

COXAN

CLAPHAM OLD XAVERIANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



summer

2/73

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A school with unlimited potential and immense opportunities for teachers and pupils. That is how headmaster, Mr. Pocock see the Clapham College of the future. A college with nearly 1,500 pupils and a standard of facilities unrivalled in south-west London.

Building work for the new school is soon to begin. Preparatory work is already under way. The headmaster describes this work and the school as it will be:

" The first steps will be to provide a new playground in land acquired behind Clapham Mansions and to arrange access to this land and another entrance to the laboratory block; then to demolish the dining centre (alas) and replace it with a temporary wooden structure to which meals will have to be brought from outside.

" Construction work will then start on the main school buildings which will be situated on the present playground site and at right angles to it where the dining room and long and high jump pits are now situated. When these blocks are complete, the present laboratory will be demolished and the final buildings completed in the form of an extension to the present main classroom block. So, at the end of the day, the school will be an H-shaped building.

" The main building, to be situated on the playground site, will be four-storied and will house the administration complex (headmaster's study, secretarial offices and so on); staff accommodation, the library, various classrooms and, on the top floor, seven laboratories.

" The building on the present dining centre site will be three-storied and will house the new dining centre and all the art, craft, mechanical and technical units together with the music centre.

" The remaining wing (the present school block and its new extension) will be divided into the present school building, which will be entirely re-designed internally to provide a sixth-form unit, with common rooms and tutorial and classrooms; and beyond this will come the gymnasium, auditorium and, last of all, a sports hall.

" I have given only the barest outline of the provision planned for this school. There will be many ancillary rooms in addition to a computer terminal room, a careers room, year rooms and so on. "

So the school will be a fine building with outstanding facilities in every sphere. It has been planned that every room will look out on to open space.

The main entrance to the school, says the headmaster, will be in Malwood Road.

" As soon as the main buildings have been completed, all use will be given up of Broadoak and Hollywood which will revert to diocesan use. Indeed, the junior seminarians from the Southwark Archdiocese will be moving into Broadoak in September. The main playground area will be on the new land acquired, bordered by the backs of Malwood Road, Alderbrook Road and Clapham Mansions.

" Initially, the school will take an annual eight-form intake and, while this lasts, St. Gerard's will continue to be used as a junior annexe for the first two years of intake. At some time in the future (and it will be a long time) the Salesian College is due to be expanded into a six-form entry comprehensive school. When this materialises, the St. Gerard's site will be abandoned and the whole school, now with only six forms of entry, will be contained on the one site.

" The school will of course be radically different to that which we have all known. It will have 1,400 boys (ultimately dropping to 1,200) instead of 380. It will be comprehensive and not selective in character. But it would be foolish and self-defeating to indulge in an orgy of nostalgic regret for the passing of what has been. In some ways, we have had it a bit too soft at Clapham. It has been all too easy, both for student and teacher, to sit back in our quiet little backwater and accept grossly inadequate buildings and facilities as something almost to be proud of. Yes, there has been a happy atmosphere in the school (at times !). Relationships between staff and pupils have been exceptionally cordial on the whole. But these are intangibles which need not disappear in the new school. And they will now be allied to a range and standard of facilities which will be unrivalled in this part of London. Furthermore, the school will be based on two flourishing, existing schools with good standards of academic attainment and discipline and, a very important factor, drawing their intake from the same primary schools. Thus, there will be no forced and hence unhappy marriage of schools without any natural affinity or common basis and interests.

" The opportunities for teachers and pupils will be immense. The potential is unlimited. Rather than regretting the past, all of us who love Clapham must set out to realise that potential to the full. "

THE LAST CHANCE INVITE TO THE BALL

The final call for that highlight of the Association's year - the annual dinner and dance on Saturday May 19 at the Ecclestone Hotel. With the dinner now perilously close at less than a fortnight away, mostly everyone seems to be going but there are a few dozen places left. Tickets are on their way out to Old Boys and their guests and arrangements are going ahead to sit the many groups in parties together.

If you haven't booked your place, why be the odd one out? Come along yourself or ring around your friends to join their party. Or why not get up a party together of your own?

It would be a pity to miss this dinner which promises to be one of the most exciting ever. Tickets are priced at £3 but we wouldn't want you to rush off and post any money. It may be a bit too late for that. Telephone David Martin at 330 1370 or Mick Grice at 703 2535 to place your reservations. We look forward to seeing you.

NORBURY.....AN OPEN LETTER TO THE OLD BOYS

The problem of Norbury, as explained in the last edition of COXAN, provoked a number of letters from Old Boys with various suggestions on how to find a new ground. Their ideas are still being looked at although so far there has been no success. Football secretary, Derek Rowe, has followed up several good leads and there may be a favourable story to tell about Norbury in the next COXAN.

But one angry Old Boy has written an open letter to every other old boy about what he calls, "big brother's " decision to change Norbury. The letter now follows overleaf:

" GENTLEMEN ! WE ARE NOW FIGHTING FOR LIVES OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED ? By Easter 1974 football at Norbury (and also cricket (and also target golf (and also that first stolen kiss behind the club-house))) will be a memory.

" No more famous victories, no more famous defeats, no more broken glass-houses, no more canapes a la Madame Slayed, no more bawdy ballads from the showers, no more cheapo, cheapo booze, no more naked ladies on the touchline, no more dirty pictures, no more blah, blah, blah.

" All will be gone. Those hallowed pitches will ring to a new sound - McAlpine's Fusiliers (oi don't tink oi dig) because, dear members, it's now a cold, hard fact that big brother has decided to replace our beloved turf with a brand new shiny eyesore of a school.

" The truth was revealed at the football annual meeting last October and a committee of troubleshooters was appointed to investigate the situation. Derek Rowe, Tony Gray and Stan Miller had the responsibility of finding an alternative arrangement for the club.

" To date, they have written to certain public bodies (for example, the National Playing Fields' Association, the borough council) and are awaiting replies. From our own research, we have found that in order to qualify for any sort of grant, the club needs an open membership. However a sizeable loan may be possible, especially if we have a site in mind and we have some capital behind us. This is where YOU come in.

" Keep an eye open for any suitable site and tell the committee of any idea (no matter how small) you might have. Money is most urgently needed and to this end four editors are launching the "RONDO SAVE THE OLD BOYS FUND" which now stands at £20 (a fiver from the four editors).

" Please contribute generally. Remember time is running out (only one season left), little has been done and without a concentrated effort from all of us, the club will die. "

W.A. Roszkowski

FOOTBALL

End Of Season Report.

TABLES

	<u>Pl</u>	<u>pts</u>	<u>pos</u>
1st XI	22	29	3
2nd XI	20	18	6
3rd XI	20	24	2

The final, league tables were not in as COXAN went to press but we do have the unofficial final positions. Thus, congratulations to the 3rd XI on an excellent season ending in promotion (on goal average) although most of the team reckon that an inexplicably bad patch in mid-season robbed them of the championship. The leading goal scorer was Keith McElligott with 20 goals (in his first year with the Old Boys league). The 1st XI were pipped at the post by Josephians (though there is a league inquiry into one of their recent results) a great disappointment after their high-scoring season. Dave Burnham was the leading scorer with 23. The 2nd XI did very well to finish sixth in their first year in One South, and really will be serious promotion challengers next year - top scorer Mark Roszkowski with 9. The 4th XI continued their winning ways to the end - they never quite reached the magic 100 goals (97 in fact) but they are almost certain starters in Five South next year. Leading scorer - Mike Collins with 19.

The 1973 cricket season opened on Sunday May 6 with a match against the College at Norbury. Because of the new plans for the pitch, this is the last season the teams can use their home ground and they still have not found another place to play. Nevertheless, the teams have a busy time in the months ahead with at least 20 matches at the weekends to take them right through the summer until the middle of September.

The season also sees the teams' first tour when they will visit Norfolk to play three matches over the weekend of July 20 to July 22. Secretary, Stan Miller, hopes performances will continue the improvement that was shown last summer:

" We have a good nucleus of players but we would welcome anyone interested in playing for us, " he says. " We would also like to see visitors at all our games and we invite anyone to join us on our Norfolk tour. The single wicket contest, which this year falls on July 15, is a good social occasion and anyone who would like a day out is welcome to enter. We can guarantee it is very tiring. "

So, if you are interested in cricket, whether playing or watching, the man to contact is Mick Grice whose home telephone number is 703 2535.

Present Cricket Fixture List

Sun May 6	Clapham College	Norbury
Sun May 13	Farewake Wanderers	Norbury
Sun May 20	Tolworth	Alexandra Recreation Ground, Tolworth.
Sun May 27		Norbury
Sun Jun 3	Devas Institute	Norbury
Sun Jun 10	Addington Institute	Norbury
Sun Jun 17	Graveney	Norbury
Sun Jun 24	West Kent Wanderers	Norbury
Sun Jul 1	West Ewell	Ewell Court, Lansdowne Road, W. Ewell.
Sun Jul 8		Norbury
Sun Jul 15	Single Wicket	Norbury
Fri Jul 20	Acle	Acle, Norfolk.
Sat Jul 21	Wymondham	Wymondham, Norfolk.
Sun Jul 22	Old Buckenham C.C.	Attleborough, Norfolk.
Sun Jul 29	Farewake Wanderers	Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead.
Sun Aug 5	Graveney	British Railways Ground, Raynes Park.
Sat Aug 25	Rowan	Sherwood Park, Abbots Road, Mitcham.
Sun Aug 26	West Kent Wanderers	Greenwich Park.

THE ROUND-UP OF EVENTS

CAREERS EVENING : There was a full turnout by the College fifth-form in the school dining-centre on Thursday March 8 to hear advice on an equally full choice of careers in the 11th annual careers evening organised by the Old Boys. The number of people who attended included numerous parents and was surprising considering the evening was held on the same day as a one-day national rail strike.

The evening, which offered advice on most sorts of professions, was as usual an obvious success - the view not only of the Old Boys who were there but also the pupils themselves, some of whom said they would welcome the chance of a second Careers Evening later in the year.

A team of old boys took charge of preliminary interviews with the boys to help them get the best advice for a career according to their interests. Besides old boys who gave advice, there were also representatives of many professions and most people provided leaflets and booklets to give the boys an extra bit of help and guidance. So the whole event was a popular one and Brian Sanders, who organised the Careers Evening inside the College, thanks everyone who provided help.

STAG NITE : The Old Boys' stag night was held on Friday February 9 at the Polish Club in Balham High Road. But it was not as well attended as last year nor as popular because no dancing was allowed afterwards in the club hall. Chairman, John Keenan presided and Br. Christopher attended as a guest.

Prizes for the second car rally, which was held on September 24, were presented by John Keenan. First prize went to George Wloch; second to Paul Hixson with Mrs. Addison taking third. The raffle was won by Peter Siwecki who came in for only one drink and went out with a bottle of Scotch.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions for the year still haven't arrived from many of the Old Boys' regular payers. The sub is still only £1 and 63 pence for people aged under 21 and students. If you haven't paid up yet, membership secretary, Ted Hayter asks you to save him the energy and postage and drop him a line including the sub. Ted says he will be especially grateful for subs from new members. Meanwhile, here are additional members up to April 29 1973.

A. Fulker	M. Magee
A. Webber	J.P. Honan
B. Baldock	P.T. O'Connor
G. Fitzpatrick	J. Chambers
P. Keenan	P. Roderick-Jones
E. Hayter	G. Harrigan
P. Barry	R.F. Westwood
C. Ostrowski	L.J. Rose
G. Wloch	J. Rayer

Membership secretary,
Ted Hayter
3 Downs Avenue,
Chislehurst,
Kent.

