

**S.THOMAS' COLLEGE, GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(2002/2003) HELD AT THE STAFF ROOM OF S.THOMAS' PREP
SCHOOL, COLOMBO 03 ON APRIL 08,2002 AT 5.45 P.M**

- 1 **PRESENT:**
- Mr.Geethal Mendis - President (in the chair)
 - Mr.P.S. Duleep Kumar -Senior Vice President
 - Mr.B. Munasinghe - Vice President
 - Mr.Sunil Watawala - Vice President
 - Mr.S.M. Suraweera - Vice President
 - Mr.P.J. Fernando - Vice President
 - Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi Hony. Secretary
 - Mr.Gamini Fernando Hony Treasurer
 - Mr.Rizvi Jalill
 - Mr.A.N.R Munasinghe
 - Mr.Shervon Fernando
 - Mr.Prabath Jayasundera
 - Mr.Mervyn Wijesinghe
 - Mr.Chandana De Silva
 - Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera
 - Mr.G.S.S Perera
 - Mr.Lasantha Perera

Excuses

Mr.G M S Samaraweera

Absent

Mr.J J Rajakaruna
Mr.Milton Fernando
Mr.M B Ratnayake
Mr.A Peitersz
Mr.S Balaramesh
Mr.Mohamed Najeeb

At the commencement of the proceedings Senior Vice President Mr.P.S Duleep Kumar stated that the Meeting at the Golf Club held on 9th March 2002 was an unofficial Meeting at which other Old Boys were also present and to give momentum to the change effected at the AGM .

The Secretary was requested to read the commitments made by the Old Boys present at the discussion which were as follows:-

- A. **Mr. Sunil Watawala** (Vice President) informed those present that one member who preferred to be anonymous and had seen the sad state of the 04 Senior Dorms

and the Staff Quarters attached thereto had undertaken its complete refurbishment. This will include attention to the toilets, roof, ceiling, walls, windows and doors, floors, plumbing, electricity, painting etc.

- B. **Mr. Don Gazara** has taken charge of providing all necessary Equipment Apparatus, etc. for the Science Laboratory and Books for the Library.
- C. **Mr. P.J. Fernando** Vice President and **Mr. Prabath Jayasundera** Member of the Ex-Co have undertaken the complete repair, renovation and updating of the Squash, Basket ball and Badminton courts.
- D. **Mr. P.J. Fernando and Mr. Prabath Jayasundera together with Mr. M. Najeeb and Mr. S. Balaramesh** Members of the Ex-Co will also be responsible for providing all Equipment necessary for Every Sport in College other than swimming. This will include necessary coaching camps particularly for Squash and Hockey.
- E. **Mr. Rizvi Jaleel** Member of the Ex-Co and Sales Manager(Ceylon Weighing Machines Ltd) has undertaken to effect a complete overhaul of the Water Supply system to encompass the wells overhead tanks, water pumps, piping etc. etc.
- F. **Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe**, Member of the Ex-Co and Co-ordinating Secretary to the Chief Minister of the Uva Provincial Council has undertaken a complete re-assessment and development of the Farm, Agriculture; Biogas Project for the kitchen in the new dining hall, new desks and chairs for all the class rooms and tables and chairs for the new Dining Hall.

The Secretary stated that the other matters discussed at the Golf Club were on a proposal made by the Senior Vice President Mr. Duleep Kumar to form seven sub committees to execute the Executive Committees' programme for the current year, which is a substantive item under item (6) of the Agenda.

The Head Master stated that in fact an Old Boy Mr. Mahinda Padmasiri had already donated Rs.50,000/- for the refurbishment of the Senior Dormitories. He also stated that work is underway, and that this would be completed by the end of April.

Furthermore he mentioned that he had summoned the members of the Senior and Primary Parent Teachers Association at which he received sums of Rs.7000/- & 25000/- respectively to attend to urgent repairs.

He added that Elocution Classes have already been introduced to raise the standard of English.

Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera then suggested that one requirement for the college would be to have Audio Visual equipment to develop the standard of English.

2. **To read and confirm the Minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting/ and to consider any other matters arising from previous Minutes.**

The Minutes of the 242nd Meeting of the Executive Committee held on February 21,2002 were next read. Mr.Rizvi Jalill objected to the exclusion of his name from amongst the committee members recorded as having been present. This was taken note of . The Minutes were then adopted, proposed by Mr.Chandana De Silva seconded by Mr.Rizvi Jalill

3. **To Co-opt Five Members to the Executive Committee under Rule 8 (1) (C).**

Mr.Duleep Kumar stated that certain names were recommended and the committee should consider whether it should adhere to the convention that had been established that no member of the committee should be elected except from those who attended the AGM or have sent letters of excuse. The Committee endorsed this view. The following names were proposed and seconded under rule 8 (1) (C)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Mr.Sujeewa Godage	Mr.Rizvi Jalill	Mr.Prabath Jayasundera
Mr.B A Mahipala	Mr.Sunil Watawala	Mr.P J Fernando
Mr.Anilal Algama	-do-	Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi
Mr. Don Gazara	-do-	Mr.Duleep Kumar
Mr.Mano Gnanaraj	Mr.Duleep Kumar	Mr.Sarath Suraweera

4. **To table the Draft Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting & Consider any matters arising from the Minutes**

The Secretary read out the draft Minutes of the 42nd AGM. The Senior Vice President Mr.Duleep Kumar requested that the names of the deceased be stated in the minutes as it would automatically help to update the Register of Members.

The Secretary added that the draft Minutes of the AGM were not made available to him by the previous Secretary up to the time the draft Minutes were compiled, and that it was compiled by him with the assistance of Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka who was present at the AGM.

Mr.Duleep Kumar said that no provision is made for a Senior Vice President in the constitution, although he was elected as Senior Vice President. The Rules Committee was requested to look in to the matter and resolve it.

5. To table the proposal of the Senior Vice President regarding Formation of Seven Sub Committees

Mr.Duleep Kumar stated that he had distributed a paper identifying the Sub Committees and suggesting their functions. The Sub Committees identified were as follows:-

- A. Projects Sub Committee
- B. Finance Sub Committee
- C. Membership Sub Committee
- D. Newsletter Sub Committee
- E. Rules Sub Committee
- F. Social & Dinner Sub Committee
- G. Re-Union Day Celebrations Sub Committee

The functions of these Sub Committees were set out in a paper distributed to the Members at the Meeting and constitutes an addendum to these Minutes.

Each Sub Committee should be headed by a Convener appointed thereto by the Executive Committee. Every Member of the Executive Committee should be actively involved in at least one of the Sub Committees. The Senior Vice President and the Secretary shall be Ex Officio members of the Sub Committees and be noticed of all meetings by the Convener.

The Sub Committees shall report their deliberations and recommendations to the Executive Committee at its Meetings, where such reports will be the substantive items on the Agenda at every meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Sub Committee may co-opt any member of the OBA to assist in their deliberations (technical support) and to broad base as much as possible the participation of members of the OBA in its activities.

Mr.Prabath Jayasundera requested the Head Master to inform the Executive Committee of the projects that are required to be attended to on an urgent basis at present. The Head Master stated that these were highlighted in his Report at the AGM and mentioned the following:-

1. To refurbish the Senior Dormitories
2. To refurbish the Foster Dormitory
3. To repair the Badminton & Basket Ball courts.
4. To repair the School Boundary Fence.
5. To develop the Water Supply
6. To procure more desks & chairs for Class-Rooms.
7. A Microscope for the Hayman Science Laboratory.
8. An Overhead Projector
9. To purchase four Invertors for the School

In the discussions which ensued it was noted that some of these Projects have already been taken up by various Old Boys at the Unofficial Meeting held at the Golf Club. It was agreed that individual old boys were free to take up any projects directly with the Head Master and it was desirable that the Executive Committee be kept informed. The Projects Committee would be required to meet the Head Master who would indicate the priorities of what remains to be done. Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera suggested that any member who wishes to support give his proposal to be included in the Newsletter. The following committees were then constituted.

A. **Projects Committee**

Mr.Sunil Watawala – Convener
Mr.Rizvi Jalill
Mr.B.A. Mahipala
Mr.Prabath Jayasundera
Mr.Mervyn Wijesinghe

B. **Finance Committee**

Mr.Gamini Fernando – Convener
Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr.Kamal Kodituwakku
Mr.P.S. Duleep Kumar

C. **Membership Committee**

Mr.Sarath Suraweera – (Convener)
Mr.Rizvi Jalill
Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka

D. **Newsletter Committee**

Mr.Shervon Fernando - Convener
Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr.Jabir Junaid

E. **Rules Committee**

Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera – Convener
Mr.B.Munasinghe
Mr.N.D. Kuru Utumpala
Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr.Joe Rajakaruna

F **Social & Dinner**

Mr.Chandana De Silva – Convener
Mr.P J Fernando
Mr.Shervon Fernando
Mr.Sisira Nanayakkara
Mr.Rizvi Jalill
Mr.B G C Fernando
Mr.S Balaramesh
Mr.G S S Perera
Mr.Sunil Watawala

Mr.Chandana De Silva indicated that several matters needed attention to and the whole Executive Committee should be involved. This was accepted.

A tentative date 28th October was fixed for the Annual Fellowship Dinner.

Mr.Duleep Kumar suggested that we take special note of this year's celebrations, as the year 2002 marks the Diamond Jubilee of the College.

G. **Re- Union Day Celebrations Committee**

Mr.Duleep Kumar requested from the Head Master that OBA celebrations be held with the presence of the School boys considering the available accommodation. This would enable the present boys to enter in to the spirit of the Celebrations and interact with the Old Boys. This would be facilitated during the celebrations with a Science & Art Exhibition. The Head Master undertook to discuss it with the staff and give his view at the next meeting. His special concern were to prevent the exposure of the present boys to smoking and drinking.

Mr. Sunil Watawala also emphasized the need for greater school boy participation.

Mr.Prabath Jayasundera on discussing the OBA Agenda stated that having the AGM on Sunday after breakfast will reduce the attendance as against Saturday evenings. It was agreed that the committee have this in mind in making their recommendations.

The members of this Sub-Committee will be appointed in due course.

6. **To discuss periodicity and location of future Executive Committee Meetings**

It was decided that the venue of future Ex-co Meetings would be at S.Thomas' Prep School Colombo 03. Mr.Duleep Kumar proposed that Every Third Meeting be held at Gurutalawa.

The dates of the next two Ex-Co Meetings were decided for the convenience of the members.

2nd Ex-Co Meeting - 17th May (Friday) at STPS Col 03
3rd Ex-Co Meeting - 15th June (Saturday) STC Gurutalawa

7. **To discuss the current financial position.**

The Treasurer mentioned that he received the Books of Accounts etc, only a week ago. He handed over a copy of the Audited Financial Accounts for discussion. It was then observed that the Final Audited Accounts differs from the one that was presented and adopted at the AGM. The Treasurer was requested to look into the changes and advise the Committee at the next meeting. It was observed that a sum of Rs.140,000/- due from the Board of Governors as contribution to the Dining Hall project was reflected in the Accounts, and whether this sum should not be recovered from the Board. Mr.Duleep Kumar undertook to contact the Treasurer of the Board.

The Treasurer was requested to look in to the Nil Accounts reflected in the Financial Report.

The Head Master mentioned that as far as the school was concerned the running cost is Rs.8 ½ lakhs per months and the monthly Deficit is Rs.1 ½, lakhs.

8. **To transact any other business brought up with the consent of the chair**

Mr.Duleep Kumar stated that many Old Boys were concerned about the theft and pilferage which has been brought to their notice and the need for financial control and proper accounting procedures to be established. Also the direction the school should take with a vision for its future, and the need to take measures accordingly.

