



125  
YEARS

1891 - 2016

OLD OWENS FC  
125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

SATURDAY  
17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
2016

ROYAL CHASE HOTEL

 @OLDOWENS | [WWW.OLDOWENSFC.COM](http://WWW.OLDOWENSFC.COM)

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



# Lightning

packaging supplies



est. 1989

[www.lightningpackaging.co.uk](http://www.lightningpackaging.co.uk)



## Proud sponsors of Old Owens Football Club

Frobisher Way | Hatfield Business Park | Hatfield | Hertfordshire | AL10 9TY

T: 01707 635343 | F: 01707 635344

### Order of ceremonies:

- 7.20pm Seating and introduction from the master of ceremonies
- 7.25pm Welcome from the Chairman of the OOF 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee
- 7.30pm Grace led by William Hamilton-Hinds and dinner served
- 8.00pm (After Starter) – Ken Rowswell
- 8.30pm (After Main) – Ian Breeze
- 9.00pm (After dessert) – Tom Watt
- 9.30pm Presentation by SAL and AFA of commemorative plaques
- 9.35pm Silent Auction results
- 10.00pm Singing of school song
- 10.05pm Disco starts



# Contents

Contents .....	3
Introduction to Guests .....	4
Chairman's Welcome .....	5
125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee .....	6
Club History.....	9
The Next 125 .....	15
Honours.....	15
Old Owens Legend: <i>Brien Martin</i> .....	17
Old Owens Legend: <i>Ken Rowswell</i> .....	18
Old Owens Legend: <i>Ian Breeze</i> .....	19
Old Owens Legend: <i>Les Williamson</i> .....	20
Old Owens Legend: <i>Barry Cotton</i> .....	21
Great Moments .....	23
History of the grounds .....	24
The Immortals.....	25
Owens All Time XIs.....	26
The Boys' School Song .....	28

# Introduction to Guests

## Speakers



### Compere: Bob Leeds

Bob is well known as the “face of the AFA”. Few dinners on the circuit are complete without someone wanting to knock him out for failing to understand his banter or suffering a witty put down. His claim to fame is speaking with Tom Watts at ex-Barnet ‘keeper Gary Philips’ testimonial dinner. Top bloke and amazing compere, we are very grateful he has agreed to run tonight’s events.



### Ian Breeze

Breezey needs no introduction to anyone connected with Old Owens FC or Owens school. Quite simply a legend, his efforts at both club and school over the years have held no bounds, both on and off the pitch.



**Tom Watt** is an English radio presenter, journalist and actor, best known for playing the role of Lofty Holloway in the BBC soap opera EastEnders.

After leaving EastEnders, Tom combined acting with his second passion, football, by becoming a sports journalist. He has presented for Channel 4, talkSPORT, cable TV and numerous BBC Radio stations and programmes. He also hosts Arsenal TV’s Monday night Fans Forum. He has written two books about football, The End and A Passion for the Game and was the ghost-writer for the David Beckham autobiography.

He was brought up in Wanstead but attended Dame Alice Owens School when it was based in Islington. A veteran of OOFc quarter century celebrations, he played in a celebrity 5 a side match as part of the clubs 100 year celebrations in 1991. After a cruciate ligament injury at Layer Road ended his “playing” career, this time around he will be concentrating on what he is best at: talking about the beautiful game! Big thanks to Tom who is speaking tonight on behalf of: *The Louis Watt Memorial Fund (reg. Charity no. 1062036)*

*‘The Louis Watt Memorial Fund is a charity set up in 1997 to commemorate my father, Glen Louis Watt, who died in October 1996. He was a teacher in secondary schools in north and east London all his working life. From 1970 to 1981 he was Headmaster of Tollington Park School in Islington. In retirement he was a very keen supporter of the London Schools Symphony Orchestra (LSSO) and of the Centre for Young Musicians (CYM). He was chairman of the Friends of the LSSO for some time. The fund helps Louis’ passion for classical music and opera to be transmitted to future generations of school children. It sponsors an annual competition at the CYM and aims to support other activities of the Centre whenever possible. Donations continue to be welcome.’*

Dr David Watt (Tom’s brother)



### Ken Rowswell

Another Owens legend of some 41 years playing and managing from the side. He played his first game as a 15-year-old Owens schoolboy (when based in Islington) in 1959 and amazingly was still playing at the age of 56 in the 21<sup>st</sup> century! He was also instrumental in the Clubs move to Potters Bar in 1988.

# Chairman's Welcome

*"On many a well-remembered field"*



Warm welcome and huge thanks for being here tonight on the biggest night in Old Owens Football Club's **one hundred and twenty-five-year** history.

You will know that Old Owens Football Club is 125 years old. Some will have seen "Established in 1891" on the badge, but what does that mean? Until you actually stop and think about it do you realise the magnitude of the achievement. It's hard enough to get 11 players for a single team for a single game some (most) weeks. The concept that an institution like our football club has been fielding several teams every week for 125 years is phenomenal and a milestone we should be very proud to celebrate.

For 125 years' officials, committees, trainers, treasurer, secretaries, managers, and, of course players, have been volunteering their time, effort and money, damaging relationships with their WAGS and all in the aid of helping Old Owens football club exist. People have spent hours fine tuning match arrangements, contacting players, planning tactics, agonising over formations, sorting refs, opposition, forking pitches, washing kits. It's a selfless task and why do we do it? Because we love playing the game, because of the banter, because of the passion, because of the dreams, lifting a cup, beating a rival, because of how good that pint tastes after a hard fought win, because of the relationships we build, the friends for life, the characters, the club legends, the glory, the near misses and the stories we will never forget.

That people have been doing this for 125 years is the staggering thing. The ability to keep a club going for that amount of time is purely down to volunteers passing the club on to the next generations. You only have to look at an old league table to see how many established clubs have fallen into the abyss over the years.



**FIRST XI 1969-70**



As the journey through history shows, it has not always been an easy ride and at various times in our history, the club has been homeless, temporarily disbanded and close to going out of existence for discipline or availability issues. Each time we have pulled through thanks to volunteers, committee members or a knight in shining armour.

We are now established as one of the top AFA Clubs. We are in an exceptionally privileged position to own our ground, a fantastic facility in Potters Bar and retain the strong link with Owens school. The 1st and 2nd XI are the longest serving teams in their top SAL divisions (18th and 19th consecutive seasons respectively) and, since moving to Potters Bar, OOFc have gone through unprecedented success (60 of the club's 90 trophies have come in the 29 years at Coopers Lane).



***The John Sullivan XI***

Finally, I would like to thank the "125 Anniversary Committee" for their time and efforts in making this evening possible. We have assembled a fantastic group who have given so much to Old Owens over the years in various ways and have done so again in their work for these celebrations. It is no exaggeration to say that the 125 Committee meetings have been some of the most productive and entertaining I have had the pleasure to be involved with. We have formulated ambitious plans and arrangements and reminisced about past players, teams and events. The programme and the room before you are testament to the efforts of all of them and we are forever grateful.

Have a fantastic evening and take time to hark back to "your day" with all the pictures and memorabilia on display.

"Strive with a will"

***John Sullivan***

# 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

**Chairman:**  
John Sullivan

**Secretary:**  
Chris Mann

**Members:**

Gary Anstey • Ian Breeze • Nick Hartley  
Alan Hunter • Paul Kennedy • Mark Lloyd  
Anthony Mann • Graeme Pressney • Graeme Wilson

## Alan Hunter



Played for OOFC: 1971-1972, 1995-current (played last season at 63!)

My first game: Can't remember opposition but played at Brook Farm for the 4th XI in 1971. Game got abandoned 10 minutes into the 2nd half due to Fog (visibility was a maximum of 10 feet. When the ref called off the game a lot of the players on both sides didn't realise that the game had been abandoned and was still on the field for quite a while.

Best memories: Making my debut for Old Owens F.C. 1st XI in 1972 and playing that season in a good side before leaving to play semi-pro. Also going on OOFC tours to France, Ireland and Holland.

none other than the incomparable Mr 'Simon Philpott' and when asked why, his reply was "I have always wanted to tickle a Trout"

I love OOFC because: The Club has always had a great camaraderie and I've seen no change in that in all the years that I have been involved. There have been some great characters and players and the football has also been of a decent standard with numerous trophies won amongst all the Old Owen's teams over the years.



**The Alan Hunter XI**

P.S. Don't be offended if you're not on the list as there are a number of other Old Owens players over the years that could quite easily have been included!

## Gary Anstey (Champers)

Played for OOFC: 1996 - 2015

My first game: 4th XI away to Lloyds Bank.

Best memories: James Hall's shirt swap away at Old Latymerians and winning countless playing titles in the middle order of the club. Also Celebrations as Chairman after the first eleven beat Winchmore Hill to the title with the last kick of the season in 2006.

Funniest stories: as 3rd eleven captain I am proud to have selected a back four of Parrot, Hawke, Bird and Robin. Unbelievable in the air.

Best moment has to be watching Graeme Wilson conceding a goal straight from the opposition keepers goal kick and then being sent off only 5 mins later....golden....



**The Champs XI**

Also having one of the opposition say to me " I might still be pi@~ed but have I just been nutmegged by Martin Chivers ?" - he had as Chivers played for us away to BOE for the 4th eleven.

I love OOFC because: of the 3 B's - Beer, Banter and Belly's appalling sense of style.

All time XI: Any eleven including Hally, Milo and the legendary rat Graeme Pressney

## Anthony Mann

1st game - 4th XI away at Firs Farm age 15. Won 4-1 and bagged a couple. Got pole axed by a fat full back in the second half! Played up front with Crew.

Best memory- scoring the injury time winner to beat Winchmore Hill to the title in 2006.

Funniest story- Flinty and Breezy Jr. pissing in Cheeko's hooch at a club dinner and letting him drink it.

I love OOFC - fell in love from day one and after 21 years of marriage, I can honestly say I've never looked at anyone else.



**The Mark Lloyd XI**



**The Nick Hartley XI**



**The Anthony Mann XI**



**The Graeme Wilson XI**

# LASER

## Metal Fabrication

Founded by Nottingham Forest captain Henri Lansbury, the Henri Lansbury Soccer School is based in Potters Bar and is dedicated to football coaching for the local community of Potters Bar.



