

1993

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

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THE CHAIRMAN'S 1993 NEWSLETTER

If I seem a little - well, shall we say, not quite with it in this newsletter, it is because I am writing my notes just two days before my daughter's wedding and fifteen days before my retirement. The church has been booked, the hotel reserved, the band has been asked not to play too loud, the speech - (like having a baby, is easily conceived though harder to deliver) is hopefully going to be short, the groom isn't such a bad chap, my wife has bought her outfit - so there should be nothing to panic about, and yet! Oh my Gawd! Have I got enough booze?

But this is really an Old Boys Newsletter. What am I doing prattling about being on time at the church. Then of course there's the retirement lunch and presentation. Never mind the gold watch; what we want nowadays is a gold handshake and a pension. It's at a time like this when I think of all those poor souls at the Mirror who lost their pension and people who are not as lucky as me to have been in the same Company for most of their working lives.

Many of my contemporaries at Holloway School will soon be or have been going through my current experiences. Some will already be grandparents - that joy still awaits me.

My own 'forty years on' now stretches towards the fifty mark and I wonder what happened to all those who we don't see at Old Boys dinners. So does Paul Yates, who writes to me every year regretting he is unable to come to the dinner and always wishes to be remembered to everybody of his era. Paul raises a few of those "where are they now?" questions. This year his list includes Paul Winbolt, Roy Pritchard, John How, Alan Morgan, John Edwards, Peter Richardson, Frank Bloom, Robert Gorton, Lulu(?) Lloyd, and so many cricketers, too numerous to mention. Maybe Paul will make it this year so he can greet everybody personally (I'll even book some accommodation for him)!

I was also asked if anyone knew the addresses of Brian Lofts, Derek Jenner, R Fleming and Chick Chandler. Bob Hartley has given me a list of names of Old Boy Achievers. We would like to have more news of them; people like Charlie George, Joey Adams, Tommy Youlden, Philip Homer and James Curran. There must be many more Old Boys who have achieved National and International recognition in their own field - we would like to hear about them. I wonder, too, what happened to that fine pianist, Peter Farey?

I passed J R Rawal's letter, who wrote to me from Spain, to Gordon Clarke (by the way, didn't Gordon look well at the dinner - I do hope he manages to come again this year). And are we going to see Tom Rolfe this year? Tom was unable to attend last year because of his golf commitments. "I didn't know you played golf, Tom" says I "What's your best shot?". "The fourth putt" says he.

David Chapman of Dereham, Norfolk, sends Theo Crabtree his best wishes. As do many others. Frank Pottinger says he will be at the dinner this year (DV), depending on his military reunion date. One of your schoolboy contemporaries Frank, Leonard Hinton remembers you in a letter he has written to me, also Ron Wilby, Sid Hutchison and Harold Martin. (I have his letter if you would like me to pass it on).

A representative of the 50's, Harry Levy - always in jovial spirits and living well with his "dickie ticker" sends best wishes. He closes with a typical flourish "Who says there are no Jewish muggers?" They call themselves "doctors and solicitors". Harry would be able to dine with us if we changed our eating night. Shalom, Harry.

Other letters include Ken Pitman, Pete Stanley, Meredith Brown (pleasant recollections of eight years as Headmaster), Paul Scott, Les Gentry, F.H. Cheney (want to see you back this year, Francis), Charles Fellows, Stanley Whiteman, J Sparrow, Maurice Hales.

IN MEMORIUM

STAN HERITAGE

You will be saddened to learn of the death of Stan Heritage during the year. Stan came to last year's dinner and I thought he looked so much better when I picked him up at Kings Cross. George Robb, one of Stan's contemporaries of those great footballing years writes the following:

"I first came across Stan when he played for Yerbury Road School Juniors and I played for Pooles Park Juniors - really competitive stuff in those days! We met up again at Holloway when of course Stan showed his abilities at Soccer and Cricket, so Green House won the occasional game. We both enjoyed the evacuation days at Towcester. Back in London Stan joined the Sea Cadets and invited me to play soccer for them, which I did, despite being an A.T.C. member at School. Running the Sea Cadet team was a chap called Rogers who played for Finchley Reserves. Rogers introduced us both to Finchley and we often played together there, before Stan went to Oxford and was also picked for the great Pegasus side.

Stan played a very great part at inside forward in the successful school XI's at the end of, and years after, the War. We were all proud of him when he won his place at Oxford and of course he did very well at I.C.I."

This letter also serves as formal notice for the AGM which precedes the dinner. Again I am pleased to say we are repeating the successful venture of last year by holding the event in the Old Hall at the School on

FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER

Last year was our first attempt to hold the dinner there which attracted a record attendance. We have learned enough from last year's innovation to be able to say that this year will be even better. Sidney Hutchison expressed the view of many and gave us some helpful suggestions for this year - which we will try to incorporate, such as more appropriate placing of the speakers and better adherence to timing.

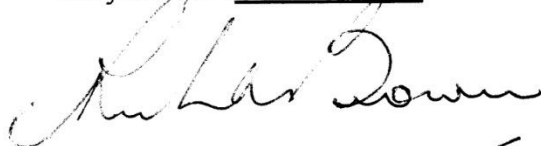
I am able to tell you that our principal guest will be the co-writer of hit comedy television series 'Birds of a Feather', 'Minder' and 'Auf Wiedersehen, Pet' - Laurence Marks, who was at the school 1959-1965. Laurence reminds me that his then English teacher, Mr Illing, once wrote "I think you may have a future in writing" I wonder if Mr Illing could be with us at the dinner?

We meet first for the AGM at 6.30 pm and then move onto dinner at 7.00.

We hope to have a table for display of memorabilia items, and photographs are always a good talking point. Somebody may even like to bring a camera with them. A suggestion from your Committee was that we try to produce a directory of business contacts, Bob Hartley will be pleased to talk to you on this topic.

It is nearly time for my daughter to walk up the aisle. If I don't hurry she will be there alone. There's no more time left so I'll be putting on my top hat, doing up my white tie, polishing my nails and stepping out down the aisle with Sarah.

See you on the **26th November**



RICHARD BROWN
Chairman
Old Camdenians Club
October, 1993

