

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE OBA SINCE MARCH 02, 2002

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERS REGISTER AND SECRETARIAL WORK.

1. a. An updated Register of Members with Membership Numbers allocated, endorsements made regarding deceased Members and change of address recorded is now available.
- b. Membership Cards have been prepared, laminated and sent by Registered Post to members. New Members are issued their Membership Cards without delay.
- c. Applications for Membership are readily available with all Ex-Co members; handed over at any gathering, (as was at the Dinner Dance) supplied on request by post, fax, e.mail or delivered and enclosed in Newsletters; and when perfected and returned acknowledged in writing and processed speedily.
- d. Life Membership Subscription fees received are acknowledged and an Official Receipt dispatched immediately.
- e. Payment by Money Order is not a designated mode recognised in the Application Form. Some members made payment of subscription fees by money order payable to the Headmaster at Gurutalawa. The Applications were accepted. The members were enrolled. This is in contrast to a situation that arose during the period of the last Ex-Co when an Application was almost rejected on flimsy grounds. It required a strong letter of protest to vary that unfair decision. In a school which has, 8500 Old Boys and only 800 had joined its OBA out of which only 400 could be contacted and only 60-100 out of that limited number visited Gurutalawa once a year, this attitude of an individual or two on that Ex-Co was reprehensible.
- . Intimations re. change of address from Members are acknowledged in writing and acted upon immediately with endorsements in the Member's Register .
- g. Any proposals, suggestions forwarded by Members are arranged to be placed before the next Meeting of the Ex-Co and the Member concerned informed accordingly in writing and invited to be present to elaborate.
- h. Expenses by way of Postage (local and foreign), Stationery, Courier, Fax, E.mail, Laminating, Telephone, Advertisements in News Papers, Clerical, Word Processing, Printing, Travelling, Delivery, Purchase of Books have not been claimed from the OBA. This includes Newsletters, Circulars, Letters, Fliers etc. The total cost exceeds Rs. 560,383/-. These expenses have been met by Old Boys.
- i. No correspondence files (since 1959) were made available to the Secretary by his predecessor. Letters sent previously to be tabled at the Ex-Co Meetings were not available in the Minute Books. The annexures to the Secretary's Report read out at the last AGM were not available in the Minute Book nor handed over. The Minute Books themselves were in total disarray and were rehabilitated. It was found that the Minute Books were in such a bad state due to heavy annexures being stapled or pasted on to a single leaf in the Book, several times over. Ex Co Minutes were made available only from 1997. AGM Minutes were made available only from 1996. No previous records whatsoever are available officially.
- j. All Minutes together with tabled documents are now made part of the Minutes contemporaneously, in an orderly manner.
- k. Copies of all letters dispatched by the OBA are retained. They are kept in a separate file and serially numbered. A list is also maintained to facilitate proper handing over on the date of transition i.e at the next AGM. These letters are entered in an "Outward letter Register". The total Number sent out since March 02, 2002, is 2208 up to December 27,2002.
- l. All letters received by the OBA are date franked, retained in a file and serially numbered together with a list prepared to facilitate handing over after the next AGM. These letters are entered in an "Inward Letter Register". The total number received since March 02, 2002 is 60 as at December 27, 2002.
- m. All office procedures have been streamlined in relation to the work of the Secretary. Any Member is free to telephone or write or e-mail or fax and receive a prompt response.
- n. Members who have changed their addresses and whose letters are returned undelivered are

listed separately in the Newsletters so that their friends or acquaintances could inform the Secretary of their current whereabouts, if and when known.

o. The Old Register contained over 168 Names without any address whatsoever. It also contained 33 names which had been pencilled in an unusual manner without any note as to whether they were members or not. Some names were repeated more than twice. Some names had Membership Numbers allocated against their names, whilst most names did not. Some past members of the Ex-Co also had not been included in this Register. The names of past Wardens and Headmasters who held office Ex-Officio as Patrons and Presidents of the OBA respectively and are Life Members were not included.

p. As at March 02,2002 almost half the membership on the Register could not be contacted for want of addresses. Subsequent to information sought in the Newsletters concerned, several Old Boys obliged and the Register of Members was updated accordingly. Several Members were located in this manner. As at November 641 members are on the Mailing List of the OBA. The addresses of 173 are not known.

q. Since March 02,2002, 70 new Members have been enrolled up to December 27,2002. This is the highest number for any year. 7 Applications are pending with the Headmaster for verification.

r. Two Receipts written by the former Secretary in respect of subscription fees for life membership were found in a file, containing Applications. As there were no addresses available, the receipts could not be posted. Subsequent to the despatch of the Newsletters the required information which was sought came in and the 2 receipts were despatched to the respective members.

s. The Secretary and the Treasurer tabled lists of files, Registers, documents etc, they had received from their predecessors and these were minuted of record at a meeting of the Ex-Co.

t. As at March 2002 not a single member of the regular academic staff of the College was a member of the OBA. The Staff have been encouraged to join the OBA. Since mid June 2002, 17 members of the staff have joined. Their subscription fees of Rs.8500/- was sponsored by an Old Boy. This is for the good of the College, the students and the staff. Better interaction has already brought results. This was previously a serious drawback.

u. The OBA is open to all Old Boys and the Teaching Staff of Gurutalawa. At the time the Rules were drawn up there were no female students studying in College. Nor were there female teaching staff. This has changed drastically during the last 2 decades. In fact presently the Supervisors of the Primary School and Middle School are both female Teachers who have been in service at Gurutalawa for over 20 years. So also there have been female students who have completed their entire school education at Gurutalawa. This matter was discussed by the Ex-Co and it was considered perfectly in order for such Teachers and students to join the OBA as allowed by the Rules. Some already have done so.

v. Some Old Boys had been given the impression that the Rules required a minimum stay of 2 years in College to be eligible for membership of the OBA. Some had been given the impression that a period of 2 years had to elapse after leaving College to join the OBA. Both these positions were fallacious. The position had been clarified now.

MEMBERS' DIRECTORY.

2. a. The First Issue of the Members Directory was printed. It is updated daily and a fresh computer print out could be supplied on payment of relevant charges on request. The Second Issue could be put out within a few days as soon as a decision is taken for its issue. The second issue is likely to be put out before the next AGM. This has made it possible for members to keep in touch with their contemporaries in College, particularly where contact has been lost for years. In June 1999 a Directory was merely spoken of. And minuted Nothing materialised.

NEWSLETTERS.

3. a. Newsletters are published regularly and Members kept informed of OBA and College activities. Todate 03 Newsletters have been sent out. The Fourth should be

dispatched before Mid January 2003.

b. Additional circulars and flyers are sent to Members when necessary, eg

Dinner/Dance and the Service in Memory of past Headmasters and Fr.A J Foster.

c. Newsletters are also sent to The Bishop; Members of the Board of Governors; the Warden; Branch Headmasters and the Libraries of all branches etc, etc,

TREASURER AND ACCOUNTS OF OBA.

4. a. The work of the Treasurer and the accounts of the OBA have been completely, revamped and streamlined. The Books of Accounts are written up on a weekly basis, the Bank reconciliations and Trial Balances effected monthly. Old Boys have sponsored this matter and already expenses exceeding Rs.7000/- have been met by way of professional fees, stationary etc, etc. It has thus been possible to give the Membership a Statement of Income and expenditure as at August 31,2002, together with Issue No.3 of the Newsletter which was sent in September. The Newsletters also contain details of all receipts and expenses including names of persons making payments as well as the Receipt Nos. issued to them. As at date, the Accounts of September, October and November too have been written up and the Income and Expenditure Account together with other details are hoped to be given in the next issue of the Newsletter i.e No 4 as previously.

b. Official receipts are dispatched immediately in respect of all payments received by way of donations, contributions etc.

c. Communications from the OBA with the membership had previously been restricted to an annual appeal for funds. This is not the case now.

COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

5. Reports and articles for the College Magazine are being arranged by the Printers to revive the College Magazine after almost 10 years, with the assistance of the OBA. It is expected to put the Magazine out in early January 2003. Approximately 500 copies will be printed.

COLLEGE HISTORY BOOK

6. a. 32 copies of the College History Book which were lying idle in College, were brought to Colombo . Publicity, was given to the fact that the last few copies were available in Colombo. Old Boys from Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and USA also dropped in and purchased copies.

All have now been sold and the money credited to the OBA account.

b. The matter relating to money due from College to the OBA on account of College History Books entrusted for sale at Gurutalawa and which was reflected in OBA accounts as Rs.325,000/- due from the College to the OBA was resolved with the information supplied by the Headmaster.

c. The question whether any monies were due from Lake House Investments and Vijitha Yapa Bookshop on account of consignments of College History Books supplied for sale has also been resolved

MONEY DUE FROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS

7. Money due from the Board of Governors was gone into. Out of the sum of Rs.192,051/- said to be due, according to previous accounts of OBA, a sum of Rs.126,006/- was recovered from the Board of Governors after much discussions, meetings, correspondence, telephone calls, etc, etc. The money had been due from prior to 1999. There are about 8

references to this in the Minutes. The money had not been recovered. The recovery of the balance sum of Rs.66,045/- is under discussion.

RULES OF OBA

8. a. The Rules Committee set up have taken in to account all suggestions and proposals made by the Membership. A Draft of the proposed New Rules has been transmitted to the Membership for their consideration to be adopted (once finalized by the Committee) at the next AGM.

b. The Current Rules of our OBA too were not available even with our Secretary up to March 02,2002. A copy of the Rules is now available and has been tabled to form a part of the Minute Book. A copy of the Current Rules too will be circulated amongst the Membership for their information, together with Newsletter No.4.

c. Committees have been set up as far back as 1998 for this purpose to no avail. Much work has been done by the present Sub- Committee and the new Rules have been drafted and made ready for adoption.

Co-opting members to Ex Co.

d. In previous years, after the AGM, the Ex-Co had co-opted different numbers of Members to it obviously without knowing exactly how many, and under what provisions of the Rules this was done, and it was authorized to co-opt. In 1997 and 1998 no members were co-opted to the Ex-Co. In 1999, 2000, and 2001 only 02 members were co-opted. This situation has been rectified and the required number ie. 05 in terms of the Rules are now co-opted.

e. Composition of Ex-Co.

The composition of the Ex-Co was intimated to the membership by Newsletter. Changes too have been notified from time to time. This is apart from the initial notice inserted in the Newspapers. Previously, members who did not attend the AGM had no way of knowing who the office bearers were and the composition of the Ex-Co.

