

## OLD CAMDENIANS

### CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – 2005

'And in a packed programme tonight', as the late, great and sorely missed Ronnie Barker would have said, aptly describes a busy year for both the School and the Old Camdenians. A year which, alas, left images of events in London and elsewhere that, hopefully, will never be repeated. Once again your Committee extends its sympathy and support to any Old Camdenians and their families affected by those tragic happenings. Thankfully, there were lighter moments to lift the spirits. For example, even non sports lovers must have been heartened by England's nail-biting Ashes triumph, a series in which the level of sportsmanship displayed by both sides for once set an example worth emulating. Hopefully, this Newsletter will prove just as stimulating.

### OLD CAMDENIANS WEBSITE

Many thanks to all those who have made contact and for keeping the website ticking over. We remain indebted to Peter Sumpter and family for managing the input so efficiently and for encouraging new members to join. Among those are:

- George Broome (1946-51) from Coleraine, Victoria, Australia who asks to be remembered to all his former Football and Cricket Club colleagues.
  
- Reggie Potts who has renewed his membership after some years in the wilderness.
  
- Yan Rawal (1964-67) from Girona, Spain who enjoyed his time at the School and his several seasons with the Old Camdenians Cricket Club. He hopes to make it to the Dinner.
  
- Also Alex Thomson (known as Alex Martin, 1936-38); David Smith (1943-50) and Christopher Carron (1954-58).

### REUNIONS

This year we are arranging a special reunion at the Dinner for those who first attended the School in 1955, when it changed from Grammar to Comprehensive. This has generated a good deal of interest and among the thirty or so hoping to attend are: Dave Allen, John Devereux, Colin Escott, Paddy Jones,

Brian Marson, Bob Pearson, Peter Sumpter, David Vorhaus and Derek Winford. Also Keith Crozier, who has been asked to persuade Pete (Plum) Bailey and Frankie Pindel to come. Others to respond were Micky Culhana (Hong Kong), Geoff Swallow (Australia) and Alan Alexander (Cumbria) all, understandably, too far away to travel.

If you would like to be added to the 1955 table, please contact Peter Sumpter on [oldcamdenians.club@ntlworld.com](mailto:oldcamdenians.club@ntlworld.com) or indicate as much when returning your Dinner invitation.

Just to add that Brian Barham on [b.barham@virgin.net](mailto:b.barham@virgin.net) is compiling a list of those who joined the School in 1952 (and probably therefore left in 1957) for a similar reunion in 2007 – when we will also be celebrating the School's centenary.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Good to hear again from Tom Rolfe (Deputy Head at the School from 1961 to 1965), writing from Whimple, South Devon. Tom recalls that Bob Wilson turned out on occasions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI in the 1960s. Tom captained the side which had several other good players and, not surprisingly, won all its matches. Tom greatly enjoyed the many Dinners he attended, often staying overnight with Jack Crook. Now in his late seventies he would find the journey too onerous but sends his best wishes for an enjoyable evening.
- Lionel Francis from Ottawa in Canada kindly sent a School Prospectus Supplement of May 1932 which makes fascinating reading and is now displayed in the Old Camdenians Showcase. Lionel still remembers the school janitor lighting the classroom gas lamps on winter afternoons and the unforgettable atmosphere which the green gas light produced.
- Tony Leonard (1943/44) from Bridgend, Glamorgan recalls his friendship with the late Brian Orchard during their schooldays at Burghley Road and at Holloway. The evacuation saw them billeted in Towcester and, on return, they entered the Remove to sit for the Matric. After losing contact, Brian got in touch a year or so ago but unfortunately they were unable to meet up. Tony keeps in touch via Dave Bowen and has kindly provided a photograph taken at Bow Lane for our archives. He has happy memories of the 10 years or so spent with OCFC and mentions in particular Mo Hales and our Secretary with his 'athletic' goalkeeping (no comment!).

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Paul Scott (Scottie) (1943-48)

After leaving Holloway School, Paul entered the Royal Navy in 1949 where he served for 7½ years. In 1957 he joined the Irish Times and, in his 25 years with the paper, travelled widely on a variety of assignments including stories for the Racing Post – developing, no doubt, his taste for Guinness on the way!

Paul was a stalwart of the Club, wearing many hats for the Football, Cricket and Sports/Social Clubs and was a founder member of the Golf Society. His tireless efforts to balance the books at Burtonhole Lane included running the 100 Club and other fundraising activities. Without his dedication, the Ground could well have been lost long ago.

At his funeral, Paul, wearing whites and carrying his cricket bat, was taken by horse drawn carriage to the Crematorium from Burtonhole Lane. Afterwards, as he would have wished, his many friends gathered at the Clubhouse to toast his memory which included a round of Guinness. He will be greatly missed and we offer our sincere condolences to his daughter Kim, his son Ian and all the rest of his family on their sad loss.

#### Sir Leslie Porter (1920-2005)

Leslie Porter grew up in North London and went to Holloway School, leaving at the age of 14 to join a West End firm of car dealers. After war service he joined his father's textile business and in 1949 married Shirley Cohen (later to become Dame Shirley Porter). At the behest of his father in law, he joined the TESCO board in 1959 and subsequently became Managing Director, Chairman and President. He was also Chancellor of Tel Aviv University.

#### Luis Sanz

Luis was a teacher at Holloway School and a contemporary of Gordon Clarke and Brian Fletcher. Our sincere condolences go to his wife and family on their sad loss.

### **SCHOOL EVENTS**

#### An evening with Bob Wilson

The reports by the Secretary and the Headmaster which follow will provide more detail on the outcome of the School's Appeal regarding its application for Sports College Status. Suffice for me to say therefore that it was a great pleasure to attend the 'Evening with Bob Wilson', and to present him with an Old Camdenians tie and a copy of the old School Song '40 Years On' - which was particularly appropriate since Bob first taught at Holloway 40 years ago. The evening realised a total of £3,500 which, with the £6,000 raised by the Old Camdenians Club, helped ensure the target of £50,000 was more than achieved.

### Launch and Presentation Evening

It was an honour to represent the Club, with the Secretary, at the official Launch and Presentation Evening on 22<sup>nd</sup> September to mark the subsequent award of Sports College Status to the School. Celebrity interest was provided by Faye White, captain of the Arsenal and England Women's Football teams, and José Antonio Reyes of Arsenal, who jointly unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark this significant stage in the School's development.

### End of Year Performance

In July, the School staged its usual End of Year show at the Lilian Baylis theatre. With their energy and enthusiasm, the talented cast provided a thoroughly enjoyable evening of music and dance – a welcome fillip so soon after the tragic events in London earlier that month. We hope to advertise next year's production well in advance, so that more Old Camdenians have the opportunity to attend.

### **FOOTBALL CHALLENGE MATCHES**

This year, a School Staff team also challenged the Old Camdenians, thus affording the large crowd at Burtonhole Lane a double helping of entertainment. The OCs comfortably beat the staff 3-1, although rumour had it that five of the teachers' best players were unavailable. The game with the School ended in an honourable 1-1 draw, allowing the schoolboys to retain the trophy they won last season. At the suggestion of the Head, Bob Hamlyn, the occasion became a 'Fun Day' with bouncy castles and other entertainments provided for all the families and friends of the teachers who had been invited. An excellent repast was laid on and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Out thanks go to Alex Grayburn, Paul Roberts, Bill Woods and the many others who helped make it such a success. The only moment to mar the occasion was when Ben Hough, playing for the Staff, regrettably broke his ankle. We are delighted that he is making good progress and trust he will be fit enough to join us at the Dinner in November. The other great result from the Fun Day is that up to a dozen staff and a similar number of pupils have now joined the Old Camdenians Club. A warm welcome to you all.

## **BURTONHOLE LANE**

In July, a meeting of all interested parties was held at the School to consider the future administration of BHL. It was agreed that the rent increase proposed by Barnet Council (i.e. from £6,000 to £10,000 p.a.) would be difficult to meet and should be challenged. It was noted that the Lease of the Ground runs for 30 years from March 2000, with the option for the Trust to terminate at the end of each 5 year period. The next opportunity to do so would be in March 2010 (having given the Council 6 months notice of intent). Discussion also covered the current use of BHL by the students and the possibility of the School becoming more closely involved (i.e. becoming a Trustee). A sub-committee, chaired by John Maskell, examined these and various other related issues on 12<sup>th</sup> September and a short Report is attached. Our thanks go to John and his colleagues for progressing these important matters so promptly.

