

STCG – OBA

A.G.M. (AND RE-UNION DINNER) Issue – Newsletter No: 05

1. **AGM - EX-CO-OBA – HEAD MASTER- BOARD OF GOVERNORS- COLLEGE**

The A.G.M (and the Re-union Dinner) of our OBA is on Saturday March 2, 2002. The election of the Ex-Co (other than the President) is generally one item on the Agenda of the A.G.M. The Management and the Administration of the OBA is vested in that Executive – Committee. The First (perhaps the foremost) object of the OBA is to assist the College. The College is vested in the Board of Governors. Provision is made for representation of the OBA on the Board of Governors. The Head Master by virtue of his Office, is the President of our OBA. At every A.G.M , the Head Master presents his Report on the activities of the College for discussion. **IT IS CLEAR THEREFORE THAT THE OBA HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE AFFAIRS OF COLLEGE WHICH IS PRESENTLY REQUIRED TO BE EXERCISED THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE HEAD MASTER.**

2. **CERTIFIED COPY OF RULES**

We have with us a copy of the Rules certified as at July 16,1990 by the then Secretary which are reported to be the current Rules. We are also made to understand that the Rules were changed and that the documentation including recorded Minutes have been misplaced by a previous Secretary. This requires to be clarified and rectified. **No useful purpose will be served in going on a witch-hunt as to who misplaced what.** The intention should be to have firmly established the Current Rules and copies thereof be made available to Members who pay the relevant charges. The rules are not a Secret Pact not to be divulged to the membership. We have made available to all the copy we have and if there is any doubt we would like the matter clarified once and for all. We have made the OBA Rules available on our Web Site also.

3. **NOTICE OF AGM & AGENDA**

The Rules require that Members must be given at least 21 days Notice of the AGM. A "Vague" Notice appeared in the Daily News paper on February 08,2002 giving the date, venue and time of the AGM and the Re-Union Dinner . Usually a detailed Notice is sent to each Member whose address is available with the Secretary. The Rules also require that the Notice be given "of the business to be transacted at the AGM". Usually the Notice received by the Members contains such Agenda. This year's Notice in the papers did not contain any Agenda Not having received any Notice personally of the AGM or it's Agenda todate, we have to assume that the Agenda would be the customary one at the AGM, with the election of Office Bearers to the Ex-Co as one item.

4. **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS- COMPOSITION OF EX-CO**

Although the Rules specify the electing of 3 Vice Presidents, in fact at present, 05 Vice Presidents hold office. Although the Rules specify that the Ex-Co will consist of 15 Members, other than the President, Vice President, Hon.Secretary, Hon. Assistant Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer, the current Ex-Co consists of 17 Members in addition to the specified office bearers referred to above.

5. **DATE AND VENUE OF AGM (REPRESENTATION & PROXY OF ABSENTEES)**

The Rules require that the AGM be held on a date to be fixed by the Ex-Co after due consideration as regards convenience of the majority of the Members. This needs looking into. Today's majority may not be in a position to go up to Gurutalawa unlike in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. Furthermore, there is a fair segment of the Membership residing out side the Country. They need to be informed well in advance in order to make their travel arrangements, taking in the Royal Thomian Cricket Match on the same visit. So also financial contributions from Members resident abroad could be on a high scale vide letters received by us. It would be unfair and improper to prevent them as generous contributors and donors from participating at the AGM by default due to no fault of theirs. **THE RULES DO NOT PROVIDE A PROXY IN THE CASE OF THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.** This too should be looked into and may be determine the solution to provide redress to interested members unable to attend. If the OBA could approach these Members for financial assistance for college surely it would only be fair to permit their voices to be heard and to permit them to participate in the deliberations and decision making process. Perhaps the time has come to give these matters some thought.

6. **NOTICE TO NEW MEMBERS**

We have during a short period of 4 ½ months had enrolled 40 members in our OBA. Take the case of those who were admitted to Membership this year. Normally no intimation of that fact is given individually. Personal receipt of Notice of the AGM was the assumption of such admission. This year without such personal notice such members would not have an inkling of their status or whether they could attend the AGM. This is unfair and a serious error. These 40 Old Boys have to date not received any acknowledgement of their Applications or subscription fees payments although some were transmitted as far back as August 2001. As no individual Notices (with Agendas) of the AGM have been received by members this year to date perhaps such Notices are not being sent. In the latter event none of these 40 members will receive Notices of the AGM. As only 80-110 or so members do participate normally in the AGM this is a fairly serious matter. We have therefore in fairness to them written individual letters to them informing them of this position.

7. **PENDING APPLICATIONS- TUTORIAL STAFF - "BORN AGAIN" MEMBERS**

At least 20 other applications are in the waiting list. The OBA does not have a single member of the current Tutorial Staff on its membership. We are arranging to have enrolled at least 5 of the most senior. We are made to understand that Guru boasts of 2 senior Members on their Tutorial Staff having over 20 years service at Guru whose academic qualifications are not matched by anybody, even on the staff of Mt. Lavinia. We have also managed to re-surface and bring back 30 members whose names were in the abandoned Register of Members and whose names had not found a place in the current mailing list of the Secretary. These members are very much alive and kicking. **HARDLY THE CONDUCT OF ANY GROUP WANTING TO BREAK-UP OR SPLIT THE OBA YOU WOULD SAY. A PECULIAR CRITICISM LODGED AGAINST US BY THE IGNORAMUS.**

Cader M Shuaib A, Cader M Shafeek A, Cader Huzair A, Cafoor Nawaz, Cafoor N Falih, Corea Sri Sangabo, Mahinda Fernando, Sujewa Godage, Gopalakrishnan D, Lionel Gammanpila, Gammanpila S C, Ananda Gunasena M D ,Upali Horadagoda, Feroze Hameem, M D, Hewawasam G L T, Handapangoda T, Ilapperuma D B, Jayatilaka M N D P Jabir Junaid , Kumaravelu V, Kannan D, RaviKotalawala, Marikar J H, Munasinghe I A, Muthumala D S, Majintha Perera R, Rajapakse N G T Sundarajah T, Dr. Ranjith L Weerakoon, Weerasekera S C

WELCOME BACK CHUMS .

A special welcome to V Kumaravelu who thinking he had been buried and forgotten submitted a fresh application plus further subscription fees of Rs.500/- to keep himself alive in the OBA Mailing List etc. We have requested the Secretary, on making this discovery to return the fees. But going by past performances we can be sure nothing has happened so far.

8. OBJECTS OF OBA - REALISATION

The objects of the OBA as laid down in the Rules are ;

- (a) to rally round the College all Old Boys and well wishers of the College who desire to uphold and assist the College and in every way they can;
- (b) to enable Old Boys to keep in touch with the College and with one another;
- (c) to afford guidance and encouragement to the younger generation.

Can we honestly say that our OBA has come up to it's expectations? Who is responsible for guiding the O.B.A ? Who has failed to perform in the manner expected ? These are questions we must ask ourselves, now that it is time once again to elect an Ex- Co to charter the affairs of the OBA and help College. Do we elect the same Ex-Co once again? Do we need our OBA or it's Ex-co merely to organize a Dinner at Mt. Lavinia Hotel and a Picnic at Gurutalawa, without identifying the real ills and finding solutions to work with the Head Master and the Board of Governors. **THESE ARE MATTERS THAT CAN BE DELEGATED TO A SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SUB COMMITTEE. REPAIRS, REFURBISHMENTS, CONSTRUCTIONS CAN BE HANDED OVER TO A SIMILAR SUB COMMITTEE. LET US HAVE IN OUR EX-CO A DIFFERENT CALIBRE OF OLD BOYS WHO CAN CHART A COURSE TO PULL COLLEGE OUT OF ITS PRESENT MORASS.**

9. AGM- RE-UNION – MID TERM HOLIDAYS

The present practice is to have the OBA AGM and the Re-Union Dinner etc, during the 3rd week end of February. For the last several years, the Head Master declares that week-end a compulsory mid-term holiday for the Boarders, firstly, in order to accommodate the Old Boys and secondly, apparently in view of the Old Boys frolics. This practice has caused considerable inconvenience to the Boarders and their Parents. Reference is made to this elsewhere in our Newsletters. We are certain, as responsible Old Boys, we can conduct ourselves in such a manner as not to cause such "disturbance" to the Boarders on the campus. We feel, much good can be gained by the Interaction and Communication between Old Boys, present day students, and the staff of the College if an opportunity is provided. We are quite sure that this would benefit both parties and the advantages of such communication would be far greater than any minor inconveniences suffered by temporary relocation of Boarders elsewhere on the campus where necessary depending on the number of Old Boys attending. This week-end it is felt by Senior Old Boys could be utilized in order to have, for example, Science and Art Exhibitions, Drama or Dance Recitals, apart from the traditional Cricket, Hockey, Volley Ball matches etc, in which the entire school, if not the Boarders could participate in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. This will automatically draw the Tutorial Staff into getting involved with the Old Boys in these activities. This will hopefully re establish that respect, regard and good relationship between the tutorial staff, minor staff, present day students and Old Boys to a great extent as prevailed in the days under Dr. Hayman and Fr. Foster. Sadly, today's situation is that each party has distanced itself from the others and the school. An energetic Head Master and a like Ex-Co of the OBA could and should re-establish these traditional activities for the betterment of College in a cordial atmosphere. In this regard we invite the attention of all Old Boys and the Headmaster to the 3rd Object of the OBA i.e. "To afford guidance and encouragement to the younger generation". Old Boys being far removed from the

present students as at present, this object remains a pipedream and fanciful idea in the Rules.

10. **FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF COLLEGE – CONDITION OF CAMPUS**

Having stated the above, it is clear to all Old Boys that the College is presently confronting a sad situation. The entire Infrastructure has collapsed. One has to traverse the Campus to see the rot and deterioration. Electricity, water service, telecommunication, sanitary facilities, accommodation, food, sports, library and a host of other areas need urgent attention before the system collapses. The social background of the student population is very different to what prevailed earlier. The quality of the tutorial staff on the whole is equally very different and most reside outside the Campus. It is said that fees are not paid on time by most of the students. The Institution at present is not financially viable. College has to resort to bank borrowings to meet it's monthly commitments. The interest on overdraft facilities is heavy. Cutting and selling of trees has been the last resort adopted several times over in the recent past to clear up unbearable financial burdens. **SOON THERE WILL BE NO MORE TREES TO CUT.** These are all trees that existed even during Dr. Hayman's time which were preserved and the environs declared out of bounds and inviolate.

11. **IS SOLUTION FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY – CONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHMENT OF BUILDINGS**

Giftng Office Equipment, Class Room or Dormitory furniture, painting and color washing and repairing buildings, constructing edifices for particular purposes as has been done by well meaning Old Boys INCLUDING OURSELVES is obviously not the solution to the problems outlined above. These will not fill the coffers or help pay the bills. At the soft opening of the new Dining Hall and the Administration Block project undertaken by the OBA, a new Computer Room was also declared open ceremonially. Yet within weeks, the computers had to be removed to a room in close proximity to the Head Master's Office for security reasons. One could say the same sad fate has befallen the S .K. Wickremasinghe Class Room Block opened in 1976 and also the Club House opened in 1976. These examples show construction of building is no solution to the financial mess.

12. **NEED FOR A DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION**

It is therefore clear that collecting money from Old Boys and attending to construction of buildings or patch work is not the solution. THE PROBLEM IS FIRST AND FOREMOST ONE OF MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ON A LONG TERM PLAN. This is an aspect that requires the advise and guidance of those who are experts in the field. A well-meaning Head Master as perhaps the present holder of that office is not likely to be able to overcome these difficulties single-handedly although he may show signs of correcting certain ills. Since the departure of Dr.Hayman, slowly but gradually the rot has set in. One root cause is indiscipline. Dr. Hayman was resident on the Campus. It was his home. The same can be said of Father Foster and several other Members of the Tutorial Staff during that era. **TODAY THERE IS NOBODY RESPONSIBLE ON THE CAMPUS DURING THE HOLIDAYS.** In the above situation, it cannot be said, unfortunately, that the OBA has (together with the Head Master) and the Board of governors been successful in arresting this deterioration of standards in college.

13. **UNDERTAKING AT LAST AGM TO INFORM MEMBERS RE NECESSARY PROJECTS.**

IT IS NOT INTENDED, TO UNNECESSARILY SLIGHT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR HURT ANYBODY'S FEELINGS BUT IT IS GOOD TO KNOW FACTS AND THE LESSONS THAT ACCOMPANY THEM.

At the A.G.M in February 2000, an Old Boy who has visited College after some time was openly ridiculed for having had the temerity to make some sincere observation relating to unsatisfactory conditions in College. Again at the A.G.M in February 2001, when an Old Boy inquired as to what areas College requires assistance, **AN UNDERTAKING WAS GIVEN ON BEHALF OF THE EX- CO THAT HAD JUST BEEN ELECTED, THAT THE MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE INFORMED VERY EARLY THEREOF.** Those who attended that A.G.M will recall that incident vividly. 12 months have come and gone since then. The Ex-co has met on almost 10 occasions. The usual October Fellowship Dinner was organized and had at the Mt. Lavinia Hotel preceded by a one page note. During this period of one year, Old Boys have not been informed of the current situation in College or what assistance is required as promised.

14. **SHORT COMINGS AT LAST AGM, FELLOWSHIP AND RE-UNION DINNER**

A group of us who were in College mostly during the 1958-1962 era have been saddened by the inactivity, lethargy and sheer callousness of those who should be more responsive to the needs of the College to which we owe so much. At the last A.G.M in February 2001, **non-Members were present and sought election to the Ex-Co. A stranger darted into the Foster Memorial Hall during the Fellowship that followed and grabbing a bottle of whisky spirited it away in front of our eyes. Thereafter we participated in the Re- union Dinner seated amongst non Old Boy strangers who had not even purchased tickets.** Participants were trickling in at intervals, whilst those at the head table had finished their meal. There was no proper Dress- Code. The occasion had lost its propriety and ambience etc. We saw with our own eyes young Old Boys who came in late not able to partake of a complete meal. Food that had been prepared had not only been consumed beforehand by others but had been spirited away from the campus.

15. **OUR PROPOSALS, SOLUTIONS AND OFFERS. THE RESPONSE OF THE EX-CO – A LOUD SILENCE**

We returned to Colombo saddened and wrote on March 15, 2001 to the Secretary of the OBA referring inter alia to the above incidents and suggesting improvements , giving solutions, and making recommendations. We inter alia undertook to **re-introduce** Membership Cards at our expense. Thereafter we have written at least 5 more letters in June, July, August, October & November 2001. **TODATE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED EVEN THE COURTESY OF AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

16. **OUR OFFER TO PAINT JUNIOR DORMS**

On March 15, 2001 a Group of us also wrote to the Secretary with a copy to the then Head Master offering to paint and attend to minor repairs of the Junior Dorms. One would **NORMALLY** wish to undertake such a Project **THROUGH** the OBA and the Head Master. Several reminders were sent thereafter. We had no response. Sub Committees were to be appointed to go into this offer and other proposals we had made. Nothing happened. A new Head master was installed in September 2001. Having dug out our letter which had been buried, the new Head Master wrote to us on November 16,2001 i.e. 8 months after our letter to his predecessor, accepting our offer and suggesting that the work be executed. We did not waste time writing letters. We telephoned him immediately and arranged to carry out the work during

the December holidays leaving the OBA out of the Project. **THIS WAS DONE SATISFACTORILY** by taking with us over two dozen professional painters from Colombo acting under the supervision of a renowned Chartered Architect who has won International Awards. The funny side of this episode is that an Executive Committee was also scheduled for a date around this time in order to appoint a Sub-committee to go into our proposal to paint the Junior Dorms. **WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THE EX-CO TODATE. SO WHO SAYS ALL DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE COLLEGE BY OLD BOYS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THE OBA? OUR EXPERIENCE IS AN EYE OPENER TO ALL.**

17. **OBA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY- OUR CONTRIBUTION – 62 GROUP DIRECTORY**

DATA SHEETS HAD BEEN SENT BY THE SECRETARY IN AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2000 TO MEMBERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPILING A DIRECTORY. ONLY 53 MEMBERS HAD RESPONDED. In mid- June 2001 with a view to helping the Secretary, we entered the arena and by visiting Members in their homes, telephoning them and writing to them over 295 letters, **WE WERE ABLE TO GATHER A FURTHER 250 DATA SHEETS ALL OF WHICH TOGETHER WITH A DRAFT DIRECTORY ON DISKETTE AND HARD COPY, WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SECRETARY ON JULY 31,2001.** We understand that at a Meeting of the Ex-Co on November 17,2001 it had decided to entrust the finalization of the Directory and Membership cards too to a Sub-committee which was required to report back for further instructions. **To date, neither the Directory nor the Membership Cards have been finalized and issued. Our Secretariat has the Directory in the normal layout as well as in schedule form and can be supplied at a moment's notice.** We are not circulating the same although we have made it available to one or two very senior Old Boys on a complementary basis, in order that the sales of the official OBA Directory if and when published may not be prejudiced.

