

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2001

Your committee would like to extend its sympathy and support to any Old Camdenians and their families who were, in any way, personally affected by the recent tragic events in America.

This first year as Chairman has passed remarkably quickly and, on the whole, very enjoyably. It was again a great pleasure to attend the School Prizegiving in May, which just happened to coincide with a visit from OFSTED. Understandably therefore, staff and students seemed a little pre-occupied but they need not have worried. Not only did the ceremony go well but the coincidence proved a happy one as the inspectors gave the School a favourable report. The occasion also provided the opportunity to formally hand over a set of cricket nets purchased for the School by the Old Boys. The nets occupy a corner of the playground and, judging by the way they were received and immediately used, it should not be long before some real cricketing talent emerges. If so, let's hope it comes the way of O.C.C.C., and even England, particularly in the spin bowling department. Mention of school cricket nets evokes memories of those which once stood near the old tennis court and of watching in awe as Paul Yates despatched ball after ball into Dalmeny Avenue. Happy days but not for the unfortunate residents and passers by.

Other contributions that the Old Boys have undertaken in the last twelve months, were to give a year's subscription to two students to the Yamaha School of Music, now based at Holloway School, and also a Reception of the staff and dignitaries prior to the "Prize Giving", plus £250 towards the cost of the prizes for students. In addition the "Leslie George Snelling" Trust (another Old Camdenian) also contributed £250 towards the "Prize Giving" and paid six half-yearly subscriptions for students to the Yamaha School of Music.

Less enjoyable was receiving the sad news that Dave Metzger, Ken Parsons, Roy Thomas and Charles Bornat had passed away. Tributes to all four follow later in this Report.

Other News

Attached are contributions covering other news items which include:-

- A synopsis of the School Year by Dr John Hudson.
- An account by Alex Williamson of the School versus Old Boys football match. He also covers another successful season for the school elevens.
- A report from John Maskell on the contrasting fortunes of the Cricket and Football
- An update from Paul Scott on the position at Burtonhole Lane and the Dedication to Bert Weedall.

Just to pick up briefly on one piece of School news, the decision to allow girl students in the future could have some interesting implications for this Club, which we will no doubt need to address. Perhaps, for example, Madam Chairperson will be compiling this Newsletter and keeping order at the Dinner. Now there's a happy thought!

Correspondence

Only one item to report under this heading. Leonard Hinton, at 91, writes recalling his last appearance for the School football team against the Old Boys on a sunny day in 1927. The Old Boys won 3-1. He also attended several Old Camdenian Society lunches and would be delighted to hear from anyone who did the same.

We always look forward to filling these columns with your news and reminiscences. So, please keep your contributions (letters or phone calls but also, as yet, no e-mail) coming in. The pony express still gets through to George in High Wycombe and to me here in Tooting - courtesy, even now, of Citizen Smith and his Popular Front.

I heard at the football match from Richard Brown that 40 years ago he had the privilege of being the Best Man at Alan Cornelius' wedding, and recently had the great pleasure of attending his Ruby Wedding celebrations. Congratulations, Alan, to you and your wife.

IN MEMORIAM

David Leslie Metzger - (1928-2000)

Tribute by Reg Taylor.

Dave was born in London within the sound of Bow Bells - so he considered himself to be a true cockney. He was an only child and grew up near the Arsenal Football Stadium and took every opportunity to watch his favourite team from the north bank. He knew almost every player who had ever worn an Arsenal shirt - their previous clubs, their history, their signing on fees, number of caps etc. One of his sons described him as an Arsenal 'nutcase'. He named all three sons after Arsenal players - Robert John, Alex James and David Jack! and still talked about the possibility of Charlie George or Tony Adam Metzger.

In 1939, he was evacuated with the school to Towcester for four years and was lucky enough to stay with a nice family with two children of their own and two other evacuees. He recalled that he must be one of the few students who passed their 'School Certificate' whilst sitting the exams in the boys toilets! - the toilet block was underground and in the war considered to be a safer place.

On the school's return to London in 1943, Dave played a great part in establishing Holloway as a force to be reckoned with in school soccer. During the next four years the 1st XI were not only undefeated but had an overall goal average of 10-1! Players of the calibre of George Robb, Stan Heritage, Mick Gassman, Alec Godfrey and Ken Parsons all contributed to this successful period.