**HENRI  
LANSBURY**  
SOCCER SCHOOL

The School offers holiday camps at Dame Alice Owens School, as well as birthday parties, individual one on one sessions and 'Monday Night Elite' sessions



If you would like to book on to a course, then please email [info@hlsoccerschool.co.uk](mailto:info@hlsoccerschool.co.uk).

For more information on us please visit [www.hlsoccerschool.co.uk](http://www.hlsoccerschool.co.uk), follow us on **Twitter** [@HLsoccerschool](https://twitter.com/HLsoccerschool) or like us on **Facebook** for regular updates.

# Club History

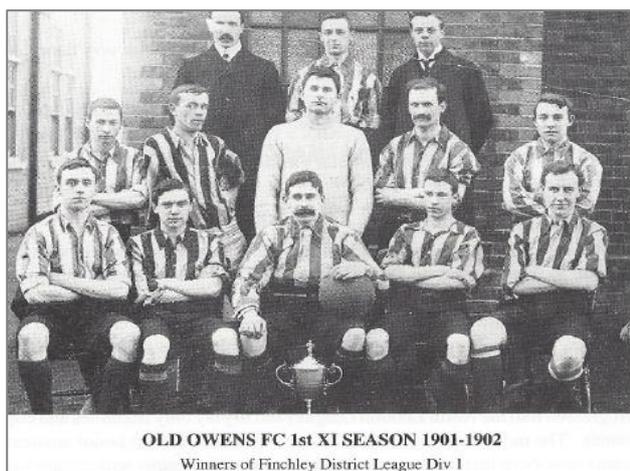
## *Humble beginnings in 1891*



A quick Google search tells us that 1891 was the year of the Great Blizzard in England, free schooling was provided for the first time and the first penalty kick in football was awarded. Basically, it was a slow news year. It was, however, the year that Old Owens Football Club was formed.

Initial details are sketchy but we do know that there was no WhatsApp team group to organise details, no one popped in to Sports Direct on the way to buy lurid orange boots and the league tables were not updated by the time you'd showered. It's impossible to imagine what playing football in 1891 entailed and the photo above looks like a few men in a field which is probably not far off.

We do know that OOFB was founded as part of an Owens School Old Boys initiative of the Owens Headmaster at a time, a chap called Reverend C Easterbrook. I'm quite sure he didn't expect his enterprise to still be in existence 125 years later. The first captain was MC Furtado (no relation to Nelly) and the first secretary was A H Feast (can't find on Twitter or Facebook). Despite not having our own grounds and having to rent a pitch at Highgate Playing Fields, 1891 was so successful (12 wins, 1 draw in 18 friendly matches) that two teams were run in the 1892/93 season.



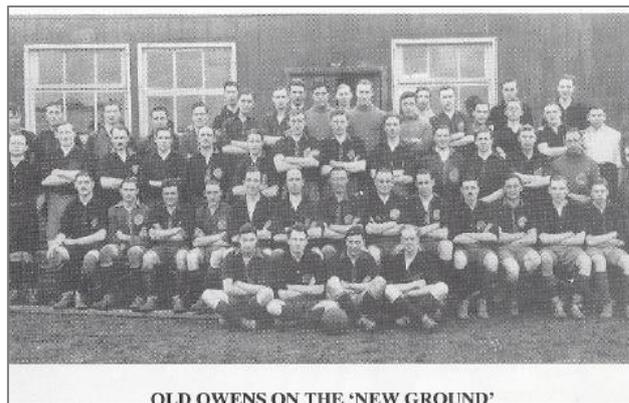
**OLD OWENS FC 1st XI SEASON 1901-1902**  
Winners of Finchley District League Div I

The promising start was short lived and, possibly due to the lack of a treasurer, the club was disbanded from 1893 to 1897. In 1898, Old Owens FC were back and, bar the odd World War, have been offering football ever since. October 1899's Arrow tells us that "Play begins 7<sup>th</sup> October. The club grounds are near East Finchley (GNR). There are two teams playing in the Finchley and District league. Annual subscription 10s 6d".

In the early 1900s, the first XI was promoted to Division One, three teams had been fielded and "a large contingent of last year's school team will this season don the far-famed chocolate and blue". In 1901/02, the first XI won the Finchley league (our first ever trophy). Sociability was as important as the game (some things don't change) and it was reported that

*"after an arduous match, both teams wended their weary steps to the Bald Faced Stag (Finchley) to refresh. About forty partook, and spirits waxed higher and higher... nearly everybody in the room proceeded to do his duty in the shape of a song or recitation. It was regrettable that George Tuck, the famous comic juggler, arrived too late to appear*

1904/05 saw a change to red and black halves (it seems in those days the club just took whatever Prostar kit was on offer) and a move to three pitches on Finchley Football Club's enclosure at Summers Lane and the dressing room was Park Road Hotel, Tally Ho Corner, where, after a match the Captain would entertain with tunes on his tin whistle.



**OLD OWENS ON THE 'NEW GROUND'**

In 1906 the 1<sup>st</sup> XI decided to give up league football and just play friendlies but by 1908 there was hope of a return to League Football with the formation of the Old Boys league but only the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> team entered. In 1909, we played several matches at Clacton on sea and in 1910 toured France and took on Le Harve Sports and Rouen FC. We returned in 1911 and Le Harve were beaten 7-3 with Furness scoring a hat trick and Martin a brace.

Back home, in 1911, we applied unsuccessfully to join the Southern Amateur League and Arthur Dunn Cup. Also, around this time, a group of football club members managed, led by Mr Chomle's visionary plan, to establish a school sports field at Whetstone.

In 1912, the club won its first major cup competition defeating Highgate FC in the Middlesex Charity Cup and in 1913 lost to the same club in the final.

The club officers elected for the 1914/15 season were A W Pryke 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain, W C Allison 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain and Secretary W E Curtis (bet he was no Forwell). But they never took to the field and the Arrow of November 1914 reported "The operations of this club are entirely suspended during the war"

Captain Pryke survived the war and the Old Boys played the School on Boxing Day 1918 with a report stating "A problem was presented to the

chronicler of these notes: *He did not know the players. The did not know him. The encroachments and demands of war had produced a situation involving a gap in the continuity of the life of the Old Boys*"



**WINNER OLD BOYS CUP 1920-1921**

G C Wilkins, L D Cowlshaw, J D Mathews (Hon Sec), H G Dixon, D S Gow, L A Strachan,  
N R Marshall, L F H Steed, W V Mathews, J L Edwards, W Lambert, H Edwards,  
C C Darwell, H White

However, in June 1919, a meeting was held to revive the Old Boys football (and swimming) clubs. During the first full season after the war 3 teams played 64 games and 18 were won and 40 lost. However, in 1921 the Old Boys Senior Cup was won at the first attempt.

There were five elevens in 1921/22. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished 8<sup>th</sup> in Division 2 of the SAL which was won by Cheshunt. Cambridge Town won Division 1. But competing for interest with events on the field was the plan to purchase an Old Boys Ground. Three thousand pounds was raised and the dream of a was realised and we managed to secure a 6-acre freehold site almost opposite the School ground in Chandos Avenue which became our home for 70 odd years. We began to play there in 1923.24 but it was reported that *"the new ground has advantages though conditions in general are not at their best"*

In 1925 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI once again abandoned league football for a *"cleaner football, a finer spirit and better enjoyment"* but the ban did not apply to cups and the 1<sup>st</sup> XI lost 4-3 to Old Bancrofts at Crystal Palace.

The immediate post second world war years (the club had survived the war by combining with Old Stationers) was really an epilogue to the previous chapter as many pre war players re-lived the joys of which the war had robbed them. Frank Bartlett led the team to the Championship of the SOL with a record number of points in 1948 when we fielded two elevens.

But, it was a brief Indian summer and, after the First World War, much had changed. The Old Boys, who had founded the club and built the ground with their own hands were a close knit group whose sporting and social lives intertwined. There was a very close connection with the school. There were many forces in the post war world working against this social cohesion. National Service, the greater number of Owenians going away for further education, earlier marriage and the intellectual climate of the time were a few. The close contacts with the school were not maintained.

Dave Pratt and George Cowan nursed the club through some difficult times. Gigs was secretary (bet he was no Forwell). Harold Whiting (another survivor from the 30's) continued as match secretary into the 60's. Pratt was a brilliant ball-player and Cowan one of the few that could move the shiny, dubbed cannon balls that "pop" Coleman used to produce for each match. Nevertheless, we were relegated in

1953 and through we bounced back in 1957(the year the new pavilion was built at the ground thanks to the generosity of hundreds of Old Boys) in 1962 we had descended to the depths of the third division.

1962/63 was the year of the big freeze with very little football possible after November although we did beat Corinthian Casuals in a match to celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school.

The thaw in 1964 nicely symbolised the end of a difficult period in the clubs history. Ray Coombes had joined the committee and was a major influence in the improvement in the clubs fortunes. Ricky MacWilliams became Captain and brought with him almost the complete school 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Geoff Hanlon, Peter Hamner, Dave Black, Paul Rowswell, John Hatcher, Roger McHugh, Gus Dennis, Ken Rowswell, Alan Every.

We went from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division in 2 years. In 1965, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI's topped their leagues. Old Owens were back. In the sixties and seventies John Hatcher, Ken Rowswell, Roger McHugh, Ernie Thornhill, Geoff Clark and John Sullivan each led the club in turn. The results did not always set the league on fire but the number of teams grew steadily

The first XI from 1972 to 1974 repeated the achievement of the sixties by going from Division 3 to Division 1 in 2 years, but the climax of the period was undoubtedly our first Old Boys Cup final win since 1938, a 3-0 victory over Old Parkonians at Lyonians.

**A few word from 'Gigs'**

To describe the thirties I must give way to one who witnessed it all. G I Gwyther, Mr Old Owen's FC. 'Gigs' was remarkable, because he was at every important Old Owen's event from the thirties to the eighties but seems never to have missed an Arsenal home game during that period.

"The twenties pass and merge into the thirties. Percy Martin as committee chairman has guided the destinies of the club faithfully and well. C E Collins, T W B Cornell, and the brothers Edwards have also done long stints as committee men.

A series of strong captains who knew what they wanted and saw they got it. F Waller, N R Mardall, E W Hamm and F E Cleary. A settled side dominated by the Hales, Duggan, Reekie and the aforesaid".

In the second XI Tubby Lockyer, Ken Bradburn, and Eric Mardall bore the brunt of the fray, while lower down C C Excell (his signature used to be on the pound note) quietly reorganised the fifth XI into a side that they were all proud to play for - ask Dallas Rose or Harold Pyzer".

**The record speaks for itself**

- 1931-32 Old Boys Minor Cup
- 1933-34 Old Boys Senior Cup v Old Mercers 2-1
- 1934-35 Old Boys Senior Cup v Old Grammarians 4-0
- 1935-36 Old Boys Senior Cup v Old Stationers 4-0
- 1936-37 Southern Olympian League champions
- 1937-38 Old Boys Senior Cup v Old Grammarians 2-1
- 1938-39 Middlesex AFA Senior Cup

In 1974/75, we fielded an 8<sup>th</sup> eleven under the captaincy of the late lamented Brain Staines. Close contacts with the school were resumed through Peter Salisbury, Jim Everton and Barney Barnett organised an eleven of school players. But already the school had opened in Potters Bar and soon it was closed completely at the Angel. It proved difficult to persuade boys to make the journey from Potters bar to Whetstone (was there no 94, 263 or Uber?) and gradually the number of teams was reduced to 4.

The cost of running the ground was a continual drain on the association's resources. It was no longer a centre of Old Boys activities and it was empty for all but the weekend. It was thought that if we moved to Potters Bar it would be better for the health of the Association and the Football Club.

Chairman, and long serving committee member Jock Martin played the same role as J F Oakes in the twenties and expended much time and energy in searching for a suitable site. For long it seemed hopeless but eventually the land off Coopers Lane became available and Old Owens FC was on the move again.



The years 1984-88 were difficult for the club, To the causes of decline which have been mentioned was added the problems which arose from having no ground of our own. For many years we played at Albany Park, Enfield, Many people worked very hard to keep the club going. Ian Dowty as chairman, Peter Salisbury as team manager and the club captains Tim Saxton and Steve Martin. In fact the results were not bad – both the second and third XIs won their divisions in 1986, but by 1988 we were running only two teams, neither of which completed their fixtures.

The situation was so desperate that it looked at one time, as if there would be no Old Owens Football Club to play on the magnificent new ground which was being built at Potters Bar.

A committee was formed to reorganise the club. Tony Beale and Brian Fry (star of the sixties) joined and so did Peter Salisbury. We got a shot in the arm when Ian Breeze decided to give up semi pro football with Boremwood to take on the captaincy of the club.

	1ST XI	2ND XI	3RD XI	4TH XI	5TH XI	6TH XI	7TH XI
66	S1 5	J1 4	A 4	C 5	E 3		
67	S1 5	J1 7	A 6	C 5	E 3		
68	S1 8	J1 8	A 7	C 3	E 6	F 9	
69	S1 10	J1 8	A 10	C 7	E 7		
70	S2 6	J1 9	B 7	C 3	F 10		
71	S2 7	J1 8	B 5	C 7	F 11		
72	S2 10	J1 10	B 4	C 8	F 11		
73	S3 2	J2 10	B 4	C 7	G 8	G 2	
74	S2 2	J3 6	B 7	C 6	G 4	F 10	G 3
75	S1 6	J3 3	B 5	C 8	F 3	4	
76	S1 10	J3 3	B 3	C 7	E 11		

All potential players were circularised. Ads were placed in the local press. Honorary member were asked for contributions and responded magnificently. When the first training session was held at the ground in August 1988, there were 30 to 40 new players with a sprinkling of “old timers” like Ken Rowswell, Roger Bradford and Graham Ciomber, the secretary.

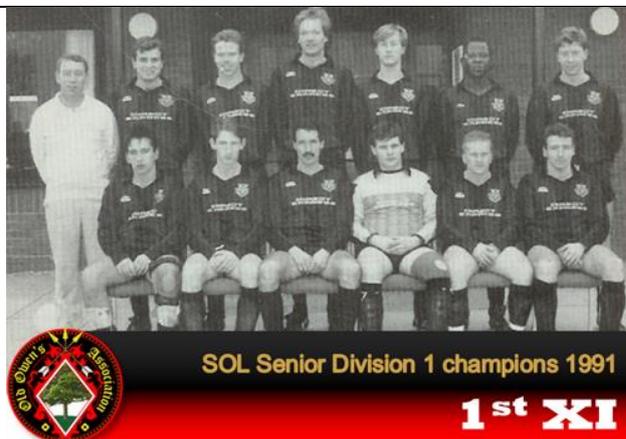
*John Sullivan, adapted from Les Williamson's Centenary article*

## The early years at Coopers Lane

It all started for me in January, 1988, with a meeting arranged by Les Williamson in the school library. Les, with George Kafkarkou, explained that OOFc was down to two teams; playing in Albany Park, Enfield, and arranging hospitality in a local pub opposite. OOFc had just been threatened with expulsion from The Southern Olympian League for some unsavoury disciplinary issues and failure to fulfil several fixtures. Les and George explained the potential of the football section, and showed me the plans of a new ground under construction in Potters Bar.

I was 34 and coming to the end of a very indifferent semi-professional football career. I needed a new challenge and it was a 'planets in alignment moment' for me. Although I had no experienced of AFA football, having been brought up in a completely different football culture, I was ready for a new lease of footballing life.

I relied heavily on George and Les in that first year; although I had persuaded Barry Cotton to be my assistant and Brian Salmon to run the reserves. That first season of 1988-89, we ran just the two sides. Clearly I had football contacts of my own, as well as some talented young players in my school senior teams to draw on. I remember the first game was a 1-1 draw at a club called Westerns FC. I basically transported my school team, plus George, in the school minibus! That 88/89 season saw us win Division 4 from Tansley (I immediately signed their two best players - the Hartley brothers). In that same season, Old Parmiterians were SOL Senior Division 1 champions and I coveted their success!



We had a massive boost when the Headmaster of the school, David Bolton, a football fanatic, readily persuaded the trustees to add further monies to the legacy of Fred Cleary (ex-army and ex centre half for OOFc in the 1930s). In Fred's will he had effectively left Harrock House, East Sussex, to the school for outdoor activities. The school was using it less and less since the move to Potters Bar. It now made sense to sell the house and, due to the specific instructions in Fred's will, the money was 'ring fenced' for developing the school's sporting reputation. The consequent construction of the school floodlit AstroTurf saw us regularly having upwards of 40 players to Tuesday night training over the next six years. This was real impetus and we soon pushed to four Saturday sides and then six, sometimes even seven.

The links with the old club from Chandos Avenue, Whetstone were still very much alive and active in the late 1980s. Jimmy Butler, George Kafkarkou, Neil Matthews, Tim Hall, Ken Rowswell, Chris Doughty, Keith Wright, Graeme Ciomber, Roger McHugh, Roger Bradford, Neil Martin, Dave Allen, Bob Pressney, Vince Yeudall and Les himself all continued playing in various capacities and teams. Les, in fact, started a Sunday side (The Strollers) which itself was a massive success and (present members please note) many of our players regularly represented OOFc twice in a weekend.

Throughout the 1990s we kept up the impetus. Boys from school had now graduated; perhaps most significantly Andy Battersby, who had completed his teacher training at Alsager. He duly brought two of his university friends to the club – Gary Stobbart and Jules Firth (my all-time OOFc favourite player by the way) – who were to play significant parts in our 1990s' successes. Glenn Pettengell had likewise been away to Exeter University and he persuaded their first team centre forward, Jerry Arnall to come and play for us. Along with the likes of Owenians, Vincent Tanner (ex QPR) Eddie Pritchard, Simon Collett, Dave Hammett, Mark Lloyd, Duncan Brown and Adam Cotton, OOFc started to dominate SOL football. Other players had joined us from local sides, and people such as Shane Davey, John Byford, Nick Hartley, Paul Wilkerson, Paul Randall, Steve Martin, Errol Ahmet and Andrew Emmanuel significantly strengthened our ranks. Several of us were regularly representing the league and AFA sides.

It was the culmination of our determination to improve which led to four consecutive seasons of league titles from 1988-92. Effectively we had re-invented ourselves. From almost being thrown out of SOL Senior Division 4, we had now won the SOL Senior Division 1 title in that short period.

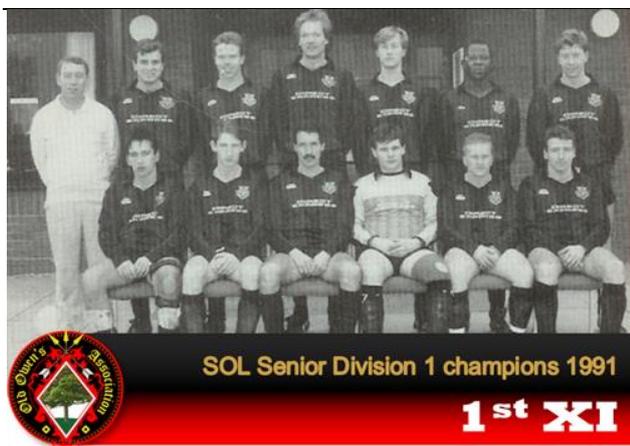
People often ask me about my most memorable moment with OOFc. It has to be that dressing room on Wimbledon Common after the final game (2-2 vs Witan FC) of the 91-92 season, where we had needed a point to win the SOL Div 1 title. I was sitting between my 18-year-old school goalie of the time, Gareth Thomas (now deceased) and Paul Randall. I can still recall that overwhelming feeling of completion and achievement.

We left the Southern Olympian league in 1999 for the 'greener pitches' of The Southern Amateur League, where we remain today as one of several strong traditional Old Boys' clubs (That is another story altogether, and one that I shall let others recount.)

We continue to compete in The Old Boys Cup and since 2000 have won it several times. However, it is notable, that in my time as player/captain, we won several league titles but never a cup. Incidentally, the AFA Senior Cup still remains elusive to all of us. Now there's an ongoing challenge!

*Ian Breeze*

## ***Striving with a will ... Into Our second Century!***



As the 100 year celebrations drew to a close in May 1991 with a fantastically well attended end of season black tie Centenary dinner at the school, attentions turned to the new season and indeed the new century.

Season 1991-92 was the 101st for Old Owen's Football Club and couldn't have been more exciting if it had been pre-scripted. In just the fourth season after the club had failed to complete its fixtures in the Southern Olympian League Senior Division 3 and had nearly gone out of existence, the 1st XI stood on the verge of making Southern Olympian League history by winning their fourth back to back title. No club had ever been Champions of Senior Division 4, 3, 2 and 1 in successive years, an achievement that would be even more remarkable given the clubs precarious position just 3 years earlier.

Still under the management of Ian Breeze and Barry Cotton the 1st XI remained a settled side and although only four of the squad (Andy Battersby; Vincent Tanner; Simon Collett and Ian Breeze himself) had

been ever present and would be able to complete the full set of four championship medals, most had been together for two or three years. As such a well-coached and ingrained 'Owen's' style of play had developed, based on two lightning fast attacking full backs (Simon Collett and David Hammett) that could both cross a ball and this saw the side make a very solid start to life in Senior Division 1. Still having only lost 2 league games in 3 seasons (both away) the fabulous new ground at Coopers Lane was now considered a real fortress. However, in game 5 of the season a shock 0-3 defeat against local rivals Mill Hill Village saw the unbeaten home record well and truly ended. Three down at half time the side did well to compose themselves and restrict the rampaging Village to scoreless second half.

In the end though it was Witan FC that pushed the Old Boys all the way with the title decider being played between the two on the very last day of the season at Witan. Owen's travelled with a coach full of supporters knowing that a draw would be sufficient to make them champions whilst Witan needed a win to give them the title. Owen's though were not going to be denied their place in SOL history and goals from Paul Randall and Andy Battersby earned a 2-2 draw and completed the unprecedented journey from rock bottom to top and four Championships in four seasons.

Over the next four seasons the club continued to grow in strength with all 6 Saturday sides, the well-established Sunday Strollers and 2 Vets sides registering numerous successes. The 1994-95 season saw both the 2nd and 3rd XIs complete respective league and cup doubles having both already reached the top divisions in their league sections. The 1st XI never finished out of the top 3 in SOL Senior 1 and reclaimed the title once again in 1995-96 after losing out the previous season in a last day decider to yes, Witan, who gained revenge for 3 years earlier.



By the end of the 1995-96 season the club felt it had gone as far as it could in Southern Olympian Football and with a heavy heart, after the support and compassion the SOL had provided a decade before when the club was struggling, Old Owen's applied to join the Southern Amateur League where it was perceived the depth of quality might provide sterner tests for our Saturday sides. And so the next chapter of the Old Owen's FC history was launched at the start of the 1996-97 season now as a Southern Amateur League club.

Indeed, the Southern Amateur League did immediately present all six Saturday sides with a stiffer challenge week in and week out, but league successes quickly arrived as the sides started to embed

## Twenty first century



The new century culminated with a changing of the guard and a new crop of players (John Sullivan, Jamie Bird, Anthony Mann, Sam Sullivan amongst them – all hat trick SAL Division 1 title winners) were fast making their name for their selves in the 1st XI. The 1999/00 season ended with the 1st Xi register a respectable 5th place finish in their first ever campaign in the SAL Senior 1. The 2nd XI were just piped to the SAL Intermediate 1 title however it wouldn't be long until the club would be celebrating its maiden sectional top flight title in the SAL.

Continuing the upward curve in performance, the 1st XI improved on the previous year by securing the runners up spot in SAL Senior 1 however it was the 3rd XI who won the plaudits as they bagged the SAL Junior 1 championship for the first time. It marked the start of what can only be described as a golden era for the club as trophies were won in virtually every season thereafter.

themselves within the new league and work their way up their respective divisions. The first season saw the 1st and 2nd XIs both promoted and the 4th XI crowned champions. 1997/98 saw the 1st XI finish mid-table but once again the 2nd XI won promotion and this time it was the 3rd XI that finished in top spot. By the 1998/99 season the 1st XI had got to grips with the requirements of SAL football and narrowly missed out on the title but ensured promotion to the top flight of the Southern Amateur League, the target achieved in just three seasons, and set up a first tilt at winning the Senior Division 1 title at the very start of the new millennium.

### Andy Battersby

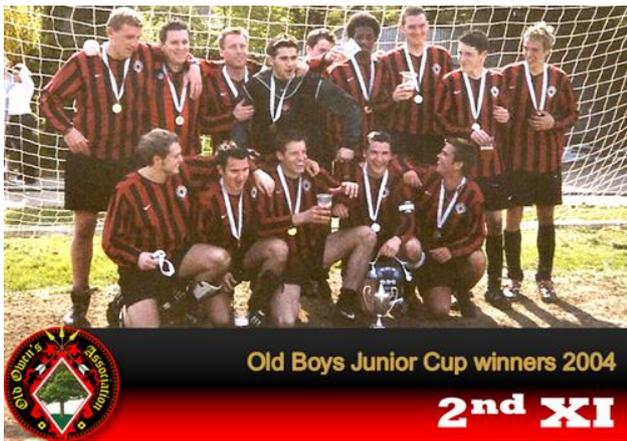


**The Andy Battersby XI**

The 2001/02 season was an up-and-down campaign for the lower XIs, however for the 1st XI, it ended in triumph as they captured the SAL Senior 1 league trophy for the first time. Many 1st XI players in the SAL toil away without ever getting close to being crowned champions and owner of the "best team in the SAL" tag. For some in this team, this wouldn't be the only time they could boast this accolade.

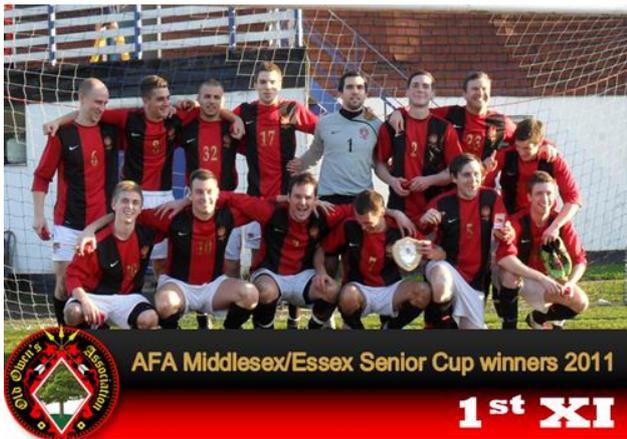


The 1st XI couldn't retain or match the heights of the 2001/02 season over the next couple of campaigns but that didn't mean the trophies stopped. In 2003 the 4th XI won SAL Minor 2 and the 2nd XI lifted the Old Boys Cup in 2003. In 2004 the 1st XI won the Old Boys Cup for the first time in 30 years. It would prove to be the first in a hat-trick of Old Boys Cups and a period of domination in this competition. The 2nd XI also successfully defended their Old Boys Cup and the 6th XI were also victorious in their Old Boys Cup final. The coach journey home from Old Salesians where the finals were played was certainly a very rowdy one that day.



2005 brought yet more wins for the 1st XI and 6th XI in the Old Boys Cups as the club dominated the field in this competition. It was no surprise that to Owenians this cup was fast becoming known as the Old Owens cup. To 2006 and that quite famous and unforgettable Friday night game in mid May immediately springs to mind. You will have heard about it (and if not can read further about it in this programme!) However, suffice to say it was a truly magical night, and all those who were there at the after party at the Pressney's to celebrate the SAL Senior 1 triumph will treasure those memories for a very long time. It was nearly a treble for the 1st XI as they won the Old Boys Cup for the 3rd successive season, but narrowly lost to old rivals Winchmore Hill in the AFA Senior Cup. The 2s got back to winning ways in the Old Boys Cup by lifting it once more. The 4th XI also embarked on their domination of the Old Boys Cup by winning the first of 4 cups to be won over just 5 seasons. The 6th XI also won SAL Minor 3 North to complete a trophy laden season for the Os.

2007 served up no league titles for this campaign but the 2nd XI, 4TH XI & 6th XI were all victorious in the Old Boys Cup. The 4th XI also went down in club history by being the first and only Owens side to lift the AFA Cup at any level as they secured the AFA Minor Cup by defeating Alexandra Park (see "Immortals" article". An unprecedented cup treble was cruelly denied by a penalty shoot-out defeat in the SAL Cup final.



2008 was the year of the Old Boys Cup. The 1st X, 2nd XI, 3rd XI and 4th XI were all winners of their respective cups. Without delving deep into the annals of history, we're pretty sure this is the first time one club has held the top 4 cups in this competition. The 1st XI completed a couple double by winning the AFA Middlesex cup for the first time in 69 years with a 1-0 victory over Norsemen at Bealonians. Nick Metivier scored the only goal.

Just the 2nd XI's Old Boys Cup win to celebrate come the end of the 2008/09 season however what was remarkable about this feat was the fact it was their 8th consecutive final appearance. Although they haven't won any cups since, to put this into context they won 6 cups in that golden 8 year period having won 1 Old Boys Cup in the previous 51 seasons.

2010 saw unremarkable finish for the club in the league but the trusty Old Boys Cup produced more silverware for the 4th & 6th XIs respectively. 2011 surprisingly brought no glory in the Old Boys Cup but it did bring championship celebrations for the 2nd XI (SAL Intermediate 1) and 3rd XI (SAL Junior 1). With the 1st XI finishing runners up to rivals Nottsborough, the club could lay claim to have the strongest top 3 XIs in the entire AFA.

2010/11 saw the 1st XI win the Middlesex cup for the second time in four years with a 1-0 win over EBOGs at Actonians. Paul Pressney scored the winning goal and John Sullivan saved a late penalty to ensure the trophy returned to Coopers Lane.

A quiet 2011/12 season saw mid-table finished aplenty but the 5th XI finally broke their duck by lifting the SAL Minor 2 North title – the team's first ever trophy! The 3rd XI also won the SAL Junior Cup for the first time, coming back in dramatic style by turning around a 2-0 deficit to a 3-2 win in the final 5 mins of play. 2012/13 season was also a quiet affair but the 6th XI rounded it off in style by winning SAL Minor 4 North.



Much like Alex Ferguson, the 1st XI underwent a rebuild and new players such as Neil Robinson, Josh Smith, Josh Thomson and the capture of AFA Captain Peter Eguee who arrived from Meadonians to make the backbone of a new look side after half a decade of near misses. The new faces proved to be inspired as the 1st XI took the SAL Senior 1 title in strange fashion... local rivals Winchmore Hill (who couldn't catch the Os) defeating the only team who could (Old Wilsonians) in a match played at the School. Wild celebrations ensued and another Owens party was ready to be launched.

