

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 01 OF 2008/2009 (301st)
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date : March 5, 2008 at 7:00 PM
Place : #155/35, Dolalanda Gardens, Thalawathugoda.
Present :

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe	MR)	Senior Vice President
Mr. S. Rajmohan	(RM)	Vice President
Mr. Chandana De Silva	(CS)	Vice President
Mr. Dinusha de Costa	(DC)	Hony. Secretary
Mr. P. Dayabaran	(PD)	Hony. Treasurer
Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	(NW)	
Mr. M.P.D. Perera	(MPD)	
Mr. Krishantha Weerawardane	(KW)	
Mr. Shervon Fernando	(SF)	
Mr. A.A.R. Mawahib	(AM)	
Mr. Lasantha Perera	(LP)	
Mr. S. Kaviharan	(SK)	
Mr. Thirumurugamoorthy Muthuvel	(MT)	
Mr. A.D. Sandakelum	(AS)	

Excuses

Rev. Marc Billimoria
Mr. Christo Gonawela
Mr. Sirilal Wickremaratne
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake

Absent

Mr. S. Balaramesh
Mr. Sarachchandra
Mr. S. Prabakaran

Invitees

Mr. W. Eshan Abeyawardena
Mr. B.H. Wijewardena
Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr. D. Mahinda Ranasinghe
Mr. Palitha Rajapakse
Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera
Mr. Tusitha Nanayakkara

1. Call Meeting to Order

The Senior Vice President, Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe chaired and called the Meeting, which had been postponed from March 4, 2008, to order. He welcomed the new Committee and introduced the new Members, Messrs. Dinusha De Costa, Krishantha Weerawardane, M.P.D. Perera, A.A.R. Mawahib, Lasanth Perera and Thirumurugamoorthy, Muthuvel. He made special mention of Messrs. Krishantha Weerawardane and M.P.D. Perera, who had not been actively involved with the OBA in the recent past and expected their participation in the Ex-Co to help to strengthen the OBA. He also thanked the invitees, Messrs. Bandu Wanigasekera and Lakshman Jayatilaka for supporting the Ex-Co with valuable advice and active involvement in the activities of the OBA, in the past, Messrs. Srilal Wickramaratne, Palitha Rajapaksa and Mahinda Ranasingbe, for agreeing to join the Ex-Co, having not been actively involved in the recent past, Mr. Thusitha Nanayakkara, the leading figure in the 95 Group, coming all the way from Monaragala and Mr. Eshan Abeyawardena, a young Old Boy, who had recently left College, for agreeing to join the Ex-Co.

2. Notice of Meeting

Notice of Meeting was taken as read.

3. Messages of Excuse

As above

4. Co-opting of Five members to the Ex-Co under Rule 9 (2) b

The following Members were co-opted to the Ex-Co.

Messrs. Mahinda Ranasinghe, Palitha Rajapaksa, Srilal Wickramasinghe proposed by Mr. Nihal Wanniararchchi and seconded by Mr. Shervon Fernando. Messrs. Thusitha Nanayakkara and Eshan Abeyawardena proposed by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe and seconded by Mr. Nihal Wanniararchchi.

5. Appointing of Representatives to the STC Mt. Lavinia OBA

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe was appointed as the Representative to the Ex-Co of STC Mt. Lavinia OBA, proposed by Mr. M.P.D Perera and seconded by Mr. Rajmohan. Mr. Dinusha De Costa was appointed as the Representative at the AGM of STC Mt. Lavinia OBA, proposed by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe and seconded by Mr. Shervon Fernando.

6. Obituaries

None

7. Correspondence

The Headmaster had sent an e mail with matters to be discussed at the Meeting.

The Rotary Club of Welimada had sent a letter regarding the funds received (details given under matters arising)

8. Headmaster's Report

The Headmaster had advised by e mail that the College team had won the Thomian General Knowledge Quiz, held at Prep School, Kollupitiya, by the Thomian Society among the 4 S.Thomas's, on February 16, 2008, beating STC Mt. Lavinia in the finals. The Ex-Co was pleased and proud to hear this news.

The student numbers as of March 4, had been 535 on roll and 503 present.

The following items he had requested to be taken up were discussed.

- a. Awarding of Hayman and Chapman Scholarships – Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera pointed out that, currently, all scholarship funds were in fixed deposits, mixed up with other funds and recommended that separate fixed deposits should be opened for scholarship funds. He offered to prepare the separated figures for presentation at the next Meeting.
- b. Staff felicitation ceremony with cash awards for long service etc. - It was agreed to check with Mt. Lavinia OBA, how it was practiced there.
- c. Preparations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the OBA and fund raising projects – To be discussed under items below.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe briefed his observations and actions during his visit to College on March 1, 2008 as follows:

- i. Saturday morning prep had been seen to be well disciplined, with students studying quietly on their own as in the distant past, whereas it was more like a fish market in the recent past, with everyone talking and some half asleep with the heads jacked up on the table.
- ii. The head gasket of the swimming pool pump had failed and it had been replaced. Some leaves had blocked the inflow of cooling water from the tank to the engine, causing the failure. The operator was found to be totally inexperienced compared to the previous operator, Abeytissa, who had been trained to some extent by him in the past. Mr. Krishantha Jayawardane, who carried out the repairs at great expense, with many visits to College, agreed and was disappointed that it had happened, even after the operator had been given specific instructions to keep an eye on the cooling water. He also revealed the shocking news that the gasket had been replaced by the operator himself, whereas it should have been replaced by an experienced mechanic. He had been informed subsequently that the engine was smoking badly. The dosage of alum was not at all adequate and Mr. Ranasinghe had trained the operator on how it should be done at a slow rate, with a primitive siphoning arrangement.

