

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA - OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 03 OF 2008/2009 (303rd)
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date : May 10, 2008 at 1.30 pm

Place : S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa

Present :

Rev. Marc Billimoria	(HM)	President
Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe	(MR)	Senior Vice President
Mr. Christo Gonawela	(CG)	Vice President
Mr. S. Balaramesh	(SB)	Hony. Asst. Secretary
Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	(NW)	
Mr. M.P.D. Perera	(MPD)	
Mr. D. Mahinda Ranasinghe	(DMR)	
Mr. Palitha Rajapakse	(PR)	
Mr. Krishantha Weerawardane	(KW)	
Mr. Srilal Wickremaratne	(SW)	
Mr. Thirumurugamoorthy Muthuvel	(MT)	
Mr. Lasantha Perera	(LP)	
Mr. A.A.R. Mawahib	(AM)	
Mr. Thisitha Nanayakkara	(AM)	
Mr. S. Prabaharan	(SP)	
Mr. S. Kaviharan	(SK)	

Excuses

Mr. S. Rajmohan
Mr. Chandana De Silva
Mr. Dinusha de Costa
Mr. P. Dayabaran
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake
Mr. Shervon Fernando
Mr. Eshan Abeyawardena
Mr. A.D. Sandakelum

Absent

Mr. Sarachchandra

Invitees

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr. Sumedha Perera

1. Call Meeting to Order

The President, Rev, Marc Billimoria chaired and called the Meeting to order.

2. Notice of Meeting

Notice of Meeting was taken as read.

3. Messages of Excuse

As above

4. Obituaries

None

5. Correspondence

Mr. Peter Weerakoon had advised by e mail that Guru Old Boys had formed a “Gurutalawa Support Group” with the view to supporting development of sports in College.

Mr. Ed Rowlands of Australia had confirmed by e mail, his pledge of Rs. 350,000.00, towards the Junior Dormitory Toilet Project.

Mr. Kamal Nilaweera had spoken to Mr. Mahen Ransinghe and later confirmed by e mail that OTAUK had decided not to have a Memorial Service for Mrs. Hayman and the funds collected (Approx.Rs.180,000.00) would be sent to the OBA to open a Scholarship Fund in her name. He had also requested for a photograph of Mrs. Haman be hung in the sickroom.

6. Headmaster’s Report

The Headmaster tabled the report, as attached.

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of Meeting No.2 held on March 29, 2008 was accepted as a true record, proposed by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi and seconded by Mr. Cristo Gonawala.

8. Matters Arising

Item 5 - Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had written to STC Mt Lavinia Ex-Co that Rule 13 c of their constitution clearly covered the appointment of a Representative from STC Guru OBA for the AGM, with voting rights.

Item 8a - The Headmaster considered that the R.L Hayman Scholarship for the all round student should be given to one in financial difficulty, awarded for the final year, but selected in the penultimate year. He would make a short list for selection by a Committee.

Item 8 iii – 20 Nos. dustbins from Phoenix arranged by Mr. Mahinda Ranasinghe and 20 Nos. containers for use as dustbins from Lankem arranged by Mr. Moorthy had arrived at College. The stencil “Keep Environment Clean” and “STCG OBA” was handed over to the Headmaster, for painting on the dustbins , by the students of the Interact Club. Headmaster advised that the provision of dustbins had been planned as a project by the Interact Club, and the Club would now move to build the bus halt and refurbish the entrance area.

Item 12 – Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised, as per information given by the treasurer, that the signatories at Hatton National Bank had been changed and the current account at Standard Chartered Bank had been closed, with the transfer of Rs.22,941.30 to the current account at Commercial Bank. .

9. Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe confirmed, as advised by the Treasurer that the balance in the current account at Commercial Bank, as at May 9, 2008 was Rs.132,870.61

The food bill from College for the Re-Union Celebrations this year, in the sum of Rs.99,189.17 had been paid.

Mr. Mahen Ransinghe also advised that the standing orders to the earlier Standard Chartered Account from the following donors had been transferred to Commercial Bank.

Mr. S.K Wickramasinghe – Rs. 3000 (bi-yearly)
Mr. J.O Yatawara - Rs. 350 (monthly)
Mr.M.F.F. Cafffor - Rs. 300 (monthly)
Mr.S. K Nanayakkara - Rs. 750 (bi-yearly)

Mr. L.G.J Goonawardana – Rs. 100 (3 monthly), could not be contacted to advise on the change of the Bank.

Mr. Peter Weerakoon’s sister had sent Rs. 5000 towards the Sports Fund to be opened in Mr. Ronnie Weerakoon’s name. The Ex-Co approved the opening of a Savings Account at Commercial Bank with the Rs.6,000, received from Mr. Peter Weerakoon earlier and the above Rs.5000. Any other funds from the Gurutalawa Support Group of Australia would also be saved in this account, until it was large enough to open a Fixed Deposit.

10. Dinner Dance

The Sub Committee had met on April 30, 2008 and decided to go ahead with a Fellowship Dinner instead of a Dinner Dance, either Friday or Saturday of the first three weekends of October this year. The Headmaster requested for it to be held after October 8, as a Chapel Service had been scheduled for October 4. The venue would be decided at the next Sub Committee Meeting, to be held on May 14, 2008. Also it had been decided to make available Issue 4 of the Membership Directory, with advertisements, as there were over 100 new Members, since issuing the last Directory.

11. Fund Raising

To be taken up along with the Fellowship Dinner.

12. Newsletters

First newsletter for the year to be sent after finalizing the venue for the Fellowship Dinner.

13. Membership

As the Chairman of the Sub Committee for Membership, Mr. Chandana De Silva was absent and had not made any progress to date, the Ex-Co appointed Mr. Moorthy as Chairman of this Sub Committee.

Mr. Susantha Palihawadana had made arrangements to form the first Branch of the OBA at Nuwara Eliya, in the evening, so that all Ex-Co Members present could attend the occasion at Nuwara Eliya.

14 Projects – Junior Dormitory Toilets:

The drawing of the preliminary design for the Junior Dormitory toilets would be sent to the Headmaster for obtaining a quotation from Mr. Jayaratne, the Contractor who completed the Blanchard Dormitory toilets and the Junior Dormitory night toilets.

15 Any Other Business

- a. Mr. Cristo Gonawala advised that he had received US\$1000 from OBA California, for donation to school.
- b. Mr. Mahinda Ranasinghe had arranged for a dough mixer to be repaired for the College bakery and suggested that 1 or 2 workers be sent to his bakery for training.
- c. The Headmaster commented on the necessity of washing machines and Mr. Mahinda Ransinghe suggested looking for second hand washing machines and driers from garment factories.
- d. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka referred to an e.mail he had received from Mr. Muditha Dissanayake wherein he had stated “..... *also I haven't had the time to add to the College website and I did not put any effort as it seems that the College does not benefit from the website anymore. However, I have managed to bear the cost of the website.*” At this point the Headmaster mentioned that the website was a very useful tool and Mr. Kaviharana of the staff was competent to manage the site. However he mentioned that there appear to be some doubt whether www.stcguru.com was the site of the College or of the OBA. Mr. Jayatilaka informed that there was no dispute whatsoever on this matter and that the site was that of the College but was being run and managed by the OBA. He explained the circumstances under which the site was set up by an Old Boy Mr. Muditha Dissanayake, initially with a donation from an Old Boy and that he had advised Mr. Disanayake to co-ordinate with the Headmaster and operate the site under the control of the Headmaster. The Ex-Co agreed to appoint one or two of its Members to co-ordinate with Mr. Kaviharana with regard to the smooth transition in the handing over of the Management of the website to College under the control of the Headmaster.

Mr. Jayatilaka also appealed to the Headmaster to make available at least Monthly Reports to be uploaded on the web site of the 62 Group, as it had a wide reach now considering the fact that so many activities were taking place in College. He stressed that support from all avenues must be explored and considered that it would inure to the advantage of College to keep Old Boys particularly those in far off lands to be kept informed, and emprise the development projected at Guru. The Headmaster agreed to co-operate and mentioned that Mr. Jayatilaka had previously too made this request.

Thereafter Mr.Jayatilaka mentioned that he had an unpleasant task of referring to certain remarks His Lordship the Bishop had made at public forums in Gurutalawa and elsewhere with regard to interference by Old Boys and/or the OBA in the Management of the College. He appealed to the Headmaster to inform the Bishop that interference was furthest from the minds of Old Boys; that they have always rallied round to assist the College; that none of the Old Boys had any vested interest in the College as no return or financial gain was anticipated in whatever way they involved themselves and that their children were not students in College; that each time Old Boys visited College it involved much financial expenditure apart from utilizing valuable time and energy ; that it was purely due to the love the Old Boys had for their Alma Mater that motivated them in their activities in connection with the development of the College etc, etc. The Headmaster assured all that this matter had now been completely forgotten and he was certain it could be laid to rest.

- e. Mr. Thusith Nanayakkara had spoken to his superiors at Janashakthi Insurance Co. and suggested that the OBA became an Insurance Agent to promote all types of insurance to the Members, to receive a good income through commissions. The Ex-Co while thanking him for the suggestion, agreed to discuss further with Mr. Duleepkumar.
- f. Mr. Srilal Wickramaratne enquired why the OBA quarters were given to other visitors and the Headmaster replied that the Old Boys would have to share it with any visitors accepted by the Headmaster.
- g. The Headmaster requested for any support to obtain approval from the Government to use the “School Net” facility, as it was only available to Government Schools.
- h. The Headmaster advised that the telephone facility, Virtual Private Network (VPN), was now in operation, at Rs.200/month/phone and billed separately to users.

16 Next Meeting

The Meeting adjourned at 4.20 pm. Next meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at 6.30 pm, as the Headmaster would be in Colombo then. (venue to be advised)

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman