

**'62 Group 40th Anniversary Fellowship
Dinner**

- 1. " Summons" in the following Form went out from our Co-ordinating Secretariat on November 16,2001.



SUMMONS

**IN THE OLD BOYS COURT OF
GUROTALAWA**

(Holden at La Fontaine- Mt.Lavinia Hotel)

62 Group
(A group of Old Boys of
S.Thomas' College
Gurotalawa) having their
Secretariat at No.23,1st
Lane,Kirillapone,Colombo 5

PLAINTIFF

Number : 2001/STCG
Nature : Fellowship
Group : '62
Class : Stag

Vs.
Mr.
.....
.....

DEFENDANT

To: Mr.
.....
.....

The above named Defendant

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted an action against you in this Court for inclusion of your name in its Registers.

AND WHEREAS it appears to this Court necessary that you should be summoned as an Invitee in order to enable this Court effectually and completely adjudicate thereon.

TAKE NOTICE that you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person on the 24th day of November 2001 at 7.00 O'clock in the evening at La Fontaine - Mt.Lavinia Hotel and to produce the annexed Invitation and to show cause why your name should not be added as a member.

And you are not to depart thence until you have adequately satisfied **BACCHUS, EROTICA** and **EPICURUS** and Court has risen.

Leave of absence may be obtained on an Application to the Court supported by Affidavit showing therein good cause or that it is reasonable that you be allowed to stay away.

Should you fail to appear or obtain leave of this court as hereinabove contained it will be presumed you have no cause to show, and judgment will be entered in favour of the Plaintiff as prayed for.

BY ORDER OF COURT

For: Co-ordinating Office

Note: If you desire to make an Application for Leave of Absence for the date on which the above Action will be called in open Court you are required by Section 001 **to forthwith** telephone the Co-ordinating Office and such Leave may be granted after due consideration.

This 16th day of November 2001.

2. The names of the " 59 Defendants" to whom this process went are

“LIST OF INVITEES

40TH ANNIVERSARY & FELLOWSHIP DINNER
ON NOVEMBER 24, 2001

Abeykoon Sydney
Abeywickrema Leelaratne
Algama Anilal
Amaranath Ananda
Amerasinghe K
Amunugama Lakshman
Anzary M A M
Attygalle Wasantha
Bridge Timothy
Bhareti Nimal
Butani Kishin
Coomasaru Mohan
De Silva Keerthi
De Silva Mohan
Dimbulana Shantha

Duleep Kumar P S
Fernando Gamini
Fernando L M
Fernando P S R
Gammampila Walter
Gazara Don
Gunaratne Nimal
Gunasena Nihal
Hanthi Sunil
Jalill Rizvi
Jayasinghe Sarath
Jayasuriya Gamini
Jayasuriya L N De S
Junaid Jabir
Karunaratne Neil

Kodituwakku Kamal
Kotalawela Ravi
Liyanage Mohan
Mahawaduge Amaranath
Mahawaduge Ravi
Mahipala B A
Marasinghe John
Marikkar Juriar
Munasinghe I A
Nanayakkara Sarath
Nilaweera Nihal
Prematillake H S
Rajakaruna Joe
Rajapakse Terrence
Ranasinghe Mahen

Ratnayake M B
Senaratne Nimal
Sooriyarachchi M P
Sundararajah T
Suraweera Sarath
Waidyaratne Mahen
Wanniarachchi Nihal
Watawala Sunil
Weerakoon R L
Weerakoon Bradman
Weerasekera Harish
Wijedoru Mohan
Wijewardena P N”

The O.I.C. of the Secretariat volunteered to take Notice and hence Summons was not issued on him.

3. Accompanying the Summons was an “ Intimation Card ” which was a compromise between our Secretariat and some core members; the Secretariat pressing to make the event a complimentary one and the core members insisting that it would only be fair that some reasonable Stamp Duty should be levied. The Secretariat insisted however that all Defendants from the Outstations were its guests and hence under no circumstances should they be made to pay Stamp Duty after being subject to such long travel.

This card stated on the face of it:-

“62 Group

(A Group of Old Boys of S.Thomas’ College Gurutalawa)

40th Anniversary
Fellowship Dinner



Saturday 24th November 2001

At
La Fontaine
Mount Lavinia Hotel

7.00 p.m Onwards

Dress: Smart Casual”

And the following words of the then Lord Bishop of Colombo at the College Prize Giving on 17.08.1962 printed on the reverse thereof.

“Dr.Hayman’s best and most enduring memorial will be found, in the hearts and in the lives of the boys for whom he has spent himself with such lavish generosity; and his best reward will be their gratitude, their affection and their trust, and the knowledge that the traditions which he has sought to build here were being maintained and, if it might be, enhanced in the days to come”.

4. A letter dated November 16,2001 addressed to each Defendant was the 3rd enclosure accompanying the Summons, which stated ;

“ Dear

ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER

WE ARE GLAD TO INFORM YOU THAT OUR ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24,2001 AT LA FONTAINE- MT.LAVINIA HOTEL FROM 7.00 P.M ONWARDS. AS THIS VERY SPECIAL RE UNION MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY, YOU SHOULD NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING THOSE WHOM YOU FIRST CAME TO KNOW ALMOST FOUR DECADES AGO. 40 OF OUR FRIENDS, INCLUDING ALL WHO WERE CONTACTED FROM THE OUTSTATIONS,HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR ATTENDANCE. SO THERE IS BOUND TO BE MUCH FUN, LAUGHTER, BON HOMIE AND HIGH SPIRITS. THE ORGANIZERS HAVE ALSO LINED UP A FEW SURPRISES. SO WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO JOIN, IN SMART CASUAL DRESS AND MINUS THE GOOD LADIES.

A few words about our further activities etc.

1. We have embarked on a progressive membership drive with the Core Members as those of the 1958-62 era. Those of other eras particularly '80's and early '90's who were keen to associate themselves in our activities have also joined and are making a very useful and energetic contribution. The Press Advertisement will appear shortly.
2. We intend promoting fellowship, and closer co-operation and unity among all members, in the true Thomian Spirit and Tradition. Our Fellowship Dinner is on course. Also to be arranged in the near future are open, frank Discussions in which Mr. Duleep Kumar and Mr. Bradman Weerakoon have agreed to participate and give us the benefit of their wise and sane counsel.
3. Our proposal to spruce up the appalling condition of the Junior Dormitories in College has been accepted by the Head Master and the project is on schedule.
4. Also scheduled for early next year is a Coaching Camp for Hockey with the active participation of the much younger Group Members.

5. We hope to build a strong relationship with the Tutorial Staff of the College who have been isolated for too long. Already much energy has been expended to establish this rapport and we are proud that it is paying dividends which will eventually inure for the benefit of College.
6. Mr.P.S.Duleep Kumar and Mr. Sisira Nanayakkara, who were amongst the select band of Old Boys who pioneered the Association of our Old Boys in 1959, had gone through our Confidential Report on College and its present conditions and have commended us on the thorough and professional job executed. Mr. Bradman Weerakoon too has expressed his appreciation in glowing terms.
7. The Bishop to whom it was given as an expression of our deep commitment to College in view of the urgency of arresting certain disturbing features has acknowledged same and will be responding shortly. In deference to his wishes we are not circulating it.
8. Scores of Senior Old Boys have contacted us and expressed their appreciation as regards the various innovations being made by us to reactivate and rejuvenate Old Boys in their contributions to College.
9. We have arranged to create a Web Site of our Group.
10. Two of our members who are Vice Presidents have offered, in writing, to the Executive Committee to complete within 30 days, the Directory of Members and the preparation and issue of Membership Cards of the OBA, and are awaiting their response. The updating of the Register of Members which has been abandoned and fallen in to disuse will be a corollary. If the response of the Executive Committee is negative we will issue free of charge to those who express their interest in writing to us a Ready Reckoner Schedule containing only the relevant data. We are therefore refrained from doing so despite numerous inquiries and requests as it may prejudice the sale of the Official Directory.
11. We enclose herewith a Ready Reckoner Schedule giving particulars of only those in our Group. We are sure you will find this very useful. Please help us to keep the particulars updated and send in Names, Addresses, Telephone Numbers and E-mail Addresses of any others who are not included. There may be some inaccuracies, omissions etc. Please bring them to our notice. Every effort will be made to keep this useful Document updated in our Computer Data Base. Several Old Boys contact our Secretariat in order to ascertain particulars to communicate with other Old Boys. Others are communicating with us and furnishing us with particulars of their friends for inclusion.
12. We also received several communications and expressions of appreciation of the first "News Letter" that was circulated. The vast majority of the Old Boys are completely out of touch with college. Hence it is hoped to send out a News Letter at least every other month. A sketch of the College with a Table is being prepared on a Professional basis and will be sent in

due course with our News Letter. Contributions by way of information, anecdotes , memories etc, etc would be most welcome.

13. The President and Senior Office Bearers of our Group will hold office **FOR ONLY ONE YEAR.**
14. **They will nominate** their successors before stepping down. Those who are keen to contribute towards our objectives will continue to keep our flag flying.
15. It is not intended to introduce a formal set of Rules or Constitution at this stage. We hope to show that Commitment, Dedication, Sincerity and Respect for Tradition, are stronger virtues than lip service to Written Constitutions and Rules.
16. We hope that you will give us the benefit of your Thoughts, Observations, Comments and Participation which will be greatly valued and appreciated to make the work of our group inter alia in resuscitating College successful.
17. Your participation in as full an extent as you possibly could is most welcome.
18. We are humbled by the numerous messages of good will and co-operation, expressions of appreciation and commendation we have received from the Bishop, the Staff at College and Old Boys of all age groups.

'Esto Perpetua'

With kind Regards,

For Co-ordinating Office''

5. A schedule containing the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e.mail addresses etc,etc of the '62 Group members as available at that date was also enclosed.
6. One question which arose for determination by the Tribunal before the Summons were issued was whether the spouses were to be included. Some anonymous inquiries had been made, but actually only whether the possibility existed. Learned Submissions were made by Senior Members that if ladies were present, it would cramp the style of the members themselves; that had been their experience and observations of several previous hearings at a different Court House in the same complex and this rather hostile presence usually ended the evenings proceedings even before they really began.

7. As after all, this entire event was for the benefit of the Defendants themselves (and not for the Other Half [not Better mind you]) who were only trying to exercise their Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution i.e. of Free Speech, Worship and Movement – all expounded by Bacchus, Erotica and Epicurus – Great and Respected Jurists, in their spare time, and who needed to revert to their boyhood and re-live the years spent at Guru and catch up on almost 40 years of history. The Order was therefore delivered in Open Court even before opposing Counsel made his closing Submissions. The Court too appeared to have had it up to HERE with the verbal diarrhoea of the Counsel trying to win a lost cause.
8. It had been strongly urged that it would not be possible to indulge in nostalgia with innumerable interruptions, being made by the spouses that “ Its already tomorrow,” or “ It was time to go home” or “ Chooti is all alone no “ ? etc. etc. ad infinitum. The few half hearted protests which were raised previously were effectively put down by the undue influence and duress of senior members and the “ Old Boys” had won the day, and the “ Old Girls” were to be relegated to the Idiot Box and left behind at home. Every dog has its day.
9. It was quite obvious that the core members had no intention of having the proceedings of the 24th of November wound-up early. No, Not after 40 years.
10. Two similar advertisements as a Prelude to the Fellowship Dinner of the Group were to precede in the National Newspapers so that all Thomians Young and Old were to be put on Notice of the arrival on the scene of our Group. This advertisement appeared on the 17.11.2001 and on 19.11.2001 in the issues of the Island and Daily News respectively in the following terms.

"S.THOMAS' COLLEGE - GURUTALAWA



<(1958-1962)>

CALLING ALL OLD BOYS
YOUNG AND OLD

RALLY ROUND THE COLLEGE FLAG

We are in the process of collecting data

Join us and

Be informed of what we have **DONE**

What we hope to DO

What you can DO

Sarath Suraweera	-	Tel. 691094
Jabir Junaid	-	Tel.074-204540
Lakshman Jayatilaka	-	Tel.828272
Sarath Jayasinghe (Ratnapura)	-	Tel:853240
Ratnayake M B (Kandy)	-	Tel 08-227226
Mohan Wijedoru (Galle)	-	Tel:09-32124
Timothy Bridge (Bandarawela)-		Tel:057-31121
Shantha Dimbulana (Badulla) -		Tel:055- 22050
Mohan Liyanage (Matara)	-	Tel:041-24609

Co-ordinating Office:

No.23,1st Lane, Kirillapone, Colombo 05

Tel.854164 / 828273

Fax: 812959

E.mail:deeentee@sltnet.lk

ashanjay@sti.lk

11. On the day of the event too the second notice appeared in the Daily News for the benefit of all Thomians Staunch and True, as follows

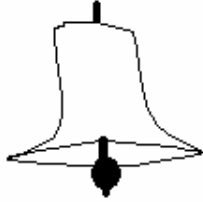
W

THOMIANS NEAR AND FAR

REMEMBER

RUNNING FROM
THE DORM....

YOU WERE LATE
FOR PREP



**YET BELL SIMON OBLIGED
AND THE ECHO RANG LOUD
YES
WE WILL DO LIKEWISE
CALLING ALL OLD BOYS
STAUNCH AND TRUE**

**YOUR ALMA MATER BECKONS
JOIN US AND BE A PART OF THE ACTION TEAM
SEND YOUR CONTACT DETAILS TO THE AREA ORGANISERS**

Sarath Suraweera (Colombo)	- 691094	Mohan Liyanage (Matara)	- 041-24609
Jabir Junaid (Colombo)	- 074-204540	Ananda Jayasinghe(Melbourne)-	398740006
Lakshman Jayatilaka(Colombo)	- 828272	Palitha S. Dias (London)	- 1782611874
Sarath Jayasinghe (Ratnapura)	- 853240	Harish Nilaweera (London)	- 2086422538
Ratnayake M B (Kandy)	- 08-227226	Ananda Amaranath (Sydney)	- 298761731
Mohan Wijedoru (Galle)	- 09-32124	Nath Kannangara (Sydney)	- 294158145
Timothy Bridge (Bandarawela)	- 057-31121	U.K.D.Jinapriya (Canada)	- 4167563195
Shantha Dimbulana (Badulla)	- 055- 22050	Ravi Kotalawala (Hatton)	- 051-22346

S.THOMAS' COLLEGE - GURUTALAWA



'62 GROUP
<(1958-1962)>

Co-ordinating Office:

No.23,1st Lane, Kirillapone, Colombo 05

Tel.854164 / 828273 Fax: 812959

E.mail:decentee@slt.net.lk

ashanjay@sti.lk

12. Within hours of the Preliminary World Wide Notice appearing, the Secretariat was inundated with calls from across the globe asking for nomination as Chief Organizers in their respective jurisdictions. As no Preference Vote Count was involved, immediate appointments were made and instructions given to update the Web site too.
13. Unfortunately the " Printer " in his enthusiasm had allowed the " Devil " to overtake him and the word " Remember " in bold in the 2nd line of the Advertisement had been omitted, leaving the publication minus an attractive and vital portion.
14. The Secretariat received several communications in response to the Summons. Some confirmed by Motion and Affidavit their attendance to Answer the Plaintiff. Others pleaded that they be excused, and gave sufficient cause, to justify same. Amongst those received are reproduced below 01 from each group which were rather interesting and original.

¶

IN THE OLD BOYS COURT OF GURUTALAWA

62 Group of Old boys of
S. Thomas' College
Gurutalawa having their
Secretariat at No. 23, 1st
Lane, Kirillopone, Colombo 5.

PLAINTIFF

Mr. Duleepkumar,
No. 172/8A, Polhengoda Road,
Colombo 05.

DEFENDANT

WHEREAS I have been summoned by the 62 Group of Old Boys of S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa, on a matter more fully described in the summons and

WHEREAS it appears to me the Defendant in this matter to be right and timely so to comply, and

WHEREAS the prospect of Bacchus, Erotica and Epicurus are additional compelling reasons for my attendance;

I Philips Sydney Duleepkumar do hereby solemnly declare it will give me the greatest pleasure to attend the proceedings schedules for 7 O'clock on the 24th Day of November, 2001, at a reasonable time thereafter.

Sgd: P.S. Duleep Kumar
.....

Signed before me this 20th Day of November, 2001.

Sgd: Johnnie Walker
.....

Johnnie Walker. //

and

Mohan Coomasaru
30/12 Galkande Lane,
Anniwatte,
Kandy.

21st November, 2001.

Number 2001/STCG
Nature Fellowship
Group '62
Class Stag

The Defendant acknowledges receipt of the summons to attend Court at Mt. Lavinia Hotel, on 24th November.

He begs the Indulgence of the Court and that of Bacchus, Epicurus and Eros, as he will be unable to attend owing to a pressing engagement locally.

At this short notice, he is unable to supply supportive evidence of this prior commitment. I hope the Court will grant him absolution.

Mohan Coomasaru //

15. The day of the function dawned. Feverish last minute details were being attended to by the staff at the Secretariat. 06 last minute invitees had to be accommodated. Meaning all the paper work had to be re-done. Not to be out done, the Printer was given fresh instructions. Fresh intimation cards were printed and New Summons for them prepared although it was a Saturday and normally a non working day for the Secretariat. Relief Personnel who had been kept on Stand By Duty swung into action. All stations were "manned". Did we get the gender right though? 03 mobile units which were kept in readiness to meet any unforeseen circumstances including the Mini Riot squad hummed on low gear. The 06 Intimations were delivered to the doorstep at Ward Place of one " Flag Gun" within 2 hours of request. Not bad for efficiency you say. Thank you, and everybody who had tirelessly worked to make the event a success held their breath, crossed their fingers and left the rest to God. Collecting a group of almost 50 Old Thomians who had hardly heard of each other let alone seen, or spoken to for 40 years and catering to their whims and fancies which would be now 4 decades Advanced was not going to be an easy task and drawing up a Programme of Events on a tight schedule even more frightening.

16. The Notice outside the entrance to the Hotel conveyed the following information

" '62 GROUP
STCG - Fellowship Dinner
La Fontaine
7.00 p.m. onwards "

No Defendant would subsequently be permitted to state that although they came to the Complex they missed the particular Court House. No Siree, such excuses were not going to be tolerated.

17. The décor at the La Fontaine was in True Thomian fashion. Huge clusters of Blue and Black balloons, festooned. The Tables had covers in like fashion. The Table Décor too was simple but appreciatingly Thomian.

18. The Banner in rich satin cloth hung behind the band stand proclaimed prominently the nature of the event thus.

" S. Thomas College – Gurutalawa
62 Group
Annual Fellowship Dinner"

19. The Band Stand was in readiness. So was the Compere who had been during the past 48 hours subjected to much brain washing and agony by the OIC of the Secretariat. The Podium with the Public Address system was in place.

Registration Team, Usherettes & OIC

Every body is equal before the Law –Sarath shows the way

Ana is Registered – Rizvi (Prefect of discipline) keeps a watchful eye.

Amare & Harish Vs The Registration Team. Who is entertaining whom?

Lama under Temporary detention for Paper work

Arrival of The Don & Anil (The Diyawanna Walkers).

20. The Bar in the well of the Court where all Eminent Counsel were to be accommodated was well stocked with all conceivable requirements of Bacchanalia. Unknown to the participants, Three Rooms adjacent to the "La Fontaine" held in restraint over a dozen Delectable Tantalizing Fillies of Erotica. The Official Photographers with their State of the Art Equipment were ready and waiting. The Video Cameraman was subsequently issued with a Show Cause Notice for failure to turn up and has since been summarily dismissed without payment of any gratuity.
21. The Control Room was fully geared now to dish out and satisfy all Epicurean tastes.
22. On stepping outside the lift, which carried you up to the La Fontaine, the invitees immediately faced a barrage of official photographers, from the Press as well. Unknown to them, this was also a part of the Security Check as the "Photo Check" were immediately transmitted to the Control Room for verification of authenticity of the arrivals, whether they were Invitees or Gate Crashers.
23. Thereafter, a "Documentary" Security check was performed by Two Smart Ladies dressed in smart Blue and Black both Attorneys-at-Law having over a decade of professional experience in that field. This comprised the Registration Team of the Co-ordinating Secretariat. They checked whether the names were in the List of Invitees, whether they had with them the Intimation Card etc. etc.
24. They then subjected the guest to a "Voice Check". The mikes conveying the data to the Control Room whilst they were engaged in exchanging pleasantries. Unknown to the arrivals this area came under a Strict Security zone and 02 hidden CCTV cameras were conveying all the visual images to the Control Room.
25. Non members of our OBA, (but Members of the '62 Group) did not stand a chance. The Registration Team was possessed of all the Registers fully updated to verify whether the Invitee had the required status. Some Invitees encountered a short delay while the paper work was done. Satisfactory evidence having been produced, these guests were permitted to pass this check point. Those that didn't were under Temporary Remand but with a sweet apologetic smile whilst the application to join our OBA was being transmitted to the Control Room which in turn would use the facilities of modern communicating systems of the Secretariat and in turn send it for processing to the Secretary of the OBA to enable him to send it to the relevant authorities at S.T.C Mt. Lavinia or S.T.C. Guru. Registration was thus completed. This process which actually took less than a minute ensured, without any doubt, that there were not going to be strangers in the house and all Non Members of the OBA were recruited forthwith and thus brought under control with minimum use of force.

26. An Officer dressed in Plain Clothes from the Special Branch was in attendance to assist the Ladies at the Registration Desk, to apprehend any Gate Crashers as the event was strictly by invitation. This decidedly Un Thomian habit had to be uprooted even if it meant treading on a couple of toes. This SAS Officer on duty at that particular time had taken the Lift down to the Lobby in order to escort some VIPs to the La Fontaine without having arranged for his Relief Officer to be in attendance. For this severe lapse and neglect of duty the Officer concerned was summarily dismissed from service without any Pension Rights. He was severely reprimanded before such dismissal, for a serious break down of Thomian Traditions. The officer had been under strict orders to use such force as may be necessary and to remove forthwith to a sterile area any person offering resistance, who had attempted to invade the privacy and sacred nature of the business at hand. After all the 62 group was a rather Exclusive one – admission by invitation and not a Club the hoi poi could enter merely by flashing some filthy lucre.
27. He was also enjoined to summon from within the Function Room the Chief Organizer if he required any further advise or clarification but under no condition to permit the Interloper Admission. This obviated any conflicting instructions being given by the different officers in the function room. These precautionary measures had been necessitated in view of the loss of one bottle of whisky at a function in February in the cool climes when some stranger darted off with a bottle of whisky whilst it was the subject of much adulation by a few members of our Core-Group, and complaints in that regard had been ignored by the big wigs organizing the event, that period not even being election time.
28. Thus our OBA gained ground that evening by the addition of several new members who hopefully would be an asset to the Association and help to develop College.
29. Next was the fastest act you could imagine. Hey Presto' and you had your Membership Card, laminated and delivered in double quick time and bearing the signature of the I.G.P himself (i.e. STCG-OBA-'62 Group Style). You get a little concerned. This type of efficiency frightens you. Any way you say "Thank you, Madam".
30. "All in a day's work" replies the Registration Desk and then hands you a Big Envelope with your name printed on the face of it in big letters. The other lady hands you a neat little package wrapped in Blue with a Black Ribbon around it. The Envelope contains the following documents.

A)The Programme, which runs thus

“
S. THOMAS COLLEGE GURUTALAWA

'62 GROUP

40TH Anniversary Fellowship Dinner

ON Saturday November, 24, 2001
AT THE “LA FONTAINE” – MT. LAVINIA HOTEL.
7.00 P.M. ONWARDS

PROGRAMME

(Subject to modification depending on participants' preference and exigencies of the occasion).

COMPERE – FAIZAL BONGSO

BAND IN ATTENDANCE – HILLARY CHRISTIE

(and the Bermuda Triangle)

Prefect of Discipline – Rizvi Jalill

7.00 PM

Registration

Issue of Membership Cards (to ensure strictly members only)

7.10 PM

Follow Me Sir – Can I get your welcome drink?

7.15 PM (onwards)

Fellowship, More Fellowship, Still More Fellowship

Hillary keeps your toes tapping

Ask for anything – he will oblige

It's a Thomian night

In the Heat of the night

Performances by Sirinama Dancing Troupe and Solar Heat

Fellowship continues

Presentations To:

Mr. John Marasinghe

Mr. L.M. Fernando

Mr. Nimal Bhareti

Mr. P.S. Duleep Kumar

Mr. Bradman Weerakoon

Happy Hour at the Bar

Topless Barmaid in attendance

(go fetch your drink chum – but keep your paws off)

Dinner

Light up your cigars (Courtesy Wild Bill Clintone)
Listen to Mr. P.S. Duleep Kumar
Listen to Mr. Bradman Weerakoon
Cabaret Finale (top Secret)
Hillary decides to go home

(NB. 1. Times and Events may be altered without notice.
Those not on board in time may miss the event)
Remember to a) Collect your souvenirs
b) Pick up your Members Directory

(The College Song)

THOMIANS YOUNG AND THOMIANS OLD

*THOMIANS STANCH AND TRUE!
RALLY ROUND THE COLLEGE FLAG
THE BLUE THE BLACK AND BLUE
TO YOUR ALMA MATER SING
THOMIANS NEAR AND FAR
LOUDLY LET THE ECHOES RING
FOR ALL, WE HAVE, AND ARE
ESTO PERPETUA, ESTO PERPETUA
ESTO PERPETUA
THE BLUE BLACK AND BLUE
FOR EVER!*

*LIKE THE SERPENT KEEN AND WISE,
HARMLESS AS THE DOVE
BY THE CROSS WE'RE KNIT IN ONE
HOLY BOND OF LOVE.
LOYAL TO OUR CHURCH AND STATE
BOTH IN PEACE AND WAR,
TO THE COLLEGE WE WILL SING
FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE.*

*IN THE FIELD OF INTELLECT
MANY A PRIZE WE'VE WON,
AND UPON THE FIELD OF SPORT
THOMIANS YIELD TO NONE,
BE IT WORK OR BE IT PLAY. WE WILL DO AND DARE
TO THE COLLEGE THEREFORE SING
FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE*

*WE REJOICE IN VICTORY
WHEN OUR FOES WE BEAT,
WE HAVE LEARN'T, WHEN OUR FORTUNE FROWNS
HOW TO TAKE DEFEAT
ALL UNFRIENDLY RIVALRY
FROM OUR LIVES WE BAR
TO THE COLLEGE THEREFORE SING
FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE*

*WHEN INTO THE WORLD WE GO
FOR OUR LIFE'S CAREER
AS THE CALL OF DUTY SOUNDS
ONWARD TO THE GOAL WE PRESS
GUIDED BY OUR STAR
TO THE COLLEGE THEREFORE SING
FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE."*

B)The list of Invitees, which was the same list of Old Thomians to whom Summons had been issued.

C)The Profile of some members which went on to introduce the '62 Group as follows: -

“(Some) Members Profiles

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Abeykoon Sydney | - | Has been observed by Oliver Goldsmith |
| Algama Anilal | - | Sprinter - Used to have fast legs |
| Amaranath Ananda | - | Crown Prosecutor (N S W) Responsible for recent arrest of all Sri Lankan Kallathonis off Australian Waters. |
| Amerasinghe K | - | Detector of Credit Card Frauds |
| Amunugama Lakshman | - | Won "Frequent Train Traveller"award from CGR by passing Pothuhera twice on the same night after OBA Celebrations |
| Anzary M A M | - | Mourning for Afghanistan |
| Attygalle Wasantha | - | Airport pick-ups |
| Bridge Timothy | - | NSB Stunt Rider |
| De Silva Keerthi | - | The Omnibus Magnate |
| Dimbulana Shantha | - | Legal Advisor to STCG |
| Fernando Gamini | - | Alters you structurally |
| Fernando P S Ranjith | - | Homes visited to pass motor claims |
| Gammampila Walter | - | Perfect Brown Sahib on the Estate |
| Gazara Don | - | Helps carry all Mid-East housemaids to & Fro |
| Gunaratne Nimal | - | From oranges to tea.Versatile planter |
| Hanthi Sunil | - | First counted Money.Now Metal |
| Jayasinghe Sarath | - | Koffee Annan |
| Junaid Jabir | - | Mosque Builder.Warrant out for Sound pollution |
| Karunaratne Neil | - | Mariner on land – making up for lost time |

Kotalawela Ravi	-	Pukka Sahib
Mahawaduge Ravi	-	Contact for quick exit from BIA on 6.12.2001
Mahipala B A	-	Bahrain today, Vietnam tomorrow. Famous BAM-WHAM . Biggest contributor to UNF.
Munasinghe I A	-	Refused entry by all hotels. So ends up at Mount.
Nanayakkara Sarath	-	Adulterer of Petroleum
Nilaweera Nihal	-	3rd of the Magnificent 8 from Koslanda
Prematillake H S	-	Mahajana Banker in the hills
Rajakaruna Joe	-	Legal Advisor to HE President after 6.12.2001
Rajapakse Terrence	-	5 in one- (Law Student, Law Breaker, Law Practitioner, Law Interpreter, Law Teacher.
Ranasinghe Mahen	-	Dream Engineer
Ratnayake M B	-	Refugee Planter
Rizvi Jalill	-	Leader of Baby Team from Guru
Senaratne Nimal	-	Small-sized Statcon Rubbers.(Puncha)
Sundararajah T	-	Tea Plucker, Wadai Seller. Now absconding Dorms painter.
Suraweera Sarath	-	Spy who came in from the cold. Starred in Seven nights in Bangkok.
Wijedoru Mohan	-	Heir to the W M Mendis fortune.
Wanniarachchi Nihal	-	Completely energized.
Watawala Sunil	-	Dessicator of nuts.
Weerakoon R L	-	Doctor at large."

D)The note of welcome which stated

“

welcome

This is an occasion to meet and greet old friends.40 years is a long time (in the life of a human being) to wait to renew old ties. We extend a warm welcome to all our friends.

We have amidst us Ananda Amaranath one of our distinguished Members. After leaving our Attorney General's Department he held the position of Solicitor General in Seychelles. At present he is attached to the Office of The Director of Public Prosecutions, NSW, Australia as a Crown Prosecutor. He is not only the President of the STC OBA NSW Inc in Australia but also the President of the Sri Lanka Association of New South Wales Inc, Australia. He proposed that we re- group this evening. This

most distinguished gathering is a result of the germination of that proposal.

We have invited as our Guests Mr. John Marasinghe and Mr. L.M.Fernando both Old Boys who were on the Staff in our time and also Mr.Nimal Bhareti who had hidden himself away from us. They are the only Members of the Staff whom we have been able to contact. We have asked them to be with us this evening in recognition of their services and contribution to College and their efforts towards making us better men. As we have said before it is regrettable that credit has not been given to those sources when and where it was due. We are trying to make up for these lapses.

Our Chief Guest this evening is Mr. P. S. Duleep Kumar whose name is synonymous with S.Thomas'College, Gurutalawa and its OBA. He is regarded as the obvious and natural successor to Dr. Hayman. His counsel and participation in resuscitating College are most respectfully solicited. They are required now more than ever before.

Our Guest of Honour is Mr.Bradman Weerakoon who has brought immeasurable honour and respect to our school by the eminence achieved by him in his chosen field.

We consider it our privilege to have been given this opportunity to bring you, all together. We intend this to be the first of similar occasions.

We hope you have a pleasant evening.

November 24,2001

For-The Organising Committee"

E)The Menu (given the Thomian Treatment)

" S'Thomas' College Gurutalawa
'62 Group
40th Annivasury Fellowship Dinner
at La Fontaine - Mt. Lavinia Hotel
(Formerly the Property of I.A. Munasinghe - Hotel Magnate)

Wine List Courtesy of '62 Organizing Committee

PSR Old Arrack
Amunu's Red Label Whisky
Neil Marine Dry Gin
Amaranath's Remy Martin Cognac

<u>Salads</u>

Rahangala Potatoe Salad
College Farm Eggs Russian Style

MAIN COURSE

Altendorf's Bullet Rice Modified and Steamed
Joel Tissamaharama Savoury Rice

Dudley's String Hopper Pilau

(The debate is not how much he ate but whether he left anything at all for Bradman)

Don Gazara's Chillied Fish from STCG Pool

Police raid Foul Pen – Sarath Sure's Chutney Roast

Lebbe Jabir's Goat Khorma *(Courtesy Gurutalawa Villagers)*

Eveready Potatoe Tempered and Energized by Nihal in the Wannu

Walter's Nuts Cashewed and Curried

Ravi Kothe's Bean Fried & Cooked

Dhal with Anila Curry from Algama *(In Western Province- Not to be confused with Pasgama)*

Wijedorus Seeni Sambol from Galle

Papadam Deep Fried – Mara style

Ambalangoda Mahen's Cream Caramel

Chocolate Mousse with Sarath Nana's Petroleum Jelly

B A M Group - Pine Apple Surprise

Fruit Salad from Nimal Guneratne's Orange Estate

Ingredients Supplier:- Katana Sunil's Dessicated Coconut Mill

Not available on Menu-Sunda's Brinjals *(As Full consignment transhipped to India)*

Rizvi's Malayed Pickle *(Prohibited during fasting month)*

Kahawatte Sarath's Red Berry Coffee *(No Power to Grind)*

F) Fellowship Dinner News Letter, was the last of the annexures

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

NEWS LETTER

This evening will bring back memories of the carefree days spent at Guru. As you reminisce and indulge in nostalgia you will always pay respect to and remember with gratitude your Alma Mater and our Teachers **FOR ALL THAT WE HAVE AND ARE.** Perhaps it may now be opportune for us to ask ourselves what have we done for College and what we can do, in return.

The birth of our Group could be traced to the Pavilion and Sports Complex Project contemplated in 1993. It was the brain child of Sarath Suraweera, that gentle Policeman. As Head Prefect of S. Thomas Preparatory School Bandarawela and College Prefect at Gurutalawa, he had outstanding leadership qualities and was able to gather around him a band of enthusiastic Old Boys. Although the envisaged Project did not materialize the membership of the Group has enlarged and the yearning

to assist College remained. The balance out of the Funds collected for the original Project has and is being utilized for various Sports promotion activities connected with the original concept. What is distressing to note however is that the use by the College of the grounds (which we considered as an essential part of our lives at Guru where we learnt to play the game) has unfortunately today been reduced to more or less on a part time basis and with the leave and license of others in the area. These are to our minds unacceptable conditions. This would not have been the case had our Project been completed.

During the latter part of the '90's various parties at Guru prevailed upon Sarath Suraweera to take a greater interest in what was happening in College throughout the year instead of confining his visits with other Old Boys for the AGM in February.

It was also found that the proceedings at the AGM year after year, were not conducted in an acceptable manner and after the Meeting of February 2001 a sustained effort was made at gently persuading the Executive Committee to change certain practices and permit the larger Membership to participate fully in all activities of the OBA as well as to take a greater interest in activities at College which should be the first and primary concern. We regret to say our efforts have not been successful. To say that we have been rebuffed, would be an understatement.

In this situation we have had no alternative but on our own to do what we can for College, which, as every body is aware is in desperate need of our help. We therefore decided to rally round College and gather around us in all our efforts and activities particularly Old Boys of the 1958-62 era and those older and younger to us who are keen to join. We were encouraged to do so because of the avalanche of protests that were placed before us concerning the lethargy, ineffectiveness and non-action by the Organised body.

Our Group consists of Members of the OBA as well as non -Members. We make every effort to have non- Members join the OBA and participate in all its activities as we do, to make them successful. Those that do not wish to join the OBA for a variety of reasons can still help College and do so through our activities for which priority is given. Our Members have made known to the Authorities that they are prepared to visit College regularly and involve themselves in any task assigned by the Administration.

Therefore our main objectives would be to help College whilst promoting fellowship, closer co-operation and unity among all our members.

The Office Bearers will hold Office for **only one year**, and thereafter form an Executive Committee. The out going President will nominate the successor. It is envisaged that only those who have the time and energy

to contribute towards our objectives will head the Group as much commitment is demanded. A Thomian code of conduct instilled in us by our Founder Head Master and other respected Teachers and the lessons learned at Guru will guide us in our future activities. All constructive criticism, useful ideas for our improvement and for the benefit of College would be welcome. The voices of all Members will be heard. Nobody will be treated as an interloper. Valuable ideas will be accepted and sought to be implemented. All will be made to feel Partners in the mission.

We have already achieved a great deal. Consequent to numerous requests from various interested sources to take a greater interest in the activities in Guru we embarked on a fact finding mission. Some of our Members took lodging in Bandarawela and executed as complete an investigation as was possible inspecting the Campus at Guru and interviewing the Ex-Head Master, the present Head Master, and where necessary, with their permission, the Members of the Tutorial Staff, Administrative Staff, Minor Staff, Students and Parents both inside and out side College. A Confidential Report compiled in as brief a manner and time as possible and yet running in to 80 pages was handed over to the Bishop in view of its sensitive nature to enable him to take such steps as he may see fit with all the urgency the circumstances demanded. Suffice it is to state that we were able to douse a fairly explosive situation and have neutralized certain factors that could have brought to a complete halt all educational activities at Guru. We do not wish to go in to detail and the Report is continued to be kept confidential at the request of the Bishop. We are however prepared to discuss certain aspects contained therein at the appropriate time, only with a view for the betterment of College.

We are still operating on a clear assurance given that no precipitate action would be taken by those quarters and we are doing everything possible to expedite the taking of remedial measures so that the Administration at Guru can be put back on the correct track, College is resuscitated and once more on course to achieve the ideals and objectives set forth by the Founding Fathers. This in our view has been our greatest achievement and are gratified that eminent Old Boys and the Pioneers of the OBA have commended us having read our Report, understood our mission appreciated our commitment and encouraged us in our activities etc. **THIS SATISFIES US IMMENSELY.**

The Junior Dormitories which need repairs are to be attended to by our Members during the December vacation provided the General Elections in early December as well as bad weather do not preclude or discourage the painting and labour factors.

A Hockey Coaching Camp combined with a gift of equipment in continuation of the original concept and perpetuation is planned for early January-2002.

Those are some of the activities envisaged for the immediate future. Further development and other activities will follow perhaps after a further meeting with the Bishop.

We also hope to have the Tutorial Staff at College who have been isolated for too long involved in development activities. A head start had already been made. They have expressed the view that our timely intervention which had prevented a catastrophe has given them much solace and encouragement to work for the development of the College and the benefit of the students. Some of the Senior Members who have served for almost 20 years would have been with us today if not for certain peculiar circumstances which we do not want to mention here.

We have not been successful in having issued a Membership Card to the Members of the OBA. We have also not succeeded in having the OBA Members Directory issued to date, though work in that behalf commenced over a year ago. **WE REGRET OUR LACK OF CLOUT WITH THE OBA AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

To compensate therefor we are issuing herewith the **'62 GROUP MEMBERSHIP CARD** and the "INAUGURAL ISSUE" of our Directory both compiled and completed within **48 hours** and issued on the occasion of our Fellowship Dinner today which itself was organized and finalized in less than 2 weeks. We hope you find this Directory useful. There may be errors and omissions. Please bring them to our notice together with particulars of other old boys who belong to this era. They will be accepted and rectified with humility. We will be updating the Directory **AS AND WHEN SUCH INFORMATION IS NOTIFIED.** Copies issued henceforth will therefore contain information updated to the date of **SUCH ISSUE.** Our Secretariat and Co-ordinating Office will generally function right through and we welcome any inquiry or assistance.

IN CONCLUSION WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

THE MAJOR PART OF THE '62 GROUP CONSISTS OF MEMBERS OF THE OBA.

THIS GROUP IS NOT A SPLIT OR BREAK -AWAY GROUP. IT WAS AND IS NOT ENVISAGED AS SUCH.

IT IS NOT INTENDED TO CREATE ANY ILL FEELING OR DISHARMONY WITHIN THE OBA OR TOWARDS IT. IT IS OUR GROUP THAT HAS BEEN SLIGHTED. YET WE ARE NOT DISCOURAGED. INSTEAD OUR GROUP WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE OBA AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MAKE IT THE ORGANISATION IT OUGHT TO BE.

OUR MEMEBERSHIP DRIVE IS PRIMARILY DIRECTED TOWARDS THAT OBJECTIVE.

THE'62 GROUP WILL NOT BE DISHEARTENED BUT WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE THE OBA MORE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COLLEGE AND THE VOICE OF ALL OLD BOYS INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY EVERY YEAR. TILL SUCH TIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEND TO MATTERS IN AN EFFICIENT AND PROFESSIONAL A MANNER AS POSSIBLE. LET THE MEMBERSHIP JUDGE US ON OUR PERFORMANCE AND DETERMINE WHETHER OUR ACTIVITIES ARE USEFUL AND HELPFUL TO COLLEGE OR DETRIMENTAL AND INEFFECTIVE. IF AND WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THINKS IT FIT TO CALL UPON US FOR OUR CO-OPERATION OR ASSISTANCE IT WILL BE READILY AND WHOLE HEARTEDLY GIVEN. WE FEEL THAT THE NUMEROUS LETTERS WE HAVE WRITTEN WHICH HAVE NOT BROUGHT FORTH ANY RESPONSE FOR OVER 8 MONTHS IS A SUFFICIENT BAROMETER OF OUR OFFERS.

For- The Organizing Committee.
Saturday, November 24, 2001"

31. Having collected the envelope etc, you turn towards the swing doors of the "La Fontaine." As you wonder what next, Two Pretty Young Damsels appear on either side and say "This way, Sir", you have no option but to be Escorted to the Inner Sanctum by the " Usherettes ". They too are dressed in smart Blue and Black. They seem to have looked into all the details. You cannot recall when you last received this type of Royal Treatment at a Thomian affair.
32. A swing door opens and you get your first glimpse of the Function. Yes it's the '62 Group, gathered for the first time after nearly 40 years.

You do a quick calculation. If this is the '62 Group, How come 40 years'?. We are still not in 2002. Anyway you say to yourself condescendingly 'God does forgive minor infractions. Even the Court is consistently of the

The Guest of Honour & Chief Guest “taken by surprise”.

The team that did the Report on Guru,
reporting to the Gurus

The Coconut Barons - Sunil & Palitha.

The Joy of meeting after 40 years – Amunu
& Prema in Ecstasy

Engineer Mahen alters Anatomical Structure in Song.

Solar Heat (1)

view that the Quality of Mercy is not Strained and that it falls as the Gentle Rain from Heaven”. Even the Devil is entitled to quote from the Scriptures, or elsewhere.

33. Having been ushered to your seat at a table you look round and think where do I keep this Envelope and Package. Before you can finish thinking, the Usherette indicates a table on which you find several before you have kept theirs. You are advised that it will be quite safe, no chance

of it getting mixed up. Your name is printed in very large letters. You could pick it up once all proceedings are terminated, on your way out. The other Usherette damsel would ask softly 'would you like a soft drink, Sir?'. You say 'Yes' and a Steward appears at your elbow with your drink. Everything seems very streamlined around here. No need to run behind Stewards. The '62 Group Organisation is good. Real Good.

34. The Usherette leaves you. You feel relieved. Let off a long breath. The steam on your spectacle lenses are cleared. Your vision becomes clear.

35. As each guy walks in, a 3rd usherette, Yes, you guessed right. Also dressed in smart BLUE AND BLACK walks smartly up to the Compere with a small printed note which is handed over. The Compere glances at it. A copy of that has already been hand delivered to his home the day before and he is familiar with it's contents. That's a brief description of the latest addition to the gathering.

36. Its only to advise the Compere that the personality is now within the Function Room. Allowing the guest to settle down the Compere announces as the Band finishes playing the on-going number, Short Profiles, sometimes humorous, in the following manner; of all those who had come in up to that time. The Profiles that had been read out from time to time ran thus:

"Mr. Sydney Abeykoon - Principal,- Government School. Son of much respected Sinhala Master at STC Gurutalawa

Mr. Leelaratne Abeywickrema - Interior Décor Consultant. Represented College in Hockey. Popularly known as "Lama" not to be confused with "Dalai Lama". Toured India with the College Hockey Team. Has been knocking on the OBA door for entry but kept out for no known reason. We have roped him in today.

Mr. Anilal Algama -Ex-Chairman NLDB -Now a Consultant. Top class Sprinter. Had a good pair of legs in those days. Disputes with Jabir Junaid as to who holds the unbroken 100 yards record. Now the sprinter makes sure the Don Accompanies him on his morning walk along Diyawannawa so that he does not end in a watery grave, as the expert swimmer is at hand.

Mr. Ananda Amaranath -Respected Lawyer, formerly of our Attorney General's Department. Thereafter Solicitor General in Seychelles. Presently Crown Prosecutor in NSW attached to Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions NSW Australia, President of the STC OBA NSW in Australia. Also the President of the Sri Lanka Association of NSW Australia. An achiever of excellence in everything endeavoured. Top class sportsman. And can you beat it plays the Piano like Chopin. Truly an asset to the '62 group, consistently advising how to develop the OBA.

Mr.K Amerasinghe - Centre Manager – Card Centre Bank of Ceylon-Head Office Colombo Represented College in Basket Ball, Presently in the Sri Lanka Veterans Team. Lobs it straight in.

Mr. Lakshman Amunugama- Consultant,- Real Estate.Superb Cricketer. Missed Royal Thomian only because he did not go on to Mount. At one time much sought after by the girls at Alexandra College, Pembroke Academy, and Buddhist University College. Also known as Johnny Walker. Won the CGR "most frequent Traveller" Award for one night's performance recently. After the last dinner took train home to Pothuhera which is close to Kurunegala. Fell asleep and woke up in Maho. Took next train back to Pothuhera and ended up in Fort Colombo. Now travels only by luxury coach with the conductor under strict instructions to offload opposite his Walauwa Gate at Pothuhera.

Mr. Shantha Dimbulana -Senior Lawyer at the Badulla Bar and one of the Legal Advisors to STC Gurutalawa.

Mr. Gamini Fernando -Managing Director BGC & Co, and Structural Engineer. Very Sober but enthusiastic Member of the 62 group. Constructive ideas is his forte.

Mr.Ranjith Fernando -Motor Engineer attached to Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Invites all claimants home for a drink. You ring home in the evening and generally you will be informed he is "Out".

Mr.Walter Gammampila- All round sportsman at College.Proprietary Planter in Galle. One of several accomplished brothers who went through College. Hits all round the wicket.

Mr.Don Gazara- Chairman Trico Terminals (Pvt) Ltd. Expert Swimmer and coloursman. No fish is faster than him. Real Speedy Gonzalez. Loves College more than anybody else. Really nice guy despite his put on gruff exterior.

Mr.Nihal Gunasena - Well Known Businessman in Nittambuwa Area

Mr. Sunil Hanthi -Former Treasurer of OBA – Much respected and Sober Accountant. A member of the Team that completed the Dining Hall Project.

Mr.Rizvi Jalill -Current Vice President of OBA – Area Sales Manager in Avery Group. Tonights Prefect of Discipline and Co-ordinator of all events Thomian. Head Prefect of STC Gurutalawa in 1988. Has got special dispensation from Saudi to attend tonight's function.

Mr.Sarath Jayasinghe -Chairman/Managing Director Red Berry (Pvt) Ltd.Well known Exporter of Coffee

Mr.Gamini Jayasuriya -Regional General Manager- Bogawantalawa Plantations Ltd

Mr.L N De S Jayasuriya - Manager – Kelani Valley Plantations Ltd

Mr.Jabir Junaid Osama Bin Laden -Chartered Architect. In sparetime specialising in Building Mosques which try to reach heights similar to World Trade Centre in New York.. Warrant out for his arrest as accomplice in Sound Pollution Case instituted by Environmentalist. Tries to imitate Jim Reeves unsuccessfully.

Mr.Neil Karunaratne -Marine Engineer. Says why he rocks on land, is because he is used to the movement of the Boat at Sea. No my friends he is not tipsy. Just landed after sojourn at sea on board vessel called "Meewatura".

Mr.Kamal Kodituwakku -Prominent Businessman Handling Motor Spares, and other allied goods. Contributes generously to college development. Was fully committed and involved in completing the Dining Hall Project.

Mr.Ravi Kotalawela -Senior Planter. General Manager - Watawala Plantations Ltd. Superb all round sportsman in College. Won a recent award as "Youngest Grand Dad"

Mr.Ravi Mahawaduge -Terminal Engineer BIA Katunayake. Was playing Tennis when the Airport was being attacked.Now called Nero of Katunayake not Hero.

Mr.H S.Prematillake -Asst.Regional Manager –People's Bank Kandy Superb Sinhala Singer. Will be hoping to sing later on.

Mr.Terrence Rajapakse -Attorney-at-Law, Retired Judicial Officer now Head of Legal Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe -All round Scholar at Gurutalawa in 1962
Chartered Engineer. Decided to come back to Sri Lanka after earning enough Money in Foreign Lands.

Mr.M B Ratnayake -Cluster Director – JEDB – Great Valley Estate Deltota
Organising all Thomians in Kandy for the '62 Group.

Mr.Nimal Senaratne -Factory Manager-Statcon Factory – Getahetta
Avisavella. Has brought all Rubber requirements for the night. Please collect your quota.

Mr.M P Sooriyarachchi -Prominent and Reputed Landed Proprietor in
Horana Area.

Mr.Sarath Suraweera -Current vice President of our OBA.
Supt. of Police - Led the Police force on one of the usual tactical
withdrawals from occupied areas. Now back home after a stint in
Bangkok. Talks only about the food in Bangkok. The man responsible for
the formation of that vibrant Organisation known as '62 group.

Mr.Mahen Waidyaratne- Has many Business interests in Canada. Is in Sri
Lanka only for short visits. We are fortunate to have caught him on this
visit. Flying out tonight.

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi -Product and Advisory Manager – Energizer
Lanka Ltd. He is fully charged all right. Loafs all over the country – comes
back just in time to get a Re-charge. Very energetic and faithful member
and once upon a time the Secretary of our OBA.

Mr.Sunil Watawala -Chairman – Siriyangani Desicated Coconut Mills. Head
Prefect at Gurutalawa in 1962. Led the Uva Province School Boys Hockey
Team while in College. Superb Sportsman. Once the Secretary of our OBA.
Still plays with his collection of balls. Now Squash.

Mr.Harish Weerasekera -Group Marketing Manager – CIC Fertiliser
Head Prefect at STC Gurutalawa in 1965

Mr.Mohan Wijedoru -Executive and Administrative Officer – W M Mendis &
Co Ltd , Narahenpita. Look at him and we know where the stuff is going –
A beautiful personality has he. Softly. Softly.

Mr.P N Wijewardena -Prominent Businessman in Kegalle. Presently having
interests in Kandy.

Mr.Bandula Kodituwakku -An Excellent Hockey Player in his day at College. Master at dribbling the balls with the stick. Now engaged in a Motor Spares Empire and helps keep the wheels turning. A live wire in our OBA and a Member of the Executive Committee. Has spent lavishly of his time and resources to develop College. Together with his friends took a keen interest in completing the Dining Hall Project in College to indicate how a job should and could be done.

Mr.Pathmananda De Silva -Sits on his Tower and views all the Hardware – was totally committed and devoted to the completion of the Dinning Hall Project. A go getter. Together with his small band of Thomians demonstrated what team work is and how a job of work could be done to achieve results. A quiet sober and nice guy. Should the Dinning Hall be named after him?

Mr.Palitha Rajapakse -Exporter of Coconut Produce. A Member of the OBA Executive Committee. Was fully involved in the completion of the Dining Hall Project. A real GO GET HER. Very nice guy.

Mr.Krysantha Weerawardena - A Member of the Executive Committee of the OBA. Engaged in the Export of Coconut Produce. Another member of the Team that completed the Dining Hall Project in double quick time. Good organizer of anything good.

Mr.M P D Perera -A confectionary Baron. Was a sweet young fellow in his Winchester days. Much sought after. A Member of the Executive Committee of the OBA. Top Class Cricketer who just missed playing at the Royal – Thomian. Was fully involved in completing the Dining Hall Project. A genial and lovable guy still.”

- 37.These notes are greeted sometimes with a cheer, sometimes with a guffaw. The role of honour keeps mounting.
- 39.The 03 Masters who were being felicitated, the Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest had all been enrolled as Honorary Members of the '62 Group earlier on in the evening.
- 40.Everybody is now in good spirits, good company and content.
- 41.You look round. Some faces seem familiar. You get up, go across and hug each other before you even open your mouth to utter a greeting and then “My gosh, what a lot there is to talk’. You look round and “who’s that guy? How fellows can put on”. He looks pretty full. Must be minting money. Wonder who he is and what he is doing’. You get close and you cannot believe your eyes. This is Bull Mara. You take a closer look.

Actually he looks younger. Does he swim still. He should be hitting 65 or 70. This man's cherubic face makes him look younger than you.

42. In ones and two's and three's they all trickle in and move around. The expressions on their faces when recognition is made or somebody else introduces you, you have to see to believe it. The last time you saw the guy was when you had your trunk loaded into your pater's car outside the dormitory in December, 1962 and waved this guy good -bye.
43. What a gathering' What a unique occasion' What a galaxy of accomplished men'. They have all reached the pinnacles of success in their chosen fields. Naturally in College they were champion Swimmers, great Athletes, Superb Cricketers, Best Players of Hockey, Basket Ball, Tennis, Squash, Badminton. Head Prefects, School Prefects, Scholars, Captains of all types of sports activities. Timmy the great Rider of Horses had taken to stunt Riding, at the National Savings Bank had crashed and sent his apologies for absence. The long Jumper from the Orange Estate at Aiwela was indisposed. Anzary and Jurair were observing the FAST as true believers during the holy month. Kalle was marrying his son off in India. Bam Mahi, was out of the country on an urgent business conference. Kishin, Planter Mohan and Dr. Mohan all 03 had urgent personal commitments which could not be cancelled for that evening. Almost all had been in touch and kept the Secretariat informed.
44. The Band has struck up a tune. The Compere intervenes and announces the names of those who had arrived moments ago giving them time to settle down. You are made aware of the rest of the crowd you are going to share the evening with.
45. As you approach a group you cannot make out perhaps one or two. As you stare at a face and you say that the person cannot be placed, the others present do not offer any assistance. These are moments that come once in a life time. You will treasure them right through. You are asked to guess. Guess you do but you are way off the mark. Eventually you are introduced, to the guy you have shared the bunk-bed with you for 2 or 3 years in the Junior Dorm around 1959 or 1960.
46. " Can you remember we did Tumbler Talking after lights were out"?. An adaptor and an electric wire connected to the night lamp leading to a holder and bulb hung from the top bunk with blankets making a tent of the whole area, with Palitha Sri Lal Dias the occupant of the lower bunk presently the Neuro Surgeon in North Staffordshire Hospital playing host. How time has flown'.
47. Mr.L.M. Fernando says the only time the C.A. Laing Challenge Shield for Junior Public School Tennis was won by a School outside Colombo was by Guru in 1960. Of course when he was part of the Coaching Team. Cheers

to that. In the doubles our guys beat the STC Mt. Pair which was Coached by Rupert Ferdinands. Well done L.M. Bottoms up.

48. Not to be outdone, Bull Mara joins in. " I say, my whole swimming team is supposed to be here tonight. These guys broke the Public Schools Under 16 (4 x 100m) Free Style Relay Record in 1963. Don Gazara M.B. Ratnayake, Upali Jayasuriya, Sarath Nanayakkara. Thanks Mara. You sure did well for your Alma Mater. And hats off to our chums in the '62 Group.
49. Mr. Nimal Bhareti responds in another circle. 'You know, when I see the guys here tonight, I feel happy. They are all doing so well. It was worth having been at Guru and taught them . They have done well in life'. Why not. Here we have possibly the cream of STCG, at least over a period of time, who have reached the heights of their chosen fields. Marine Engineers, Structural Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Motor Engineers, Medical Practitioners, Architects, Interior Decorators, Planters in the Tea Coconut ,Rubber and Coffee fields, Real Estate Consultants, Bankers, Lawyers, Accountants, Hoteliers, Management Consultants, Administrators, Business Tycoons in the Transport, Tea, Rubber, Coconut, Coffee Manufacturing, Processing and Export areas, Garments, Motor Spares, etc.etc. Police Officers, Teachers, Marketing Consultants, the list is endless.
50. Glasses are being emptied. Bottles are replaced. The Bar Tender is over-worked . The Stewards keep replenishing the glasses and Bacchus up there gives all the encouragement silently.
51. As Fellowship proceeds in the manner and style Bacchus has laid down, there is a clash of cymbals and the Compere announces the commencement of the entertainment segment of the evening. The Sirinama Dancing Troupe consisting of young pretty girls gives a very impressive performance consisting of several dances. Their graceful movements to oriental music provides a good start. Prema the Banker from the Hills makes copious notes. You are also entertained by Solar Heat, a young group performing a modern form of lithe movements, in sexy attire very fast and energetic not something that you would like to try out at your age with your pot belly, although Sunil Wate thinks he can have a go as he still plays squash very early every morning.
52. It is quite fascinating and the girls performing it have the prettiest faces you have seen. You wonder what more is in store for you. You did not think the evening was going to have all this entertainment. The Compere interrupts your thoughts and advises you there is more to come. The heat is going to be turned on as you proceed. He warns you that it could get real hot, and inquiring whether the Old Thomians are ready for it.

Solar Heat (2)

An Appreciative Audience (1)

An Appreciative Audience (2)

The 05 Plaques that were presented

Jabir makes Presentation to L M

L M Addresses Court

53. Soon that part of the entertainment segment is over. The ladies have tactfully withdrawn. Left the inner sanctum to permit the old and not so old stallions and war horses to relax and unwind.
54. Fellowship proceeds at a higher pitch and once all invitees appear to have marked their attendance, the Compere announces the high-point of the evening. The Presentation Ceremony.
55. He calls upon Mr. Jabir Junaid to make the presentation to Mr. L.M. Fernando who is introduced as a Highly Respected Tennis Coach. Formerly of the staff of STC Gurutalawa. Did much for sports, Tennis in particular at College.
56. When asked to say a few words, Mr. Fernando says it is one of the happiest evenings he has spent. He cannot speak much. He says he has no words to express his feelings. He is overcome by emotion. The plaque handed over to him contains the following sentiments:-

"To: Mr. L.M. Fernando
THANK YOU SIR

A TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION
OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION

FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE

Gratefully Remembered by
'62 Group
S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa

November 24 – 2001

For-Co-ordinating Secretariat"

57. Next the Compere calls upon Mr. Don Gazara to make the presentation to Mr. John Marasinghe who is introduced to the gathering as Formerly of the Staff of STC Gurutalawa. Personal Secretary to Dr. Hayman, Founder Head Master & also Several Other Head Masters. Now an Executive at Douglas & Sons. He is unique in many ways. Has produced the first Old Girl of Gurutalawa to study from Kindergarten to Advanced Level.

Once the presentation is made, Mr. Marasinghe addresses the gathering and he does so holding back his tears with a choked feeling, his emotions all gushing out at the most thoughtful expression of appreciation so unexpectedly and wonderfully recorded in a plaque, in similar fashion as that given to Mr. L.M. Fernando

From The Don a presentation to his Swimming coach.

Mara holds forth.

Nihal to Nimal - To Sir with love.

More strength for the Group-
Guess Who's going to bell the Cat.

Sarath makes the presentation to Bradman

Words of Wisdom

58. Thereafter, Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi is called upon to make the presentation to Mr. Nimal Bhareti who is introduced as "formerly of the staff of STC Gurutalawa. Then Sri Lanka Administrative Service. Now a respected and much sought after Consultant. Much loved and respected Master."

The latter when requested to speak a few words is also overcome with emotion but manages to express his feelings succinctly, and says he is fully appreciative of all that the '62 Group is doing for College and the OBA and will co-operate with it in its efforts to convince the Bishop of the need to take early steps regarding Guru.

The plaque given to him too is similar to the previous ones.

59. Thereafter, Mr. Sarath Suraweera is called upon to make the presentation to Mr. Bradman Weerakoon the Guest of Honour, who is introduced to the gathering by the Compere in the following terms. "Senior Civil Servant. Has worked with almost all Prime Ministers of Sri Lanka. Knows how to keep a secret. Presently consultant to UNFPA. Very respected, distinguished and sought after Old Boy."

The beautiful plaque says
" PRESENTED TO
MR. BRADMAN WEERAKOON
MOST DISTINGUISHED OLD BOY
THANK YOU SIR
FOR THE
HONOUR YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO
S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA

Gratefully Remembered by
'62 Group
S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa

November, 24-2001

For Co-Ordinating Secretariat"

In measured tones, words of wisdom, sane counsel is given that the '62 Group is doing everything it can to strengthen the OBA. This is repeated not once but several times. So that the words go home. Our report is commented upon, our organization is praised. All are advised to rally round and help College. No doubt should be entertained on that score. Every action of the Group has indicated their commitment and dedication to the OBA and more so to the College. His speech is interrupted with loud cheering from time to time.

Ana makes presentation to Duleep

The Voice of Guru

The attentive Audience (1)

The attentive Audience (2)

L M display with pride –Terrence & Mohan admire

Remember our Ballet in the Pool – We really did it for Rollo.

60. Thereafter, Mr. Ananda Amaranath perhaps the most distinguished Old Boy in the Group is called upon to make the presentation to Mr. Duleep Kumar the Chief Guest. Faizal introduces him as the "Foremost and most committed Old Boy of the School. The '62 Group has bestowed upon him the title of "Most wanted member" in the OBA at the present juncture. He has tamely answered the Notice issued by this Court, which is a Thomian Kangaroo one. In fact it was a warrant that had been issued on him which he mistook or misread for summons. Sarath Suraweera and the STF are waiting outside the doors to remove him for "Thomian Service" if need be. So he is advised to surrender and accompany the officers without protest to be installed as "Defender and protector of all that is Thomian at Gurutalawa. We hope he will respond positively."

The beautiful plaque says:
"PRESENTED TO
MR. P.S. DULEEP KUMAR
THOMIAN SANS PEER
THANK YOU SIR
FOR
YOUR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS
S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA

AND ITS
OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

Gratefully Remembered by
'62 Group
S. Thomas' College Gurutalawa

November 24 – 2001

For-Co-ordinating Secretariat."

61. The Chief Guest who has been a pioneer Old Boy of 1942, a pioneer who created the OBA itself and since then deeply concerned and involved in all the affairs of the College, and the OBA, had been a Master in College, the 1st Secretary of the OBA, from 1959 to 1971 one of its most exalted positions, and on the Board of Governors, makes a strong plea that the '62 Group be recognized for what they are doing, for the OBA and the College. The work they have already done is explained. The work they are doing is detailed. What remains to be done is also explained and he makes a plea for all to support the '62 Group, strengthen the OBA and through it the College, we all have learnt to love and considered as our second home during a small period of our lives when we were growing up. This speech is cheered right through and it is quite evident that all those who have gathered are in full agreement with the sentiments expressed.

Amunu the Pacie – Has got the reverse swing right

Great minds agree- Wish I was Younger

Yea why not – I like what I see - So what?

Ravi – Always a good dribbler - Leads the “Dribble Team”

Neil -The Mariner – Rocks his Horse – Not the Boat

(PSR) David and (Gamini) Goliath
doing the foxtrot with Ravi as Umpire

The high note of the speech is his declaration that he is ready to come back from virtual retirement, to the OBA and do what he can for college.

62. The Chief Guest also replies rather tamely, completely overawed by the show of force that the '62 Group means business. There is no gain-saying that. So he surrenders and offers himself for Thomian Service amidst rapturous and thunderous applause. Hugs all around, we've done it chum. The big man is in. The OBA is going to heal its wounds and emerge stronger. And to College we say "Esto Perpetua." He is on the way. The Inner Core of the '62 Group and those at the Co-ordinating Secretariat have achieved their objectives. They congratulate each other. The evening could not have ended on a better note. All the area organizers chip in. The response of the entire membership is spontaneous, overwhelming and we are on our way gaining momentum each day. So our mission which commenced in February/ March this year has within such a short time achieved so much be it with the Bishop who is the Chairman of our Board of governors or healing old wounds of the OBA, to make it vibrant and strong, Be it with the staff at College, Be it with the Head-Master or Be it among ourselves in the '62 Group . We have found, re-discovered ourselves.
63. That part of the evening was moving and emotional. It was loaded with gratitude, appreciation and human values. There is a solemn feeling in the air.
64. The Compere makes an important announcement " We must get on Top Gear again". The Topless Bar is open he says. What better way to get to the Top. " Go, get your drink, Chum, but keep your paws off". With glass in hand you make your way back to the bar. The top of the bar seems intact. What the hell is that fellow Faizal saying ? You wipe the steam from your spectacles. Are my weary eyes playing tricks on me or who is that Angel behind the bar and ain't she Sexy. You find that a fair number of guys are jostling around you. Wasn't that fellow sipping a soft drink all this while. What's he doing stretching out for a Whisky? They all seem stretching out for another drink or what. Thirsty. Bottles seem to be finishing at a much faster pace hereabout. Thank God my wife, I left behind and came. The organizers at the Secretariat really knew what they were doing. And I thought they were spoil sports asking me to leave the Old Girl behind.
65. Fellowship goes on. The Barmaid Topless and all, retires exhausted. Never seen such a thirsty crowd she thinks. After some more music is dished out by the Band Faizal announces the commencement of the naughty cabarets. He says whatever you want guys you got it all lined up here . I know you guys are all Old and not so Old Thomians but tonight is special. So just let your hair down and enjoy yourselves. Just forget for a few moments that you are all Old Thomians he says with a naughty twinkle in his eyes. And the show goes on. Suffice it is to say that when

you are among the stars heading for the moon , you do see both hemispheres, the upper and the lower of the globe and Mr. Nimal Bhareti will vouch for that from the Geography Text.

66. Dinner is served and awaits you, says Faizal. If any body has a problem with the Thomian Menu a Royal one is also possible he says. The '62 Group has catered for all tastes. The Guest of Honour who got prior permission of the Court, to be excused within 2 ½ hours of arrival as he had to report back to be on call for an urgent Cabinet Meeting has decided His/Her Excellency and the Cabinet could wait. And wait he does for another extra 2 hours. This is a better crowd to work with and to share the secrets with. No wonder they are much in demand in their own Organizations. What our country could have achieved if only these guys are at the top. He had never realized that STCG had produced these guys. So he postpones his exit. Not bad folks, this occasion must be something special. You wonder what chances of organizing the next bash at the Presidential Palace – with a midnight swim as part of the Revelry. The Secretariat is game provided You are there.
67. And so the dancing goes on until you are too exhausted. And the evening comes to an end. What an evening it was. The 40th Anniversary Fellowship Dinner of the '62 Group of Old Boys of S.Thomas College Gurutalawa.
68. The unanimous approbation is that 12 months is too long a wait to have the next re-union. Why, some guys ask, can't we meet every 2 months. Hey, not so fast guys. We will certainly meet soon but at a different tempo to discuss serious stuff and leave Bacchus back home. There is work to be done. But all work and no play will make us all dull men. So there will be occasions, smaller ones perhaps, to get-together in the metropolis and elsewhere to make the bonds stronger.
69. As far as our next Re-union is concerned we will tell you this much. If you thought the show put on at the " La Fontaine" on November 24 2001 was fabulous, rest assured you are in for a bigger and better one next time with the cabarets, well, Out of This World. What you would not have dreamt of. Yea. So keep your fingers crossed. Its going to be real fun. But don't forget you must come and meet your friends, now that the Bond has been re-established. That's one of the main events of the evening. So cancel everything else and make it a point to be there and again IT WILL BE STAG OF COURSE.
70. Already the Kandy Organizers have chipped in and informed of a mid-December get-together . We will keep you informed. We will be there and with us all those who would like to join and we will show that though small in numbers, STCG and its '62 Group has been far ahead in quality than several other big noises.

71. The '62 Group however will not rest on what has been achieved. There is much more on its Agenda. We will proceed and let our actions and results vindicate us.
72. We have already communicated with various persons connected with the administration of College and also those who may carry, some clout or whose good offices could be garnered for the benefit of college. These are matters that have to be attended to tactfully and details are not made herein; though it could at appropriate situations.
73. Some members of the College staff are our next target for attention and appreciation. We intend harnessing their contribution and good will towards College and for the present generation of Thomians. Our task for the next 2 – 3 months has been identified. Our core group has already met twice and action is being taken. Of course no Sub Committees or Select Committees are being appointed.
74. Over 300 photographs which were taken of our 40th Anniversary Fellowship – Dinner are in an Album at the Secretariat and any member interested could drop in preferably by prior appointment and make his choice to place the order. It would be appreciated if this selection is made before January, 15th 2002.
75. In conclusion a word of sincere thanks to all those at the Co-ordinating Secretariat including Sunil, Shantha, Kanchana, Sita, Nihila, Shanthi, Samanthi, Asha, Natali, Ashan, Dinusha & Pradipa for all the hard work sacrifices patience and understanding contributed in a myriad ways to make the 40th Anniversary Fellowship Dinner of the '62 Group Old Boys of S. Thomas College Gurutalawa a Resounding Success.

He's a Jolly Good Fellow – is Duleep

Colombo
December 08, 2001

For-Co-Ordinating Secretariat

