

June 19, 2001

Mr. Upali Jayawardena
Hony Secretary
St. Thomas College – OBA
No. 27, 42nd Lane
COLOMBO 06

My dear Upali,

ST. THOMAS GURUTALAWA – OBA

Thank you very much for sparing the time to drop in at my place on June 07, to assist me with the Register and also the Directory of Members. I will keep you informed of the progress being made with regard to the Register and the Directory from time to time. As you are aware, 03 of my Secretaries are working on this.

The chat I had with you was interesting and useful. All of us who are interested should get together and re-organize / reactivate the OBA, rally round the College and assist it in whatever way we can.

As undertaken, I enclose herewith the Format of the Application for Membership of the STCG-OBA. I could have this printed at my expense (for the sake of uniformity,) and hand over same to you. if the Ex. Co. authorizes same .

In the meantime, I would like you to use your good offices to draw the attention of the Ex Co to the under mentioned matters and obtain the approval of the Ex Co, where necessary.

- a) Late as it may be, to insert a Notice in the Newspapers regarding the election of new office bearers for the current year.
- b) To insert a Notice in the Newspapers calling upon Old Boys who have not joined to do so and others who have not informed their change of address, to transmit that information to you.
The names and addresses of students who have left School from time to time from the inception to date, so far as such records are available would be very useful in a membership drive. I wonder whether you can help to obtain such a list from the College archives.
- c) Your observations of outsiders partaking of meals meant for Old Boys in the Dining Room last February, only amplifies the observations made by a group of us who wrote to you on March 15, 2001 as regards what transpired during the Fellowship after that AGM. I would therefore, strongly urge you to enforce and put in place a Registration Desk / Participation Register, Introduction of Identity Cards and “Helper Tags” for the AGM etc. to ensure that this horrendous behaviour is not repeated next year. Thus admission to the

- i) Dormitories for accommodation;
- ii) Dining Hall for meals;
- iii) Venue of the AGM;
- iv) Fellowship that follows the AGM

can be confined to Old Boys on the Register (as well as those who have paid their subscriptions for enrolment even up to the time of Registration for that AGM / Re-Union).

At a time when College is under going a severe financial crisis and its very existence is being threatened and efforts are being made by you to minimize or eliminate wastage and wrongful use of resources available to College, it would be pathetic if the very persons who organize such events were to condone such behaviour.

- d) I am willing to help you in whatever way I can behind the scenes, in particular, organizing a Secretariat for your activities, which I am prepared to place at your disposal and in the service of College.

Books, literature, photographs, caps, and other souvenirs if made available in one place which is manned throughout the day would enure to the benefit and convenience of all Old Boys.

- e) In this connection, I also wish to remind you that information regarding the College and current activities etc. if conveyed to the membership through a "News Letter" even if it is not a regular feature would be well appreciated and will generate much more interest and goodwill for the benefit of College. As I informed you, if I am placed with the necessary facts and material, I would be happy to assist you in this task. The general membership of the OBA appears to come alive only at the Re-union and the Annual Dinner. I think, we should and can do much more to help College if proper interest is created.

- f) I would also like to remind you what, I believe the Senior Vice President undertook, at the last AGM when the proposal for Projects was under discussion. The new Ex Co was to discuss this at its very first meeting identify the Project and inform the general membership thereof. We are now in June and it is high time that important subjects are identified so that those who have distinguished themselves in those areas could be co-opted into some Sub-Committees and their valuable experience, expertise advice and knowledge harnessed for the welfare of the College.

- g) It would also be useful, if early arrangements are made so that the Draft Minutes of the last AGM, Audited Accounts, the Head Master's Report, the Reports of the Secretaries and of those Sub-Committees appointed in due course are made available to the membership at least two weeks before the AGM. Unless this is done, it would be difficult for the members to make a critical analysis and a useful contribution at the next AGM on those matters. Unnecessary waste of time could also be eliminated. It should also be

possible to leave it open to the membership to send in their nominations in writing for office bearers in advance if they wish to.

- h) I was also informed recently that College was in need of a proper Telephone System as the buildings of the Campus are far flung and communication with the different areas is difficult. I may be able to help in supplying a Telephone System which can accommodate up to at least 04 direct lines and 15 extensions and arrange for its installation and commissioning if the matter can be discussed and approved with all relevant people.
- i) The refurbishing etc. of the Junior Dormitories which a group of Old Boys were prepared to undertake is also awaiting execution pending the okay of the Ex Co. through discussion with the Head Master.
- j) If the College Farm is in need of both material aid (animal and poultry feed etc.) and Technical Advice, I can arrange same on a regular basis from technically qualified persons in those fields.

I have outlined very briefly some of the matters that you could give your attention to.

EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST OF THE ABOVE INNOVATIONS ETC. WILL NOT BE BURDENED ON THE OBA / COLLEGE.

I would, therefore appreciate it very much, if you will look into these matters and keep me informed.

I will be glad to meet you to discuss these further at any time, nominated by you.

With Kind Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Lakshman Jayatilaka
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