

## OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

10 Westward Road  
Wokingham, Berkshire  
RG41 3HU  
Tel/Fax 0118 978 2535

October 1999

### CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

What with the total eclipse, the millennium, and our begonias, this year has seen some once in a lifetime happenings. However, come the back end of October, there is still the annual (or is it perennial) clearing up garden rubbish, cutting the hedges, planting spring bulbs and writing the Old Boys newsletter. The holiday brochures haven't arrived but that won't stop some of us sneaking off for winter sunshine while the workers put up with another homespun winter. Down to business. Thank you for your many letters during the year and for all the news of yourselves and contemporaries. I'm reaching the age when more of the names are new to me. I apologise to all those who write lovely long letters and all I do is acknowledge them through these pages. Without any order of priority, I will begin to work through the pile in front of me.

Sorry I haven't replied to you, Harry Levy and so pleased you corresponded with M W Brown, who is nearly 94 years old and living in Carshalton. C F Lewis (who has known MWB for over 70 years) keeps in regular touch with him. I'm sure Harry won't mind if I quote one of the lines from an earlier letter when he

so aptly reflects a current vogue. "My eldest son has made me a grandfather without making me a father-in-law." On the other hand, Harry, my two have 9 years marriage between them and I am still not a grandfather. Shalom. We will remember you during our absent friends toast at the annual dinner.

Our dear friend, Fred Lindgren, died during the year (see later) and through donations sent in his name, the Old Boys are sponsoring this year's prize giving and sending a number of boys to visit Brasenose College. A contribution from the Leslie Snelling Trust is also being used for these events.

### Old Camdenians Handbook

One of our Committee members, Bob Hartley, is compiling a comprehensive history of distinguished Old Camdenians. He is anxious for information. If you feel you should be included, please write to him. There is nothing stopping you writing about O C's you know or have known who should be included. The handbook is aimed at attracting more schoolboys to join the Old Boys Association - as well as rekindling interest of existing members. Bob wishes to have sections devoted to say, sport, academia, art, science, medicine, commerce, politics, etc.

### The Admiral Mann

Due to an internal reason, a committee meeting due to take place at the school in the summer, was unable to be held there. Rather than return home without concluding any business, the meeting was

hurriedly transferred to a local hostelry. Guess where? You're right. The Admiral Mann. This brought happy memories for many of us. Although the back room has been 'tarted up', it was still recognisable.

Mike Duffy has not received any further news from Barnet Council concerning the renewal of the lease at Burton Hole Lane. I will ask Mike to give us the latest update at the dinner.

### Football

The school and staff gave a thrashing to the Old Boys at the football match. More Old Boys support next year will help the lads on a bit. The Club hopes to attract more school leavers to the cricket and football sides with some sponsorship. If anyone feels they would like to be associated with this scheme, either individually or through their business, then please let the secretary know. Through some good liaison work between Alex Williamson, Senior Sports Master and a small working party of Old Boys, school games have been played at Burton Hole Lane.

Committee members expressed their dismay on learning that the football club was considering drawing out of the Senior League of the Old Boys League. The Chairman of the football club, Alex Grayburn, was to be asked to reconsider the position.

Alan Meyer has produced a commemorative 90-year history of Old Camdenians football. In his usual precise style, Alan has collected a number of statistical records and historical reminders

of the life and times of the football Club. Copies are available at £1 (or more) a time. (Funny, my name doesn't appear anywhere in it). Neither does my name appear in another piece of memorabilia I have found. It consists of the programme and team sheets for the school and staff v The Old Boys in ... wait for it...1957. Here goes Kelsey, Wilkins, Leonard, Hales, Godfrey, Weedall, Davies, Taylor, Mortimer, Blunden, Wraight. The team for a later k.o. time was Sanders, Meyer, Harrison, Bell, Lax, Robinson, Graham, Lamer, Zutereck, Wilkins, Reid. (What no Ives!!!) The referees were G.O. Mangham and D. Findlater.

Aleck Godfrey has provided us with articles and photographs published in the AFA Record containing information on Old Camdenians achievements in the years up to the 63-64 season. (Let me know if you would like any of the above).

It was good to see Peter Andes, Peter Sumpter, Phil Cowley, Maurice Hales, Brian Orchard, Dave Bowen, Fred Averill, Bill Wraight, Alan Meyer, George Ives, Alf Mortimer, Alex Grayburn, Paul Scott and others at the School v Old Boys football match. Staff players were Martin Hodgson, Justin Alcock (who cycled all the way from Crystal Palace) Alex Williamson, Dave Morrison, Ronnie Smilie, Dan Waite and Andy Gosforth.

## IN MEMORIAM

### **FRED LINDGREN OBE (1906-1999)**

Fred Lindgren died peacefully at a nursing home in Southampton. He was held in the highest esteem and will be long remembered as a kind and gentle person. He gave most generous support to the school during his long and distinguished career. He introduced many schoolleavers to the world of accountancy. Fred was a past Governor of the school and was a dear friend and colleague.

Fred was a quiet, reserved and private man, devoted to his wife, Mary and to his children and grandchildren. It was typical of Fred's generosity and that of his daughter, Sylvia who arranged for donations in Fred's memory to be divided between the RAF Association, for whom he did a great deal of benevolent work and the Old Camdenians.

Jo & I visited Fred in the Southampton nursing home just before he died. Although frail and blind he was, at the age of 93, mentally alert and could still calculate mental arithmetic.

All those who knew him will respect his memory.

RB

### **KEN PEARCE (1925-1999)**

Old Camdenians, cricket lovers in particular, will be saddened to learn of the death of Ken Pearce. Ken was one of a small band of pre-war players who met in 1947 to reform the Cricket Club and was a regular player during the 50's and 60's. A good medium paced stock bowler, he could be relied upon to be among the wickets or, if opposing batsmen were proving difficult to dislodge, he would keep down the runs. He also produced plenty of runs from his own bat.

Our sympathy and best wishes go to Joan who could always be found at Bow Lane helping to prepare teas when Ken was playing.

CF

### **H J D RITCHIE (1925-1999)**

Jim Ritchie came to Holloway School to teach physics in the 1950's, having gained his mathematics and physics degrees by part time study at Birkbeck College. He brought to the department and to White House, energy, enthusiasm, humour, patience, persistence and a deep understanding of young people. He loved to teach and to learn.

Jim left Holloway to take up the appointment of schools Science Advisor. He visited schools in Holland, and such was his character and expertise that in recognition of his services, the Queen of the Netherlands appointed him to a Knighthood of the Orange Order.

Retirement gave him the opportunity to enlarge his numerous activities. He was an avid beekeeper. He studied Latin, revised and retained his Morse code learnt as a wireless operator with the RAF during the war. He acquired a deep interest and knowledge of New York's Brooklyn Bridge. At home he was a keen gardener, husband and grandfather and for the family's entertainment performed as an amateur magician. Jim was reigning champion at Southgate and Palmers Green Bowling Club. He worked and played to a high standard. He faced every day with optimism, enthusiasm and a smile. Truly a great teacher and a very remarkable man sorely missed by all who knew him.

ATB

## *A walk around the Boundary*

A welcome return to the fold for Malcolm Donabie (65-70) who writes an appreciative letter in favour of the staff who taught him during his school years. His brothers Keir, Gordon and Ian later joined him. I will be pleased to meet Malcolm at the dinner since I notice he lives in Popham Road, N1 – just round the corner from my maternal home in Packington Street. I have not been back since 1962 when they pulled down rows of Georgian houses to build hideous flats.

Making a first time call to the Old Boys is a letter from Alun Morgan (45-50) who records a very distinguished career in the Royal Air Force and further education achievements in his retirement. We hope you can make it from Bath to the dinner, Alun, and we look forward to seeing you. (Some of us will probably recognise the feet!). Another "newcomer" is Albert Irvin (33-41). Albert was evacuated with the school to Towcester and subsequently became a teacher at Goldsmith's, a Royal Academician and an eminent painter. His brother knew George Robb and he recalls a fellow artist, Reg Langford.

### **School refurbishment**

Gentlemen of a certain age who develop plumbing problems will be delighted to learn that the new toilets have been completed and George assures me everybody is flushed with success. (For this relief much thanks). I recommend you arrive early and have an andante around the new music room. Members will be pleased to learn that as a result of continued hard work from the Head and Staff, with an open and participative style

of management, the School has now been released from "Special Measures." John Hudson, our President and Headteacher has been invited to the AGM and dinner. John has provided sensitive leadership and clear direction for the School during his first years.

I understand that Arsenal Football Club has become involved with the school as part of an overall redevelopment and refurbishment plan for buildings and amenities. I am sure we will learn more of this at the dinner.



### **More correspondence**

Brian Orchard (39-44) now in Cheltenham, who lived in Dalmeny Road and was evacuated to Towcester, asked for a copy of Geoff Taylor's near dissertation on the 41-48 era. I hope you enjoyed reading it, Brian and you have been able to renew old friendships. We look forward to seeing you at the dinner. A welcome too, to Bill Hucklesbury. Thank you Bernard Chibnall for cheque and interesting letter. Bernard says, "Twink Martin was best man at my wedding 52 years ago. I think we were something like his 15<sup>th</sup> victims." Wow! I thought I was doing well having done the job 6 times – but 15!! (I bet Twink remembers every one and could repeat all the speeches he made). I have a hilarious letter from Keith Doherty recounting the stag night of Jimmy Jones. If you can remember being there, I will send you a copy. Savvas Savouri has moved to Tower Hill and periodically travels to the University of Moscow to give lectures. Len Hinton also manages to include many of the 20's and 30's set in his chatty letter. ~~Another request has been~~

Another request has been received to encourage the school football teams of 70's and 80's to attend the dinner.

## **JUBILEE RETROSPECT**

### **1907-1957**

Copies of Richard King's illustrated account of the first fifty years of the school are available from the Secretary. Please send donations to cover postage and printing costs.

## **MERCHANDISE**

A new batch of ties have been ordered – price £7.50 (to be confirmed) from George Ives.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Les Gentry on their Golden Wedding. We shall miss the presence and playing of Sid Hutchison this year at the dinner. Sid now finds it difficult to see and he regrets he will not be able to make it this year. Do give Sid a ring and have a talk with him.

## **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Let me know if you come across an old boy of the school who may wish to renew contacts with some of his old mates. It is always interesting to learn "what happened next". It is surprising the number of successful people who entered so many different careers who include in their letters "Mr so-and-so said, "You will never make it." I wonder if some teachers use this prophetic put down as a psychological spur?

## **NEWSLETTERS 85-99**

This is my 15<sup>th</sup> annual newsletter. The change in presentation is not due to me entering the world of advanced technology. I still write in longhand. No, it is my wife who, as a thriving member of U3A, is mastering Microsoft, mail merge and the magic of the computer. I do believe it is time to prepare our members for the next millennium by announcing my intention to retire from the position as Chairman of your club as soon as a replacement can be found. Fifteen years is long enough and you really should be looking for someone to represent more recent school leavers, web sites, e-mail and all that jazz.

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

The then Hon.Sec., A W H Field, circulating news of the AGM in 1930 said "It has become customary, on these occasions, for the Club to confirm submissively the complete schedule of arrangements prepared by the committee, whose judgement is thereby flattered but not assisted." In the same notice "The formation of an Old Camdenian Cricket XI with a weekly fixture list is now possible. Write to H W Hinton."

## **THANKS FOR THE MEMORY**

Thanks for the memory. That's how a wonderfully reminiscing letter from Allan Burnett ends his full and interesting account of names, life and times of the 40's at school. He would like to hear especially from Johnnie Castle and others of his form register "Anstis, Barker, Bush, Burnett, Castle, Davis, Edwards, Gibson, Herman, Page, Robson, Phillips &

Thompson." During a visit to Cumberland (Maryland, USA, that is) Allan met Douglas Tasker (late 50's) who was living there at the time.

## **GREETINGS**

Roy & Audrey (4 grandchildren) Beckwith send greetings to Dramatic Society stalwarts (memories of Toop in See How They Run)

L. Leo runs an amateur boxing club and soccer school for Under 13's, at the Sobell Sports Centre. He would be interested if the school reintroduced a boxing club.

Philip Cramer empathises with the sense of gratitude to the school and staff expressed in Geoff Taylor's letter.

Jayant Rawal from Spain hopes to be at this year's dinner and sends greetings to the middle 60's era of school friends. From George Askey who wishes to be remembered to those he taught in the early 50's

## **DIARY AND ACTION**

The Club AGM will take place at the School on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6.45 p.m. The dinner follows the AGM and that is held in the Seitz Camdenian Hall commencing 7.30ish. The cost is retained for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year at £25 each, to include a four-course meal with coffee etc. Table wines and pre dinner drinks are also included in the price. Should you feel able to add a little something to pay for selected

schoolboy guests, it would be most appreciated. Any surplus money goes to provide extra amenities for schoolboys, whilst the King/Seitz/Hurlstone Jones trusts enable extra educational awards to be given to deserving cases. A tear off application form is enclosed. Please send the completed form with your cheque to George Ives. "We receive in order to give."

To help you with any potential Y2K bug problems, enter the dates for future annual dinners, which will be held until further notice on the last Friday of November – possibly for the first half of the next millennium (at least).

The Secretary will again be organising career talks for boys. Should any of you wish to be involved, please give George details.

## **CAREER TALKS**

We are adding to our business directory of Old Boys. Would you like to be included? Would you consider talking to a group of boys about your profession/business /occupation? (If you have not already advised us)

*Richard Brown*  
Chairman  
Old Camdenians Club



