

The Editorial in the Thomiana (Melbourne OBA) -

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The essence of being a Thomian - three teenagers remind us

Who amongst us can claim to be a Thomian? Is it enough that we were once enrolled at that school by the sea? Is it enough that we know the words to the College song and might have had the opportunity to represent the school on the playing field, on stage or in the swimming pool? Or do our actions speak louder than our words?

The recent 130th Royal-Thomian encounter was almost as big an occasion, as the Centenary match in 1979. Once again, Thomian grit and resolve came to the fore - clearly, we save the best for the big occasions.

The scoreboard at noon on Friday (day 2 of 3) suggested the game would be over by Tea the same day, or shortly afterwards. Thomian Captain Nirrushan and opening batsman Saleem, however, remembered the essence of being Thomian. They fought back in style and together assembled a record partnership that almost took us out of the woods. Unfortunately, an umpiring error sent Nirrushan back to the pavilion and just when it looked dark and gloomy for STC, a fifteen year old kid walked up to the crease to remind us that Thomians are truly special. Sachin wasn't going to give up easily and that was evident in his body language and shot selection. As the scoreboard ticked on past 400, Sachin and his mates reminded us all that Thomians come to the fore when others might not. The scoreboard might suggest that the end result was a draw but that only tells half the story. For all practical purposes, victory was ours.

Even as the afterglow of that great Thomian fightback fades off into the annals of history, the OBA in Australia turns its attention to the calendar ahead. It's easy to be disheartened by news of job cuts, budget freezes and the general sense of recessionary doom and gloom. Should we curl up and retreat or should we press ahead as planned? Perhaps the choices those young Thomians made, at the SSC ground, might have some cues for us?

Under pressure and short on resources, those kids stood up as a team and faced the challenge as Thomians should. There were five LBW decisions that went against us in the first innings and we took the umpire at his word. Most of those present at the ground saw the turf kiss the ball before Nirrushan was ruled caught in the second innings but Nirrushan took the umpire at his word. Not only did our boys demonstrate ample reserves of Thomian grit, they also took the high road with grace and composure.

The College song asks us to rally round the college flag, whilst other schools talk of books and books and yet others claim to be the best school of all. Thomians, make no boasts. Grit, grace, courage, unity and humility are expected of us. We walk and dine with kings and beggars alike. There is an earthiness about S Thomas and yet we're well prepared for the World's stage. When we call ourselves Thomians, we set expectations.

There is some confusion as to the origins of the phrase 'cometh the hour, cometh the man'. Some say it's derived from an Old English proverb 'Opportunity makes the man' and others point at 'Because the Hour's come, and the Man' in a Sir Walter Scott novel. Some suggest the true origin was the Gospel of John (4:23) 'But the hour cometh, and now is.'

With all that is happening around us, for Thomians, the hour cometh. There is no better time for us to demonstrate the essence of being a Thomian.

Esto Perpetua!

Vasee Nesiah
Editor