## **CAREER TALKS**

A number of Old Camdenians have, successfully, given career talks or provided extra curricular teaching to students at the School. If you are able to offer your time and effort in a similar venture please contact the Secretary with details.

## **AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER (FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2005)**

Last year, attendance at the Dinner fell a little below the magic figure of 100 achieved in 2003. Do please therefore make every effort to be there, preferably with your contemporaries, to help boost numbers to record levels once again. You are guaranteed a four course meal with wine, beer, coffee and waitress service all at the bargain price, yet again, of £25. If you can add a little extra to help cover the cost of schoolboy guests and school projects it will be greatly appreciated. To avoid disappointment please forward your application and cheque to George Ives without delay.

For those of you who really cannot attend, please join us in spirit by charging your glasses at 9:00pm for the traditional toast to 'Absent Friends'.

## **OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF**

- Many congratulations to Dr John Hudson, the recently retired Head of the School, on being awarded the O.B.E. John now resides in the USA but keeps in touch via our newsletters.
- Derek Myers, who taught Technology and Design at the School, has recently retired after 31 years 'active service' at Holloway. A remarkable achievement. Does anyone know if this is a record?
- According to a local newspaper report, the old School ground at Bow Lane could feature in plans to redevelop the Finchley Memorial Hospital. The plans are still at an early stage, but may also entail community use such as playing fields and other outdoor projects. Bow Lane, currently owned by Camden Council, is a sorry sight having lain derelict for many years – a far cry from the days when it provided recreational enjoyment to so many schoolboys and Old Boys alike. Developments will be watched with interest.
- Terry Blackwell is trying to trace Roy Billett (1944-50). It seems that Roy gained a degree at Cambridge University and then joined the RAF, later becoming a pilot. If anyone has information which would help in tracing Roy, please let the Secretary know.
- Lawrence Gosling tells me he is recovering well from the particularly aggressive virus he picked up from a football injury last season. Lawrence was seriously ill in hospital for several months and sadly has had to relinquish his roles as Secretary of both the Football and Sports/Social Clubs. We sincerely hope his recovery continues apace and will be delighted if he can make it as one of our guests at the Dinner.
- Good news, Mo Hales is, in his own words, 'still breathing'. In fact the operations on his ankles appear to have been successful and his mobility is gradually improving. The Dinner may, however, be a step too far this year.
- Mick Lerner is as cheerful and positive as ever and plans to join us on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. We certainly look forward to his company then.
- Rumour has it that Pam Ives' sister Judy was once taught by Ron Nutkins at a school in Kingsbury.
- Poems written by Peter Knight about his experiences when the School was evacuated during WW2 have been added to the collection of unpublished poetry in the Imperial War Museum. For further details please contact the Secretary.

**STOP PRESS**

- Bad weather warning. Our pyrocanthus has burst into berry after a 20 year dormancy and the birds are gorging themselves silly. Long Johns at the ready folks, we could be in for a hard winter!
- Your views and reminiscences are vital to our Newsletters so please keep those emails, letters and phone calls flowing in.

Finally, my thanks yet again to your hardworking Committee for their support during the year and as ever to George and Pam Ives for their unflagging energy and dedication – it must be the vin rouge.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Dinner.

Alan Meyer – Chairman.

## **Newsletter May 2005**

### **Golf Day**

Unfortunately in the last **Newsletter** the date was quoted as 17<sup>th</sup> July. This should have read 17<sup>th</sup> June. The entry forms have been sent out but if you have not received one you can contact Phil Cowley on 01992 423025 (Home)

01992 460016 (Office)

e:mail: [phil@cowley12.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:phil@cowley12.wanadoo.co.uk)

### **Web site**

Good news. Thanks to my son the website is now back up and running at long last but with a new address and can now be found on [www.oldercamdenians.co.uk](http://www.oldercamdenians.co.uk)

## New Members

A warm welcome goes out to three new members:

**Tony Leonard**

**David Smith      1943 - 1950**

**Alex Thomson (known as Alex Martin)      1936 - 1938**

## Annual School Matches

The annual cricket match against the School has been scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> and the football match on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

Further details to follow.

## School Evacuation

Recently there have been many programs on the TV about VE day and the evacuation of young children. You may recall that the School also was evacuated during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and as a result, Peter Knights, one of our members, wrote some poems of his experiences. The Imperial War Museum has recently added them to its collection of unpublished poetry relating to the War. Peter has kindly given us permission to print them for our members. The first is as follows.

**Via Gospel Oak (1<sup>st</sup> September 1939)**

After days of waiting with our bags at Holloway School



We proceeded in a crocodile line up Chetwynd Road past number 33  
my home.

I dropped out of the line to knock at the door

But no one was there. So I asked Mrs. Woods our neighbour

To tell Mum that I had gone.

I rejoined the line and continued on to Gospel Oak station

Where, with name labels identifying us all,

We joined a train to the town of Rugby, our destination.

There we heard the Prime Minister announce the declaration of war.

Spent two days filling hundreds of sandbags, maybe more

Before boarding a bus to take us discreetly

Even further into the still peaceful country.

To a village, near Towcester, named Greens Norton.

There we assembled in the local school yard

Where tense and on our guard.

We stood in straight disciplined lines to await selection

From the lists arranged on temporary trestle tables

Two names were matched - a paper was signed .

One name walked along the orderly lines

" I'm Mrs. Miles you are coming home with me

"Yes Mrs, Miles" I said raising my cap to this strange lady

**Peter Knights**

### **Support for the School 2005**

At the A.G.M. in November 2004 an Appeal was made to help the School obtain a Dance Floor and Rehearsal Mirrors for the Dance and Drama Classes which have been so successful in recent years. Indeed the School has on several occasions been asked to perform at Sadlers Wells and even 10 Downing Street.

The Appeal undertaken by Alex Williamson (Deputy Head) backed by a video was so well received that the Committee were asked to make an immediate grant of £500.

At the Dinner Peter Andes who, like us all, was so impressed he asked and was granted permission to go round the tables with a

bucket inviting donations to be "Pitched In", with the result that another £505 was collected for the "Cause"

Added to this the Trustees of the Snelling ( an Old Camdenian] Trust, two of whom were present approved a grant of £500.

I am pleased to report that as a result, the School has acquired the equipment and it is now in regular use and we are hoping that we will soon be able to publish some pictures of it in use.

The School decided to submit an application for Sports College Status, which if granted would be very beneficial to the School because it automatically increases the School's Funding

However the School was required also to raise £50,000 in support of the Bid which if successful the Government would add a further £100,000 towards a project named by the School, in it's Application.

The project decided by the School was a Sports Laboratory, featuring all the latest High Tech. equipment which would be not only an asset to the School but also to the Community at large.

The Head Bob Hamlyn, asked if the **Old Camdenians** could help; subsequently an appeal was launched which resulted in a total of £4000 being raised towards the target.

Another Camdenian namely "Bob Wilson " of Arsenal and Scotland fame, was approached for his help and support which he readily gave, with the result that a very successful fund raising event, "An Evening with Bob Wilson" was arranged which resulted in achieving £2,500 towards the total.

The Chairman of Governors Peter Rees together with the Head Bob Hamlyn are on record paying Tribute to the **Old Camdenians** not only for the Donations made but also for the support they gave to The Bob Wilson Evening.

Incidentally John Inverdale conducted the Auctions of Football Memorabilia and **Camdenians** were prominent as Bidders.

Peter Rees and Bob Hamlyn pointed out that it was very important to attract donations from individuals as well as from large organisations in order to show that there was large public support for the bid and

this is where backing of the individual **Old Camdenians** was so very important.

We are naturally delighted to announce that the Target was exceeded, in as much that £61,000 in total was raised.

Significant Corporate Donors were, Micro Soft, Arsenal, and a Grant from the Sir John Cass Foundation.

Finally I think we should make everyone aware that the Prizes at the Annual Prize Giving are funded by the **Camdenians**, and the Snelling Trust each contributing £250

### **News from the School**

It has just been announced that the School has been shortlisted for Special School (Sports College) Status. They will find out in June if they have been successful