

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 10 OF 2007/2008 (298th)
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date : December 15, 2007 at 9.00 am
Place : 155/35, Dolalanda Gardens, Thalawathugoda
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. P. Dayabaran (PD) Hony Treasurer
Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi (NW) Hony. Asst Treasurer
Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne (BK)
Mr. Panini Edirisinhe (PE)
Mr. Hermon Fernando (HF)

Excuses

Rev. Marc Billimoria
Mr. Shervon Fernando
Brig. B Munasinghe
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake
Mr. Sumedha Perera
Mr. S. Kaviharana

Absent

Mr. A C M Rashid
Mr. Suresh Kumar
Lt. Col Hareen Walgama
Mr. Ajith Jayathilaka
Mr. Kenneth Gurusinghe
Mr. Wansapriya Gunaseela
Mr. Sachitra Perera
Mr. A.D Sandakalum

Invitees

Mr. S. Dineshkumar
Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr. K. Wimalarajah
Mr. M.T.M Moorthy

1. Call Meeting to Order

The Senior Vice President, Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe chaired and called the Meeting to order.

2. Notice of Meeting

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

Mr. D Sivasubramaniam was appointed, as a Committee Member, to fill the vacancy in Ex-Co, under Rule 9 (3), proposed by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe and seconded by Mr. P. Dayabaran.

3. Messages of Excuse

As given above

4. Obituaries

The demise of Mrs. Mary Hayman was observed with 2 minutes silence. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe reminded the Ex-Co with stories, how much she cared for the well being of the boys.

5. Correspondence

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had been communicating with The Rotary Club of Welimada and Mr. Ed Rowlands in Australia regarding the clearing of computers and the demurrage and clearing charges, subsequently.

6. Headmaster's Report

The attached Headmaster's report, sent by e mail was tabled and read by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe.

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi said that it was a nice report and the Ex-Co agreed to place it on the website.

Mr. Mahen Ransinghe commented that he did not believe that the Dorm Masters were dynamic, as stated in the report, judging by the condition of the Dormitories, as observed during his visit for the Prize Giving. He considered that the Dorm Masters should be trained adequately first, as they seem to be clueless of the requirements. He was also concerned that more and more female staff was being recruited, in spite of statements by both the Headmaster and Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert, in various reports that there was too many female staff and the majority did not contribute for extra curricular activities. Mr. Panini Edirisinhe advised that there were hardly any male applications to advertisements, probably because of low salaries. It was noted that the issue had to be addressed.

Mr. Panini Edirisinhe advised that the repaired engine of the swimming pool pump worked well on no load, but failed when loaded. It had been taken to Colombo again for repairs.

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of Meeting No. 8 of 2007/2008, held on October 4, 2007 was accepted as a true record, proposed by Mr. P. Dayabaran and seconded by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi. The Minutes of Meeting No.9 was accepted as a true record, proposed by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi and seconded by Mr. Kuru Utumpala.

8. Matters Arising

Meeting No.8

- a. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe undertook to contact the Ex-Cos of STC Bandarawela and Colpetty, regarding proposing separate Representatives to the Board of Governors.
- b. Headmaster's proposal to make Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert an Honorary Member of the OBA, was discussed at length, with reference to the Constitution and it was agreed to discuss further with other senior Members of the OBA, as there had never been any Honorary members in the past.
- c. A fixed Deposit for Rs.300,000.00 had been opened at Commercial Bank on October 16, 2007.

Meeting No.9

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe reported that the container of computers and dental equipment was finally cleared on October 31, 2007 and taken to the yard of Trico Terminals for storage, until transferring to a lorry for transport to Welimada. The goods were loaded to a lorry the next day and taken to Welimada He thanked Mr. Don Gazara the owner of Trico Terminals for providing the yard for storage and the fork lifts etc. at no cost. Only the labour costs of unloading and loading were paid. 10 Nos. printers had been detained by the Customs, until approval to release was obtained from the Ministry of Defence. He advised that obtaining this approval required certificates from the Agents of the manufacturers of printers (12 different makes, with no local agent for some) and the demurrage charges for the printers was Rs.800.00/day, making the printers worthless. Accordingly it was agreed to forget the printers.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe, along with Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka had gone to Welimada, at the time of unloading the lorry on November 2. Messrs. Kaviharana and Pushpakumara had been arranged to select the best 60 computers, along with monitors, keyboards and mouse for taking to College plus a further 9 sets for handing over to Rotary Clubs in Colombo and Wattala as required by the donor. These were then taken to College and 60 sets were handed over to College and 9 sets were left there for bringing to Colombo to hand over to the Rotary Clubs of Wattala and Colombo.

Mr. Panini Edirisinghe confirmed that the computers were working well. Mr. Chandana De Silva requested for a proper inventory of the items. Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi was concerned whether all the computers donated by the OBA previously were still there and it was agreed that a request should be made for a full report from the College.

The total cost for clearing the container, including, demurrage charges, customs duty, unloading/loading/unloading charges, transport etc. was Rs.336,522.76 and the detailed invoice was tabled. The detailed invoice and receipts had been scanned and sent by e mail to Mr. Ed Rowlands in Australia, for reference, so that he could arrange to refund the costs. Almost the total cost was expected to be refunded.

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi proposed that one computer was kept for use by the Treasurer of the OBA and Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised that it cannot be taken from the 9 sets allocated for the Rotary Clubs. He reminded that Brig Munasinghe, who initiated the donation had strongly objected to this, supported by Mr. Kuru Utumpala, previously. Mr. Dayabaran hoped to buy a computer within the next two months and Mr. Moorthy offered to give his computer to Mr. Dayabaran until then. It was finally agreed to purchase a computer and a printer, for around RS.25,000.00, if the need arose.

9. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts

The Treasurer gave the status of accounts as follows:

Current Account at Commercial Bank, Rs. 212,529.85, as of November 30, 2007

Current Account at Standard Chartered Bank Rs.22,091.30 as of December 15, 2007

Fixed Deposit for Rs.300,000.00, renewable monthly, at interest rate 16.5%per annum, opened at Commercial Bank, on October 16, 2008.

The current account at Standard Chartered Bank had not been closed yet and it would be actioned soon.

The annual accounts were being prepared by the Treasurer and would be submitted for approval at the next Ex-Co Meeting, to be held early January, 2008 and then sent to the Auditors.

10. Junior Dormitory Toilets

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe presented the plans prepared for a completely new toilet building, with concrete roof to be used as a drying area and a viewing platform for swimming events. It comprised 9 toilets (6 with commodes and 3 with squatting pans), urinals, wash basins and shower area, all fittings being of high quality. The estimated cost was Rs.2.5 million and it was considered to be well beyond the present means and there was no time to raise it within the short time available for completion. Mr. Chandana De Silva proposed that the night toilets of the 4 Junior Dormitories be totally refurbished and the Ex-Co agreed to proceed with it. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised that the Headmaster had offered to get a quotation for the night toilets, from the Contractor, who had carried out the toilet work of the Headmaster's bungalow and currently constructing the new toilets of Blanchard Dormitory. The cost was expected to be under Rs.200,000.00. Mr. Ranasinghe hoped to visit College around Christmas inspect the toilets and discuss costs.

11. Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that the Notice of AGM would be advertised in the Daily News of Saturday, January 5, 2008, meeting the requirement of 35 days notice before the AGM. It was also agreed to advertise in Lankadeepa, in Sinhala and Weerakesari, in Tamil, on a Sunday.

The prices meals at the Re-Union celebrations were fixed as follows:

All meals (full board) - (Friday 15th dinner to Sunday 17th breakfast - Rs.1,500.00
Lunch – Saturday 16th – Rs.500.00
Fellowship Dinner – Saturday 16th - Rs.500.00

It was agreed to give a Membership Directory free of charge to those who purchase full board tickets.

12. Reports from Sub Committees

Membership and Directory

Applications for several new Members had been received and were being processed. Some requests for the Directory had also been received.

Fellowship Dinner

The accounts had been finalized.

Total Income - Advertisements in Membership Directory, banners, donations, ticket sales –Rs.885,000.00

Expenditure - Rs. 457,016.25

Profit - Rs.427,983.75

Family Outing

The attendance at the family outing had been 75. Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi questioned why it was somewhat a failure with such low attendance, where as it was attended by nearly 150 the previous year. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe considered that the previous year it would have been organized with adequate notice well in advance, with that being the only event of the OBA. This year there were many activities and the delay in sending the Newsletter, with the notice of the event would have been the main reason for the poor turn out.

Newsletter and Advertising

The Newsletter (No.2 for the year and 12th in the series) had been issued in October.

13. Any Other Business

Mr. Gerald De Alwis had requested the support of the OBA for funds, even as a loan, to refurbish the turf wicket, as he had only received Rs.11,000.00, to date, from the Old Boys he had contacted. The requirement was Rs. 200,000.00

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka explained that the biggest problem would be to look after the turf wicket and the maintenance of it. A member of staff from the village had been paid an allowance of Rs.3,000.00/month, in the past, to keep the villagers off the grounds. He questioned how the turf wicket could be protected from the villagers. Mr. Rajmohan said that the maintenance cost of the turf wicket at Mount ran into millions of Rupees annually.

With the Ex-Co undertaking the refurbishing of the night toilets, there were no funds available to honour Mr. Alwis's request.

14. Next Meeting

The Meeting adjourned at 12 noon. Next Meeting to be decided upon completion of annual accounts, by mid January 2008.

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman