

**S.THOMAS' COLLEGE, GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23,2003**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

“..... A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?”  
Browning

**Introduction**

Your committee elected at the AGM of the Association on Saturday March 2, 2002 was not oblivious to the daunting task that lay ahead of it but reached out as best they could to undertake a programme of activities which was identified at the First Meeting of the Executive Committee held on April 8, 2002.

To make any effective headway at all your Committee was unanimously of the view that being the true custodians of the Schools Traditions the importance of the relationship between the OBA and the Administration of which the Headmaster was the Executive Head had to adjust itself to a paradigm shift so as to provide the Old Boys the space to take a pro-active role in the actual Administration of the College, by way of searching questions and the proferment of advice to the Headmaster and to exercise its will to support advice with concrete action directly in the Campus. To this end it was deemed necessary that meetings of the Ex-Co be held in Gurutalawa on every third occasion. But what has been most significant is that members of the Ex-Co and deeply concerned Old Boys, have made regular visits to the College to interact with the Headmaster and the staff in collecting data and most importantly to supervise and implement the various projects undertaken. We are grateful that the Headmaster has been accommodative of our concerns and has indeed accepted, our active participation to assist him in the gargantuan task he has inherited to restore the schools good name, so as once again to attract a sufficient intake of students and to provide them with better facilities and a better education than has been the experience of both the parents and the boys of the school in the recent and not so recent past.

**PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES**

This was conceptualized to be undertaken by the formation of seven Sub-Committees each with a leader, not-necessarily from the Ex-Co working autonomously and reporting back to the Ex-Co.

**Membership and Administration (Mr Lakshman Jayatilaka, Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe & Mr.Rizvi Jalill)**

Under the indefatigable leadership of Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka the following were accomplished.

1. The Register of members was updated, Membership Numbers allocated and Laminated Membership Cards were issued. A membership drive was undertaken and 83 new members enrolled including 19 members of the staff. This was particularly gratifying.
2. Procedures for the speedy registration of members were established as well as for the acknowledgement of fees and issue of receipts, and the updating of the Register. The total Membership now stands at 828
3. We found that there was no systematic maintenance of past records and the committees activities. Ex-Co minutes were available only from 1997 and AGM Minutes were available only from 1996. We have set the bench mark for future Committees and have established standard office procedures streamlined to facilitate the work of the Secretary. We are now in a position to hand over all Books, Files, Documents, Registers and the Minutes of the AGM within 1 week of the election, an experience we did not have the benefit of.
4. A Members Directory has been printed. This has been updated with a Second Issue and old boys overseas have been particularly gratified with this innovation.
5. A sum exceeding Rs 809,553 /- was expended for Secretarial and Administration work of the Secretary. These expenses were borne by an Old Boy.

All these were made possible through the establishment of a Secretariat by the kind courtesy of Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka at premises No.23,1<sup>st</sup> Lane, Kirillapone, Colombo 05 where he himself worked more or less fulltime on the work of the OBA, as he has done in every area of the committees activities. Moreover he has borne all the expenses personally. The OBA and indeed the College owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

#### **Newsletters (Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka & Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera)**

Your committee gave primary concern for its continuing relationship with the Old Boys Membership. It recognized the need not merely to contact them for the special traditional events in the calendar, but to keep in regular touch with them of what the Committee is trying to do, and to achieve and to be at all times accessible to them for advice, and inputs in to its activities, and to operate on the basis of complete transparency.

To this end we have published Regular Newsletters of which we have issued 04 upto date. The cost of printing the Newsletters (Rs 69900/-) and the postage charges (Rs 32826/-) were met by an Old Boy. Moreover additional circulars and flyers were issued. The Newsletters were also sent to the Bishop, Members of the Board of

Governors, the Warden, Branch Headmasters and others including the Librarians of all branches. We have tried to assert our rightful place in the entire Thomian community.

In addition we have taken steps to compile and publish the College Magazine which had been relegated to the limbo of forgotten things for the last 10 years. In this we have tried to interact with the College Staff and the boys of the school and to signal to them our ongoing and perennial interest in the School and its activities and to develop an ambience of mutuality as also to encourage them to revive the practice. None of the Secretarial expenses were claimed from the OBA. The amount runs into several lakhs.

