

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY, 2010

Minutes of the S.Thomas' College Old Boys Association Australian Branch Inc. Annual General Meeting held at the Youth Centre, 45, Miller Crescent, Mt.Waverley, on Saturday 13th. February, 2010, with Chris Varney presiding.  
The meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

**1. PRESENT :** Ashton Anthonisz, Lalith Aponso, Suren Aponso, Andy Armitage, Dermot Claasz, Bertram Daniel, Frank David, Jarit de Mel, Milroy de Vos, Anthony Ferdinands, Ernest Ferdinands, Rupert Ferdinands, Kingsley Fernando, Mahes Fernando, Niral Fernando, Nihal Heenetigala, Amal Illangakoon, Doug Ingram, Bumpy Jayasekera, Asoka Jayasinghe, Ranga Jayasinghe, Selva Kanagasabai, Delwyn Lappen, Christopher Lawton (Snr.), Leon Lewis, Milinda Liyanage, Saman Liyanage, Allison Loos, Trevor Maartensz, Tony Mallet, Trevor Meares, Glen Mendis, Trevor Mendis, Bandula Molligoda, Nabil Mubarak, Mark Nanayakkara, Vasee Nesiah, Carlo Palmer, Duane Peiris, Kirthi Peiris, Morley Pereira, Chandra Perera, Shehan Perera, Premkumar Sanjay, Barclay Reid, Claud Reid, Johann Reid, Ronnie Reid, David Rockwood, John Rodie, Manish Samarajiwa, Arasu Saravanamuttu, Ari Saravanamuttu, Peter Schoorman, Jayampathy Silva, M. Sri Bawan, Allan Varney, Chris Varney, Jayantha Wanigatunga, Peter Weerakoon, Prasada Wijayasuriya  
(Names taken from the attendance sheet signed by members on arrival)

**2. WELCOME by the PRESIDENT :** The President, welcoming all members and their families thanked them warmly for their presence.

**3. APOLOGIES :** Roger Aldons, Hermon Bartholomeusz, Nalin Dassanaikie, Ronnie de Kretser, Sarath de Mel, Dick Emerson, Peneeth Goonawardena, Shantha Hallock, Errol Jacotine, Hubert Hesse, Jeff Koch, Chris Lawton (Jnr), Michael Lawton, Peter Ondaatje, Gavin Palmer, Mazhar Rauff, Richard Roberts, Ryan Roberts, Keith Wambeek, Odath Weerasinghe, David Varney, Raj Vytilingam.

**3.1 IN MEMORIAM :** The President requested Members to stand and observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect for Old Thomians, OBA members and Teaching Staff who had passed away during 2009 - 10 :  
Uthum Herath, Ivor C. H. Jansz, Claude Goonetilleke, Vincent Burder, Raja Rutnam, Rukshan Perera, Capt. D.A. Wickremasinghe, Wendy Harris, L.M.P. de Silva, Ossie Seneviratne, Ainsley Thiedeman, Robin Dixon, Saman Weerawatte, Sepala Illangakoon, Mrs. Sathvikthi Anandanayagam, Roy Winter, Farook Cader, Ruston Kellar, Lorna Mendis.

The President then declared the meeting open.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM :** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 28th. February 2009, were adopted as proposed by Tony Mallet and seconded by Selva Kanagasabai

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES :** There were no matters raised.

**6. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2009:**  
Referring to his early resignation and the comments made by the Secretary in para 2 c. of the report, Niral Fernando explained the reasons for his resignation.

## 2.

The report was adopted as proposed by Arasu Saravanamuttu and seconded by Glen Mendis

**7. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2009 :** The report and Audited Accounts for 2009 were presented by the Treasurer .

**7.1** The President, at the outset, explained the sums of money shown in Note 4 to the Accounts. He said that these were monies collected from the sale of OBA 2007 and 2008 Dance tickets, and which was still due from the President of that period, Nalin Dassanaiké. To the several queries from members, the President replied :

- a) The total sum due to the OBA from Nalin Dassanaiké was \$8,170.
- b) Nalin acknowledged by email that he owes this sum of money .
- c) The ex co is convinced that the best avenue for recovery at this stage is persuasion and Nalin's cooperation, rather than through legal action. The latter option does not guarantee repayment and is likely to be very costly. Also, the adverse publicity will seriously damage the OBA's reputation within and beyond Australia.

