

**S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> (251<sup>ST</sup>) MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE(2002/2003) HELD AT S. THOMAS' COLLEGE  
GURUTALAWA LIBRARY ON 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2003 AT 11.00 A.M**

<b>1. <u>Present:</u></b>	Mr. Geethal Mendis	President
	Mr. P.S. Duleep Kumar	Senior Vice President
	Mr. S. Suraweera	Vice President
	Mr. P.J. Fernando	Vice President
	Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	
	Mr. Rizvi Jalill	
	Mr. A.N.R. Munasinghe	
	Mr. A. Pietersz	
	Mr. Chandana De Silva	
	Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera	
	Mr. S. Balaramesh	
	Mr. G.S.S. Perera	
	Mr. Lasantha Perera	
	Mr. Sujeewa Godage	
	Mr. K. Bandusena	
	Mr. Suresh Thiyagarajah	
	Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe	
	Mr. S.P.Palihawadane	

By Invitation

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka

Excuses:

Mr. Shervon Fernando  
Brig. B Munasinghe  
Major A C Lamahewa  
Mr. Prabath Jayasundera  
Mr. Gamini Fernando

**Head Masters Comments:**

At the outset the Headmaster indicated that as usual he would like to make some comments. He welcomed all Members of the Ex-Co who had travelled all the way from Colombo and other areas to participate in the Ex-Co Meeting and in other activities taking place today and to assist in the development activities going on under the aegis of the OBA as well as individual Old Boys. He thanked them for the encouragement and support. He said that he was very happy working with the present Ex-Co, which has already done so much for the College in all areas of College Development Activities and

that the way he saw it the Ex-Co of the OBA could not have done a better job during the last 10 months. He also expressed his frank wish that he desired the current Ex-Co to continue for another One Year and that he would see to it that this would be a reality so that the good work commenced could be continued without a break. He also welcomed the Members of the staff who once again were present in large numbers to assist in deliberations of the Ex-Co for College Development work

He also commented upon the fact that many Old boys had been visiting Gurutalawa regularly during the last several months, particularly since funds were collected from the Dinner Dance effort and building work commenced on many fronts. This had sent several messages across the campus and even outside of the enormous effort and sacrifice being made by dedicated Old Boys of the College notably Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka who had visited College on not less than 15 occasions during the last year.

## 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on November, 29, 2002 were confirmed on the proposal of Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe, seconded by Mr. Chandana De Silva.

3. Before taking up matters on the Agenda it was decided to permit Members of the Staff to make any representations, express their views and ascertain their observations with regard to any matter relating to College and particularly whether measures taken by the Old Boys to alleviate their problems and complaints have been satisfactorily resolved.

Rev. Nihal Fernando, the Chaplain expressing his personal views said that he wished to praise the Old Boys who have done so much of work and who are continuing to do so much for College. He said frankly that never in his life had he come across a set of such enthusiastic educated and dedicated Old Boys. He thanked God and gave him praise for the wonderful set of Old Boys that this College had produced and who were working in this manner for the progress of the College.

He went on to mention that the Headmaster had entrusted to him the Audio Visual Library and thanked the Old Boys who had already provided Software to be used for educational purposes. He requested that now the Equipment necessary for the Audio Visual Sector be provided. After discussion it was agreed that a DVD which could accommodate VCD s be provided very early so that this sector could commence it's work with the TV that was already available. Further equipment could be purchased as and when funds were available.

Mr. Alam inquired whether it would not be possible to resume Tennis. This was discussed and considering the initial heavy outlay and expenses necessary to rehabilitate the Courts to renew this game and also the cost of maintenance of the Tennis Court etc. it was felt inappropriate to divert attention or finances in the direction of Tennis at this moment. In any event the Tennis Courts is presently used

as cricket nets. Hence it was decided to take all steps necessary within the limited finances available to do up the existing and ongoing sports activities.

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka mentioned that his Office had been in continuous touch with the BCCSL and more particularly Mr. Duleep Mendis and Mr. Janaka Pathirana of the Central Province Cricket Association who have assured us that the Cricket Equipment has been ordered from abroad and should be available for collection before the end of March, 2003. They have confirmed that a quota has been set aside for Gurutalawa.

