he was a stalwart of the Camdenians Drama Club. Therefore, research is being conducted into the possibility of presenting books on Drama and Theatre for the Library. We will keep you informed but if any of you have any ideas, we would be delighted to receive them. Just after we had had a meeting with the Librarian, I met the Head in a corridor and he greeted me with the words "Manna from Heaven ". Just that day he had been informed of pending cuts in the Budget. Incidentally, the School's Librarian is Kellie Hodgson wife of Deputy Head Martin who is a regular at the Dinner.

Which brings me back to the Dinner as follows

Holloway School.

Friday 26th November 2010

Reception 6pm. AGM 6-30 Dinner 7-30p.m.

Off Road parking at the School. Buses form Kings Cross. Mini Bus returns to Kings Cross at 10-15p.m. sharp

Tickets once again maintained at £25 inclusive of Dinner, Beers, Wines etc.

P.S. A Ron Tindall is trying to locate Keith Fisher. Anybody have any ideas? We lost contact with Keith when his Newsletter in 2009 was returned as "Gone Away".