

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

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THE CHAIRMAN'S 1997 NEWSLETTER

Dear Old Camdenian,

The England & Wales Cricket Board welcomed Messrs Taylor, Warne, McGrath, etc. to join us in our summer pastime. Some 30 or so Old Camdenians gave their own special welcome to two particular guests from Down Under when Old Boys Dave Metzger and Gordon Wing made a summer pilgrimage to the Old Country to see family and friends. Dave and Gordon had their separate 'genes' with them and we had an enjoyable time reminiscing, joking and figuratively scoring great goals, bowling to an accurate line and length and recalling good times on and off the field. It is not surprising really, that after some 40 years the match winning goals and the manner of dismissals and high scores became more spectacular with each retelling (and with each pint). Jean Wing was able to meet other ladies with whom she had spent many watchful days from deck chairs and kitchen sink at Squires Lane whilst their men folk bowled, batted, fielded and walked around a lot. Stories of accompanying the men they subsequently caught in the aisle were exchanged with excited animation.

This happy reunion, which took place at Burton Hole Lane in July, was enjoyed by George & Pam Ives (with Mum), Fred & Ann Averill, George & Kate Robb, Bill & Nora Wraight, Frank Oirschot, Aleck Godfrey, Alan & Jill Cornelius, Paul Yates, Charles Simpson, Richard & Jo Brown, Ken & Mrs Pitman, Ken Ransome, Alf Mortimer, Maurice & Mrs Hales, John & Mrs Smith, Reg Taylor, Bill Rogers, Allen & Irene Brockman and Dennis & Betty Steel. Apologies were received from Dave Bowen (holiday), Bert Weedall (playing cricket!!!), Ken Parsons, Mick Lerner, Tom Rolf and Brian Collins (who had the temerity to say he could remember keeping to Gordon 'who could manage the occasional quick one'). Whilst we were having our glass or two in the pavilion, there were three of the 'Old School' Old Boys actually still playing. We looked out of the window to see none other than Alan Robinson and Paul Scott opening the batting (combined age 126 years). Some considerable time later they were still there - Paul, even having got off the mark. The side was being skippered by John Maskell. Roger Gravett was playing away doing a 'McGrath'.

In his letter of thanks for organising the event, Gordon says "I hardly felt as if much time had passed since I was last in such company. It is truly strange how bonds of friendship made in early years have about them a lasting and fresh feeling".

The Old Boys cricket team prospered after the war and those present at the reunion recalled with grateful thanks the hard work, energy and leadership that was given to us by the likes of Fred Wilby, Stuart Hamer, Reg Nicholson and Jack Crook.

IN MEMORIAM

J M CROOK SCHOOL YEARS 1934-41

All Old Camdenians will be saddened by the passing of Jack Crook on 24th June this year.

Jack, known to his many friends as 'Jasper' was a gentleman in every sense of the word and a warm and generous person always willing to assist and advise. Many people benefited from his kindness and benevolence which emerged through a sometimes crusty exterior used to effect when exercising his sharp wit and humour.

His academic achievements were many, including an honours degree in modern languages and an accountancy qualification. After serving as an officer in the Army during the war, he worked in local government and until his retirement he was a college bursar. His main abiding interest was in the game of cricket, as a player, spectator and an administrator. It is true to say that this interest lasted until the end of his life for he was taken ill and died on his way home from the Lord's Test Match.

Jasper was deservedly famous for his statistical publications and it is therefore fitting to end by recording his invaluable service to the Old Camdenians Cricket Club.

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|-------------------|---|
| Chairman | 1965 - 1984 (Elected as honorary Life member) |
| Fixture Secretary | 1949 - 1955 |
| Team Secretary | 1950 |
| 2nd XI Captain | 1961 - 1963 |
| Matches played | 557 |
| Runs scored | 7320 |
| Wickets taken | 42 |
| Catches | 74 |

We shall all greatly miss Jasper and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Enid and family.

LOUIS WATT (Master from 1954-71)

Old Camdenians were present at the service of thanksgiving held at Southwark Cathedral in January for Louis Watt who died last October. During the time he was a teacher at Holloway and when he became Headmaster of Tollington Park, (until his retirement in 1981) he regularly took interested students to concerts and opera. He supervised many field trips with his biology classes to Swanage and other sites. He was bilingual and was happy to take a class in French.

The family has set up a memorial fund in Louis' name for an annual competition for young musicians at Morley College. The Club has made a contribution and I can provide further details should anyone wish to make a personal contribution.

ERNIE BREWER (Master from 1957-72)

Ernie was a regular correspondent during his retirement years. He always wrote of the happy times he had at Holloway and how much he enjoyed the school, its activities and the happy, helpful Common Room, which, he said was "babbling with talent." Ernie always mentioned school camp - specially at Corfe Castle with Alf Goldsmith, Allen Brockman, etc. He so enjoyed the cycling tours with Gordon Clarke, who Ernie described as "a wonderful friend and colleague". Violet has written to me saying how pleased she was that Ernie survived to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary and how she appreciated those who attended Ernie's thanksgiving service.

FRANK C POTTINGER (School years 1923-30)

For many years Frank was an active member of both the cricket and football clubs. He played his sports with energy and commitment. He was a member of the "Camdenian Society" and attended many functions. He wrote to me each year for the past few years saying he was unable to attend the dinner because the date clashed with the annual reunion of his war time regiment.

A A FASHOLA (School years 1969-70)

Mr Fashola obtained a degree in Education and became a teacher in Nigeria. In a letter to the school written in 1989 from Ibadan, Abedowale remembered with affection classmates Tony Fletcher and Freddy Wainwright.

A walk 'n talk around the boundary

Regular annual dinner attendees will know the problems we have experienced with the public address system in the Seitz/Camdenian Hall.. Whatever we have tried so far has not produced a system whereby after-dinner speakers can be heard from all parts of the hall. The latest estimate for a permanent system is about £2000, whilst a portable one for the evening would be about £600. Quite frankly we haven't got that kind of money. Unless some kind benefactor is prepared to step in and help, we may have to ask our speakers to shout in order to make themselves heard. ~~~~~

Peter Andes tells me he has met an Old Boy who has just become Rotarian District Governor for the Greater London area - Eric Brannan. Bring him along to the dinner, Peter, perhaps Cliff Broad will buy him a drink. ~~~~~

Following the reunion at Burton Hole Lane this summer, Bill Wraight managed to take 6 of the golden oldies (Alan Cornelius, Charlie Simpson, Fred Averill, Dennis Steel, Gordon Wing and Richard Brown) into the members stand at Lords for the Middlesex v Australia match. Next year we might try a day out at one of the County fixtures at Chelmsford. Anyone interested? Whilst we were at Lords, we met by chance another Old Camdenian, Keith Fisher who attended school about 1968 (He said that he remembered Hartley and Cairns) ~~~~~

Had a call from Paul O'Connor now in Italy, who was at school from 1964-69 and lived at Bounds Green. Also heard from Ron Pickett (54-58) now living in Hertfordshire, both would like to hear from their contemporaries. (What about it - BHC, PC, CE, AF, PJ, IK, MK, MN, DN, GDP, GP, RP). Ron says that Geoff Swallow, now living in New Zealand is visiting the U.K. during October and November and would like to arrange a get-together of all his old pals. Well, I hope you will all be coming to the dinner on Friday 28th November (more later) or I can let you have Ron or Geoff's address. Another letter from overseas informs me that Jayant Rawal from Spain hopes to attend the dinner this year. ~~~~~

Sid Britten didn't make the summer reunion. We think he was too busy arranging an activity holiday for 14 people through the columns of the Daily Telegraph. (Sid & Shirley's eldest son is now married). ~~~~~

Singing Patients

^{Pearce}
Ken ~~Parsons~~ was in Heatherwood Hospital recently and got chatting to the patient in the next bed. After talking about hospital food in general, the food topic turned to fruit. The other patient said that the best pears he ever ate were from a tree in the grounds of the school he went to. Ken recalled the same experience. It seems they were both talking about the same tree in the same school grounds at Holloway. So the long hours in the hospital passed much quicker talking about the school, contemporaries and staff. The other patient was Marcel Heindel (34-39). Ken says they ended the conversation with a cracked, croaking rendition of the School song. Therapy indeed! ~~~~~

Ian Kelly has sent me a 1928 Speech Day programme. ~~~~~

How did Evangelos Apostolu perform in his Bar finals last year?

Games People Play

Phil Jewell tells me that he can memorise his Form 1A register of 1947, starting with Adams, Bennett, Beach, Bluett, Bowd, Chaffe, Clark, Clarkson, Copp, Croucher, Dougal, Elliott, Foster, Grinder, Hoskins, up to his own name. It's a great game - try it. (I, too, can remember the register up to my name - that is the B's).

George Snelling (School years 1918-23)

George Ives has been battling for some time to trace the whereabouts of the Leslie George Snelling Trust - a fund where the school was a joint beneficiary. By tracking the movement of the fund through a maze of educational financial cover ups, which made Nick Leeson look like a novice, George has finally placed the Trust money into the hands of our own School Governors for the benefit of the School. ~~~~~

About Headmasters

Paul Smith has settled into the Headship of his new school in Coventry. Though missing Holloway, he has managed to find himself a house in the country which he finds a joy. ~~~~~

Members of the committee recently 'dined in' our new Headmaster and President, Dr John Hudson, B.Sc, M.Sc, D.I.C., M.Phil, PhD. Although his previous position was for eight years in Cumbria, John has returned to his London roots to take up the challenge of leading the school back to high standards of academic achievement and making a worthwhile contribution to society. He has already attracted a full complement of staff which will help to achieve better results. A problem for the School and the Old Boys is that the school no longer has a sixth form and that many 5th year leave to join a 6th form college elsewhere. ~~~~~

Brian Fletcher has retired from Headmaster of Christ College and is occupying some of his retirement time as a schools inspector and continues his voluntary work as a Samaritan.

M W Brown remembers his time at the school with affection (1952-60). MWB would be pleased to hear from those who were at school during his time there. He would particularly like to make contact with Kit Robertson and Roy Kerrigan. ~~~~~

THE CRICKET CLUB

John Maskell tells me that the 1st XI came top of the Hertfordshire Cricket League (Div II) for 1997 having played 17 matches and won 11 of them. The 2nd XI came second of their division having played 17 and won 9 whilst the 3rd XI were mid table in Div.6. A certain bowler for the 3rd XI is around 55 years. You will realise there are plenty of vacancies for any Old Camdenian wishing to join the Cricket Club - age no problem. (They even take youngsters!). We hope that our joint liaison efforts with the new Head will strengthen the Club's membership with more school leavers.

Bert Weedall brought his local village side to Burton Hole Lane in September to play a mixed Old Boys XI. Bert's son, Mark scored a ton (off 86 balls). I value my life and will therefore not disclose how many sixes were hit of xxxxxxx's bowling.

OLD CAMDENIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

The 1996/97 season had mixed results for Old Camdenians six football sides. Strong 5th and 6th XIs won Divisions 4 and 5 North in the Old Boys' Football League. The 1st XI finished mid table in Senior Division 2 and the 4th XI held their own in 3 North. Unfortunately, the reserves and the 3rd XI held up their divisions and were relegated. Hopefully, the new season will bring new trophies for the Club. In the AFA Cup the 6th XI lost their final, but went on to be the winning side in the London Old Boys' Drummond Cup.

Prizes and Donations

At a recent Governors' meeting, an appeal was made for fiction books for the School Library. Should any of you have suitable books in good condition and would like to donate them, please bring them along to the dinner. Last year the Old Boys donated £300 to three departments to purchase curriculum books for the 2nd year students. £60 was given for the pupil of the year award and £155 was donated for separate projects. As much as we would like to help with more prizes and awards, we are limited by the small sums we have available. Should you feel you can provide some financial assistance, it would be greatly appreciated. Remember the Seitz/Camdenian Hall was renovated with legacy money left to us by Mrs Bill Seitz and two other donations. Please think about leaving something to the Old Camdenians as your charity of choice - when you have settled your account with G and the tax man.

Savvas Savouri

Savvas was one of the 250 "baby boomer" intake of 1977 and I am grateful to him for providing me with the whereabouts of some of his classmates. Dwight Marshall is a footballer with Luton Town, Dr Anthony Chow (who came to the '95 dinner) is a cardiology registrar, Gary West was in the cast of "East Enders" for some time, Dino Costantinou is with the Metropolitan Police, Lucas Xenophontes (described as a maths wizard) is with BT, Gary Buckley (whose father was on the caretaking staff at the school) works as a social carer in Milford Haven -as does Peter Beard, Mark Rutherford (whose father was a school governor) works in Bath for the MoD, Costas Gavriel is taking the "knowledge" - along with a few other mates. I do not have their addresses, but I hope some of them will be able to come together at the dinner this year (28 November - more later)

Savvas asks me what is the origin of the name "Old Camdenians". I have heard several versions - can anyone provide me with the authentic reason why Old Boys of Holloway School are called "Old Camdenians?"

