

CORRESPONDENCE - 2010

Harish Nilaweera of the 62 Group who is presently in UK, in an e-mail of 23rd July, writes:

Dear Lucky,

Thanks for your mail. I am glad and thrilled that your article will be included in the STPS History. It more than adequately cover the 52-57 era.

Sorry for my mistake-- you had made mention of Mr A.K. Pillai. Of the English students

I do remember James Summerfield in addition to Norman Balsam and Zena Close. You might also remember Miss Fernando (quite a strict lady). I wonder whether she was the one who married Mr Godfrey Peiris. You may also remember Stork (I do not recall his first name) who was a dayboy and a good sportsman.

You are right we really ought to meet one evening over a drink and recall those carefree trouble free days!! We went to Diyatalawa to see 'Rekhawa' too I think.

I suppose we will remember more when we meet.

One last thing Lucky if the STPS book comes out in print can you please keep a copy for me.

Best regards,

Harish

R. Sandanakrishnan of the STC Bandarawela OBA in an e-mail of 24th February, writes:

Dear Mr. Jayatilaka

I am pleased to receive your e-mail. I have read each and every word that is written about the Annual Re-Union & AGM. It's interesting.

Let me also appreciate your good work by keeping everyone informed of the happenings- this will bring lot of good will to the College. We are confident the HM – Rev. Marc will restore the glory of our sister School and the Founder will be happy that his efforts are not in vein.

With best wishes

R. Sandanakrishnan
STCBWOBA
Mobile : 071-684 68 70

Merril Aluwihare, Member of the Board of Governors in an e-mail of 24th February, writes:

Thanks Lucky that was a very good update

Merril

Nihal Wanniarachchi in an e-mail of 24th February writes,

Thanks Lucky,

your sincerity to the College & OBA is well amplified by being there first, having left Colombo at 3. Am & then covering all events, without a rest. The photograph indicated the discipline of the bygone era.

All of them are well attired , what change from the recent past ! We should have a similar dress code for the Annual Dinner.

Regards

Wanni

CORRESPONDENCE - 2009

Charles Saravan, in an e-mail of 15th November, writes:

Dear Lakshman,

Many thanks. It was particularly good to read Dr Hayman's report. It is characteristic of the man: thoughtful and meticulous, responsible and caring.

Best wishes

Charles

Ravi Jayasekera, in an e-mail of 13th November, writes:

Dear Lakshman

thanks for your latest update and newsletter.enjoyed its contents and helps one to go down memory lane.fond memories of our "guru days".....

good job,keep up the good work!

"Esto perpetua'

warm wishes & kind regards,

Ravi. Jayasekera.

Mr. George Pillai, formerly of the Staff of Guru has sent us this e-mail of 18th July 2009:

Dear Lakshman,

I have been greatly interested in your current STCG 'Updates'. Thank you very much for keeping us informed about events. The appointment of the 17th Warden for Mt. Lavinia is a tremendous boost for all Thomians. I congratulate the Board of Directors for their wisdom and vision.

I was also happy to note the appointment of Ananda Gallearachchi as Manager Administrator for STC Gurutalawa. I remember him very well and applaud the School Administration for making this excellent choice. As a student, Boy Scout, Boxer, Cricketer, Swimmer and Soccer player, Ananda has a proven track record and will indeed be an asset to the school. Lakshman, please convey this message to him and kindly send me his E-mail address.

Thank you very much for all that you do. It gives me great pride to find students like you, devoting so much time and effort to keep the STCG flag flying.

Sincerely,

George Pillai

Shanta Somasundaram (Jan – June 1965 at Guru) presently at Calgary, Alberta, Canada, in a e-mail dated 10th July says:

Hello Gentlemen,

I came across your website whilst joining the STCG Group on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=62992143972>) . You have brilliantly maintained a comprehensive site on the college. I read through your pages, viewed the vast collection of photos and reminisced my short stint of 6 months as a stand-in for a teacher on study leave for his degree exams.

I taught junior classes in mathematics and science in Tamil and English from Jan to June 1965. It being a short period, I may not be on the college records. After leaving Guru, I left the shores of Lanka in April 1966 on an engineering scholarship and later settled down in Singapore and Canada.

The articles and photos brought back fond memories of my happy times at STCG and I have managed to contact one of my students, Andrew Gordon Taylor who is resident planter with Ceylon Tea Trails. There is mention and photo of him at <http://www.travellady.com/Issues/August07/4349SriLankasTeaTrails.html>.

Having turned 65 last month, I have retired in Canada and will be living in Canada and Singapore. God-willing my wife and I would like to visit Sri Lanka in December and perhaps travel by train to the upcountry and see the college after 44 years.

Keep up the good work!

God bless,
Shanta Somasundaram
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Charles Sarvan (1950-1953) in an e-mail dated 6th July 2009 says:

Dear Lakshman,

I was at Guru from 1950 - 53. I was then Charles S Ponnuthurai. (Now, Charles Ponnuthurai Sarvan.) I don't think anyone will remember me, not only because of the length of time but, more importantly, because there's been no contact - I left "Ceylon" in 1963. Those closest to me - Asoka Perera and "Tinker" Dharmapala - have passed away. Till then, we remained close. I remember "Wanigs", but doubt he'll recall me.

I did my BA (English Honours) at Peradeniya; have the Postgraduate Diploma in English as a Second Language from Wales; the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy from London. (I'm a British citizen. Now in Berlin: my wife is German. We've been together for 40 years.)

I taught in London, Nigeria, Zambia and the Middle East. Am a retired Professor of English Literature. (Age 72 +)

Of course, you can use my fragment. It's taken from a Memoir I'm writing for my two sons and their children (and, one day, children's children) - they know little, if anything, of Sri Lanka.

I gather the *Island* carried a picture of the school, Doc and of myself, but don't have a copy.

With good wishes to you and yours

Charles

Sisira Nanayakkara in a letter of 7th April 2009 addressed to the HM at Guru and copied to us, says:

216A, First Lane,
Kalapaluwawa,
Rajagiriya

7th April 09

Rev.Marc Billimoria,
Head Master,
STCG.

Dear Sir,

Having read the article in the Sunday Times "A new Thomian Association' I thought it is my duty to make a small contribution towards this fund. Enclosed HNB Colombo 04 cheque for Rs.1000.00.

Memories of Guru and Doctor Hayman are many. To recall one instance in one of Dr. and Mrs. Haymans visits to Sri Lanka (I think his 1st visit after his retirement) Duleep, Navas, Arthur, Kuru and I went to meet him at the KIA and what he told me as he shook my hand will always be etched in my memory.

‘ Nanayakkara you still look right for a caning’ (of course you can come to your own conclusions – a brilliant student ??????)

**Warm Regards,
Yours sincerely,
Sisira Nanayakkara**

Kapila M. Gunawardana in an e-mail of 19th March, says:

Dear Laksman,

Let me first congratulate you on an outstanding job of bringing STCG news updates to the old boy network and keeping us all connected with our alma mater through your website.

Vijitha Fernando who was at STC Mount in an e-mail of 4th March, says:

Many thanks for the informative E-Mails you send periodically. The effort is much appreciated!

Regards. C Vijitha Fernando

Ranjit Lowe in a e-mail of 4th March, says;

Thanks for sending me the updates and the rest thanks once again.

Ranjit Lowe.

Mr. Nimal Bhareti in an e-mail of 26th February, says:

Thanks a lot. You're doing a wonderful job. How about a section on "My memories of Guru"?

N.B

Kapila M Gunawardana (1952 – 1956) in a e-mail of 21st February, says:

Dear Laksman,

Firstly,let me congratulate you for an outstanding service you are providing us old boys with your website and related communications.We are indeed indebted to you for this service.

Kind regards,
Kapila.

CORRESPONDENCE – 2008

Mr. Nimal Bhareti who taught us at Guru in an e-mail of 23d December , says:

Dear Lakshman

Thanks. I downloaded the collection and found them very interesting and informative. Maybe other pupils could add to the comments. It may add colour if the lighter side of these revered people are also mentioned, e.g. their nicknames, some interesting episodes etc. I also very much appreciate that you haven't forgotten the minor staff like bell Simon.

Nimal B

Betty Chapman from Australia in an e-mail of 10th November, says:

Dear Lakshman

Thank you for your email. I was sent "School by the Sea" by Victor Melder who is very well known amongst the Sri Lankans in Australia.

I also wish to thank you for mentioning my late husband A K. Chapman - he was indeed one of nature's gentleman! I spent the first year of our married life at Guru and remember most of those mentioned, eg Bell Simon, Van Simon, and many of the others. One person who is not mentioned is dear 'Mara' - John was a very good friend to me personally and I have happy memories of him coming to our house and asking 'Chappie' if he could do some cooking in our kitchen! Those were wonderful, happy days and sadly dear Mara is no more.

By the way, I am known as Betty - Astrid is my 'official' name used on official documents, etc. I am singing with the Thomians at their Carol Service this year and I am sure it will be much appreciated by the Old Boys. I am known to a number of the old boys including Pajo who is in SR presently.

Kind regards
Betty Chapman

Mr. Nimal Bhareti who taught us at Guru in an e-mail of 22nd October, says:

Dear Lakshman

Thanks very much for your updates. I really appreciate it. Please keep me informed of your activities. I would love to meet my former pupils if there is such an opportunity.

Kind regards

Nimal Bhareti

Peter Weerakoon of Australia in an email of August 15 to our web master says

Dear Web Master,

I write to thank you for a wonderful job in restating the 62 group website and for all the updates.

While going through the News of Members I notice that my period in collge has been incorrectly stated. Could you please make a change to read, 1947 to 1953 instead of 1947 to 1957.

Many Thanks.

Warm regards.

Peter Weerakoon Class of1953.

Mark Fernando of Germany in an Email of August 25, write to the webmaster as follows

Dear Sir,

I am Mark Daymond Fernando.

I was at the Saint Thomas`College from 1978 - 1980.

I was known as a very good sportsman.I was there when Father Wutchy and Head Prefect Atule were there.

You have to excuse my bad English now, because I am living in Germany since 1980.

You could do me a big favour. I am looking for my best best School friend Mr. Sean Orr.

First Name: Sean.....Second Name: Orr.

He joint with me one class. I was in Domm Read and he was in Domm Sarem.

I will be in Sri Lanka in October and I am willing to see him again.

Please help me to find him, I have tried so many things to find him but I was not successful.

Please try to give me emmediatly an answer, I will be very thankful.

My Contactnumber in Sri Lanka is : 0332281070.....Mrs. Janet Wendel

My e-mail: wendel@go4more.de

My tel nr. in Germany : 00496351130479Mr. Mark Wendel

Befor I left Sri Lanka my friends father profession was a Tea tester and he was a burger.(british-srilankan mix).

he was working in moneragela district

sorry for bad english

Thanks Mark Daymond Fernando

LJ in an email of September 18, 2008 to Mark says

Dear Mark,

I refer to your e.mail to the web master.

I telephoned your mother and had a word with her. Please call me when you are in SL.

I have placed a notice on the Home Page of our website <stcg62group.org>

I hope this is in order.

Warm regards,

Lakshman Jayatilaka

Residence : No. 23, First Lane, Kirillapone, Colombo - 05, Sri Lanka.

Telephone : 2828272 (Residence)

: 2818989 (Chambers)

: 0773137727 / 0773960823 (Celluar)

E - Mail : deentee@stmail.lk / ashanjay@sti.lk

: <mailto:deentee@sltnet.lk%2Fashanjay@sltnet.lk>

Mark Fernando of Germany in an email September 18, 2008 says

Dear Mr.L. Jayatilaka,

thank you very much for taking time for this matter Sean Orr.

I will call you as soon as I am in Sri Lanka.

It will be a great help for me to find my best friend Sean Orr.

God bless all Thomians worldwide.

Warm regards,

Mark Daymond Fernando

Mahen Ranasinghe in an e-mail of 18th September to the HM at Gurutalawa writes:

Dear Rev. Father Marc,

I am in favour of doing the Read House roof, depending on the cost, as it is the most urgent. I am totally against manna roof, as it spoils the view from top of the whole complex (being a prominent one) and there is a fire risk, along with a possible serpent and rodent problem. It is OK for a stable, but not for a dormitory, at this age. As the rafters etc. are available funds are required for the roofing sheets, fixing bolts and the labour. Could you please let us have the cost

of that so that we can recommend to Dayantha.

As I mentioned to you I am not in favour of changing the roof angle and combining the toilet with it. Again the view of the complex will change. The roof of the toilet should be separate and the the two roofs can have gutters to take the water. away. The Ex Co also decided at the last Meeting that the toilet should be a separate building.

Regards,
Mahen

I also refer to the drawing of the toilets sent to you on May 13, 2008 for a quotation and await your response. Construction was postponed from August holidays to December holidays, as the Ex Co did not wish to proceed with it in my absence. If we are to do it in December we must finalize the designs immediately.

Regards,
Mahen

Bradman Weerakoon in an e-mail of 19th September writes:

Dear Lakshman

Very interesting. It was good to see old friends of over 50 years ago in such great shape at the andy jayasinghe party.

Thank you for what you are doing. I can never forget your support at a time of much personal sorrow last year.

Best

Bradman Weerakoon

Harish Nilaweera from UK in an e-mail of 21st September writes:

My dear Lucky,

Many thanks for your recent e-mails and in particular for copying the mails from Larry Schockman and Andy Jayasinghe. Larry's mail echoes all our thoughts and feelings but as you rightly say one cannot hope for the glory days to return and you have made the reasons abundantly clear time and time again. As I see it all one can do is to support guys like you in rendering whatever assistance we can to bring some improvement however small or large to the present set up. To this end I am liaising with Andy who is also here now and I shall keep you informed of the progress.....

As usual I must be responsible for at least three or four hits a day to the 62 site which does keep one more than up to date! On a personal note I am ever so grateful for uploading the account of the wedding and the photos(which are of excellent quality and a hugely popular hit over here). Thanks also for including my tribute to Uncle J....

Yours ever,
Harish

Peter Weerakoon in a e-mail of 16th September says:

Gentlemen,

Further to my email to the Head master Gurutalawa in regard to confirmation of receipt of the funds remitted to them by the OBA. I attach herewith a copy of an email received by me from Lucky Jayetillke, who is on the Ex Co of The Guru OBA, and is a constant visitor there. This is a copy of the Headmaster's report lodged at the Ex Co meeting held last Friday, and should hold as a receipt until we get the official one.

It would also be expedient to include a short summary of the monies sent to Mount and Guru in the up coming Thomiana, and would be pleased to receive the actual amounts given to Mount at the Rugby Dinner for the Restoration of the Chapel Roof.

I trust this will suffice until we hear from The HM.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email

Thanks

Have a pleasant day.

Peter

Infrastructure Development Project:

1. ***Water*** – For the first time in years August has not witnessed a water problem despite the high consumption due to the cultivation, thanks to the implementation of the water collection and distribution systems implemented by Jacques Huyghebaert.
2. ***Toilets*** – A new set of night toilets are now in use in the Keble Dormitories (courtesy the OTAUK); a new toilet wing for girls is in use in the Blanchard Dormitory (courtesy Ladies College, Colombo); new staff room toilets and toilets for students of the Middle and Upper Schools (courtesy Brandix); new night toilets in the Junior Dorms (courtesy the STCG OBA); ***work is under way as I write on a new set of four night toilets for the Senior Dorms (courtesy the OBA Melbourne branch).***
3. ***Davidson Dormitory and Wickremesinghe Block*** - This block that will house the A/L students is being refurbished. The timber used for the roof came from our own trees as did the timber for the repairs to the stable roof.

I am sure, pending a formal receipt, the guys at that end should be satisfied with the above. The Report in its entirety will appear on my site by Thursday noon together with the latest updates. If you can get the Kotalawalas' to help ay Guru on any one of their needs, I am sure all will be grateful and it will be very timely because financial resources is the problem Marc cant solve by himself and where he gets stumped.

Take care.

Regards,

LUCKY

Peter Weerakoon in a e-mail of 16th September says:

Dear Mahen, Bandu and Lucky,
As luck would have it. Talk of Funds and we find ways and means to get it.
I am attaching a email from Dayantha Fernando Ex President of The NSW OBA, which is self explanatory.

As you will note I have copied it to HM and Dayantha,. Could you please get in touch with him directly, with copy to me. I will also forward to you my reply to him.

Please treat this matter as urgent.

Kind Regards to you all.

\

Take Care.

Peter

Hi Peter,

I was asked by the NSW OBA to find out whether there is a bite sized project assisting STC Guru, that we (STC NSW OBA) could get involved. What we have in mind is a one-off project, that would cost us about \$2000-2500 or so, that would benefit the students at Guru.

We would rather not be part of a large project - our members want to be associated with a project that we ourselves can fully fund.

A couple of other essential factors for us to fund the project would be;

- a) It has to be a project that NSW OBA would be comfortable funding.
- b) There has to be accountability (i.e. some reliable person detailing the project, acknowledging receipt of monies and in due course confirming that monies have been spent for the purpose intended).
- c) The project must have the support of the Headmaster at Guru - it would be a great help if the request came from him or if he indicated to us his support for the project. (A short e-mail from him is all we ask).

Do you know person(s) that I could contact? Alternatively, you could forward this e-mail to a interested party.

Thanks for keeping me in the loop regarding Melbourne OBA activities.

Regards,

Dayantha

Peter Weerakoon in a e-mail of 15th September to the Headmaster at STCG says:

Dear Rev'd Marc,

I have been asked by the OBA EXCO in Australia to inquire from you if you received the money sent via Cash Transfer to the Gurutalawa account at Welimade. If this cash has been credited, I would be very grateful if you could kindly acknowledge receipt of same to both my self and Nalin Dassenaik the President.

The reason for the Ex Co asking me to request an acknowledgement is due to the fact that I asked them to send this contribution. I am aware that there is a lot of pressure on you as you are handling the whole school alone, without clerical help, and I am sure you will appreciate our concern, in regard to the lack of news from there.

I am sure Bandu Wanigasekera has been in contact with you in regard to the Ronnie Weerakoon Memorial Shield and replica to awarded to the Most Outstanding Athlete for the year at the upcoming Prize Giving. Please let me know the Name of the recipient, so that I could inform the balance of the family that it has been awarded and update the Fund for next year and also to verify if there are extra funds available to provide Sports Materials for the use of the Boys, which could be released as per your requirements.

I trust that you and your family are keeping well.

Please convey to Manisha, Valerie's and my good wishes too.

God Bless.

Peter Weerakoon.

Andy Jayasinghe from UK in an e-mail of 12th September responds to LJ's e-mail of 12th September 2008

Hi Lukshman,

What a sad story , but I suppose your analysis is very realistic. All I can say is that parents of youngsters in western Europe (those who care about their children!) would give an arm and a leg to find a school modled around an English Public school (Eton.. perhaps or even Harrow) where junk food and working class type entertainment will be in short supply .. with loads of sports and a wholesome education which only the elite middleclass can have by sending their kids to boarding schools.

I am afraid, and so sorry that affluent parents in Colombo are hell bent on giving their children a taste of western working class entertainment but yet spend so much in fees at so called International Schools which perhaps do not provide that wholesome education.

Perhaps it is a message that needs to be promulgated ... a message similar to the little Childs cry "The King is naked" !!!!

There is of course an emerging middle class and intelligientia amongst the Masses who I don't think will ever take on the habits and a western way of life for a long time

But Alas the affluent parents of that class will never consider sending their children to a boarding school when the local maha vidyalaya has the best facilities and all for FREE !!.

Yes I do Hope that there will be some comments on this subject from other old boys and well wishers.
How about sending this correspondence to the Bishop.

Thanks and warm regards

Andy (AG) Jayasinghe

Andy Jayasinghe from UK in an e-mail of 11th September writes:

Hi Laksman,

We missed you at our get together.
Here is a pic of those who attended.

We had lots of discussions about Guru and also appreciated the good work that you are doing. Perhaps It should adopt "INTERNATIONAL" as part of its name and look for some well known teachers (perhaps who have retired) Raise the fees to match the fees charged by International schools and have a smaller number of students whose fees will pay for a school which will supply a 4* education in a boarding school atmosphere that wont or cannot be rivalled by any "International" school.

The problem is to fund the cost of the interim period during all the preperation publicity, and the initial period of low numbers.

Having read Larry SChockmans mail and your mail (each showing the pros and cons of Guru in yester-year and today) I am convinced that there will be parents of 250 children now attending the "International schools" who will gladly support a school which will produce young men similar to all of us who were so fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend a school such as Guru.

Perhaps this sort of Idea will be supported by a lot of Old boys (financially) rather than the contributions that are now being made towards repairs and maintenance and to cover deficits arising from charging fees of Rs 7500 a month .

I will be very interested to see if this sort of idea will get some positive support and if there is some indication of finacial comitment .

I will be very happy to get involved but this has to be an effort supported by the college governors and also by hundreds if not thousands of old boys.

I am going back to the UK this week but please do keep me in the loop .

Thanks and my very best reagrds

Ananda jayasinghe (AG)

PS.. Had lunch with SK wickremasinghe (old boy 1945 - 1950) and he was one of the first batch of boys in Guru as it was started.

Mahen Liyanage from USA in an e-mail of 22nd August writes:

Hello Laksman,

Thanks for all the information you provide on STCG.

With your busy life you take the time to care for our old school and you have challenged everyone to get involved and participate in some form or the other.

I regret that I did not write you before. Anyway it is better late than never.

I hope to be in SL in the month of December and Karu Amarasinghe will know my details and we can definitely meet.

STC OBA allocated some funds to STCG; I was at that meeting and I have to follow up to see what happened.

Kamal Nilaweera stayed with George Pillai couple of nights few months back and we had a dinner at George's place for him. Lal Yapa & wife, Vijitha Yapa & wife (They were here for book fare), Barath & wife and few others who were much senior to us were present.

Thanks again and take care.

Mahendra

Larry Schokman from Australia in an e-mail of 22nd August writes:

Dear Lakshman,

Many thanks for your e-mail re your website, etc., plus your request for "comments and observations". I also received an e-mail this morning from my old friend Peter Weerakoon, who is Editor of the STC (Australia) Newsletter.

It is encouaging to know that you (and a few others!) are asking questions and finally getting some positive answers from the apparently crippled hierarchy that was/is responsible for running STC Gurutalawa.

As an old boy ('48-51) during the Hayman-Foster era, it is sad to observe the decline of this wonderful institution, which had such a positive impact on many of us. In fact, I visited STC Guru about ten years ago and was most disappointed with what I observed and experienced. The apparent nonchalance, indifference and downright ignorance about past history and the people who helped mould this institution, indicated to me a total disinterest in the organization for which they worked. It was just a job--NOT a vocation.

For example, when Dr. Hayman funded the construction of the swimming pool, it was the student body named the "Turf Club"(!) that helped landscape the area below the Chapel. We brought in pieces of sod from surrounding areas and tamped them onto the steep embankments around the pool, in order to prevent erosion.

We also helped level parts of the cricket pitch/games field. At that time we did not realize how these extra curricular activities became a part of our education. Other examples were the Scout Troop (Dr. Hayman), Life Guard certification (Dr. Hayman), Junior and Senior Cadets (Capt. Lucian Amerasinghe and Lt. A.M.S. Abeywardene--who was also House Master of deSaram House). We even marched from STCG to Diyatalawa under the watchful but critical eye of AMSA! That unofficial march followed by an extensive .303 rifle practice almost decimated our cadet battallion!

Among others, the Rifle Club (AMSA), building projects like small dams, which helped us understand the fundamentals of hydroelectric power (Dr. H.), Hiking Club (Dr. Hayman and Mr. A.R.W. Tennekoon), Farm Club (Mr. Peglar--a Welshman), Woodwork and Music (Mr. and Mrs. Scott), obstacle course (Dr. Hayman, Mr. Scott)--just to name a few!

Almost forgot! On Friday nights after dinner, Dr. Hayman would show us movies, plus **his** excellent movies of his trips around Ceylon emphasizing the important historical significance of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, etc. He would also show us movies of old boys and their achievements, on and off the sports arena--an unwitting indoctrination of the so-called "Thomian spirit," that embraced the vaues of hard work, fair play and above all, esprit de corps.

The emphasis was **teamwork** and not the ego--even though the ego was constantly being challenged academically and athletically. Strict **discipline** was the key to this success.

We just did not realize at that time how very lucky we were to be exposed to the collective genius of people like Rev. Foster and Dr. Hayman--both intellectual and physical giants--A.K. Chapman, Lucien Amerasinghe, A.M.S. Abeywardena, Rev. Elliot and his wife (for a short while), Mr. Scott and his wife (also for a short while), Richard Peglar--just to name a few.

These were people who dedicated their lives to educate and inspire young Ceylonese men, soon after Ceylon became an independent nation. After all, many of these young men would be the future leaders of the country--not only in politics, but in all facets of society. The results of their labor and optimism were not misplaced.

We were also exposed to some of the new "old boys" who returned to Gurutalawa to teach, for relatively short periods of time, i.e., before they went to university, etc. I recall the likes of Duleep Kumar (also our cricket coach--we even played Jaffna College in Jaffna, plus another trip to Batticaloa), Bradman Weerakoon (captained STC at cricket, Peter W. is his brother), John Habaragoda, and later on my classmate A.C.M. Laffir and John Marasinge (both Hayman acolytes!). Where are the Duleeps and Bradmans of today? The mere fact that I remember their contributions to the school, plus the positive impact they had on me, after almost **sixty years**, says it all.

I'd better stop now, before I get carried away! What we need at STC Guru is a **dedicated staff**. Also, we had no female teachers in our day, except for Mrs. Hayman--matron, and Mrs. Kularatne--tuck shop. Every male teacher was involved in **after-school extracurricular activities** with the students. Is that too much to ask in this day and age?

Before I conclude this unplanned diatribe (!) would you please be so good as to let me know how many old boys (still alive!) went to STC Kollupitiya, STC Bandarawela, STCG, and Mt. Lavinia? I am one of them--and was exposed to Mr. and Mrs. Keble, Mrs. Jagers--matron, and of course Warden deSaram, C.H. Davidson, F.J. Senaratne, C.R. Wise, S.J. Anandanayagam, V.J. Hensman, Mr. Devadasan, and other pillars of the staff at STC. God Bless them all, and ESTO PERPETUA.

Kind regards,
Larry

Muditha Dissanayake in an e-mail of 21st August writes:

Dear Mr. Jayatilake,

Hope you are well. I just noticed something on 62group website and thought I'll write to you to explain my side. I was going through the recent updates on 62group site and noticed the section for college website, where it seems there is a problem regarding the website which I was unaware of. I too agree it is the (or was) official website for the college and the headmaster is in full control with regards to this site. That was the agreement when the site was first launched in 2003. And the headmaster promised to appoint someone to provide content for the site. But as you know apart from you, Mr. Bandu wanigasekara and sometimes Mr Nihal Wanniarachchi (images only) I havent had any news provided from the college (I belive some news items came from gurutalawa via Bandu Wanigasekara).

I have been very busy with my personal life and work etc that I havent spent enough time updating the site. I started to build a site which can be updated by a person with very little expert knowlege (in other words the site is a database driven website in which someone can update any page by just typing it and saving the text. Like you would do on a word document), but during this time I wasnt sure if the college will ever use what I built (Dont think there was an internet connection at guru at this time). I got busy and this project was delayed and now forgotten. Also I dont see myself finding enough time to build one in the near future.

I hope I will be able to spend time to keep updating the site whenever I get the content from an authorised person. Or as it is mentioned on your site, if the College can maintain the site I would be happy to handover the site hoping that it will be looked after and kept uptodate. It would have been an outdated website if it wasnt for the content from Mr Bandu Wanigasekara and yourself.

With regards to the missing link to your site. The link was originally there listed as the number 1 link as it is a guru site and it is a very good guru site. But stcg62group.com was inactive and Mr Bandu wanigasekara having noticed the link taking users to the wrong site advised me to remove it. As I mentioned earlier I didnt spend much time updating the site and forgotten to add the link. which I am going to add now.

Thanks

Muditha

The Headmaster in an e-mail of 15th August writes:

Hello Lakshman,

Still in India. Will be back in Guru on 17th. I went onto your site yesterday actually and was pleasantly surprised to see the photos of the swimming meet et al. It is a better site

than the College one that hasn't been updated for a while. I really must get Kaviharan to take it on as a special project and get some senior boys involved as well.

Term 3 will reopen on the 1st of September and close on or before 10th December.

One small error on my part - the Prize Giving will be on Wednesday 8th, not 10th as mentioned to you when we met.

I am also planning a surprise birthday party for Fr Goodchild on Thursday 4th September. It will be his 85th. Anyone interested in being there for a special assembly at 9 am and lunch will be welcome, especially those who may have been taught by him over the 40 odd years that he has served STCG. **The priority is SECRECY** as he will not be there if he learns of any plans to celebrate this event. Please let me know, if possible, how many will be coming up, if at all.

Will be in touch when I return.

Warm regards,

Marc

Ranjit Lowe in an e-mail of Aug 21st has written to us as follows:

Thanks for everything you do on behalf of our old school. Thanks for the mail. You are doing a great job. I appreciate that very much.

RANJIT LOWE.

Ana Amaranath from Sydney, in an e-mail of Aug 19th has written to us as follows:

Dear Lucky,

Thanks for the emails about your valiant efforts to bring an element of transparency to the administration of STC Guru.

I encourage you to keep up the rage. You have our support.

I received the attached photo from an Old boy of Mount. It may be of interest to you. Old Ratus is depicted in the photo.

I hope to see Ratus soon. I will send you a photo depicting the visit.

George Pillai wrote to me recently. He appears to be doing reasonably well.

I am now in contact with John Hunter. His email address is hunter816@hotmail.com. Please place him on your mailing list.

By the way, the last time I wrote to you I undertook to raise some funds for Guru through the auspices of the STC OBA NSW branch. I asked you to

identify a suitable project. You thought Rev. Marc B would be in better position to respond to my request and forwarded the letter to him requesting that he respond directly to me. I have not heard from the Headmaster. Perhaps you could chase it up with him.

With kind Regards

Ana

Mr. S. Shanker, Web Master of the STCB OBA website in an e-mail of Aug 15th has written to us as follows:

Dear Mr. Lakshman,

Our sincere thanks for your kind hearted effort and interest shown not only in STC Guru activities but also STC BW. You are a great personality, infact you updated STC BW OBA Weekend in your website before we did. Thank you so much. I have created a link in our site to the OBA Weekend updates in your site. Hope you don't mind doing it without your permission.

I would like to have some photographs that you captured during our OBA Reunion and AGM.

Keep in touch.

Esto Perpetua!

S Shanker

Mr. R. Sandanakrishnan, Social Secretary, STCB OBA in an e-mail of Aug 15th has written to us as follows:

Dear Mr.Lakshman

Let me thank you and Sumedha for your presence at the Annual OBA Week End in Bandarawela.

Further we appreciate your initiatives in giving Publicity to our College and OBA activities.

We will be in contact regularly

Warm Regards

Esto Perpetua

R.Sandanakrishnan
Social Secretary
STCBWOBA

We set out below an e-mail dated June 27 from F.M. Tan in Canada:

Thanks for your April 7 email regarding the newspaper article on Mary Hayman written by Mr. Duleepkumar, and must apologise for the long delay in replying. I deeply appreciate your regard to detail in letting me know that the photograph that I took of Dr & Mrs Hayman, and Fr. Foster was part of that article. I'm only honoured to be able to contribute in my small way to Guru's history. Due to your timely notice, I was able to access the article in the Sunday Times.

Thanks also for your May 28 email regarding the major updates of the stcg62group.org website. You're doing a terrific job with the website, especially with the latest photographs of Guru shown in your "May 2008 College Profile in Pictures", virtually bringing Guru right onto the doorsteps of many an old boy, especially those abroad.

Due to the numerous and frequent updates of articles, instead of the present "UPDATED" icon highlighted in green, I was wondering if it would be possible to have another "UPDATED" icon but in two other colours to differentiate between the updates that were made, for instance, within the last two months. The latest updates (say, less than 2 weeks from date of update) can retain the green highlight, those between 3 and 5 weeks can have (say) yellow highlight, and those 6 to 8 weeks can be (say) blue. For articles after 8 weeks, the icons are proposed to be completely deleted. I think this will save a lot of time for someone who otherwise would be following the links but being unable to find the article that was actually updated, or find that the article had been updated for quite a while.

Just yesterday, I came across a very interesting and useful website by Google maps / Wikimapia, which is an online map which apparently allows people who registers to add information to any location on the globe, and which displays extraordinary satellite views in great detail. To obtain the view of the location that you want, just "cut and paste" the link onto your webpage address bar and press enter. The maps can be enlarged to a reasonable degree, and some locations have descriptions and entries made, making identification of the area for the user very easy. This will be a very useful and an attractive link for our existing college website.

Due to my inadequate knowledge of the names of the locations near Guru, I wasn't able to get an exact plot on the location of Guru, and the nearest that I was able to get is shown at the following locations:

(1) Gurutalawala (spelling as shown in the website)

<http://wikimapia.org/#lat=6.8432602&lon=80.9321594&z=10&l=0&m=a&v=2>, and

(2) Welimada Road

<http://wikimapia.org/#y=6768243&x=80943766&z=18&v=2>

I've attached a copy of the maps that I obtained for the above two locations as well, for your reference, and hope with your more detail knowledge of the names of the locations

near Guru, you'll be more successful than me. The area shown on the above location (1) however, is near the extremity of the map that was covered in that satellite photo. Anyway, good luck!!

You may also be interested to know there is a link for the whole of Colombo, as well, at: <http://wikimapia.org/#lat=6.9511354&lon=79.8524952&z=14&l=0&m=a&v=2>,

Our family is getting on well, and I hope yours is as well.

Best regards,

F M Tan

We set out below part of the recent correspondence we have had with the indefatigable Peter Weerakoon of Australia with regard to his sustained efforts to set up the Guru Support Group

Hi All,

Further to my earlier email in early March re forming this support Group within the confines of the OBA Australia, I had five positive replies to my suggestion by email and three positives from word of mouth. = 8.

On 16 March Ed Rowland, his brother Adlai and I met in Melbourne and felt that it would be good to try to Support the Sports activities at Gurutalwa. There is a dearth of Male Teachers at Guru at present, and the Boys tend to fend for themselves, and the two Master who do the Games part, do so only when time permits. Thereby leaving the boys to their own devices, which as you all know leads to mischief?

As such I have been in contact with the Guru OBA in Sri Lanka and, suggested to them that if this support group gets off the ground, we would initially Fund a Scheme to make a" Ex- Gratia" payment to the Master or Masters in Charge of Games, on the recommendation of the OBA, who will make the decision in consultation with the Head Master.

I now write to inquire from you all, and any other Guru Old Boys who you might know , who's email address I don't have, are willing to contribute any amount over twenty Dollars, to a fund, for a start for the improvement of Sports at our old school. The Canadian OBA, I understand has just contributed Canadian Dollars 2500.00 toward a communication system required by the Head Master. I am aware that the Australian OBA in Melbourne has sent \$ 1500.00 to the cost of renovating the Senior Dorm Night Toilets.

The Fund if commenced with your help will be handled by the Gurutalawa OBA, and deposited in a Savings account Styled "Gurutalawa Support Group Fund for Sports", if the Fund has extra money left over after the Ex Gratia payments, it could be utilized for the purchase of any Sports items required.

If you are willing to join in and help our old Alma Mater to get back to the days, as we remember, then let us do what we can. You could please send your contributions by Cheque drawn in favour of, **The S,Thomas' College OBA Gurutalawa Account No: 1930010988**. It would be appreciated if the cheques could be sent to me at 10 A Evans Avenue, Hampton East Victoria 3188, Australia for recording, receipting and onward transmission to Sri Lanka. **Or if you wish you could make a direct transfer of funds to The S.Thomas College OBA Gurutalawa Account 1930010988 .SWIFT CODE CCEYLKX, Commercial Bank, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia, under advise to me for recording and follow up.**

At Present the fund has ten old "Guru boys" who have already pledged \$ 800.00 towards this Fund, and have already remitted \$ 300.00

I will also be sending this same appeal by snail mail to those of us who have no emails

I am available on the phone 03 9553 2559, any time after 6Pm EST, if you need to clarify any matter in this regard, or about Gurutalawa. So Give me call, or if not available leave message on my voice mail. **You could also view this appeal ,and any other matters of Gurutalawa by getting on to the website <http://stcg62group.org/>**

I have also been asked to assist in updating the Membership Directory for the next Issue, and would be grateful if you can forward me the following details.

Name;
Occupation;
Address (Office)
Telephone (Office)
Email
Address(Home)
Telephone
Period in College

Looking forward to hearing from you all, as soon as possible

Many Thanks and Kind regards.

"Esto Perpetua"

Peter E Weerakoon
Email; peterweerakoon@astron.net.au
Class of 53.

Gentlemen,

The OBA Gurutalawa is trying to update the Membership Directory, and the details are wanted by the middle of July.

I have been entrusted with the job of making contact with the Guru Boys in Australia, as a first step. I would therefore be glad to receive your details as set out below, at the very earliest. I refer to my email dated 27th May in this regard.

Also as advised on the 21st of May 2008 a Gurutalawa Support Group has been formed, and at present the Group has 12 old Boys who have pledged to support the Sports activities at Guru, and I appeal to you to join the group and give a donation of what ever amount you wish towards the improvement of Sports at Our ALMA MATER.

[PETER WEERAKOON] The total in this fund in Colombo at present is around Rs 30000.00 with two contributions having been sent by direct transfer, under advice to me, another amount of A \$ 150.00 in cheques drawn on The OBA Gurutalawa account is with me, as I am awaiting another three cheques promised totaling another A \$350.00.

Your kind contribution to this Fund is looked forward to. Please refer earlier emails on this subject/

In case you wish to send a contribution of whatever amount direct to the OBA you may do so, but please keep me informed so that I could record the amount and follow it up with the Guru OBA.

The Account details are as follows.

**Bank Name; Commercial Bank, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia
A/C Name; STC(G)OBA S, Thomas College Gutrutalawa OBA
A/C No; 1930010988
Swift Code' CCEYLKLX**

Although this is the preferred method, Cheques drawn in favour of the Gurutalawa OBA sent to me will be forwarded as and when received.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 03 9553 2559 for further details if needed or email me anytime.

Thank you. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards

ESTO PERPETUA

Peter Weerakoon

Class of '53

Dear Dayantha,

Your query to Mark Secretary of the OBA Australia in Melbourne was, forwarded to me.

I understand that you were contacted by Margot De Zilva, nee Thomas. Thank you for getting in touch with me.

I am sending by separate Email, a report from the Senior Vice President which was done about a year ago just for your perusal.

At present Gurutalawa needs funds to have its buildings and facilities repaired and maintained. The Guru OBA has done the Junior Dorm Night Toilets, Ladies College has chipped in to do the Keble Dorm (Winchester) Toilets and OBA Melbourne has sent \$ 1500 for repairs to the Senior Dorm Night Toilets. Here is a mighty amount of work to be done, but any contribution towards, and the amounts needed are in the thousands of Dollars, but any amount however small will I am sure be gratefully accepted and faithfully applied.

I am copying this letter to the boys in Colombo who are more competent and knowledgeable than me, in regards to the immediate needs of the school in regard to building maintenance... I would therefore ask you to communicate with Mahen Ranasinghe, or any of the above about Funding or donating to any Fund.

There is a need to keep the Students occupied, and encouraged to take part in Sports activities, which is there, but lacking, and the nucleus of the Guru Support group here in Melbourne which was formed after my recent trip to Gurutalawa was of the opinion that we could contribute towards a Sports Activity Fund., which would help the relieve the money for paying a coach for other urgent matters, and this may be worth considering, as we could then join forces and operate one fund through the Gurutalawa OBA. When I was in Gurutalawa on this visit I discussed the matter of Funding with the Headmaster, and he was keen on having a Haymen Trust Foundation, to fund those student who would be unable to pay a terms fee due to some emergency, and replenish it when the money is paid up!

Please discuss this with your EX Co and keep them briefed on the position.

I would like to be kept in the picture in regard to any decision made by you so that there may not any doubling. This is why it is better to be in contact with Mahen/ Lucky or Bandu

Best wishes.
Esto Perpetua

Yours Sincerely
Peter Weerakoon.

Dear All.

Just to keep you informed that, I have received promise of support from 8 old Guru boys up to now, and the cheques and the money are coming rolling in. We should get a few more within the next few weeks. So we should look forward to a substantial amount for the Sports Activities fund.

I write to confirm that I have today been informed by Ivor Kelaart Class of 42, that he has transferred Australian \$ 100.00,through Cash 2 hand direct to the OBA Bank account. Please confirm receipt of this amount when it arrives in the bank direct to him with copy to me by email. His email address is as follows. ivokelaart@optusnet.com.au . I have also received a Cheque drawn in favour of the OBA Guru from Peter Ondaatjee for \$50.00, and will acknowledge same direct to him, and post cheque to you within the course of the next two week, as I am awaiting a few more to arrive.

Please let me know if you prefer direct transfers as if so I could ask the group to send it in that manner.

The Group so far consists of the following who have promised contributions.

.
Ed Rowland
Mike de Silva
Dermott Claasz
Ivor Kelaart *
Arthur Jayasundera
Ranji Cassinder
Peter Ondatejee *
And myself

The balance have been contacted and replies have been received from 5 who has as yet to commit an amount.

Take Care

Regards
Peter

Hi All.

Further to my earlier email attached and snail mail sent out to those not on the net, it is very heartening to note with great pleasure the response to join the Gurutalawa Support Group. There are yet a few of us who have to get in touch with me in regard to what they intend doing, but I must say "Thank you" to those who readily responded to my request.

Since there could be certain logistic delays in getting the money over to the OBA, it would be desirable if you were to send the remittance direct to me drawn in favour of the S.Thomas College Gurutalawa OBA Account No 1930010988- Commercial Bank Mount Lavinia. Or if you wish to send the money direct by Bank Transfer, you may do so under advice to me so that I could then follow it up for purpose of record.

The quicker we are able to get the Fund going the better the prospects of improved Sports activities at Gurutalawa

The promised collection so far towards the Sports Fund is approximately \$ 450.00, and you "mite" will certainly help to swell the fund, so that it would be more beneficial to the Staff and Students.

I would be glad to receive your comments in regard to the above.

"Esto Per Perpetua"

Peter Weerakoon
"Class of 53"

Subject: S.Thomas; College Gurutalawa OBA "Support Group" Australia

Hi All,

Further to my earlier email in early March re forming this support Group within the confines of the OBA Australia, I had five positive replies to my suggestion by email and three positives from word of mouth. = 8.

On 16 March Ed Rowland, his brother Adlai and I met in Melbourne and felt that it would be good to try to Support the Sports activities at Gurutalawa. There is a dearth of Male Teachers at Guru at present, and the Boys tend to fend for themselves, and the two Master who do the Games part, do so only when time permits. Thereby leaving the boys to their own devices, which as you all know leads to mischief?

As such I have been in contact with the Guru OBA ,in Sri Lanka and, suggested to them that if this support group gets off the ground, we would initially Fund a Scheme to make a” Ex- Gratia” payment to the Master or Masters in Charge of Games, on the recommendation of the OBA, who will make the decision in consultation with the Head Master.

I now write to inquire from you all, and any other Guru Old Boys who you might know , who's email address I don't have, are willing to contribute any amount over twenty Dollars, to a fund, for a start for the improvement of Sports at our old school. The Canadian OBA, I understand has just contributed Canadian Dollars 2500.00 toward a communication system required by the Head Master. I am aware that the Australian OBA in Melbourne has sent \$ 1500.00 to the cost of renovating the Senior Dorm Night Toilets.

The Fund if commenced with your help will be handled by the Gurutalawa OBA, and deposited in a Savings account Styled “Gurutalawa Support Group Fund for Sports”, if the Fund has extra money left over after the Ex Gratia payments, it could be utilized for the purchase of any Sports items required.

If you are willing to join in and help our old Alma Mater to get back to the days, as we remember, then let us do what we can. You could please send your contributions by Cheque drawn in favour of, **The S,Thomas' College OBA Gurutalawa Account No: 1930010988**. It would be appreciated, if the cheques could be sent to me at **10 A Evans Avenue, Hampton East Victoria 3188, Australia for recording**, receipting and onward transmission to Sri Lanka.

I will also be sending this same appeal by snail mail to those of us who have no Email's.

I am available on the phone 03 9553 2559, any time after 6Pm EST, if you need to clarify any matter in this regard, or about Gurutalawa. So Give me call, or if not available leave message on my voice mail.

Looking forward to hearing from you all, as soon as possible

Many Thanks and Kind regards. “Esto Perpetua”

Peter E Weerakoon

Class of 53.

In an e-mail of May 28th 2008, Harish Nilaweera writing from London says:

Dear Lakshman,

Thanks for your mail. I am right up to date with all the info on the 62 site including the view of the mist ascending from Koslanda-Wellawaya right up to the gates of Olympus Hotel Haputale!!! The photos of the meeting at Guru and the report of the Headmaster etc was informative. Obviously a lot more has to be done but the distinct improvement from what things were three or four years ago is apparent. So sorry to see the state of the infrastructure ie the dorms buildings etc but I am sure things will get better with time. Believe me we over here feel ever so humble thinking of the efforts you and your mates are making for things to improve. I have been speaking

to A.G. Jayasinghe (about threeyears senior to us) and he has some ideas we might discuss when we meet in August.
Regards to Mahen Wannan et al.

Harish

Dr. David Ponniah, Warden, S. Thomas College, Mt Lavinia, has responded by e-mail on 2nd April 2008 as follows to our request regarding the College Song:

Dear Lakshman,

The CD I think you refer to was produced by Priya Pieris and sponsored by the Year of 56, of which I too am a member. Of the boys singing, the main voice is Asitha Tennekoon. I do not think anyone would object if it was used by a Guru web site.

With best wishes

David

Dear Sir,

I have set up a web site under stcg62group.org essentially for the betterment of Guru. I have been placing very regular updates received from the Headmaster at Guru. I had with me an audio cd which had been launched on the occasion of the 125 th encounter of the Royal Thomian and which I had bought then The last track on this cd is an item by some senior students of STC Mt, ie the complete version of the College song. With a view to having this audio version on the home page of the above site , I have endeavoured to ascertain the party responsible for the production, to get their formal approval for ethical reasons. However I have drawn a blank. **I am writing to you, to find out whether you are aware of the party and if so whether you could help me to make contact with such party** Of course no commercial advantage is sought or hoped for in placing this track on the site. If the party does not desire that the song be thus made use of I would naturally remove it forthwith. Can you please let me have your response.

Incidentally this web site was previously under the title stcg62group.com. It was abandoned when we found the authorities were not paying much attention to our voices re the terrible state Guru was in. Now that fresh winds are blowing across Guru we have once again rallied round to do what we can. The web site is one limb. In the meantime the original site has been taken over by an American commercial Company. In the College Web Site under Links the incorrect Site appears. I had written in this connection and advised its removal. Perhaps you could look in to this matter too.

Warm regards,
Lakshman Jayatilaka

Peter Weerakoon who has organized a Guru Support Group in Australia in an e-mail of 18th March 2008 to the HM at Guru says:

The President Mr. Nalin Dassenaik will get in touch with you concerning forwarding the funds to Gurutalawa... Please liaise with him concerning this matter.

You will be glad to hear that a nucleus of The Gurutalawa Support Group was formed on Sunday the 16, with five old boys from Victoria turning out on very hot and humid afternoon. It was suggested that we as a group get in touch with the other Interstate old Guru Boys, and as they are widespread, it will take a bit of time. However, the general feeling of the group was to ask you to submit your requirements in regard to Sports activities at the campus. Mainly in the employment of a Coach for Cricket, Soccer, and other sports activities. and what you may need in the way of materials. Etc for a start. As the group grows, we may be able to assist you in more projects. On receipt of your costing for a full time coach or a part-time coach we would then endeavour to try and formulate a programme of assistance.

In the meantime all the very best with the funds from STC OBA Australia. Hope you will be able to get the night toilets completed, as soon as possible.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

All the very best for the Easter Season and Good wishes to yourself and your Family.

Sincerely your's

Peter

Dear Peter.

I hope your meeting on March 16th will bring in the desired results. It sure won't be an easy task. Not after decades since leaving the portals of Guru and amongst such a small community of old Thomians far removed from the realities of Guru. I say this because even in Sri Lanka to get old boys to attend the Reunion at Guru even once a year is pretty difficult. Mahen having expended all his energies was able to gather a crowd of only 125 or so for the AGM. This included I believe almost 45 new members who were organised and chartered for the occasion. According to statistics and past practice their numbers will wither away come the ensuing year and if there is nobody to sponsor them. Thus we are still left with a situation where even after almost 67 years down the line after Guru was born that only 45 to 75 old boys can be persuaded to gather at Guru for an annual reunion. Consider the fact that Guru has been churning out Thomians at the rate of about 60 each year. There should be at least 4000 old boys of Guru around now. There are very many reasons for this sorry state of affairs. Let me not bore you with all that rigmarole now. But if you were to take a journey down my site, the reasons why we came into being, the 10 Newsletters we did before an incompetent Ex-Co were dumped and persons of the calibre of Duleep, and Bandu were persuaded by me to come to the forefront you will learn the recent history of the OBA and the College; which brings me to the matter you have raised.

I have absolutely no objection to the OBA in Australia providing a Link to my site. After all anybody who does a search on the Internet will discover my site. Furthermore apart from the official site of the Parent School, STC Mount, even their official OBA site plus the official sites of the STC Bandarawela OBA as well as the official site of the Old Thomians of the East Coast of USA have established links to my site. The Canadian site has promised to do so as soon as they get down to that subject.

As far as the Guru web site is concerned that is the official site of the College which was set up by an old boy of the 95 group who came to me for that purpose and I enrolled him as a member of the OBA of Guru. Yet it is the OBA that runs, controls and manages it. This is a pure accident and not the intention of the founding Architect or Designer. In other words the OBA hijacked the

College site and now runs it on their policies. You will not find it difficult to appreciate the fact that, if the site is the official site of the College, the private inclinations and idiosyncrasies of the OBA or its office bearers or members have no place in it. It is the Headmaster who must have full control whether we like it or not. The ideas of the OBA should be displayed in the site of the OBA, if they have one. Here too the correspondence available with me which I have uploaded on my site bears testimony to this quirk of historical aberration. Although my contribution to the setting up of the site for the College at Guru is acknowledged in that site itself, for some hidden reason my site has not been provided a link therein. I find it too embarrassing to ask for same, particularly in view of several matters some of which I mention here. The interesting fact is although the site of the Group of 62 or Class of 62 of STC Guru is not recognised by the site of their own College, the STC Guru site recognises the sites of Classes of 83 and 93 of STC Mount and even a Class of 93 of STC Prep. These are private sites. Yet the Guru Newsletters and other writings keep referring to my site and request old boys to visit my site to get the latest information and news etc and requests publication of material too.

So the way out for you Peter is to visit the Guru site and go to their Links and then on to STC Mount site and go to their < Contacts and Links > and click on < Class of 62 > under mind you, < S Thomas College Gurutalawa >. What a devious and ludicrous way to get about a simple thing.

In my view it would be preferable to draw up an Instrument for the Ronnie Weerakoon Memorial Fund. I believe Bandu is attending to it. I am sure he will contact me should he need my help. I am sure Bandu will take over the money from Ronnie's daughter. You could certainly give her my contact details in Colombo and she can meet me in the event Bandu has any problem. I will do whatever is required through my Law Firm which will give additional credibility rather than an individual handling same.

Bandu is keeping a rather low profile in OBA matters obviously due to his problem. I felt that when he does participate in any gathering it is somewhat of a strain for him. Any way I hope he has it attended to early and he comes out fighting fit.

I am still at my Secretaries to get that complete mailing list done of old boys. I hope I can finish it this week. Hope to send a test message thereafter. There is bound to be a whole lot of returned mails. But it will still be worth it if a few can join with their support.

Just another thought, Peter. A large amount of material on my site relates to the period August 2001 to March 2003 when I was fully involved in the OBA and in College. You will find Reports by the number. Correspondence was heavy. Minutes were detailed. Visits to Guru were almost once in every 3 weeks. The facts and matters related to that period. Everything we did was for the betterment of Guru. Never to put any one in trouble or seeking favours or positions on the Ex-Co or elsewhere. When I found the Bishop and the Board turning a deaf ear I got fed up and took a back seat. The others who did not want to give up have continued albeit on a lower key. In fact I must tell you quite frankly and I will not be fair by you or honest with you if I do not come clean. I still entertain very serious reservations and doubts about the viability and future of Guru in spite of the supportive role I play personally and through the site. Furthermore this is also despite whatever financial and other contributions I continue to make personally and privately through the Headmaster whenever he calls on me. That is one reason I find it impossible to ask any of my friends to make contributions when I myself entertain these doubts.

Warm Regards,

Lucky.

Dear Peter.