18. **OBA FELLOWSHIP DINNER- 62 GROUP 40TH ANNIVERSARY FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

Immediately after election of the New Ex-Co at the AGM in February the task ahead has been to prepare for a Fellowship Dinner in October. So about 08 months of hard labour goes to its production. Thereafter the Accounts of the Dinner. Then the time comes again for the next AGM with the accompanying picnic. **It's a fantastic calendar.**

Normally only about 05 Old Boys of our era attended the Mt.Lavinia Hotel OBA Fellowship Dinner in October each year. Last year for the first time, we decided to support the OBA effort collect our colleagues and were able to gather friends of our era numbering almost 20. We then decided to have our own 40th anniversary Fellowship Dinner which we organized within 2 weeks which was attended by almost 50 of our contemporaries at which the Members Directory as well as our own Membership Cards which were finalized in 48 hours were distributed on a complimentary basis, apart from inviting and felicitating as special guests 3 of our masters who to our knowledge are the only survivors, together with 2 other distinguished Old Boys, Mr. Bradman Weerakoon and Mr. P. S. Duleep Kumar to all of whom special plaques were awarded as a token of our appreciation for all that they had done for us, for College, for our OBA and the country.

19. **62 GROUP WEB SITE AND GLOBAL REACH OUT – THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE**

We have set up a Web Site which all interested Guru Old Boys may visit. We are improving, updating and uploading additional data daily. We hope to soon have the music of the College song in the background for use with multi media facilities. We welcome anecdotes, memories etc of life and times of Old Boys at Guru, whether they relate to sports, studies, masters, minor staff or other contemporaries etc, etc. and news and recent photographs to see and know how they are now, comments and suggestions to improve our Web site, the OBA and also College and generally any matters of interest to all Old Boys of Guru. These can be transmitted to us by letter, fax or e-mail. These will be sorted out and uploaded regularly in addition to keeping in touch with college and its activities. We have asked the Head Master for current news and will make it known worldwide through our web site, apart from the Newsletters we will be sending those who do not have such access. Numerous Old Boys visit our site from Canada, USA, UK and Australia and have congratulated us on the innovative skills we have displayed for the betterment of our OBA and College.

20. **62 GROUP NEWS LETTERS – REPORT ON COLLEGE- DIALOGUE WITH THE TUTORIAL STAFF AND THE BENEFITS DERIVED**

- (a) We have during the last 04 months alone, sent out 05 Newsletters to almost 300 Old Boys including Members of the OBA.
- (b) We have in response to requests compiled a Report on the situation in College after making necessary inquiries, and interviews. Owing to the very sensitive nature of the Report, we handed over same to the Bishop. In deference to his request, we refrained from circulating the Report. At discussions had with the Bishop, it was agreed that for the moment he would do what he can at his level with the Head Master. **WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN MANY CHANGES FOR THE BETTER THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.** We have also been advised to work in close co-operation with the Head- Master which we have been successful in doing.
- (c) In consequence of our visits and interviews and continued dialogue, we succeeded in defusing a very volatile atmosphere and situation and we have successfully neutralized a very disgruntled and angry tutorial staff who were about to explode in frustration and rebellion. That alone would have brought College to a complete stand –still and perhaps shut down, and the students sent home.

21. **APPRECIATION OF OUR OUTPUT –GOOD WILL AND SUPPORT EARNED FOR COLLEGE.**

We have already received numerous accolades from distinguished Old Boys who are resident not only in Sri Lanka but in Canada, U.S.A , U.K and Australia. They have appreciated and congratulated us on our performance during so short a time and the contribution they say, we are making towards strengthening the OBA and the development of the College. We continue to receive messages of good-will as well as offers of financial assistance from our friends and well wishers not only confined to our era in College, but before and after who are honest enough to admit and accept the facts as we have stated above and are **happy that somebody is at last taking a genuine interest in doing something without trying to seek Office and cling to Office in the OBA.** We have informed them that we have no intention of collecting any funds at this stage. **WE ARE CONVINCED THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED IN FRITTERING AWAY SUCH GOOD- WILL ON ANY PROJECT IN COLLEGE UNLESS AND UNTIL THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT IS PROPERLY ORGANIZED WITH A PROPER**

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS WELL AS ACTION TO REVIVE COLLEGE AND ENFORCE DISCIPLINE IS PUT IN PLACE.

22. **IMPORTANCE OF EX-CO - THE APEX OF THE OBA**

From the above, it will be clear that there is much work to be done to put College back on it's feet. This work if done by individuals and small groups operating from out side the official ambit cannot have the desired impact and cannot be in a position to actively participate particularly in the decision making process where the administration and management of the School is concerned. It is the Ex-Co of our OBA working with the Head Master under the Board of Governors that will be able to bring tangible and far reaching results.

23. **WHY CHANGE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OBA**

It is necessary to have in office an Ex-Co that is competent and dedicated to this task. In passing, it is worth mentioning that one Member of our Ex-Co. is reported to have said quite seriously, (when it was found that the original date set for the A.G.M was February 23, 2002, i.e. Haj Festival Day, and a fair number of our Muslim friends who are members were anxious to attend, requested that another day be fixed) " How can that be done ? The date had been fixed by the Board of Governors." So you can see the standard of intelligence that prevails. Should the future of College or the OBA be handed over to such persons. Unless persons who can make intelligent contributions are in the Ex-Co, it cannot deliberate as it is expected to and tackle problems or be of genuine assistance to the Head Master or the Bishop or the Board of Governors. We must ask ourselves, Do we want an Ex-Co that will keep all of us in the dark? Don't we want to know what has happened at Guru? What are the problems? How can we help? Then pray why have a repeat performance? Is that what you and we deserve? It that what College deserves? Is this the sad plight that Dr. Hayman and Fr.Foster dedicated their lives for? Are we being fair, true and honest by them; Don't we have some gratitude? Should we not answer the call- Rally Round the College Flag and our Alma Mater?

24. **LEADERSHIP OF THE OBA-COMPOSITION OF THE EX-CO- OUR HIGH PROFILE SUPPORT GROUP WITHOUT SEEKING OFFICE**

For all of these, as Old Boys, we have to begin with our Ex-Co and OBA with the corporation of the Head Master and good-will of the Board of Governors and the Bishop. We have established our Bona fides with the Head Master, and the Tutorial Staff. We are in a position to have discussions with the Bishop and the Board of Governors and we are confident and optimistic we can convince them our mission is to save the College. Old Boys of the College, Members as well as Non Members of the OBA are giving us all the encouragement to pursue our goals. We are convinced that this could be done and should be done. Amongst our Group of almost 60 Members, we have a galaxy of qualified, competent Old Boys in business, and professions who have made several important suggestions and volunteered enthusiastically to assist College not only financially but with their expertise but once the coast is cleared. **SOME OF THEM** are Anil Ratwatte, Chairman of Manik International Ltd, B.A Mahipala, Chairman of BAM Group of Companies, Mahen Ranasinghe, Chartered Engineer of Vidya Silpa ,Ananda Amaranath, Barrister, formerly Solicitor General Seychells, Presently President STC OBA N S W, and President Sri Lanka Association N S W, U.K.D Jinapriya, Chartered Accountant Canada, Upali Jayasooriya, Engineer New Jersey, U S A, Don Gazara, Chairman Trico Terminals (Pvt) Ltd, Anilal Algama the former Chairman of NLDB, and scores of other giants in the business, commercial, and professional fields including Planters, Lawyers, Medical Practitioners Teachers, Engineers, Architects, Accountants, Bankers, Management Consultants, Marketing Consultants, Building Contractors, Interior

Decorators, etc, etc, of proven track record not only financially but also with their expertise and know how.

25. **CONCLUSION**

As responsible Old Boys nurtured in the Thomian tradition we earnestly request you to consider all that we have said and do what you feel is correct when it comes to electing a new Ex-Co to Office. We ourselves despite enormous pressure are not seeking office. We have identified a "strike force", a combination of the young and the old to head the Ex-Co. **PLEASE ATTEND THE AGM AND SUPPORT THEM.**

February 16,2002
Colombo

For-Co-ordinating Secretariat