In 1946, four Holloway players - Alex Godfrey, Mick Gassman, Dave Metzger and Ken Parsons were picked to tour Norway as members of a North London Grammar Schools representative team with Ted Drake (Arsenal and England fame) as the manager. There were, apparently, many interesting discussions between Dave and Ted Drake during the tour! Subsequently, Dave, Alex and Mick were invited to sign amateur forms for the Arsenal but National Service and University reduced such signings to distant memory.

Dave was 17 years old when his father died and he left school to become the 'breadwinner' for his mother and himself. His first job was in an office prior to two years National Service. During this

period he obtained a diploma in electronics. He then decided to pursue a career in teaching and applied for a place in the College of St Mark and St John in Chelsea. He needed a reference from a priest - a little difficult - particularly as Dave had never been to church in his life other than singing in the church choir when he was evacuated. An Army Chaplain came to the rescue with a reference saying 'I don't actually recall who he is, but he does have a good army record' - on this he was accepted.

He completed his BSc in physics, mathematics and chemistry followed by teacher training. History, the arts and politics were also of special interest to him. He studied and read the Old Testament as part of his course and came top in R.E. - still without even going to church!

Just before taking his first teaching post at Alleyns School, he took a temporary job as a hospital porter at U.C.H. It was here he met his future wife, Jean, who was a nurse and they married in March 1956. By a great co-incidence, some members of the O.C.'s were passing through a south coast town on the first day of their honeymoon and they gave a suitable rousing cheer when they saw Dave proudly walking with his new bride.

After a spell at Slough Technical Grammar, Dave and Jean decided in 1961 to move with their then two small children to start a new life in New Zealand: a move they never regretted.

In the 60's Dave continued his sporting activities, always played with a big heart and gave 100% and would often come off the field exhausted. He claimed that all his children were conceived on a Saturday night as he'd arrived home from football tired and unable to defend himself!

Dave and Jean have lived in both North and South Island during the course of Dave's teaching career and finally made their home in Auckland. One of his roles was as Physics Lecturer at Auckland Teachers College. He was a superb lecturer - not interested in the theoretical or politically correct way of doing things, but as a master teacher himself he wanted to actually teach the teachers 'how to teach'. In education he was a strong disciplinarian, but did not approve of corporal punishment - perhaps memories of Doc Atkinson played their part!

He had many interests - CND, Greenpeace, racial equality, calligraphy, football and tennis club committees. One special lifelong interest was the collection of cartoons; his garage was full of them, all categorized under education, law and order, politics etc. He also loved drawing caricatures, particularly people at meetings! He was a self-confessed hoarder and nutcase! He loved all types of music, was a good debater and had a wealth of knowledge. He was the person the family always turned to for advice.

On both sides of the world, Dave has left his mark. He will be remembered as a fun-loving person with a wonderful sense of humour that remained right to the end. When he was first diagnosed with cancer nearly three years before he died, he telephoned one of his sons and simply said 'Alex, I think I'll take up smoking!'

The word which comes to most people's mind when thinking of Dave, is 'enthusiasm'; his enthusiasm did so much for the School and the O.C.'s and for all the organizations he was involved with in New Zealand. We all feel the better for having known Dave and give thanks for his life.

Ken Parsons - Tribute by Bill Wraight.

He attended Holloway School from 1939-46 and died on 16th December 2000, aged 74, after a long illness.

Ken was a prominent member of Old Camdenians Football and Cricket Clubs during the 1950's and early 1960's. An uncompromising centre-half Ken, flanked by Tom Head and Dave Metzger, formed a formidable defence in the 1st X1 of that time.

A more than useful all round cricketer, he played 174 games for O.C.C.C., 113 of which were in the 1st X1 at a time when he was competing for a place with the likes of Yates, Simpson and Wing!

Roy Thomas - Tribute by Alan Meyer

After leaving Holloway School in 1952, Roy trained as a Post Office engineer, one of his first jobs being to repair a line into the School. A versatile footballer, he played only two seasons for the Old Boys but just long enough to appear at full back for the victorious 3rd X1 Cup Final team of 1959. Thereafter he moved, with his job, to Borough Green in Kent where he continued to play local football into his late thirties. Other active interests included badminton and rambling and his cheerful, social nature won him much respect and many friends within the local community.

Roy only resumed contact with the Old Boys two years ago and had hoped to attend one of our Dinners. A long illness intervened however, throughout which he remained typically optimistic. He was a devoted family man and our sympathy goes to his wife, Alma and his children and grandchildren.

Charles Bormat - Tribute by his daughter, Mrs Josephine Wright.

He died on 17th July 2000, aged 91.

He was an architect and after the war he worked in Plymouth and in Coventry in the City Councils' Architect Departments helping to rebuild them. He came to Coventry in 1950. In the 40's and 50's he designed schools and later he went on to public buildings. He designed his own bungalow in 1965, which he lived in until he went into hospital. He retired in 1974. He was also active in local politics and after his retirement in the Pensioners' organizations. After my mother died in 1991, he began to travel and visited many of the countries he had always wanted to see.

Last year he attended the Old Camdenians Annual Dinner for the first time. I believe he was the oldest one there. He very much enjoyed it and would probably have attended again this year.

AGM and Annual Dinner (Friday 30th November 2001).

By tradition, these events take place at the School on the last Friday in November. The AGM at 6.30 pm is usually over quickly leaving time for a chat over free drinks, before the Dinner at around 7.30 pm. Included in the £25 per head ticket (price pegged for the fourth consecutive year) is a four-course meal with wine and coffee etc, convivial company, all in the nostalgic setting of the Seitz/Camdenian Hall. What more could an Old Camdenian want?

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it with your cheque to George Ives. If you could add a little extra to pay for schoolboy guests, it would be greatly appreciated. Any surplus goes towards helping with specific school projects. As usual, transport will be available from Kings Cross, York Road (where the buses stop) at 6.15 pm with the return leg leaving the School at around 10.30 pm.

An appropriate point to mention that we remain indebted to George & Pam Ives for their continued efforts on behalf of the School and the Old Boys. Pam tells me that, as Vice Chairman of the Governors, George now spends more time at the School than he ever did as a Sixth Former.

Career Talks

Bert Irvin has offered to talk to a group of students about his work as an artist. He is a member of the Royal Academy. If you would like to be similarly involved, please contact the Secretary with details.

Reminders

Club ties can be purchased from the Secretary, price £7.50. Also still available are copies of Richard King's Jubilee Retrospect 1907 - 1957 and '90 years young - a potted history of the Football Club" (please include a small donation to cover postage in each case).

Stop Press

- Richard Brown regrets that, for the first time in many years, he will not be attending the AGM/Dinner. His excuse, a world tour with his wife, Jo. No doubt, after 17 years as Chairman, he deserves a break. Nevertheless, no sense of priority, some people!
- Good to see the following familiar faces again at BHL for the School v Old Boys football match: Billy Wraight, Peter Andes, Alan Cornelius and Alf Mortimer.
- Arrangements are in hand for the Old Camdenians to be included on the School's website.
- The Secretary would like it known that he now has fax facilities. Let's hope he sees a doctor soon!

Alan Meyer - Chairman

DEDICATION TO BERT WEEDALL

On Saturday 15th September 2001, during the tea interval on the first day of the annual cricket match versus Udimore C.C. (played in Sussex this year), Mr Brian Westbrook, of Udimore, unveiled a memorial dedicated to H.H. 'Bert' Weedall. A sturdy custom-built wooden 4-seater bench seat with a suitably inscribed brass plate attached thereto indicated the feelings of Udimore C.C. and friends and those of the Old Camdenians.

Witnessed by a large gathering that included no less than 30 Old Camdenians travellers (a few too young to really appreciated what was going on), Brian, in a trembling voice, paid tribute to Bert and

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his outstanding services to Udimore and kindly acknowledged his (Bert's) former playmates - the Old Camdenians - whose combined generosity "made this all possible".

After 'stumps were drawn' on Sunday, Paul Scott presented to Mark Weedall the 'Bert Weedall Memorial Trophy' - an inscribed shield (sponsored by Geoff Young), to be played for annually. He informed Mark that, as the first holders of the Trophy, he must ensure that the shield be appropriately inscribed and that he must remember to bring it along with him when he visited BHL next season because the Old Camdenians wished to enjoy the privilege of inscription as holders next time.