Where are they now?

Geoffrey Taylor, school captain (48-9), Stanley Sharp, Peter Girolami (Consultant surgeon at Rochester during the 80's), Jason Suban (selected for an England school's football trial in 95), Paul Heston and Tony Bedford (goals scorers in the 95 school match against Ackland Berley)

Remove - 1945

Alan Meyer has sent me a page of autographs of the Remove form in 1945 collected by his brother, John . There are 25 names and one we can't decipher. One name is Peter Willmore, of Space studies fame, some others are Wintjens, Mathews, Wood, Walker, Payne, Leskin, Tavender, Steele (George), Lomax, Lewark and Harison. I will bring the copy with me to the dinner and hope that some of the 1945 Remove form may be present to identify the others (and themselves!).

Thank you No 1

Thank you for all the other letters you have sent to me. I have tried to answer most of them- if not directly then through the contents of this newsletter. Please send me all news you can of yourself and other Old Camdenians that you are in contact with. It is wonderful that people with such a wide age range have something in common. Someone once said that friends you make at school are the friends you keep for life. (Sorry I didn't get back to you, Harry, but do keep in contact) and I hope you have better luck travelling to the dinner this year, AJW. Roy Beckwith sends greetings to all friends.

Thank you No 2

A tremendous big thanks to Harold (Twink) Martin for the sterling work he has contributed to the club over the past decades. Twice before Twink has asked to come off the committee but I would not let him. I cannot refuse a third time. So Twink, on behalf of us all - a big **Thank You**. Now that means, folks that there is a vacancy on the Committee. I don't want all of you shy ones to avoid coming to the AGM on account of this - though a volunteer would be most welcome. After all the committee meets only a few times a year - and I have already allocated most of the work.

Thank you No 3

To all members of the Committee, specially for the way they put up with me.

Thank you No 4

To my wife, Jo, for her patience and help compiling this newsletter and to Pam Ives for allowing George to sign the letters she has typed.

Golden Anniversaries

Many congratulations to Dennis and Betty Steel on their golden wedding anniversary. Dennis says they are both keeping reasonably well "though I don't think I would last very long 'keeping to Charlie Simpson and Paul Yates on a fiery Bow Lane wicket" Well, Dennis, looking at Charlie and Paul at the reunion of the teams of the 50's and 60's - I think you could probably still manage. Congratulations are also in order for Ken and Mrs Pitman who celebrated their golden wedding in August.

Diary and Action

This newsletter is also the formal notice of the AGM which takes place before the dinner at
Holloway School
Friday, 28th November
6.30pm

The dinner will again be held in the Seitz Camdenian Hall and is due to begin at 7.15 (ish). This year the table raffle is free. The price of the meal is £25 each. For that you get a four course meal with wine, beer and soft drinks included. We shall also be serving free drinks prior to the meal at the AGM. We would welcome contributions from you towards sponsoring a number of schoolboys as guests to the dinner. (Don't worry, they are only allowed near the soft drinks). Your dinner cost also provides for what George euphemistically calls a "honey wagon" and also a P.A. system on the night.

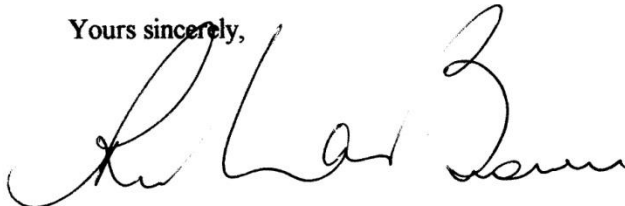
For future reference, the dinner always takes place on the last Friday of November. So you can enter the date into your new diaries as soon as you receive them (or your perpetual Psion). An application form is enclosed. Please send your cheque (payable to Old Camdenians) to George Ives - as soon as possible.

We do not set out to generate funds and our income from investments is meagre. The cost of paper, printing and postage for this letter alone exceeds our revenue. The mailing list has increased from 98 when I became Chairman, to the current list of 308. Time we give free, but there is a financial cost, which I hope those of you who are in a position to, will help to spread the burden.

Please keep writing to me with news of yourself and of other Old Camdenians you come into contact with. Your contemporaries would like to hear about you and you would like to know what has happened to them in the intervening years. From what you tell me this newsletter fills a gap.

I look forward to seeing you at the dinner on Friday, 28th November at the school.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Brown
Chairman