

# COXAN

CLAPHAM OLD XAVERIANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



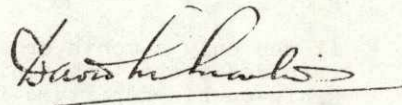
2/77  
AGM ISSUE

COXAN

2/77

With this issue of the Association Newsletter the end of another Association year is foreseen. Inevitably, this is a time for looking back as well as forward to the new 77/78 year and a new Committee. Unfortunately, this issue has been delayed by nearly three months - mainly due to a lack of suitable copy to fill its pages - and many of the events run this summer are past or occurring even as you read your copy. We hope the lack of Coxan has been adequately compensated by personal letter or word of mouth. In fact, we find that despite exhortations in Coxan to write to X or phone X for tickets or reservations, members don't write or phone, but wait to be written to or phoned. One hilarious story occurred around Dinner and Dance time several years ago, when the night before the event X on being phoned because numbers were short said 'of course I'm coming - you know I always attend!' Unhappily, too many members rely on the last minute phone-call or perhaps only decide in the last 48 hours. Either way, it doesn't make for plain sailing when organising events and thus, the organisers merit our thanks and praise for their forbearance.

The notice of the AGM appears in this issue - spare a few seconds to think what this means and do try to attend.



David Martin

THE SUMMER OF 77 - AS SEEN BY OUR ROVING REPORTER -

WILSON BOWERS

1. PUB CRAWL - 29th April

At 7.00 on the evening of Friday 29th April, the bar staff in some of the more salubrious hostelrys around the Oval were blissfully unaware of the harrassment which lay in store for them by courtesy of the organisers of the COXA pub crawl. The official marshals who were so diligently endorsing sponsorship forms in the first pub soon became notable for their absence and demands to publicans soon became: "4 halves and signatures please". By the fourth or fifth pub Ernie Larkin had become a legend to those who had not been present at the official start of proceedings: in fact he accomplished his first hat-trick of the season (although it was a terrible waste of beer!). There were a number of high points during the evening which immediately spring to mind: John Mansi turning down a delightful proposal in the "Vauxhall Tavern"; Mickey Butler and Cheski deciding quite soon after the start that they could drink no more beer and consequently changing to double Southern Comforts and coke (Mickey still maintains that it was the coke which finally 'got him'); Tom McHoughlin joining the circuit at the half-way point and still being drunk under the table by his girl friend; Colin Garvey deciding that 'this was an evening for the youngsters' and that he had better go home - a decision he came to in every pub between numbers 5 and 17; Alan Webber deciding that he should join Colin - if only he could find him. In the final pub there was a great deal of celebrating the completion of the course; but it was all good natured fun and the landlord of the White Bear said that he would love to see us back . . . . or was it 'our backs'? Anyway, by this time I had 'seen' quite enough and decided to drive straight home.

P.S.

It was only a month or so after the momentous happenings recorded above that Ernie Larkin hosted a 'farewell-to-Ernie-on-his-departure-for-America' drink at the now-infamous Fellmongers Arms. Numerous old boys had been lured to the function by the promise (or threat) of a bar extension - for 'Jubilee Week'. Since the occasion fell in the week prior to the jubilee celebrations the fact that so many turned up was a tribute to either their gullibility or their thirst. Nevertheless, even standard (by the Fellmongers' standards) opening times allowed sufficient lubrication for the assembled company to render most of the COXA repertoire of songs and to give Ernie a famous send-off. I understand that on the strength of these two occasions the publicans around the Oval

and New Kent Road are contributing towards a tribute to demonstrate their gratitude (if not amazement at) Bert's effort in surviving the football season.

2. OLD BOYS v. SCHOOL AT NORBURY - Friday 13th May

I was going to describe this as the Old Boys v. School football match; but that would be a totally inadequate description since the element of competition seemed to extend to every pursuit of the evening. It began with the ostensible object for the evening, the football match. The Old Boys' side comprised players from each of the XIs, but was expected to be too strong for a much smaller-looking School side. Appearances proved deceptive, however, and the School had most of the early play during which time the O.B.s (and the referee) were subjected to much barracking from a rowdy bunch of 'supporters'. Against the run of play the O.B.s went ahead when Ernie Larkin (see elsewhere in this issue for his life history) at last took one of the chances which had been presented to him by Paul Butler. Not at all disheartened, the School came straight back and equalised. End-to-end play followed before the School deservedly went ahead just before half-time. The second half became increasingly competitive (to use John McGuire's self-description when he had been sent off) and chances began to be made more frequently as both defences began to tire. It nevertheless looked as though the School would hold on, until minutes from the end when Paul Butler scored a hotly disputed goal. The School maintained that the ball had been handled by an O.B. forward before it was struck home, but they did not allow it to spoil their evening and after the referee had treated them to four or five jugs of beer they graciously accepted that he was probably only blind in one eye. A splendid evening followed with rousing choruses of songs from the 50's and 60's delivered by the OBs, while the School demonstrated the enthusiasm if not the quality of their singing (only joking lads - should any of you wish to buy me a pint) with more contemporary lyrics. Finally, many of the students agreed to join the Association, as soon as they left school or sobered-up - whichever was the sooner. Let's hope that we can repeat the success of the evening at other functions, and more frequently.

3. FOOTBALL SECTION ANNUAL BUFFET DISCO - Saturday 21st May

There was certainly a great deal to celebrate at the dinner which was held for the first time in the dining centre at the College. The venue proved to be an enormous success since it was able to offer an area sufficiently compact for a good "eating atmosphere" while allowing plenty of room for dancing afterwards. Amazingly, and thanks to Mickey and Pat Powell, Alan Webber, Sheila Rowe and Peter O'Brien, a four-course meal with wines and a free bar all evening (and most of the morning!) was provided for an inclusive cost of £4.50. Following the meal Colin Garvey gave his now-traditional review of

the year in which he is able to insult more people per minute than Ernie Larkin is able to drink pints (there he is again!). We were fortunate in having as our guest of honour this year, Jack Trenaman, the OB's Football League Chairman, who spoke briefly and generously about the Club before presenting Derek Rowe with a special award from the members for 20 years' service as Secretary to the section. Derek, emotional as ever, could only gulp out a few words of thanks and sat down after half an hour. Awards (by courtesy of Alan Webber) were then presented to the 4th XI (who were Divisional Champions for a second consecutive season), and to the 1st XI and 3rd XI as runners-up in their divisions, whilst cries of "Bullocks", "Relevants", "Hippos", were heard from all corners of the hall. Excitement reached a fever pitch as the winner of the newly-inaugurated "player of the year" award was announced.

Unfortunately, the very popular winner, Paul Tehan, was in the lavatory at the time and when he returned he found it difficult to understand why he was being applauded for agreeing to go and get Colin a beer. Last, but far from least, were special awards for the 'groundsman of the year': Tony Leitch and 'supporter of the year': Stan (the man) Miller. The dancing area was then cleared and the light fantastic was tripped into the early hours. It only remains to record what I am sure is unanimous thanks to all those involved in the preparation and organisation of the function; to the caterers, to the sixth-formers who patiently served food and drinks to OBs in various stages of inebriation throughout the evening and, of course, to Mickey Powell and Alan Webber. I also understand that we did a wonderful job of clearing up the following morning.

#### 4. BAR-B-Q AT NORBURY: Saturday 11th June

Despite conflicting with a number of other non-COXA functions, I must report that this event was not unusually, but very pleasantly another success. It was expected to be the last event at Norbury before the forthcoming football season, (at that stage the second "drink-Norbury-dry" evening was not foreseen - come to think of it we didn't have many more than foreseen people zere (hic) on zee evening issself!) and about 80 old boys and their wives and girl friends attended. Mickey Powell and Alan Webber together with their spouses were again well to the fore in providing sustenance to the guests (on this occasion ably assisted by John Newman). It was again difficult to believe that the function could possibly be run at a profit considering the excellent fare provided at such a low cost - one can only say that Tim Hixson is much more useful to the O.B.s at Smithfield than he ever was at centre forward.

