

OLD CAMDENIANS

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER - 2003

The last night of the Proms, the Oval Test Match and our late cropping tomatoes ripening nicely all serve to remind me that it's Chairman's Newsletter time again. As there is plenty to report, I will cut the usual preamble and straightaway thank all those who have made contact by whatever means.

OLD CAMDENIANS WEBSITE

Peter Sumpter our efficient custodian of the Website has been kept pretty busy over the past year and we remain indebted to him for all his hard work. Among those using 'E mail' have been:-

- Tom Jacobs from Twickenham who joined the Sixth Form in 1945 after evacuation in Dorset. He left school in 1947 with five excellent Higher School Certificates and is particularly grateful to 'Bump' Brown and Doc Atkinson for getting him through Physics and Chemistry.
- Alan Foster from Whitstable (1955-60) recalls his form master John Dixon and still maintains contact with former classmates Derek Fricker and Bob Frost.
- Bob Collins from Upper Holloway (1968-75) who enjoyed playing for OCF's lower elevens in the 1970's and would be delighted to meet up again with any of his contemporaries.
- Kirit Solanki (1979-86) now lives in Barnet and works for the BBC having previously studied at the South Bank University. He has fond memories of attending several O.C. Dinners as a schoolboy when Mike Walker was head of Sixth Form.
- Tony Stratton from Basildon left the School 11 years ago and is currently in the entertainment business. Anyone who can help with sponsorship for a wrestling promotion he hopes to put on should contact the Secretary.
- Bill Baverstock from West Molesey (1953-58) keeps in contact with Ron Pickett, Geoff Swallow and Ron Cracknell. He would welcome news of any other members of Forms 5U1 and 5U2 from 1958.
- Ken Caplan (1951-56) who has generously and rather appropriately donated his school cap with silver badge to the new O.C. Showcase at the School. (See also Secretary's Report).
- Howard Embleton (1959-65) was a former long serving Committee member and is now back in the UK after a spell in Germany. He remembers Paul Scott (who wouldn't!), Phil Cowley and John Maskell from his cricketing days and hopes to attend this year's Dinner.

- Alan Sheam all the way from Port Elizabeth. A lively member of OCFC's 1st X1 in the 1960's as well as the cricket elevens. He recalls playing in the inaugural soccer match at Burtonhole Lane having previously spent many evenings clearing the pitch of stones. After moving to South Africa in 1973 he continued to play both sports but a hip replacement now confines him to golf and squash! He asks to be remembered to all his old friends.
- Roger Good (1952-57) from Hayling Island. One of many who just wanted to be put on the mailing list, receive details of the Dinner and purchase a Club tie. The latter are available from the Secretary at the very reasonable price of £7.50.
- Wally Richards and Mickie Styrka wish to be remembered to all their old team mates. It transpires that they live very close to George Ives in High Wycombe. However, George says that they are local in as much as it seems they both live on the local golf course.

CORRESPONDENCE

The letter writers come from an equally diverse set of locations:-

- Stanley Whiteman from Swindon who has recounted his experiences at the School during the late 1930's in an excellent compilation entitled 'Recollections of an Old Camdenian'. This is now available on the Website. Stanley was a former School captain and contributed to the Jubilee Prospect 1907 - 1957 (copies still available from the Secretary).
- A fascinating letter from Lionel Francis in Ottawa (1934-39) whose years at the School overlapped with Stanley Whiteman. Lionel enclosed photos of the School Camp at Chideock in 1936 along with other interesting memorabilia. We propose to have these on view at the Dinner and afterwards to place them in the O.C. showcase.
- David Lee from Staines (1964-69) like many others would be interested to hear from any of his former colleagues, in particular George Campbell, Terry Burton and Mickey Dillon.
- Basil Collins from Newmarket (1938-44) mentions his love of running from an early age and his battles with Den Reynolds in the mile at the annual Sports Day. He went on to become a cross country runner with Highgate Harriers.
- It was a particular pleasure to hear from Terry Blackwell (1947-54) a contemporary of mine. He is in touch with another of our classmates, John Alston and also Bryon Blackwell. Hope you can make it to the Dinner, Terry.
- Finally Bernard Smith from Glasewn in Powys who retains vivid memories of being evacuated to Towcester which he still visits. He left the School in 1943 having been taught by Richard King and Bill Seitz and recalls meeting Dave Bowen in 1947 during army service in Germany. Having taught in US universities for over 20 years, he welcomes the School's decision to teach girls separately. They always will be a distraction!

