

## **OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB**

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November 1992

### **The Chairman's Newsletter**

No preamble this year, because I can't wait to tell you that after a considerable amount of negotiating and sheer hard work, mainly on the part of George Ives and a small team of committed Old Boys, we are going to stage the dinner this year at the school. That in itself is good news – and still better news is that we will be dining in the Old Hall – midst all the old familiar surroundings of the honours boards – the stage – the balcony, etc. Many of you will recall morning assemblies being held there; a prayer; a hymn and the Head reading all the notices (Green House lost again!). Just being there should add something to the evening. And there is more good news! Some of you may be concerned about transport to and from the school from main line stations. Well, we are going to organise transport from Kings Cross to the school in the early part of the evening and returning there at the close of the evening. There will be several runs so you need not worry about missing your train.

Do you want more good news? Can you take more? Here goes. Outside caterers have been booked and there will be a 'traditional' menu and – wait for it – the overall price is less than last year and will include beer and wine with the meal. Can you ask for more than that.

All we need now is you – and all those Old Camdenian friends who you are in contact with who don't normally attend the dinner. Can we reach the 100 mark this year? ! Let's hope so. The usual booking form is attached and notice of the AGM. We hope to hold the AGM in the library starting at, say, 6.45 pm with the dinner starting at 7.30 pm.

Many of you have written to me during the year and it is always a pleasure to pass on good wishes from one Old Boy to another. I have a very long letter from P G Knights from the other side to the world in Fiji. Peter seems to spend most of his time sailing around the South Sea Islands since his retirement. His brother Alan, who died last year, visited Peter just before his death when they reminisced at length over Towcester and the evacuation. They talked of other sibling pairs – the Eadies and the Gasmans. He sends best wishes to Stan Heritage and Dennis Reynolds. He goes on "I wish I could remember the names of the two Rons who helped lock the ladies of Yardley G. Jobion within the grounds of the Women's Institute Hall one dark winter night ..... subsequently got six of the best from pegleg Dixon". If you want to see the letter – let me know. I must try and get to see him the next time I am in Sydney – if he's returned from Fiji by then.

Bertram Rentell sent me a column from the Obituary notice of the Telegraph on 11/9/92 pointing out that Maurice Burton, the naturalist who wrote the weekly "Nature Notes" in the Telegraph for over forty years, was a former pupil of Holloway School. John 'Ginger' Barnes represented the Old Boys at the funeral of Eric Tucker. Mrs Dorothy Tucker has written to thank me for flowers and spoke of the happy days Eric had at school. She has a photograph of him aged 16 when he was captain of White House.

Most of my letters are from older Old Boys. In fact you have often heard me plead for more news of the 60's, 70's and 80's. Well here are extracts of a letter from Mr Savvas Savouri, who cannot claim, like most of you, that his time at Holloway was 'joyful'. He says through the 70's and early 80's there was little pride in the school and the sporting successes that were once part of every day life of the school were non-existent during his time. He says that the education system at that time wasted young talents and the young people felt very much on their own. Mr Savouri says he, like our Phoenix, rose above the system and he now has a doctorate with a Master's degree. He bemoans the fact that many of his contemporaries were less fortunate. I don't know Mr Savouri personally, but I would like to meet him and I hope he comes to our dinner – and brings many of his school friends of those lost years with him to the dinner.

Funny isn't it – when you hear of those people who have "made it" – they do so largely because they have the will and determination to rise above obstacles and succeed not always because of the system – sometimes in spite of it. Do come and join us Mr Savouri, you will find many who started life not too dissimilar from yourself – there are not many Holloway School boys who were born with a silver spoon in their mouth.

Dr Bob Hartley (1960–68) also writes, asking that the Old Boys play a more constructive role towards the school. He suggests that individual Old Boys take a personal responsibility to liaise with the school on an active and regular basis. Another idea of his is that a directory of professions within the Old Boys is made up in order to set up a network for employment and to give career talks and be a source of information and guidance. Bob, who is now a film director would be willing to offer help and advice to potential entrants to that industry. Bob is mindful of the gap between the 60's and 70's and even 80's Old Boys and I'm sure he would be willing to lead a campaign for closer integration. I can pass on letters if you would like to contact Bob.

J Rawal, a pupil of the 60's has written and would like to hear from anyone who remembers him – Mr Rawal now lives in Spain and I have his address if you want to write to him.

'Gudge' Gudgin met John Maskell recently at a football match and they spoke of Ernie Law. 'Gudge' would like to make contact with Ernie again and since he is not on my list of addresses, your help is sought.

IN MEMORIUM

**TOM HEAD**  
School years 1934 – 41

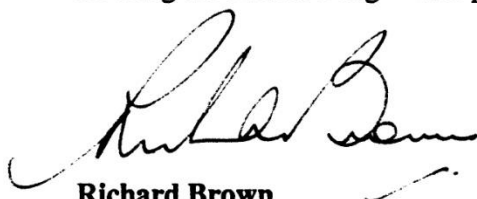
Many of you will be saddened to hear that Tom died earlier in the year as a result of an accident at his home in Worthing. Jack Crook writes to say that soon after Tom came to school he quickly established himself as an outstanding sportsman. After war service in the Merchant Navy, Tom resumed his successful sporting career as a pillar of the Old Camdenians cricket and football clubs. We all remember Tom as a friendly, outgoing chap who enjoyed the simple pleasure of convivial companionship and agreeable conversation. We shall miss him sadly. Elsie Head has written to me acknowledging a small donation we made on Tom's behalf to a Charitable Trust and will be used towards buying equipment for mentally handicapped persons. Elsie says she will miss Tom's comments on football and cricket matches. She has many wonderful memories of cricket matches with the Old Boys Cricket Club and somewhat colder ones of that dreadful football pitch and slope.

At the last committee meeting, George Ives produced a picture (probably taken on the dreaded slope Elsie refers to) of Fred Gigney, Drewitt, Ernie Sears, Roy Billett and Bill Blunden – what about recreating that group at the dinner.

The Headmaster has told me there will be some 'memorabilia' items on show at the dinner – I'm sure many of them will be of great interest – and of course, if you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them along.

I should tell you a little more of the transport arrangements from Kings Cross. The school bus will be stationed opposite the Railway Public House, York Way from about 6.00 pm. For those of you coming by car and happen to be passing that point would you please stop and offer a lift. Incidentally, the school playground will be available for the parking of cars and will have an attendant on duty. I am told that a No 29 London bus goes from Victoria, Charing Cross or Warren Street to the end of Hilldrop Road.

So we hope to see you all there at the school on Friday 27th November, say at 6.45 pm. If you want to arrive earlier and have a walk round the school, drop a line to the Headmaster saying what time you are likely to arrive. You may find he can provide you with a 'cup of tea'. One final thought, come in good voice, because we hope to be reviving the School Song – with proper accompaniment this year.



**Richard Brown**  
Hon Chairman,  
Old Camdenians Club  
November 1992