Mr. Duleepkumar informed the staff that the matter relating to their Provident fund is being referred to the Board of Governors; that the Board of Governors were due to meet on January 29, 2003; that it is expected that the Warden would place this matter before the Board on that date; that if the Board does not approve the payment of what was due then the Old boys would take it up personally with the Bishop. The Headmaster confirmed that he had already forwarded the topics to be discussed at the Board meeting to the Board.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised that he had visited the quarters of Mrs Dias, Mrs. Karandagoda, Mr. Dikkumbura and Mrs. Anandappa with Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka and the quarters were not fit for human occupation with inter alia roofs leaking badly, damp toilet walls near collapse, poor plumbing and electrical work.

As the condition of these quarters were in such a bad state the possibility of converting some existing unoccupied buildings was discussed. The two rooms with toilets adjacent to the Keble class rooms, the vacant section of the club house ( with a new toilet) to be done up and the Davidson dormitory with an additional toilet to be done were considered as possible buildings for conversion to quarters. The Headmaster advised that Mrs. Anandappa had been offered the quarters near the Keble class rooms but had declined some time ago. When questioned Mrs. Anandappa agreed to move in there once converted. The OBA would consider converting these rooms/ buildings after checking the financial position of the OBA.

Matters relating to the staff quarters was then taken up for discussion. The pathetic living conditions under which the staff had continued and continue to reside was discussed and it was considered that it would not be worth repairing those staff quarters and that the appropriate course of action would be to construct new quarters. Considering the amount that would be required, perhaps Rupees 5 Million or so, it would be necessary to have other Fund raising events and certainly it would not be possible to improve staff quarters before the expiry of the term of office of the present Ex-Co or even to divert any monies collected from the dinner dance in view of the commitment towards ongoing development projects on the Campus which were expected to be completed within the next few weeks.

It was also decided that in the recruitment of members of the academic staff, and in allocating quarters to them, preference should be given to those who were

in a position to assist the Headmaster with regard to enforcing discipline amongst the students particularly in the dorms and also participate fully in all activities on the Campus.

Members of the staff were requested to indicate whether problems relating to water supply in the Old class room block has been solved satisfactorily. They mentioned that although the water was being pumped into the feeder tank, water was not available on taps in their toilets on some days. It appeared that there was some small problem and Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe undertook to resolve the matter immediately. He left the meeting so that he could with those responsible for maintenance see for himself what the problem was and tackle it then and there.

Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe at this stage proposed that a 5 year master plan should be prepared for the College with priority being given for construction of new staff quarters.

As there did not appear to be any other matters which the staff wished to discuss they were excused and the Meeting proceeded with the other matters on the Agenda.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

##### **a. The Hayman Museum:**

The Headmaster mentioned that he had not yet found Dr. Hayman's 10 bound volumes of letters. It was suggested that he detail 2 or 3 members of the staff during the school vacations the special assignment of looking for these letters. The probable areas where the search should be confined to were also discussed as the offices near the Headmaster's office and the store room of the Accounts Department and noted.

The package of photographs, letters etc. presently lying in the custody of Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had been dusted and repacked. Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera explained that owing to much time having been spent on collecting funds due from the dinner dance effort and also attending to the accounting matters of the OBA he had had very little spare time to devote to inventorising these items. He also explained that it would take considerable time to prepare this Inventory which will necessarily involve a period after the AGM.

##### **b. Sports Club:**

The Headmaster advised that Mr. Madawela the Prefect of Games had been advised by the authorities that it would take 1 year to register the club.

Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe requested the Headmaster to have Mr. Madawela, the Prefect of Games telephone him on Monday, January 13 2003 so that this matter could be expedited. The Headmaster agreed to request Mr. Madawela to

communicate with Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe in this connection. Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe had brought some sports equipment on the assumption that the club had been registered. A list of this equipment was tabled. The equipment was to be taken back by Mr. Munasinghe and to be handed over after the Club was registered.

Mr. Alam was concerned that there would be a problem with lack of water for the swimming pool during the dry season and it was decided to look into it at a later date.

**c. Thomian Walk Share:**

A letter dated December 27, 2002 addressed by Mr. Upali Jayawardene former Secretary of the OBA to Mr. Shervon Fernando was tabled wherein it was stated that a full account of the tickets etc. had been given by Mr. Jayawardene to those concerned at Mt. Lavinia on Feb. 20, 2002 in the presence of Warden David Ponniah.

He had also mentioned that the monies due to STC Mt. Lavinia and share proceeds to STC Gurutalawa had been settled. No date of such settlement was mentioned in the letter. At this stage the Headmaster mentioned that he had just received a letter from Mr. Upali Jayawardena, together with a personal cheque for Rs. 32,000/- as the share due to S. Thomas' College Gurutalawa from the Thomian Walk.

Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that the accounts of the OBA relating to the period January 01, 2001 to December 31, 2001 do not reflect the transactions referred to by the previous Secretary.

**d. OBA Accounts**

A Memo submitted by Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera dated January 11, 2003, regarding the accounts ending 31.12.02 was tabled and considered, and these accepted and the Auditors to be informed accordingly to give effect to them.

**e. Systems and Internal Controls:**

Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar circulated amongst the members present a Note prepared by him on the report submitted by the Chartered Accountants assigned the task which was also tabled. He mentioned that the three main areas highlighted had been:

- (i) the Accountant who had left for Maldives without making satisfactory arrangements for his work to be covered and without taking proper leave, and not entrusting his keys to another officer, thus creating much inconvenience to the smooth operation of the working of the College Office. The Headmaster

mentioned that he had sent the Accountant a letter asking him to report for work and if he did not report for work by 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2003 he would be considered as having vacated the post. The letter was read out. It appeared that the Accountant had returned from Maldives and once again left without tendering his resignation or finalizing matters relating to his duties.

- (ii) The 2<sup>nd</sup> matter pointed out by the Special Team was a matter relating to arrears of fees which were very high. The Headmaster produced a list prepared by his staff. This ready-reckoner highlighted the students who were in arrears of fees. The Headmaster further stated that students who had returned to College after holidays without clearing the arrears were being sent back and that he was being very strict as regards arrears. The Headmaster mentioned in answer to a question that the School Leaving Certificate will be released only after all fees are settled. The Headmaster also mentioned that when he assumed duties there was a sum of Rupees 2.2 million by way of arrears of fees and that the present arrears was only Rs. 600,000/-. The Ex-Co expressed its appreciation of the efforts made by the Headmaster to put the finances in order at College.
- (iii) The 3<sup>rd</sup> matter highlighted by the said team related to the Farm. Specifically it was observed that an unauthorized credit had been received from one supplier of day old chicks which was now at Rs.600,000/- and that in consequence the farm had perforce to buy its chicks from this particular supplier for a higher price of Rs.45/- whereas chicks were available at a lower price of Rs.37/-. They had pointed out that although the farm now runs at a loss, it could be run at a profit. Mr. Sarath Suraweera and Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi pointed out that Mr. Wimalarajah an Old Boy of 1962 and who had certain qualifications and experience in running a farm was available in College today, to discuss with the Headmaster, matters relating to the farm and offer his services. He was prepared to assume duties as Farm Manager early. He could also do a study and submit a feasibility report for expansion of the farm.

The Headmaster advised that he had already met Mr. Wimalarajah and was satisfied with his qualifications and experience. He confirmed that the additional amount paid to Mr. Razeek, the present Farm Manager was Rs. 2000/- and agreed to pay a minimum of Rs. 3000/- to Mr. Wimalarajah . The Ex-Co after much discussion agreed to provide a further Rs. 3000/- per month for 6 months ( total Rs. 18,000/-) if Mr. Wimalarajah was willing to accept a salary of Rs. 6000/- per month. The matter would be discussed with Mr. Wimalarajah. The Headmaster reported that Mr. Razeek could revert to his teaching position.

Mr. Ajith Pietersz who was himself a successful poultry farmer and having a very profitable venture in Nattandiya offered his services as a Consultant free of charge. The Headmaster mentioned that he would like to have 500 layers and about 2,000 broilers. The layers would provide eggs in 5 months and the broilers ready for sale in 45 days. Mr. Ajith Pietersz calculated the cost of feed alone for a project of this nature to be approximately Rs. 300,000/-.

It was pointed out that the OBA as an entity would not be able to borrow from Banks and that any commitment of the College to a Bank for any facility would require Board approval. The Ex-Co was anxious to have the Farm as an on going venture at least to provide the day to day requirements of the College. The Headmaster also mentioned that at the moment he desired to have the farm only for the purpose of servicing the College and not as a commercial venture. This matter was to be discussed further with the Headmaster.

f. **Leadership Workshop and Boarding Housekeeping**

Mr. Sujeewa Godage inquired whether the practice of requesting the students to converse only in English in the dorm was being enforced. The Headmaster mentioned that he converses with the students only in English although he was aware that some students did not understand English that well. He mentioned that one difficulty in enforcing this programme was because a fair number of teachers too could not converse in English.

Mr. Duleepkumar inquired whether the English Literary Society is still functioning. The Headmaster responded that it was and that all students were required to participate in its activities. He added that Elocution classes too have commenced.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe explained that he was at the school 5 full days on 3 different occasions during the December school holidays with Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka. Mr. Rizvi Jalil was present on 2 of these occasions. All were attending to remedial work undertaken by the OBA. He said that there was minimal support from the school with all minor staff on holiday during the school vacation. Mr. Premadasa was the only one attending to various needs and other minor staff had to be sent messages and they arrived very late, if they arrived at all, wasting valuable time.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised that the railing for drying clothes of the Senior Dormitory students had been installed and that 1000 hangers which were donated by an Old Boy were handed over to the Headmaster two days before the commencement of School to enable the hangers to be handed over to the students (05 per student), with the new system of drying clothes in a tidy manner implemented, commencing from the 1<sup>st</sup> term. He added that Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka had used his staff with masks to wash these hangers as they were full of dust and they spent over 03 days to wash, dry and pack them. Mr. Ranasinghe had noticed that some students had brought their own racks and these were placed everywhere outside the dorms while the others had laid the clothes directly on the racks provided. He expressed his great disappointment that the hangers had not been handed over to the students in time. The Headmaster accepted the blame for the delay and confirmed that arrangements would be made immediately to hand over the hangers to the students and stop the use of personal racks etc.

It was suggested that similar railing and hangers be provided in the Junior Dorms if space permits.

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe further complained that new scratch marks had appeared on the passage wall of the senior dorms starting from De Saram house and extending upto Reid House. This destructive work by students added to breaking of window panes, ventilation grills and other damage done previously was a matter of concern. Mr.Ranasinghe strongly requested that the students be punished and cost of repairs to be recovered from the students responsible. He suggested that Rs.100/- or 200/- be collected from students in the Senior Dorms if no one owned up for the damage. He considered that it was a waste of time, energy and money in refurbishing and providing various facilities if such damage continues to happen and neither the school nor the OBA could afford to keep on carrying on remedial work.

The Headmaster advised that on the whole the students behaved well.

Mr.Duleepkumar requested the Headmaster to announce the concern of the OBA regarding this damage at the assembly and continue reminding them at regular intervals.

Mr.Sunil Watawala stated that he had inspected the Senior Dorms and was happy that the dorms were in a reasonably good condition after the new roof was installed and walls, windows painted by Mr.Mahipala even though some damage had been done to windows ventilation grills and paint work.

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe also referred to the vandalism clearly apparent on the walls of the sick room, and referred to previous practice when the then Headmaster had insisted that the student concerned should be made to pay for remedial work consequent to the damage caused by him.

Mr.Sujeewa Godage was due to stay back after today's meeting in College and make arrangements with the Headmaster to have a Leadership Work Shop involving the prefects and senior students as well as the Monitors of the Junior Dormitories with particular emphasis of cleanliness and proper order in the dorms.

g. **Prick a Pin Cards:**

The Headmaster mentioned that he had decided not to distribute prick-a-pin cards amongst the students before the December vacation because he had given such an assurance in August and that he would distribute same on a future date when a project for student participation was identified by him.

**h. Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving:**

Mr. Duleepkumar referred to the fact that the Service was held on December, 03 2002; that the Bishop had officiated; that the number of Old Boys present was disappointing. Mr. Nihal Waniarachchi expressed the appreciation of the Ex-Co to Mr. Duleepkumar for having originally suggested this service which was very timely and most appropriate.

**i. Library Inventory:**

Work on the Inventory was going on. Lists of books donated by several Old Boys from time to time were tabled so that there would be some record of the donations. Today too 2 Old Boys had donated books and journals etc. A list of Equipment donated to the Laboratory by an Old Boy was also tabled.

