

**S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION MINUTES  
OF 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date : Sunday, February 22, 2004 at 10.a.m  
Place : Canon Foster Memorial Hall, S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa  
Present : Mr. G.C. Mendis Headmaster and President  
Mr. P.S. Duleepkumara Senior Vice President  
Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe Hony. Secretary  
Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera Hony. Treasurer

Number of Old Boys in attendance was 40, in excess of the required quorum of 30.

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The President Mr. Geethal Mendis chaired and called the Meeting to order.

**2. Notice of Meeting**

Notice convening the Meeting was tabled and taken as read.

**3. Welcome Address by the President**

The President briefly welcomed the Old Boy Members in attendance at the Meeting.

**4. Messages of Excuse**

The Secretary tabled the following messages of excuse.

Messrs Sisira Nanayakkara, Douglas Wijeratne, Edmund Seneviratne, Kamal Nilaweera, Upali Panditharatne, Buddhika Kurukularatne, Ananda Gallearachchi, Majintha Perera, Suresh Thiyagarajah, Crishantha Weerawardena, Jayantha Hanthi, M.P.D. Perera, Kumara Munaweerahetty, Kulasiri Jayasinghe, P.P. Rajapakse, Bandu Kodituwakku, C.J. Kottahachchi

**5. Obituaries**

The Secretary announced the following names of Old Boys who had passed away since the last Annual General Meeting.

Messrs M.P. Sooriyarachchi, Alexis Ellawala, Gamini Divitotawela, Allepola

The Members observed 2 minutes silence on their feet, in their memory.

**6. Adoption of the Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The Minutes had been circulated to Members in due time as provided by the Rules and were taken as read and duly adopted, proposed by Mr. Siri Perera and seconded by Mr. S.K. Kulasingham.

7. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

There were no matters to be discussed.

8. **Annual Report of the Hony. Secretary**

The Secretary stated that the Report had been sent to members in due time and the formal reading of the Report was waived. He wished to make the following amendments to the report.

Under Membership – In the list of names Adrian Kishan should be Adrian Kishan Rosairo and add the names, Mr. Rasika Dissanayake and Mr. Asiri Galhena Perera.

The Report was formally adopted, proposed by Mr. Chandana De Silva and seconded by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi.

9. **Treasurer's Report and tabling of Annual Accounts for the period ending December 31, 2003 and adoption thereof**

The Accounts had been circulated and the Treasurer made the following noteworthy observations.

- i. Contributions of Rs.50,000 and Rs.55,000 from Mr. Vijitha Fernando, for Dr. Hayman's Museum and the farm, respectively.
- ii. Contributions of Rs.50,000 and Rs.25,000 from Mr. .... Iddamalgoda and Mr. Chandra Shafter respectively, received subsequently, had not been included in the report.
- iii. Contribution of Rs.329,000 from Mrs. Chapman had been placed in a separate fixed deposit at Chartered Bank, for the award of a scholarship as requested.

The Report was then duly adopted, proposed by Mr. Gamini Fernando and seconded by Mr. Sumedha Perera.

10. **Resolutions**

The concerned Resolution "It is resolved and hereby approved that Rule 9 (4) (Quorum at Ex-Co Meetings) of the Rules of S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa Old Boys Association, be amended such that the word 'ten' is substituted with 'eight' was then put to the house and adopted without a division, proposed by Brig. B. Munasinghe and seconded by Mr. Shervon Fernando.

## 11. Election of Office Bearers General Committee

Position	Name	Proposed By	Seconded By
Senior Vice President	Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar	Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera	Mr. L. Jayatilaka
Vice Presidents	Mr. Sunil Watawala	Mr. Chandana De Silva	Mr. Lasantha Perera
	Brig. B. Munasinghe	Mr. Sanath Jayatilaka	Mr. Hubert Perera
	Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	Mr. Shervon Fernando	Mr. P.N. Wijewardena
Hony. Secretary	Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe	Mr. Sarath Jayasinghe	Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi
Hony. Treasurer	Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera	Mr. Gamini Fernando	Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe
Hony. Asst. Secretary	Mr. Asiri Galhena Perera	Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe	Mr. Dinesh Sivasubramaniam
Hony. Asst. Treasurer	Mr. Gamini Fernando	Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera	Brig. B. Munasinghe
General Committee	Mr. Leo Sebastian	Mr. Chandana De Silva	Mr. Gamini Fernando
	Mr. Dinesh Sivasubramaniam	Mr. Asiri Galhena Perera	Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe
	Mr. Shervon Fernando	Mr. Lasantha Perera	Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar
	Mr. Chandana De Silva	Mr. S.K. Kulasingham	Mr. A.A.R. Mawahib
	Mr. A.A.R. Mawahib	Mr. Chandana De Silva	Mr. S.K. Kulasingham
	Mr. Sumedha Perera	Mr. Lasantha Perera	Mr. Sunil Watawala
	Mr. Lasantha Perera	Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	Mr. Gamini Fernando

The remaining vacancies to the General Committee to be filled later, under Rule 9 (3).

## 12. Election of Auditors

The Treasurer recommended the re-election of SJMS Associates, which was agreed without a division.

## 13. Headmaster's Report

A written Report was distributed to Members. Mainly, he thanked and commended both the Committee and individual Old Boys for contribution to the College. At 'O' Level Examination of 2003, 64% had qualified for 'A' Levels. His long-term programme included, introduction of English medium, computer education and provision of quality education. The College Oriental Dance Troupe had come first, second and third in the three All Island Competitions they had taken part in 2003.

Mr. Sanath Jayatilaka said that 64% qualified for 'A' Level was not very satisfactory and sadly, the report did not include anything on discipline, which was known to be deteriorating badly with the student numbers dwindling. The Headmaster replied that 51% of children were from single parent families and it took time to develop them with love and affection. He said that there had been clashes between the year 10 and year 11 students in the past and this had not happened in the last two years.

Mr. Sunil Watawala disputed this, reminding that there was a major fight between these students at the grounds, during the sports meet this year, where he was the chief guest and witnessed by many Old Boys. Mr. Chandana De Silva claimed that one of his friend's car, parked at the school premises, had been stoned by the students and no action had been taken to punish them.

Mr. Sumedha Perera was concerned that there were names with respective years painted and carved on the walls by the final year students and proposed that those should be made to repair the damage or fined, before issuing the school leaving certificate. Regarding fights he had heard of a case where a student had used a knife wounded another student. At the request of the Headmaster a member of the staff, Mr. Pushpakumara explained the incident, where a broken bottle had been used in the attack and the Prefect of Games had caned those involved and Rev. Goodchild had provided some counseling.

Mr. Sunil Watawala had noted that four letter dirty words had been written on the Board containing the names of 'All Round Scholars' and on many desks in foster Hall. The headmaster had not noticed these and promised to take necessary action to remove them.

Mr. Chandana De Silva was disappointed that there were no members of staff present at the opening of the Hayman Museum and there were only two of them at the AGM, Mr. Mahen Ransinghe added that there were no Dorm Masters, House Masters or Prefect of Discipline/Games present throughout this weekend to supervise and guide the students. Mr. Sumedha Perera requested the Headmaster to convey the message to the staff at the next assembly.

Mr. Kaleel Majeed said that there was no publicity given in the newspapers, on the achievements in sports at the College, in spite of the Ex-Co having given the necessary contacts at Badulla. The Headmaster advised that restarting of scouting had appeared in the "Island" and Mr. Harold Seneviratne was in-charge of publicity.

Mr. Panini Edirisinghe proposed that Education Inspectors of Welimada Zone of Uva Province should be invited to visit College to help improve standards in various areas of education.

**14. Any Other Business**

No matters were raised.

**15. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**16. Vote of Thanks**

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe thanked the Headmaster and all the staff for welcoming the Old Boys and support and cooperation given.

**17. College Song**

Everyone present sang the College Song.

**18. Adjournment**

The Meeting was declared adjourned at 11.45 a.m.

Confirmed as Correct.

Chairman