

Sydney Hartley
who's who 1994

OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER October 2000

Dear Old Camdenian

What with winning a home cricket test series, 11 Gold medals at the Sydney Olympics and Wokingham Town Football Club through to the second round of the Carlsberg Vase, the excitement has been all too much. These are the only excuses I can give for the late dispatch of this newsletter. And the fact that I (we) had forgotten how to use "Publisher" since our last effort a year ago.

Thank you for all your letters, telephone calls, cards and e-mails. I know you must think me awfully bad mannered in not replying – but I do try to mention them all in this newsletter. I wanted to write a nice long reply to Robert Pinker, but kept putting it off till I had time. In his letter (my first contact with him since schooldays of the 1940's) Bob tells of being made a Fellow of Goldsmiths College and that he holds three professorial appointments at constituent schools of the University of London. His long and

distinguished c.v. now appears on Bob Hartley's web site of eminent Old Camdenians ready to be included in the Schools' web site. I can tell you that the list Bob Hartley has produced is fascinating and makes you realise the depth of academic, professional and sporting prowess that has come through and from the School. Better minds than mine would have to determine whether this has been because of or in spite of our education system. The current Head Teacher, Dr John Hudson, as many of you might know, (oh! those infinitives (to split or not to split) has been spending a few months trying to unravel an education (political?) problem down the road. He is now back in full harness at Holloway and is continuing his splendid job of restoring some respectability after the school was placed on "special measures". The committee has asked John to write a report on his view of the school year to be sent out with this Chairman's' newsletter. We thought this would serve two purposes – (1) that all Old

Camdenians on our register would know what is happening at the School and (2) those at the dinner would be able to spend more time talking than listening.

Down Memory Lane

I recently had a telephone call from another voice from the past – Kenneth Page. Members of the erstwhile dramatic society will remember Ken's many appearances on the boards of the old hall. During our telephone chat we were able to recall those bloody scissors in 'Dial M for Murder' (Remember Dennis Steel and Roy Beckwith?). Also 'The Apple Cart' (Remember Charles Simpson?) 'Seagulls over Sorrento' (Remember Bill Coombs?) and of course the names of Sid Hutchison, Harold Martin, Bill Chittleborough, Brian Kelly and Audrey (now Mrs Beckwith) were also recalled with much pleasure. Ken (and Bob Pinker) hope to be at the dinner and we look forward to seeing them again. Other names from the past who hope

to be at the dinner (most for the first time) are Tony Adam (circa 60's), Peter Clayton (1950's) who will also be on the distinguished OC's list, (is among other things, an Egyptologist). Tony Allen (60's era), Michael Corum (50's) and Ron Borlotti (47-52).

School v Old Boys Football (April 2000)

I won't tell you the result (let schoolmaster Alex Williams do that). But I can tell you the school is still turning out very talented young players. One such boy is Michael Howard (who was one of our schoolboy guests at the dinner last year). Michael's father, Terry, is also an Old Boy and perhaps we will see them both at the dinner this year on Friday 24th November at the School.

The following are names of boys who played in that match, just keep your eyes out for them in future big league football. Darren Doolan, Daniel

Mehmet, Michael Tarr, Lenos Apostolou, Jimmy Fuller, Johir Miah, Michael Howard and Tyrone Andrew. *Make a note in your diary for next year's match at Burton Hole Lane – March 31st, 2001.*

Alan Meyer has compiled a record of 90 years of Old Camdenians football. This makes a good read and copies are available by post or at the dinner. Please send a contribution for printing and postage.

Where are they now?

Adrian Marriage who spent some time at the University of British Columbia and returned to England in the late 1970's. Edward Thomas who was Senior Administrative Officer of the Australian National University. Angus (Frederick) MacBride who became a commercial artist and book illustrator in South Africa. John Richardson, Peter Wimbolt, Frank Bloom and Roy Pritchard. This last group of names has been mentioned before by Paul Yates – presumably they were in the sixth form together.

Bob Pinker also asked about Alun Morgan. Let's hope they meet up again at this year's dinner.

Mike Corum writes from Brighton after 50 years to ask where are Frank Drewitt (Economics at LSE), Eric Andrews, Ted Routh(?) (Oxford and violin player) Gordon Stuart Murray (overdid the Scots bit, but a great sense of humour), Fred Gigney (the window episode?) and James Chissell (scientist)

Nicholas Swingler would like to make contact with John Middleton (classical music producer), David Vorhaus (composer), Norman Allen (therapist) and his brother Robin (education psychologist in Birmingham). We had a request to make contact with Dennis Ellam, MBE. Are you there, Dennis?

IN MEMORIAM

SIDNEY C HUTCHISON

Sidney will be most affectionately remembered by OC's as chairman, actor and producer for the dramatic society, Governor of the School (1969-81) and long supporter of the Old Boys. He served the Royal Academy for 52 years and was its Secretary from 1968 to 1982. Sidney was loyal, decent, courteous and a talented musician (as all attendees at annual reunions will subscribe). He became a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy during the 39-45 war.

He was appointed MVO in 1967 and advanced to CVO in 1977. Even after Sidney retired he still maintained strong contacts with the School and gave a number of talks to boys about art, literature and music, subjects that were a revelation to many of them. Sidney introduced me to the dramatic society and was instrumental in my taking a great interest in the theatre. I used many of the techniques he taught me when in later life I conducted management development programmes at home and overseas. Sidney was registered blind when he died earlier this year aged 88. Many of us will always be grateful for knowing him and learning from him.

BERT WEEDALL

Bert was a key player in the renowned Old Camdenians football side of the 60's. He made 45 appearances for the O.B.F.L. and won honours with the A.F.A. He played cricket for Old Camdenians for nearly 30 years. Bowling a nagging length, his slow left armers took more than 1000 wickets. He was a fine outfielder and took over 200 catches (which considerably helped my bowling average). During his long term as team secretary no one dared cry off on Friday night. He was a good humoured, no nonsense character and his cheerful enthusiasm constantly

inspired team mates to give of their best. His fitness and competitive spirit made him a formidable opponent, tempered by an innate sense of fair play and sportsmanship. These qualities earned him great respect and many friends. With his wife Elsie, Bert gave great service to Old Camdenians. He was a much loved family man who will be sorely missed by all those who were privileged to know him. We extend our deepest sympathy to Elsie and Mark.
AM

LEN RENTON

Members of the post war cricket team will be saddened to hear of the death of Len Renton, who was a regular member of the first team during the fifties. Len could bowl what were then called "cutters" with the added advantage that he was accurate. Len was also well known to the dramatic society for the splendid sets he created and painted. As a distinguished artist Len was President of his local art club in Bournemouth and held a number of exhibitions. His wife, Betty, was among the band of 'tea ladies' at Bow Lane for home cricket matches and his daughter, Elizabeth, spent much of her childhood running around the ground whilst Dad played.

VICTOR OEHL

Vic died earlier this year after a fall. He had spent most of his working life employed by a multi-national oil company. During the war he served with 5th Northumberland Fusiliers. He rose to the rank of major and was awarded the MC for bravery. During the Suez crisis, Vic was recalled from Civvy Street to join the military forces where he took control of the whole oil distribution process during that period.

A regular attender of Old Boys dinners, Vic was forthright in his opinions and as Chairman of the Governors of a local school, a solver of problems.

A walk round the boundary

Sid & Shirley Brittin are now grandparents. Stanley & Phyllis Whiteman have moved a few miles to Old Town, Swindon. C F Lewis (Headmaster 60-73, Hon Life V President) has moved a short distance, though still in Emsworth.

Copies of an illustrated account of the first fifty years of the School "Jubilee in retrospect" written by Richard J King are available by post (Send a donation to cover postage & printing). They will also be available at the dinner.

Jazzie Bee, a notable musician and music producer – who happens to be an Old Camdenian – officially opened the Music Centre Block, incorporating the Yamaha School of Music. The Yamaha Company is financing a good deal of the equipment and music courses (see later). You could sponsor a pupil for a course of instruction on a Yamaha instrument.

Reg Taylor has been to see Dave Metzger in New Zealand. Why not visit us at the dinner this year, Reg? We were delighted to see Bill Blunden (among others) at the School v Old Boys football match. Bill is back in this country. He and Mary have taken up residence in Ely. Bill would like to see some of the 63/64 football first team at the dinner this year. What about it?

I have been asked to mention to Alf Mortimer, that we missed you at the dinner last year – don't do it again!

Allan Burnett, a first annual dinner man last year, pays compliments to his teachers of 42-47, who, he says, have now all gone to Heaven and asks their forgiveness. He sends greetings to Geoff Taylor and Peter Pearmain. Malcolm Donabie (65-70) has written to C F Lewis thanking him for his exam results in 1970. His letter to CFL includes "as the years passed, I realised more fully the nature of my

gratitude to you and your staff. I shall always be grateful to you for the quality of your supervision. The school played a great part in my progress through life."

Relationships

George Ives, Vice Chairman of School Governors, is an important link between Old Boys and the school. Through the medium of football subsidies, the Old Boys support of projects, prize giving awards evenings, donations and contributions we have built a good friendly working relationship with many of the teachers.

I am pleased to acknowledge the help given by Alex Williamson, Head of Senior School and Science Faculty; Dave Dennis, Deputy Head Teacher (and our school song pianist); Justin Alcock, Head of PE, Sport and Leisure Faculty; Deidre Murphy, Senior Teacher, Head of Lower School. Carolyn Hodgson, Resources Manager, Bill Collins, Premises Manager, Martin Hodgson, Dept Head of PE, Sue Lambert, Media Studies, and of course John Hudson, Head Teacher, who was nearly pinched but has returned to continue the excellent work he started a couple of years ago. We continue to thank our Club Secretary George (& Pam) Ives for their work on behalf of the school and the Old Boys.

Trusts

The Old Boys have the King/Seitz Memorial fund from which donations are made to individual scholars. The Richard Snelling Trust provides funds for various other activities. The legacy from Bill Seitz subsidised the refurbishment of the now named Seitz Camdenian Hall (previously, the Old Hall).

The donations you kindly send with your dinner applications also go to our general fund, which this year is helping to pay for certain boys to complete a course of music study on new equipment provided by Yamaha. We also hope to provide money for cricket nets in addition to other assistance..

If you would like to leave some cash in your will for the Old Boys to provide additional facilities, it would be most appreciated. Donations in memory of Fred Lindgren amounted to £255.

Major building programme

Many of you will know that the school is undergoing a major building programme, which will make a terrific improvement to the quality of the school environment and learning facilities. Most of us recognise the school's record of football excellence.

Basketball is now in that same category. When you arrive at the school for the dinner, you will see the 'work in progress.' As a consequence of the rebuilding, we will be holding the dinner in the 'new' block, (unless you want to do a circuit of the perimeter to get to a loo).

The Head is trying to arrange a special 'Old Camdenians day' when you can visit the £4 million refurbishment including specialist art, computing, science classrooms as well as the music centre. Next year the school hopes to become a specialist sports college. (Are Arsenal FC still involved?)

Whilst the buildings and environment of the school are important factors, your committee feels and I am sure every Old Camdenian would support the view, that a school of this calibre without a sixth form is like an iced cake without icing, a chocolate biscuit without the chocolate. Let us hope that good sense will prevail and the school can care for the educational, physical, spiritual and maturity stages of development for pupils from 11 to 18. It must be frustrating for staff to see boys leave just when all the hard work has been completed and the self driven learning and creativity begin to emerge. Let's have our sixth form back!!

Burton Hole Lane

Paul Scott has been the force behind the application for a practical renewal of the lease at Burton Hole Lane. Mike Duffy has directed the legal process.. Both of these gentlemen deserve a gold medal for their Olympian marathon efforts on the Club's behalf. They have negotiated a flexible hurdle course covering 5 year drop out clauses over a full distance of 30 years. Paul tells me that finances of the Sports and Social Club, the football and cricket clubs are all more stable now but still close to the headline. There is a desperate fight to remain solvent. The loan the Club made to the Camden Playing Field Sports & Social Club has been repaid. During the 2000 cricket season the Club managed to turn out 5 sides. Currently the footballers field only four elevens and the social side of the club is not strong. The playing surface is better than for many years, though the clubhouse needs a lot of attention. Thank you Paul Scott and Mike Duffy.

A.G.M.

This newsletter also serves as the official notice for the AGM, which will be held prior to the dinner at the school on **Friday 24th November**. We try to start at 6.30 and the dinner starts at approximately 7.30. Come earlier if you can and enjoy the free

wine or soft drinks – all included in your £25 a head dinner ticket – what a bargain!

Please complete the enclosed application form for dinner place(s) and return it with the relevant cheque to George Ives. You can always add a small amount which pays for schoolboy guests and provides the “wherewithal” for little (and big) extras we give to school projects, events and sponsorships. You know our motto (well, it’s mine actually) “we receive in order to give” or for what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful – for it enables us to give to those poor sods who are less fortunate than us. As usual, George has arranged for the school minibus to be at Kings Cross Station (York Way – where the buses stop) at 6.15 pm for transport to the school. The coach will return to Kings Cross at approximately 10.30 pm. Please indicate on the form if you would like to use the bus. The AGM will see the inception of a new chairman as I am retiring after, I think, 17 years. Alan Meyer will take the Chair – for just a couple of years or so – until a (much) younger person is groomed.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brown
Chairman
Old Camdenians