The last two seasons have been challenging for the club as older members retire and signing up younger members to match their outgoing quality & experience has been the aim. Since the advent of the new century, the club had only experienced two trophyless seasons and it's clear a rebuild is needed to kick-start another golden period. That said, the 3rd XI signed off last season by winning the Old Boys Minor Cup and the SAL Junior Cup. With the promotion of players from this team, the influx of some excellent school lads, return of some University graduates and a recruitment drive, there's every reason to be optimistic over the coming seasons.

*Graeme Wilson*

# The Next 125



Despite our glorious history, envied amenities and apparent position of strength, Old Owens FC is currently not in a great situation and faces an uncertain future. Along with many amateur clubs, we have been struggling to recruit the next generation of players and officials alike. It seems the kids of today have other things to do on a Saturday and would rather play Power league on a Thursday night and watch football on TV than play on a Saturday. We have failed to fulfil our fixtures for the last 5 seasons now and have gone from running 7 teams to just 4 and have had big discipline issues.

It's an embarrassing and worrying situation. In the foreseeable future, we can only see the situation getting worse as numbers dwindle further

and people are less willing to take up positions as captains or on the committee. The threat of Old Owens FC going out of existence is a real one and we urge anyone reading this that could help to step forward. The real dream is for us to raise the funds (£150k) to turn the derelict tennis courts at Coopers Lane into a 4G Astro turf. This would help attract the next generation of local kids to the club and give OOFc a training facility to match our pitches. This relies upon fund raising and donations as we are not in a strong position to apply for the necessary grants.

## Honours

### **1st XI**

- 3 x SAL Senior Division 1
- 4 x SOL Senior Division 1
- 3 x SOL Senior Division 2
- 2 x SOL Senior Division 3
- 1 x SOL Senior Division 4
- 2 x Finchley & District League Division 1
- 2 x AFA Greenland Cup
- 3 x AFA Middlesex/Essex Senior Cup
- 11 x Old Boys Senior Cup
- 2 x Potters Bar Charity Cup
- 1 x Middlesex FA Charity Cup

### **2nd XI**

- 1 x SAL Intermediate Division 1
- 1 x SOL Intermediate Division 1
- 2 x SOL Intermediate Division 2
- 2 x SOL Intermediate Division 3
- 1 x SOL Intermediate Division 4
- 1 x AFA Middlesex Junior Cup
- 2 x SOL Intermediate Cup
- 7 x Old Boys Junior Cup

### **3rd XI**

- 2 x SAL Junior Division 1
- 1 x SAL Junior Division 2
- 1 x SAL Junior Division 3
- 1 x SOL Junior Division 2
- 1 x SOL Junior Division 4
- 2 x SOL Minor Division A
- 2 x SOL Minor Division B
- 1 x SOL Minor Division C
- 1 x Old Boys League Division 2
- 2 x SAL Junior Cup
- 2 x Old Boys Minor Cup

### **4th XI**

- 1 x SAL 4th Team Division 2
- 1 x SAL 4th Team Division 3
- 1 x SOL Minor Division B
- 1 x SOL Minor Division E
- 1 x SOL Minor Division F
- 1 x SOL Minor Division G
- 1 x AFA Minor Cup
- 2 x SOL Mander Cup
- 5 x Old Boys 4th XI Cup

### **5th XI**

- 1 x SAL Minor Division 2 North
- 1 x Old Boys 5th XI Cup

### **6th XI**

- 1 x SAL Minor Division 3 North
- 1 x SAL Minor Division 4 North
- 1 x SOL Minor Division E
- 5 x Old Boys 6th XI Cup

### **Vets**

- 1 x Barnet Sunday League Vets Division
- 2 x Mid-Herts Vets League
- 1 x Barnet Sunday League Vets Cup
- 1 x Barnet Sunday League 50th Anniv. Cup

# Winning Years

1901-02	1st		Finchley & District League Division 1	1997-98	3rd		SAL Junior Division 3
1902-03	1st		Finchley & District League Division 1	1998-99	3rd		SAL Junior Division 2
1911-12	1st		Middlesex FA Charity Cup	1999-00	1st		Potters Bar Charity Cup
1920-21	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup	2000-01	3rd		SAL Junior Division 1
1924-25	2nd		SOL Junior Division 2	2001-02	1st		SAL Senior Division 1
1925-26	3rd		OBL Old Boys League Division 2	2002-03	1st		AFA Greenland Cup
1930-31	3rd		SOL Minor Division A	2002-03	2nd		Old Boys Junior Cup
1933-34	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup	2002-03	4th		SAL 4th Team Division 2
1934-35	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup	2002-03	6th		Old Boys 6th XI Cup
1935-36	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup	2003-04	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup
1936-37	1st		SOL Senior Division 1	2003-04	2nd		Old Boys Junior Cup
1936-47	1st		SOL Senior Division 1	2004-05	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup
1937-38	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup	2004-05	6th		Old Boys 6th XI Cup
1938-39	1st		AFA Middlesex Senior Cup	2005-06	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup
1938-39	2nd		AFA Middlesex Junior Cup	2005-06	1st		SAL Senior Division 1
1956-57	1st		SOL Senior Division 2	2005-06	2nd		Old Boys Junior Cup
1963-64	1st		SOL Senior Division 3	2005-06	4th		Old Boys 4th XI Cup
1964-65	1st		SOL Senior Division 2	2005-06	6th		SAL Minor Division 3 North
1964-65	2nd		SOL Junior Division 2	2006-07	2nd		Old Boys Junior Cup
1964-65	3rd		SOL Minor Division B	2006-07	4th		AFA Minor Cup
1967-68	4th		SOL Mander Cup	2006-07	4th		Old Boys 4th XI Cup
1969-70	4th		SOL Mander Cup	2006-07	6th		Old Boys 6th XI Cup
1973-74	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup	2007-08	1st		AFA Middlesex/Essex Senior Cup
1979-80	3rd		SOL Minor Division C	2007-08	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup
1980-81	4th		SOL Minor Division G	2007-08	2nd		Old Boys Junior Cup
1981-82	3rd		SOL Minor Division B	2007-08	3rd		Old Boys Minor Cup
1981-82	4th		SOL Minor Division F	2007-08	4th		Old Boys 4th XI Cup
1982-83	2nd		SOL Intermediate Division 4	2008-09	1st		AFA Greenland Cup
1985-86	3rd		SOL Junior Division 4	2008-09	1st		Potters Bar Charity Cup
1985-96	2nd		SOL Intermediate Division 3	2008-09	2nd		Old Boys Junior Cup
1985-96	2nd		SOL Intermediate Division 3	2009-10	4th		Old Boys 4th XI Cup
1988-89	1st		SOL Senior Division 4	2009-10	6th		Old Boys 6th XI Cup
1989-90	1st		SOL Senior Division 3	2010-11	1st		AFA Middlesex/Essex Senior Cup
1990-91	1st		SOL Senior Division 2	2010-11	2nd		SAL Intermediate Division 1
1990-91	4th		SOL Minor Division E	2010-11	3rd		SAL Junior Division 1
1991-92	1st		SOL Senior Division 1	2011-12	5th		SAL Minor Division 2 North
1991-92	3rd		SOL Minor Division A	2012-13	3rd		SAL Junior Cup
1992-93	4th		SOL Minor Division B	2012-13	5th		Old Boys 5th XI Cup
1993-94	2nd		SOL Intermediate Cup	2012-13	6th		SAL Minor Division 4 North
1994-95	2nd		SOL Intermediate Cup	2013-14	1st		Old Boys Senior Cup
1994-95	2nd		SOL Intermediate Division 1	2013-14	1st		SAL Senior Division 1
1994-95	3rd		SOL Junior Division 2	2013-14	Vets		Mid-Herts Vets League
1994-95	6th		SOL Minor Division E	2014-15	Vets		Mid-Herts Vets League
1995-96	1st		SOL Senior Division 1	2015-16	3rd		Old Boys Minor Cup
1995-96	6th		Old Boys 6th XI Cup	2015-16	3rd		SAL Junior Cup
1996-97	2nd		Old Boys Junior Cup	2015-16	Vets		Barnet Sunday League 50th Anniversary Vets Cup
1996-97	4th		Old Boys 4th XI Cup	2015-16	Vets		Barnet Sunday League Vets Cup
1996-97	4th		SAL 4th Team Division 3	2015-16	Vets		Barnet Sunday League Vets Division

# Old Owens Legend: *Brien Martin*



As most of you are aware my father Brien was the main person that was responsible for the Club's move from our old ground in Chandos Avenue, Whetstone to our new ground at Coopers Lane, Potters Bar. A few people have asked me how the move came about and indeed what his role was in all this, so here is my version of events.

Brien was a very proud Owenian and was a true example of how Dame Alice wanted to help the poor children in Islington to be able to have a chance good education, he went on in life to become a very successful businessman, but he never forgot his roots and was always grateful for the values that being at Owens taught him and prepared him for life.

He absolutely loved the club and from a very early age took an active role within the Old Owens Association, from captaining different sides to being fixture secretary then secretary and Chairman of the club for many years, as well as different committee posts which used to drive my mother mad.

I spent all my weekend time at Old Owens and seemed to grow up at Chandos Avenue, Dad playing football, often Mum in the kitchen doing the teas etc, in fact we even got her tiling the old showers in the dressing room with me doing the grouting as the club had hardly any money.

When the school moved, it became apparent that the club was not going to survive unless we moved closer to the school as times had changed and local clubs were taking on the players and Old Owens FC was really struggling, as much as we all loved our club at Chandos we had to be brave and move, to be fair the committee had foreseen this, but there was a reluctance to change, there was also a lack of available suitable sites, in fact there weren't any, especially as we had no money.

In order to strengthen our bargaining position Chandos was put up for sale by tender, there was a good response but everything was subject to complicated planning issues, which in all probability would not have been granted. When all seemed lost we were approached by an obscure religious group who were prepared to pay £900,000 and delay completion for a year to enable us to find alternative accommodation, which was still a difficult task. Then a friend of the family who owned our neighbours Chas Storer Ltd suggested the land at the back of his yard might be suitable and my father pursued this with vigour in fact he worked on it tirelessly, a deal was agreed to purchase the 10-acre site, as the club had no money my father secretly (to us) paid the deposit and we went to obtain planning permission.