**7.2** Several members expressed their shock and disappointment with Nalin Dassanaiké saying that he had abused the trust placed in him as the OBA's President. Among the comments made are -

- a) John Rodie and Amal Illangakoon said that firm action should be taken to recover the money. John Rodie suggested a Sub Committee of three senior members be appointed to check the OBA's accounts and financial status periodically.
- b) Morley Pereira said that comments made on this issue should be specific, and members referred to by name.
- c) Carlo Palmer said that being Thomians, in the true Thomian spirit Nalin should be given a chance to pay back the money.
- d) Selva Kanagasabai said this was the first time such an incident had occurred. While the strong views and anger expressed by some members were understandable, our actions should focus on restitution, not retribution. The three important things for the OBA in this matter are :

- i) Recovery of the money;
- ii) Taking effective steps to prevent a recurrence of such an offence;
- iii) Dealing with the damage to our reputation, as this bad news will

certainly go beyond the OBA. The committee has taken steps to recover the money and we should show our confidence in them by allowing them to manage this: if they need to discuss problems that may arise, we have senior people who are more than willing help.

- e) The general consensus was that, as stated in 7.1 ( c ) above, the Ex Co should recover the money without delay .

The report was accepted on a Arasu Saravanamuttu / Glen Mendis motion.

**8. OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS :** Members of the OBA, it has been yet another year in which we certainly had no time to breathe between OBA activities. Nevertheless, it has been an enjoyable task to serve our Alma Mater. We have had many functions during the year, and the participation has been tremendous from within the membership. I am thankful for the untiring efforts of my Committee to make every function a success, and without you Gentlemen, it would not have been what it was.

I would be failing in my duties if I did not thank some of the OBA members for their many contributions, their time and effort. I would also like to thank wives of the Executive Committee for their tireless efforts at our various functions. Thank you, once again.

**9. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** The President then invited past Past President Selva Kanagasabai to be President pro tem. Taking the Chair, Selva said that the President and Executive Committee deserve to be congratulated for having so many successful events last year inspite of the prevailing tension. He reminded members that those who come forward to serve on the committee sacrifice a lot of their time, leisure, and weekends for the Association. The members showed their appreciation unreservedly with applause.

Selva also asked the meeting to welcome Ronnie Asirvathem, a visitor from Sri Lanka, who had been in the college rugby and athletics teams in the early 60s.

**9.1 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FOR 2010 :** Selva informed the members that the nomination of Chris Varney was the only one received . Chris was re - elected President with the unanimous approval of the House.

**9.2 OFFICE BEARERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for 2010 :**  
Taking the Chair, Chris Varney announced that the following were the only nominations received :

Vice Presidents : **Trevor Meares, Trevor Mendis, and Ari Saravanamuttu.**

Honorary Secretary : **Chris. J. Lawton**

Asst. Honorary Secretary : **Chanaka Seneviratne**

Honorary Treasurer : **Glen Mendis**

Asst Honorary Treasurer : **Peneeth Goonewardena**

Editor : **Vasee Nesiah**

Executive Committee : **Milinda Liyanage, Ashton Anthonisz, Lalith Aponso, Nabil Mubarak, Mark Nanayakkara, Asfan Thajudeen.**

The above were declared elected with the unanimous approval of the House.

**10. HONORARY AUDITOR :** The President informed the house that there was one nomination for this position – Rodney Jansz, and he was appointed with the approval of the House.

The President thanked the past Auditor , Saman Liyanage for his cooperation and willingness to serve the OBA whenever required.

**11. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT FOR 2010:** The President said that when planning the OBA activities for the year, the Executive Committee will try to

ensure that there is something to interest each group of members. But members must remember that an Association such as ours is only as good as the sum of its members. There are more than 300 Old Thomians on the roll and there are just as many who are not. It is imperative that we make an effort to grow stronger by bringing in new members. I challenge our members to spread the word and invite new members to sign-up. This will be my focus this year.

I also take this opportunity to thank Past Presidents Arasu Saravanamuttu and P.J.O. Silva for continuing to be of service to the OBA.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS :** In response to a query from Tony Mallet, Trevor Meares said that the payment of subscription arrears by members was better than expected.

Peter Weerakoon said that the membership list in the last Thomiana did not appear to be complete. Trevor Meares replying said that names of only the financial members were published. Arasu Saravanamuttu suggested that all names be published in the last issue of Thomiana before the AGM.

As there was no further business raised for discussion the President invited all members and their ladies to dinner, and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

***Chris. J. Lawton***  
***Honorary Secretary***