SECRETARY'S NOTES - OCTOBER 2001

I sincerely hope that you like the new extended Chairman's Newsletter. For many years, Richard Brown has done an excellent job with his Newsletter and we would like to sincerely thank him for all his past efforts and the magnificent way that he both reported on and kept in touch with individuals. However, we thought that as the School is now making excellent progress, that we would enlighten you on all aspects of what is taking place and what is hoped to be achieved at Holloway School.

Also, from time to time, I am approached by people for knowledge of "Old Camdenians". I am not always able to answer their queries from my records and, therefore, I propose to run a section called "Where are they now?" Indeed, Mike Corum would like to have news of two of his contemporaries in 1951, namely Frank Drewitt and Fred Gigny. Others in that year, of course, were Ted Warwick, Ted Roit and George Ives - I wonder whatever happened to him! Could you please always let us know of anybody you happen to meet, and the telephone numbers given may come in useful.

Annual Dinner - 30th November 2001

I enclose an Order Form for this event and the following menu will be served:

Prawn Cocktail

Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding
Seasonal Vegetables

Apple Pie/Chocolate Roulade/Crème Brûlée
Cheese & Biscuits

Coffee

Red & White Wine

There will be two alternatives to the Main Course, namely vegetarian and the choice of white meat. The latter has been included for those with dietary or health problems. If you select these alternatives, please do it on the basis that you do have a need because if we get too many alternatives, it will severely restrict the Caterer's ability to serve the meal expeditiously.

We have also undertaken a synopsis of the last AGM, together with Reports from the Football, Cricket and the Social Club, whose responsibility it is to run Burtonhole Lane Ground. By this method, we could reduce the amount of time at the AGM so that more time is devoted to socially chatting and mixing with old friends. For those who had not had the privilege of attending the Dinner in recent years, may I say that it is always an enjoyable occasion, and this year you will be able to see the magnificent new additions to the School buildings and, hopefully, view quite a lot of the refurbishment that is taking place.

In 2007 the School will be 100 years old and we are already trying to get together information and knowledge so that we can celebrate this appropriately. Mr R J King was responsible for producing a first class Jubilee Booklet (still available at £1.50) and we would welcome any information, memorabilia, and old pictures of the School etc. For instance, in some old pictures (Hildrop Road entrance) there is a house on the left hand side: nobody seems to know what this house was, or used for - do you know?

Finally, the Headmaster - Dr John Hudson, is considering the siting of an "Old Camdenians" notice board, together with a museum of artefacts, like caps, blazer badges etc.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Dinner and an early application for tickets would be welcome. For those of you who can't be at the Dinner, bear in mind that at 9.00 pm the traditional toast of "Absent Friends" takes place - make sure you have a full glass to honour this Toast.

George Ives - Secretary

REPORT by Alex Williamson - Deputy Head & member of O.C. Committee
Holloway School v Old Camdenians

The Holloway School under 16 2nd XI (4 first team players unavailable due to club commitments) turned up on a wet afternoon for a stroll on a lovely Old Camdenian pitch. The Old Boys were confident. " must play for 90 minutes or its not worth turning up " was the opinion of their manager.

The Holloway school supporters were pleased to here it but were soon silenced by a couple of early goals. However desolation soon turned to cheer as the boys started to turn it on. Goals were quickly pulled back and the Boys were 3-2 up.

To the unbiased eye all 5 goals were offside but this rule is apparently disregarded in North London.

The second half turned into even more of an embarrassment for the Old boys. It is hard to remember a touch that they had. At 5-2 up it was time for some changes. Off came some of the Boys to be replaced by the Giant Spaniard (Head of Maths, trials at Barcelona etc), Bill Wood (Head of PE) and Martin Hodgson (y11 Manager and team hard man). That was it. Complete Old Boy capitulation.

As the Boys left the pitch some of the Old Boys team were heard to say " those kids would make a good third team".

You must be joking fellas. Time to hang up your boots. They should be your first team!

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Synopsis of Minutes of the A.G.M. NOVEMBER, 2000.

PRESENT: - as per Table Plan who then attended the Dinner.

APOLOGIES: - these are quoted appropriately.

MINUTES - of 1999 A.G.M. were signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman commented upon the Minutes and conveyed various messages he had received from absent members, and also reported on recent deaths of "Old Camdenians" - Sidney C. Hutchison; Bert Weedall; Len Renton and Victor Oehl.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Accounts, as illustrated, were agreed and approved. It was further reported that the "Old Camdenians" had agreed to sponsor two students for a full year at the Yamaha School of Music. Also, the Leslie George Snelling Trust Trustees had agreed to sponsor for fifty per cent of their fees, another six students. The Secretary reported that because of these monies received by the School to assist these students, funding had been obtained from Governmental sources to fund another forty students. It was indicated how much monies of this nature were important funding for the School.

FOOTBALL & CRICKET SECTIONS: Mr. Paul Scott reported that an extension of the lease for thirty years had been secured by Mr. Mike Duffy (solicitor - 'Old Camdenian') on behalf of the Club at Burtonhole Lane. Mr. John Maskell reported that the CRICKET side had not had a very successful season.

ELECTIONS: The Committee's recommendation for Vice Presidents (Honorary) were as follows and unanimously agreed:

1st Year	...	Paul H. Scott
2nd Year	...	Peter Andes
3rd Year	...	Mike Duffy

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Mr. Alan Meyer was nominated and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

VICE CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Maskell was nominated and endorsed by the members.

<u>OFFICERS:</u>	Chairman	...	Alan Meyer
	Vice Chairman	...	John Maskell
	Hon. Treasurer...		Philip Cowley
	Hon. Secretary...		George Ives
	Hon. Auditor	...	Michael Larner

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

David Bowen, Bob Hartley, John Maskell, George Panayi, Bill Rogers, Roger Gravett, Samir Patel, Alex Grayburn, Savvas Savouri, Mark Fitzpatrick, Richard Brown.

HON. LIFE VICE PRESIDENT: It was reported that Mr. Richard Brown be created a Honorary Life Vice President of the "Old Camdenians" and this was unanimously agreed and, once again, the sincere thanks of everybody was conveyed to him. Mr. Brown responded appropriately.

A P O L O G I E S - Not attending:

Len G. Hinton	Tom Rolf
Dennis D. Steel	F. V. Bird
Philip F. Cramer	John Allen
John Sparrow	Ernie H. Law
Stanley Whiteman	Alun Morgan
Fred J. Dickson	Peter Hart
David French	Chris Simons
Michael Corum	R. W. Beckwith
Gordon Clarke	Savvas Savouri
John Collins	George Perry
Roy Thomas	Bernard Chibnall
Brian Kelly.	

STAGE

DAVE DENNIS Deputy Head	George Obeng	LAWRENCE IRVIN	ALBERT IRVIN	VINCENT McDONNELL Director of Schools Services	PETER REES Chairman of Governors	DR. JOHN HUDSON Headteacher PRESIDENT	ALAN MEYER CHAIRMAN	RICHARD BROWN	ALAN BROCKMAN	"JO" BROWN	IRENE BROCKMAN	MAGGIE MONTGOMERY Deputy Head	BILL COLLINS Premises Manager	GEORGE IVES Secretary O.C.	Governor
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TOP TABLE

TABLE "B"

H. Martin
F. Ditschot
D. Morris
DAVE BOWEN
K. Page
J. A. Smith
J. Kickless
F. H. L. Cheney

TABLE "C"

P. George
C. Broad
M. Lerner
P. Chappell
P. J. Supter
B. Pearson
PHIL COMLEY
P. Jones
M. Northend
M. Hales
A. Cornallus
F. Omtrass

TABLE "D"

D. McDermot
D. Murphy
ALEX WILLIAMSON
B. Woods
J. Allcock
R. Fluck
N. Mohammed

TABLE "E"

I. Kelly
MARK FITZPATRICK (6)
M. Duffry
N. Swingle

TABLE "F"

P. Jewell
T. England
P. A. Clayton
R. Taylor
ALF MORTIMER
A. Walker
B. Wright
R. Pritchett
W. Hucklesby

TABLE "G"

G. Penny
N. Martin
A. Robinson
JOHN HASKELL
J. Mulrennan
R. Marina
P. Scott
B. Hartley

TABLE "H"

F. Marshall
P. Ash
C. Vlahakis
C. Ogbodo
SAMIR PATEL
A. Vlahakis
H. Howard
P. Wives

TABLE "J"

B. Walsh
B. Hatley
B. Moseley
P. Mathews
KEN RAMSON
P. P. Todd
P. Tubbs
J. Fitch
D. Findlater

OLD CAMOENIANS DINNER - 24th November, 2000

OLD CAMDENIAN CLUB
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2000

<u>General Fund</u>	
Surplus on Annual Dinner (incl. donations)	1,011.67
Bank Interest Received	48.58
Interest on Sports & Social Club Loans	100.00
Other Income	15.00
	<u>1,175.25</u>
<u>Less:</u> Costs of Football Match	115.00
Reception for Prize Giving	70.00
Printing Costs	100.44
Flowers and Donations	30.00
	<u>315.44</u>
<u>Surplus for the Year</u>	<u>859.81</u>
Balance brought forward	4,362.23
<u>Balance of Fund at 31st August 2000</u>	<u>5,222.04</u>
<u>Harlestone-Jones and King-Beats Memorial Funds</u>	
Balances brought forward:	
Harlestone-Jones Memorial Fund	377.02
King-Beats Memorial Fund	145.13
	<u>522.15</u>
<u>Less:</u> Awards and Prizes	606.00
<u>Balance of Funds at 31st August 2000</u>	<u>116.15</u>

OLD CAMDENIAN CLUB
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST AUGUST 2000

<u>Total Funds</u>	
General Fund	5,219.82
Harlestone-Jones & King-Beats Funds	21.03
	<u>5,240.85</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>	
<u>Assets</u>	
Cash at Bank	4,789.40
Stock of Tiles	431.47
Debtors	45.00
	<u>5,265.87</u>
<u>Less:</u> Amount received in Advance	25.00
	<u>5,240.87</u>
P. Gouley Vice-Treasurer	M. Lister PCA Hon. Auditor

OLD CAMDENIANS

FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT SEASON 2000/2001by JOHN MASKELL

The first XI had a very successful year in Division 2 North of the Old Boys' Football League, winning 16 matches, one draw, and a defeat in the last match of a very long season. The side scored 75 goals, with 27 against. There is strong optimism for another good season in 2001/2002.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th XI's all finished in mid table. Encouragingly, there were sufficient players available last season to re-enter a 5th XI in the League in 2001/2002.

The Veterans XI entered the AFA Veterans Cup and beat Old Cholmeians in the first round, but was defeated by a strong Metropolitan Police side in the next round. This season the team face Old Aloysians in the LOB Cup, with the match due to take place on Sunday 21st October.

CRICKET CLUB REPORT SEASON 2001

The fortunes of the Cricket Club were less rosy last season. Availability was very poor, and it was necessary to withdraw the 3rd XI from the League, despite advertising for players.

The 1st XI got off to a poor start, fielding under strength sides, but finished the season with a flourish by winning its last 4 matches and beating one of the promoted teams. Although the 2nd XI finished mid-table, their performances during the season were very encouraging, having lost a number of regular players to the first XI.

Availability on Sundays reduced as the season progressed and it was necessary to drop the second XI on a number of occasions.

A large party of players, supporters and their families made the trip to Udimore to play a 2 day match against Bert Weedall's old side, and be in attendance at the presentation of a bench to the club in memory of Bert, and his services to both Clubs. The bench was funded from generous donations from many friends of Bert and Elsie. Thanks to Paul Scott for arranging the collection.

REPORT by Paul Scott: Treasurer - Camden Playing Fields Sports and Social Club.

On Tuesday, 2nd. October, 2001, the Treasurer of the Camden Playing Fields Sports & Social Club reported that, after some three and a half years of careful husbandry by the Management Committee, the burden of financial struggle had been lifted and stressed that, if the future of BHL was to be assured, there should be no let up in the effort so far maintained.

Whilst regaining solvency, much work had been done to restore the playing surfaces of both football pitches and both cricket tables to their former sound conditions as well as improving the overall appearance of the ground. There was still, however, a drainage problem to be addressed. (As I write the ground is being 'Vertidraind' which may partially solve the problem). Thanks to the '100 Clubbers' and generous donations, machinery and equipment had been purchased and the Pavilion and its facilities was gradually being refurbished and improved. Yet again, there was no room for complacency as there was still much work to be done before a period of relaxation could be enjoyed.

Many Old Boys had contributed to the overall success of the recent past; some by dint of labour, others by generous donation or interest-free loan capital but the Committee is ever-conscious of the fact that the 'Old Camdenian' is very much in the minority these days and is growing older by the season; so too are those who work and play under its banner. From where cometh the new young blood? Who shall benefit from the workload of the present few? There is, most certainly, a future for BHL, provided that there is someone/a group of people prepared to pick up the ball and run with it!

Footnote:

The Committee has forestalled at least two 'hiring' outfits that have, in the past, had hidden intentions of taking advantage of our ground and facilities. Even the current users on a Sunday view our asset with an envious eye! It is more than a personal question to ask "Why should we have to continue to work for others in order to enjoy the fruits of our labours?". Surely, the answer lies somewhere in the paragraph above!

Currently, the Football Section is attempting to increase its Saturday activity from 4 to 5 sides with an occasional Veterans team on a Sunday. The Cricketers had to abandon the 3rd. Eleven last season on a Saturday and later only managed the one side on a Sunday. During the close season, reorganisation and recruitment may bring them back to three and two, respectively.

The Gryphon Golf Society

* For some time now, Paul Scott has been making an attempt to set up a Society of golfers comprising Old Camdenians and friends. So too has Phil Cowley. To-date, neither gentleman has succeeded in persuading more than a handful of golfers to get together. Maybe their respective contact lists do not stretch far enough; hence this appeal via the Chairman's letter. Come on chaps, here is an opportunity for some of you to meet up more than just once a year and what better than an enjoyable day or two out; and in another sporting arena?

Contact: Paul on 01727 823376 - 8 Manor Road, London Colney, Herts. AL2 1PL or
Phil on 01992 423025 - 9 Caldecot Way, Broxbourne, Herts. EN10 6PH.

HEAD'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE OLD CAMDENIANS' CLUB

October 2001

The past year has been rich in opportunity for the future success of our school. I remember telling Old Camdenians at my first Annual Dinner in November 1997 that the school had to regain its former eminence as an outstanding place of learning and gateway to successful adulthood for all its students. This past year has seen great opportunity for delivering such success.

I share the view of many Old Camdenians who want to see the school succeed and are tired of seeing poor results and an apparently declining school. Some of the school's traditions have held up, the Old Camdenians Club and football are good examples, but academic excellence ceased to be a strength of the school some years ago.

When I joined in 1997 I made it clear that I had two aims for the school: one was to achieve academic success, the other was that we become popular with our local community as the first-choice secondary school. I know that we cannot achieve real popularity as a school unless we are seen to be very good. I believe these aims are achievable, however; I also think that certain building blocks have to be in place first. Success and popularity will return to the school if we are courageous, determined and imaginative. I assure you our governing body has these essential qualities.

Since my report to you last year a number of events have taken place that can help us to deliver the success we need.

- CEA@Islington has completed its first year having taken over services to Islington schools from the local authority in April 2000. This has sharpened the focus on raising achievement in all Islington schools.
- The school was given the go-ahead to admit girls as well as boys into Year 7 (first year of secondary school) from September 2002.
- The school led the development of a small Education Action Zone, EPIC, or Education Partners in Islington and Camden, which was officially opened by HRH The Duke of York last November.
- We were successful in our Ofsted inspection in May this year and were described as "an effective and improving school".

We are now in a much-improved national and local climate for school improvement. We work directly with six local primary schools, three in Islington and three in Camden, that will help us build a properly comprehensive student body unlike the predominantly lower prior-attaining intake we have recruited in recent years. We have an official report that stresses the strengths of the school; at last these strengths outweigh the weaknesses.

Exam results continue to be very poor. As Ofsted points out, when prior attainment is taken into account the progress our students make is at least as good as in other schools. This is good to know but clearly has done little to persuade parents of more able children to consider Holloway School as a first choice. Thus the vicious circle of perceived failure continues.

I understand that broadening the base from which to recruit local students by including girls has been a difficult issue for a number of Old Camdenians. On its own this change is not enough, however. The substantial capital investment programme now underway is also not enough on its own. Both are keys to future success but even more is required of us. We are now looking at two quite radical propositions that will, I believe, put the school firmly back on the educational map at last.

One proposal is to develop a centre of excellence special school, focusing on communication and interaction, on the school site. This would be a separate school but would share key resources with us. We are consulting on a proposal that the new development will be built along the Carleton Road frontage. We shall remove the old technology building soon and would need to remove the existing gyms and youth centre too. In their place we could build not only a special school for up to 75 students aged 11 to 19 but also a sports hall and new art, dance and drama facilities. We plan to replace the current large playground with an even larger floodlit Astroturf area. Apart from great prominence as a socially inclusive school we would gain the sort of sports and arts facilities we could only dream of before.

The other possibility is even more radical. It involves closing Holloway School as a local authority school and reopening immediately as a new City Academy. City Academies, an innovation of summer 2000, are independent schools funded directly by the government and by a sponsor. They are funded more generously than local authority schools and aim to improve achievement in inner-city areas very significantly. City Academies are also specialist colleges; one of the new specialisms, mathematics and computing, interests us because it will have both an academic and a vocational impact on the curriculum. I believe this initiative would transform the school and give our local community a school to be proud of, a school where academic excellence and vocational skill would be to the fore.

I hope that I shall be able to write to you in October 2002 and report that our school is on the pathway back to former glory.

John Hudson
Head
Holloway School

P.S.

The Chairman, Alan Meyer, would like to express his thanks to Alun Morgan, Len Hinton and Mo Hales for their very generous donation towards the cost of the Football Match- these are always gratefully received. We understand from a reliable source that Mo Hales goes to Northampton every other weekend, presumably to buy new shoes - nobody can think of another reason why he should always be off to Northampton!

You may wish to make a note of the following:

CHAIRMAN'S address:....14, Dafforne Road, Tooting, London, SW17 8TZ.

Alan Meyer: Telephone: 020 8672 6063.

VICE CHAIRMAN:36, Stavelay Close, Camden Road, London, N1 9RS.

Telephone: 020 7607 0089

John Maskell:

TREASURER:9, Caldecot Way, Broxbourne, Herts. EN10 6PH.

Telephone: 01992 423025

Phil Cowley:

SECRETARY:32, Amersham Hill Gardens, High Wycombe,
***** HP13 6QR.

George Ives: Telephone: 1494 524501
Fax: 01494 513907

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OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB

Contacts

Secretary: George Ives 01494 524 501

FOOTBALL CLUB: Alan Meyer 020 8672 6063
(Saturday 4 Teams)

CRICKET CLUB: John Maskell 020 7607 0089
(Saturday: 3 teams, Sunday: 2 teams)

INFORMATION

Ground: Burtonhole Close, Burtonhole Lane,
Mill Hill, London NW7. Tel: 020 8959 3242
Public Transport

Northern Line tube to Mill Hill East,
No 240 bus from station to Adam & Eve Pub,
Bittacy Hill, or ring clubhouse for a lift.
Annual Dinner: Last Friday in November
Enquiries: Phone George Ives 01494 524 501

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO A.G.M.

1. In welcoming those present, the Chairman noted that the attendance was similar to last year.
2. The Chairman mentioned, in particular, letters of apology from Francis Cheney, Bernard Chibnall, Ken Pitman, Nick Swingler, Peter Pearmain and a telephone call from Harold Bennett in Israel. He also thanked Peter Sumpter and Allen Burnett for their letters.
3. The Chairman elaborated on the Newsletter as follows:
 - He had attended (with the Secretary) a second School "Prize Giving" ceremony at which the students had given an entertaining performance of Macbeth. For the first time, the Chairman had properly understood the play!
 - Referring to the sad loss of four members during the year, the Chairman thanked Reg Taylor and Bill Wraight for their tributes to Dave Metzger and Ken Parsons respectively.
 - Regrettably, the Chairman had been unable to attend the dedication in Sussex of a bench in memory of Bert Weedall. It was appropriate that this should be sited on a Cricket pitch and for Bert to be remembered in such a tangible way. Thanks were due to Paul Scott for organising the collection and to those who contributed so generously.
4. The Chairman welcomed the various contributions to the Newsletter.
 - John Hudson's excellent summary of the School year struck a encouraging note, due in no small way to his leadership and to the dedication of the staff. Developments on the two radical proposals and on the introduction of girl students would be followed with interest.
 - John Maskell's report showed that the Football Club continued to make good progress. Hopefully, the Cricket Club would soon enjoy a similar revival.
 - Paul Scott's update on the position at Burtonhole Lane, as usual pulled no punches!
 - Alex Williamson's report on the School v. Old Boys Football Match (although a touch triumphalist!) rightly stressed the need to encourage more schoolboys into the O.C.F.C.

It was noted that the Old Boys were keen for an early return match.
