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A

DR. R L HAYMAN AND CANON A J FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

1. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY, 1996.**

“Further it was pointed out by Mr. Arthur Perera that Dr. R.L. Hayman and Canon A.J. Foster scholarships had not been awarded for sometime and that every effort should be made to commence award of these scholarships at the earliest. A Panel comprising of Headmaster, Mr. Collin Ratnayake, Mr. Lesley Habaragoda and Mr. O.E.J. De Soysa were appointed to work out the criteria for awards of these scholarships. The three member panel was proposed by Mr. Upali Panditharatne and seconded by Mr. L. W.A. Fernando.”

2. **REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1996**

“During the course of the year Mr. Arthur Perera in conjunction with Headmaster Mr. Colin Ratnayake worked out the criteria for the award of above scholarships

The criteria for award of these scholarship are given below:

1. *To be awarded in the results of the Government year five (V) scholarship examination to needy and deserving students.*
2. *To students excelling in both studies and sports.*
3. *Scholarship to include tuition fees and full board.*
4. *Tenable for five years – from lower fourth to upper sixth.*
5. *Headmaster has the right to terminate the scholarship if in his opinion the students work or conduct is unsatisfactory.*
6. *Funding by the OBA:
Rs. 50,000/- per scholarship to be lodged in a bank fixed deposit earning a reasonable return. Any short fall on the cost to be subsidized by the school/any excess to be added to the fund.*
7. *Scholarship to commence on 1st June, 1997 after the results of the government Grade V Scholarship examination results are published.*

The above criteria for the award of scholarships was considered at the Ex-Co meeting held on 31st October, 1996 and unanimously accepted.”

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 31ST JULY, 1997.**

“Mr. Gnanaraj the Treasurer stated that maximum interest receivable would be 13% per annum. Since funding for each scholarship was Rs. 50,000/=, the interest receivable per annum on Rs. 50,000/= would not be adequate to meet the cost of scholarship. It was suggested that the funding for each scholarship be increased to Rs. 100,000/=. Since funding for building projects had been temporarily suspended it was decided to divert all profits if any to the scholarship fund. Hence it was decided to await the release of mid year social accounts before taking any action with regard to award of scholarships.”

4. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH MARCH, 1998**

“Mr. Gnanaraj the Hony. Treasury drew the attention of the members to a typographical error appearing in note 2. Cannon A J Foster Scholarship Fund. The interest accruing for the year from available funds should be corrected from Rs. 31,113.96 to read as Rs. 3,113.96. Mr. Upali Panditharatne requested that funds lying to the credit of Dr. R.L. Hayman and Cannon A.J. Foster Scholarship funds be increased to Rs. 100,000 each during 1998.”

5. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH APRIL, 1998.**

“Father Foster Memorial Scholarship and Dr. Hayner”

“Excess fund to be transferred to the above two accounts at Bank of Ceylon.”

6. **EX-CO MEETING OF 14TH AUGUST 1998**

“It was also noted that the Cannon Foster and Dr. R.L. Henyan Memorial Scholarship have not been given for the past year. The Treasurer to be informed regarding same.”

7. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH MARCH, 1999.**

“It was suggested to find out the rates of interest from Commercial Banks to deposit the monies in Dr. R.L. Hayman and Canon A.J. Foster Scholarship Fund Account to get a better rate of interest.”

8. **EX-CO MEETING OF 23RD APRIL, 1999.**

“The Secretary mentioned that the deposits of the Dr. R.L. Hayman and Canon A.J. Foster Memorial Fund to be deposited in a Bank or a recognized Finance Company to obtain a better rate of interest.”

9. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 19TH FEBRUARY 2000.**

“Mr. Kuru Utumpala wanted to know whether the Dr. R.L. Hayman and Canon Foster scholarships were awarded.”

10. **EX-CO MEETING OF 19TH JUNE, 2000.**

“The monies placed in the Fixed Deposit Account with Pramuka Management Services (Private) Limited on Account of Dr. R.L. Hayman and Canon A.J. Foster Scholarship Funds were renewed for another year on the same terms and conditions, as decided by the Ex-Co.”

11. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2001**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne brought before the Ex-Co the case of Master Mahesh Perera Year Nine student of S. Thomas’ College, Gurutalawa whose father was murdered and his mother unable to pay school fees which was in arrears of approximately Rs. 37,000/-. The Ex-Co agreed to pay Rs. 12,000/- out of Dr. R.L. Hayman Scholarship Fund for one year from January 2001 to December, 2001. The Thomian Society has also agreed to pay Rs. 900/- per month. Mr. Upali Panditharatne, our Board Representative contributed Rs. 6,000/-. Some of the Ex-Co members raised a fund and collected monies to bridge the balance due. The following members gifted monies for this purpose.

<i>Mr. Rizvi Jalill</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. Shervon Fernando</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. Palitha Rajapakse</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. S. Rajatillakam</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. Milton Fernando</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. Keerthi Kotagama</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. Chandana de Silva</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. Kryshantha Weerawardena</i>	<i>-Rs. 500.00</i>
<i>Mr. T.D.N. Gnanaraj</i>	<i>-Rs. 600.00</i>
<i>Mr. Srilal Wickremaratne</i>	<i>-Rs. 1000.00</i>
<i>Mr. C.S. Ratwatte</i>	<i>-Rs. 1000.00</i>
<i>Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi</i>	<i>-Rs. 1000.00</i>
<i>Mr. Jayantha Hanthi</i>	<i>-Rs. 1000.00</i>
<i>Mr. Upali Jayawardena</i>	<i>-Rs. 1000.00”</i>

B

COLLEGE HISTORY BOOKS

1. **A.G.M. OF 22ND FEBRUARY, 1997.**

“On a query raised by Mr. Upali Panditharatne with reference to sale of College History Books the following statement was made by the Treasurer.

To-date : 600 books had been sold.

Value of Books Sold : Rs. 315,000/=.

College Report states that money collected on sale of books was Rs. 305,208/=.

It was stated that a sum of Rs. 10,000/= was due from Vijitha Yapa.

240 unused books were in college.

In 28 of the 240 unused books, cover page was damaged. Mr. R.L. De Alwis promised to replace the cover pages in 28 books. It was also pointed out that Rs. 300,000/= accruing from sale of College History Books should be reimbursed to OBA.”

2. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH MARCH, 1999.**

“The Secretary undertook to write to Vijitha Yapa Book shop regarding the College History Books and to find out the total amount of History Books received by them and the number of books sold and the balance held by them.”

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 23RD APRIL, 1999.**

“Mr. Sunil Hanthi undertook to write to the Head Master regarding the History Book to ascertain more information re. sales and stocks held.”

4. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 15, 2000**

“The sale of College History books should be set off against College debtors was also decided by the Committee.”

<i>Audited Accounts of 31st December, 2000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Rs. 391,000.00</i>
<i>Audited Accounts of 31st December 2001</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Rs. 3,100.00</i>

C

DR. R.L. HAYMAN MUSEUM

1. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY, 1996.**

“Mr. Clifford Ratwatte informed the membership that when he was in UK he along with Mr. Kamal Nilaweera had visited Mrs. Hayman. Mrs. Hayman had requested Mr. Ratwatte that Dr. Hayman’s collection of diaries, photographs and films should be returned to Gurutalawa. It was decided to open a Dr. R.L. Hayman Museum to be housed in the present office building. Dr. Hayman’s collection of diaries are with Mr. Tharunaratnam.

Since the volume of materials to be returned to Gurutalawa was quite appreciable, Mr. Kamal Nilaweera promised to dispatch a few items at a time by Air Lanka. Mr. Clifford Ratwatte agreed to handle the clearing of crates through customs. It was also agreed that old boys from different generations would have to help the Headmaster to plan the layout of the museum.”

2. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 22ND FEBRUARY 1997**

“It was unanimously resolved that the setting up of Hayman Museum be held at abeyance until Dining Hall Project is completed.”

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 15TH JULY, 2000.**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne, Manager said that Mrs. Hayman has sent a donation of Rs. 250,000/= to be used towards Dr. R.L. Hayman Museum.”

4. **PRIZE GIVING REPORT 2000**

“Provision of new chairs in this Main Hall of the school was a felt need. To fulfill this requirement, one hundred new chairs were bought with the approval of the Lord Bishop and the Chairman of the Board of Governors, spending a part of a Donation received from Mrs. Mary Hayman. (Gentlemen, some of you are sitting on those chairs now). The Board had also approved my proposal to purchase two new Computers, a computer Printer and a Scanner out of the remaining Donation of Mrs. Hayman enabling the computer Class to be expanded to enroll more students. “

D

SUBODHI MOVEMENT

1. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2000**

“Rev. Fr. Mervyn Fernando’s “Subodhi” proposal submitted by Mr. Arthur Perera to be discussed.”

2. **EX-CO MEETING OF 10TH NOVEMBER, 2000**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatna explained to the members about the Subodhi Movement and its purpose. This matter was put to the Board of Governors and the discussions are ongoing at the movement.”

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 8TH DECEMBER, 2000**

“Subodhi movement has requested for use of the College facilities to carry out their “Preparation For Life” program. Father Mervyn wanted to visit the College to check the facilities and decide how the program could be implemented without disrupting the normal work of the school.”

4. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY 2001**

Secretary’s report:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

“Mr. Arthur Perera for introducing Fr. Mervyn Fernando of Subodhi Movement”.

E

OBA MEMBERSHIP CARDS MEMBERS DIRECTORY AND NEWSLETTERS

1. **EX-CO MEETING OF 31ST JULY 1997**

“Membership card distribution at mid-year fellowship night and at the Annual OBA Celebration at Gurutalawa.”

2. **EXCO MEETING OF 28TH AUGUST, 1997**

“Secretary to hand over OBA membership address book to Mr. Upali Panditharatne. “

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1997.**

“Mr. Upali Abeywickrema stated that the Address Book was to be handed over to Mr. Upali Panditharatne and not Upali Abeywickrema as stated in the minutes.”

4. **EXCO-MEETING OF 6TH OCTOBER, 1997**

“Secretary to maintain a book at the entrance with a view to update addresses and telephone numbers of OBA membership.”

5. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH JUNE, 1999.**

“Mr. K. Rajendra, Chairman, Membership committee said the 50 forms were given to the members to enrol new members.”

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi , Chairman, Fund Raising Committee said that he hopes to start compiling a Directory of the Old Boys to be printed and sold to the Members at a reasonable price.”

6. **EX-CO OF 22.7.1999**

“The committee suggested that the newsletter be sent by first week of September and the newspaper advertisement by the 18th of September 1999 informing of the Fellowship Dinner.”

7. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH JULY, 2001**

“Hony. Secretary brought up the matter of Mr. A.H.M. Ameen of No. 19, Main road, Gurutalawa, who had applied for membership of the OBA. The office of the Headmaster reports that according to the records in the College office, Mr.

Ameen has joined the college as a Grade 6 student on 23.01.1973. But no record concerning the date of leaving of the College is available.”

“The Ex-Co was of the view that unless there is written proof, it is not possible to make him a member or until such records are available, to be produced in the future.”

8. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH AUGUST, 2001.**

OBA MEMBER DIRECTORY :

“Mr. Luxman Jayatillake’s letter regarding the proposal for OBA Member Directory. The members appreciated his willingness to complete and print the Directory. The Committee looks forward to discuss matters relating to his letter.”

9. **EX-CO MEETING OF 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2001.**

“The Hony. Secretary brought up the matter with the members as regards to the Old Boys Directory and Mr. Lakshman Jayathilleke’s proposals. The Committee decided to meet Mr. Jayathilleke in the near future and a date will be decided on and it will be intimated to the members.

The members were very keen to issue membership cards to OBA members and the Secretary was told to make a proposal.”

10. **EX-CO MEETING OF 09TH OCTOBER, 2001.**

“The Hony. Secretary brought up the matter as regards the issues raised by Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka. The Committee of the view that they meet Mr. Jayatilaka to discuss matters with regard to the issues and the printing and the sale of OBA Membership Directory.”

11. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH NOVEMBER 2001.**

“The main business of the day was to discuss the ways and means of printing the OBA Directory, the sale of the Directory and the issue of the OBA Membership Cards. Mr. S.M. Suraweera proposed that a group of Old Boys have decided to collect more details to complete and print the OBA Directory. The sale proceeds of the Directory would be credited to the OBA Account. Mr. Upali Panditharatne suggested that Mr. Upali Abeywickrema sit on the committee to overlook matters and if necessary to request the services of any other member. It was also suggested that the Hony. Secretary and Mr. Upali Panditharatne, Vice President be informed. A newspaper advertisement to be inserted to make a final call for information of OBA members who have still not given their data.

“Question of Membership cards to be issued to members were next taken . Mr. Rizvi Jalill said that he would help to get the cards written out once the Hon. Secretary hands over the membership register after scrutiny and after the cards are completed they should be forwarded to the Hony. Secretary for signature. It was also agreed that Mr. Jalill will laminate the cards after the signature and forward same to the OBA for distribution. The cards will be marked according to alphabetical order and numbering of each surname and membership number starting from 1.”

F

STANDARD OF ENGLISH, POOR TUTORIAL STAFF AND STAFF QUARTERS

1. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 22ND FEBRUARY, 1997**

“Mr. J.B. Peiris proposed that action be initiated to improve staff quarters .”

2. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH FEBRUARY 1998**

“Mr. Sideek said that though he was an old boy of Gurutalawa his son was not educated at Gurutalawa. He said members of the tutorial staff were of a very poor quality. He said the main reason for this was the hiring of teachers for very low salaries. He further stated that the school should make every effort to hire quality teachers and pay them handsome salaries in keeping with the qualifications and experience. He further stated that to retain the services of qualified and experienced teachers an incentive be paid to them in addition to their salaries as an inducement to work in a difficult station.”

3. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH MARCH, 1998**

“It was further stated that twenty two members of the tutorial staff left the services of the school and an equal number of teachers joined the tutorial staff.”

“It was pointed out by members that the quality of teachers was of a low standard on account of hiring teachers for low salaries. Every effort must be made to hire quality teachers and pay them handsome salaries. In addition an incentive salary should be paid in addition to normal salary as an inducement to retain the service of qualified and experienced teachers in a difficult station.”

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatte stated that he along with Mr. R. Weerakoon would discuss this matter with the Board of Governors at their next meeting.”

4. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH MAY 1998**

“Mr.C S Ratwatte stated that the tutorial staff themselves cannot converse English resulting in a very poor standard of English which the parents complain about.”

5. **EX-CO MEETING OF 14TH AUGUST 1998**

“It was further noted by the membership that the standard of English was very low and recommended action should be taken.

It was suggested that Manager, Administration to be published in the newspapers and the vacancy for English Teachers for employment in College even paying a higher salary.”

6. **EX-CO MEETING OF 15TH DECEMBER 1998**

“Mr.Ratwatte briefed the committee regarding the status of the school. The following matters were highlighted.

3) *English teachers not being available.”*

7. **EX-CO MEETING OF 30TH AUGUST 1999**

“..... There is a vacancy for an English Teacher at present.”

8. **PRIZE GIVING 2000**

Headmasters Report:

“At the Seminar of the Principals and Managers of Private Schools held at the Isurupaya on the 20th of July, 2000, Professor R.P. Gunawardena, the Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education announced a new scheme of the Ministry to start English medium once again, specially in the private schools. On the very next day, at the Meeting of the Board of Governors, I sought the approval of the Board to continue the English Medium which we have already started in the Pre-School, in Grade 1, as well. The Board approved the proposal. How this proposal could be implemented, is receiving my scrutiny.”

9. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY, 2001**

Headmaster’s report:

“The Nursery class which started last year while fulfilling a long-felt need had guaranteed a certain amount of students for Grade 1 this year. In keeping with the needs of the present society, the parents very rightly demand the ability of their children to converse in English. Accordingly, when recruiting new members into the staff during the last two years I tried to bring in personnel proficient in the English language. With valuable backing given to me by Mr. Upali Panditharatna, the Manager of STCG, approval was given to me by the Board of Governors to start Grade 1 classes in the English Medium, but the decision was scrapped at the following meeting of the BOG due to Education Department

directives. Another popular demand is computer literacy. A computer unit was started to cater for this need.

Secretary's report:

It was the view of the members that the number of students in the college boarding should be increased, and in order to attract the student, the standard of English be uplifted and computer classes introduced. The OBA Members were also concerned about the discipline of the students.”

G

OBA RULES ETC.

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY 1996

“Letter received from Mr. Alex Wijesinghe Secretary to the Board of Governors was read. The letter stated that provision had been made in the revised rules for one representative from the OBA of Gurutalawa, Bandarawela and Kollupitiya to be elected to the Board of Governors from among the members. It was resolved unanimously that Mr. C. Ratwatte Senior Vice President would be STCG OBA nominee.

Mr. Lucian Fernando was STCG OBA nominee to represent the staff of branch schools in the Board of Governors.”

2. EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH APRIL 1998

“Mr. Arthur Perera suggested that the Constitution of the OBA be circulated to the members. At this point it was proposed that a committee be appointed to look into the constitution and prepare any amended, the committee comprise of;

*Mr. Arthur Perera
Mr. Bandula Vithanage
Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardhana”*

3. EX- CO MEETING OF 28TH MAY 1999

“The Members decided to increase the Life Membership Fees from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 500/- subject to approval of the AGM to be held in 2000 February . “

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 19TH FEBRUARY 2000

“A resolution to increase the life membership from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 500/- was brought before the committee. The members voted to increase the life membership to Rs. 500/- with effect from 19th February, 2000. It was proposed by Mr. Arthur Perera and seconded by Mr. Upali Panditharatne.”

5. EX-CO MEETING OF 3RD APRIL 2000

“The members decided to appoint a three member committee headed by Mr. N.D.U. Kuru Utumpala, Mr. Shervon Fernando, and Mr. Upali Jayawardene to write to the other members and to request for their proposals as well.”

H

PROFIT FROM THE FELLOWSHIP DINNER

1. **SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1.1.96 – 31.12.96**

“A Profit of Rs. 136,688/50 was realized”.

2. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH OCTOBER, 1997.**

“Treasurer Mr. T.D.M. Gnanaraj tabled mid year fellowship night accounts which was accepted unanimously by the Executive Committee. The Profit in 1997 mid year fellowship night was Rs. 106,500/=.”

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT OF 31ST DECEMBER, 1997**

“The Annual Fellowship dinner was on Saturday the 10th of October 1997 at the Empire Ball Room Mount Lavinia Hotel. The event as in the past was a resounding success. A profit of Rs. 106,500/- was realized.”

4. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 27TH FEBRUARY 1999**
SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31.12.1998

“Fellowship dinner:

The Annual Mid Year fellowship was held on 10th October, 1998 at the Empire Ball room at the Mount Lavinia Hotel and was a reasonably success.

A total of 300 person has participated and profit of Rs. 165,234/- was realized.”

5. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 27TH FEBRUARY, 1999**

“The Annual Mid Year Fellowship was held on 10th October, 1998 at the Empire Ball Room at the Mount Lavinia Hotel and was a reasonably success.

A total of 300 persons has participated and profit of Rs. 165,234/= was realized”.

I

MONEY DUE FROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS ETC.

1. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH MARCH, 1999**

“The Secretary also promised to write to Mr. Asirvatham, Treasurer for a confirmation of the quantum of funds held by him.”

2. **EX- CO MEETING OF 23RD APRIL, 1999**

“Mr. Arthur Perera agreed to write to the Treasurer, Board of Governors and to Mr. Alwis to confirm the amounts held in the Account.”

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH MAY, 1999**

“Mr. Arthur Perera agreed to provide a draft of a letter to be sent to the Treasurer of the Board of Governors regarding the OBA funds.”

4. **EX-CO MEETING OF 24TH JANUARY,2000**

“Mr.Arthur Perera said that the Board of Governors were willing to give the money by way of a loan with a nominal interest.

He also said that Mr. Upali Panditharatne will take up the matter with Mr.Asirvathan and wanted the Secretary to send copies of letters he had sent to the Treasurer Board of Governors Mr.G A W de Alwis to which there had been no response as yet.”

5. **EX-CO MEETING OF JUNE 19,2000**

“The Committee requested the Hony. Secretary to write to Mr.A Asiriwathan, Chairman, Finance Committee of the Board of Governors to release the monies held in the Board of Governors Account to College to be utilized for the Dining Hall Project.”

6. **EX-CO MEETING OF 15TH JULY, 2000**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne, Manager informed the members that the monies held by the Board of Governors sent by old boys and well-wishers will be deposited in a separate Deposit Account to be used for the College needs such as repairs etc. “

7. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH JULY, 2001**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne requested Hony. Secretary to convey to the Hony. Treasurer to write to Chairman, Finance Committee, Board of Governors to release the monies sent to the Board of Governors account by the Old boys.”

8. **EX-CO MEETING OF 21ST FEBRUARY, 2002.**

“Hony. Secretary requested Mr. Upali Panditharatne the Board Representative to obtain the monies lying to the credit of the Board of Governors’ Account to pay the outstanding bills on the works carried out, in respect of the New Dining Hall Project.

Mr. Panditharatne said that he had already spoken to Mr. Asirwatham, Chairman Finance Committee, who promised to expedite the matter. It was also unanimously decided by the members to settle all the payments due, on the works carried out and the Cheques issued in their favour to be honoured by the Executive Committee taking over at the 42nd Annual General Meeting.”

J

LAUNDRY/DHOBY

1. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH FEBRUARY 1998**

“Expanding further on the mal-administration of the school Mr. Bandula Vithanage stated that each student was charged a monthly laundry fee of Rs. 80/- by the school when the school had no laundry and an official dhoby. Students were seen washing their clothes in public.”

2. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH MARCH, 1998.**

“Appointment of a school dhoby at the earliest was considered essential. The school to date had no official dhoby even though each student was being charged Rs. 80/- per month for laundry. It was felt that the contract with the present unofficial dhoby be terminated as he was unreliable. The acting headmaster stated that a new dhoby would be appointed by 15th March, 1998 and Mr. Chrisantha Jayawardena requested that in the new contract a provision be made for immediate termination of services if the dhoby defaults any clauses in the contract. It was strongly felt that the time the students spent washing their clothes could have been utilized for studies or sports. Mr. Bandula Vithanage felt that with the funds generated from increase in boarding fees and tuition fees. The Manager Mr. Gerald de Alwis could have requested for and installed an automatic laundry.”

K

CO-OPTING MEMBERS TO EX-CO UNDER RULE 8(1) (C)

1. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH MARCH 1999**

“The Committee also appointed the following Members to the EX-Co:

*Mr. Lucian W.A. Fernando and
Mr. M.P.D. Perera.”*

2. **EX-CO MEETING OF 3RD APRIL, 2000**

“The members of the Ex-Co nominated two members for the year 2000 to year 2001. Mr. Michael Illangakoon’s name was proposed by Mr. Upali Panditharatne, seconded by Mr. Arthur Perera. Mr. S.A. Suraweera’s name was also proposed by Mr. Upali Panditharatne and seconded by Mr. Arthur Perera.”

3. **EX-CO METING OF 23RD MARCH 2001**

“Mr.Upali Jayawardene’s name was nominated by the Ex-Co to represent S. Thomas’ College, Mt. Lavinia OBA. Mr. S.M. Suraweera’s document was accepted and is awaiting the study.”

L

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

1. **HEADMASTER'S REPORT - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY, 1996**

“Magazine as promised was not published although all historical details had been compiled covering the last 5 years. The main reasons for not publishing a magazine was bad finances. A minimum of Rupees 100,000/- is required for this project.”

M

RECRUITMENT OF RELATIONS

1. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH FEBRUARY 1998**

Mr. Vithanage stated that the other area of concern was the high degree of nepotism practiced by some senior members of the staff. One example cited was Mr. Rasaiah. Apparently Mr. Rasaiah had relatives in most departments of the school. It was pointed out that this irregular practice would be a thorn on the side of the administration of the school as it would be difficult to maintain discipline.

N

NEW DINING HALL PROJECT

1. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY 1996**

“Finally the Head Master appealed to the OBA to help him to complete the dining hall project by August 1996. It was his intention to have the next OBA dinner in the new Dining Hall.”

2. **SECRETARY’S REPORT OF 31.12.1996**

“Despite having spent to date a sum of Rs. 3,086,608/- progress toward completion has been relatively slow. The infrastructure of this three storied building has been completed and the roof laid.

A letter of appeal giving details of funds required to complete this project has been mailed to members of S. Thomas’ College Gurutalawa OBA. Contributions however small would be gratefully accepted.”

3. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 22ND FEBRUARY 1997**
SECRETARY’S REPORT:

“.....In the mean while at the same meeting Mr. U. Panditharatne & Mr. C. Jayawardena were requested to undertake a quantity survey to, evaluate the value of work done to date with regard to new dining hall, pantry and administration block. Mr. U. Panditharatne & Mr. C. Jayawardena agreed to travel to Gurutalawa on the 20th of Feb. 1997. The draft report to be ready by 21st Feb. 1997. It was agreed that an Ex-Co Meeting would be convened at Gurutalawa on the 21st Feb. 1997 to discuss the draft report. As scheduled the Ex-Co had a meeting at Gurutalawa on 21st Feb. 1997 at 7. p.m. to discuss the draft report prepared by M/s. U. Panditharatne & C Jayawardena. Mr. Jayawardena concentrated on quantity rates and material usage whilst Mr. Panditharatne concentrated on accounts. Mr. Jayawardena’s report highlighted a number of discrepancies in the purchases and use of high value items in the dining hall project.

- a. Accounts for timber used i.e shuttering & roofing was not available for scrutiny.*
- b. Purchase orders for suppliers were signed only by one person.*
- c. Materials were not received by College personnel.*
- d. On receipt of materials goods received notes were not issued.*
- e. Though contractor receives the material, he is not aware of the quantity ordered.*

In summary, Mr. Jayawardena stated that standard procedures with regard to purchase and receipt of materials were observed. With regard to accounts, Mr. Panditharatne. stated that the accepted discipline of normal book keeping had not been followed. Once against this meeting anonymous letter received by Mr. Vithanage highlighting the alleged payments during 1995/96 was discussed.”

4. **SECRETARY’S REPORT OF 31ST DECEMBER 1997**

“The New pantry/ dining hall/administrative block:

Based on the an adverse audit report submitted by Mr. Upali Panditharatne and Mr. C. Fernando with regard to utilization of funds released for this project and material receipt and usage, it was unanimously decided at the Ex-Co meeting convened on the 21st February 1997 at Gurutalawa that Board of Governors would be informed that OBA would not engage in fund raising projects until investigation into accounts is completed.

THIS EXERCISE WAS SPECIFICALLY RESORTED TO AS IT WAS FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SATISFY OLD BOYS WITH REGARD TO UTILIZATION OF FUND MONEY SINCE GURUTALAWA HAS DRAWN ITS AND STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION FROM THE OLD BOYS.”

5. **EX-CO MEETING OF 24TH MARCH, 1998.**

“Chairman Board of Games had request Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardhana to look into the mater where the Contractor had filed action for non-payment of due for work done in the Dinning Hall.

Acting Headmaster stated that independent verification of quantities was done by a Technical Officer and College was requested to pay the contractor a sum of Rs. 326,815/66.

The Committee of the views that an appointment of Manager and Advisory Committee the matter should be taken up and a solution found so that the balance work could be completed soon.”

6. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH APRIL, 1998.**
DINNING HALL ROJECT

“Actg Headmaster handed over the voucher of payment made to Contractor for perusal to Mr. Upali Panditharatne and Income Expenditure Statement for the period January to April, 1998.

Mr. Panditharatne briefed the members of the Ex-Co regarding discussion and decision taken at the Advisory Committee Meeting regarding priorities of work to be carried out.

The Following decisions were taken :

1. *Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardhana and Mr. Upali Panditharatne to visit Gurutalawa and convince a meeting with the contractor and access and recommend to the Advisory Committee the payment to be made to the contractor as the contractor has made a claim of nearly Rs. 400,000/= for work that has been done by him. Mr. Upali P. informed that they would visit Gurutalawa on 10th May, 1998.*
2. *It was also decided for the Advisory Committee to visit Gurutalawa on 18th and 19th May, 1998 for inspection when school is in session.*

It was decided to request Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardhana to prepare an estimate for the balance work to complete the Dining Hall.”

7. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29^H MAY, 1998.**

“Dining Hall Project Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardhana briefed the Ex-Co regarding the visit to Gurutalawa and verification of document together with Mr. Upali Panditharatne.

They had sent a letter to the Manager regarding their recommendations to pay a sum of Rs. 80,000/= being balance due through a claim of Rs. 398,000/= had been made by the contractor.

Reference to the estimate for balance work Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardene undertook to complete the estimate by end of June.”

8. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH JUNE, 1998**
DINNING HALL PROJECT

“Secretary stated that he together with Mr. Upali Panditharatne gone through the contract accounts and recommended to the Manager, an extra payment to be made to the contractor. In the meantime, the contractor has instituted Action in the District Court of Badulla.”

9. **EX-CO MEETING OF 31ST JULY, 1998.**

“Reference to Dining Hall Project Actg Headmaster informed the house that the contractor has instituted Legal action in the district court of Bandarawela.

Actg Headmaster stated that Mr. Sarath Munasinghe, Attorney-at-Law had been retained to look after the interest of the school.

Actg Headmaster further stated that a Loan of Rs. 2.50 M. was available at 12% interest and a B.O.Q. to be prepared to complete the balance work in respect of the Dining Hall, Kitchen and Pantry. Secretary undertook to finish the estimate by

31st August, 1998. The Secretary stated that he had received quotations in respect of equipment etc.”

10. **EX-CO MEETING OF 14TH AUGUST, 1998.**

“Dining Hall Project Mr. Jayawardhana informed the houses that estimates will be prepared for completion of balance work by the end of August.

It was proposed to obtain quantities from contract in the vicinity to carry out the balance work.

Mr. Gallearachchi informed that he would get a service of a contractor when required .”

11. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH AUGUST, 1998.**

“The Secretary requested for more time to prepare the B.O.Q. for balance work and obtain estimate.

It was proposed that payment to be made to the contractor by the Manager to have better cont. of funds. The Manager also informed that funds could be obtained from the following :-

1. Sale of Old Trees.
2. Obtain a Loan from ACLOFF
3. OBA Contributions

Regarding obtaining a Loan the Committee requested whether the instalment could be paid by the College.”

12. **EX-CO MEETING OF 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1998.**

“The Ex-Co requested the Secretary to submit the B.O.Q. for the balance work without further delay. He was requested to employ a Quantity Surveyor and cost for same would be paid by Ex-Co. The Secretary informed the house that due to the mid-year Get together he would be unable to submit it by end of October and requested for time till December .On obtaining the B.O.Q. it was decided to collect funds from:-

1. Sale of Old Trees
2. OBA Contribution
3. Fund Raising Project
4. Balance to obtain on Acloff Loan.

Headmasters report 27.2.1999

The contractor has yet to be paid a sum of Rs. 120,000/- as agreed by the Board for the work done. A further Rs. 3.5 m will be required to complete and equip the new building.

Secretary's report in February 1999

One of the main tasks assigned was to check the accounts of the new dining hall project. The contractor had requested for an additional payment of Rs. 390,000/- and had instituted action in the District Court. M/s. Upali Panditharatne and C.E.N. Jayawardhana had verified the work done and recommended to the Board of Governors payment of Rs. 83,800/- and interest accumulated. The case is pending.

Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardhana has been commissioned with the task of making an estimate to complete the balance work and the estimates as follows:

- 1. Balance Civil Work*
 - 2. Kitchen and Party Equipment*
- Total:*

It is the opinion of the Ex-Co that the balance work of the Dining Hall Project should commence when a permanent Headmaster is appointed and there is better financial discipline to monitor funds being spent by the OBA.”

13. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH MARCH, 1999.**

“It was decided to commence the balance work on the basement and the ground floor of the Dining Hall Project. Mr. Arthur Perera mentioned that the College had materials that were donated by the Old Boys and Well-wishers to be taken note of. The Secretary undertook to write to the Headmaster to forward a list of materials received by the College. The Committee also decided to get a quotation from reliable contractors from Haputale, Welimada and Gurutalawa through the help of Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi of Haputale Estate, Haputale for the balance work to be completed on the basement and ground floor. The Committee also appointed the following members for the Dining Hall Project.

*Mr. C.N. Jayawardhana
Mr. Lucian Fernando
Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi
Mr. Upali Jayawardena”*

14. **EX-CO MEETING OF 23RD APRIL, 1999.**

“The Secretary stated that the Bill of Quantities for completion of the basement and the ground floor of the dining hall project had been sent to Ex-Co Member Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi on 15th April, 1999 and was awaiting the recommendation to select the Contractor.

It was decided to inquire from the Headmaster, Mr. Chandrasekera for the verification of stocks of materials donated by the Old Boys and Well-wishers. The Secretary said that he had written to Headmaster on the 15th April, 1999 and was awaiting confirmation for the stocks held by him.”

15. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH MAY, 1999.**

“It was agreed by the members to get all the quotations for the completion of the basement and the first floor of the Dinning Hall by end of June. Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi was appointed as Chairman of the Dinning Hall Project Committee.

It was decided by the members of the Ex-Co to request Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi to take the physical stock of all the materials received as donations from Old Boys and Well-wishers. They also decided to make arrangements for storing the items for the Dinning Hall Project.

Mr. Rizvi Jalill informed that the Dormitories are damaged and needs repair and requested to shelve the Dinning Hall Project completion temporarily but the members said that this was a Project already decided upon by the Old Boys Association as a Centenary Project and should be completed as agreed upon. “

16. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26.6.99**
DINNING HALL PROJECT

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatte informed the Secretary to write to the Headmaster S. Thomas College, Guruthalawa requesting for a copy of the plan to be submitted to the Contractor. Mr. Sunil Hanthi informed the Committee that the Architect was an Old boy of the College and that he would make an effort to get a set of plans from him.

Mr. Arthur Perera mentioned that we need a fair sum of money to complete the balance work without interruption. The members decided to get souvenirs to be sold at the Fellowship dinner to raise funds for the project,”

17. **EX-CO MEETING OF 22ND JULY, 1999.**

“Mr. L.A.M. Chandrasekera, Acting Headmaster informed that the list of materials received as donations were sent to the Secretary. The Secretary read

the items mentioned in the list for the benefit of the members. Mr. Arthur Perera said that the electrical wire roles were given by Mr. Kamal Kodituwakku and electrical fittings were given by Mr. Soli Captain as donations.

Mr. C.S. Ratwatte at this state wanted the Acting Headmaster to mention the names of the Donors of electrical items in the Record Book.”

18. **EX- CO MEETING OF 30.8.99**

“The Committee met with the new contractor Mr. Salam an old boy of the College recommended by member Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi to go through the Bill of Quantities and to inspect the site to give a quotation to complete the balance work on the new Dinning Hall Project. The Committee decided to visit the site.”

19. **EX-CO MEETING OF 24.1.2000**

“The Secretary explained the need to bring to the notice of Old Boys with regard to the cash flow to start the balance work on the Dinning Hall Project.

Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi said that Mr. Salam has prepared an estimate and will forward same to the Secretary.

The Secretary said that he had discussed with members as regard to an appeal to old boys who are willing to come forward to contribute at the rate of Rs. 500/- per month for one year.

Mr. Arthur Perera said that the Board of governors were willing to give the money by way of a loan with a nominal interest.”

20. **ANNUAL GENEAL MEETING OF 19TH FEBRUARY 2000**

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatte made an appeal to complete the dinning hall project.”

21. **EX-CO MEETING OF 15TH JULY, 2000.**

“Mr. Upali Jayawardena informed the Committee that he was drawing an Action Plan after consultation with the Contractor and the Consultant after visiting site. The Committee also requested to locate a suitable place for the Bio-Gas Station.”

22. **EX-CO MEETING OF 08TH DECEMBER, 2000.**
DINNING HALL PROJECT

“A group of Old Boys decided to draw up a programme to complete the Dinning Hall Project in two stages by collecting funds without the kitchen accessories and utensils.”

23. **EX-CO MEETING OF 19TH JANUARY, 2001.**

“Hony. Secretary explained to the Ex-Co that the completion work on the administration block of the new Dinning Hall commenced on 05th January, 2001.

Mr. Jayantha Hanthi, Mr. Chrysantha Weerawardene and Mr. Upali Jayawardena proceeded to the site at Gurutalawa. Workmen and materials were also taken to site. 85 Nos. Wooden Windows with Glass and Hinges were fixed within two days. The cementing of 4,500 sq. ft. of floor area also commenced on the upper floor. The work to follow were Valance Boards, 436 L F approximately Gutters and Down Pipes. This work was done within two weeks. The Aluminum Doors consisting of 02 Nos., Single Doors with Hinges, Fixed Glass and Door Locks were to be fitted on the 29th January, 2001.”

24. **EX- CO MEETING OF 2.2.2001**

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatta undertook to speak to the Lawyer regarding Dinning Hall Project case for a settlement.

The soft opening of the Administration Block was discussed and fixed for 24th February 2001 at 5.00 p.m..”

25. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24.2.2001**

“Headmasters report:

I consider today as one of the most memorable days in the history of this college. This day, the Old Boys Association donates to the school one of the biggest gifts ever made by the OBA, namely, the Administrative block of the Dining Hall Project, a portion of which with your consent will be utilized as a class room for computer and English studies. Today you has completed only the top floor of this 3 storeyed magnificent building. This building has come up with a lot of expenditure, with a lot of hardship and a lot of effort and dedication. Thereby gentlemen you have rendered a service you can be proud of. A service you can speak about with contentment, an act that the present boys will some day emulate.”

26. **SECRETARY’S REPORT OF 31.12.2001:**

ACKNOWELEDGEMENT

“The opening of the Administrative block of the new dining hall project was opened by the Headmaster, Mr. Alban Fernando and the senior vice President Mr. C.S. Ratwatte. The following members were invited to light the oil lamp at the opening. The Headmaster Mr. C.S. Ratwatte Mr. Upali Panditharatne, Mr.

Jayantha Hanthi, Mr. C.N. Jayawardhana, Mr. Bandula Vithanage, Mr. Krishantha Weerawardene, Mr. P.H.P. de Silva, Mr. M.P.D. Perera, Mr. Lucky de Silva Mr. Shervon Fernando, Mr. N.D.U. Kuruutumpala, Mr. P.J. Fernando, Mr. Suresh Thiyagaraja and Mr. S.M. Suraweera.

Mr. Bandu Kodituwakku, Mr. Jayantha Hanthi, Mr. P.H.P. de Silva, Mr. Krishantha Weerawardena, Mr. Kamal Kodituwakku and Mr. M.P.D. Perera decided to start the work on the dining Hall project, provided that the responsibility was taken by Hony. Secretary to see that the payments due were paid to tradesman and to the suppliers of goods. The Hony. Secretary gave an undertaking to the members. Mr. Jayantha Hanthi, Mr. P.H.P. de Silva, and Mr. Krishantha Weerawardena met during the third week of November, prepared the materials list and collected the goods at site to commence the work during the 1st week of December. The programme for construction was prepared to be completed before the A.G.M. The Headmaster was consulted and his views and suggestions were obtained during the construction period. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jayantha Hanthi Mr. P.H.P. de Silva, Mr. Krishantha Weerawardena, Mr. M.P.D. Perera and Lucky de Silva for their supervision and support and donations and to the following members who have given financial support.

Special mention must be made of Old Boys who collected monies to complete the Administration block of the Dining hall Project and to Mr. Jayantha Hanthi for shouldering the burden of completing this work with the assistance of M/s. P.H.P. de Silva , Crysantha Weerawardene, Punyananda de Silva, M.P.D. Pereira, Upali Perera and Milton Fernando.”

27. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBURARY 2001.**

“The headmaster thanked the group of old boys who helped to complete the administration block of the dining hall project.”

28. **EX-CO MEETING OF 23RD MARCH, 2001.**

“Monies due to Mr. B.,R. Nimaladasa the Contractor who had a claim against College, was settled at the Bandarawela District Court and a Cheque for Rs. 330,000/= (Rupees Three Hundred and Thirty Thousand only) was paid by the S’Thomas’ College, Gurutalawa O.B.A. Account in full settlement. “

29. **EX-CO 28TH JULY, 2001**

“In the absence of the Hony. Treasure, the half yearly accounts were given to members. Mr. Cryshantha Weerawardene member of the Exco requested the names of the donors of cash to the administration block to be annexed with the list of names of donors.”

30. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH NOVEMBER, 2001.**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne mentioned that Old Boys would work on the New Dining Hall Project and will co-ordinate the work with the Headmaster according to the availability of the funds.”

31. **EX-CO MEETING OF 24TH JANUARY, 2002.**

“The members decided to complete the New Dining Hall Project by drawing the monies invested at the Hatton National Bank and also to draw the money held by the Board of Governors’ Finance Committee.”

32. **EX-CO MEETING OF 21ST FEBRUARY, 2002.**

“Hony. Secretary requested Mr. Upali Panditharatne the Board Representative to obtain the monies lying to the credit of the Board of Governors’ Account to pay the outstanding bills on the works carried out, in respect of the New Dining Hall Project.

Mr. Panditharatne said that he had already spoken to Mr. Asirwatham, Chairman Finance Committee, who promised to expedite the matter. It was also unanimously decided by the members to settle all the payments due, on the works carried out and the Cheques issued in their favour to be honoured by the Executive Committee taking over at the 42nd Annual General Meeting.”

33. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 2ND MARCH 2002**
SECRETARY’S REORT

“Mr. Bandu Kodituwakku, Mr. Jayantha Hanthi, Mr. P.H.P. de Silva, Mr. Krishantha Weerawardena, Mr. Kamal Kodituwakku and Mr. M.P.D. Perera decided to start the work on the dining Hall project, provided that the responsibility was taken by Hony. Secretary to see that the payments due were paid to tradesman and to the suppliers of goods. The Hony. Secretary gave an undertaking to the members. Mr. Jayantha Hanthi, Mr. P.H.P. de Silva, and Mr. Krishantha Weerawardena met during the third week of November, prepared the materials list and collected the goods at site to commence the work during the 1st week of December. The programme for construction was prepared to be completed before the A.G.M. The Headmaster was consulted and his views and suggestions were obtained during the construction period. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jayantha Hanthi Mr. P.H.P. de Silva, Mr. Krishantha Weerawardena, Mr. M.P.D. Perera and Lucky de Silva for their supervision and support and donations and to the following members who have given financial support.

Headmasters report:

Mr. P.H.P. Silva, Mr. Jayanthi Hanthi , Mr. M.P.D. Perera and Mr. Chrishantha Weerawardene visited the school on so many occasions and supervised the building construction. Today the school is fortunate to have the second phase of the building completed , which is the full pledged dining hall. With my own eyes, I saw them working hard to get the work done. For the last few months, practically every week they were at the College to do the great task. On behalf of the school, I salute for your sincerity and commitment towards this massive venture.

A/c of 31.12.2001 Rs. 646,868/-.”

O

AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION

1. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY, 1996**
Headmaster's Report

“Headmasters welcomed the old boys and thanked them for the ungrudging support always given to him and the school in general which has helped the school to work towards the expectations of the pioneering founders. He appealed for the continued support of the members of the OBA to achieve this objective. Headmaster stated that compared to the past four years 1995 had been relatively a peaceful year. General improvement in the academic field was seen as reflected in the 1994 GCE O/L results. He further stated that a great deal of emphasis was paid in 1995 in improving sports activities.

Finally the Headmaster appealed to the OBA to help him to complete the dining hall project by August 1996. It was his intention to have the next OBA dinner in the new dining hall.

He further states that a great deal of emphasis was paid in 1995 in improving sports activities. Magazine as promised was not published although all historical details had been compiled covering the last five years. The main reason for not publishing a magazine was bad finances. A minimum of Rs. 100,000 is required for this project. Headmasters stated that as requested in 1995 AGM the plaque near the main entrance to school had been repaired using cement but had failed. He suggested that a repair be undertaken with cement lined with lead. He requested OBA assistance. He further stated that both canteen and farm were being run at a profit whilst the bakery did not yield any profits.”

2. **SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996**

“In conclusion though the event does not come under the period under review it is with regret I announce the resignation of our Headmaster Mr. Colin Ratnayake. We understand that he has taken up an appointment in the Maldives Islands. We wish him well in his new appointment.”

3. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 22ND FEBRUARY 1997**

“The Headmaster's report did not give details of the percentage of O/L students who qualified to sit for A/L. An assurance was given by Mr. Gerald de Alwis that 1998 Headmaster's report would give the required details.

Mr. Edirisinghe suggested that a proposal be made to have a headmaster and two deputy headmasters. Mr. B. Kurukularatne volunteered to appear free for the

College in all labour tribunal cases. J.B. Pieris proposed that action be initiated to improve staff quarters.”

4. Secretary’s Report for the year ended 31st December, 1997.

“The period under review started on an auspicious note with the sudden and totally unexpected resignation of Mr. Colin Ratnayake as headmaster of S. Thomas’ College Gurutalawa. It will be recalled that Mr. Ratnayake was present at the Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday the 16th of January 1997. He gave no indication to the members of the Ex-Co of his impending resignation. On Friday the 17th of January 1997 at the Board of Governors Meeting Mr. Ratnayake tendered his resignation. There was alarm consternation and confusion not only amongst the members of the Ex-Co but also amongst the general membership.

Ex-Co members were being repeatedly requested for explanations from general membership. Ex-Co members were helpless as they too were taken by surprise and were not aware of the causes leading to Mr. Ratnayake’s resignation”.

“It was decided unanimously by the Ex-Co to-

- a) Write to Mr. Colin Ratnayake to immediately work on and get a statement ready showing full income and detail expenditure with a report from a quantity surveyor. Mr. Ratnayake was advised that if he needed a person to prepare the above report that OBA could arrange to send one early. He was further advised that such a report from him tabled at the upcoming 37th AGM scheduled for 22nd February 1997 would answer numerous questions being asked about the dining hall project.*
- b) It was decided to invite the manager Gurutalawa Mr. Gerald de Alwis to be present at the Ex-Co Meeting scheduled for Thursday the 13th of February 1997. Mr. Gerald de Alwis was to brief members of the Ex-Co events leading up to headmaster’s resignation. In the meanwhile Mr. Arthur Perera a member of the Advisory Committee STCG sent in his resignation. The Manager who is the Chairman STCG Advisory Committee had made certain acting arrangements until such time a permanent headmaster could be appointed. Mr. Arthur Perera was of the view that on a crucial matter of this nature one would have expected the Advisory Committee to have been summoned to consider steps to be taken until such time a permanent headmaster could be appointed. Instead confusion reigned. No one seemed to be aware what was taking place at Gurutalawa since Mr. Ratnayake resigned. He stated that it would serve no purpose to serve in a toothless advisory committee.*

Mr. Gerald de Alwis who was present at the Ex-Co meeting held on the 13th of February 1997 said that he too had been taken unawares when Mr. Ratnayake tabled a letter at the Board of governors meeting requesting he be relieved of duties as

Headmaster STCG. Mr. Alwis said that he would be in charge of Gurutalawa until a new headmaster was appointed. He further stated that Mr. Leslie Habaragoda the Assistant Manager of school would function as consultant. Mr. Alwis stated that he had discussions with the staff, students and minor staff and requested their unstinted cooperation to ensure smooth running of the school. He further gave an assurance that arrangements had been finalized at Gurutalawa to receive the Old Boys for the annual reunion and 37th AGM scheduled for Feb. 22nd and 23rd 1997. At this meeting Mr. B. Vithanage informed the members of the Ex-Co in the presence of the manager that he had received an anonymous letter which revealed that a number of unauthorized payments had been affected during the period 1995/96. Ex-Co members were of the view that though no credibility could be attached to an anonymous letter in fairness to all concerned it would request the Board of Governors to conduct an independent inquiry into all accounting matters of the school for the period 1995/96 to ensure that proper accounting principles had been adhered to.

In the light of the foregoing. Mr. Arthur Perera proposed that the Secretary STCG OBA be authorized to draft a letter to the Board of Governors informing them of

- a. STCG OBA findings with regard to dining hall project. Board of Governors to be requested to obtain a second opinion from a firm of architects in fairness to all concerned.*
- b. That school accounts do not appear to have been audited for a number of years.*
- c. Accounts for the financial year 1995/96 be looked into immediately as allegations in the form of an anonymous letter has been received by a member of the OBA stating that a number of unauthorized payments had been affected during 1995/96.*

The Board of Governors to be informed that the STCG OBA have contacted an audit firm M/s. H.T. Peiris & Co. Chartered Accountants of 14A, 16th Lane, Colombo 3 who are agreeable to carry out this assignment confidentially and report directly to the Board of Governors. It was also decided to inform the Board of Governors that OBA would not engage in fund raising projects until investigations into accounts is completed. In the interim period at a Ex-Co meeting held on 10th April, 1997, the Secretary was authorized to draft a letter to the Chairman, Board of Governors The Bishop of Colombo to inform him of

- a. Unanimous view that there was serious lack of proper financial management the affairs of STCG.*
- b. Members regret that the donations sent to the Treasurer, The Board of Governors have not been promptly acknowledged thereby eroding the members confidence, in the Board of Governors on the one hand and in the Ex-Co of STCG OBA on the other. Unless prompt remedial action is taken it will impede future fund raising projects.*

- c. *School needs a dynamic manager in these changing times. It was emphasized that people with dedication and living close to the school must be appointed as Manager. Further it was emphasized that remote control operations from Colombo had proved disastrous.*
- d. *Unless urgent remedial action is taken to ensure proper management of school the Old Boys may distance themselves from activities of the school.*
- e. *Appointment to Advisory Committee be made only on the recommendation from Executive Committee.*

At an Ex-Co Meeting held on 26th June, 1997, Mr. Ratwatte informed members of the Ex-Co Mr. H.T. Peiris and Co. had concluded their investigations which was in the form of a general survey. He stated that they had highlighted a number of shortcomings in the administration and financial control of the school. He further stated that he had written to the Bishop regarding the findings of the H.T. Peiris & Co. Secretary was requested to write to the Bishop seeking an early appointment for a delegation of the Ex-Co to meet the Bishop to represent matters pertaining to present situation at Gurutalawa. In response the Bishop telephoned the Secretary stating that he would be happy to meet a delegation of Ex-Co members of the STCG OBA in the presence of the school Manager. Since the Manager was abroad it was decided to await his arrival. At an Ex-Co Meeting held on 31st July 1997, the following were elected to represent the Ex-Co delegation to meet the Bishop to discuss the present situation at Guru and future of school.

*Mr. C.S. Ratwatte
 Mr. L.W.A. Fernando
 Mr. A. Perera
 Mr. S. Rajatilekam
 Mr. B. Vithanage
 Mr. C.N. Jayawardena
 Mr. U. Panditharatne*

The above delegation met the Bishop for discussion at his residence in the presence of the school Manager, Mr. G. Alwis on the 7th of October, 1997. The H.T. Peiris & Co. the audit report was discussed in detail and the following agenda decided on.

- a. *Appointment of Mr. L. Habaragoda as a special administrator STCG with wide powers reporting to the Bishop. The Bishop to write to Mr. Habaragoda on this matter.*
- b. *To send a copy of HT Peiris & Co. report to Mr. C. Ratnayake calling for his comments.*

- c. *Appointment of a Colombo based co-ordinator for S. Thomas' College Mt. & the 3 branch schools.*

The co-ordinator to be an old Thomian with an accountancy background to enable him to audit accounts and check budget proposals.

- d. *Institute disciplinary inquiry against bursar STCG for alleged falsification of documents showing fraudulent alternations. Though Bishop wrote to Mr. Habaragoda requesting him to accept special administrator's post STCG, Mr. H. resigned his post as Asst. Manager Guru, on an entirely different issue. He was of the opinion that on crucial matters regarding College he was being sidelined and kept in the dark. Hence it was no point functioning as Asst. Manager of School.*

On an appeal made by Bishop over telephone, Mr. L. Habaragoda . withdrew his letter of resignation as Asst. Manager STCG but declined to accept the Bishop's invitation to be Special Administrator STCG. In his letter dated 6th Nov. 1997 to the Lord Bishop, Mr. Habaragoda stated that he will always help his old school as and when his assistance is required but at his pace and convenience. He further states that the prime requirement at the moment is the appointment of a permanent headmaster. He would give him a helping hand no sooner headmaster is appointed. Copy of Mr. Habaragoda's letter to the Lord Bishop dated 6th Nov. 1997 was tabled at the Ex-Co meeting held on 3rd December, 1997. The Ex-Co unanimously decided to request Mr. Habaragoda to reconsider his decision for the sake of the old school and accept the appointment as Special Administrator STCG. The Ex-Co assured Mr. Habaragoda of its fullest cooperation and support to discharge his duties as Special Administrator STCG. At the Ex-Co meeting convened on the 29th of Oct. 1997, Secretary was requested to write to the Bishop requesting clarification with regard to decisions arrived at the meeting Ex-Co had with him on 7th Oct. 1997. With Mr. Habaragoda's resignation as Asst. Manager Guru, and his reluctance to accept the Special Administrator's post Guru, it was decided that it would be futile to have a dialogue with the Bishop at this point of time. The sad turn of events unfolding at Guru closed on this note for the year 1997.

Appointment – Headmaster S.T.C.G

Headmaster's post was advertised no sooner Mr. Colin Ratnayake submitted his resignation . Mr. H.A. Nonis was selected as headmaster Gurutalawa in August 1997, but his appointment was withheld by Bishop on account of a pending court liase with regard to S. Thomas College Mt. Lavinia.

We understand that the best applicant for headmaster's post was not selected as he was not an Anglican.”

5. **EX-CO MEETING OF 31ST JULY, 1997.**

“Item 3 - Follow up on Report released by H.T. Peiris & Co.

It was stated that :

- a) *Report was adverse.*
- b) *It was no point discussing issues at hand in the absence of Manager who was abroad.*
- c) *Suitable remedial action must be instituted to ensure proper administration of school.*
- d) *Manager must pay more attention to ensure proper administration of school.*
- e) *Bishop was willing to meet a delegation of STCG-OBA on in the presence of School Manager. It was unanimously decided that following would represent the Ex-Co delegation to meet the Bishop to discuss present situation at Gurutalawa and future of school.*

*S. Ratwatte, Bandula Vithanage, Arthur Perera,
S. Rajatilekam, C.N. Jayawardena, Upali Panditharatne*

The delegates names were proposed by Mr. M.B. Manoharan and seconded by Mr. J.B. Peiris. It was further stated that 1988, 1989 , 1990 Financial Audit of the school had been conducted and the fees for audit paid but no reports were available. The 1991 audit was currently in progress.”

7. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH AUGUST, 1997.**

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatte said that Mr. H.A. Nonis has been selected as the new Head Master of S’ Thomas’ College Gurutalawa.

Secretary to contact Bishop by phone to fix a date for delegation of Ex-Co members to discuss present situation and future of school.

It was also decided that the delegation must meet and discuss all issues in detail before meeting Bishop.

It was also decided that the Ex-Co press the Board of Governors to take action. Further Mr. C.S. Ratwatte stated that the Board had decided to appoint an Accountant to audit all branch schools”

8. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH OCTOBER, 1997.**

“Item 4 : *Secretary to write a letter to Bishop of Colombo and Chairman S’Thomas’*

College Board of Governors requesting status regarding three decisions arrived at during the discussions a delegation of STCG Ex-Co members had

with His Lordship on the 7th of October, 1997.

The three decisions were –

- i To appoint Mr. Leslie Habaragoda as a special administrator STCG.*
- ii Appointment of a Colombo based co-ordinator for S'Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and the three branch schools.*
- iii Institute disciplinary inquiry against Bursar STCG for deliberately falsifying accounts”.*

9. EX-CO MEETING OF 03RD DECEMBER, 1997.

“Mr. Leslie Habaragoda’s letter dated 6th November, 1997 to Lord Bishop was tabled. It was decided to request Mr. Leslie Habaragoda to reconsider his decision not to accept special administrators assignment at S’Thomas’ College, Gurutalawa.

Follow up on discussion Ex-Co delegation had with Bishop:

It would be recalled that at the Ex-Co meeting convened on the 29th October, Secretary was requested to write to Lord Bishop of Colombo requesting status regarding their decisions arrived at during the discussions a delegation of STCG Ex-Co members had with his Lordship on the 7th of October, 1997.

During the interim period Mr. Habaragoda resigned his post as Assistant Manager, STCG and it was also revealed that he was reluctant to accept the special administrators post. In the light of the foregoing it was decided that it would be a futile excuse writing to Lord Bishop.”

10. EX-CO MEETING OF 15TH JANUARY, 1998.

“Table letter received from parents welfare

The letter signed illegibly and purported to be from Parents Welfare Association STGC was tabled. The letter generally highlighted mismanagement and corrupt practices in the day to day running of the school.

Annual OBA celebrations at Gurutalawa

Mr. Bandula Vithanage informed that normally there were about three hundred applications on annual basis to join STCG. This year (1998) there were only thirty applications and only nine applicants had paid registration fees. It was further revealed that seventy students were leaving Gurutalawa. The administration was not geared to accept boarders returning school from the 1988 academic year. Labour was not available to help students with the luggage and furniture. Parents were not sure to which dormitories their sons had been assigned. Staff had not been assigned for this specific nor was a master list put up on the notice board for the benefit of student/parent. The Manager reached the school at 2.00 p.m.

The Headmaster was away in Welimada purchasing point. Only De Saram Junior had been refurbished completely. In most of the other dorms either the paint had not dried on the walls nor the repair jobs in the toilets completed. On hearing of the sad turn of events in the school Executive Committee unanimously decided to seek an early appointment to write to the Bishop preferably in the absence of the manager of the school secretary was requested to write seeking an early appointment for a delegation of the STCG Ex-Co to meet with the Bishop.

The Ex-Co was unanimously of the view that –

- a. Manager was not presenting the true situation in Gurutalawa to Bishop.*
- b. New Management was required to resuscitate the school.*
- c. Immediate launch of a bailing out operation for the school in the form of save Gurutalawa Committee with some sort of responsibility for each member in the Committee.*
- d. Date and venue of next STCG-OBA celebrations subject to outcome of discussion with Bishop.*

Further the Executive Committee unanimously decided to call for a special General Meeting of the STCG-OBA to discuss the prevailing situation at STC Gurutalawa. Two alternate dates were suggested – 31st January, 1998 and 7th February, 1998. Secretary was requested to make the necessary arrangements to have the special General Meeting at S' Thomas' Prep School, Kollupitiya and mailing of circulars to membership ”.

10. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH FEBRUARY 1998**

“Ex-co was unanimously of the view that the membership of the OBA be appraised of the prevailing situation at Gurutalawa and seek a mandate to represent matters to Rt. Revd. K.M.J. Fernando Bishop of Colombo and Chairman Board of Governors Colombo. At the very outset the attendees were given a typed handout which listed the sequence of events at Gurutalawa from Mr. Collin Ratnayake's resignation to present time. Mr. C.Ratwatte senior Vice President of the OBA discussed each of the 18 points listed in the resume in detail On completion of his explanation, he invited the membership for their comments.

Mr. Sunil Watawela wanted to know why a headmaster had not been appointed to date. Mr. C.Ratwatte explained that a headmaster had been selected but the Bishop thought it was unwise to appoint him on account of a pending court case with regard to S. Thomas's college Mount. He said if the Headmaster is appointed Bishop could be charged for contempt of court. Mr. C. Ratwatte further stated that best candidate who had applied for the post of Headmaster was not selected as he was a non Christian. The rule was that the candidate had to be an Anglican and preferably an Old Thomian.

The other question posed by Mr. S. Watawala was why Mr. C. Ratnayake's resignation was accepted within a short period of 7 days. He also wanted to know why the school books had not been audited before his resignation was accepted. Members were of the view the Board of Governors should be faulted for this lapse.

Whilst on the topics of audits Mr. A. Perera informed the membership that the last formal audit of College books had been in 1987. Reports showed that the audit fees for the years 1988, 1989 & 1990 had been collected but no audit report was available. College books had not been audited from 1991 to 1995. He stated that M/s. H.T. Peiris and company had recommended that formal audits for the years 1996 and 1997 be worked out on the basis of current records and from records available from the last formal audit in 1990. Accounts for 1991,1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 be prepared with profits and loss statements and balance sheets but without a financial audit which would be a waste of time and cost around Rs. 20,000/- to 30,000/- for each year. Mr. Arthur Perera also placed on record that it was customary for the school to organize a ban for sale of liquor and cigarettes during the OBA social after AGM.

Monies accruing from sale of liquor and cigarettes for three consecutive years.

1995	Rs. 31,860/-
1996	Rs. 26,000/-
1997	Rs. 30,000/-

Total: Rs. 87,860/-

Had not been reimbursed to school. Membership was informed that this sum of money was being recovered from the monthly salary of a staff member by the name of Mr. Karunatileka. Mr. Clifford Ratwatte at this point of time intervened to state that the Board of Governors had requested him and Mr. Ronny Weerakoon to proceed to Gurutalawa to hold an inquiry with regard to current Bursar's alleged falsification of documents showing fraudulent alterations. Implication being that all future frauds will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

He states that what is urgently required is the appointment of a permanent headmaster. He says that Gurutalawa is ailing and quick and strong action must be taken. It was wrong to have opened a turf wicket without consulting the OBA. He goes on to ask how one would maintain a turf wicket without water ? he further states that maintaining a turf wicket calls for experience and protecting the turf wicket from man and best would be a huge job.

Mr. Bandula Vithanage said that he was in the school the day the boarders returned to school for the academic year 1998. He said there was utter chaos in school. Masters had not been assigned to meet parents/ students and take them to

their respective dorms. A master list had been prepared but was not on the notice board for students/ parents benefit to consult and move to the assigned dormitories in an orderly manner. Finally when the master list was traced it was with the farm Manager. The Headmaster was not in school. Apparently he was away in Welimada purchasing paint. The Manager reached the school around 2 p.m. There was no organized labour to help the students to carry their luggage and furniture to respective dorms. Only De Saram Junior had been completely refurbished. In other dorms work was half completed. Either paint work was not complete or work on toilets had not been completed. From the foregoing it appeared to the members that the school was being administered in a most illogical and irresponsible manner. The administrative staff of school appeared to be incompetent , irresponsible and utterly unconcerned for the well being of new students. Expanding further on the mal-administration of the school. Mr. Bandula Vithanage stated that each student was charged a monthly laundry fee of Rs. 80/- by the school when the school had no laundry and no official dhoby. Students were seen washing their clothes in public. He further stated that boarding fees had been increased by Rs. 200/- per month and school fees by a further Rs. 100/- per month. This increase in boarding and tuition fees would generate a revenue of Rs. 2 million . He said that there were no detailed plans how this sum of money would be utilized. Mr. Vithanage stated that the other area of concern was the high degree of nepotism practiced by some senior members of the staff. One example cited was Mr. Rasiah. Apparently Mr. Rasiah had relatives in most departments of the school. It was pointed out that this irregular practice would be a thorn on the side of the administration of the school as it would be difficult to maintain discipline.

Mr. Upali Panditharatne in summing up the discussions of the day stated that blaming the past is not going to help. He said that we have to be pro active and make use of the good offices of personalities like Mr. C.S. Ratwatte.

Mr. R. Weerakoon and Mr. Tissa Molligoda to restore Gurutalawa to its former status. With this view in mind he proposed the following resolutions seconded by Mr. C. Jayawardene for consideration by the Chairman of Board of Governors. The Lord Bishop of Colombo.

“ It is hereby resolved that we appeal to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, The Lord bishop of Colombo to take the following action to prevent further deterioration of the administration and financial management of S. Thomas College Gurutalawa.

- 1. To appoint a new headmaster as soon as possible.*
- 2. To retire the present manager who has displayed his inability to manage the affairs of the school*
- 3. To appoint a new manager who could devote more time to manage the affairs of the school more effectively and efficiently.*

4. *To appoint a new Advisory Committee which will include at least three representatives nominated by the OBA.*
5. *To complete the audits for 1996 and 1997 on the basis of the current records and the records available from the last formal audit in 1990. The accounts for the intervening period to be prepared with Profit and Loss statements and balance sheets but without a formal audit.*

The resolution was put to the house and passed unanimously with a mandate given to the Ex-Co to represent matters to Chairman Board of Governors Lord Bishop of Colombo.”

11. **EX-CO MEETING OF 11TH FEBRUARY 1998**

“Mr. Bandula Vithanage stated that since audited statement of accounts had not been tabled at this meeting, a Ex-Co meeting should be summoned before AGM, to table accounts.”

12. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH FEBRUARY, 1998.**

“Mr. Clifford Ratwatte briefed the members of the Ex-Co, the outcome of the discussion a delegation of Ex-Co” (Mr. C.S. Ratwatte, Mr. L.W.A. Fernando, Mr. Arthur Perera, Mr. Upali Panditharatne, Mr. C.N. Jayawardena, Mr. Bandula Vithanage and Mr. S. Rajatilekam) had with the Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. K.M.J. Fernando with regard to prevailing unsettled conditions at Gurutalawa.

He stated that the outcome of the discussion with Bishop was unfavourable. He said that Bishop had openly stated that the present Manager of the school Mr. Gerald De Alwis was a personal friend of his and that it would be embarrassing for him to request Mr. Gerald De Alwis to relinquish the Manager’s post. The Bishop further stated that the Manager’s post was a honorary post hence there was no question of the manager retiring.

The Bishop was amenable to a compromise solution whereby the Manager’s post be split with Mr. Gerald De Alwis looking after Education and Sports and Mr. C.S. Ratwatte looking after Administration and Finance.

Members of the delegation meeting the Bishop and later the members of the Ex-Co expressed their unwillingness to this compromise solution as they strongly felt that there would be a clash of personalities which would in no way help to normalize the situation at Gurutalawa.

It was decided that the Ex-Co write to Bishop telling him that the compromise formula of having two Managers would not work.

Mr. Arthur Perera said that he had already drafted a reply to the Bishop. A copy of which was handed over to the Secretary. Mr. Bandula Vithanage placed before the

Ex-Co a proposal to re-organize S' Thomas' College, Gurutalawa. He suggested that his proposal could be considered -

- a. As a resolution be placed at the forthcoming AGM of the OBA scheduled for the 7th of March, 1998 if the membership permits.*
- b. Or be considered as a working paper for discussion at any forum.*

He said that one should view the deteriorating situation at the STCG very seriously, have an open mind, look for appropriate solutions to stop the rot, put school before self. By doing so one would be only showing gratitude not only to Founders but also to many others who sacrificed so much to preserve the school. Copies of his proposal were to be circulated to Senior Vice President and Vice Presidents and to members at the A.G.M.

7th March, 1998

*The Secretary,
O.B.A.
Gurutalawa*

Dear Secretary,

I am happy to host the old boys who are present today. As the previous O.B.A. meeting which was held on the 7th of February 1998, and the fixing of the date for the O.B.A. celebrations etc., were done without my consultation. Therefore I wish to inform you that the meeting etc., be presided by the Vice President of the O.B.A. Though, I will be present and do the needful to make your stay a pleasant one. And I have presented a full report of the work done and the progress of the school.

I also like to mention that I took over the College during a crucial period where there was no fund in the College coffer and the bank had overdraft. Almost the administration was in a mess, even the ex-chaplain was trying various ways to upset the College. At this juncture the college needed support, help and advice not armchair criticism. In spite all these we have made much progress than the previous years.

I wish you success.

*Sgd: Actg. Headmaster.
6th February, 1998.*

*Mr. Clifford Ratwatte,
Senior Vice President of the
Old Boys Association of S. Thomas' College,
Gurutalawa.*

Dear Mr. Clifford Ratwatte,

The Traditional O.B.A celebrations are held in the Third week of February each year. I am happy to invite all the members of the O.B.A. to come up to Gurutalawa and enjoy them self as is customary. In fact a long weekend 20th to 25th February is on our calendar to coincide with the O.B.A. all parents are aware of this programme.

I want to inform you that I have refurnished the De Saram Junior dorm to accommodate O.B.A. members who come for the celebration. This is the Dormitory which they usually occupy.

In addition the Headmaster's bungalow is vacant and the senior members of the O.B.A. are welcome to occupy it.

The ground have been properly maintained and as such cricket and hockey fixtures with the present boys could also be accomplished. Please inform all the members of the O.B.A. that I am keen to look after them when they come as our guests. I have assigned members of the staff to see the comfort of all the members.

*With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,*

Sgd: Actg. Headmaster.

*c.c: Lord Bishop of Colombo – f.i.
Hony. Secy. OBA (STCG) – f.i.”*

13. **38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH MARCH 1998**
Headmasters report:

“.....He further sated that when he assumed the acting headmastership at Gurutalawa school had no funds and was running on an overdraft. Administration of the school was in a mess. The school needed help, support and advice and not armchair criticism. Mr. Clifford Ratwatte in reply assured to acting headmaster that any criticism if at all was leveled against the manager of the school and not the acting headmaster. Mr. Clifford Ratwatte further stated that the manager of the school worked within a water tight compartment and did not believe in consulting or receiving advice from the OBA.

Mr. Upali Gunaratne stated that the OBA had not criticized the acting headmaster and hence it was not right to criticize the OBA.

Mr. Upali Panditharatne stated that after all the hard work put in by the members of the OBA over the years it was very unfair to call the OBA armchair strategists.

Once again Mr. Clifford Ratwatte assured the acting headmaster that criticism was only leveled against the manager of the school and not the acting headmaster.

The acting Headmaster further stated that number of students were leaving school as they were not able to pay the increased school fees. There were twelve admissions at year one level. Seventy five students left school and would not be readmitted due to disciplinary charges brought against them for causing damage to school buildings.

It was proposed that school leaving certificates would not be issued to these students until damages are paid for .

It was further stated that twenty two members of the tutorial staff left the services of the school and an equal number of teachers joined the tutorial staff.

It was pointed out by members that the quality of teachers was of a low standard on account of hiring teachers for low salaries. Every effort must be made to hire quality teachers and pay them handsome salaries. In addition an incentive salary should be paid in addition to normal salary as an inducement to retain the service of qualified and experienced teachers in a difficult station.

Mr. C.S. Ratwatte stated that he along with Mr. R. Weerakoon would discuss this matter with the Board of Governors at their next meeting.

Any Other Business:

Prevailing situation in Gurutalawa was discussed in detail Members felt that Mr. Gerald de Alwis manager of the school was the main cause for the rapidly deteriorating situation at Gurutalawa.

The Manager was working in a water right compartment with no consultation with either the Board of governors or the Old Boys Association.

All members present in the hall voiced their concern and stated that a new manager must be approached to normalize situation at Gurutalawa.

Mr. C.S. Ratwatte, Senior Vice President in reply stated that he had, had a friendly discussion with Bishop Rev. Kenneth Fernando, Chairman of the Board of Governors on this subject.

The Bishop had stated that the school managers job was an honorary post and hence he cannot be removed or sacked from the post unless he tenders his resignation. The Bishop further stated that on account of his long standing friendship with Mr. Gerald de Alwis, he was reluctant to request him to tender his resignation. Mr. Leslie Habaragoda stated that it was a sad reflection on the Chairman of Board of Governors who seemed to have his priorities mixed up. His friendship with the manager was more important than affairs of the school. It was realized by the members of the OBA that nothing could be done about it other than table the displeasure of the House with regard to attitude of the Chairman of Board of Governors.

It was suggested that Mr. Clifford Ratwatte be appointed as administrator of the school with two managers working under him. One manager to be in charge of education and sports and the second manager to be in charge of finance/administration. It was realized that this system would collapse should the two managers be opposed on a given issue.

Members felt that the most important issue facing Gurutalawa was the appointment of a permanent headmaster. It appeared that way things were turning out that he was not wanted. Further it appeared that appointment of a permanent headmaster seemed a greater problem than the crisis the school was facing. Mr. Leslie Habaragoda reflected on the said turn of events when the school could boast of dedicated men such as Warden de Saram, Warden Stone, Dr. R.L. Hayman and Canon A.J. Foster. Mr. Upali Gunaratne stated that even though Bishop's priority seemed to be his friendship with a manager, the Bishop should be made to understand that OBA's priority was the affairs of the school.

Mr. Prabath Jayasundera a former head prefect at Gurutalawa stated that objectives/goals of the OBA be laid down so that the affairs of the school were sorted out at the earliest with a view to restore Gurutalawa to its original glory.

Mr. Leslie Habaragoda further wanted to know whether we have got our priorities right when it was pointed out that –

- a. school was running on an overdraft of Rs. 180,000/-*
- b. Rs. 250,000/- had been spent on renovating the old office*
- c. Rs. 25,000/- had been spent on cricket festival*

It was felt by all members present at the meeting that OBA was being alienated by the present Manager Mr. Gerald de Alwis with regard to affairs of the school. Some members suggested that a years grace be given to the bishop and the board of governors to resolve the ongoing problem at gurutalawa. It was further suggested that the OBA be dissolved if problems at Gurutalawa were not resolved within this period.

In the light of the foregoing Mr. P.H.P. de Silva appealed to Mr. Clifford Ratwatte, Senior Vice President of the OBA to take over the Managership of Gurutalawa. Mr.Clifford Ratwatte replying said he was willing to assume the managership of Gurutalawa provided it was for a short period and the members of the OBA gave him their unstinted support and co-operation. At the same time members of the OBA present in the hall appealed to Mr. Leslie Habaragoda to accept the special administrators post.

In reply to Leslie Habaragoda said that since Mr. Clifford Ratwatte was willing to accept the managers post. His assistance whenever required was available.”

14. **EX-CO MEETING OF 24TH MARCH, 1998.**

“Manager : *Further to the meeting Ex-Co delegation had with Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Bishop, Rev. Kenneth Fernando, Bishop of Colombo a letter has been sent by Mr. C.S. Ratwatte Senior Vice President, dated 11th March, 1998 that the proposal made by the Bishop for the creation of two posts namely -*

- a) Manager Education and Sports and*
- b) Manager Finance and Administration.*

Was not acceptable to the general membership of the OBA and that he would function as the Manager (Finance & Administration) with the following Committee Members to assist him.

*Mr. Arthur Perera
Mr. Lucien Fernando
Mr. Upali Panditharatne
Mr. Bandula Vithanage
Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardena*

He had further stated that Mr. Leslie Habaragoda has agreed to function as Assistant Manager.

He had requested by his letter to the Bishop to confirm the appointment to enable the personnel to function so that the deteriorating condition at Gurutalawa could be arrested.

Resignation of Manager – Mr. Gerald De Alwis

The Acting Headmaster tabled a letter sent by the Bishop accepting resignation of Mr. Gerald De Alwis.

Manager – Education and Sports

Mr. Arthur Perera suggested Mr. Russel Gooneratne, former Commissioner of Examination be contacted to function as the Manager Education & Sportson his accepting same the name be recommended to the Chairman of Board of Games.

Appointment of Headmaster

Reference to the appointment of Headmaster, Mr. C.S. Ratwatte stated that the case was coming up on 28th April, 1998 regarding the appointment of Warden until a ruling was given the Bishop would not be able to appoint Mr. Nonis as Headmaster.

Proposal for the re-organization of S.T.C. Gurutalawa made by Mr. Bandula Vithanage

The proposal was discussed at length with various views expressed. Final proposal to be adopted and to be taken up for discussion at the next meeting.”

15. **EX-CO MEETING OF 29TH MAY, 1998.**

Thereafter Mr. C.S. Ratwatte briefed the Ex-Co regarding the visit made by him and the Advisory Committee on 10th May, 1998 (Mr. Leslie Habaragoda, Mr. Arthur Perera, Mr. Bandula Vithanage, Mr. Upali Panditharatne and Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardhana). He said they had a meetings with –

- a. Minor Staff
- b. Office Staff and
- c. Tutorial Staff

and had a exchange of ideas how conditions could be inprmed. He also informed that disciplinary inquiries were held regarding two members of the Office Staff. Further he stated that the tutorial staff themselves cannot converse English resulting in a very poor standard of English which the parents complain about.

On visiting the dormitories it was noticed that a child of 4 ½ years was boarded in the hostel. Manager said that he had informed the Board and action had been taken to request the parents to take the child home. At the meeting with the tutorial staff they said that the students build up frustration as most of the facilities paid for are not given. For instance, the service of the dabhy, lights burnt and not fixed etc. Hence during the G.C.E. (O/L) examination a lot of

college property is damaged. Manager stated that unless the new Headmaster is sent immediately conditions will become very bad. The Manager said that regular visit will be made monthly to school ”.

16. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH JUNE, 1998**

“Appointment of Headmaster

All members of the Ex-Co expressed their views that the Headmaster vacancy should be filled as soon as possible.”

17. **EX-CO MEETING OF 14TH AUGUST 1998**

“It was suggested that Manager, Administration to be published in the newspapers and the vacancy for English Teachers for employment in College even paying a higher salary.”

18. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH AUGUST, 1998.**

“Appointment of Headmaster

It was the general concern of the Ex-Co that the College could not be administrated without the appointment of a Headmaster. The Manager agreed to obtain an apartment with Bishop to him of the deterioration situation of Gurutalawa.”

19. **EX-CO MEETING OF 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1998.**

“Appointment of Headmaster

It was brought to the notice of the Ex-Co that condition at school were deteriorating very rapidly and the number of students leaving the school was of much concern. The appointment of the Headmaster was of paramount importance. The Manager undertook to obtain an appointment with the Chairman, Board of Governor to express the sentiment of the Ex-Co.”

20. **EX-CO MEETING OF 15TH DECEMBER, 1998.**

“Mr. Ratwatte briefed the Committee regarding the status of the school. The following matters were highlighted.

- 1. Appointment of Headmaster*
- 2. Number of pupils dropping in school*
- 3. English teachers not been available.*

Mr. Ratwatte said that he had requested a meeting with the Bishop to arrest situation at College.

The Ex-Co members all agreed that unless a proper Headmaster was appointed, the OBA would be unable to assist the school and funds made available through the OBA for development of the school (Dining Hall Project) would be misused.”

21. **SECRETARY’S REPORT OF 31.12.1998**

“I shall mention the events as

1. *Headmasters Mr. Ratnayake leaves in February 1997 – No replacement made.*
2. *Presently the school is run by a group of three comprising of the Actig Head Master, Mr. Chandrasekera and teachers Mr. Bandusena and Mr. Murthy.*
3. *Mr. Bandusena is said to have resigned from this position*
4. *The Manager Mr. Gerald De Alwis has made the ridiculous boast that he has saved the school a large sum of money by the non-appointment of a permanent Head Master,*
5. *When the former head Master tendered his resignation the executive committee of the OBA initiated a verification of the expenses of the new building project. This was done by M/s. Upali Panditharatne and Cryshantha Jayawardhana.*
6. *According to their report there were certain shortcomings in the manner the monies had been spent.*
7. *the executive committee writes to the Board of Governors about the financial mismanagement at Gurutalawa.*
8. *The Board of governors initiates an investigation through a firm of Auditors recommended by the Executive Committee – H.T. Peiris & Co. chartered Accountants.*
9. *The senior partner of this firm personally visited the school and their findings speak volumes of the mis-management at Gurutalawa at all levels.*
10. *The executive Committee meets the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Bishop of Colombo to appraise him of the prevailing situation at Gurutalawa.*
11. *The Bishop agrees among other things,*
 - i. *to send a copy of H.T. Peiris & Co.’s Report to the former Head Master calling for his comments.*
 - ii. *To call for the Bursar’s explanation re falsification of certain documents showing fraudulent alterations – the manager to take appropriate action.*

It is hereby resolved that: We appeal to the Chairman of the Board of governors , the Lord bishop of Colombo to take the following action to prevent further deterioration of the administration and Financial management of S.Thomas’ College Gurutalawa.

- 1) *To appoint a new Headmaster as soon as possible.*
- 2) *To retire the present Manager who has displayed his inability to manager the affairs of the school.*
- 3) *To appoint a new Manager who could devote more time to manage the affairs of the school more effectively and efficiently.*
- 4) *To appoint a new Advisory Committee which will include at least three Representatives nominated by the OBA.*

The resolution was sent to the Chairman Board of Governors requesting his Lordship to take immediate action.

It was also confirmed by (S.V.P) Mr. C. Ratwatte by letter dated 11.3.1998 to the bishop that his proposal for appointment of two Managers was acceptable to the OBA General membership and requested the Bishop to make the following appointments.

Assistant Manager Mr. J.L. Habaragoda

Advisory Committee:

- 1. Mr. L.W.A. Fernando*
- 2. Mr. Arthur Perera*
- 3. Mr. Upali Panditharatne*
- 4. Mr. Bandula vithanage*
- 5. Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardena*

On 24th March, 1998 at Exco Meting the Actg. Head Master informed the resignation of Mr. Gerald de Alwis as Manager. Subsequently the Bishop appointed Mr. C.S. Ratwatte as Manager from 1st April 98 and also the following members to the Advisory Council.

- 1) Mr. 1. Mr. L.W.A. Fernando*
- 2. Mr. Arthur Perera*
- 3) Mr. Upali Panditharatne*
- 4)Mr. Bandula Vithanage*
- 5) Mr. C.E.N. Jayawardena*

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held with the Manager on 20.4.98, and an Action Plan drawn up to visit the school along with the Manager on 7th and 8th May, 1998.

The other matter of great concern to the Manager, Advisory Committee and the OBA membership. Has been the appointment of a Permanent Headmaster – a vacancy that has not been filled from February 1997. The Manager, and the Advisory committee has met the Bishop on many occasions to convince him that

the appointment of a Headmaster is absolutely essential for the proper function of the school.

All members of the OBA feel very strongly that unless the Board of Governors were to act immediately and arrest the deteriorating condition in the school. We may not be able to come to our Alma Mater and sing Esto Perpetua.”

22. **37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 27TH FEBRUARY 1999**

“Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne stated that matron was not purchasing the farm produce. She was in the habit of purchasing food items from an outside source. Head master in reply said that matron had been instructed by him to purchase all school requirements from the farm and that only if shortages occurred that food items should be purchased from an outside source. In fact one member of the OBA stated that lack of a balanced and quality diet served at college may be one of the reasons for decline in student population. It was further stated that every effort be made to offer a cup of milk to students on a daily basis. The students could be charged for the cup of milk offered.

One member of the OBA present at the meeting informed the headmaster that he was shocked to see keble dorm tea being served at 5.30 p.m. on the 26th. When requested for an explanation with regard to the delay in serving tea to keble dorm boarders, the servants had replied that their main task for the day was to look after the old boys who had gathered for the AGM.

It was observed that during Dr. Haymans era, Dr.Hayman, Cannon Foster and staff members had their meals with the students. This practice seems to have been discontinued. It was also stated that Dr. Hayman, Canon Foster and the House masters used to visit the dorms after diner and talk to the boarders.

Questions were asked whether the present acting headmaster and House masters visit the dorms and frequency of visits. The acting headmaster assured the OBA that house masters visited their respective dormitories frequently.

The following observations were made by the old boys.

It was reported that four boys in Winchester dorm were locked in for a considerable period of time on Saturday morning as security had failed to open the doors of the dorm at the specified time. It was also reported that boys in the senior dorms were fast a sleep long after third warning bell had been rung on Saturday morning. The other observations made were that the present head prefect was a day boy . It was a school tradition to appoint head prefect from amongst the boarders.

Mr. Upali Panditharatne deputizing for the Senior Vice President Mr. C.S. Ratwatte made a statement on behalf of the Senior Vice President to the house with regard to the activities of Advisory committee during the course of 1998.

He said overtly/ visibly nothing much seems to have been accomplished with regard to resolving the deadlock with the bishop over the appointment of a permanent headmaster at Gurutalawa. In fact there had been much interaction between the Advisory Committee and the Bishop in the form of meetings, telephone conversations with regard to appointment of a permanent headmaster. He also stated that it was very unfair to keep the present head of school as acting headmaster in an active position for the last two years.

Mr. Romesh de Silva and Mr. K.N. Choksy had been consulted on the issue of appointment of a permanent headmaster at Gurutalawa but the Bishop was not willing to take legal advise on account of restraining order with regard to S. Thomas' College Mt. Lavinia . Mr. Panditharatne further stated that the Advisory committee had almost resigned almost. Fortunately saner counsel prevailed and the anticipated resignations were not realized. He ascribed this to the Thomian grit and determination to stay and fight rather than evade a problem.”

23. **Headmasters report 27th February, 1999**

“Mr. R. Rasiah of the Accounts Dept. was interdicted for criminal misappropriation of College Funds. The C.I.D. has filed Court action against him in the Badulla Mag. Courts. The case is pending.

A leakage of Rs. 95,011.99 was detected in the Canteen. This has been referred to the Board and the College Auditors, and a decision is awaited on what action is to be taken against the Canteen Manager Mr. W.A. Dharmawardena.

Contemplated New Projects:

- 1) *Estimate 2.5m. – Replacement of 650 desks and chairs I place of tables and benches in the Classrooms and 600 beds with Rubber Mattresses in the Dorms.*
- 2) *Staff Quarters – Estimate Rs. 1.5 m – Improvements to the living conditions of the staff, needs priority.*
- 3) *New Dining Hall Project: - The work in this project is at a standstill due to lack of funds. We would appeal to the OBA in Sri Lanka and Abroad to help us to fulfill this task.”*

24. **EX-CO MEETING OF 23RD APRIL 1999**

“ The audit report from M/s. Someswaran Jayawickrema & Co. pertaining to S. Thomas college, Gurutalawa OBA for the year ended 31st December 1998 was tabled and discussed. The auditors stated that they did not received the constitution of the Association. Hence they were not able to verify the objectives, powers, rules and the regulations of the Committee members and others adhered to, and other lapses with regard to verification of stocks, receipts raised but not issued to new members, the updating of the National Savings Bank Pass book. The auditors recommended confirmation from Banks and to table at the AGM to reflect a true picture as the income from Savings Account 171187 at a Bank of Ceylon had been over-stated. It was also discussed to take note of the two debtors and creditors by inviting their attention or to write off the Debtors and to settle the creditors.”

25. **EX-CO MEETING OF 28TH MAY, 1999**

“Mr. Rizvi Jalill informed that informed that the Dormitories are damaged and needs repair and requested to shelve the Dinning Hall Project completion temporarily, but the members said that this was a project already decided upon by the Old Boys Association as a Centenary Project and should be completed as agreed upon.”

26. **EX-CO MEETING OF 26TH JUNE, 1999**

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatte mentioned that he would write to Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi appointing him as the Assistant Manager.”

27. **EX-CO MEETING OF 30TH AUGUST, 1999.**

“Briefing by the new Headmaster, the observations he has made on the present state of the college.

(a) Staff

<i>Tutorial Staff</i>	<i>- 41</i>	<i>Day Labourers</i>	<i>- 04</i>
<i>Office Staff</i>	<i>- 09</i>	<i>Drivers</i>	<i>- 02</i>
<i>Supervisors and</i>		<i>Security (Contract)</i>	<i>- 08</i>
<i>Matrons</i>	<i>- 06</i>		
<i>Minor Staff</i>	<i>- 49</i>	<i>Laundry</i>	<i>- 01</i>
	<i>-----</i>		<i>-----</i>
	<i>105</i>		<i>15</i>
	<i>=====</i>		<i>=====</i>

In certain grades for example 8,9,10 and 11 there are two classes. If you add up the total number of students in both classes of a grade you may not get even 40

students. In Government schools, in one Class there are 40 or more students. Therefore, it may be possible to amalgamate two classes into one.

Teachers beyond 55 may be retired except those teaching special subjects eg. Maths and English. There is a vacancy for an English teacher at present. The minor staff out number the tutorial staff. Such a member might have been essential when the number of students were large. As they cannot be evicted, when anyone reaches the age of 55, such posts could be suppressed.

Day labourers have to be employed as a minor staff go off after 4.30 p.m. specially for the work in the farm.”

Financial Situation

“School is running at a loss at the moment. Bank Overdraft as at 17th August, 1999 stands at Rs. 846,792/72. Rs. 1,500,000/= is overdue from students as school fees. Farm Overdraft as at 20th September, 1999 is Rs. 289,427/92.

Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne said that he could help the Headmaster in the case of any labour problems with regard to the staff. Mr. Ronnie Weerakoon was of the view that the Headmaster should study each case and advice authorities with his views for settlement. Mr. C.S. Ratwatte and Mr. Arthur Perera briefed the headmaster regarding the audit.”

28. **EX-CO MEETING OF 13TH DECMEBER, 1999**

“The Headmaster said that the Deputy Headmaster Mr. Peiris selected by the Board of Governors has now decided not to accept the post.”

29. **Secretary’s report of 31st December, 1999**

“The main theme of the Meeting was to arrest the declining discipline within the school, and the concern of OBA Members as to the students leaving college, due to the poor management of the school. The members were reiterating the Ex-Co Members to take up the matter of getting a new Headmaster with Lord Bishop.”

30. **40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 19TH FEBRUARY 2000**

“The Headmaster expected the support of the old boys to turn around the school to what it had been in the past, during Dr. Hayman’s time, in a couple of years. He also mentioned that the student population had declined and the discipline deteriorated. The College financial position not so sound and had informed the parents to pay whatever dues they owed to the College.

The members who were at the rear of the hall requested that a public address system be made at the next meeting as the proceedings were inaudible. Headmasters report was tabled. Mr. Charles a former member of the staff

requested that he is willing to rejoin staff if there are vacancies. Mr. C.S. Ratwatte made an appeal to complete the dining hall project. Seventy five members were present at the Annual General Meeting As there were not other businesses meeting was declared adjourned at 7.45 p.m.”

31. **EX-CO MEETING OF 03RD APRIL, 2000.**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne on his trip abroad to Canada and United States had met a couple of Old Boys including Mr. T. Sri Rajanathan, in Toronto, Canada who mentioned that he was willing to collect and send donations from the OBA members in Canada.

Mr. C.S. Ratwatte in his capacity as Manager has sent his resignation to the Bishop and said that he would give his support to the OBA.”

32. **EX-CO MEETING OF 22ND MAY, 2000.**

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatte said that the Ex-Co should help Mr. Upali Panditharatne as the member of the Board of Governors representing the Branch Schools.

Mr. Upali Panditharatne mentioned that the present headmaster needs support, as he has to settle the existing problems within College.

Mr. C.S. Ratwatte why he objected to the Bishop, as the Bishop had failed to carry out certain matters, that he agreed when he was Manager.”

33. **EX-CO MEETING OF 24TH JANUARY, 2002**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne, member of the Board of Governors mentioned the progress of the College under the new Headmaster has improved. He also said that the Board of Governors had given approval to cut the trees that are marked for widening of the road.”

35. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24TH FEBRUARY 2001**
Headmaster’s report

“During my short period here, just above one year, I managed to uplift and improve the college in certain areas as you had expected of me. The student population has been increased from 416 and 451 despite the exodus of 67 in December 1999 and 57 in December 2000. New admissions in the current year has so far been 64. as you are aware, GCE Advanced Level classes in the Tamil Medium were recommenced last year. After the release of the G.C.E. Ordinary Level results, I hope to start an A Level Class in the Sinhala Medium as well.

I cannot be happy about the financial situation of the school. My Accountant tells me that we should either have 734 children in our Roll or should increase fees. Expenses rise daily which includes the payment of various allowances on salaries

announced by the Government from time to time. The Bank overdraft has risen to Rupees One Million.

Secretary's Report:

It was the view of the members that the number of students in the college boarding should be increased, and in order to attract the students, the standard English be uplifted and computer classes introduced. The OBA members were also concerned about the discipline of the students.

It is proposed to have a college Development and Building Committee consisting of Ten members of which two members would visit College every month in rotation. A five member Advisory Committee will also be appointed, of the five members, three will be from the College Development and Building Committee."

36. **41st AGM 24.2.2001**

"Mr. Sri Lal Wickremaratne, member of the OBA said when looking at last year results students have shown poor results in subjects such as English, Sinhala and Religion. Headmaster pointed out to look into the matter, and also said that most of the students in these two classes, often had clashes with students of other classes. Headmaster said that he had to send some students home to maintain discipline. The Manager supported the move and said that discipline should be maintained at any cost.

Mr. Raj Mohan said that the Keble Dorm toilets were in a very bad condition and the waste pipes in the wash basin were damaged, because of this students when washing their face always get their clothe wet. Mr. Upali Panditharatne Manager said that he was doing his best to get them repaired, but at present the college does not have the money. The Manager also said the OBA will help identify those projects and obtain OBA help.

Mr. Sanath Jayatileka said that the Headmaster should not be blamed as the wash room and toilets were in bad condition when he took over."

38. **A.G.M. OF 2.3.2002**

"When I took over the school in September last year, I came to know the incidents, which had taken place among the children. In fact, I was not troubled with this situation. Within a few weeks with the help of the staff, I knew exactly what steps the school should take to help the students. I worked, out a few strategies to over come it. They are as follows:

1. *Since there was no electricity due to power cut, I invited all the O/L students to my quarters to do their revision, where I had the privilege of having a generator. With the said act, I was able to understand them quicker.*
2. *Whenever there wasn't a teacher for O/L students, I did some classes to be more familiar with them.*
3. *Immediate appointments were made for two teachers to live in the Senior Dormitories, which I thought was absolutely necessary.*
4. *Change is a difficult task other than babies*

With the cooperation of the teachers we did our best to change the attitude of our children where teachers and I personally met them and objected any destruction or violence among the children. Hence we were able to bring about a good image of the school.

I was keen to find out about the student unrest prevailed in the school. We received information from former prefects, students and the teachers.

Here are some of my findings:

1. *We have reflected on the hostel to a very great extent. Sometimes there had not been hardly any Master to look after the children other than closing and opening the dormitories.*
2. *We are not geared towards child centered education. Still it's the teacher centered education.*
3. *They also mentioned the lack of supervision even in the field of sports.*
4. *Even if there were problems, they said that their voice was not heard properly.*
5. *They also commented on the poor living conditions of the Hostel.*

Now we are aware of these problems. Hence, I have discussed with the staff and we have taken steps to remedy the situation as much as possible.

Therefore in the year 2002, we have to look into the needs of the children and realize counseling is a must for the children. We are happy to report that we have found qualified counselor to look into personal problems of our children who can really assist them to overcome all their problems.

Counselling:

Today we have, children come from broken families who need attention and care. Let me share with you one instance where our Counselor could help one boy who was totally disturbed due to family problem. He was from Kegalle. His father a businessman who was murdered during the 1989 insurrection. During this period, his mother was pregnant with this child and he was not fortunate to see his father. He had a sister who passed away due to an incurable disease. To keep the home fire burning, his mother left for Italy and had been working there since then. As his mother was out of the country, he lived with his grand parents. Although they cared

for this child lovingly, he missed something in life. He was in fact totally and completely disturbed and was attempting to leave the school;. After many sessions of counseling he decided to stay back and uttered Now I am relieved.

Many trees from the school compound have been extracted over the past two decades. No replanting has been done except during the period of Mr. Bala Gunasekeram. I have replanted 500 plants during December 2001. Many more mature trees have to be extracted, as they have already exceeded their economic life period, but I will ensure that they would be replaced by new plants. I request the OBA members also to purchase a plant at Rs. 500 from the school and plant it in the 9 acre block

I asked all the workers to work without over time for a short period of time. They acknowledged it in a good spirit. I gave permission to all the workers to grow vegetables in the school yard and informed them that in the second year ¼ of the production should be given to the school.

Nine acre block not cultivated.

I believe during the last 20 years we have not received a cent from this land I recommended to the Board to do a tea planting or to give it on a lease. An old boy is also interested in doing a potato cultivation, where he is prepared to give Rs. 90,000/- per year. I also suggested to the board, since the school is finding it difficult to maintain this block. Whether the other 3 schools would like to take a hand in the development process whereby, the profit should be divided by the Board.

School Farm:

We are indeed happy to have Mr. M.K. Razik as the Farm manager. He himself has been a principal of a school. He is devoted and committed to his work. In the month of December 2001 our farm made a profit of Rs. 29,000/-.

A camp site:

Another suggestion is to make, St. Thomas Gurutalawa a camp site in the months of April and August which will definitely bring more funds to the school.

Education:

We are looking on a wide horizon to help our students in education:

Learning to know

Learning to do

Learning to live together

Learning to be

Special emphasis on character building leadership sports and education.”

39. **A.G.M. OF 2.3.2002**
Headmasters report:

Few urgent needs

Need to refurbish the Senior Dormitories

Need to refurbish the foster Dormitories

Need to repair Badminton and Basket ball courts

Need to repair the school fence

The water supply

Need more chairs and desks

Microscope for Dr. Haymans' Science Laboratory

Overhead projector

4 Invertors for the school”

AGM AND REUNION

1. **EX-CO OF 11.2.1998**

“The main topic discussed at the meeting was the Annual OBA reunion at Gurutalawa. It was unanimously decided that in keeping with the decisions arrived at the special general meeting summoned on the 7th of February 1998 that the venue for the next AGM would be Gurutalawa and the date for AGM would be 7th March, 1998 and there would be no celebrations on view of the prevailing unsettled conditions at Gurutalawa. Mr. Clifford Ratwatte referred to a letter dated 6th February received from acting headmaster Gurutalawa, Mr. Chandrasekera. He had stated that he was expecting the OBA celebrations to be held during the course of third week in February and that de Saram junior and headmasters bungalow (for senior members OBA) were available for accommodation. Mr. Ratwatte said that he had replied acting headmasters letter stating that as usual members of the OBA would occupy the dormitories.

Mr. Chandrasekera further stated in his letter that staff members had been assigned specific duties to ensure that members of the OBA would enjoy their stay at Gurutalawa.”

2. **38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7.3.1998**

“.....He further stated that when he assumed the acting headmastership at Gurutalawa school had no funds and was running on an overdraft. Administration of the school was in a mess. The school needed help, support and advice and not armchair criticism. Mr. Clifford Ratwatte in reply assured to acting headmaster that any criticism if at all was leveled against the manger of the school and not the acting headmaster. Mr. Clifford Ratwatte further stated that the manager of the school worked within a water right compartment and did not believe in consulting or receiving advice from the OBA.”

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 3.4.2000**

“.....Mr. Kuru Utumpala requested to do away with the hockey match of the Old boys re-union celebrations and to have the Annual General Meeting early. He also said that instead of having a communion service in the church he suggested having a Thanks Giving Service in memory of donors, past headmasters, masters and members.

The members decided to appoint a three member committee headed by Mr. N.D.U. Kuru Utumpala, Mr. Shervon Fernando and Mr. Upali Jayawardene to write to the other members and to request for their proposals as well.

Mr. Upali Panditharatne on his trip abroad to Canada and United States had met a couple of old boys including Mr. T. Sri Rajunathan, in Toronto, Canada who mentioned that he was willing to collect and send donations from the OBA members in Canada.

Mr. C.S. Ratwatte in his capacity as Manager has sent his resignation to the Bishop and said that he would give his support to the OBA.”

4. **EX-CO MEETING OF 10.11.2000**

“Mr. N.D.U. Kuru Utumpala, Mr. Sanath Jayatilleke and Mr. Shevon Fernando and the Hony. Secy. Were appointed to look into the programme of the AGM and to propose necessary changes.”

5. **41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24.2.2001**

Programme:

“It has been observed however at the last celebrations, that persons other than old boys of S.T.C.G. and staff members of college were present at the AGM fellowship and dinner. Please note that the AGM, fellowship and dinner are restricted to members of the OBA and staff members of STCG, Old boys who are non-members are most welcome to join the OBA. There will be no sale of liquor by the college during the celebrations. However aerated water including soda will be sold. Members may bring their own liquor if they wish to do so. Beer could be purchased at the grounds and at the fellowship dinner.”

6. **EX-CO MEETING OF 23RD MARCH 2001.**

“It was decided by the Ex-Co that Mr. Sunil Hanthi will continue as Treasurer and sign as Treasurer till Mr. Keerthi Kotagama the elected Treasurer takes over after his eye operation.”

7. **EX-CO MEETING OF 24.1.2002**

“The main business of the day was to decide the itinerary for the 42nd A.G.M. to be held on Feb. 24th to 25th. The Headmaster had declared the 4th weekend for Mid Term holidays and to accommodate the members of the OBA for the AGM. However, Mr. S.M. Suraweera, Vice President brought to the notice that the Hadji Festival will be falling on Saturday 24th February the day fixed for the A.G.M At this stage Mr. Upali Panditharatne, Vice president got in touch with the Headmaster by telephone. The Headmaster mentioned that he has already fixed the mid-term holidays to coincide with the AGM. This was put to the membership and the membership agreed unanimously.”

8. **EX-CO MEETING OF 5.2.2002**

“The main item to be discussed was regarding the A.G.M. which was due to be held on the 24th February 2002 which also happens to be the date of the Hadji Festival M/s. S.M. Suraweera and Rizvi Jaleel had requested for the date be advanced to the 16th February as the Headmaster had agreed to this new date.

Mr. Pилоo Lakdawela stated that 21 days notice had to be given in accordance with the Constitution of the OBA.

Mr. Upali Panditharatna stated that he had spoken to the Headmaster the earlier day and that the Headmaster had denied that he had agreed to advance the date of the meeting.

The Ex-Co considered all views expressed by the members present and unanimously decided to have the AGM on the 2nd of March at Gurutalawa.

It was also decided that the Secretary should place an advertisement in the “Ceylon Daily News” on Friday the 8th February notifying of the new date.

9. **Headmaster’s Report of 2.3.2002.**

Recently there was a letter from the Old Boys accusing me for not being present at the Ex-Co Meeting and also deciding the AGM weekend without their consent. I wish to state that I am guilty for both accusations and promise you that it will never ever happen in future. Hence, I would like to cite an example in this regard.”

Q

PRIZE GIVING

1. EX-CO MEETING OF 14TH AUGUST 1998

“Reference to prize giving held the OBA members commended the Head master for the arrangements made and congratulated him and his staff for well done. The Secretary was requested to intimate the sentiments by letter to the staff and head master.

The members observed that only certificates were given as prizes to the children and no books were given as in the past.

The OBA made a note of same so that funds could be made available next year for same books to be given to the children.”

2. EX-CO MEETING OF 25TH AUGUST, 2000

“Member Mr. Kuruthumpala said that the college prize giving was not done in accordance with Thomian traditions and mentioned that the OBA should help to put them in order before the next prize giving. This matter was to be brought to the notice of the headmaster.”

R

SPORTS, SPORTS GEAR, BADMINTON COURT ETC.

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 22ND FEBRUARY, 1997

“Mr. Upali Gunaratne stated that the standard of the College Hockey Team should be improved. Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne stated that a number of needy students had requested assistance from OBA for purchase of Sports gear. It was finally resolved that the Headmaster should decide which players in a team required assistance with regard to purchase of Sports gear.”

“In the Headmaster’s Report there were instances where large sums of monies had been spent rehabilitating the Badminton Courts. In the first instance a sum of Rs. 150,000/- had been spent. In the 2nd instance a sum of Rs. 270,000/- had been spent. In the absence of Headmaster the Manager and Assistant Managers stated that they would look into the accounts and give an explanation.”

2. EX-CO MEETING OF 30TH AUGUST 1999

“The Headmaster said that the students taking part in the dance troupe for the championship did not have new costumes. The committee decided to help the College with a temporary loan from the OBA fund of Rs. 60,000/- to be reimbursed once the College had the funds.”

S

TURF WICKET

1. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7TH FEBRUARY 1998**

“The reports from Gurutalawa were alarming. The Manager had embarked on a project to provide Turf Wickets which the Ex-Co considered as a white elephant. The maintenance cost of the Turf Wicket would be prohibitive and would be a drain on the resources of the school. Further the Manager had taken the unprecedented step of appealing for funds direct from the members. This coupled with the organization of a cricket carnival scheduled for the 7th of February with no representation from the OBA was seen as a deliberate attempt to alienate the main OBA body. Under these circumstances it was obvious to all concerned that future fund raising for College would be difficult without the participation of the OBA, specially the funds required to complete the new dining hall project. Manager it seem was not capable or was not interested in restoring normalcy at Gurutalawa. It appeared to the Ex-Co that he had made the situation worse.”

“Mr. Chryshantha Jayawardena posed the question as to who decides on priorities. He said as he saw it opening of Turf Wickets at Gurutalawa had a higher priority than appointment of a Headmaster. Further he wanted to know whether the Board of Governors had approved an opening of Turf Wicket at Gurutalawa. It was stated that Mr. Gerald de Alwis had mentioned at a Board Meeting that he was going to provide Gurutalawa with a Turf Wicket. The Managers appeal for funds direct from membership sidelining the main OBA body came in for heavy criticism. All present were of the view that this was irregular and he was creating a precedent. All members who had responded to the managers appeal for funds stated that they would not have contributed had they known the true state of affairs. In fact the Ex-Co was faulted for not keeping the membership informed of events unfolding at Gurutalawa. I give below Mr. Leslie Habaragoda’s views on this matter expressed in his letter to the Secretary OBA dated 6th February, 1998.”

2. **EX-CO MEETING OF 4TH OCTOBER, 1999**

“Mr. C.S. Ratwatte read out a letter sent by Mr. G.A.W.de Alwis regarding payment for a grass cutter of the turf wicket. The Members objected to the payment being made out of OBA funds as the OBA had other priorities to attend to Mr. C.S. Ratwatte had already written to the Chairman Board of Governors about the protest.”

3. **EX-CO MEETING OF 13TH DECEMBER, 1999**

“The Headmaster said that he had received a letter from Mr. Chico Gunaratne an old boy of College from Canada requesting the monies he sent to be used for the side screen of the turf wicket.

This matter was brought to the notice of the Committee by the Headmaster. The Committee suggested to the Headmaster to get approval from Mr. Gunaratne and to utilize this money for the purchase of computers for the College.”

T

DANCE TROUPE

1. EX-CO OF 13.12.1999

“Mr. Ratwatte requested the secretary to write to Ladies’ College and bishops college to obtain their auditorium to arrange for the S. Thomas College Dance Troup to perform during the Royal Thomian weekend.”

2. EX- CO OF 24.1.2000

“The Headmaster said that he had written to Bishops College and obtained permission for the Dance Troup to perform during the Royal Thomian weekend.”

U

REPRESENTATIONS AT STC MT. OBA

1. **EX-CO OF 29.4.1998**

“Appointment of Representative from Gurutalawa OBA to Mount Lavinia OBA

Mr. Upali Panditharatne’s name was proposed to represent gurutalawa Oba at Mt. Lavinia Exco meeting. The name was proposed by Arthur Perera and seconded by Bandula Vithanage.”

2. **EX-CO OF 26.3.1999**

“Mr. Upali Panditharatne was nominated by the Ex-Co to represent S.Thomas’ College Gurutalawa at the Mt. Lavinia Ex-Co.”

3. **EX-CO OF 3.4.2000**

“Mr.Arthur Perera nominated Mr. Upali Jayawardene, Hon. Secretary to represent S. Thomas college, Guruthalawa at the Mt. OBA Exco meetings.”

4. **Ex-co of 23.3.2001**

“Mr. Upali Jayawardene’s name was nominated by the Ex-co to represent S. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia OBA. ”

COLLEGE FARM / TREE PLANTING / BIO GAS

1. **EX-CO OF 22.5.2000**

“Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne said that he had spoken to Mr. Upali Jayasekera Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of Sabaragamuwa University who was known to him and who is now in charge of the Government farm at Boralanda to help the college with the running of the farm and the dairy.

The Ex-co members expressed their views and supported the proposal. Mr. Upali Panditharatne said that he was willing to meet Mr., Jayasekera and discuss the proposal on his next visit to Gurutalawa.”

2. **EX-CO OF 15.7.2000**

“Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne said that he had already discussed matters regarding college farm and the other agricultural areas with Professor of Agriculture of Sabaragamuwa University. Mr. Upali Jayasekera said that he would be visiting college shortly.”

3. **EX-CO OF 25.8.2000**

“The committee took the opportunity to thank Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne who took keen interest in getting Prof. Upali Jayasekera Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture in Sabaragamuwa University to visit college to discuss the improvements to the running of the college farm, replanting trees, and also for the students to visit college from the University as a part of their practicals.”

4. **EX-CO MEETING OF 10.11.2000.**

“Prof. Upali Jayasekera, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Sabaragamuwa University had visited college with six lecturers to familiarize themselves. The work they planned to start were Tree Planting and the bio gas station were priorities.

Mr. Upali Panditharatne informed that STCG will have a stall for Farm Produce at the STC Mt. 150 Year Thomian Fair 2001. Headmaster to make necessary arrangements with the Fair Committee.”

5. **EX-CO OF 8.12.2000**

“A.G.M. Programme:

Mr. N.D.U. Kuru Utumpala read out the proposed amended program of the AGM and the matter was discussed at length and will be finalized at the next Exco meeting. It was decided to have the AGM on 17th weekend of February 2001. But due to the 150 years celebration of S. Thomas’ College, Mt. Lavinia, which is also scheduled to be held in February 2001, the date of the AGM will be confirmed at the next Exco meeting.”

6. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24.2.2001**

“Headmasters report:

The college farm and the college land are a gift from Mr. Leslie de Saram and the legacy of Mr. De Saram has to be preserved and carried forward. Mr. A.U. Seneviratne has continued to look after the farm as its Acting Manager, in addition to his normal duties. Consequent to advise given by Mr. Upali Panditharathna, the Manager, STCG, I invited the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of the Sabaragamuwa University to visit the Farm. He visited with his officials, who provided valuable advice.”

W

62 GROUP, REPAIR AND PAINTING JUNIOR DORMS ETC

1. **EX-CO MEETING OF 23.3.2001**

“Mr.S M Suraweera’s document was accepted and is awaiting the study”.

“A letter signed by old boys, M/s. S.M. Suraweera, Rizvi Jalill, T. Sundararajah, Jabit Junaid, Luxman Jayatilleke and Nihal Wanniarachchi to attend to all repairs and painting of the Junior dormitories and bathrooms were undertaken. The committee decided to get a report ready in the near future. Mr. Rizvi Jalill said that the repairs and painting of dormitories and bathrooms will be done during the December, holidays

Mr. S.M. Suraweera said that the painting of the Junior dormitory block will commence next week.

Mr. Sunil Watawala (Vice President) informed those present that one member who preferred to be anonymous and had seen the said state of the 04 Senior Dorms and the staff quarters attached thereto had undertaken its complete refurbishment. This will include attention to the toilets, roof, ceiling, walls, windows and doors, floors, plumbing, electricity, painting etc.”

2. **41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24.2.2001** **Secretary’s Report**

“Painting of Junior Dormitories

A group of old boys led by Mr. T. Sundaraj, Mr. Luxman Jayathillake, Mr. S.M. Suraweera, Mr. Rizvi Jalil and Mr. Jabir Junaid offered their services to paint the Junior Dormitories. The OBA Exco is very thankful to the members for doing a good job.”

3. **EX-CO OF 28.11.2001**

“Mr. Suraweera said the formation of the 62 Group was not to split the OBA, but to work together and support the College.”

4. **SECRETARY’S REPORT OF 31.12.2001**

“A group of old boys led by Mr. T. Sundaraj, Mr. Luxman Jayatillake, Mr. S.M. Suraweera, Mr. Rizvi Jalil and Mr. Jabir Junaid offered their services to paint the junior dormitories. The OBA Ex-Co is very thankful to the members for doing a good job.

27th February, 2002

The Hony. Secretary,
S. Thomas Gurutalawa OBA
No. 27, 42nd Lane,
Colombo 06.

Dear Sir,

5. **ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS AND GENERAL MEETING 2002**

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Even if I was free to attend, I might have had second thoughts about doing so, because from the periphery I could see the Association gradually getting split into different groups which I feel is detrimental to the Association. Especially at a time when we have just got a new Headmaster. It is particularly saddening to find some members indulging in activities which could undermine the Executive Committee.

Ours is an informal gentlemen's Association of Old Boys established to assist the school in whatever way possible. It is also a gathering where Old Boys could meet and recall old times. It has never been envisaged to be a legalistic entity and I sincerely believe that it should continue in that manner.

As a member who has served in various capacities from the inception in 1959 I hope its activities will not be badly impaired due to acts of omission and commission by members.

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*Yours faithfully,
Sgd: K. Arthur Perera"*

6. **42nd A.G.M. 2.3. 2002**
Headmasters report:

"Mr. Lakshman Jayatilake and Mr. Jaleel too visited the school on several occasions. With the help of the '62 Group' they refurbished the Junior dormitories except the foster house. The children were delighted and the parents were overjoyed seeing the development work which took place within a short period of time. Mr. Jayatillake repaired our school fax machine and Mr. Jaleel is trying his best to repair the school generator for us. "

X

SECRETARIAL WORK

1. **EX-CO OF 26.6.1999**

“At the request of Senior Vice President and the Exco a request was made to write to Mr. C.N. Jayawardhana former Secretary to send the Minutes of the January Exco Meeting to be tabled at the meeting.”

2. **EX-CO OF 28.7.2001**

“Mr. Rizvi Jalil vice president brought up a matter by Mr. Lakshman Jayatilake that his office is available for the use of the OBA . Mr. C.S. Ratwatte, Senior Vice President and Mr. Upali Panditharatne Vice President agreeing with the Ex-Co said that it is the discretion of the Hony. Secretary. Also it was mentioned that from the inception of the OBA in the year 1959 the Hony. Secretaries worked from their respective offices and the need does not warrant for other offices.”

Y

TELEPHONE AT KEBLE

1. **39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 27TH FEBURARY, 1999**

“It was observed that Keble dorm had 62 boarders but there was no telephone facility. Acting Headmaster was requested to rectify this shortcoming immediately. The Acting Headmaster stated that he has requested the Telecommunications Department for an additional phone to be installed in Keble Dorm. The acting Headmaster was also requested to improve on the lighting between main school and Keble Dorm.”

Z

FOOD, MENU AND DIET

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 27TH FEBRUARY 1999 Headmaster's Report

“Some members of the Student Population complained to members of the OBA that dinner served on the 26th night (Friday) was cold, insipid and unpalatable. Dinner consisted of Rice and dhal. On making further inquiries it transpired that the same meal was served for lunch. For reasons unknown, school had decided that the boarders would be served the same menu for lunch and dinner on the 26th. Probably the meals had been cooked around midmorning on the 26th of February.

Subsequently each student was served an egg in addition to rice and dhal for dinner. On questioning the cooks, they stated that they had been requested to look after the old boys. The acting headmaster in reply said that he had requested the matron to serve the student population the same food prepared for old boys. Mr. Manoharan asked the acting headmaster whether under these circumstances one could expect an increased student population in the school especially in the boarding.

Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne stated that matron was not purchasing the farm produce. She was in the habit of purchasing food items from an outside source. Head master in reply said that matron had been instructed by him to purchase all school requirements from the farm and that only if shortages occurred that food items should be purchased from an outside source. In fact one member of the OBA stated that lack of a balanced and quality diet served at college may be one of the reasons for decline in student population. It was further stated that every effort be made to offer a cup of milk to students on a daily basis. The students could be charged for the cup of milk offered.

One member of the OBA present at the meeting informed the headmaster that he was shocked to see keble dorm tea being served at 5.30 p.m. on the 26th. When requested for an explanation with regard to the delay in serving tea to keble dorm boarders, the servants had replied that their main task for the day was to look after the old boys who had gathered for the AGM.”