- iii. There was rubbish lying all over the premises and the need for the replacement of the badly corroded half barrel dustbins was stressed. Mr. Mahinda Ranasinghe offered to look into the possibility of obtaining some plastic dustbins from a known source.
- iv. There were many cut trees lying around and rotting away, which could be used for firewood, but firewood was being bought from outside by tractor loads, daily.
- v. The Dormitories (both Junior and Senior) showed some improvement in the arrangement of beds and lockers, but the making of the beds was poor. He had demonstrated and trained the Hayman Senior School Prefect on how to make the beds, in the presence of Mr. Kamalkannan, one of the Dorm Masters. Mr. Kamalkannan had agreed to advise other Dorm Masters and train all students, accordingly.
- vi. Even the few members of staff, who spoke English, were seen talking to the children in Sinhala, when they should be speaking in English, to improve the badly affected English standard.

9. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of Meeting No. 12 of 2007/2008, held on February 11, 2008 was accepted as a true record, proposed by Mr. S. Rajmohan and seconded by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi, subject to the following amendment.

Change Place of Meeting to S. Thomas' College Preparatory School, Kollupitiya from St. Thomas' College, Colpetty, as pointed out by Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka.

10. Matters Arising

Item 8 a – Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had been advised by the Headmaster that he had heard unofficially from the Board of Governors that the request of the OBAs of the three STC Branch schools, to change the Rule, to appoint individual OBA Representatives to the Board, had to be passed by the Parliament. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka totally disagreed with this requirement and confirmed that only a simple majority at the AGM or a SGM of the Board was required for the change, as given in Rule No.24 of the constitution.

Item 8 c – The Rotary Club had sent a letter confirming that Rs.327,703.30 was received from the Rotary Club of Yarrowonga, Australia, along with a copy of their bank statement to show the entry. They had also confirmed that the shortfall of Rs.8,819.46, from the total amount (due to exchange rate), would be shared equally with us. Accordingly the refund of Rs.135,591.00 out of Rs.140,00.00 advance taken from the OBA for clearing the computers had been credited to the Commercial Bank account. $(140,000.00 - 8,819.46/2 = 135,591.00)$

Mr. Kaviharana confirmed that 45 out of 60 computers, handed over to the College were working well.

Item 11 - The AGM had been well attended by 124, with over 40 Old Boys, mostly the young Old Boys from years, 2003/4 joining the OBA and attending. Nearly 200 had taken lunch and 140 had attended the Fellowship Dinner. Separate tickets for full board, lunch and dinner had been a success and Mr. Dayabaran confirmed that the total collection from meal tickets was Rs. 157,000.00.

The bill for costs incurred by College was still awaited and the final account for the AGM and Re-Union Celebrations was expected to be finalized by the next Meeting.

11. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirmed the following bank balances.
 Commercial Bank Current Account – Rs.203,991.13
 Standard Chartered Current Account – Rs.22,841.30

12. Resolutions for Authorization of Signatories to Banks

The following resolutions were adopted, proposed by Mr .P. Dayabaran and seconded by Mr. Chandana De Silva.

- a. Close the current account at Standard Chartered Bank and transfer the available funds to the current account at Commercial Bank
- b. Change the signatories and mailing address, in accordance with the Constitution, for accounts etc. at National Savings Bank, Hatton National Bank and Commercial Bank.

13. Appointment of Sub Committees for:

a. Events and Entertainment

It was agreed that a Dinner/Dance be held early October, 2008, as the main entertainment event, combined with a raffle. Mr. Krishantha Weerawardane advised that he had discussed the idea of the raffle with the Headmaster and he would help to get the support of other schools like Ladies, Bishops and Trinity, but required Bishop's approval.

Committee – Messrs. Krishantha Weerawardane, M.P.D Perera, Mahen Ranasinghe, Mahinda Ranasinghe, Palitha Rajapaksa, Nihal Wanniarachchi., The Chairman and other members to be appointed later.

b. Fund Raising

Fund raising to be mainly through the Dinner/Dance and the raffle. Mr. M.P.D Perera expected donations from some Old Boys for specific projects and this to be pursued once the projects were identified.

c. Newsletters

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe undertook

d. Membership Development

Mr. Chandana De Silva undertook the task, as he had a plan.

e. Projects

The main Project currently being considered was the construction of the Junior Dormitory Toilets. Any other Projects to be decided depending on funds. Mr. Nihal Wanniarachch considered that a good 'Ladies' toilet for visitors was a necessity.

14. Any Other Business

Mr. Mawahib wished to develop scouting in College and he agreed to take it up with the Headmaster.

15. Next Meeting

The Meeting adjourned at 9.15PM. Next Meeting - Saturday, March 29, 2008, at 6.30 pm
The preferred day for the Meetings was Friday.

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman