

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 2 OF 2007/2008 (290th)
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date : April 4, 2007 at 5.45 pm.
Place : S. Thomas' Preparatory School Colombo 3

Present : Mr Mahen Ranasinghe (MR) Senior Vice President
Mr. Kuru Uthumpala (KU) Vice President
Mr. S. Rajmohan (RM) Vice President
Mr. Chandana De Silva (CD) Vice President
Mr. Shervon Fernando (SF) Hony. Secretary
Mr. Ranjith Lowe (RL) Hony. Treasurer
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake (AK) Hony. Asst. Secretary
Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne (BK)
Mr. A C M Rashid (AR)
Mr. Hermon Fernando (HF)
Mr. Panini Edirisinhe (PE)
Mr. P. Dayabaran (PD)
Mr. Suresh Kumar (SK)
Mr. G S S Perera (SP)

Excuses

Mr. Anil Wickremeratne (AW)
Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi (NW)
Mr. S. Kaviharani (SK)
Lt. Col Hareen Walgama (HW)

Absent

Mr. Kenneth Gurusinge (KG)
Mr. Wansapriya Gunaseela (WG)
Mr. Pubudu Gunasekera (PG)

1. Call Meeting to Order

The Senior Vice President Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe chaired, in the absence of the President / Headmaster and called the Meeting to order.

2. Notice of Meeting

Notice convening the Meeting had been distributed and taken as read.

3. Messages of Excuse

As given above

4. Co-opting of Members to the Ex-Co

Messrs. P. J. Fernando and Rizvi Jalill had sent in their resignation from the Ex-Co, due to unavailability for most part of the year. The following Members were Co-opted to the Ex-Co under Rule 9 (2) b., proposed by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe and seconded by Mr. Chandana De Silva.

Mr. Kalainvan Kumaravel and Mr. Sachithra Perera

5 Obituaries

There were no obituaries recorded since the last meeting

6 Correspondence

Letters thanking Messrs. John Hunter and Muditha Dissanayake had been sent.

7 Headmaster's Report

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised that he had spoken to Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert and he had suspended 8 students for starting a fire near Keble. In response to the press advertisements, Mr. Huyghebaert had received 340 enquiries and 149 students have been found acceptable and earmarked, after processing 247 applications. 20 have already joined, making the total number 291 at present. With the balance joining in the second term, commencing May 7, the total would be 420, a record, considering that the numbers were around 400 in 2001, gradually decreasing over the years to around 250. Rev Marc Billimoria had been appointed as the new Headmaster and he had been at Gurutalawa yesterday, making one of the promised visits.

Mr. Ranasinghe explained that Mr. Huyghebaert had already achieved a lot, while taking serious action to improve discipline and as a gesture of support, proposed that some funds should be given for a worthy cause. Classroom tables and chairs, bunk beds to cater for the increased intake, in addition to refurbishment of toilets, repairing of swimming pool equipment, painting were supposed to be the most urgent needs, according to Mr. Huyghebaert and Mr. Ranasinghe proposed that we provided funds to purchase some bunk beds.

In this regard he had obtained quotations from 3 Companies, who fabricated steel bunk beds for the army, in the sum of Rs.13,000, 14,000 and 15,000. In the meantime Mr. Huyghebaert had managed to find a person in Gurutalawa to make a bed for Rs.6,500.00. Mr. Ranasinghe had obtained approval from Mr. Ed Rowlands of Australia and the OBA there, through Brig. Munasinghe, to use the funds of approximately Rs.150,000.00, they had sent last year, to be used for making the beds. The Ex-Co approved to release of Rs.149,500.00, for the purchase of 23 bunk beds accordingly.

8 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of Meeting No.1 of 2007/2008, held on March 13, 2007, were accepted as a true record, proposed by Mr. Ranjit Lowe and seconded by Mr. Chandana De Silva, with the amendment that the name of Mr. Gerald De Alwis was included in the sub Committee for the Turf Wicket.

9 Matters Arising

AGM and Re-Union Celebrations

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe tabled the invoice received from College for payment, for expenses incurred by College, during the Re-Union Celebrations, this year, in the sum of Rs.84,450.51. The breakdown was as follows:

Food items	62,486.25
Staff overtime	15,957.26
Transport	1,530.00
Electricity consumed	1,000.00
26 electric bulbs	1,040.00
Washbasin taps	990.00
PVC showers	600.00
Pynol bottles	220.00
PTFE tape	625.00
Total	84,450.51

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe explained that years ago the collection from the Old Boys at the weekend was paid to College, without asking for a bill, whether it was a profit or loss to the College. In the recent past, the cost of food was obtained from the College and it was paid, to ensure that there was no loss to College in direct costs. The bill received this time, in addition to food items, included cost of electric bulbs, repairing of showers, overtime for staff at exorbitant rates and for unbelievable hours.

The Ex-Co had the following comments on the bill.

- It was an insult to the Old Boys, to be charged for the electric bulbs and it gave the impression that they only used electricity when the Old Boys went there and also the bulbs should have given to the Old Boys when they left.
- It had been prepared by someone who had no knowledge of the traditions and the procedures.
- The overtime for workers around 30 -35 hrs was unbelievable, considering that it was a total of 48 hrs. from Friday evening to Sunday evening, allowing time for cleaning, after the Old Boys left on Sunday morning.
- College had not deducted the cost of meals given to the students, staff, workers etc. during the weekend.
- Better to use outside caterers, in future.
- Hold the Celebrations and the AGM in Colombo, without spending so much money to go all the way to Gurutalawa, if it was not appreciated.
- Not only that the work and donations of millions of Rupees by the OBA over the years, have not been appreciated, but also that the Old Boys have been amply insulted.

It was finally agreed to pay the cost of food in the first instance, in the sum of Rs. 62,486.25 and request for how the overtime was worked out.

10. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer tabled the income and expenditure account of the Re-Union Celebrations and the AGM. There was an over expenditure of Rs.64,243.51. Taking into account the unexpected charge by College of Rs. 21,962.26, hiring of cutlery and decorations, shirts and sarongs for workers, not incurred in the past and the non arrival of nearly 20 Old Boys, after promising to attend, amounting to a total of Rs.49,468.26, made the over expenditure comparable to previous years.

11. Master Plan

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe briefly explained the headings in the Master plan with Farm Development on a commercial basis managed by a Committee of Old Boys, Headmaster and a Member of the Board of Governors, land survey and fencing of land, refurbishment of swimming pool, buildings, development of water supply, distribution and treatment, sewage treatment, rain harvesting, coupled with improvement in discipline of students and staff and English standard. He expected to complete the Plan for submission to the Board, by the next Ex-Co Meeting.

12. Reports from Sub Committees

Farm Development

Dependent on the proposals of the Master Plan being accepted.

Membership and Directory

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi had held a Meeting of the Sub Committee and work was in progress.

Fellowship Dinner

Mr. Rajmohan advised that only Saturday, August 18, 2007 was available at Mount Lavinia Hotel. BMICH with catering by Mount Lavinia Hotel was considered, but it was finally decided to proceed with Mount Lavinia Hotel on August 18, based on past Fellowship Dinners, cost and better atmosphere.

Family Outing

With the Fellowship Dinner to be held in August, it was decided to postpone the family outing from June to latter part of the year. Mr. Chandana De Silva pointed out that November, December would not be suitable, as children, who sit for O level examination would be studying. The decision for a date was deferred, until the next Meeting.

Finance & Constitution

Mr. Kuru Utumpala outlined the various options for re-investing the funds available and he agreed to put forward the final recommendations soon.

Newsletter and Advertising

Mr. Mahen Ransinghe advised that the first Newsletter for the year, No.11 of the series had been sent to all Members, at the end of March . It was also included on the website.

Turf wicket

Mr. Mahen Ransinghe advised that Mr. Duleep Mendis had written to Mr. Gerald De Alwis regarding the preparation of an Agreement to lease out the grounds from College. Mr. Aritha Wickramanayake was the Member from the Board of Governors, dealing with it. There was no action possible at the time, as the cricket officials were away, involved with the world cup.

Land Surveying & Improvements to Buildings at College

Dependent on the proposals of the Master Plan

13 Membership

None enrolled since the last Meeting.

14 Any Other Business

None raised

15 Next Meeting

The Meeting adjourned at 7.40pm. Next Meeting on Saturday May 12, 2007 at 11.00 am. at S. Thomas' College Gurutalawa.

Confirmed as correct

Chairman.