### **Finance and Accounts (Mr.Gamini Fernando and Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera)**

The OBA Accounts revealed that :-

- a).Sums were due i) on the last Fellowship Dinner Souvenir ii)from the Board of Governors iii) from sale of College History Books iv) on the sesqui centennial celebration Thomian Walk in which Gurutalawa had participated.
- b) Cheques had been issued in excess of the funds in the current account,
- c) no scholarships had been awarded from the Hayman and Foster Scholarship Funds

The progress made is reflected in the accounts presented for this year for your approval to which the Treasurer will draw your attention. These accounts of the OBA have been appropriately adjusted to reflect the correct financial position and the procedures streamlined. The books of accounts are written on a weekly basis, bank reconciliations effected and a Trial Balance extracted monthly. The Newsletters have carried details of all receipts and expenses. Official receipts are dispatched without delay for payments received and are otherwise acknowledged immediately. Because of the inadequacy and non availability of records we were unable to extract a full Receipts and Payments account also for the New Dining Hall Project. We were able to identify a sum of Rs.5,316,318/68 as part of the cost incurred but this does not include generous contributions by Old Boys by way of materials etc.

We would refer members to the Statement of Account presented for a clear and detailed picture of the OBA finances as at December 31,2002. Since then further receipts and payments had been recorded details of which will be available at the AGM.

We should mention that one of the first acts of the Committee was to uplift the Deposits held against the Hayman/Foster scholarship funds in the Pramuka Bank and transfer them in to Treasury Bills, which matured on January 30,2003. They have now been invested in a Fixed Deposit in the National Savings Bank, which has the highest interest rates for banks.

**Projects (Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka/ Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe/ Mr.Rizvi Jalil)**

Even before the 1<sup>st</sup> formal meeting of the Committee most elected members and other concerned old boys met informally on March 9,2002 in appreciation of the urgency of the many things that required to be done at the College itself, taking off on the Headmaster's itemization thereof at the AGM held on March 02, 2002.

**In the absence of funds, Individual Old boys undertook and completed the following Projects during the course of the year, under the auspices of the Committee.**

1. Financing and supervising the refurbishment of the Senior Dormitories at an estimated cost of Rs.2,500,000/-
2. New Boards and Baskets for the Basket Ball Court had been put in place at a cost of Rs 45000/-
3. 75 Plastic Chairs valued at Rs 32000/- were gifted to the College and transported thereto. A donation of Rs.6000/- was also given for a table and chair.
4. A Water Pump valued at Rs 8000/-of necessary capacity was donated to pump water to the feeder tank for staff toilets in the Old Class room block( and other areas).
5. A large consignment of New Sinhala Books and English Books at a cost of Rs.22,980/- was donated to the Library. Further over 04 consignments of very valuable Books have been delivered to the College Library from Asia Foundation, and 02 consignments of Books from England. 03 consignments of Journals and Magazines have been donated to the College Library. An Accession Register was also donated.
6. Equipment for the Swimming Pool at a cost of Rs.2685/- was donated
7. Life Saving Equipment at a cost of Rs. 6550/- was donated.
8. The landscaping of the garden in front of the Senior Dorms, surrounding the Chapel, the Quadrangle, the Deputy Headmaster's Bungalow and the Swimming pool were done with labour also being provided.
9. The Winchester Dorm was completely overhauled with its toilets at a cost of Rs.37,840/-. 30 New beds have been provided as well in addition at a cost of Rs. 9,000/-
10. 1000 Hangers have been donated for the students to dry their clothes outside the Dormitories on new Railings provided for that purpose.
11. 2 Generators urgently required at times of power crisis have been repaired and returned to College.
12. 30 individual tables and chairs were donated at a cost of Rs.46,560/-
13. Two Indian Software experts were taken to College and they provided a programme for Accounts.

14. A new Communication and Telephone System valued at over Rs.100,000/- has been gifted and is presently in the custody of the Headmaster awaiting installation, after his relocation.
15. Equipment for the laboratory which had been necessary for some years has been supplied including a microscope, at a cost of Rs.32,388/-.
16. 6 Scholarships for 6 students were given for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term of 2002 to the value of Rs.9,555/- and a further 6 Scholarships for 6 students were given for the 1<sup>st</sup> Term of 2003 to the value of Rs.9,555/-.
17. Maps and other teaching material from the Survey Department were donated for Social Studies at a cost of Rs.1645/-)
18. The Swimming Pool Treatment Plant Pump and Engine have been repaired for Rs. 8,330/-.
19. Swimming Pool Cleaning Equipment was purchased for Rs. 1700/-
20. A Scholarship to attend Tech Sri Lanka for a period of 01 month was given, to the student to be selected by the Headmaster.
21. A musical evening for the students of the entire school was provided for Rs.11,000/-.
22. Equipment for Badminton, Squash, Basketball, Hockey, Table Tennis, Rugger, Football, Carrom and Beginners Tennis (for the Primary Section) was donated at a cost of Rs.26,140/-.
23. A Computer was donated valued at Rs.10,000/-
24. 08 tables have been provided for the Dining Hall at a cost of (Rs.22,520/-) to enable the entire school to have meals in one sitting.

Thus the total value of Projects undertaken by Old Boys in College exceeds Rs 2,949,448/-.

Apart from the above, individual Old Boys have also engaged in Development work in College direct with the Headmaster.

Mr.V Tharumaratnam a Senior Old boy has volunteered to setup a Biogas Project at the College and the Committee is giving him all the backing required with Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe monitoring the progress of the Project. When fully functional the college is expected to save Rs.1000/- a day on firewood in addition to sharing income from the sale of fertilizer. An application has been made for a grant of £ 30,000/- from a UK Foundation to bear the major cost of the project.

**While the above are the efforts of individual old boys, with the money realized from the Dinner Dance, the Executive Committee has allocated funds and completed the following further projects:-**

1. Cost of repairing, refurbishing furnishing and landscaping premises to be given to English Teachers, of the Primary School expected from the British Council and the British High Commission. ( Rs. 67,040/-)
2. Partitioning of Head Master's Room in the Administration Block. ( Rs. 34,950/-).

3. Ceiling of Headmaster's Office Room (Rs.21,285/-)
4. Repairs to Swimming Pool Treatment Plant Room. ( Rs. 21,580/-)
5. Repairs and attention to water supply system particularly supply to the staff toilet in the old class room block, staff quarters in Middle School Block and Laboratory (Rs. 11,370/-)
6. Repairs to roof of class rooms in Primary Section (Keble) ( Rs. 11,200/-)
7. Painting roof of Keble Dorm (Rs.27,600/-)
8. Railings near De Saram Senior to dry clothes on Hangers. ( Rs. 11,200/-)
9. Resurfacing Paved Area around the Junior Dorms Quadrangle. ( Rs. 36,990/-)
10. Repairs to walls and painting Passage/Corridor from Accounts Department towards Sick Room. ( Rs. 6,530/-)
11. Concrete Covers for Deep Drain in the Primary School (Keble) for safety of young students ( Rs. 10,100/-)
12. Repairs to Chaplain's Quarters (Rs.1,500/-)
13. Hand railings for Squash Courts (Rs.5500/-)
14. Purchase of a DVD player (Rs.15,000/-)
15. Contribution to Staff Welfare Fund (Rs.15,000/-)
16. Contribution to Dr.R L Hayman & Fr.A J Foster Scholarship Funds (Rs.10,578/44)
17. Contribution to Salary (06 months) of New Farm Manager (an Old Boy) (Rs.36,000/-)
18. The Squash Court has been repaired and given a completely new look at a cost of (Rs.84,960/-)

**The following further Projects have been approved by the Ex-Co with the moneys collected from the Dinner Dance and work is in progress.**

19. Provision of an additional Bedroom in Club House for Ms.Jayarani's Quarters (Rs.18,745/-)
20. Repairs to Mrs.Karandagoda's Quarters (Rs.16,480/-)
21. Provision of Ceiling, Partitioning and Toilet for Staff Quarters in Club House (Rs.118,790/-)
22. Partitioning of Keble Building for Staff Quarters (Part One) (Rs.66,545/)
23. Partitioning of Keble Building for Staff Quarters (Part two) (Rs.26,405/-)
24. Repairs to retaining wall around Keble playground (Rs.15,420/-)
25. Construction of Steps for Badminton Court (Rs.2650/-)
26. Rehabilitating Shelter immediately in front of Chapel (Rs.9,300/-)

**The following further Projects have been approved by the Ex-Co with the moneys collected from the Dinner Dance, and work is expected to commence within the next few days.**