I hope your meeting on March 16th will bring in the desired results. It sure won't be an easy task. Not after decades since leaving the portals of Guru and amongst such a small community of old Thomians far removed from the realities of Guru. I say this because even in Sri Lanka to get old boys to attend the Reunion at Guru even once a year is pretty difficult. Mahen having expended all his energies was able to gather a crowd of only 125 or so for the AGM. This included I believe almost 45 new members who were organised and chartered for the occasion. According to statistics and past practice their numbers will wither away come the ensuing year and if there is nobody to sponsor them. Thus we are still left with a situation where even after almost 67 years down the line after Guru was born that only 45 to 75 old boys can be persuaded to gather at Guru for an annual reunion. Consider the fact that Guru has been churning out Thomians at the rate of about 60 each year. There should be at least 4000 old boys of Guru around now. There are very many reasons for this sorry state of affairs. Let me not bore you with all that rigmarole now. But if you were to take a journey down my site, the reasons why we came into being, the 10 Newsletters we did before an incompetent Ex-Co were dumped and persons of the calibre of Duleep, and Bandu were persuaded by me to come to the forefront you will learn the recent history of the OBA and the College; which brings me to the matter you have raised.

I have absolutely no objection to the OBA in Australia providing a Link to my site. After all anybody who does a search on the Internet will discover my site. Furthermore apart from the official site of the Parent School, STC Mount, even their official OBA site plus the official sites of the STC Bandarawela OBA as well as the official site of the Old Thomians of the East Coast of USA have established links to my site. The Canadian site has promised to do so as soon as they get down to that subject.

As far as the Guru web site is concerned that is the official site of the College which was set up by an old boy of the 95 group who came to me for that purpose and I enrolled him as a member of the OBA of Guru. Yet it is the OBA that runs, controls and manages it. This is a pure accident and not the intention of the founding Architect or Designer. In other words the OBA hijacked the College site and now runs it on their policies. You will not find it difficult to appreciate the fact that, if the site is the official site of the College, the private inclinations and idiosyncrasies of the OBA or its office bearers or members have no place in it. It is the Headmaster who must have full control whether we like it or not. The ideas of the OBA should be displayed in the site of the OBA, if they have one. Here too the correspondence available with me which I have uploaded on my site bears testimony to this quirk of historical aberration. Although my contribution to the setting up of the site for the College at Guru is acknowledged in that site itself, for some hidden reason my site has not been provided a link therein. I find it too embarrassing to ask for same, particularly in view of several matters some of which I mention here. The interesting fact is although the site of the Group of 62 or Class of 62 of STC Guru is not recognised by the site of their own College, the STC Guru site recognises the sites of Classes of 83 and 93 of STC Mount and even a Class of 93 of STC Prep. These are private sites. Yet the Guru Newsletters and other writings keep referring to my site and request old boys to visit my site to get the latest information and news etc and requests publication of material too.

So the way out for you Peter is to visit the Guru site and go to their Links and then on to STC Mount site and go to their < Contacts and Links > and click on < Class of 62 > under mind you, < S Thomas College Gurutalawa >. What a devious and ludicrous way to get about a simple thing.

In my view it would be preferable to draw up an Instrument for the Ronnie Weerakoon Memorial Fund. I believe Bandu is attending to it. I am sure he will contact me should he need my help. I am sure Bandu will take over the money from Ronnie's daughter. You could certainly give her my contact details in Colombo and she can meet me in the event Bandu has any problem. I will do

whatever is required through my Law Firm which will give additional credibility rather than an individual handling same.

Bandu is keeping a rather low profile in OBA matters obviously due to his problem. I felt that when he does participate in any gathering it is somewhat of a strain for him. Any way I hope he has it attended to early and he comes out fighting fit.

I am still at my Secretaries to get that complete mailing list done of old boys. I hope I can finish it this week. Hope to send a test message thereafter. There is bound to be a whole lot of returned mails. But it will still be worth it if a few can join with their support.

Just another thought, Peter. A large amount of material on my site relates to the period August 2001 to March 2003 when I was fully involved in the OBA and in College. You will find Reports by the number. Correspondence was heavy. Minutes were detailed. Visits to Guru were almost once in every 3 weeks. The facts and matters related to that period. Everything we did was for the betterment of Guru. Never to put any one in trouble or seeking favours or positions on the Ex-Co or elsewhere. When I found the Bishop and the Board turning a deaf ear I got fed up and took a back seat. The others who did not want to give up have continued albeit on a lower key. In fact I must tell you quite frankly and I will not be fair by you or honest with you if I do not come clean. I still entertain very serious reservations and doubts about the viability and future of Guru in spite of the supportive role I play personally and through the site. Furthermore this is also despite whatever financial and other contributions I continue to make personally and privately through the Headmaster whenever he calls on me. That is one reason I find it impossible to ask any of my friends to make contributions when I myself entertain these doubts.

Warm Regards,

Lucky.

Hi All,

I write with reference to my earlier email re the formation of the Gurutalawa Support Group, within the confines of the STC OBA Australia.

Could we please meet at my residence 10 A Evans Avenue Hampton East, Victoria on Sunday the 16th of March, 2008 at about 3.15 PM for a discussion on what could be done from this group and the manner in which we could give some assistance to Gurutalawa, in the time of need.

I am attaching a web link sent to me by Lucky Jayetillke OBA 62 Group, which you could use to access any information you may need.

So the way out for you Peter is to visit the Guru site and go to their Links and then on to STC Mount site and go to their < Contacts and Links > and click on < Class of 62 > under mind you, < S Thomas College Gurutalawa >. What a devious and ludicrous way to get about a simple thing.

Could also please be good enough to ring any other Guru Boys who may not be on the net.

Please give me a ring on 03 9553 2559 to confirm if you will be available.

Hoping to meet up with you all.

ESTO PER PETUA

Kind regards

Dear Lucky,

Thanks for your mail. I have been a bit busy trying like mad to get the Guru Boys together. We are hoping to meet here in Melbourne on Sunday 16 March. It maybe Ed Rowland, Micheal Silva, Dermott Claasz, Errol Calendar, and my self at the moment. The others are having things to do, or cannot make up their minds, but have promised to follow our lead. Something better than nothing.

Lucky, can you let me know if I can use your link to get it on the OBA Web site here, or have you put it in the Guru Web site, as I can then ask all the Inter State Guys to have look in the Guru Web site. We would prefer to us the Guru web than a private one for obvious reasons.

Can you also let me know if an agreement has to be drawn up in regard to the Ronnie Weerakoon Memorial Fund, and if so could you please liaise with Bandu and organize it?

Ronnie's daughter who is in the States is willing to top up the fund with a Rs 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) deposit when she come to SL in June, and she has asked me to give her a contact. Could I use you and Bandu for her to meet and hand over the money? I will hand over your address as well as Bandu's to her if you have no objections.

We are a bit worried re Bandu's problem .Hope it will be okay. I will write to him too. Could let me now about the Guru Link and the Class of 62, so that I can then get the others to look at the Guru Web site and click on class of 62.

Will keep in touch.

Kind Regards

Peter

Ana Amaranath writing from Sydney, Australia in an e-mail of March 4th 2008 says:

..... I have, on and off visited your web site. You are providing a wonderful service both to the school and to generations of old boys who can now tread down memory lane without leaving their seats. Ralph and Nath have told me they enjoy the site immensely.....

..... I haven't heard from Peter W lately. I would like to start an initiative through the STC OBA in Sydney to raise some funds for a specific project in Guru. Could you identify a project. I would like to have details of the project with an estimate of the costs. I would like a reasonable period of time to raise the funds.....

Harish Nilaweera writing from London in an e-mail of 3rd October 2007 says:

I duly received and thank you for all your recent mail and I am encouraged and glad at the sterling 'never say die' efforts you and your mates are making to revive Guru to achieve at least a small proportion of its past glory. I have visited the site many times over since your last mail and I think it is excellent.