Unfortunately, the school is in Hertsmere and the land was in Welwyn & Hatfield so the planners were not as amenable as we originally thought and they refused the application on the basis of loss of agricultural land (it was redundant) and the intrusion onto the green belt, they also added that the new ground would be of no benefit to the local community!

My father took all this on board and was outraged by this and hired top people to appeal against the decision, I remember the day before the inspector was due to visit the site my father was worried about the access as it was really overgrown, so when we finished Sunday lunch we raided our shed jumped into his car and in the pouring rain set about cutting back the offending bushes and trees, it paid off as the inspector commented he was a bit concerned about the access but it all seemed fine now, phew!

We won the appeal but it had a lot of restrictions on it, which would have meant that we wouldn't really be able to operate, so another appeal was lodged and with a lot of negotiating we managed to get a solution by proving that we had operated the Sports Club at Chandos Avenue which was surrounded by houses and not had any issues.

After playing on too many waterlogged pitches over the years, he was determined that we provided a top class facility and employed a specialist consultancy to make sure we were going to have the best pitches around, that was his desire and I think we can all agree he succeeded.

I hope this gives you an idea how Coopers Lane evolved and lets all help out to keep our much loved club flourishing.

## Neil Martin



***The Neil Martin XI***

# Old Owens Legend: *Ken Rowswell*

Ken played for Old Owens Football Club for an incredible 41 years, starting out as a 15-year-old in the 1959/60 season and was still going aged 57 in 2006. He attended Owens school when it was based in Islington, lives in Potters Bar now and still plays cricket for Old Owens, aged 72.

**The start:** "It all began for me in 1960. Me and two other schoolboys (Ricky McWilliam and Alan Every) were asked to play for the 3rd XI towards the end of the 1959/60 season. We were aged 15 and it was an honour, if you were asked to play for Old Owens, you played. We all met outside the school gate at Islington and a car picked us up and drove us to Hackney Marshes to play Old Bealonians. I remember wearing a maroon kit and the pitch not being brilliant. I played right half and we ran out 2-1 winners. There were cow troughs to wash in after the game! We had a drink and were driven back to the school and told to be in the same spot the following week.

**Chandos Avenue:** "Chandos was no frills and we expected mud and puddles! The changing rooms were lethal for splinters too! But, the showers worked and we were proud to call it home. We had some great games and nights there and everyone stayed after for drinks and all the teams playing away always came back too. It was emotional to leave but the club had to in order to survive.

**Great moments:** "Looking back, there were so many good times over the years. I remember we all used to get the train to south London away games and there was one driver. He always used to take the kit but we always used to meet under the clock at Waterloo the following week to retrieve it! On the pitch, the pinnacle was winning the Old Boys cup in 1974. The club hadn't won it for nearly 50 years and we used to get a lot of grief for that. It was the Holy Grail for us and we constructed a team capable of winning it. We had a cracking team and got to the final against Old Parkonians at Old Lyonians. A funny story from that day was John Hitchen, who had been brilliant all season thought he needed a "little extra" and dropped a few "uppers" before the game in the hope he could run faster! He had an absolute shocker but luckily it didn't matter as we won 3-0. That team were all ex Owenians which made it even more special.



**My OOFC legends:** "There were so many great players and blokes but the one that will always stand out is Les Williamson. He will always be "The Legend" to me and so many. He was a superb all round sportsman. On the football pitch, he was the only man I ever knew who used to shout "goal" as he was dribbling and about 10

seconds before he inevitably scored! More than that though, he was great guy who always played the game in the right manner. He was only ever booked once and that was when he sold a dummy and ran into the ref! Brilliant in the bar, he never smoked but boy could he drink. He was instrumental in the history of the club.

**The move to Potters Bar:** "After the school moved to Potters Bar in 1975, schoolboys lacked the motivation to travel from PB to Chandos and we were unable to stay in touch with the youth. We became unable to field sides and the social side died. There was a time when we truly didn't think we would have a club anymore and dropped to just two sides from a high of 8. Luckily, we had people who cared and stuck around to turn the club around, people like Graeme Ciomber and Brien Martin. Without these guys, we wouldn't have made it. Brien Martin had the foresight that we needed to move to Potters Bar and made it happen, the site, the funds, the negotiations; it was all down to Brien. The new ground gave us the impetus to grow the club again and from there it just mushroomed, we had fantastic facilities and we went from strength, both in terms of the number of teams and the success of them.



**The Ken Rowswell XI**

**Why I love OOFC:** "It's all about the fun, the camaraderie, the stupidity in the changing room and the friends for life. Winning was a bonus but Old Owens was a major part of my life, indeed it still is. It's a fantastic club and I don't think enough people realise how lucky we are to still be going strong with such fantastic facilities. It upsets me greatly to hear that the youth of today are too busy today on their phones and doing other things than to play football on a Saturday.

**All time OOFC XI:** "This is tough as I played with so many players and so many fantastic ones across many eras. We are playing an old fashioned-3-2-2-3.

This team would have taken some beating, it has a great mix of no nonsense, hard tackling defenders and a real sprinkling of class further up the pitch. Geoff Hanlon (Donkey Bollocks) was a great keeper and the three at the back were old school defenders who took no prisoners – they wouldn't stay on the pitch these days! The midfield has creativity all through it and Alan Every had pace and a shot like a bullet! Alan Hunter was a complete footballer as were Billy Morgan, John Sullivan and Ricky McWilliams. Les Williamson is my captain and picks himself for his class on and off the pitch! Steve Rothberg is out of position but would have been lucky to play in this team! I am not sure he would have kept up with us off the pitch mind!

# Old Owens Legend: *Ian Breeze*

I have been involved in football for 31 years and been playing for Owens school or Old Owens FC for 27 of those years. I have had lots of managers, coaches and captains but no one has ever come close to Ian Breeze. With Breezey, as soon as you join the school or play under his guidance, you are educated to play football in the right way (ball on the floor). But, far more than that he teaches people to enjoy playing football, to play with the right spirit, to fight to the end and to enjoy success but always be honorable in defeat.

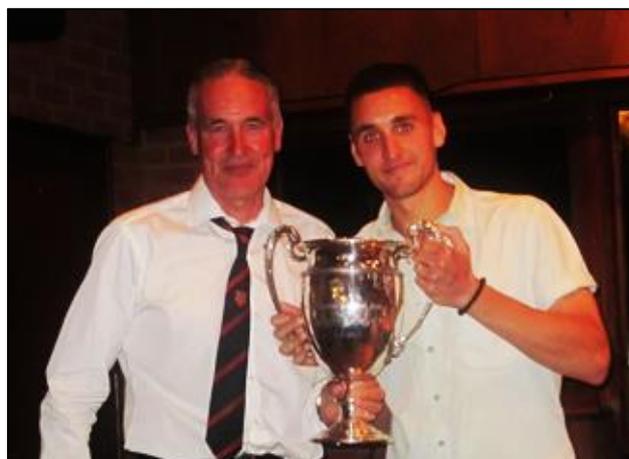
His contribution with OOFc transcends winning a title or ten but to every detail of the football club. If there was a new fence erected at Coopers Lane, the chances are Breezey varnished it when his wife, Marina, thought he'd popped out for a paper. Things we take for granted like the box goals, ball saving nets behind the goal and dugouts were all made possible with his efforts and foresight. The new Owens school 1st XI pitch, which homes one of the best pitches in Hertfordshire, was one of his best ideas and now provides us with an immaculate pre season and end of season surface when the Coopers Lane pitches are not available and is the envy of the AFA.

Ian's involvement with Old Owens began in 1988 when he gave up semi pro football to help rescue the club as they went through a difficult time before the move to Potters Bar. He came as 1st XI captain alongside the great, late Barry Cotton and there are great stories of him (better told by Ian himself in this programme) being driven around south London by Bazza to the AFA outposts.

I first came across Breezey when I joined Owens school in 1989. As an 11 year what I remember was how respected he was by pupils, teachers and parents alike. I also remember how simple he made the game and my, already beyond help, passion for football grew under his tutelage at Owens school. The pinnacle was winning the Herts County cup at Letchworth Garden City with a penalty in extra time after Breezey had got us out the game "lucky" seven minutes before kick off.



***The Ian Breeze XI***



***Breezey (left) with the SAL championship trophy***

At Old Owens, he has played, captained and managed most sides and continues to run the first XI to this day. He even turned out for them in an Old Boys Cup game last season at the ripe old age of 62. He didn't let anyone down by all accounts but needs to work on his stamina and positional play. For many the stand out moment was that never to be forgotten late drama against Winchmore Hill on a Friday night in May 2006, but just as importantly were those other moments when there weren't 250 people watching with the ultimate glory riding on it. The 1-0 victory over Civil Service in 2014/15 when we had the bare XI but his words that we were "the XI that cared and would get us the win we needed" sent us out to scrape a win against all odds that helped us extend our record breaking stay in the top division of SAL football.

Breezey loves nothing more than "bar talk" after a game, with players, opposition or dissecting a controversial decision with the match officials. However, he is just as likely to be in basking in the glory of his own 1st XI victory as the success of a new player or schoolboy who has made a debut for the 5th team. He loves half a bitter on as Saturday night, although as the night wears on is an expert as depositing unwanted pints behind the curtain at Old Owens.

To have given as much as he has to the club, you need boundless enthusiasm, extensive ideas on improvements and immeasurable contacts to make them happen as well as a very patient and loving wife (hello Marina). Few would even be aware of the lengths he has gone to for OOFc essentially a volunteer and he continues to take on thankless tasks without complaint. Sorting the clubs age old changing room problem is his latest project and another one that looks like bearing fruit. The club owes a huge gratitude to Sir Ian and we should be proud to call him one of our own.

## **John Sullivan**

# Old Owens Legend: *Les Williamson*



Les grew up not far from Dame Alice Owens School in Islington, his father was a dairyman and Les lived above the stables. The Williamson's were quite religious and every night he would say his prayers 'Please bless mummy & daddy and please let me go to Owens School, not Medburn School in Euston! Luckily for the Old Owens, his prayers were answered.

In the 1970s and 80s the Southern Olympian League were blessed with four amateur after dinner speakers namely Geoff Brown (Old Grammarians) Brian Robinson (Old Parmiterians) Del Steward (Old Monovians) and the master of them all, Les Williamson.