27. Painting Doors etc of Garages (Rs.2450/-)
28. Painting front exterior of Farm Office (Rs.3200/-)
29. Painting front exterior of Library (Rs.6450/-)

30. Repairs to Badminton & Basketball Courts (Rs.93,400/-)
  31. Repairs to Water Tank supplying water to Junior Dorms (Rs.13,790/-)
  32. Provision of Chain link fence at Basketball Court (Rs.15,200/-)
  33. Construction of an Incinerator (Rs.15,000/-)
  34. Painting Road Bridge near garages (Rs.4680/-)
  35. Repairs and painting to front exterior of Band Room (Rs.2700/-)
  36. Painting front exterior of Exam branch (Rs.2400/-)
  37. Railings for drying clothes of students in Junior Dorms (Rs.11,200/-)
  38. Repairs to Davidson Dorm (Rs.30,000/-)
- A sum of Rs 180,000/- will be contributed towards the salary of an Administrative Officer. (an Old Boy)

Thus the total amount applied by the OBA to the above 39 College Development Projects from monies collected from the Dinner Dance amounts to Rs.1,083,188/44.

**There is still much to be done and it is hoped that the new Committee will have in mind the following projects to be undertaken in the forthcoming year with the Headmaster's imprimatur and selection of priorities.**

1. Repairs to existing and construction of new Staff Quarters.
2. Individual tables and chairs for class rooms.
3. Salary of a Resource Teacher to back up the English Medium Teachers during the year 2003.
4. Beds and lockers ( and study tables) for Dormitories.
5. Sports Equipment for Cricket, etc. and other games.
6. Repairs to and partition of Old Dining Hall to be used as Students Common/ Recreation Room and Dancing Room
7. Audio Visual Equipment
8. Cricket nets at Old Tennis Courts
9. Repairs to Roof of Farm Sheds.
10. Replacement of Diving Boards in Swimming Pool
11. Repairs to Foster Dorm and its Ceiling.
12. At least 10 Computers for an IT Unit.
13. Repairs to fences to increase security to College property.
14. Equipment etc for Dancing Class.

**Dinner and Social: Sunil Watawala- P.J. Fernando, Rizvi Jalil, Bandula Wanigasekera**

Your Committee thought it fit to hold a Dinner Dance instead of the usual Fellowship Dinner and this was successfully held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Ceylon Continental Hotel. Details of the occasion were reported in Newsletter No. 4 which gives a full picture of the financial aspects. The organizers contributed over Rs.200,000/- towards various items and this saved the OBA of much expense. This committee decided on a Dinner Dance to mark the Diamond Jubilee, the last Dinner Dance being held in 1992 to mark the Golden

Jubilee. It was also conceived as the principal fund raiser for the year on the basis of a collective effort by the committee and Old Boys; and came up to expectations.

A group of Old Boys organized a Fellowship Dinner but this was not under the auspices of the committee. It made a marginal difference in the collection of funds by advertisements for the souvenir though the target set was reached and had no effect on the numbers as all tickets were sold out.

### **Rules:**

This Sub Committee headed by Bandula Wanigasekera took great pains to trace the additions to the existing constitution so as to make their recommendations. They also studied the Rules of the Mt.Lavinia OBA. We are presenting an entirely New Constitution for adoption, instead of tinkering with this rule and that. Mr. Wanigasekera will explain the main changes that have been effected, but the cardinal change is in the view of the Association where an additional 2 objects have been introduced to enable the Old Boys Association to play a more pro-active role in the affairs of the College.

The Progressive decline in standards at Gurutalawa manifesting itself in parents removing their children from the school and shying away from seeking admission for them tells the tale as to why the committee felt that Positive action should be taken. We have seen ourselves as a kind of unofficial “*management board*” without usurping any power or functions of existing institutions, but filling a lacuna that was screaming to be filled in assisting the Head Master to deal with the multifarious management and financial problems he has had to contend with on a day to day basis and lending him the moral support to do so. We thank and applaud the Headmaster’s perspicacity in allowing us the freedom to do so.