**j. Administration Officer:**

Now that the Special Team who did the study at Gurutalawa has strongly recommended having an Administration Officer and considering the fact that the Headmaster too was very keen to recruit a suitable person for this post because the OBA and the Ex-Co were anxious to have the administration of the College in areas where the Headmaster found it difficult to devote time etc. .it was decided to communicate with the Board/ Bishop together with the Headmaster and convince the Board the necessity of creating this post. A letter would be drafted by the Ex-co to be signed by the Headmaster and sent to the Bishop.

**k. Funds due from the Board:**

Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that he required additional information/ material from the Headmaster to proceed with his endeavour to collect any balance still found due from the Board. The Headmaster undertook to have his office look into the matter and provide the information to Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera at an early date.

**l. The Headmaster's Office Room:**

The Headmaster mentioned that he intended to shift to his office room in the new administration block within a few days as the ceiling and partitioning of his office had been completed. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe informed the Headmaster that as soon as he shifted the work on the installation of the new telephone system could commence.

m. **Provident fund dues of Teaching Staff:**

It was reported that this matter was now being attended to and the Senior Vice President was dealing with the Warden in this regard as recorded earlier in the minutes.

n. **Water supply to Header Tank above Class rooms:**

Much time and effort had been spent on this matter and it was expected to clear any snags today itself. The matter relating to Ohiya Water Project could not be resolved due to technical problems with the Water Board.

o. **Police Post:**

Mr. Sarath Suraweera had sent a note with regard to the present situation, which was tabled. Mr.Suraweera explained the present situation and mentioned that every effort was being made to have the Police Post established at Boralanda at a very early date and there was no possibility of having a police post at Gurutalawa at the moment.

p. **Bio-Gas Project:**

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe explained that Mr. Tharumaratnam had certain financial difficulties in getting on with the project.

Mr. Ranasinghe was making every effort to expedite the work with Mr. Tharumaratnam and to have Mr. Tharumaratnam's Assistant on site continuously until work on one Digester was completed and gas generated before the AGM.

Excavation for one Digester had been completed and construction work had not commenced as the contractor required an advance payment. Mr.Ranasinghe explained that with approximately 6 weeks left before the AGM construction work should commence immediately and it was embarrassing that we wouldn't be able to get gas on tap by the AGM after having received advice from Mr.Tharumaratnam in early October that Bio Gas could be made available in 03 weeks. Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera added that we would have a good chance of receiving the grant from UK and from DFCC if at least one Digester was operational. In view of the above and the expected revenue from Bio Fertiliser, in addition to prevention of nuisance from flies and smell from waste. Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe proposed that the OBA allocate Rs.100,000/- as construction cost, to proceed with the project. The other cost of design, supervision, equipment should be borne by Mr.Tharumaratnam. The Ex-Co tentatively approved this sum so as to commission what would be an innovative project undertaken by the OBA, and see what progress was being made by Mr.Tharumaratnam.

q. **Chairs donated by Mr. Kaleel Majeed:**

The Headmaster mentioned that 75 chairs donated by Mr. Kaleel Majeed were kept in the New Administration block at present.

r. **Bank Overdrafts and interest due to Hatton National Bank:**

Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera reported that he was pursuing the matter. The Headmaster undertook to provide the balance information required by Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera to facilitate resolution of this problem.

s. **Dr.R L Hayman and Fr.A J Foster Scholarship Funds**

Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera tabled his recommendations with regard to the criteria for the award of the scholarships. This was accepted by the Ex-co. He mentioned that as interest rates were dropping it may not be possible to award 3 scholarships. It was decided to restrict the award of scholarships to the Middle School and Senior School. It was decided to explore the possibility of bringing both Scholarship Capital amounts to Rs.150,000/- each depending on the availability of funds at time of apportioning the monies collected. This will bring a return of Rs.15,000/- p a. i.e Rs.1250/- p.m at todays rates of interest. It was also decided, when the monies which are now deposited mature at the end of January 2003, to uplift same and re invest in Fixed Deposits at the National Savings Bank. This course of action was approved by the Ex-Co.

**TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE SUB COMMITTEES:**

a. **Report of the Sub Committee for Projects:-**

Work on many projects was going on. The repairs to the roofs of the Keble Dorms and Keble Classrooms were almost over. So also, the construction of concrete covers for the deep drain in the primary school area. The rehabilitation of the Deputy Headmaster's bungalow was going on. About 50 % of the work has been completed.

The rescreeding of the passages in front of the Junior Dorms in the Quadrangle area has been completed. So also the plastering of the walls and painting of the corridor from the Accounts Department to the Sick Room.

As the Contractor's estimate for rehabilitation of the Badminton Court was considered excessive, work in relation to the Basket Ball and Badminton Court was being entrusted to another contractor experienced with Road works and his estimate was awaited. If reasonable quotations are received work would commence on these 2 Courts early. The Roof of the swimming pool Treatment Plant Room had been repaired and the room itself had been rehabilitated . The pump and the diesel engine had been repaired and are working very smoothly. The Swimming Pool floor cleaning brush housing was found to be in an almost

irreparable state. However with some modifications repairs are in hand and should be available in a few days. It would be possible to clean the swimming pool for years thereafter. One of the most looked forward to matters undertaken by the Old boys is to have the Swimming Pool as close to what it was in Dr. Hayman's time.

A new water pump had been installed and some new piping work done to provide water to the staff quarters in the Old block of class rooms. The feeder tank had been cleaned and water had been pumped into that tank after a lapse of almost 5 years.

Work on rehabilitation work of the Squash Court is going on.

The roof of the New Administration Block leaks all along the top ridge and the contractor has been asked to seal the leaking places with cement mortar.

Work on the roof and gutters of the Science Lab and the roof of the old block of class rooms had been put off, until the contractor completes all the work presently in hand. The contractor had completed work valued at Rs 256,005/- and he had been paid a sum of Rs. 175,000/- as at date.

Several Old Boys have contributed generously in cash and materials towards completion of these development projects. These donations and contributions are sometimes direct with the knowledge of the Headmaster or through the OBA.

It is hoped to table a complete report on the nature of work done and the amounts paid etc. so that there is a clear record on these subjects for the information of all Old boys.

Mr.Sarath Suraweera suggested that as all the roofs which are presently in a very bad state gave a very poor impression to visitors and passers by on the road above College, that the roofs be painted.

Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that he would be able to provide the paint from a Commercial Establishment known to him for a discount about 25%.

The Headmaster was also anxious that the painting of roof be attended to.

All the Estimates submitted by the College contractor who was introduced to the OBA by the Headmaster too were made available to the Ex-Co for their perusal. Estimates of the work in progress were tabled together with explanatory notes relevant thereto prepared by Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe. Work had been almost completed on most of the estimates. The contractor had not commenced work on some of the estimates as he had been directed not to commence work on those projects until the work in hand had been completed. There were also several other estimates for various projects awaiting discussion with him and which had not

been approved. Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe also tables his Reports regarding the visits to Gurutalawa made on 17/18, December 2002 and 6/7, January 2003.

**b. Report on the Sub Committee for Newsletters:**

Newsletter No. 4 had been printed. 300 copies were posted on Friday 10, 2003 to all Members in Colombo and a few in the suburbs and outstations. The balance will be posted on Monday 13, 2003. Copies for Members of the Ex-Co present at today's Meeting will be distributed at the end of the Meeting. Copies of the Members of staff will be distributed if possible. If not, they will be taken back to Colombo and posted.

It is intended to send out another Newsletter in late January or early February if possible, particularly to give an update on the development work, at Gurutalawa and also with regard to the arrangements of the AGM and Re-union.

Newsletter No. 1,2,3, & 4 was sent to 565, 589, 634 and 655 members respectively, in Sri Lanka and 23,29,33 and 45 outside Sri Lanka.

Newsletters have also been sent to the Bishop, Members of the Board of Governors, the Headmasters and the Librarians of the Branch Schools.

Newsletter No. 01 was sent by Registered Post as the Membership Card was enclosed.

The OBA would not have to bear any expenses with regard to the printing of any of these Newsletters or their Postage. Any expenses initially borne by the OBA have been re-imbursed by an Old Boys who is sponsoring same

**College Magazine:**

A proof copy of the College Magazine was available at the Meeting. The Printer had promised to complete printing within 2 weeks of the proof being finalized. Although the usual Reports were not available it was decided to go ahead with the printing. The official reports could be made part of the next Magazine. On the suggestion of the Bishop, the address made by Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar on December 03, 2002 at the service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration would be made part of the Magazine as well as a special article written by him on the Diamond Jubilee of the College which appeared in the News papers along with the translations in Sinhala and Tamil.

