

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

October 1998

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THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Old Camdenian

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Whoever said that (first) had the balance of optimism just about right. I write and send out this letter when the days become shorter, the nights are drawing in, the summer bedding is being pulled up, the dahlias and begonias are put to bed for the winter and the geraniums are cut back and brought into the warm. Yet all of this is to prepare for a new beginning next year. Spring bulbs are planted, cuttings take root and many seeds that have fallen will find a self setting place to hibernate. And then Hey Presto! Off we go on another cycle.

WALK AND TALK AROUND THE BOUNDARY

Old Boys v School Football matches

An enjoyable day was had by all who either attended or played in the Old Boys v School match at Burton Hole Lane on 28th March this year.

It is hoped to repeat the experience on Saturday, 27 April 1999. Please telephone George, myself or any member of the committee nearer the date for final details.

From the School

Eight of year 10 students attended a residential summer course at Brasenose College, Oxford University. The Leslie George Snelling Trust and £300 from our own funds were donated to help fund the cost.

Hamad Lawall, who, as a 4th year pupil, responded to the toast of School and staff at the 1995 dinner, has been accepted at Imperial College to study medicine. David Warren did exceptionally well in his examinations. Jay Boothroyd was a member of the under 15 national football team and was top scorer for 1997/98. H M Inspectors are pleased to report significant improvement on the key issues. Redevelopment plans have been approved.

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Burton Hole Lane

Mike Duffy has been trying to secure a further 30 year lease on the ground. Despite many attempts, Barnet Council has still not advised what the annual rental charge will be.

Paul Scott has been doing sterling work with the Camden Playing Fields Sports & Social Club finances. As treasurer to a new management committee, he has paid off nearly all the creditors and will soon consider paying back some of the loans that were made. After a mournful presentation, the committee agreed a loan of £1000. Some money has been raised through a successful 'lottery' to pay for refurbishment of the Club house. Cash prizes of £25 per week and a quarterly bonus of £250 are paid out for a £1 a week subscription. Without compromising a possible donation you may make to the Old Boys to sponsor schoolboys attending the dinner, you can find further details from Paul Scott on 01727 823376 or write to him at 8 Manor Road, London Colney, Herts, AL2 1PL.

Old Boys Football & Cricket

Alan Meyer, Alan Robinson and John Maskell continue to serve on Old Boys Football League Committees and are Council Representatives of the AFA.

John Maskell writes "The football first eleven finished the 1997/98 season in 4th place in Senior Division Two, and the Reserves were 2nd in Division Two North. The third, fourth and fifth elevens finished bottom of their respective divisions in the Old Boys Football league. There were no successes in the AFA and London Old Boys cups. It is hoped that an influx of new young players, some from the school, will result in success this season.

'The Old Boys Cricket Club 1st eleven finished in fifth place in Division One of the Hertfordshire Cricket league after a good start to the season. The 2nd eleven finished in mid table. The 3rd eleven trailed the rest of Division Six. A number of new players joined the club which is encouraging for the 1999 season.'

Congratulations

To Charles & Edna Fellows on their Golden Wedding anniversary. (Edna learned how to make a good cup of tea during many afternoons at cricket matches at Bow Lane). Charles did so much good work for the cricket club as Fixture Secretary and served on the main committee immediately after the war.

To John Phillips and his wife who celebrated their 40th Wedding anniversary.

Holloway School in retrospect

Copies of Richard King's history are available from the Secretary, price £1 each (plus postage).

Correspondence

Marcus Hart hopes to join us at the dinner this year - with a few friends! Brian ("Ned") Kelly says thank you for persisting in sending him the newsletter each year, which finally led him to return to the school for the first time in forty years. "I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, seeing new and old friends and catching up on events which had long since vanished from my memory. At first I was pretty depressed by the great changes, but hope was restored by the attitude of the new Head. I really could see myself standing there in the old hall as a small boy singing 'Forty Years On' - perhaps that was the greatest experience of the whole evening."

Special greetings to

Ron Wilby, Stanley Whiteman, Dickie Bird (my research tells me that Dickie first played football for the Old Boys in January 1934 - exactly a week after leaving school). Fred (& Mary) Lindgren, visited by Jo and me during the summer in a residential home near Southampton. Fred tells me he is 93. He is losing his sight but otherwise is in fairly good health (for an old 'un). To C F Lewis, M W Brown (now an octogenarian) and George Spinoza (all former Head Teachers).

Those were the days

From the minutes of 'Camdenian Society ' meeting of April 1973. "Mr Lewis was asked to "vet" the next minutes to avoid offence to some pedantic friends as the Secretary had written "I will" instead of "I shall" on the slip at the bottom of the luncheon letter. From the 1975 minutes K R Pitman was admitted to the 'Camdenian Society'. Was that before or after the entry age was lowered from 60 to 50 years, Ken? I notice the 'youngsters', Steel, Martin and Cramer were not admitted until 1976.

It seems that the secretary at the time L R (Tubby) Dawe was something of a wag. He finishes his letter to members with the following:

Goldwyn The trouble with Doug is that he spends all his time making love.
Chaplin But surely he can't spend all his time making love. What does he do when he's not doing that?
Goldwyn I just guess he practices.

Oh, they don't write lines like that any more!

Leonard Victor Fost (Holloway School 1935-1942)

Norman wrote to me on 16th September with the sad news of the death of his brother, Leonard Victor Fost.

Leonard is likely to be remembered by his contemporaries as a lively character, School Captain, and eventually the winner of a languages scholarship to St Edmund's Hall, Oxford. After a wartime "short course" he became a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm and fortunately survived the war. Following demobilisation he finished his degree in Russian at Oxford before taking up what became a distinguished career in the Prison Service. Although not an active Old Camdenian, he always spoke fondly of his time at Holloway School. He died peacefully, of multiple maladies, at home in Sussex in June this year. He leaves a wife, two sons and two daughters and is much missed by friends and relatives. (NF)

Ray Edwards

A gathering of Old Boys attended the very moving funeral ceremony at Finchley Crematorium on 7th April for a popular footballer and musician, Ray Edwards. I can remember inviting Ray to join the Old Boys when I spoke to a group of school leavers in "The Old Hall". Even at that time Ray was becoming an accomplished guitarist and he continued throughout his life to play gigs in pubs and clubs every week. Many of his friends from the groups that he had played with were also at the ceremony. Ray played football for the Old Boys for a number of years and was liked by everybody. It was a sad moment for all of us present.

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A voice from the past

I have received a wonderful four page close typed epistle from the Reverend Geoffrey Taylor recounting so many incidents of school and school camp life in the 1940's and 50's. Geoff says he doesn't know me - but as one of the little 3rd year fags I remember him. Us little 'uns admired this strapping great happy fellow who laughed and sang and dug latrines. How can I ever forget camp fire songs led by Geoff including "Wrap me up in my tarpaulin jacket." In his letter Geoff says "I have always felt an enormous sense of gratitude to the staff and my fellow pupils at Holloway for equipping me to meet the challenges and opportunities that rush to meet you the moment you leave." I can empathise with those sentiments, which is one of the reasons I continue to write newsletters.

Names mentioned in Geoff's letter include Alan Burnett, Harold Martin, Hurlestone-Jones, Richard King, Bill Seitz, Ronald Gill, George Robb, Alan Metzger, Aleck Godfrey, Stan Heritage, Ken Morley, John Tanner, Peter Willmore, Hirsch, Chernoff, Adrian Marriage, George Sale, Ron Buzzing (now deceased), Stanley Sharp, Peter Pearmain, Sid Hutchison ("a tremendous character"). Geoff then goes on to give a thumbnail sketch of 17 teachers at the school during his seven years there.

Should anyone wish to read Geoff's lively and interesting letter, I will gladly send you a copy. Thank you Geoff for some great memories (and the other enclosure, too - passed to the treasurer).

ANNUAL DINNER

Later I will give you formal news of the AGM and application details for the dinner, but now I want to tell you that for all football fans and sporting enthusiasts of the club, I am delighted to be able to announce that our principal guest this year was a member of the school football team between 1960 and 64, went on to spend 5 years at Arsenal, then 4 years with Portsmouth. He is Tommy Youlden and the proposer of the toast to the guests will be Tom's younger brother Pat who was at school from 62-66. Many former Old Boys cricketers and footballers, among them Keith Fisher (was sports editor of the Mirror Group), Stevel Walford, Trevor and Bobby Hartley, Dave Cronin, Bobby Cairns (Tommy says it must be 20 years since they last met), Michael Hendon and many others from the 60's and early 70's (Lee Andrews, L Bovington, John Bradford, Leslie Brown, A Chitolie, Pierre Curtis, Paul Doyle, C F Lewis, Brian Farminer, Brian Fletcher (all former Head Teachers at the school), John Fitch, Mark Fitzpatrick, David French, David Goode, Roger Gravett, Alex Rayburn, Jesse Greenidge, Graham Kindey, Ray Magee, Roy Marina, John Maskell, John Mulrennan, J C Nall, Denis Piggott, Jan Powell, Jim Ritchie, Tom Rolf (all teachers), John Stammer, Maurice Stone, Jeremy Swan, Brian Walsh and M Zucconi.

Should be quite a night if just half of that lot turn out! And what's more !!!!! John (nee) Fred Dickson is also on the list as one of our speakers - gets better every minute.

Welcome

So nice to add names to our membership list. Do come to the dinner if you can - Christopher Dowdall, John Turney, Derek Findlater (lost and found), Roy Thomas, Frank Shelley, Neil Martin (58-65).

Donations

As usual, many of you have been generous with your donations. You will hear from various people at the AGM and dinner that we have supported several school events in general and certain boys in particular. Your donations also help us to encourage a few boys from the school to attend our annual dinner, so that they may become better acquainted with our members. George Ives tries to acknowledge donations with a personal letter of thanks and this is my open thanks to you all. We ought to have a motto, something like "we receive in order to give". I wonder if one of our classical scholars could give a translation?

You may remember George Ives telling you about the Leslie George Snelling Trust - a legacy left to the benefit of the school by one of our pre war Old Boys. Well, interest from that investment is also serving to cover costs not allowed for in the system. Perhaps this is an appropriate time to remind you that one of the most painless ways of giving is 'after you've gone'. I know you don't get manifestations of thanks in life form (if you think of me as 'live') but the rewards in heaven are so much more eternal (so I'm told). Which is really another way of saying - something in your will for the benefit of the school - would be much appreciated.

Where are they now?

Robert Andrews (circa 47-53), Alan Shearn, Phillip Curry.

1994 6-a-side school under 14's who won the Hillwood Trophy, John Goff, Andrew Compton, Stephen Nunn, Wayne Bryden, Robert Jones, Danny Boateng and the winners of the Islington Gazette Soccer cup in 1995 - Stuart Hulbert, Raymond Cronin, Justin Price, Joe Howard, Allen McLeod, Kenny Voss, Robert Collins.

Diary and Action

This newsletter is also the formal notice of the AGM which takes place before the dinner at
Holloway School
Friday, 27th November
6.30pm

The dinner will follow the AGM and be held in the Seitz Camdenian Hall at 7.15 (ish). This year the table raffle is free. The price of the meal is retained at £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). George apologises in advance that the 'honey wagon' is not available this year and he will try to improve the p.a. system.

An application form is enclosed. Please send your cheque (payable to Old Camdenians) to George Ives - as soon as possible.

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).

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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. 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.

I look forward to seeing you at the dinner on Friday, 27th November at the school.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RICHARD BROWN
Chairman