Representation in STC Mt OBA .

f. Previously, the OBA has sent only one representative to the OBA of STC Mt.Lavinia in 1997, 1998, 1999,2000 and 2001. This too had been done without knowing the relevant provisions, the whys and the wherefores. In 1977 no such appointment was made at all. Since coming into office in March 2002 a concerted effort was made to obtain a copy of the Rules of the Mt.Lavinia OBA to study the matter and under what provision this was done. Until then no appointment was made. The Office bearers of the Mt.Lavinia OBA did not have a copy of the Rules to give us. It was possible to obtain a copy only in early June 2002 and that too from a previous office bearer. At the Meeting of our Ex-Co on June 15 one member of the Gurutalawa OBA was nominated to the Ex-Co of the STC Mt.Lavinia OBA. So also one member of the Gurutalawa OBA was nominated to represent the STC Gurutalawa OBA at General Meetings of the S TC Mt.Lavinia OBA. These two appointments were made according to their rules. A copy of the Rules of the STC Mt.Lavinia OBA has now been tabled and made part of our Minute Book so that it is part of the official Records.

g. A copy of the Rules of the Board of Governors of STC was not available with our Membership nor was the composition of the Board of Governors of STC known to the Members of our Association. These drawbacks are hoped to be rectified with the next Newsletter of the OBA.

NEW DINING HALL PROJECT

9. a. According to the meagre Records available, a sum of Rs. 5,316,318.68 is said to have been spent on the New Dining Hall and the New Administration Block. Apart from this sum, a list of some contributions was read out by the Secretary at the AGM on March 02,2002. This list however was not handed over to the new Secretary after the AGM. Several Old Boys have contributed generously by way of materials etc. Due to the non availability of proper accounts and files of correspondence etc an accurate assessment of the total sum expended cannot be furnished to the membership, though this is the single largest, most expensive and controversial building and development operation which dragged on for almost 10 years.

b. The previous Ex-Co had immediately before the AGM on March 02,2002 issued 3 cheques for Rs.86,243/- Rs.11,980/- and Rs.26,518/- to Contractors who had apparently been engaged by them for work in connection with the New Dining Hall and Administration Block Project. However, the current account of the OBA had to its credit only a sum of Rs. 21,000/- on the date the cheques were issued. This was considered as most irresponsible and reprehensible conduct. In this situation much effort was made to collect monies due to the OBA from the Board of Governors. Immediately a sum of Rs.126,006/-was collected and the amounts due to two of the contractors were settled, the third having presented his cheque and collected monies due which had partly been deposited by the current Ex-Co from various other collections.

c. The Administration Block ie. The upper floor of the new building was completed and ceremonially opened at the AGM about 03 years ago. The Headmaster and his Office Staff however have still not moved in, the reason being that the partitioning etc had not been done. His Office Room has now been partitioned. The ceiling of his Office Room is also done. He will move in with his Staff soon. Yet he has informed the Ex-Co that the upper floor is far too extensive for his Staff and he intends using the major part of this floor for students to have Prep. Apparently one fourth of the floor area is adequate for his purpose.

DIET FOR STUDENTS

10. a. The food given to the students has been the subject of criticism for a long time. Ms.Siefred de Silva a Nutritional Expert was consulted. Her advise and the suggested menu chart obtained and handed over to the Headmaster for implementation through the Food Matron.. In addition, we have suggested that vegetables from what is presently grown by the minor staff be purchased by the College, before sending out for purchasing elsewhere so that fresh home grown vegetables are available to the students. Similarly we have suggested that fruits be grown on the farm by students as an extension of their studies in Agriculture for practical experience, which could be purchased by the College. The Headmaster has informed the Ex-Co that he has already implemented some of the proposals through the food Matron.

b. A study was undertaken in connection with the purchase and consumption of Groceries in view of a series of complaints and information received of large scale pilferage. Normal standards were compared with the actual usage and a report in that connection handed over to the Headmaster to be given to the Food Matron as a guideline. The measures were also discussed and tender procedures have been put in place to procure groceries at reasonable prices and eliminate all corrupt practices in purchasing.

STANDARD OF ENGLISH AT COLLEGE

11. a. The standard of English has been poor for more than a decade. Much has been written and spoken on this subject. A large number of English Books, Journals etc, have been donated to the Library by Old Boys. Suggestions have been made to inventorise and regularize library procedures and lending. An Accession Register has been purchased and donated to the library by an Old

Boy. English Teachers have been arranged from the British Council and British High Commission to start work from March/April 2003 in the Primary Section. Arrangements are being made to rehabilitate the bungalow and garden of the Deputy Headmaster for the use of these English Teachers. It is hoped to furnish this bungalow with beds, cupboards, dressing tables, dining tables, drawing/sitting room furniture, cooking facilities, washing machine, TV, iron, kettle etc. In addition the use of English language in the dorms has been encouraged through Leadership Workshops and regular visits by Old Boys to the dorms. Furthermore the setting up of an Audio Visual lab by purchasing equipment including a TV, DVD, VCR, Sound System has been decided with the use of funds collected from the dinner dance. Part of the necessary software etc, has already been collected and handed over by Old Boys. The Headmaster appealed to the Old Boys for funds to employ a Resource Teacher to assist the teachers in the teaching of Science, Social Studies and Maths from Grade 6 in the English Medium commencing from January 2003 for a period of one year. The OBA is considering the setting apart of funds required for the above from the monies realized from the Dinner Dance.

b. A large consignment of Sinhala Books too was donated to the Library.

c. The total value of new books donated to the Library exceeds Rs.250,000/-.

d. Over 3 consignments of very valuable Books have been delivered to the Library from Asia Foundation, through the courtesy of an Old Boy. Others too have gifted, Books and Journals.

SECURITY

12. a. In order to improve security etc, the survey plan of the College has been asked for to have a re-survey done, boundary stones buried so that a fence can be erected using as fence posts, the timber which became redundant by the replacement of the old timber roofing of the Senior Dorms by a new roof. Unsecured exit points from the campus will be closed down.

b. In addition the opening of a Police Post adjoining College is being arranged through the Ministry of Internal Security though the recommendation to have it at Boralanda has already been submitted by the relevant authorities. Suitable accommodation to house the post have been identified.

THE DR.R L HAYMAN AND FATHER A J FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

13. a. The Dr.R L Hayman and Father A J Foster Scholarship Awards which were set up before 1996 had not been implemented. Even interest earned from these funds had been used for current expenses of the OBA. The situation is now changed. The Award of 06 Scholarships has already been implemented (02 each for the Primary, Secondary and Senior Sections) from September, 2002 for the 3rd Term involving Rs.9555/- which has been met by an Old Boy. These awards will be continued during the First Term of the New Academic Year i.e 2003. The OBA is expected to place in deposit further monies towards these 2 funds and lay down new criteria together with the Headmaster and ensure implementation of the above Awards from January 2003 on a regular basis.

b. Monies belonging to the Dr.R L Hayman and Fr.A J Foster Scholarship Funds were reported as amounting to Rs.125,625/- and Rs.137,625/- respectively as at December 31,2001 and invested in Fixed Deposits at the Pramuka Bank. They continued to be deposited so even after March 02,2002. The Ex-Co considered it would be more appropriate to invest these funds in a financial institution affording more security. However it was found that the actual deposits amounted to only Rs.100,000/- as the Principal sum in each of the Accounts. They had accumulated a further sums of Rs.18,131/75 each as interest up to the date of upliftment. Thus, the deposits were uplifted on maturity in late July 2002 and re invested in Treasury Bills on August 06,2002. The monies were deposited in a current Account of the OBA at the Standard Chartered Bank during the intervening period. As at present sums of Rs.118,131/75 are in Treasury Bills invested through Commercial Bank Primary Dealer Limited due to mature on January 30,2003 on which date the amount payable would be Rs.124,710/78 from each of the investments.

THE HAYMAN MUSEUM

14. a. The Hayman Museum has now been arranged to be had in the present office of the Headmaster no sooner he vacates it. The nucleus is in place, separately arranged and further items are being inventorised in Colombo and will be transmitted to Gurutalawa shortly for safe keeping with the Headmaster. A proposal to rehabilitate the 16 m m. films (done by Dr.R L Hayman), with the assistance of Mr.Tissa Nagodawithana in his laboratory by transferring to VCD's, Video Cassettes is under discussion. Old Boys interested in purchasing same will be able to do so. These films relate to Scout Camps to Yala and Wilpattu; ruined cities of Ceylon; World Tours done by Dr and Mrs. Hayman and Old Boys Re-Union celebrations from 1959 onwards.

b. The past Minutes of the Meeting of the Ex-co and AGM made reference to the fact that Mrs.Mary Hayman had remitted a sum of Rs.250,000/- towards the Hayman Museum. No reference has been made thereafter to this either in the Minutes or in the Accounts. After checking various papers and documents, available elsewhere, it was found that this money had been utilized by a previous Headmaster to purchase furniture and other requirements with the permission of the Board of Governors though Mrs.Mary Hayman does not appear to have been consulted or even informed. Having regard to Mrs.Hayman's age and state of health it was considered appropriate in the circumstances not to pursue the matter further

THE TURF WICKET

15.a. Matters relating to the Turf Wicket were taken up in an impartial and unbiased environment. The Membership was invited to contribute their views. Detailed discussions were had with all concerned persons particularly those at Gurutalawa actually involved in promoting Cricket and a decision has been taken not to revive or rehabilitate same at this stage, so that the matter has been resolved without ill-feeling.

16a. SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

A Sports Club for College has been set up. It's Rules have been drafted. The necessary papers have been forwarded to the Uva Provincial Council so that there would be a steady flow of equipment which College has found extremely difficult to provide for the students with it's scarce resources. In addition, through the good office of Mr.Gerald de Alwis and Mr.Duleep Mendis, arrangements are being made to obtain cricket equipment through the BCCSL even in 2003. This has now been promised. Furthermore, equipment for the swimming pool purchased for over Rs.2685/- has been donated by Old Boys. Equipment for swimming and life saving too costing over Rs.6550/- have been donated by Old Boys. The boards and baskets of the latest design have been put in place in the Basket Ball Court for a considerable sum donated by an Old Boy. An estimate has been obtained to rehabilitate the Basket Ball Court and enlarge it to the standard size. Equipment has been donated for Basket ball. Arrangements are being made to rehabilitate the Badminton Courts and ensure that roots of surrounding trees do not henceforth damage its surface. The rehabilitation of the Squash Court is also in hand.

b. It was found that the Swimming Pool Treatment Plant had not been properly maintained for more than a decade and hence this prestigious swimming pool is now in a deplorable state. Urgent remedial action is being taken by Old Boys knowledgeable in this field and it is hoped that the pool will once again look attractive as soon as the necessary attention is given. In this connection Technicians from Colombo were taken to Gurutalawa on October 05 2002 and quotations obtained with regard to rehabilitation. This matter is being pursued.

THOMIAN WALK

17.a Money was due to the OBA on a pro-rata basis being its contribution to the Thomian Walk/Parade effort organized by the OBA of STC Mt.Lavinia.. There was no record of this money having been received and there was no proper record of the arrangements or agreement on this subject in the Minutes or elsewhere. Inquiries and representations were made with a view to recovering the sum due to our OBA. It transpired that an accounting had not been rendered by our own then (Secretary) to the Mt.Lavinia OBA for the 100 tickets said to have been given for sale and the caps and the T' Shirts to be given to the purchasers of the 125 tickets. As this was a lapse on the part of our OBA, the previous Secretary was written to, and there being no response, reminded. As there was still no satisfactory response we are trying to use the good offices of Senior Members of the OBA to speak to the former Secretary and resolve this matter. As it is, it reflects badly on our OBA. Recovery of our dues can be taken up once we settle what is due to the STC-Mt. Lavinia OBA.

PREVIOUS FELLOWSHIP DINNER ACCOUNTS

18.a. Although a net profit was shown from accounts available as at December 31,2001 of the Fellowship Dinner of 2001, the aggregate of uncollected ticket money and advertisement money was substantial compared to the net profit shown. This Ex-Co corresponded with the advertisers concerned. Todate a further sum of Rs.35,000/- has been recovered.

COMMUNICATION & TELEPHONE SYSTEM

19.a. The subject of communication with Keble and the lack of communication between the Security at the Main Gate and the Headmaster's Office has been highlighted previously. Old Boys have gifted a Telephone System valued at over Rs.125,000/- (with adequate extensions to bring all important areas of the College in contact with each other) with over 4,000 meters of wiring and other material to be installed as soon as the Administration block is shifted to it's new location.

HEALTH CAMP & MEDICAL FACILITIES

20. a. A Health Camp was arranged to be had on June 15,2002 at Gurutalawa whereat about 6 medical officers including 2 Dental Surgeons participated. This benefited all residents on the Campus including students, minor staff and staff together with their families. Consequently the students had during their August vacation sought specialized medical attention successfully as regards matters referred to in their diagnosis cards/reports made available at the said Health Camp.

MARKETTING

21. a Steps have been taken to market the College. Newspaper articles have appeared in the English and Sinhala Newspapers. A colourful brochure is to be prepared, after College is given a complete face lift and the environment is cleaned. Some publicity has already been given in the Electronic and Print media.

b. An Old Boy who had expressed a desire to assist College by having a Web site was put in touch with the Headmaster in furtherance of this marketing strategy.

NEW ADMINISTRATION BLOCK

22. a. In order that the Headmaster and his staff in the Administration and Accounts Departments could shift to the new Administration Block, necessary partitioning of the

Administration Block has been done. Hitherto they had not shifted after the main building work was over, because proper accommodation was not available. Simultaneously necessary structural adjustments to provide toilet facilities to visitors as well as office staff have been done. The Food Matron's quarters will continue to be in the former building, as will the stores for Groceries and Rations etc etc as no provision is made as yet in the new building.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL CONTROLS

23. a. Over the years, serious lapses have been highlighted in the system of Accounting and Financial Controls. Misappropriations have resulted in dismissals and several Court cases etc. A high profile team of professionals visited Gurutalawa at the instance of the OBA and on the invitation of the Headmaster to study the systems prevailing and to submit their recommendations. An Interim Report is submitted and tabled. It is very revealing. The detailed Report is awaited. These are to be implemented by the Headmaster, with any help he needs from the OBA.

DISCIPLINE & DORMS

24. a. The Standard of discipline, neatness and tidiness of dorms and the gardens in College has been the subject of comment for a long time. A Leadership Workshop was conducted for Prefects. Old Boys who visited College regularly have met student leaders in the dorms to explain the value and necessity to keep the dorms neat, tidy, orderly and uniform. It has been reported that there has been a marked improvement observed.

b. The Junior Dorms were in a bad state. Parents of new Students who accompanied their sons to the Dorms did not get a favourable impression. On the invitation of the Headmaster the rehabilitation of the Junior Dorms (other than Foster) was implemented, with 15 professional painters taken from Colombo. A few Old Boys joined together and completed this project under their personal supervision for a sum of Rs.25,392/13. A large segment of the materials were received as donations from Old Boys which is not reflected in the above amount. An account was rendered to all who made cash or material contributions.

c. The Senior Dorms were in a very bad state. The Headmaster had asked the Board of Governors for necessary funds. The Board had approved the release of funds to repair the roof of one Dorm. An Old Boy single-handed replaced the roof of all 4 Senior Dorms and all their toilets together with all the staff quarters attached thereto, apart from rehabilitating the entire block giving it a completely new look. This project which was completed in less than 06 weeks including the Sinhala/Tamil New Year holidays was done by this Old Boy for over Rs.1,500,000/- with labour and professional expertise from Colombo .

d. The Gardens in front of the Senior Dorms as well as the area surrounding the Chapel and the Swimming Pool were taken in hand and landscaping was attended to by an Old Boy, (Planter) with Labour brought from his Estate.

e. The Winchester Dorm was given a complete overhaul together with its toilets. An Old Boy contributed Rs.37,840/- towards this project. 30 New beds have been turned out. The cost of same ie. Rs.9000/- has also been met by an Old Boy. The Dorm is to be made ready for occupation in January 2003, for the new intake.

f. The Foster Dorm was in a very bad state particularly its ceiling. Old Boys are attending to this dorm in respect of which a sum exceeding Rs.50,000/- has already been expended.

g. The importance of accommodating students in Dorms according to their Houses was stressed and the Headmaster has already made arrangements to revert to this system which prevailed earlier in respect of the Senior Dorms. It is hoped the process will be followed in the Junior Dorms soon.

h. The Ex-Co highlighted the fact that students were using and walking across pathways and other areas which were generally considered out of bounds. (eg. Quadrangle in the Junior Dorms; Seniors going through the Junior Dorms Block; the short cut from Senior Dorms to the class rooms beside the paddy field and the path alongside the pool). The Headmaster readily

agreed to re-enforce these Rules and now better discipline is maintained by reverting to the former practice.

i. The fact that garbage was strewn around in fairly sensitive areas and also that rubbish and paper etc, are also found thrown all over the gardens in the campus was pointed out and now bins for garbage at strategic points have been provided. More Bins are to be provided.

j. Due to inadequate laundry facilities, the unseemingly spectacle of clothes washed and hung out to dry is regularly witnessed particularly outside the Senior Dorms. Arrangements have been made to provide strong railings with clothes hangers, so that the drying of clothes could at least be done in an orderly manner

A MEMORIAL SERVICE

25.a. A Memorial Service in respect of Fr. A J Foster (and all past Heads of Gurutalawa) was held on December 03,2002 in the Anglican Chapel of the General Cemetery at Kanatte. Circulars were sent to the membership in this regard. The service was officiated by His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo Rev. Duleep de Chickera who is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Thomas College. The Headmaster and the Chaplain of St. Thomas College Gurutalawa Rev. Nihal Fernando were present. There were about 40 Old Boys present on this occasion. Mr. N.D.U. Kurutumpala gave the reading and Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar made a short address with regard to the Headmasters' who are no more and also of Fr. Foster. At the conclusion of the service the congregation moved to the grave site of Fr. Foster where further prayers were offered. It was considered appropriate that in this Diamond Jubilee Year a service of this nature should be conducted. Petals of Flowers brought down specially from Gurutalawa by the Headmaster and the Chaplain, were strewn on the grave by some of the Old Boys present.

MINOR STAFF

26.a. The Ex-Co and the Headmaster have agreed that there was an excess of Minor Staff and hence it would not be necessary to recruit any further employees to the minor staff. The danger inherent in recruitment of relations particularly to this category was also pointed out to the Headmaster who noted same. Discussions are ongoing with Old Boys who are considering the implementation of a Voluntary Retrenchment Plan. The Headmaster has given his blessings for same. Almost 20 employees of the Minor Staff are considered redundant. The monthly saving if this plan is successful will be approximately Rs.120,000/- to 150,000/-.

b The concern of the Old Boys as regards the high- handed attitude of the Minor Staff towards the tutorial staff as well as the students had been tactfully conveyed by the Headmaster to the minor staff. It is hoped to build up better relationships at Gurutalawa by correct advise and guidance. Fr.Dr.Mervyn Fernado too has agreed to give necessary counselling in this connection by way of programmes tentatively scheduled for January 2003.

PROJECTS BY INDIVIDUAL OLD BOYS

27.a. The Ex-Co agreed that individual Old Boys were free to take up any projects directly with the Headmaster and it was desirable that the Ex-Co be kept informed.

b. The two generators of the College which were urgently required during the power crisis were repaired and returned to College by an Old Boy.

c. Two Indian experts in Software were taken to College by an Old Boy and they made available a programme for Accounts.

d. 70 Chairs have been donated by an Old Boy to be used in the College Hall.

e. The lack of individual chairs and tables in the classroom had been highlighted on many occasions. Most of the furniture used dated to a period before 1958. 30 Individual tables and chairs were supplied by an Old Boy at a cost of Rs.46,560/- in June,2002 to replace those old benches and tables. It is hoped to supply more individual tables and chairs early next year.

f. Almost all the Development Projects referred to herein as having been completed have been undertaken by Old Boys out of their own funds at the instance of the OBA although the funds did not go through the OBA.

PRIZE GIVING

28.a. The fact that very few prizes by way of books were given to students at the Prize Giving had been referred to and complained of previously. The Ex-Co suggested to the Headmaster that an additional charge be levied from the students in the invoices sent to them in respect of the month or two immediately preceding the Prize giving to off set expenditure. This was implemented and more students received valuable books instead of Certificates alone at the Prize Giving this year. This has brought a greater degree of satisfaction among the Prize Winners.

FR.DR. MERVYN FERNANDO - SUBODHI INSTITUTE

b. The OBA had made various efforts to obtain assistance from and the participation of Fr.Dr. Mervyn Fernando of the Subodhi Institute towards the College since the year 2000. No detailed records are available in this connection. Fr.Dr. Mervyn Fernando was accompanied by us to Gurutalawa on October 31,2002. He spent the entire day at Gurutalawa in discussions with the Headmaster and the Chaplain as well as examining the campus. His report dated November 18,2002 has been submitted to the Headmaster and a copy tabled at the Ex-Co Meeting of November 29,2002. Both the Headmaster and the Chaplain expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Fr.Mervyn Fernando for his advise, proposals and suggestions. Fr.Mervyn Fernando has agreed to have a 5 day programme for the students and a 2 day programme for the staff with the concurrence of the Headmaster. It is hoped to implement this as soon as term commences in January 2003.

AGM & RE UNION

29. a. A sub-committee has been appointed to make recommendations as regard the next AGM and Re-Union celebrations. These recommendations would be studied by the Ex-Co and the Membership will be informed of streamlined procedures for the events concerning the AGM and Re-Union Dinner etc. Non Members will not be admitted to participate at the AGM although they could join in all other Re-Union celebrations and festivities.