467 5244

- *** Congratulations to Michael Ware (1971) for winning the under-18 singles tennis championships at Wimbledon. We hear he is entering the adult tennis championships as well this year. (Apologies to Michael who we misnamed Peter in our report of the beef burglary from the Ware's Butcher's shop in Trinity Road.
- *** Congratulations also to David Slattery (1955) who is engaged to and will marry in Ireland on October 6 Anne O'Gallahan. Both work at the same branch of the Williams-Glynns bank although Dave is soon to move to take over the Kilburn branch.
- *** Also entering the marriage stakes with a filly - Mick O'Shea (1970) in July when he will be moving to Stony Stratford. I hope he remembers to let us know 1) his wife's name and 2) his new address.
- *** C.M. stands for Colin Murtagh (1969) and also for Common Market to parts of which Colin will soon be travelling having won a scholarship worth £900 from the C.U. (standing for the Commercial Union). Colin will spend 12 months working in an insurance office in France or Belgium.
- *** To add to the troubled situation in Cyprus, Pat Breslin is now spending ten weeks on the island. He calls it a working holiday !
- *** The Xaverian Prizes (Br. Dunstan + Science; Br. Peter - Arts; Br. Joseph - Sports) were won by E. O'Connor, C. Pearson and C. Januszewski in 1972. The prizes were presented at the school prize day in March.
- *** John Murphy is now in Canada but by the time you read this he will be back in the old country. We also hope to see him and his wife, Pip, at the Dinner on May 19. Will you be there ?
- *** John Maguire (1962) or rather his wife, Margaret recently added to their family after the birth of their daughter, Victoria Bridget on March 27. Mother and child are doing well, glad to say.
- *** A hold has appeared in the floor of the clubhouse at Norbury. Peter Murphy (1955) and Michael Grice (1970) are looking into it. Mick Grice spent his 21st birthday on March 27 at a COXA committee meeting. Such dedication should be well rewarded and we hear it was as Mick didn't see the 28th.
- *** Yet another tramping the altar trail - Gerald Holland (1971) plans to marry in September. No ~~more~~ details unfortunately. They are keeping it under a bridal veil of secrecy.
- *** Hugh Atkinson (1971) has moved from a branch of the Nat-West bank at West Wickham to the Town Hall, Croydon. Maybe being so near to both Norbury and Clapham, we could get a sub from him now.
The following list shows the whereabouts of some of 1972's leavers:

L. Betts	Loughborough Univ of Tech	M. Kearns	Univ. of E. Anglia
S. Burke	Birmingham Univ	J. McDermottroe	Birmingham Univ.
F. Browne	Bristol Univ.	M. Murtagh	Leeds Univ.
N. Coldrick	Exeter Univ.	T. O'Bea	Birm. Univ.
S. Dziedzic	Reading Univ.	C. Rettner	Birm. Univ.
J. Galtrey	Univ. of Keele	R. Sbättoni	Univ of Keele
R. Gately	Heythrop College	P. Scwenk	L.S.E.
M. Griffin	Univ. of E. Anglia	M. Swidzinski	Imperial College
A. Grudniwicz	Reading Univ.	T. Dippel	Central Poly.
P. Hudon	Southampton Univ.	J. Hickey	Cam Poly.
K. Januczewski	City Univ.	P. Janas	Central Poly
C. Kavanagh	Leeds Univ.	G. Lipinski	Central Poly
J. Cronin	Womersley	J. Ryan	Wolverhampton
P. King	Battersea Coll. of Furth Ed.		

The first steps have been taken in the expansion programme for Clapham College. The contractors, Yeomans Ltd., have embarked on a scheme which will cost more than £1 million and which is estimated to take over two years to complete. In this edition of COXAN, the headmaster, Mr. Cecil Pocock gives a description of the work involved and of the new school. The report is on PAGE 2.

NORBURY + COXA still hasn't found a new home. Meanwhile a story of another campaign to find a ground. PAGE 4.

Cricketers start their last season at Norbury PAGE 6.

Football Report PAGE 5.

Old schoolboys' associations can have very little standing in these days of ever-increasing changeovers to comprehensive education. Schools of more than a thousand pupils do not always provide the close-knit relationships of smaller schools which have helped to keep associations like the Clapham one alive for so long.

The bigger the school, the weaker are the relationships within it and the strong old boys' association of a grammar school often flounders beside the new comprehensive.

This could turn out to be true in the case of the Clapham Old Xaverians Association, perhaps to the delight of many people. But it would be a fierce struggle before the association finally died.

It is now nearly three years since the Xaverian Brothers left Clapham and we heard the first positive plans for a comprehensive school under the Diocese of Southwark. Members of the old boys' association have noticed the change. Next April will see the first severe effects of the new control when we are due to move out of Norbury to make way for a Roman Catholic primary school. COXA accepts the inevitable and it is trying not to greet its eviction with gloom and despondency. Its members are doing their best to find another home although with modest success.

Work has now begun at Clapham College and the new school will be in operation well before 1980. Unity in membership will serve to ensure everyone that COXA will be there to represent the old boys of the old Clapham College and the new.

The Editor