

GURU GETS TURF WICKET

By Richard Dwight

It will be a pleasant reunion of sorts, with a pleasure of fun and gaiety, when a band of past cricketers of S. Thomas, together with vintage cricketers of earlier years from other schools, well wishers and friends, travel up to S. Thomas Gurutalawa to participate in the events that centre around the official opening of the schools newly laid three turf wickets, by the Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev Kenneth Fernando, who is also the Governor of the schools board.

The man behind the coming into being of these wickets is Mr. Gerald A. W. De Alwis, who apart from his wide experience as school head, is presently the manager of the school, the Hony. Treasurer of the board of governor and at one time was the Deputy Commissioner of Examinations.

De Alwis, had taken pains to collect a large portion of the much needed funds for this purpose from his past students and other associates, whilst assistance for the refurbishing of the pavilion came from the Old Thomians Association in London. He along with Ismeth Cassim are the Co-ordinators for the events scheduled for this weekend, whilst the organizers will be the acting Headmaster STC Gurutalawa, L.A.M. Chandrasekara and a member of the Staff S.T. Moorthy.

The party from Colombo will leave from opposite Ladies College, at 7 am on Friday February 6 and the official opening of the three turf wickets, by the Bishop will take place the following Saturday morning after which there will be the historic Masters veterans 30 over Cricket match, between two teams led by Chandra Schaffter and Michael Tissera.

The two respective teams will be selected from Anura Tennakoon, Mevan Peiris, Mano Ponniah, P.S. Kumara, Sylvester Dias, Asoka de Silva, Rohan de S. Wijeratne,

Lalith Wijeratne, Sheran Wickramasekera, Wathma Wickramasekara, Guy De Alwis, Vernon Tissera, Ralston Tissera, Bradman Weerakoon, Neil Chanmugam, J.V. Peiris, Huzam Cader, Mahesan Selveratnam, Ismeth Cassim, Sheham Wickramaratne, Kumara Boralessa and yet others.

The awards for the man of the match, best batsman, bowler and fielder, will be presented by the niece of the legendary M.O. Gooneratne, Mrs. Shanthi Samuel.

On Sunday the next day, the Holy Eucharist will be observed, where the celebrant and preacher will be Bishop Kenneth Fernando at which Service thankful remembrance will also be made of those who served S. Thomas' Gurutalawa and are no more. Chief among being Canons A.J. FASTER and R.S. De Saram, Dr. R.L. Hayman and the donors of the school land Mr. and Mrs. Leslie de Saram - to be followed by a cricket match between the Staff and students of S. Thomas' Gurutalawa.

Entertainment during the weekend made up of Kandyan Drumming and dancers will be provided by the school's dance troupe.

Made available to us by Mr. Gerald De Alwis on November 09, 2007