

56, Sheringham House,
Lisson Street,
London. N.W.1. 22nd Dec. 1976.

Dear Mr Austyn-Prys,

Mr Howard Baker has passed on your letter to answer, as a query arises about The Magnet Companion.

Firstly, I was most interested in your comments on The Bullseye as over the years quite a number of famous people have given me nostalgic memories about it. indeed I once met a former editor of the blue-covered paper, and was able to learn the whole full story of its conception. 'The Phantom of Cursitor fields' serial is classed as a classic in boys literature, and curiously almost every day I walk through Cursitor Street (off Fleet St) where the original fields lay. My mind always goes back to that popular weekly. It remains to be seen whether sales warrant another Vol. to be printed. Unfortunately it is also a fact that only Magnet Vols. sell, and easily outstrip other reprints.

Your suggestions for other characters to be included in future reprints have been carefully noted.

Your sharp eyes in pointing out about David Morgan in Magnet No.8. has suprisingly led to a lot of research, and even now I am not fully satisfied that I have satisfactorily solved the problem. As you kindly point out, he was just mentioned in No.8. with Russell (who was certainly in the first issue) There was no stating that he had arrived in that issue in the script, yet this is certainly the first time he was named in the Magnet.

My original information about the arrival of Greyfriars boys in The Remove came from an old friend in Canada a Mr Gander who had the complete set of Magnets. Also a publisher, he wrote articles about them, and was painstaking in his records. He also way back in the twenties was in correspondence with Magnet editors, as well as being in contact with Frank Richards, the great man himself.

It is quite possible that from an official source he was informed that David Morgan had only arrived at that number, or even have read it in readers letters published in the early Magnets, and in answer to a query. John Nix Pentelow the war-time editor in his famous Greyfriars Gallery states that Morgan had been at the school from the first number. Technically perhaps it should be inserted 'First mention of David Morgan', or pulling a fast one 'arrival of David Morgan in the stories'.

Frank Richards was terribly inconsistent with his characters, and through the years I have had to try and solve some problem of this nature, or whether a certain boy had left the school. Prior to No.8. Magnet the author mentioned a welsh boy named Hughes in the Remove, could this have been Morgan, and he forgot his name later? Another Remove boy was named Glenn, whilst in 5 and 4 is another Removite named King. None of these three boys ever left the school, or were heard of since. Technically one could say they were still there in the last magnet in 1940.

With continued interest for 1977,

Yours Sincerely,

W.O.G. Lofts. *W.O.G. Lofts*
P.P. Howard Baker