### **Reunion Day Celebrations:**

Your Committee felt that it was necessary to restore proceedings to accord with the dignity and decorum that this all important event should have. Firstly that the Dinner on Saturday should be conducted in a more formal manner as against the haphazard way it has grown to become. This it felt could be engendered by a dress code, and the seating of all members in the hall before the dinner commenced. Secondly that the AGM should be conducted with the appropriate disciplinary safeguards to ensure that only members should attend and participate and that the key to ensuring both the above is to shift the AGM itself to the Sunday morning. This would give time for the Fellowship not to impinge on the allotted time for the Dinner, and also enable members to look upon the AGM as an act of the important business of the Association, set apart from the socializing aspect of the Saturday’s events. This has been the practice for many years from the inception of the Association.

### **Interaction with the College:**

While the Projects undertaken provided a continuous interaction with the College to assist in its material needs, at successive meetings of the committee the Headmaster brought to light many matters which invited our attention one way or the other.

### **Accounting Systems and Financial Controls - College office:**

Even before the first meeting of your Committee on April 08, 2002, we were aware that the College finances were in a parlous state. This was not a matter which could be put away by cosmetic measures. The Committee therefore engaged the services of a firm of Chartered Accountants to look into the Accounting systems prevailing and to make recommendations to safeguard revenue, cut unnecessary expenditure, eliminate pilferage, and optimise the use of the resources available. This report is now out and it is our hope that in consultation with the Headmaster the Bishop and the Board of Governors will give primacy to implement the recommendations as are practicable. A core Recommendation is the establishment of an Administrative Officer to supervise and assume responsibility for its implementation. This will in addition relieve the Headmaster of petty matters and enable him to turn his attention to the educational and disciplinary measures necessary to raise the tone of the school and come to grips with the many concerns that impinge on the quality of life of the boys in the school and in relation to the tutorial staff and the domestic staff, not to mention the Boarding Houses. Further, steps were taken to take up the high interest rates charged by the Bank at Welimada on the Overdraft. A reduction has already been given which results in a considerable saving in College Funds, over Rs.100,000/- p.a.

### **Boarding House Diet:**

Action was also taken by us to improve the diet of the boys by consulting Diet Specialists and providing a pragmatic Menu which would not be unrealistic given the financial constraints the Head Master was contending with.

### **Teaching of English:**

Since the standard of English is poor, we have responded to the Governments policy change on this vexed question and have arranged for English Teachers from Britain to work in the Primary Section courtesy of the British Council and High Commission. An audio visual lab has been set up. In the pipeline is the recruitment of a resource teacher with our financial support. A large number of English Books and Journals have also been donated to the library.

### **College Security:**

To improve the Security of the College and to enable the Headmaster to take firm action where necessary we have arranged to establish a Police Post in Borlanda and to find

suitable accommodation therefor. If possible a Guard Room is to be opened at Gurutalawa thereafter.

### **Health Camp:**

On June 15, 2002 a Health Camp was arranged at Gurutalawa with 6 medical officers and 2 Dental Surgeons in attendance. This benefited not merely the boys, but all the residents of the College Campus. It was gratifying that during the August vacation thereafter, students sought specialized medical attention arising from their diagnosis cards and reports. In view of the success of this camp an additional Health Camp was conducted in College on January 11, 2003 targeting particularly the new intake.

### **Leadership Training:**

A Leadership training programme was conducted for the Prefects of the College by Mr. Sujeewa Godage.

### **Marketing for Admissions:**

A major problem of the school is the fall in numbers. The College needs about 600 students to be financially viable on its current account operation. At present it has only 430. To try and change Gurutalawa's sullied image in the eyes of the public so as to attract admissions, an article was published about the school, its ideals and traditions in the English media and also translated into Sinhala and Tamil and published in the 'Dinamina' and 'Thinakaran' Newspapers respectively, prior to the Dinner Dance held on November 16, 2002.

### **Hayman and Foster Scholarships and other Scholarships:**

Implementation of awards from the Hayman and Foster Scholarships Funds will be effective from Jan 1 2003 on a more realistic criteria. These Scholarships have not been awarded in recent times. Pending the formal awards for 2003 by the kind courtesy of an Old Boy 6 Scholarships have already been granted, 2 each from the Primary, Secondary and Senior sections from Sept. 2002 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> term and from January 2003 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Term of 2003. In addition some Old Boys accepted the responsibility of sponsoring needy students personally. One such is already in place and another is to follow. Too much cannot be done to keep the numbers of the school from dwindling any further. A clear set of criteria has been approved by the Executive Committee. The Headmaster will take action as from the year 2003.