(after this function our roving reporter roved a little too far and one sad night in the middle of July the Victoria Police were summoned by a tearful Mum Bowers complaining

that 'Wilson hasn't come home'. The whole mighty weight and manpower of the Metropolitan Police completely ignored this dire threat to the continuance of the run of COXA events and Mrs. Bowkers plaintive pleas for someone to find her Wilson. He couldn't be far away- afterall wasn't his bedroom full of chicken sandwiches and sweeties, with kiddies jigsaws, rubber truncheons, whistles, skipping-ropes, etc., for the morrow and anyone who knows Wilson knows he won't go anywhere without his chicken sandwiches and skipping rope (mind you - he'll go miles and weeks without his articles - for COXAN that is!) All was not lost, however, and neither was Wilson - merely mislaid temporarily (Thinks: 'In view of Wilson's coyness, at answering questions on where he actually was, I wonder if there is more in that phrase than meets the eye'). However, so that this summer saga could be continued we summoned red (Kerry Packer's missingstar) Hayter to conclude this article.

5. PICNIC AT MAYFIELD - Sunday 17th July

A marvellous picnic was arranged by Wilson Bowers at Mayfield. Nineteen cars were greeted by Brother Dunstan, who hadn't expected us but seemed delighted all the same.

Scoff, races for the children and parents, paddling in the pool and rounders all added together to make an enjoyable afternoon.

Aiden Colletta, John Rayer, Mick Powell, Derek Kowe, Doug Hadida, Frank Hixson, Alan Webber, Colin Garvey, Ted Hayter, Vic Koskowski, Peter Wills were all in evidence with families, together with Paul West, Kevin McKenna and Vivienne and other friends.

The children were mystified about the lack of prizes for their efforts - so were we as Wilson Bowers had them in a brown paper bag at home but failed to return to pick them up or appear at Mayfield - never mind, he's a lovely lad!

TED HAYTER

FOOTBALL

Despite all the earlier doubts that League fixtures would ever be completed because of the huge backlog of postponed matches due to the bad winter weather, our season ended on Saturday 7th May with a 1st XI match at Norbury.

By means of a succession of mid-week evening matches and Saturday double headers, and the fact that the Old Boys League extended the season until 8th May, we have been able to fit in all outstanding matches.

Indeed the overall picture throughout the League was very similar and it was a great achievement by all clubs that out of the many hundreds of matches which had to be played, only about three could not be fitted in. One of the main difficulties, of course, was the shortage of pitches available as grounds were being made ready for the turn over to cricket.

Several of our Club's last Away matches were in fact played at Norbury to accommodate clubs whose pitches had finished. As no cricket can now be played at Norbury, we were very fortunate - although the cricketers may not agree - to have the use of the ground for football until the end of the season.

However, the efforts of everyone associated with the football section throughout the season have been well rewarded and we can congratulate ourselves on getting three teams promoted.

Our 4th XI are champions of Division Four (South), the 3rd XI will be going up as runners-up of Division Two (South) and whatever the outcome of their last match, the 1st XI will be promoted as runners-up in Senior Two Division. Never before have the 1st XI been in the exalted ranks of Senior One, as they will be next season.

But that's enough of the 76/77 season - within a few weeks the 77/78 season will start and indeed training in earnest has already started so if you're keen to play this year - just give me a ring or turn up for some training.

DEREK ROWE

100 CLUB WINNERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1976

SEPT	No. 30 (£20) J. M <sup>C</sup> Guire	No. 40 (£5) D. Rowe
OCT	91 (£20) D. O'Flynn	8 (£5) J. Howan
NOV	2 (£100) M. M <sup>C</sup> Grath	55 (£15) D. Donnelly
DEC	52 (£20) A. Colletta	68 (£5) J. Porter
JAN	61 (£20) P. Burice	88 (£5) J. M <sup>C</sup> Vickars
FEB	64 (£100) E. Newman	96 (£15) N. Keogh
MARCH	68 (£20) J. Porter	48 (£5) D. Mulverhill
APRIL	11 (£20) G. Sheppard	21 (£5) A. Webber
MAY	79 (£100) D. Mascerano	17 (£15) Mrs. J. Grice
JUNE	95 (£20) P. Keenan	58 (£5) M. Brien

1977 AGM

7th October 1977

1977 AGM

I am instructed by the Association Committee to give notice that the 1977 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 7th October 1977 at 7.30 p.m. in the Clubhouse at Norbury.

I also give notice that the 1977 AGM of the Clapham Old Xaverians Sports and Social Club will be held on Friday 7th October 1977, immediately after the conclusion of the Association's AGM.

