

My memories of Lanfranc – By Brian Page who now lives in Germany.

My brother & I both attended the school at the same time as he is only eighteen months older. We lived at No.21 Stanley Grove, West Croydon, living only three doors away from Lawrence Sims. We would often be in each others gardens due to an alleyway at the rear connecting our houses. Lawrence also had a sister named Sylvia who was quite a bit older, as I recall she was in fact an airline stewardess at Gatwick as she was away a lot. His parents were the first in our little row of houses to own a car, a Rootes Royal Standard.

One of my form tutors was Angus Tarn who also took us for maths & sport. He then took us to the Croydon secondary Schools Football final at Selhurst Park where we lost against John Ruskin. Not a bad performance considering three of their team were later offered professional contracts with Crystal Palace. Including myself we had players who represented Lanfranc and also played for Croydon those were Len Price and Kenny Bain. Other players I remember in our school team were, Colin Toal, William Tarbuck, Bruce Guest, Terry Daniels, John Daniel, Tony Buddle & Graham Gardener. My brother Michael & I first encountered John Wells when we lived at 60 Barrow Road, Waddon. John lived a little further down the road on the opposite side. We all attended Duppas primary school, after Waddon Infants school. We lost contact then until reuniting at Lanfranc. Sport being the source of conversation. At West Thornton Primary School we won the primary schools cricket final against South Norwood as the last match before joining Lanfranc at the start of the next term. I noticed on the website I saw Mr.Matten our cricket coach at West Thornton pictured at East Croydon Station about to depart on a school journey. That cricket final was the first time that I met Norman Patterson who was there in his position as cricket coach, to see how many boys playing in that primary cup final were going to Lanfranc. His love of cricket was such that he was preparing Lanfranc boys to great success before we even arrived at the school.

My brother having Mr. Cox as form master used to spend time looking after the school garden with his best friend Sidney Taylor who lived in Lancing road. It was with Sidney that my brother & I were invited to go to Penshurst in Kent, where they went hop - picking each year. It was very fortunate on this occasion that with two boys at the school my mother & father could not afford to send two boys on trips abroad, my mother not working and remembering that she treated us both the same. So when the notice of the school journey to Norway was first announced we both knew the answer would be no. So I can remember that the substitute trip to Kent was both memorable for more ways than one with the sunshine continuous throughout. Other names that come into my mind in addition to those

already mentioned in my class were, David Harwood, David Oldale, Bill Head, Michael O'Connell & Graham Reygate, together possibly with many more that my memory fails.

Trevor Condell was again connected with myself and mainly with my brother as Trevor was in the same year group as him. I met his father quite a few times mainly because my paper round took me to his house in Greenside Road. I did it for the newsagent called Barfields in Keston Road, Thornton Heath. Trevor's father would always open his front door as I was walking up the front path and before I had the chance of making a noise with the letter box. To this day I wondered whether he was constantly looking out the window as I usually arrived at the same time of 06-45. I then remember my brother Michael asking my father if he would organise and run a football team outside of school. The reason being was that when some of the boys were due to leave school they wanted to continue playing football together as a team. So my father agreed and the team Canterbury Rangers was formed.

We joined the Croydon Minor Football Combination, under 18 years of age league. This meant we were playing teams at least three years older. For that reason, as I still had school football in the morning my father would not select me to play in the afternoon. Names from the very first match I can remember in addition to my brother Michael and Trevor were Tony Cayley, John Goddard, Peter Potter, Peter Pendry, Gerald Bradley & Andy Holcombe.

I finally left Lanfranc to start at a printing company in South Croydon, attending five years at the London College of printing. That is the career path that I have taken for many years until the industry went on to digital processes which meant many printing companies going to the wall needing a smaller workforce because of advances in technology towards the end of the last century.

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