### **Dr. Hayman Museum**

The Hayman Museum has now been arranged to be located in the present office of the Headmaster where Dr. Hayman spent the better part of his tenure as Headmaster. The relocation of the Headmaster and his office staff in the new administration block is awaited. The nucleus is in place separately arranged and further items are to be

inventorised in Colombo to be transferred to Gurutalawa. Regretfully the bound volumes of Dr. Haymans letters to his mother which were taken up to Gurutalawa have yet to be located.

### **Sports Club:**

A Sports Club was instituted for Gurutalawa on Rules prepared by the Committee. This would enable the College to apply to the Provincial Council for grants towards the purchase of equipment and materials for the sports activities of the school. As soon as the Sports Club is registered Sports equipment will be delivered by the Council.

### **Fr. Dr. Mervyn Fernando of Subodhi Institute:**

Fr. Dr. Mervyn Fernando of the Subodhi Institute, spent a day at Gurutalawa at the behest of a concerned old boy, had discussions with the Headmaster and Chaplain and made a Report with useful suggestions. He has agreed to have a 5 day programme for the students and a 2 day programme with the staff with the concurrence of the Headmaster in early 2003. The programme for the Students is fixed for March 03 to 08, 2003.

### **Staff Welfare:**

The committee recognized the imperative need to see to the welfare of the staff. At the instance of the Ex-Co Old Boys have visited Gurutalawa on several occasions, met the resident staff, and personally examined staff quarters and their living conditions. Reports have been prepared with regard to the quarters thus far examined. Further examination is required and some part of the funds collected are to be utilized to rehabilitate the worst affected members of the staff. Details have been given earlier.

Matters relating to update and maintenance of the personal files of the staff have been taken up with the authorities concerned. These are being pursued.

A sum of Rs 15,000/- has been set apart for the Staff Welfare Fund.

The lack of water in the staff toilet in the old class room block has been complained of for more than a year. This matter surfaced at the Meeting of the Ex-Co at Gurutalawa on October 05,2002 when almost 20 Senior members of the staff were present. Immediate arrangements were made to look into this shortcoming before members of the Ex Co departed for Colombo that evening. On October 31, and on December 10,2002 too, some Old Boys who visited the College re-examined the relevant areas in detail and necessary action by way of a new pump and pipe work have been installed to resolve this long standing problem to the satisfaction of the staff.

At the Ex-Co Meeting of October 05,2002 members of the staff raised the question of interest payments due to them on their Provident fund balance held at the College office in Mt. Lavinia on a sum of Rs. 1,638,000/-, for the period July 1,1995 to October 10,1997, a period of 25 months. This question was taken up with the consent of the

Headmaster with the present Warden of STC Mt.Lavinia. The initial response was disappointingly negative. But there are other dimensions to this matter which have to be considered and are being pursued. We understand that earlier representations to the Board of Governors had met with no response.

**Service of Commemorations and Thanksgiving for Deceased Headmasters and Canon A.J Foster**

This Service was held for the Deceased Heads of the school on December 3, 2002, at the Anglican Church at the General Cemetery Kanatte at 5.30 p.m. Bishop Duleep de Chickera , Chairman of the Board of Governors officiated at the service, assisted by the Gurutalawa Chaplain Rev. Nihal Fernando. The Service was concluded at the grave site of Rev. Canon A.J. Foster who died at Gurutalawa on December 9,1964. after which several old boys strewed Flower Petals brought from the college on the grave. It cannot be said that the service was well attended. The cost of rehabilitating the grave site and the grave stone and the expenses of the service amounting to Rs.7000/- were borne by 02 Old Boys.

**Ex-Co Meetings:**

- i.) the Ex-Co met 11 times in the year, ie: on April 8<sup>th</sup> , May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 19<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002, January 11<sup>th</sup>, January 20<sup>th</sup>, and January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003. apart from which the Sub Committees met independently and frequently. Attendance of Members was as follows:-

<u>Names</u>	<u>No. of Meetings Attended</u>
Mr.Geethal Mendis	9
Mr.P S Duleep Kumar	9
Mr.B Munasinghe	5
Mr.Sunil Watawala	8
Mr.S Suraweera	7
Mr.P J Fernando	4
Mr.Gamini Fernando	10
Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi	8
Mr.P Jayasundera	5
Mr.Rizvi Jalill	9
Mr.A N R Munasinghe	3
Mr.Shervon Fernando	10
Mr.A Peitzers	6
Mr.Chandana De Silva	11
Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera	11
Mr.G M S Samaraweera	NIL
Mr.J J Rajakaruna	NIL
Mr.Milton Fernando	1
Mr.Kaleel Majeed	NIL
Mr.S Balaramesh	4

Mr.G S S Perera	8
Mr.Lasantha Perera	11
Mr.Don Gazara ( Appointed w.e.f. 8/4/2002)	5
Mr.Sujeewa Godage	4
Mr.Bandusena K (Appointed w.e.f. 17/5/2002)	7
Mr.SureshThiyagarajah (Appointed w.e.f. 15/6/2002)	6
Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe (Appointed w.e.f. 15.6.2002)	9
Mr.S P Palihawadana (Appointed w.e.f. 7/11/2002)	2
Mr.A C Lamahewa (Appointed w.e.f. 7/11/2002)	2

Every third meeting of the Ex-Co was had at Gurutalawa. This gives the opportunity of seeing at first hand the situation at Gurutalawa; of meeting the staff; and for better interaction between the OBA on the one hand and the Headmaster, his staff and the students on the other. It has helped the OBA to have a better understanding of the problems facing the Headmaster, staff and students. These frequent meetings in Gurutalawa also helped to find solutions and bring about better understanding.

The Meetings of the Ex-Co have been lively and productive and almost always going on for 3hrs or more. The Headmaster has attended almost all the Meetings and participated fully. Newsletters inform the Membership that any member wishing to submit proposals for deliberations is free to do so.

Old Boys have also been regularly visiting Gurutalawa particularly when some building work or renovations were in progress. This has given them the opportunity to see at first hand the actual situation prevailing .

ii) The following changes in the Ex-Co took place during the year

**Ex-Co of May 17,2002**

1. Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi – Resigned as Secretary
2. Mr.Shervon Fernando - Appointed as Secretary
3. Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi - Appointed to the Ex-Co to fill Mr. Shervon Fernando’s vacancy
4. Mr.Mohamed Najeeb - Resigned
5. Mr.Kaleel Majeed - Appointed in place of Mr. Mohamed Najeeb under Rule 8 (2)
6. Mr.K Bandusena - Co-opted under Rule (8 (1) © ) in place of Mr. B.A. Mahipala

**Ex-Co June 15,2002**

1. Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe - Co-opted under Rule 8(1) ( c ) in place of Mr. Anilal Algama.
2. Mr M.B. Ratnayake - resigned as Assistant Secretary
3. Mr. Suresh Thiagarajah - Appointed under Rule 8 ( c ) in place of Mr. M.B. Ratnayake as Assistant Secretary

## **Ex-Co November 7,2002**

1. Mr.Mervyn Wijesinghe - Ceased to be a Member
2. Mr.Mano Ganaraj - Ceased to be a Member
3. Mr.S Palihawadana - Appointed under Rule 8 (2)
4. Major. A C Lamaheewa - Appointed under Rule 8 (1) (c )

iii) Our thanks are due to the Headmaster S.Thomas Preparatory School Kollupitiya, Mr. Rizvi Jalill and Brig. B. Munasinghe for the use of Prep School premises, the Board Room of Ceylon Weighing Machines Ltd and the Army Officers Mess, respectively for the meetings held in Colombo and to the Headmaster STC Gurutalawa for his hospitality at the meetings held at Gurutalawa.

### **Conclusion:**

This year has been one of frenetic activity and it was inconceivable when your committee took office that the demands of time and energy among other things would be so great. Yet for all that we realize that we have barely scratched the surface of the problems of the school. This is a matter ultimately for the Headmaster and the Board of Governors. We have in our endeavours highlighted some of the problems. The quotation from Browning which prefaced this report recognizes that we have no illusions about fulfilling our own vision. Our grasp has been way shorter than our reach but for all that *“there are promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep”* and we hope that every Old Boy who values what he has received from the school will join in the journey whoever is at the helm of affairs in the OBA this coming year and in the future.

*Secretary.*

*By Order of the Committee.*

Colombo

January 31,2003