G. Hudson  
Secretary - COXA  
- COXA Sports &  
Social Club

During the AGM, as well as the Chairman's report on the year, which provides an opportunity for every member to comment on the 'state of the nation', the election of a new Committee will take place giving an opportunity for the Association, if it wished, not only to change horses but indeed change the whole team! There are to be one or two changes already this year - sadly because of other commitments on Committee nights, Brian Sanders will not be able to continue to serve as he has done for the past 20 (is it really Brian?) years. I feel we must not let the opportunity pass by to thank Brian for his work for the Association over that long period (although we are sure his work will continue) - his help, particularly with College liaison has been invaluable, whilst his dependability and common sense has been one of the assets on the Committee on which successive chairmen have leaned - thank you Brian.

Mick Powell is another departee - this time he'll remain around but he is divesting himself of the responsibility of running the 100 Club. Again, the support given by Mick and his own helpers to the Association through the medium of the 100 Club has been considerable - by the end of this year approximately £1500 will have been raised by the 100 Club for the Ground Fund. We hope the success of the 100 Club will continue and meanwhile thank Mick for his efforts.

Changes on the Committee are not fought off with gritted teeth and determination - they are to be welcomed after examination to see that they are to the benefit of the Association. The Committee would like to see more new members in its ranks and I recommend to all members, particularly the younger members of the Association, consideration of the possibility of joining the Committee

to help in its running. In particular, I would like to see members coming into the Committee prepared, not necessarily immediately, to take over responsibility for finance, membership, secretaryship and particularly urgently Editorship of this Newsletter. Only by obtaining new blood can the Association develop, indeed only in this way can it survive. If you feel you could help or would like to be considered for election or co-option to the Committee why not drop me a line with your views?

David Martin  
Chairman

PERSONALIA

- \*\*\* MICK POWELL (1968 B.C.) regrets to announce to motor sports lovers everywhere that the 'YAPMOBILE' was recently stolen and subsequently written off. No flowers by request. 'Eat your heart out James Hunt'.
- \*\*\* Congratulations to DEREK ROWE on the presentation of a silver salver to mark his 20 years with the Football Section. News of the presentation will be found elsewhere in this issue.
- \*\*\* BERNARD PLUMMER (1951) rustivating in Spaldewick (near Huntingdon) has a new member of staff - TERRY CREMINS. Bernard knows Terry is an Old Boy but does Terry know who his boss is?
- \*\*\* RICHARD WALL (1968) is now working for the Telephone Managers office South Central and is living somewhere in Kensington.
- \*\*\* AIDEN COLLETTA wishes to correct the misapprehension that may have been caused in COXAN's last issue ("Would that it were" - cries heard off) by announcing that his son and heir is not now named "Gordon Bennett". History does not reveal how this name change took place - deed poll presumably-or indeed what is the name of Aiden's heir - watch this space for further absorbing (yawn yawn) details of the Coletta progeny!
- \*\*\* Congratulations to Muriel and GRAHAM HUDSON on the birth of daughter - "Anna Christina" on 11th March. There is no truth in the rumour that because Anna was late he sang 'It's now or never' to a rock beat to bring things on!

PERSONALIA

- \*\*\* Congratulations also to our Chairman, DAVID MARTIN who married Christine on 16th April - probably the only fine Saturday last Spring. Also present were Sheila and TED HAYTER, whilst TONY MORRISH should have been there but was holidaying in Wales.
- \*\*\* Still on the nuptial announcements. PAUL CARTER (1975) married Sue at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Camberwell on June 25th. Sue, who is clearly not a sports lover, refused to let Paul open the bowling for the Old Boys Saturday side that day.
- \*\*\* Paul's oldest brother, David (19?) has spent most of this year commuting between Camberwell and France building new factories and testing new soups for Nestle. We understand he is building up a good supply of duty free booze and fags, as is BRIAN SANDERS (1955) who, by July 8th will have visited the Continent three times this year with 121 assorted schoolboys.
- \*\*\* Sanders Junior must surely have established the record of being the youngest person ever, officially to play for C.O.X.C.C. when he played for the Saturday side against Sutton and Cheam at the ripe-old age of 12 years 3 months. Anybody wishing to know the result of the match should send a S.A.E. to the Editor.
- \*\*\* We hear that STEPHEN FROST (1972) obtained his BDS in Autumn 1976 and is now House Surgeon at Kings College Hospital. Stephen wishes to send regards to Martin Simmonds and Alan White.
- \*\*\* We also hear that BROTHER DUNSTAN's memory was put to the test (and passed, of course) recently by Mr. D. Allan, one of the College teachers who is a historian. Mr. Allan was collecting data for a lecture on the history of the College (80 years old this year). Eventually a mass of data, recollections and photographs were amassed for an interesting evening organised by Mr. Allan at the College. Unfortunately, we were not able to notify as many members as we would have liked but we are hope that Mr. Allan might repeat the evening or alternatively might write a history from the notes for this newsletter. Naturally, he would like to hear from any member with recollections of the College - particularly the older members of course! (STOP PRESS We've blackmailed Colin Garvey into writing a report on the evening and it appears elsewhere in this issue.)

COLLEGE HISTORY

On July 14th, in the Activities Hall in the new College building, more than 50 people, mainly schoolboys and their parents, attended a "Symposium on the history of the College, 1897-1977". Mr. Ailan, a history master at the school, and an expert on the local history of Clapham, organised the evening and introduced the four speakers, all from the College sixth form. Firstly Ralph Lalande gave a scholarly talk on the European and British scene in 1897. Tom Pearson then outlined the foundation and early history of the school, mentioning the purchase of Broadoak by the Xaverian Brothers in 1896, and the opening of a fee-paying, boarding and day school for 30 pupils in 1897, with Br. Gabriel as headmaster. He then dealt with the development of the school under Brothers Cuthbert, Vincent and Bernadine drawing attention to the building of laboratories, the purchase of Norbury playing fields, the purchase of Hollywood House and the opening of a preparatory department therein. Mention was made too of the foundation of COXA in 1927 and its magazine Concordia two years later.

The next speaker, Martin O'Shea, gave a short talk on one of the College's most illustrious Old Boys, Lt. Commander Bowke, who gained the V.C. for rescuing survivors during a naval and air attack on Zeebrugge in 1918. Martin had done his researches at the Imperial War Museum.

The last speaker, Clifford Riordan, discussed the last 40 years of the College, under Brothers Nicholas, Joseph and Peter. Of course, there were the evacuations to E. Grinstead and Taunton during the war, the closing of the Prep. School, the Golden Jubilee of the College in 1947 and the overdue building of a dining centre in the grounds in 1966. Recent years were not omitted so reference was made to the departure of the Brothers in 1970, and the appointment of Mr. Pocock as headmaster. Finally, in contrast to the small beginnings in 1897, Clifford spoke of the new school in 1977, now merged with St. Gerard's, with 1000 on the roll and over 60 on the staff under Mr. Gleeson, the head, all re-housed in a new building in the college grounds, with Broadoak and Hollywood being used by the Diocese.

All talks were fully illustrated by slides and photographs of the buildings, garden fetes, P.E. displays and groups of boys and teachers. Mr. Pocock, summed up at the end, using as his theme Brother Dunstan, who had supplied most of the material. A display of photographs, albums, magazines and programmes for school plays was shown afterwards. Of great interest was the presence in the audience of Miss Carlin, who was the Prep. School teacher until 1945. She still lives locally and arrived with her own photographs. Like Brother Dunstan, she could put a name to every face, and asked to be remembered to any Old Boy who was taught by her.

DINNER DANCE

DINNER DANCE

In an effort to avoid clashing with the Football Disco in April/May we've scheduled this years Dinner for Saturday October 29th - which, of course, means that it will be the first event of the new Association year.

For both these reasons as well as the fact that the function is nearly always good value for money we hope to see a record number of members there - Where? At a new venue for us - the Norfolk Hotel, Thornton Heath.

Tickets are reasonably priced at £4.50 single and £8.00 double. There will be Dining, Wining, Dancing, Raffleing, 100 Club-drawing, Speechifying from 8 till 1.00 a.m., and in short a good time will be had by all - hoping we've whetted your appetite as well as your thirst, may we now recommend that you put pen to paper, or telephone to ear, but in any event book a ticket for this event.

It's the Associations Golden Jubilee this year - it would be appropriate to make the Dinner worthy of the year - so do support your Association.