Les was highly sought after as an after dinner speaker and dinners that he spoke at were always sell outs. There was always an area of excitement when Les spoke. One never knew what Les would say (and neither did he sometimes) as his speeches were always highly original, he was a natural comedian and wordsmith which is why he was regarded so very highly as a copywriter.

It cannot be denied that Les did like a drink or three before he spoke but it was always better when he was more sober than the audience.

It was also better when he was the first speaker on the card rather than the last because whenever he spoke last both he and the audience had a lot to drink and this didn't improve his performance or their ability of the captive audience to listen and appreciate.

Les was never a joke teller as such, although the Les Williamson 'joke' is told annually at the AFA veteran's lunch of which Les was a founder member and at the first event held at CUACO in the City of London in the 90s he wrote and 'sang' a song entitled 'Thanks for the Memories, one line of which stands out.

'Thanks for the memories of sausage chips and beans at Bealonians and Finchleians'

Consequently, it was very difficult for other speakers to 'borrow' any of his lines. All of his material was written by him for him, in his own style which made it impossible for it to be adapted, or adopted, by anybody

Many of his routines were legendary, for example 'Albert goes to France' with his own unique version of Franglais and the 'Toe Punting' routine for which he used a hand drawn visual aid on a piece of white cardboard.

Cricket was also a target for him, the right handed batsman who had been reading a left-handed batsman's instruction manual needed him personally to demonstrate this technique with a miniature cricket bat, whilst standing at the top table.

A personal favourite of many was the 'Waterloo Bridge' routine that Les changed each time depending on whether the audience understood why he was engaged in a conversation with somebody on the platform of a bus crossing Waterloo Bridge, which coincidentally was where the offices of the Advertising Agency, he worked for were situated.

Les was a great person to chat and drink with and was highly intelligent and well read. He was a magnificent footballer a Cambridge Blue who ended up playing in goal for Old Owens when he could no longer run and mesmerise the opposition as he did in his youth.

He loved the school and the 'old boys' and encouraged many boys to join the club, often giving lifts to players to far flung AFA grounds south of the river. He was famous among all AFA clubs and beyond and probably the most well-known Owenian of his time and it is fitting that he has had a room named after him at the club.

## Bob Leeds

# Old Owens Legend: *Barry Cotton*



In 1988, when Old Owens' Football Club 'resurrected itself from the ashes,' it was Barry Cotton who volunteered himself as Match and Referees Secretary for the club.

The league had made clear to us at the time that, despite our new ground, no excuses would be tolerated by The Southern Olympian League with regards to our previously appalling administration record!

Not only did Barry volunteer to take on this onerous role, he also agreed to become my assistant in running the First Team. This allowed me the freedom to play for fun, and I shall always be grateful to 'Bazza' for that. At the age of 34, the next four years were to be the most enjoyable seasons I had in the game, because Barry and I were really building something special.

The records will show that those four years, which culminated in the club's centenary, were amongst the most successful of its history. Barry had played in The SOL with his beloved Tansley FC, based in Canons Park. His vast array of contacts and ability to get on with all the officers of the league ensured OOF's reputation improved with each ensuing season. At a time before sat-navs and mobile data, Barry was integral in ensuring that we actually found our way to all the grounds in the London area. His knowledge of routes, 'snarl ups,' and of course train schedules, was absolutely invaluable.

Barry nearly always drove me to the games, so we spent many a long hour en-route planning and dissecting matches. To be in Barry's company on those journeys during 1988-92 years - when we won four successive SOL titles - was indeed a privilege. He was always calm and never got carried away with the result. He would just analyse the game and then plan the next. He was generous in his praise and conservative in his criticisms.

Barry actually played at left back for us in 1988/89, against ElectroSport, where we drew 2-2. We had turned up with only ten men and I persuaded him to don the number 3 shirt. Without ever

approaching his own half way line, Barry played a consistent and steady role for us that day. This is a perfect reflection of his voluntary role at the club. He managed to bring us respectability and organisation within AFA circles. Above all, the players loved being in his company and many of you reading this will have your own particular memories of Bazza. It is appropriate on this occasion to recall his selfless, quiet and modest achievements on OOF's behalf.

Enjoy your evening. Barry would have loved it!

## Ian Breeze



*The Adam Cotton XI*

# POTTERS BAR STATION CARS



- **FAST RELIABLE & PROMPT SERVICE**

- **OPEN 24 HOURS**

- **7 DAYS A WEEK**

**01707 888 777**



THE UK'S  
LEADING  
EXPERTS IN  
GREEN ROOFS

[ecogreenroofs.co.uk](http://ecogreenroofs.co.uk) | 0800 634 7035

# Great Moments

In term of OOFc great moments, it is impossible to look beyond that incredible night on the 12th May 2006 when we pipped Winchmore Hill to the league in the most dramatic circumstances you could ever imagine. All league games were finished apart from the two OOFc v Winchmore Hill games and we needed to win them both to be crowned Champions.



We beat them 3-2 twice in 4 days with no margin for error and having been beaten by them in the AFA Cup Final. We trailed them by 15 points in March and having taken 12 points from the first 8 games we took 31 from the last 36 available to take the title. That in itself was an amazing achievement, to win the SAL, to come from behind, to make up the points and to have never been at the top of the league the entire season until injury time in the very last game against our biggest rivals who had beaten us in the AFA Cup Final a month before. You couldn't make that up.

But this victory was about so much more than this. It was a victory that was reward for our dedication, and for our quality but mainly about doing things the right way, playing attractive football and about playing football for enjoyment. It's a long story but 5 games into the season, I met a guy called Jon Mac who expressed his interest in becoming our manager with me his assistant. Mac was quite a guy, for whom nothing was impossible!

Soon we were training twice a week, with training and match attendance compulsory. We had plenty of quality anyway but under Mac we became "fitter, faster, stronger" and a different proposition. Every aspect was considered and we were fully regimented and everyone knew what was expected of them. In 20 games under Mac we won 16 and conceded a miserly 8 goals. I have immense gratitude for Mac and without him we would not have achieved what we did that season.

However, despite our success, football stopped becoming fun. We did what we were told, we were punctual (well all but Sam Sullivan who lost his watch and went up sun light – true story) and because we were winning we put up with it. To be honest Jon Mac took no prisoners and if you didn't put up you were out. But we played long ball, regimented football and after 20 games (and losing in the AFA Final when the long ball played right into the hands of Winchmore) we had all had enough, even if no one had actually dared to say it.

We played Winchmore on the Tuesday after the AFA Final and we played football as we knew and loved and battered them but didn't win the game. The game was abandoned at 1-1 but it was fun and we enjoyed playing and we smiled again. Mac hated it and we had a confrontation about a substitution and he drove off in his Merc with our valuables (they were returned) and that was that. It was like finishing with a girlfriend who you knew was wrong for you but there

was something keeping you together. You'd never talked about splitting up but when you did it all made perfect sense. I went from 5-10 phone calls a day to none for about two years!

However, we still had 6 games remaining and 2 Cup finals (Old Boys and PB Charity Cup) and the next job was finding a replacement. Ian Breeze was my overriding first choice and after some persuasion he took the job (with me as assistant) until the end of the season. Ian Breeze is legend of a man, who has been the head of PE at Owens for 35 years and is the fulcrum for any Owens success. As soon as you join the school you are educated to play football in the right way (ball on the floor) and with the right spirit, to fight to the end and to enjoy success but always be honourable in defeat.

The Breeze regime started with a hard fought victory at Esthameians on a Tuesday night and then a successful defence of the Old Boys Cup on the Saturday (when some barren chested, topless Salesians centre back tried to start on Bob Leeds in the medal ceremony) before another SAL victory at EBOGS. We then stuttered against Lyonians and Salesians meaning with the two games against Winchmore to go only two wins would bring the title to Coopers Lane.

Both games were epic encounters and swung both ways. We were forced to take risks in both games and they came off. We scored twice in the last ten minutes in the first game to steal victory from the jaws of defeat and take the season to an unbelievable climax 3 days later where a winner would take the title but a draw would hand it to the watching Wickham.

90 MINUTES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Winchmore Hill	20	14	2	4	31	13	44
West Wickham	20	12	6	2	41	15	42
<b>OLD OWENS</b>	20	13	1	4	49	19	40

2-0 down after 20 minutes we took off a right back for a left winger and went for it. We scored before half time and for the last 20 minutes we played a 2-5-3 formation but were still losing going into injury time. We scored one and went mental and I will never forget the conversation with Breezey: "go back to 442, get Smithy on, stay 352, oh just go and win it lads". Manny scored, crippled men walked (ran onto the pitch) and we won the game, we won the title and we will never, ever forget that night at Redbridge College.

90+2 MINUTES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Wickham	20	12	6	2	41	15	42
Winchmore Hill	20	13	3	4	31	14	42
<b>OLD OWENS</b>	20	13	2	5	50	19	41

The combination of the Jon Mac and Ian Breeze won us that league, the hard-nosed fitness regime of Mac got us in a position where it was possible but it was somewhat poetic that we clinched the title under Breezey and in never to be forgotten drama where the risks paid off with the ultimate reward.

FINAL TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>OLD OWENS</b>	20	14	1	5	51	19	43
West Wickham	20	12	6	2	41	15	42
Nottsborough	20	12	5	3	43	20	41
Winchmore Hill	20	13	2	5	31	15	41

# History of the grounds



Chandos Avenue, Whetstone

When the Boys' and Girls' Schools were located in Islington, students had to make their own way by public transport playing field located in Chandos Avenue, Whetstone, 8 miles away. These grounds were retained by the Schools until both Schools were transferred and combined at the existing site in Potters Bar. At this new location the School was to have its own sports grounds on site. As a result, the Chandos Avenue site was no longer needed. It was sold to the London Borough of Barnet, who retained its use, but as a municipal facility.

By the end of the 19th century although OOFC had become a strong force in the amateur football hierarchy of North London, it had to play its home matches on rented pitches, such as Highgate playing fields. So in the early 1900s a group of football club members decided to establish their own facilities, led by very active pioneer members. The group managed to secure a 6-acre freehold site almost opposite the School ground in Chandos Avenue. This building was to be the licensed clubhouse and changing rooms for several decades.

Soon after the 1939/45 war, a prefabricated bungalow was purchased and erected to provide accommodation for a groundsman. Around 1950 the Association's members responded generously to an appeal for funds and a new pavilion was completed in 1952.

In the 1960's, it became clear that the school would be moving to Potters Bar, the committee decided to establish new facilities in Potters Bar. A special general meeting of the Association was convened and Chandos Avenue site was put up for sales to raise the funds needed for land at Potters Bar within what was perceived as an appropriate catchment area for the new School.

The committee found the current 10-acre site at Coopers Lane was up for sale. A deal was successfully agreed and appropriate planning application was submitted. However, despite early encouragement from the planning officers, the Association was extremely disappointed to receive a notice of refusal from the Welwyn and Hatfield Council Planning department on the grounds of loss of agricultural land and intrusion into the green belt, and this could not be justified that it would not be of benefit to the local community.

The Association appealed in 1985 and appointed a leading expert on agricultural usage, Michael Bonnington, to represent the Association at the subsequent planning inquiry. He argued that the land lacked the

quality and size necessary for viable agricultural use. It was also pointed out that many of its members lived in the area, and in particular pupils attending Owen's were potential users of the ground.

The Inspector accepted all of this evidence and in a short time consent was granted. The committee next drew up a brief to illustrate the space needs of the Association for refreshment and dressing room accommodation, plus a groundsman's house. A team of professional consultants was then appointed to deal with the tenders for the development of the sports facilities.

Construction commenced in 1987 and, although, there was a short period when the Association's Sports Clubs were without their own facilities OOA moved into Coopers Lane ready for the 1988 season.

It is appropriate to reflect on the situation whereby the ability of Old Owens Association to finance the acquisition and development of the new facility was almost entirely due to the generosity and foresight of the Football Club members who set the company up in the 1920s. Since that time, the only financial contribution received from the members was the response to the appeal for the construction of the new pavilion in the early 1950s.

The Old Owen's Sports Ground is now well established as a favourite sports venue appreciated by club members and visiting teams alike.



Coopers Lane, Northaw

*Adapted from article by Brien Martin. Brien was directly involved in all aspects of the move from Chandos Avenue to Coopers Lane.*

# The Immortals



In 2006/07, 'Hodgey' was the captain of Old Owens fourth team, a team he had pulled together single-handedly from scratch, assembling a motley crew of rejects, some young emerging talent from the school system and various friends who were blackmailed into joining. He informed that a team from Old Owens had never before won The AFA Cup and told us that he intended to create history this season and become the first Owens captain to bring the fabled trophy back to Coopers Lane. Given that the squad contained at least two full blown alcoholics, two members who were pushing the scales at 18 stone and at least five who were only allowed to play on a Saturday if their girlfriend allowed them, we did not initially share his confidence but we mumbled our agreement anyway in the hope it would get him to stop talking.

We boasted the club legend and international man of mystery John King in goal, who after every victory would celebrate by buying the whole team a round of sambucas and then doing nine himself. In defence we had the choice of captain Hodge, Matt Parrott, Matt Parrott (see what I done there) Pat Oldham, team jester Phil Longhurst, Andy Smith and myself. The midfield was especially strong with former club captain Pritchard barking out orders to younger pups such as Gratton, Mac, Droy, Saberi, Gibson and Ratty, whilst up front Barrett Mark Stanton would typically miss ten chances a game, score three and then Cheeko would come on at the end to bag his standard one.

After receiving a much welcomed bye in the first round, the second round draw could not have been harsher - an away match against arch rivals Nottsborough and to top it off we went down there with just the bare 11. The usual kicking match ensued between the two teams and after 10 minutes we lost team talisman Cheeko to an injury but remarkably the ten men forced their way to a 2-0 win.

The third round threw up a home draw against Egbertian (me neither) which according to the AFA website we won 5-0 and the fourth round produced a similarly easy result with a 5-1 victory over Lloyds. However, the Quarter threw up a particularly tricky tie away at West Wickham. By now a few people around the club had got wind of the cup run and were looking to get in on the action. Perennial glory hunter Duncan West was sniffing around harder than most and when injuries depleted us for this game he got his chance. In a feisty battle on a mud sodden pitch we went 1-0 down early on and glory looked like ebbing away until we rallied in the second half with goals from Stanton and Barrett helping us to a 3-1 victory.

We managed to get a home draw in the Semi Final against Old Aloysians and this proved to be the hardest match of our run. We went

1-0 up after Matt Barrett cleverly won us a penalty which he duly dispatched but we then had to sustain a severe amount of pressure from the opposition. Somehow we were 2-1 up with ten minutes to go they scored a penalty to make it 2-2. A nervy extra time session followed which saw no further goals and the dreaded penalty shoot-out was upon us. The tension was not helped by the fact all the other games had now finished and the majority of the teams came over in the hope of watching a fellow club mate embarrass himself from the spot, thus swelling the crowd to a club record 4th team attendance of 87. Smug that I managed to keep myself out of the top five positions by opting to go sixth, I watched in horror as each team missed one and we went into sudden death. Luckily my miskick managed to find the bottom corner and it was left to Kingy to become the hero by saving their sixth penalty and booking us a place in the final - que the obligatory 'running from the halfway line to bundle the keeper' celebration. I'd estimate there was more Sambuca drunk that night in Old Owens than a typical weekend in Athens.

Standing on the edge of history, we were surprised to learn that we'd be facing Alexandra Park in the final, a team from our own league who could prove tricky on their day but who we'd typically beat. Turning up in the regulatory Old Owens Ties we heavily fancied our chances and were buoyed by the fact Kingy had arranged us some extra support. The game was a scrappy affair however and ended 0-0 after 90. The resulting extra time was a similar period of frustration that looked sure to end in another penalty shootout. Cometh the hour, cometh the man! With five minutes remaining Josh Droy hooked the ball over his shoulder into the penalty area, I hit the ball sweetly on the volley and the keeper made a superb save which left him grounded. As the ball came rolling back to me and the goal lay open in front of me, visions of glory ran through my head as I prepared for a simple side-foot into the net. Out of nowhere however came Saberi, stealing in front of me to toe poke the ball in a scuffed attempt that miraculously bobbed over the keeper and crept an inch over the line (I'm not still bitter, I promise!). A scruffier goal you could not see but we did not care, we held out for the last few minutes and when the final whistle blew we became the first and only team from Old Owens to have lifted the AFA Cup. Hodgey's dream was realised and we celebrated long into the night.

Looking back at that time now, the thing that stands out the most for me is just how much we all got on as a team. There was honestly not one person who I didn't enjoy having a beer or a chat with and I'm confident that I speak for everyone in that team. It's definitely one of the main reasons we won the cup and it's something that I believe stands Old Owens out as a club from all the rest..

For me the travelling provided some of the best times, whether it was drinks in the opponents' bar after the match, trains down to South or West London before a pub crawl on the way home, nights out in Kings Cross, Stanton's dodgy outfits or Kingy buying rounds, the memories that were created on these times are what will always stick in my mind. The home games made you team mates but the away games made you friends. We had a special team spirit that season and I'm sure teams at the club now are experiencing something similar. I truly hope you do. All that's left then is for you to win us our second AFA Cup.

## Steven Shepherd

# Owens All Time XIs





With over thirty years' combined industry experience, highly competitive pricing, first class project delivery and after sales service Orbital Climate Solutions ticks all the right boxes.

We have been recognised as an accredited installer by the leading manufacturers and are fully committed to the continuous improvement and meticulous delivery of service, to ensure the best possible customer experience across every facet of our business.



**Design & Installation**

The design and installation team at Orbital are dedicated to providing each of its customers with the right solution to meet their individual needs.



**Maintenance**

Simple regular checks can avoid costly breakdown repairs. Orbital's individually tailored 'Preventative Maintenance Plans' will improve the efficiency and reliability of your system.



**Portable Air Conditioning**

Orbital has an extensive range of portable air conditioning units available for hire and to buy. These are ideal for when the perfect climate is required in an instant.



**R22 Replacement**

R22 is a refrigerant gas often found in air conditioning equipment over 10 years old. From the 1st of January 2015 it will no longer be available or legal to use. Orbital can assist with your changeover plan.



**Emergency Callout**

Minimise costly downtime when your air conditioning system fails. Orbital's 'Emergency Callout Service' is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



**Air Conditioning Inspection**

Orbital's TM44 accredited engineers will deliver an 'Air Conditioning Inspection (ACI) Report' of the highest quality, in line with current legislative requirements.

**Orbital Climate Solutions Ltd, Unit 6, Oakmere Mews, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5DT**

**T: 01707 709015**

**F: 01707 850424**

**E: [info@orbitalclimate.co.uk](mailto:info@orbitalclimate.co.uk)**

We are committed to achieving consistently high standards in all areas of the business. Our team welcomes regular independent assessments and continually aspires to improve. Our infrastructure, training, employee skills and professionalism has been recognised by the following leading manufacturers and industry regulators:



# The Boys' School Song

Words by G.J. Baldock, Music by Richard Triggs

1. *On many a well-remembered field  
Have Owen's fought and won!  
At times we lose but never yield  
Before the game is done.  
And as the years roll on and on,  
And players bid goodbye,  
Their comrades still in spirit don  
The mantles they've cast by.*

*Chorus  
Then strive with a will, Owenians,  
Success attend your play;  
Never let your ardour cool  
For the honour of the School,  
On, Owen's – to the fray.*

2. *Though they are gone, their names live yet,  
To stimulate our play;  
Their memory doth strength beget,  
And drives despair away.  
With pride we look back on the days  
When those old heroes fought –  
How eager was our youthful gaze!  
How much to us was taught.*

*Chorus  
Then strive with a will, Owenians,  
Success attend your play;  
Never let your ardour cool  
For the honour of the School,  
On, Owen's – to the fray.*

3. *And now we fight ourselves for Fame,  
On us the School relies  
Her ancient glory to maintain –  
An honour that we prize.  
Right "Wholeheartedly" we play the game,  
The whole team works as one;  
To win the match is our sole aim,  
All selfish play we shun.*

*Chorus  
Then strive with a will, Owenians,  
Success attend your play;  
Never let your ardour cool  
For the honour of the School,  
On, Owen's – to the fray.*

4. *In future years we shall reflect  
With pleasure on these games;  
Then shall we feel the good effect  
This grand old pastime claims.  
'Tis thus we learn how to succeed  
In life's far sterner strife;  
'Tis thus we learn to live indeed  
A truly useful life.*

*Chorus  
Then strive with a will, Owenians,  
Success attend your play;  
Never let your ardour cool  
For the honour of the School,  
On, Owen's – to the fray.*