The Report was tabled.

**c. Report of the Sub-Committee for Membership:**

Membership:

The Register has 825 members. 13 have joined since the last Ex-Co Meeting bringing the total to 80 since March, 02 2002. Applications of 2 Old Boys had been kept pending as the Headmaster's office had reported that the year of admission as provided in the two applications were incorrect. It was possible to locate the correct year within 10 minutes of the inspection of these Registers by the efforts of one individual who was brought to College today for inter alia that purpose and who perused the Registers with the Headmaster's permission this morning, and finding the names in the list of leavers next year.

Updating of Registers of Members:

The Register of Members is updated. Information given by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachci and Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe enabled 6 more members to be added on to the current mailing list. The mailing list of the Association in March was around 420. Currently, the mailing list stands at 655 an increase of almost 250 which is satisfactory.

Members Directory:

300 copies of the Directory were printed in May, 2002, 117 copies remain unsold. They are now being sold at Rs. 100/- each. A print out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue is available today. It is hoped to print only 100 or 150 copies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue. The printer had assured to deliver the copies within 2 weeks of placing the order. This issue should be available in time for the AGM and Re-union.

The Report was tabled.

**d. Report of the Sub Committee for Rules:**

Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that certain changes proposed by Senior vice President and Mr. Jeofrey Gunasekera have been taken into consideration and incorporated. He appreciated contributions made by those members who showed some interest in drawing up a new set of Rules. As the current rules were made a part of Issue No. 04 of the Newsletter, the proposed new rules will go out with the Notice of Meeting, Agenda, Audited Accounts well in advance of the AGM. The new Rules are to be adopted as the 1<sup>st</sup> item at the AGM.

It was pointed out that the proposed Rules permitting holding office for terms not exceeding 3 continuous years applied only to office bearers and not to other members of the Ex-Co. This would enable an office bearer to continue for the 4<sup>th</sup> year and thereafter if need be, as a member of the Ex-Co.

Mr.Sarath Suraweera suggested that it would be good to have members from the area itself. It was pointed out that any person from whatever area was free to join the Membership and be elected to the Ex-Co. The problem was, most persons shied away from serving in the Ex-Co.

**e. Report of the Sub Committee for Social and Dinner**

Mr.Sunil Watawala reported that almost all the monies due on the advertisements and the banners were collected, and that every effort was being made to collect the balance moneys due within the next few days.

Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera mentioned that collecting of monies on advertisements was going on; that the major part of the collection had already been done.

**f. Report of the Sub Committee for AGM and Re-Union**

Certain recommendations made by Mr.Duleepkumar having considered the observations, which had been prepared and tabled by Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka previously, had been studied. These documents were tabled. It has now been suggested to have the AGM on the last Sunday of February and the Re-Union Dinner and Fellowship on Saturday evening. This will create a clear demarcation of the two events.

Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi pointed out that the attendance of the AGM may drop if it is shifted to Sunday morning. It was pointed out that those who wish to participate in the AGM will definitely do so.

Mr.Bandusena mentioned that this had been the previous practice. Mr.Duleepkumar reminded that during Dr.Hayman's time the pattern had been similar. Mr.Duleepkumar mentioned that the dinner should be had with dignity and Decorum and all should sit down to Dinner after grace is said by the Chaplain. As there were no contrary view expressed it was unanimously decided to have the Fellowship Dinner on the Saturday evening and the AGM on Sunday morning.

**To Table and Consider the Headmaster's Report:**

The Headmaster's report was not tabled and deferred for the next meeting.

**Current Financial Position:**

Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera tabled the Treasurer's Report which reads as follows:-

“ The Balance on the No.1 Account was Rs.47,672/80 and on the No.2 Account Rs.367,848/22 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002 and these had increased to Rs.48, 170/30 by 8<sup>th</sup>

January 2003. Since then an expenditure of Rs.175,000/- was borne for the improvements in the infrastructure of the college and these cheques had not been cashed by 8<sup>th</sup> January 2003. In these circumstances, the net cash balance is Rs.317,497/52 while we hold two call deposits of Rs.200,000/- each, thus giving a favourable total balance of Rs.717,497/52 as at 8<sup>th</sup> January 2003. There was also Rs.7,757/38 in the Savings Account at the National Savings Bank.