COMMENT

Bernard Smith also felt that the Newsletter tended to be sports orientated and that more coverage should be given to academic interests and the arts - a view shared by Tony Allen (circa 1961), who has been an actor for over 40 years. It is true that sport does feature prominently within these columns, no doubt due to the strong sporting traditions enjoyed by both the School and the Old Boys. Nevertheless we do try to strike a balance and will always report any achievements by Old Camdenians in other fields which are brought to our notice, moreover, previous issues have covered the Club's support for non-sporting School projects such as our sponsorship of the Yamaha School of Music, which is situated on School premises and is well worth a visit. Also our provision of a P.A. system for the Music and Drama departments as well as funding for six students per annum to attend the Summer School at Brasenose College, Oxford.

It is also a fact that, for many years, the Cricket and Football Clubs have been the only active arms of the Old Camdenians Club. The Golf Society is a welcome new addition but there is no reason why the Club should not broaden it's base into other areas. For example, a revival of the Dramatic Society which flourished for many years before and after the second world war with Richard Brown a leading light. Judging by the School's highly praised production of Macbeth at Sadlers Wells recently, there should be plenty of young talent waiting in the wings to join. Incidentally, Tessa Jowell remarked that Macbeth was the best play she had seen since becoming Culture Secretary. If, therefore, any like minded members have ideas for forming a new club or society under the Old Camdenian banner do please let us know.

As always your news, views and reminiscences are very welcome. Indeed they are the lifeblood of this Newsletter so please keep them flowing in by whichever means you prefer.

IN MEMORIAM

Allen T Brockman (1924-2002)

Allen Brockman was a talented and caring career teacher who rose to the rank of Captain in the Royal Artillery and served in India and the Far East. On leaving the army at the end of the war, Allen gained a degree in physics and mathematics at London University. He taught physics at Holloway during the 1950's. His school camps were enjoyed by many boys and on the football field his rock solid centre half displays helped the defences of many of our Old Boys teams. Allen had been a pupil at Sir George Monoux School Walthamstow and after leaving Holloway and several promotions later became Headmaster of that School - a post he held with distinction from 1971-84. Such was his impact as Headmaster that a recently opened building at the (now) Sixth Form College has been named after him. In his retirement Allen was appointed a JP and Chairman of the bench.

He was truly a brilliant teacher, quiet and unassuming with a strong sense of duty and fairness. He also possessed a good humour and was fun to be with. He died in hospital after a long illness. Our sympathy and condolences go to his widow, Irene, who always supported him.

OLD CAMDENIANS SHOWCASE/MUSEUM

The showcase has been constructed and is situated in a prominent position in the new entrance hall. The cost was met by a combination of generous donations from Mike Duffy and George

Ives and from Club friends. Already it contains a number of interesting items, details of which are given in the Secretary's Report attached.

CAREER TALKS etc.

In recent years a number of Old Boys have given career talks or provided extra curricular teaching, to students at the School. Would you consider doing something along similar lines? If so please contact the Secretary with details.

OTHER NEWS

Read on for a variety of reports covering a wide range of other news. These include the Headmaster's view of the School Year; the Secretary's Report; the varying fortunes of the Football and Cricket Clubs; an enjoyable Golf Day and the situation at Burtonhole Lane. My thanks to all those contributors.

AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER (FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2003)

Traditionally, the last Friday in November sees Dalmeny Avenue invaded by Camdenians young and old, as they gather for the AGM and Annual Dinner. I hope that this year as many of you as possible will be among them, preferably with some of your contemporaries to swell the numbers. That magic figure of 100, although still elusive, is certainly achievable. For the sixth year running the cost of the Dinner ticket has been pegged at £25, which includes a 4 course meal with wine, beer and coffee etc all in the relaxed atmosphere of the Seitz/Camdenian Hall. - What a bargain. Any little extra you can add to help pay for schoolboy guests and school projects would be much appreciated. Please send your application form and cheque to George Ives without delay. Transport will be laid on from Kings Cross (York Road bus stop) at 6.15 pm returning from the School at about 10.30 pm.

In case you cannot make it, we will be toasting 'Absent Friends' at 9.00 pm - so make sure your glass is charged.

STOP PRESS

- The School's Annual Prizegiving ceremony takes place on Tuesday 14th October at 7.00 pm. The Club will, as usual, hold a small reception for V.I.P.'s and staff beforehand.
- A convincing win for the Old Boys against the School in the annual football match. Good to see Alex Williamson with fellow teachers Bill Woods and Jenny Gaylor among those witnessing this rare event. Club members in attendance were Peter Andes, Alan Cornelius, Phil Cowley, John Maskell, Samir Patel, Bob Pearson, Peter Sumpter and Bill Wraight. Fred Chartres was the impartial referee. With a score line of 6 - 1, Alex Williamson's report should make interesting reading!
- We all wish Mo Hales a speedy recovery from his recent illness and hope to see him at the Dinner. Thanks again, Mo, for your generous help with the football match expenses.

- Rumour has is that George Panayi and Chris Pocock have finally decided to hang up their football boots. Congratulations to both on their remarkably long playing careers. Vets football will never be the same again.
- Alf Mortimer remains as fit as ever. He regularly plays veterans tennis at County level for Middlesex and has appeared in international tournaments at Bournemouth, Eastbourne and Wimbledon.
- Micky Barlett's daughter, Sarah, has been selected for the England ladies cricket squad.
- Finally, the Chiltern Line would like to thank George and Pam Ives for keeping the company in business this past year.

My thanks go to the Committee for keeping me in order and for all their hard work. I look forward to seeing you all on 28th November.

Alan Meyer - Chairman

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The first thing I have to say is how sorry we are that the Head - Dr John Hudson - has decided to retire as of August 2004. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the "Old Camdenians" when I say how much we appreciate the help and assistance that he has been to the Club and also for his magnificent efforts in creating a School fit for the 21st century.

Many of you have not seen the new buildings and refurbishment that have already been carried out and he is still, together with the Governors, fighting hard to have even more extensions built and to modernise the original buildings. Future plans include the provision of a Sports Hall, flood-lit outdoor sports facilities and a swimming pool.

By the time of the Dinner, perhaps we may have further progress to report in this direction, but much of what has been achieved will be because of the tireless efforts of Dr Hudson, which reflect tremendous credit upon him. Because of his impending retirement, the Chairman, Alan Meyer, has decided to invite Dr Hudson to be the Guest of the Evening on the occasion of the Annual Dinner. Whilst talking of the Dinner, the menu this year is once again:

Smoked Salmon

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Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding

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Selection of your favourite Sweets

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Cheese & Biscuits & Coffee - - Red & White Wine

There is a vegetarian alternative and if you have a dietary problem and require white meat, please indicate appropriately. It would also be helpful if you would adhere to your request, as otherwise it becomes confusing for the caterers. Incidentally, we indicate the positions of these requests at your seating place so that the waitresses can identify accordingly and hasten the service. If you change your seat this alters the organization.

Also, at last year's Dinner it was suggested that we provide name badges for the diners, together with their date when at the School. The School has kindly made available to us clip on badges and these will be available at the AGM. However, please make sure we receive the badges back on your departure because they are a costly item to the School.

We have now established an "Old Camdenians" showcase in a prominent position at the School displaying certain memorabilia, which existed or has been made available. Please take the opportunity of viewing this on the evening of the Dinner.

The Head has also given us two caps as follows:

1. The date of 1923/24 on the peak - white tassel from the crown - badge "H & C" intertwined.
2. The date of 1927/28 with "H & S" intertwined.

Can anyone throw any light on these caps? They could have belonged to Prefects but we would like verification on this, please. At the same time, when was the Phoenix adopted as the School's badge?

The Head is seeking knowledge of the names of Headmasters after 1960 - these are required to update the Honours Board in the Hall; similarly, he would like pupils with high academic results also to be recorded.

Forward planning the School's centenary takes place in 2007, with the "Old Camdenians" centenary in 2009. Any information or knowledge in any shape or form would be gratefully received.

You can see by the Chairman's Newsletter that many people have made contact with us but we are still looking for:

Where are they: Fred Gigny, Frank Drewitt, John (Joe) Adams, Ted (Edwin) Warwick and Dennis Davis (the last two, last heard of in Vancouver). If you would like to trace an old colleague, do not hesitate to get in touch with us and we will do our best to fulfil your request.

Incidentally, if you have an E-Mail address, could you please let me or Peter Sumpter know because communications can be undertaken via this technology.

Peter Sumpter has been a tower of strength to the "Old Camdenians". I also wish to convey my personal thanks to him for all the assistance he has given, not only to the Club in general, but to me in particular - "thank you", Peter.

George Ives - Secretary

HEADMASTER'S REPORT TO THE OLD CAMDENIANS - OCTOBER 2003

In GCSE, 31.6% of last year's Year 11 students gained 5 or more grades A* to C; this places the School well above average for schools with similar intake KS2 (primary school) test results. It is our best result for a long time although we expect results to improve again next summer and in the years to come. These results place the school within the top 25% of schools in England for Added Value to academic attainment.

- 87.8% gained 5 or more grades A* to G.
- 98% gained at least 1 grade A* to G
- ICT results were exceptional with 53.4% of a large entry gaining grades A* to C.

Other creditable A* to C results included:

- Mathematics at 26.6%
- Art at 57.1%
- Music at 77.8%
- PE at 39.1%

Key Stage 3 results in mathematics and science continue to improve.

- Mathematics 44.3% level 5 and above, 20.3% level 6 and above.
- Science 38.0% level 5 and above, 11.4% level 6 and above.

We anticipate that our GCSE results will be above national averages by summer 2008.

We are delighted that the school is becoming more and more popular. We were over subscribed for the first preferences for places at the school this September and have full year groups of 180 girls and boys in Years 7 and 8. We expect the same outcome next September.

The school's tradition of arts and sporting achievement continued last year and culminated in a spectacular performance in July of "Game Show", a medley of dance, drama and music from the 1920's to the present, at the Lillian Bayliss Theatre at Sadler's Wells. This followed an outstanding interval dance performance by our students at a Gala Performance at Sadler's Wells of "Nutcracker" in December 2002. Anton Moore and Ahmed Abdullahi-Farah, who played Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in the school's spectacularly successful performance of that play at the London Shakespeare Festival in 2001, were invited with their Director, Ms Casey, to a reception at 10 Downing Street in January 2003.

Although, unusually, we have not yet won a London Cup for football this year, we are in the (last year's) Year 7 and Year 8 semi finals, our Year 7 team reached a semi final in the London Cricket Cup and our Year 9 team is in the final of a 6-a-side competition to be played before a Premier game at Arsenal. Efreem Semreab won gold medals in 1500 metres at the London Athletics Championship in June and in the Nike 2 km race at Richmond Park in September. Efreem's time at 2 km was 6 minutes 9 seconds and, according to the Highbury and Islington Express, "he blew the field away"! Rhys Shirley-Clarke was in the winning 4 x 100 metres relay team in the Year 7 Athletics Championship. We are planning to become a sports college from September 2004.

Our Annual Prize Giving Ceremony, again generously sponsored by the Old Camdenians Club, is to be held on 14 October.

I am sad to tell you that this is my last report to the Old Camdenians Club. I retire on 31 August 2004. I hope to leave Holloway School in much better condition than I found it back in 1997.

My very best wishes for the future and my thanks for the wonderful encouragement and support the Club continues to give the school.

John Hudson - Head of Holloway School

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THE OLD CAMDENIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

The 2002/2003 Football Season Review

The 2002/03 season was a mixed one, but one which was memorable for the achievements of the 1st X1, who achieved a treble of LOB Intermediate Cup, AFA Intermediate Cup and Division 1 North Champions. This is the first time the club had achieved a treble since the 1964/65 season - the season some of the current 1st X1 were born. In fairness to the "old boys" the sixties treble was for winning the senior cups and Premiership.

The second and third X1's started their seasons well, but fell away after Christmas, finishing mid table. The 4th and 5th X1's had difficult seasons and both ended up relegated. But the new season looks far better for both these sides, with an influx of new players and new skippers, which will hopefully mean better fortunes.

The 1s X1 found themselves promoted two divisions as a result of last season's success and have started off the new season in sold fashion, as have the other four teams

Lawrence Gosling - Secretary OCFC

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THE OLD CAMDENIANS CRICKET CLUB

Cricket Club Report for Season 2003 by John Maskell

The Club had a mixed 2003 season. The first X1 playing in Division 4 of the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League finished in a creditable 6th position out of 21 teams.

The 2nd X1 struggled against strong one-team opponents in Division 7 and finished second from bottom.

The good news for the Club was the reinstatement of a 3rd X1, which played a number of friendly matches against well-established Clubs such as Tring, Brondesbury and Alexandra Park. A good win against Ally Pally encouraged more players to join and it is hoped to put the team back into the Saracens League next season.

The second square at Burtonhole Lane was used after laying fallow for 2 seasons and will be used in 2004 for the 3rd X1.

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HOLLOWAY SCHOOL vs. OLD CAMDENIANS
Report by Alex Williamson - Deputy Head

At last, an Old Boys' victory in the football. For the first time in living memory (except maybe for George and Allan) a victory but only against a patched up year 11 side from Holloway.

The taste of victory will not last for long. Next year's team is awesome and normal service will be resumed. The Old Camdenians were gracious in victory, which came as a surprise as it is such a rare occurrence.

From start to finish the Old Boys exploited their dominance using size, age and an assortment of very ugly faces to intimidate the fresh-faced fifteen year olds of Holloway. Even our best defender could not cope with a centre forward that reminded us of Dennis Watts after 10 years in a canal.

As ever, we were well looked after and a number of students have already expressed an interest in playing and, hopefully, we will truly re-establish the links between the Club and the School.

This year, the school cricket team also played the Old Camdenians for the first time. Despite being comprehensively outplayed, the boys had a great time. Cricket is slowly but surely beginning to take off again at Holloway. The Year 7 reached the semi final of the London Cup losing to Dulwich College.

Again students are beginning to play cricket for the Old Camdenians and with the great atmosphere and support provided by the Old Boys, I am sure the process of student representation will continue to improve.

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OLD CAMDENIANS CLUB - GOLF DAY - 20TH JUNE 2003

The Club held its second golf day on 20th June, again at a very sunny Elstree Golf Club.

Although the turnout was down on last year, a very enjoyable day was had by all. The fourteen players taking part were: Dave Allen, Ken Brown, Brian Burn, Phil Cowley, Peter Friend, John Hensman, Ray Hensman, Paddy Jones, Mick Northend, George Perry, Wal Richards, Paul Roberts, Paul Scott and Mike Styrka. In addition, Richard Brown and Martin Garrity followed the play as spectators.

Peter Friend had been cut three shots following his win last year, but still managed to score an unbeatable 37 points in the morning stableford competition to take the first prize. He was followed home by Paddy Jones with 36 points and Mike Styrka on 34 points.

In the afternoon the ten hole "Texas Scramble" was won by the team consisting of Wal Richards, Ray Hensman and Phil Cowley. Prizes went to Wal Richards for nearest the pin and Mick Northend for the longest drive at the allotted holes. Peter Friend added to his haul by also winning the second nearest the pin prize.

The Golf Club again provided an excellent spread of food and we were joined for a sociable evening by Messrs Fred Chartres, Mick Christou, Hiren Joshi, Dave Nuding, Martin Quilter and Peter Sumpter.

If there is enough support, it is hoped that the event will be held again in June 2004. Final details will be announced at the annual dinner.

Phil Cowley - Organiser

CAMDEN PLAYING FIELDS TRUST FUND

A message from the guy with more than one hat!

It is not so long go that the Sports & Social Club held its meeting on the same evening as that of the Football Club. Then, it was considered convenient because several members were sitting at both meetings.

This somewhat successful event has prompted me, as Secretary of the Cricket Club, to call a meeting on the same evening as that of the Sports & Social, but for a far stronger reason than to save time and convenience of the duplicated Committee members of all three sections.

As Treasurer of the Sports & Social (and Trust) and without going into too much details at this juncture, I will inform that we are fast approaching the second half of year four of the new lease. In twelve months time, we must give notice to the Council (Barnet) as to whether or not we wish to continue with the terms of the leasehold. More to the point, will we be in a financial/management situation strong enough to be able to continue? We have but twelve short months from today of sustained effort in order to determine whether or not we can proceed beyond year five.

It has long been my opinion/contention that rather than jog along independently in the current fashion, the two sports sections should join forces in order to successfully manage a Sports & Social Club of the future. Once the separate meetings have dispensed their immediate business of the day on the 24th instant, I recommend that everyone sits down again and discusses the merits/demerits of such an idea, prior to taking the next step along the way - if, indeed, there is to be such a step!

To put a finer point on the matter, I, as one of but two working Trustees, need to be convinced that we are sufficiently strong enough in both management and finance to continue beyond April, 2005. Convince me and I shall recommend to the other Trustees to proceed.

In conclusion, it is my intention to take a back seat and hand over all my responsibilities as soon as is possible. The poor old sod is getting tired!

Paul H Scott - Trustee

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