STAFF WELFARE

30.a. At the instance of the Ex-Co Old Boys have visited Gurutalawa on several occasions, met the resident staff, and personally examined staff quarters and their living conditions. A Report had been prepared with regard to the quarters thus far examined. Further examination is required and some part of the funds collected would be utilized to rehabilitate the worst affected members of the staff.

b. Matters relating to the personal files of the staff have been taken up with the authorities concern. These are been pursued.

c. The lack of water in the staff toilet in the old class room block has been complained of for more than a year. This matter surfaced at the Meeting of the Ex-Co at Gurutalawa on October 04,2002 when almost 20 Senior members of the staff were present. Immediate arrangements were made to look into this shortcoming before members of the Ex Co

departed for Colombo that evening. On October 31, and on December 10, 2002 too, some Old Boys who visited the College re-examined the relevant areas in detail and the necessary assistance has been given to the Headmaster to resolve this long standing problem.

d. Discussions were had with the Warden in order to resolve a long standing problem some members of the Gurutalawa Staff have had with regard to recovery of their balance Provident Fund monies. The OBA took this matter up in a conciliatory manner with the Warden. Subsequently, the Warden had visited Gurutalawa too.

BIO GAS PROJECT

31.a. The setting up of a Bio Gas Project has been gone into by a few Old Boys who are Senior Engineers. A project initially to provide gas for cooking in the new pantry is being implemented. If all goes well, it is hoped to consider the production of electricity at least for the use of College consumption, with the help of an Award to be obtained from an English funding source.

DIAMOND JUBILEE DINNER- DANCE

32.a. The Dinner Dance organized by the OBA in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of the School was had at the Sapphire Ballroom of the Continental Hotel in Colombo on November 16th. Regular flyers went out to the Membership informing them of the progress. All Tickets put out for sale were snapped up well in advance and it became necessary to notify the Membership that tickets were sold out. The hotel was assured of the participation of 375 persons. In fact over 400 participated. The Function Room was packed to capacity and the Organisers had a difficult time due to the unprecedented number of guests. The Ex-Co was overwhelmed by support received. The music, food, décor and entertainment provided received the praise of all attending. There were gifts as well as special events for the large number of Old Boys who came stag. The special item provided by the College Dancing Troupe who had won the all Island Championship in 2002, most of whom not yet 15 years of age was received well by the gathering. So also the singing of the College Song and the playing of the last post were poignant moments of the evening. The event was a total success and the organizing Committee received the praise of all Old Boys for a job extremely well done under difficult and trying circumstances. The advertisements in the Souvenir is expected to bring in the target of Rs.1,000,000/-. Banners, Donations and other contributions simply added to the target already recorded. The Committee is now finalizing the Accounts and they will be made available to the Membership with the next Newsletter in early December. Many items were sponsored by Old Boys and this made a very large saving of expenses.

b. The Committee will also keep the Membership informed of the urgent Projects in respect of which the money will be utilized. After almost 09 months of dialogue, the following items have been identified as projects requiring attention. The Committee will in consultation with the Headmaster decide on the order of priority and initiate action with regard to implementation without delay.

PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

LIST OF MATTERS AT GURUTALAWA REQUIRING FUNDING

1. To update Dr. R.L. Hayman and Fr. A.J. Foster Scholarship Funds with infusions to set off amounts used for current expenditure and not for award of scholarships.
2. Cost of repairing, refurbishing furnishing and landscaping premises to be given to English Teachers, of the Primary School expected from the British Council and the British High Commission.
3. Repairs to Staff Quarters.
4. Individual tables and chairs for class rooms.
5. Salary of a Resource Teacher to back up the English Medium Teachers during the year 2003.
6. Partitioning of Head Master's Room and one other room in the Administration Block.

7. Repairs to Swimming Pool Treatment Plant and its Room.
8. Repairs and attention to water supply system particularly supply to the staff toilet in the old class room block and attention to Ohiya Water Supply line.
9. Repairs to the roof of the Old Class room block (replacement of 95 roofing sheets)
10. Repairs to roof of class rooms in Primary Section (Keble)
11. Beds and lockers (and study tables) for Dormitories.
12. Repairs to Badminton Court and cutting a trench to prevent roots of trees from causing further damage to the Court.
13. Repairs to Squash Court.
14. Expansion of Basket Ball Court to standard size and resurfacing.
15. Sports Equipment for Cricket, etc. and other games.
16. Repairs to Old Dining Hall to be used as Students Common/ Recreation Room.
17. Purchase of Cookers for Pantry for bio-Gas cooking.
18. Audio Visual Equipment -DVD Player, VCR HI-FI Music System; TV, Software for Educational/Teaching programme.
19. Railing near De Saram Senior to dry clothes on Hangers.
20. Repairs to Water Tanks (2)-supplying water to Junior Dormitories.
21. Cricket nets at Old Tennis Courts
22. Plastic Coated Chain Link Fence (Net) to Protect Winchester Dorm Windows from Basket Ball and Volley Ball Courts etc.
23. Repairs to Laboratory roof (Urgent)
24. Repairs to Roof of Farm Sheds.
25. Repairs to gutters in Accounts Department
26. Replacement of Diving Boards in Swimming Pool
27. Repairs to Foster Dorm and its Ceiling.
28. At least 10 Computers for an IT Unit.
29. Repairs to fences to increase security to College property.
30. Repairs to Roof of Dorms in Primary Section (Keble)
31. Resurfacing Paved Area around the Junior Dorms Quadrangle.
32. Repair Walls and painting Passage/Corridor from Accounts Department towards Sick Room.
33. Concrete Covers for Deep Drain in the Primary School (Keble) for safety of young students.
34. A separate Room for Dancing to be partitioned out in the old Dining Hall.

Funds for items 2,6,7,8,10,13,19,20 & 25 have been set a part and the Contractor has already started work. Estimates submitted for items 9,12, & 23 are presently being considered and work should commence very soon. Estimates for items 4,14,16,& 22 are awaited as per discussions had with the Contractor. Funds for items 1,5,17 and 18 are to be set aside within the next three weeks. The other items are yet under discussion.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

33. a. It has been accepted that the Headmaster, particularly at the present stage cannot fully and effectively handle the administration of the College single handed. The Headmaster has agreed that an Administration Officer on the campus would be useful and necessary. He has agreed to take the matter up with the Board. The OBA will co-ordinate with the Headmaster in this matter.

STUDENTS WELFARE & RECREATION

34. a. The Headmaster was anxious to provide the facility to view TV to students in relation to important programmes and news. Lack of funds prevented him from providing this requirement. The OBA provided prick-a-pin cards to be handed over to the students during the August holidays. The cash collected, over Rs.20,000/-, was sufficient to buy one TV which is being used by the students now. A further 425 prick-a-pin cards were prepared and distributed

amongst the students immediately before the December Christmas vacations. It is hoped that the collection would be adequate to purchase the other TV requirement.

b. A Musical Evening, having the students in mind was had on June 14,2002 by taking a Disc Jockey from Colombo. This event was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students. The cost of this arrangement (Rs.11,000/-) was met by an Old Boy.

COLLEGE FINANCES & OVER DRAFT

35. a. The rate of interest on the overdraft taken by College is the standard rate levied by Banks. The OBA has made necessary arrangements to appeal to the higher authorities in the Bank for reduction of interest on the overdraft facility in view of the fact that the relevant customer of the Bank is an Educational Institution. The payment of interest over the last few years has been a heavy drain on the resources of the College. College incurs a recurrent loss/ deficit of approximately Rs.150,000/- to Rs.200,000/- each month. Then a heavy overdraft builds up. This is adjusted in an appreciable manner only when some income is received from sale of trees, collection of Admission Fees with the intake of new entrants, or profit from holiday camps. This situation calls for a complete re-adjustment of the financial implications, costing, etc, etc.

This matter is very high on the agenda of the OBA.

EX CO MEETINGS

b. The Ex-Co suggested to the Headmaster that a "maintenance" fee be charged in the monthly Invoice of students to off set this recurrent expenditure. The Headmaster agreed to seek Board approval.

36 .a. Every third meeting of the Ex-Co is had at Gurutalawa. This gives the opportunity of seeing at first hand the situation at Gurutalawa; of meeting the staff; and for better inter action between the OBA on the one hand and the Headmaster, his staff and the students on the other. It has helped the OBA to have a better understanding of the problems facing the Headmaster, staff and students. These frequent meetings in Gurutalawa also helped to find solutions and bring about better understanding.

b. The Meetings of the Ex-Co have been lively and productive generally going on for 3hrs or more. The Headmaster has attended all the Meetings and participated fully (except the one, a day or two before the College Prize Giving) Newsletters inform the Membership that any member wishing to submit proposals for deliberations is free to do so.

c. Old Boys have also been regularly visiting Gurutalawa particularly when some building work or renovations were in progress. This has given them the opportunity to see at first hand the actual situation prevailing .

EQUIPMENT FOR SCIENCE LABORATORY

37. Equipment badly required by the Science Lab has been supplied at a cost of Rs.32,388/- by an Old Boy. Some items are replaced after almost 04 decades.

BOOKS & MATERIAL FOR CLASS ROOMS

38. a. At the request of the teachers of Social Studies Maps, Brochures, Publications etc were obtained from the United Nations Office, the Tourist Board, the Survey Department, and donated for use in the class rooms for Social Studies.

b. We have after obtaining a letter from the Headmaster, interviewed the officers concerned at the United Nations Office and placed the College on their mailing list to enable all Literature, News Bulletins etc, that are being handed out by the United Nations and all it's allied agencies transmitted to Gurutalawa for their Library as well as for their Social Studies.

OUTWARD BOUND TRUST

39. We have communicated with the Outward Bound Trust and presented a case for them to consider Gurutalawa as a venue for their programmes. A letter from the Headmaster too inviting them to inspect the campus was handed over to them. It is hoped that this will become a reality so that additional funds will be available through Camps and Programmes conducted during the school vacation. The drawback however has been the poor facilities and infrastructure now prevailing. The Director concerned is due to visit Gurutalawa in January 2003 to see for himself the facilities available

PROGRAMME AT SLFI

40. We have made available to the Headmaster the necessary literature and brochures to enable him if he thought it fit to send members of his academic staff for special programmes to Colombo conducted by the S L F I where residential facilities with food are also available.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HEADMASTER, BISHOP & BOARD OF GOVERNORS

41. One of the most notable achievements has been the very close and cordial relationship enjoyed by the OBA, particularly its Ex-co, with not only the Headmaster and his staff but also with the Bishop, Members of the Board as well as heads of other branch schools, and past Headmasters of the College. In this matter the guidance and leadership of very senior and mature old boys on the Ex-Co have been a great source of strength.

Colombo
December 27,2002

Lakshman Jayatilaka