

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
1968-1969

OLD
CREIGHTONIANS
R.F.C.

*To Commemorate
The 21st Anniversary
since the formation
of the Club*

PRICE 5/-

Ground is at: Tentelow Lane, Southall, Middlesex.

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COMMITTEE

1968 - 1969

P. GRIFFITHS
Chairman

K. BANHAM <i>Secretary</i>	A. JONES <i>Fixture Secretary</i>
R. HUTCHINSON <i>Treasurer</i>	N. CHIDLEY <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
D. BENNETT <i>Fund Raiser</i>	J. CLARE <i>Social Secretary</i>
A. STAINES <i>Press Representative</i>	J. FRENCH <i>Ground Representative</i>
D; MARGERISON <i>Team Secretary</i>	

Others: M. JONES

CAPTAINS

E. ASTILL <i>Club Captain</i>	M. MERRETT <i>'A' XV</i>	J. ROBINSON <i>Ex. 'A' XV</i>	E. BUCKNOLE <i>'B' XV</i>
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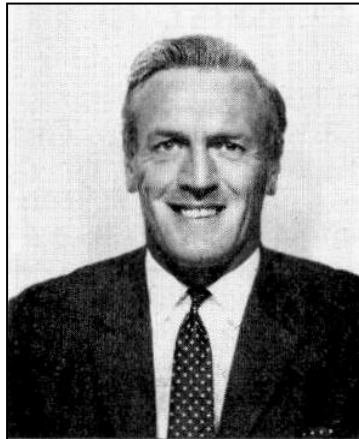
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



On demobilisation from the Royal Air Force in 1948 I became team secretary of the O.C.R.F.C., my duty being to find fifteen players to represent the club in its first ever game. At that time it seemed a mammoth task although it was nothing compared with the pressures put upon team secretaries of today.

This then was the beginning, twenty years on I find it hard to realise that such progress has been made, maybe not a 'rags to riches' story but not far off. Denis Buckingham and I have had the good fortune to play for the club since its inception, to wear the maroon and white jersey of the O.C's well over 500 times on the field of play has been a privilege.

Over the years I have been able to keep a close watch on the growth of the club and today with a fine ground at Tentelow Lane there is much available to members.

The club is fortunate in that it has many younger members ready and willing to take over the helm, ready to give up much of their leisure time for the benefit of others and I can see no reason why the future of the club can be anything but bright.

This year I am proud to address you as your President, and I look forward to a year when the success story will continue. The spirit of 1948 is still with us, may it grow stronger in the years ahead.

P. GRIFFITHS

The History of THE OLD CREIGHTONIANS R.F.C.

Kilburn Grammar School was evacuated to Northampton in 1939 shortly before the outbreak of World War II and for the first time in the schools history the game of rugby football was introduced into the curriculum.

Quite naturally, on leaving the school, some boys felt there was a need to continue their chosen sport and following the annual O.B.'s game against the school in April 1948 Alan Lyford, Denis Buckingham, Peter Griffiths and others met to discuss the possibility of forming an O.B.'s rugby club.



The first Old Creightonian Rugby Team

History cont

Throughout the summer months that followed a tremendous amount of work was done towards this end, although all thoughts of a 'home' ground were dismissed, particularly as the school field was under cultivation as allotments. The questions of finance and clothing coupons did present problems, the first not very easy to obtain because likely members were those people recently left school or demobbed from H.M. forces; the second perhaps even a bigger problem in those rather lean times. However, money was found and kindly parents and the Middlesex County R.F.U. were able to assist with clothing coupons to ensure the availability of sufficient kit. Originally the jerseys were to be 6 inch red and white hoops but shortage of such jerseys made it impossible to be too selective and the nearest colours available to those of the school were maroon and white.

The Old Creightonians R.F.C. was born and the first game to be played was in September 1948 against Standard Telephones and Cables 'A' XV, memorable not only as the beginning of the 'club' but also as the first taste of success, a win by 20pts. to 3pts.

The members who had the honour and distinction to represent the 'Club' on the field were:—J. HOLLAND (Capt.), B. KEMP, A. BILHAM, M. JENNINGS, D. BUCKINGHAM, P. GRIFFITHS, J. ALLEN, H. JACKMAN, J. FLUDE, J. STOPPA, J. PEACOCK, B. REYNOLDS, P. RUTLAND, K. CHAMBERLAIN, G. de GREY.

Towards the end of the 1950/51 season it was quite obvious that a second XV must be started, no longer could the first fifteen enjoy numerous reserves on the touch-line each week. The 'A' XV arrived, perhaps a little prematurely, but nevertheless it settled down to find its regular place in club activities.

The early years were successful ones on the field, this coupled with close contact with the school and good publicity in the Willesden Chronicle attracted more people, as a result three 'XV's emerged in 1952/53 and four in 1954/55.

In recent years five fifteens have been fielded on occasions and it is hoped that before very long each week will see seventy five members wearing O.C.'s colours on the field.

History cont . . .

The need for a ground of our own was uppermost in the minds of members from the time of the clubs inception and in 1952 Chris Macey and Des Mitchell successfully negotiated with the Bees Club at Ruislip for the use of a pitch. This temporarily satisfied our requirements but the playing surface of the pitch needed to be improved and alternative pitches were sought. A move was eventually made to the L.P.T.B. ground at Northolt, a much better pitch but certainly more expensive.

With the expansion of the club continuing it became necessary to find accommodation where two pitches would be available each week and in 1955 we moved again, this time to Hamworth as tenants of the Twickenham R.F.C.

It was still not our own ground and members spent many hours searching for a likely home, then efforts were rewarded in 1959 when, with appropriate financial assistance from the R.F.U. and O.B.A. we purchased 11.67 acres at Tentelow Lane, Southall, enough space for two rugby pitches, two hockey pitches and a cricket table. The first game of rugby was played on our own ground in September 1960, and now the ground at Tentelow Lane is the established home for the Old Creightonians.

Socially the club has always met with success, from the very first annual dinner held at the William IV, Harrow Road, at which a dozen members attended presided over by E. W. Rhodes, through numerous socials, stag-suppers and dinner/dances to the very special dinner/dance in this our twenty first season.

Perhaps linked with the social side, in a sense, are the Easter tours, a definite part of the way-of-life of members. It all began in 1953 when the O.C.'s decided to do as other clubs do at Easter—have a weekend away from home. Festivals rather than tours were the order of the day and Lowestoft and Bournemouth were two seaside resorts that should long remember us. In 1957 the first full tour was made to Gloucester and since that time successful tours have been made to Bath, Leicester, Malvern, Stratford-upon-Avon, Carlisle, Canterbury, Cardiff and Peterborough, each has a self-contained story and those attending any or all of them will remember some particular happening for a long time to come.

History cont . . .

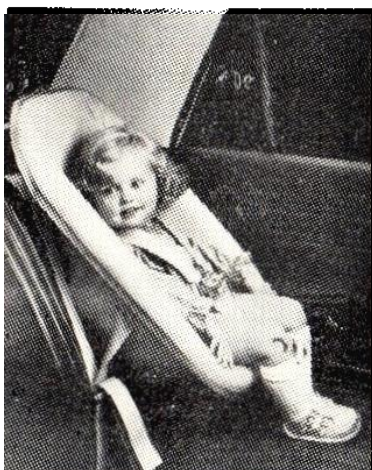
The club has always entered for seven-a-side tournaments, be it the Middlesex County sevens, the Haberdashers O.B.'s sevens or one of the many junior tournaments arranged throughout the season; through the years we have had much success perhaps playing some of our better rugby in the County sevens.

In 1963 we felt the time was ripe to stage our own tournament and in March of that year sixteen teams entered to compete for our shield. Bec Old Boys were the first side to win the shield but the following year our own seven decided that it was time to display the shield at Tentelow Lane. The competition has doubled in size, and in March of this year thirty-two clubs were represented, progress indeed.