The monies in the Dr.Hayman and Canon Foster Scholarship Funds are due for maturity by end January and any decisions if necessary, regarding these must be taken early.”

The draft Audited Accounts of the OBA upto December 31,2002 were also tabled by Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera on behalf of the Hony. Treasurer.

Mr.Duleepkumar suggested that the accounts of the dinner dance be given separately, from the main accounts of the OBA and that Debtors and Creditors as at 31.12.2002 be accounted. Subject to this, the accounts were in order. They will be re-represented at the next Meeting of the Ex-Co.

**Any other business:**

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka mentioned that:-

- a. Mr. Raj Subramaniam the Executive Director of the Outward Bound Trust as expected and arranged arrived in College this morning and had gone round the campus with a Member of the staff designated by the Headmaster. He has been quite satisfied and indicated to the Headmaster that he would like to have the camps in College not only during holidays but even during term time. There would be different numbers participating. The additional information sought would be made available to Mr. Subramaniam.

It is hoped that this will help College financially as well as give additional publicity and marketing to College.

- b. With the Headmaster's permission he had made arrangements with the College Carpenter to turn out 30 beds which could be used as required by the Headmaster preferably in the Davidson Dorm which could be used by Old Boys during the AGM and Re-Union etc and by visitors. Mr. Sumedha Perera had shown some interest towards repairing the Davidson Dorm. The Headmaster indicated that this dorm is now normally used to provide accommodation to visiting teams.
- c. He had made arrangements with the Headmaster to provide 6 or 7 tables and benches for the dining hall so as to enable the entire Middle and Senior Schools to have their meals in one sitting. This would reduce the work load of the relevant staff in the kitchen, pantry and dining hall as well as enable the school Time Table to revert to what it used to be.

- d. He provided the Headmaster with a photograph as well as a sketch with measurement taken by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe and himself of the study table provided for the students in the dorms at St. Thomas Mt. Lavinia. These could be made available to students of the Upper 6<sup>th</sup> in the Hayman Dorm as they are studying for the public examination and the dorm is wide enough to accommodate the necessary number of tables, with 02 students sharing the use of one table.
- e. a health camp has been arranged and being had this morning having the new entrants in mind. Doctors from Badulla and Diyatalawa have participated.
- f. Fr. Dr. Mervyn Fernando has been kind enough to agree to conduct the Life Awareness Programme of Subodhi at Gurutalawa, instead of students travelling down to Piliyandala. The exact nature of the course/ Programme had been discussed between Fr. Mervyn Fernando and Fr. Anthony of Subodhi Institute with the Headmaster having regard to the backgrounds of the students etc. The programme will be conducted from March 3-8<sup>th</sup> 2003. About 40 students are expected to participate.

A programme for the staff which was also envisaged cannot be had simultaneously as Subodhi cannot release more than 3 members of their staff for an outstation assignment. Hence a programme for the staff could be arranged on a later date.

- g. A proposal had been submitted by Mr. Sarath Suraweera to have Hoardings of commercial establishments in the main grounds of the College. Mr. Suraweera tabled and explained his proposal. A question arises whether having the hoardings would disturb the environment and the natural/scenic beauty of the grounds. Mr. Suraweera undertook to be in charge of the project and will co-ordinate activities with the Headmaster in this regard. He said he will be in a position to secure advertisements from commercial establishments and that this project would bring in much required funds for the College.
- h. Mr.P J Fernando, Vice President handed over to the Headmaster a Scholarship from Tech Sri Lanka for a period of 01 month to enable a student selected by the Headmaster to participate.
- i. Mr.Sarath Suraweera suggested that a Score Board be erected under the sponsorship of a commercial establishment and enable them to advertise their products. He also suggested the use of Walkie Talkie System to assist the scorer. Mr.Sarath Suraweera undertook to handle the project
- j. Mr.Dulepkumar suggested having students engaged in a project of doing paintings on the walls of the class rooms as is done in other schools so that defacing or causing damage may be dissuaded.

Mr.Palihawadana pointed out that painting the interior would be incorrect and that the external walls could be painted. This was accepted, provided the external walls were in plastered condition.

- k. The Headmaster was asked as to how many new students he expected. He replied that he expected at least 125 new admissions.

There being no other business the meeting terminated.

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman.