

**S.THOMAS' COLLEGE, GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE 7th (249th) MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE (2002/2003) HELD IN THE STAFF ROOM OF S.THOMAS'
PREP SCHOOL KOLLUPITIYA COLOMBO 03. ON NOVEMBER 07,
2002 AT 5.30 P.M**

Present

Mr. Geethal Mendis	President
Mr. P. S. Duleepkumar	Senior Vice President
Mr.S M Suraweera	Vice President
Mr. Shervon Fernando	Hony. Secretary
Mr. Gamini Fernando	Hony. Treasurer
Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera	
Brig. Bandula Munasinghe	
Mr. Chandana De Silva	
Mr. Lasantha Perera	
Mr.Don Gazara	
Mr.K Bandusena	
Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe	

By Invitation

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka

Excuses

The following Members had informed of their inability to be present at the Meeting today and had requested that they be excused.

Mr.Rizvi Jalill
Mr.Prabath Jayasundera
Mr.P J Fernando
Mr.Sumedha Perera
Mr.Sunil Watawala
Mr.G M S Samaraweera

At the outset the Headmaster indicated he wished to make 2 observations. The Headmaster was very grateful to Mr.Duleepkumar for having taken up the matter relating to Provident Fund dues of some Members of the Staff of Gurutalawa with the Warden.

The Headmaster mentioned that Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe and Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka had visited the school on October 31 with Fr. Mervyn Fernando and Mr. V. Tharumaratnam; that they had spent the whole day at Gurutalawa looking into several areas requiring attention and assistance; that he appreciated the effort, time and energy put in by these old boys.

The Headmaster also expressed his appreciation to Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka for having donated English and Sinhala books to the College Library the quality and appropriateness of which he and the masters concerned have highly commended. He also thanked Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka for supplying the equipment required by the Lab including the Microscope.

The Notice of the Meeting was taken as read.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Mr. Duleepkumar pointed out that –

- (a) page 9 para 4 (iv) should read as follows:- “ Mr.Duleepkumar undertook to look into the matter with regard to Staff Provident Fund dues”.
- (b) page 11 para 9 the 3rd sentence should read as follows:- “The Headmaster undertook to discuss this matter with Members of the Board”.

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka pointed out that

- a) page 2 para 4 (1) the last sentence should read as “Mr.Duleepkumar suggested that the Headmaster contact Mr.Chandrasekera, the Headmaster of S.Thomas’ College – Bandarawela who might be able to throw some light on this matter”.
- b) page 11 para 10 line 21 should read as “..... their’s of the ’58-62’ era who was the President of the STC-OBA of New South.....

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Dr.Hayman’s Diary Volumes

1. The Headmaster stated that he had spoken to Mr. L A M Chandrasekera the Headmaster of S. Thomas’ College, Bandarawela about the ten bound volumes of Dr.Haymans letters to his mother, but that Mr. Chandrasekera was not aware of same; that the Headmaster would continue his search. Mr. Lakshman jayatilaka suggested to the Headmaster that a search be made in the built-in wall cupboard on the corridor immediately opposite the Headmaster’s office; that Mr. John Marasinghe who was associated with Dr. R.L. Hayman for several years had mentioned that old records may be stacked within same. The Headmaster agreed to have this area also searched.

Dr.Hayman’s Memorabilia

2. Mr. Duleepkumar inquired whether there had been any response from Mr. Biran Tharumaratnam regarding items belonging to Dr. Hayman to be placed in the Hayman Museum. Two letters dated September 23 and October, 29, 2002 addressed by the Hony. Secretary to Mr. Biran Tharumaratnam were tabled. Mr.

Lakshman Jayatilaka reported that Mr. V Tharumaratnam, Biran's father, had indicated that Biran was having some difficulty with regard to obtaining leave to travel to Bournemouth to meet Mrs. Hayman owing to his heavy commitments involving his work and that he would attend to the matter and revert. It was decided to leave the matter at that. At this stage Mr. Don Gazara volunteered to speak to Mrs. Hayman personally, make the necessary inquiries and if need be, have any items collected from Mrs. Hayman, shipped to Sri Lanka and made available to be placed in the Museum.

This offer was appreciated by Members of the Ex-Co. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe mentioned that Mr.V.Tharumaratnam had located various items including photographs taken by Dr.Hayman which could be placed in the Museum. The items were considerable. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka suggested that before these items are dispatched to Gurutalawa they be inventorized in some acceptable order with the guidance of the Senior Vice President Mr. Duleepkumar and of Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera. He also appealed to the Headmaster that the said items together with the 2 projectors one of which is still reported to be in good working order, Dr. Hayman's typewriter and his films which has been itemized previously in the Minutes be kept in a separate cupboard or shelf, secure until the Headmaster's office is relocated and the Hayman Museum could be commenced as the latter items are presently stacked in a haphazard manner in an inner room behind the telephone operator's table. The Headmaster agreed to attend to this matter.

The Headmaster agreed to keep in a secure place within the office the two projectors which were used by Dr. Hayman as well as his typewriter and the films done by him of which a record has been made. This arrangement would continue until the items could be placed in the Museum.

It was also decided to inventorise in some form the numerous photographs, letters and other papers that were in a box available with Mr. Tharumaratnam. It was decided to do the inventory in Colombo under the guidance of Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera before these items are sent to Gurutalawa. The Headmaster undertook once the items are received at Gurutalawa, to keep them together with the other items meant for the Hayman Museum.

Turf Wicket

3. As regard the Turf Wicket, the Headmaster mentioned that he had written to Mr. Gerald de Alwis having in mind the enthusiasm with which Mr. Gerald de Alwis had devoted much time and energy towards that project on the lines discussed at the last meeting of the Ex-Co. A copy of the letter was tabled.

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka at this stage mentioned that Mr. Gerald de Alwis had of his own taken matters up with Mr. Duleep Mendis, the Director / Development of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka at least to obtain equipment urgently

required at Gurutalawa for cricket. Mr. Janaka Pathirana the Secretary of the Central Province Cricket Association has been contacted and a letter has been addressed to him by the Headmaster setting out the requirements, in so far as cricket equipment was concerned. It is hoped that something positive would come about failing which these items would get into the list of matters requiring attention at Gurutalawa to be addressed by the Ex-Co and decided priority –wise after the conclusion of the dinner dance.

Sports Club

4. As regard the S. Thomas College Gurutalawa Sports Club, the Headmaster mentioned that a copy of the Rules together with a list of the names of the office bearers had been supplied to Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe with a request for sports equipment. Mr. Munasinghe had advised the Headmaster to have the club registered with the appropriate Ministry in the Uva Provincial Council and make a formal request which the Headmaster had agreed to do after which Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe would be able to help with the equipment. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka mentioned that he had had discussions with various masters in charge of sports at Gurutalawa, ascertained their requirements, visited various establishments in Colombo, marketing sports goods and obtained quotations. A Quotation from The Cricket Shop was tabled but it was decided to await the outcome of the appeal through Mr. Duleep Mendis before proceeding to make any purchases in so far as cricket equipment is concerned.

Thomian Walk Share

5. Letters dated October 9 and October, 30, 2002 written to Mr. Upali Jayawardena former Secretary of the OBA by Mr. Shervon Fernando, Hony. Secretary as regard the Thomian Walk were tabled. Mr. Shervon Fernando reported that there had been no response. As ignoring matters pointed out by the Ex-Co of the S. Thomas College Mt. Lavinia OBA to Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi, the STCG representative on their Ex-Co, reflected poorly on our Association, the question was raised what steps were to be taken if Mr. Upali Jayawardena fails to co-operate. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka at this stage, stated that in similar instances previously too the Ex-Co was faced with an embarrassing situation. To ignore and sweep under the carpet so as not to highlight irregularities attracts criticism from some Old boys who expect high standards from those elected to office. At the same time, when one is entrusted with a certain responsibility doing ones duty as expected attracts criticism for being too official legalistic or being harsh. At this stage Brig. Munasinghe undertook to speak to Mr. Upali Jayawardena regarding this matter. The matter was to be taken up again if a satisfactory resolution could not be obtained in this manner. The unanimous view was that this matter should not be swept under the carpet as the honour of the most important officer of the Ex-Co was at stake and through him it would be a very poor reflection on our Association.

Outstanding Advertisement dues of Fellowship Dinner 2001

6. As regards monies outstanding from advertisements from the Fellowship dinner of October, 2001 Mr. Shervon Fernando, Hony. Secretary had sent out 22 letters to the advertisers against whose names monies were still due according to the records handed over by the previous Treasurer. Tabled a letter sent by Mr. Athula Kumaranayaka of Athula Trading Co (Pvt) Ltd enclosing a cheque for Rs.2,000/- . Mr. Bandusena stated that Mr. Athula Kumaranayake who was personally known to him had spoken to him and had emphasized that the money due on the advertisement had been settled by him although a receipt was not sent to him; that a copy of the souvenir was not made available to him etc. Tabled reply to Mr. Athula Kumaranayake sent by Mr. Shervon Fernando; Receipt No. 735 dated November, 3, 2002 had been issued and posted to him for the instant payment. Apart from the above there had been no response from any of the other persons to whom the letters were sent. It was decided, as resolved earlier, to write off these amounts as bad debts at the time the accounts had to be finalized at the end of the year.

College History Books

7. Mr. Duleepkumar reported that Lake House Investments Ltd did not have any record whatsoever of College History Books handed over to them for sale. Nor had it any related documents. Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned our Association did not seem to have any record either. With regard to Vijitha Yapa Bookshop the contents of the E.mail received from Mr. Lal Yapa which was tabled pointed to the fact that what was due to the Association had been remitted. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe mentioned that Mr. Sunil Hanthi a previous Treasurer had informed him that he had with him some papers relating to the College History Books which appeared to indicate that all monies due had been paid by the Bookshops. In the absence of these documents, the matter could not be gone into any further. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka mentioned that the only good thing that appeared to have come out of the exercise was to have enrolled as a member of the OBA Mr. Rohana Wijesekera, the Manager of the Vijitha Yapa Bookshop at Nugegoda and securing a full page advertisement by personal appeal to Mr. Vijitha Yapa himself. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka reported that all 35 copies of the College History book removed from Gurutalawa in June had now been sold. The question of a reprint and / or the writing of the last 10 years, i.e. 1992 – 2002 was discussed but no decision taken.

Special Transport arrangement for Prospective Students from Bandarawela

8. The Headmaster mentioned that he had spoken to Mr. Chandrasekera, the Headmaster at Bandarawela, at least twice recently with regard to persuading students who had applied for admission to Bandarawela and who had been rejected being offered admission or redirected to Gurutalawa. He mentioned that last year too he endeavoured to increase the intake to Gurutalawa in this way but did not have a positive response and that he would pursue this matter. The question of arranging a bus would arise only if there is a sufficient number travelling to Gurutalawa from Bandarawela.

Article on Gurutalawa in Sinhala Newspaper

9. The Headmaster expressed his appreciation to Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe for the very well organized translation of Mr. Duleepkumar's article which appeared in the "Silumina" Newspaper of November 03,2002. This too had given wide publicity to the College.

Systems and Internal Controls - Professional Assignment

10. The Headmaster mentioned that the team of consultants from M/s. SJMS Associates were in Gurutalawa at the end of October, 2002 for a 2nd visit to put the final touches to their report and obtain further clarifications etc. The Headmaster had supplied all the necessary information. Mr. Duleepkumar mentioned that the report would be made available by the end of Next Week.

Boarding House Diet

11. The Headmaster had handed over the diet sheet prepared by Mr. Duleepkumar based on the expert advise of Mrs. Siefried de Silva. The Headmaster was somewhat hampered by financial constraints in implementing the recommendations as regard the diet. The lack of fruit in the diet was highlighted as also lack of protein in the morning meal. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka inquired from the Headmaster whether it was not possible to utilize some time on the school time table during the period for Agriculture for practical work perhaps in the farm area to grow some fruits as pilot projects undertaken by the current Farm manager had already shown good results. The Headmaster agreed to look into this matter.

Leadership Workshop and Boarding House Keeping.

12. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe reported that after the Leadership workshop conducted by Mr. Sujeewa Godage, the dorms on the whole showed a marked improvement in their appearance. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe informed that he had given the specifications to the contractor to turn out the railings to be installed outside De Saram Senior Dorm for the purpose of drying clothes on clothes hangers. The estimate was awaited. The Headmaster mentioned that at every assembly he is inviting the attention of the students and conveying the impressions of the Old Boys to them. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe pointed out that on his last inspection on October, 31,2002 the Junior Dorms appeared to be very much better maintained than the Senior Dorms; but that the De Saram Junior Dorm was in a very bad state. The Headmaster noted these observations and agreed to speak to the students regularly, but mentioned that it was not easy to ensure the old standards and obtain quick results. The Ex-Co appreciated that the unhappy situation had been inherited by the Headmaster and assured him of their full support to try to regain at least a part of the old order. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilake suggested that a further Leadership workshop be conducted this time at Gurutalawa with the participation of Mr. Sujeewa Godage and Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe (who would be able to give much assistance) during a day when all the students and prefects were available in school. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe further pointed out that the main problem in

restoring the old order and having better discipline appeared to be the lack of responsible and competent House Masters/Dorm Masters working alongside equally conscientious Prefects. It was agreed to discuss the matter further and see how the Ex-Co could help the Headmaster in this area.

Prick-a-Pin Cards for Student Participation

13. Mr. Shervon Fernando was requested to have 425 prick cards ready to be distributed amongst the students immediately prior to the December vacation as the previous collection had resulted in the purchase of a 20" colour TV set for approximately Rs.26,000/- for the use of the students. This time too a further TV could be purchased from their own efforts

Mr. Shervon Fernando agreed to print 450 prick cards and hand them over to the Headmaster well in time so that the Headmaster could hand them over to the students before the commencement of the school vacation. The collection by the students would be utilized to purchase another TV for the students themselves.

Bird Watching Project

14. Mr. Sarath Suraweera mentioned that he had once again telephoned Dr. Sarath Kotagama with regard to the Bird Watching Project. The latter had undertaken to get in touch with the Headmaster. The Headmaster however mentioned that Dr. Sarath Kotagama had not done so.

5. TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES

i. Report of the Sub-committee for Projects:

Tabled the report of Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe with particular reference to his visit to Gurutalawa on October, 31. Matters referred to in this Report were to be taken up later on.

ii. Report of the Sub-committee for Newsletters:

(1) Newsletters

The Report was tabled. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka reported that Newsletter No. 4 was being prepared. It was hoped to have it ready in December; past issues of the Newsletters were being handed over to new Members (as long as stocks last); and that special reference was proposed to be made in the next Newsletter to.

- a) the Ex-Co Meeting of October 05 2002 at Gurutalawa,
- b) the inspection of the Campus
- c) the setting up of the Bio Gas Project and
- d) the visit of Fr.Mervyn Fernando's to Gurutalawa on October 31,2002 as well as the
- e) Dinner Dance due to be held on November 16,2002.

2. College Magazine:

Further articles had come from Gurutalawa. The Headmaster handed over at today's meeting Reports from Gurutalawa. Mr. Shervon Fernando was requested to organise the necessary printing matter. It is hoped to have the magazine ready in about 6 weeks.

The report of the Sub-committee was tabled.

iii. Report of the Sub-committee for Membership:

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka reported that there were 808 members; 17 members of the staff from Gurutalawa had joined; that this was a major breakthrough; their participation since the last meeting of the Ex-Co at Gurutalawa proved very useful. It had brought about better understanding and inter-action as has already proved, it is hoped that this will benefit the Headmaster in particular and the College, the staff and students in general. It was also reported that 62 members in all had joined the Association since March 2 this year and perhaps represents the largest number to have joined the Association in any single year. Several Members keep communicating their re-location particulars and this helps in updating the Register of the Association. The death of Mr. K.T. Amerasingham had been reported and the necessary entries made. He had indicated an interest in attending the Dinner Dance. The Ex-Co noted his demise with regret.

All new members have been sent their new Membership Cards.

As regard the Directory less than 100 copies have been sold so far. It was decided to have copies available for sale at the dinner dance. The Secretary would be responsible for same so that the Dance Committee is not overburdened. The practical difficulties of inserting an addendum into the old issue of the Directory was explained by Mr. Shervon Fernando. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka mentioned that old boys and members particularly those abroad who prefer to obtain the updated version of the Directory have communicated with him and obtained a computer generated print out. The printing of the 2nd issue of the Directory is to be considered later.

The Report of the Sub-Committee was tabled.

iv. Report of the Sub-committee for Social and Dinner:

It was reported that the final arrangements were being made for the Dinner Dance of November, 16th, and the Sub-Committee was meeting regularly at short intervals to fine tune all arrangements.

v. Report of the Sub committee for Rules:

Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that Mr. Jeffrey Gunasekera, had been the only Old Boy to have responded with regard to the draft rules circulated amongst the membership and he had expressed the view that the period of office of an office bearer should not exceed 2 consecutive years. This matter was discussed

and referred back to the sub-committee for its study and necessary attention. Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that the proposal appeared quite acceptable but in the present situation the problem was to find members who were willing to come forward and serve in office at least for one year.

6. **TO TABLE AND CONSIDER THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT**

- (a) The Headmaster mentioned that an urgent need was a Resource Teacher for a period of not more than one year, to back up the teachers who would commence teaching in the English Medium from January, 2003. The proposed salary would be less than Rs.10,000/- per month. He also mentioned that the post would be advertised. It was suggested that Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera would draft the advertisement to be inserted in the News Paper.
- (b) The Headmaster also mentioned the need for tables and chairs for the class rooms.
- (c) The Headmaster reported that 40 chairs out of 70 chairs donated to the College by Mr. Kaleel Majeed has been received in College. The balance 30 chairs were presently in Badulla and will be transported by Mr. Rizvi Jalill in due course.

College Finances

- (d) The Headmaster mentioned that the current overdraft of the College was approximately 1.2 million; that the money realized from the sale of trees had been applied to settle part of the overdraft facility; a further sum of 7 lakhs was due from the sale of trees; that the Headmaster's problem really was to make ends meet particularly during the last 3-4 months every year after taking in to account monies realized from holiday camps, sale of trees; admission fees of new students etc. Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera suggested that an appeal be made to the Hatton National Bank to consider charging a reduced rate of interest on the overdraft facility in view of the fact that College was an educational institution and not a commercial organization making profit. Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera also offered to speak to higher ups in the Bank if need be. The Headmaster agreed to furnish details of the overdraft facility so as to enable the formulation of a letter of appeal. Mr.Don Gazara too offered to speak to senior to senior officials of the Bank in this connection.

7. **CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION:**

The Hony. Treasurer tabled his report

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Re-Union Celebrations

- 1. Mr. Duleepkumar suggested that the Sub-Committee for Re-Union Celebrations meet well in advance, discuss arrangements for the AGM and Re-Union Celebrations and submit a detailed Report for consideration of the Ex-Co. As there was not much time he advised the Sub-Committee to start work early.

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Past Head Masters.

2. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka invited the attention of the Ex-Co to the Service mooted which was to be held on December, 9 2002 the day Canon Foster died. It was decided apart from a paper notice to send out a flyer to the Membership. The service was to be in remembrance of all past Headmasters too and the Bishop of Colombo Rv. Duleep de Chickera who is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors had kindly consented to officiate at this special Memorial service to be conducted at the Anglican Section of the General Cemetery, Kanatte, if he was free on the date. Mr.Duleepkumar was to liason arrangements.

Library Inventory

3. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilake appealed to the Headmaster to have a proper Inventory of the books already supplied by Brig. Munasinghe and Mr. Don Gazara to the College Library.

Changes in Ex-Co

4. The Secretary reported that Mr. Mervyn Wijesinghe and Mr. Mano Gnanaraj have ceased to be members of the Ex-Co in terms of Rule 8 (4)

Squad. Leader. S.P. Palihawadana was appointed to the Ex-co under Rule 8 (2) on the proposal of Mr.Shervon Fernando seconded by Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe.

Major. A.C. Lamahewa was co-opted to the Ex-co under Rule 8 (1) © on the proposal of Mr.Shervon Fernando seconded by Mr.Gamini Fernando.

Chief Administrative Officer

5. It was agreed that the Headmaster should take up the question of appointing one at the next Meeting of the Board of Governors.

Maintenance fee charge

6. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka inquired from the Headmaster about including a maintenance fee in the Invoice of the students. The Headmaster informed that he would be placing before the Board at it's Meeting of November 18,2002 his proposal to include a maintenance fee in the monthly invoices of the students to off set the monthly expenses on that account.

Funds due from Board of Governors

7. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka referred to the balance monies due from the Board of Governors according to the available records with the Association. Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera explained the practical difficulties but agreed to pursue the matter and revert to the Ex-Co.

Utilisation of Administration Block Space

8. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka reported that the Headmaster had taken the view that the Administration block in its entirety contained far too much floor area for the present needs of the College office; it would appear that $\frac{1}{4}$ of that area would suffice and he proposed to utilize the rest of the hall for purpose of study or prep. The Headmaster mentioned that he would be able to have better control over the students during their study time with his proposed arrangements instead of the Foster Hall as at present.

Head Master's Office Room

9. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe reported that the contractor has been asked to submit a revised estimate for partitioning of the Headmaster's office room, as the Headmaster has agreed to revert to the room originally meant for him when the plans were drawn up according to the information given by Mr. Bandusena who was involved in the building project at that stage. One drawback that was observed was the fact that there was only one toilet for the entire 3 storied structure and access to that toilet too was through the headmaster's room. As this arrangement was not appropriate the contractor was requested in giving his estimate to consider additional partitioning and making adjustments in the present layout in such a manner that the office staff as well as others who frequent the office on official work had access to the toilet without disturbing the Headmaster.

Provident Fund dues of Teaching Staff

10. Mr. Duleepkumar reported that he had met the Warden who was attended by 2 Members of the office staff. He had been advised that according to Rule 20 of the Provident Fund, retiring members were not eligible to benefit from the income of the Fund, and the staff concerned should have obtained their balance without delay. In point of fact the delay had been 2 years and 03 months. Mr. Duleepkumar received the approval of the Head Master and the committee to pursue the matter as he thought fit and prudent in an appropriately conciliatory manner.

Water facilities

11. The matter of non-availability of water in the staff toilets was taken up for discussion. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe mentioned that he had examined the water pumps, overhead tanks, layout of piping and the gradient between the relevant supply and delivery points. His finding was that the water pump was functioning perfectly. The Ohiya water line was not of much help in so far as the supply to the staff toilets in the old class room block was concerned because in the first place the feeder tank for that point was not receiving any water from this source – the reason being that the diameter of the water line had been drastically reduced at the point of the meter, and hence much dirt was accumulating at that point. He had decided to speak to Mr. Prabath Jayasundera and see whether a higher capacity water meter could be supplied to the Water Board to enable them to restore the status quo. Furthermore a water pump of a higher capacity was

required to pump the water from the well. In this regard, Mr. Rizvi Jalill's offer to supply whatever capacity water pump was required by college was noted with appreciation. The Headmaster also undertook to speak to Messrs. Jinasena's so that their Technicians could call over at Gurutalawa and after an assessment, make known their proposal to resolve this problem. A decision would be then taken which course of action was to be adopted.

Police Post

12. As regards the Police Post it was not known whether Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe had handed over the letter of the Headmaster to the D.I.G. – Uva as Mr. Munasinghe not being present at today's meeting. It was agreed that additional copies of the letter would be given to Brig. Bandula Munasinghe as well as Mr. Sarath Suraweera for them to pursue this matter independently.

English Language Teaching

13. The Headmaster agreed to write to the British Council accepting the offer to place teachers to teach in the Primary School in the English Language from March / April, 2003. The accommodation and facilities to be made available to these young ladies from the British Council and British High Commission was discussed at length. It was pointed out that the quarters should be in good condition. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe explained the heavy expenditure required to be made to make the Deputy Headmaster's bungalow habitable. Alternate sites were discussed. The Headmaster was keen that these teachers should occupy the Deputy Headmaster's bungalow which was in close proximity to Keble where the teachers would work. The bungalow was also adjoining the quarters of Mrs. D Yapa the head of the Primary School. Members also agreed that it should be properly furnished and equipped. This would include hard furniture consisting of beds dining/ pantry table, dressing table and almirahs, clothes Washing/Drying machine, chairs, sitting room furniture, gas cylinder and cooker, TV set, basic cutlery, crockery, sheets, pillow cases, mattresses and pillows etc. This was to be discussed in greater detail once all the estimates were handed in by the contractor so that funds for this purpose could be set apart on a priority basis.

Bio-Gas Project

14. Mr. Duleepkumar mentioned that Mr. V Tharumaratnam will have to reside in Gurutalawa at the time initial work on the project was commenced. The Headmaster offered to put up Mr. V Tharumaratnam in his bungalow until proper accommodation was made available to him within the Campus. The Ex-Co appreciated the gesture of the Headmaster. Mr. Duleepkumar mentioned further that Mr. V Tharumaratnam would be happy to continue to reside at Gurutalawa and be of service to the College even in the future. The matter was to be discussed further and a decision taken later. In the meantime, work on the Bio-gas project would commence on schedule and Mr. V. Tharumaratnam would supervise the project expected to be completed in 3 weeks. The equipment etc, was to be transported to Gurutalawa. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe undertook to arrange transport with Mr. Rizvi Jalill and accompany the equipment in the lorry. Mr. Don Gazara

also offered the use of his bungalow at Kirklees to Mr.Tharumaratnam, if need be, so that he could be of service to the Headmaster and the College. Mr.Don Gazara also undertook to secure the services of a driver for Mr.Tharumaratnam in such event.

Laundry Facilities

15. Mr.Don Gazara offered to donate and have delivered to Gurutalawa from UK a few heavy duty washing machines for the use of the laundry so as to facilitate washing of clothes of the students, as this had become a major problem in College.

16. **Dates of Forthcoming Meetings**

The next Meetings of the Ex-co were fixed as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
November 29,2002 (Friday)	Army Officers Mess	5.30 p.m
January 11,.2003 (Saturday)	S.T.C. Gurutalawa (Library)	10.30 a.m
January 31,2003 (Friday)	S.Thomas' Preparatory School Kollupitiya, (Staff Common Room)	5.30 p.m

Mr.Duleepkumar pointed out that it would be necessary to have the Audited Accounts of the OBA finalized before the end of January 2003. This would enable the accounts to be posted to the membership with the Secretary's Report, Programme for Re-Union Celebration, Agenda and Notice for the AGM etc at least 21 days before the AGM. It was tentatively decided to have the AGM on Saturday 23 February 2003. Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that considering the fact that the accounts were all upto date it would not be difficult to have the Audited Accounts posted to the Membership well in advance.

There being no other business the Meeting terminated

Confirmed as correct

Chairman