We now know what has happened in the past twenty years, success both on and off the field is obvious, what of the next twenty years?

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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR

11th OCTOBER 1968

21st ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE

To be held at the Tavistock Banqueting Suite, 18 Charing Cross Road, on Friday, 11th October, 1968.

Contact J. Clare, 15 Calcott Road, N.W.6 (phone 624 2292) for tickets.

2nd NOVEMBER 1968

GUY FAWKES SOCIAL

An evening of Fireworks and Fun held annually at the Pavilion. Dancing once again to the popular Sound of Four.

14th DECEMBER 1968

CHRISTMAS DANCE & TRAMP'S BALL

A bumper evening planned with lots of spot prizes, games and a big raffle.

15th FEBRUARY 1969

FANCY DRESS NITE & ST. VALENTINE'S DANCE

With everybody enjoying last year's fancy dress so much, it looks as if it will be an annual event. Don't miss this one.

THE 21st ANNIVERSARY YEAR

SPECIAL STAG SUPPER

(Date and Venue to be arranged)

TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT

(Date to be arranged)

A day when the O.C.'s Hockey club, and the Old Uffingtonians Football Club take us on at rugby, while we in turn try our skills at Hockey and Football.

SUNDAY 23rd MARCH

CLUB SEVENS

Held at the Ground, Tentelow Lane, Southall. Snacks and refreshments served all day.

A special rugby week

With games to be arranged with clubs who have long been our opponents in the field and friends in the bar.

The Ground & The Pavilion



As the club became stronger members felt the need for their own ground and pavilion, consequently throughout the late "fifties" various grounds were examined, sites at Mill Hill, swimming in mud, and another at Sudbury Hill come to mind, but to no avail. Then, virtually out of the blue, came the news via Osterley R.F.C. that the present ground at Tentelow Lane was on the market. Osterley R.F.C. did not need the whole area and, since all of the land had to be purchased, suggested that we took on half. We were indeed interested and determined to go ahead and buy. There were certain snags—the total capital possessed by the Club did not exceed £100 and in any event the Rugby Club did not really need all of the space available. The Old Boys Association were called in and the Hockey and Cricket sections of the O.B.A. agreed to come in on the venture.

Capital finance was now the big problem and negotiations for loans or grants had been in progress for some time with the Middlesex R.F.U. and the R.F.U. A loan was finally secured from the R.F.U. We attempted to obtain grants but the offers made were rejected by the Club since one of the strings was that the Club should go open. This independent attitude which has been an inherent strength of the Club has also, at times, caused difficulties.

The money borrowed was sufficient to purchase the ground and pay for the levelling and seeding but precious little was left over for any buildings or equipment.

The Ground & the Pavilion

An appeal to all members of the O.B.A. was made with gratifying results. There still was not enough to get a pavilion completely built by contractors and a combined amateur / professional building project started. In retrospect the amount of work put in by Club members and friends was quite staggering. These people dug and prepared an approach road, dug the foundation trenches, mixed and laid the concrete foundations and floor (using one quite small concrete mixer) and fitted the roof. Members also laid the various concrete paths and installed all of the water, gas and electricity lines and fittings (including the digging of the supply trenches). About the only work done by contractors was the brickwork (even here members unloaded the brick lorries), the final asphaltting of the roof and the main drainage.

A race between completion and the date of the first games ended in a very tight finish indeed. On the morning of the first game the posts were still going up and the bath was not waterproofed. The latter problem was overcome by laying a large tarpaulin over the bath shell (the bath was emptied by the simple expedient of cutting a hole in the tarpaulin). All systems could finally be considered as go when at 7 o'clock in the evening the sewer was finally connected and the first chains could be pulled.

A period of slow consolidation and minor improvements followed and has continued to date, although it must be admitted that at times progress has been slow. Even so, since that first year the dressing rooms have been fitted out, the bar built, the floor laid and, the kitchen is now fairly adequate. The whole pavilion has at least lost its bare plaster and brick appearance.

Equally difficult problems existed on the playing area at the start. We had no equipment at all and the first cutting of the ground area was carried out by two men using hand rotary mowers. Various odds and ends of equipment were hired or borrowed and the ground was kept in a pretty scruffy state until finances improved sufficiently for proper cutting equipment, tractor, etc., could be purchased. We now have a first class playing area, kept in good order by a groundsman. Our attention must now return to the pavilion. This autumn should see more improvement with the fitting of a false ceiling in the main room of the pavilion, two more changing rooms fitted out and providing the present financial position can meet the cost, new fixtures and fittings in the showeroom. We also hope that members will volunteer for some of the more mundane tasks of cleaning, painting and general maintenance.

Let us hope that we can look back on this year as one when we took a big step forward to completing the pavilion.

THE KILBURN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

There is little doubt that an Association of old boys of the Kilburn Grammar School, has existed almost since the beginning of the century.

The School opened in January 1898, and there is evidence of a Tug-of-War, on the School Sports Day, in 1902, between an Old Boys' team and the Staff, won by the Old Boys incidentally, and in 1906 an Old Boys' Dinner was held. There are few records of any other activities until the end of the first World War.

In 1919 a few old boys of the School met at the home of the late Leonard Curtis, after whom Curtis House was named, officers were elected, and the O.B.A. came into being. Its first act was to erect a memorial to more than 50 ex members of the School who had made the supreme sacrifice.

Football, Cricket and Tennis sections were soon formed, and Whist Drives and Dances were held regularly, not to mention the famous Smoking Concerts. Later on a Dramatic Society was formed, and in 1924 the Benevolent Fund was founded.

During the second half of the 'twenties, the Association went from strength to strength. A Badminton section had been started, and by 1930 the membership was over 300. In addition to the 10th Annual Dinner, two Dances, two Whist Drives were held, and the Dramatic Society produced Galsworthy's "Strife". This year also saw the first of the popular Bohemian Concerts, and last, but not least, the Hockey Club was formed.

As the 'thirties progressed, the Association continued to thrive until the outbreak of War caused an almost complete disruption of all activities. A nucleus of enthusiasts kept the Association alive, and even started the "Newsheet" which was practically the only way that members could keep in touch.

It is known that at least 500 past members of the School served with the Forces during the War, and 67 did not return. A memorial commemorating the names of those who gave their lives, was placed in the School.

Old Boy's Association cont.

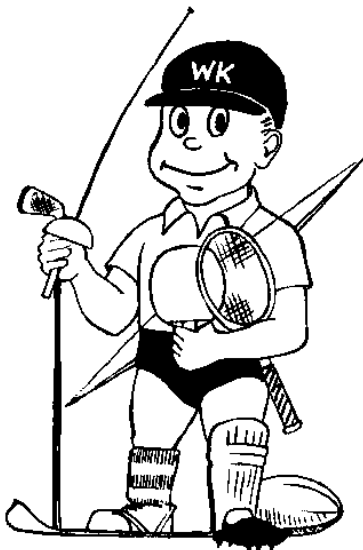
After the War, the Association soon resumed most of its former activities, with one notable exception. The Soccer Club could not obtain enough members, as the School had changed to Rugger, so a Rugby Football Club was started.

Since the Rugby Club was formed, it has become the strongest section of the Association, and largely due to the efforts of its members, and with the help of a loan from the R.F.U. the Association has been able to purchase its present Sports Ground.

In this brief story of the Association, it would be invidious to single out any individual for their personal contribution, and for that reason I have purposely refrained from mentioning any names. The administration of the Association is handled by an elected committee re-elected annually at a General Meeting of the members. You are entitled to attend.

One tribute must be paid, Since that first meeting 50 years ago, the Staff of the School have always shown a lively interest in the activities of the Old Boys, and their help on innumerable occasions has been invaluable.

Charles E. Beedem, *Chairman*



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