He also stated that these were matters which the OBA has no suo motto status and the OBA could be involved only if the Head Master felt it was desirable, and invited their assistance.

The Head Master mentioned that an Old Boy Mr..B A Mahipala has already brought in a firm of Chartered Accountants to look in to this. The Head Master was most willing to invite the Executive Committee to send a team of members to investigate whatever is being done and that he would be open to their suggestions.

As for the need for structural changes he had already arrived at the conclusion that the ideal number for the school would be around 700 students. The existing number is 415 and the break even number would be 600. He felt an awareness campaign in the press should be done to increase numbers.

The Head Master did not think that there was an excess of the Tutorial Staff although admitted to an excess of the domestic staff.

Mr.Lasantha Perera requested the Head Master to develop the Tamil Medium to increase the number of students. The Head Master said that he had already recruited 2 graduates. Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera suggested that IT Facilities be developed.The Head Master said that only 2 Computers were available in school. Mr.Lasantha Perera stated that the future staff that is being recruited should have IT knowledge with the ability to attend to any computer repairs.

Mr.Prabath Jayasundera requested the Head Master to have a closer look at the present security service in college, and the danger inherent in recruitment of Minor Staff.

Mr.Duleep Kumar suggested that the Head Master make inquires with the Police re establishing a Police Post. Mr.Suraweera added that previously there had been a Police Post at Borlanda and he would explore the possibilities.

The Secretary Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi added that the school gives an ideal opportunity to attract foreign students and become an international School. With the impending peace proposal, prospect of permanent peace Indian and African students may be attracted. This is a vision for the future.

Mr.Sumeda Perera requested the Secretary to write to the S.Thomas' College UK OBA Branch to get assistance for projects. He had met a member of the S.Thomas' College U K OBA & discussed this opportunity. The Secretary was requested to write to the S.Thomas' College ,UK OBA once the address is obtained.

Mr.Duleep Kumar moved that the Authorised Signatories of the Bank Accounts at Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank, and National Savings Bank be changed.

- A. “Resolved that instructions given to Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank in respect of Account No.01-1005359-01 be and is hereby rescinded and that the said Bank be and is hereby authorized and requested to honour cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes drawn, signed accepted or made on behalf of the Association by

Either

Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi - (Hony. Secretary)

Or

Mr.Gamini Fernando - (Hony. Treasurer)

And any one of the following

Mr.P.S.Duleep Kumar)	Senior Vice President
Mr.B.Munasinghe)	
Mr.Sunil Watawala)	Vice Presidents
Mr.Sarath Suraweera)	
Mr.P J Fernando		

and to act on any instructions given by the persons so authorised with regard to any accounts or transactions of the Association.

and that all changes that take place from time to time in authorized signatories be advised promptly to the Bank under the hands of the President and Secretary for the time being.

and that the prescribed mandate form of the Bank be completed and delivered to the Bank.

- B.** “Resolved that instructions given to National Savings Bank in respect of Account No.0001-2070065099 be and is hereby rescinded and that the said Bank be and is hereby authorized and requested to honour cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes drawn, signed accepted or made on behalf of the Association by

Either

Mr.Nihal Wanniarachchi - (Hony. Secretary)

Or

Mr.Gamini Fernando - (Hony. Treasurer)

And any one of the following

Mr.P.S.Duleep Kumar)	Senior Vice President
Mr.B.Munasinghe)	
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and that the prescribed mandate form of the Bank be completed and delivered to the Bank.

The Secretary tabled a letter from an old boy Mr. W M Karunanayake of Anguruthamulla, Maspana seeking financial support for a Heart Operation for his 1 ½ year old daughter. It was agreed to mention this in the next News Letter, to obtain voluntary contributions.

The Secretary mentioned that as there are no facilities for refreshments at Executive Committee Meetings, 2 members should undertake to provide refreshments at every meeting and that today's refreshments were by courtesy of the Treasurer and Secretary.

There being no other business the Meeting terminated

Confirmed as correct

Chairman