



S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL, KOLLUPITIYA
OLD BOYS' UNION

XLI
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28 MAY 2022

SCHOOL SONG

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
For our home by the roaring billows,
That sound their song in our ears all day,
And lull us at night on our pillows.

Chorus:

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
Sing we in cheerful chorus,
We'll cherish the School of our youthful years
Through Life that lies before us

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
For our Flag with its colours flying,
Dark blue, Light blue and Gleaming White,
Gaily the breeze defying

Cheer, Cheer Prep School Boys,
Though we're small we've brains and muscle,
And have shown we can hold our own ere this
In many a friendly tussle

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
For the games we play together,
Play with vim in the sunshine bright,
Nor less in a rainy weather

Cheer, Cheer Prep School Boys,
For our tasks (Tho' we often shirk them),
History, Grammar, Science, Sums,
Which are wrong as a rule when we work them

Chorus:

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School boys
Sing we in cheerful chorus,
We'll cherish the School of our youthful years
Through Life that lies before us

IS MY

L. A. L. Blanchard

When you live in the hearts
of those you love,
remember then....
you never die.

Farewell my Friends
by Rabindranath Tagore

We uphold in our thoughts and prayers our Teacher

MR. KINGSELY SUNDERALINGAM

and our Brothers

SHIVAHAR SIRIKANANATHAN

ASIRI PERERA (O' LEVEL 1980)

SIDATH NAGAHAWATTE

ASHLEY MONI

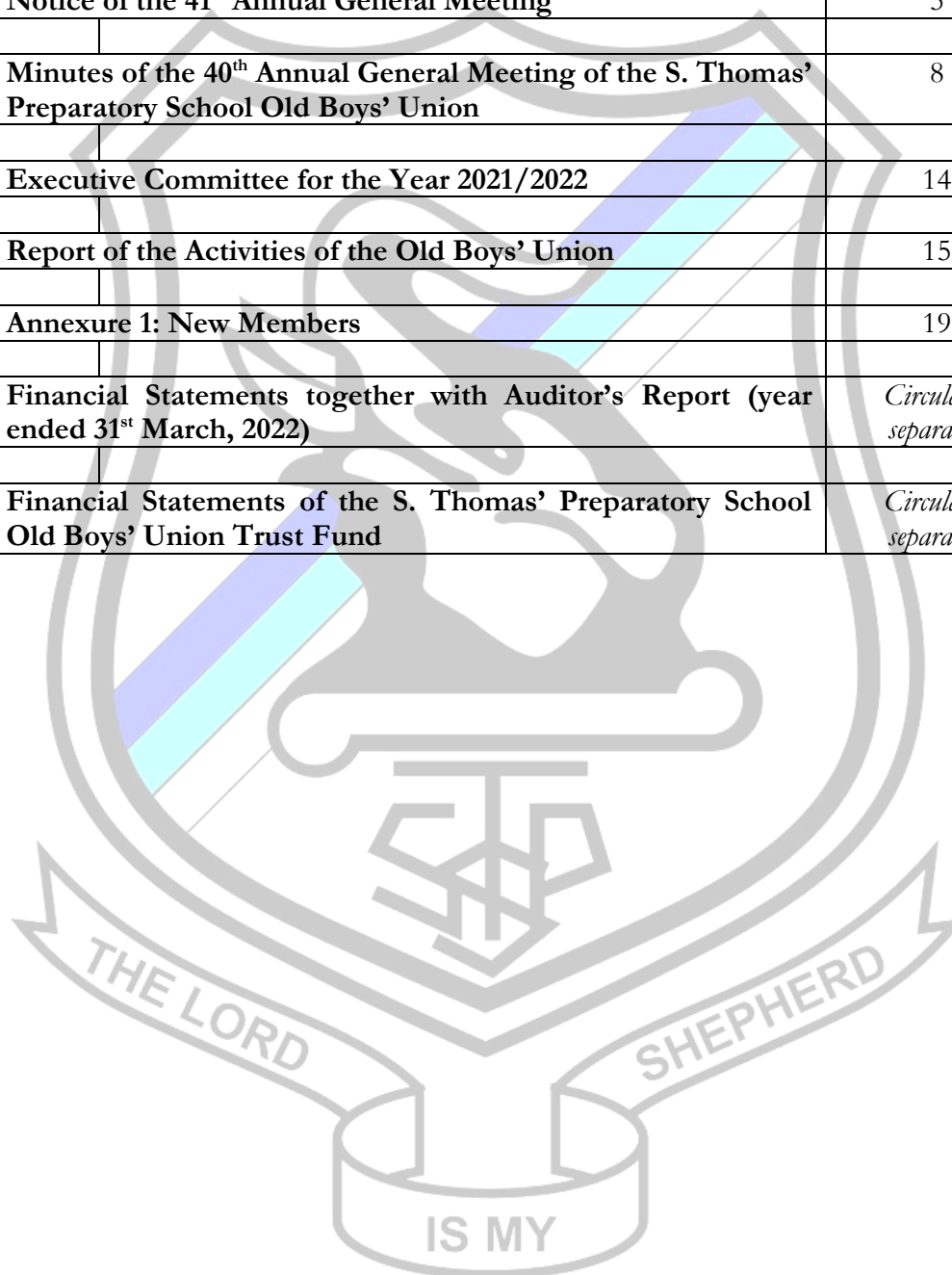
JANAKA FERNANDO (passed away in 2002)

KASUN PALANSURIYA (passed away in 2016)

and all members of the staff and alumni of Prep School
who have been called to eternal rest and their families
and give thanks that they were a part of and enriched
the Prep School Community on their sojourn on earth.

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S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION

(Estd. 12th May, 1978)

No. 98, Steuart Place, Colombo 03.

Tel: +94 71 773 7628

E-mail: secretary@prepobu.lk

Web: www.prepobu.lk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/189002318197584/>

7th May, 2022

NOTICE OF 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given in terms of Rule 4(a) of the OBU Rules that the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the S.Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (STPS OBU) will be held on **Saturday the 28th May, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the School Hall** followed by refreshments and the fellowship hosted by the Headmaster. All Old Boys are welcome (Registration for the AGM and the Fellowship are mandatory– see details below).

AGENDA

1. Notice convening the meeting.
2. Excuses.
3. Two minutes' silence in remembrance of Old Boys and Members of the Staff who have passed on since the 40th AGM of 11th December, 2021.
4. Adoption of Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting (to be circulated).
5. Matters arising from the Minutes.
6. Presentation of the Report of the activities of the Union by the Honorary Secretary (to be circulated).
7. Adoption of the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 (to be circulated).
8. Presentation of the Audit Report and Financial Statements of the S.Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union Trust Fund.
9. Address by the Ex-Officio President, Revd. Nihal Fernando.
10. Election of Office Bearers for the year 2022/2023.
 - I. Three Honorary Vice Presidents
 - II. Honorary (a) General Secretary & (b) Assistant Secretary
 - III. Honorary (a) Treasurer & (b) Assistant Treasurer
 - IV. Honorary Auditor

11. Election of Committee Members to represent the following age groups:

GROUP	YEARS AT SCHOOL	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
GROUP A	01-01-48 TO 31-12-57	3 MEMBERS
GROUP B	01-01-58 TO 31-12-67	3 MEMBERS
GROUP C	01-01-68 TO 31-12-77	3 MEMBERS
GROUP D	01-01-78 TO 31-12-87	3 MEMBERS
GROUP E	01-01-88 TO 31-12-97	3 MEMBERS
GROUP F	01-01-98 TO 31-12-07	3 MEMBERS
GROUP G	01-01-08 TO DATE	3 MEMBERS

12. Announcements.

13. School Song.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

A. Rule 5(a) - Nominations of members seeking election to the posts set out in Rules 5(a)(ii), 5(a)(iii)(a), 5(a)(iii)(b), 5(a)(iv)(a), 5(a)(iv)(b) and 5(d) should reach the Honorary Secretary under sealed cover to S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION, No. 98, Steuart Place, Colombo 03 no later than **12 PM of Saturday 21st May, 2022** and must include the candidate's name in full, OBU membership number, position nominated to, consent to fill the position nominated to, names, signatures and OBU membership numbers of the OBU member proposing and seconding and current contact details. (A Specimen Nomination Form can be obtained by sending an e-mail to prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk).

B. Rule 5(b):

No member shall be eligible for nomination or to be elected:

- I. as a Vice-President, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer unless he has been a member of the Union for over ten (10) years;
- II. as a Vice-President, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer if such member has previously served five (5) consecutive terms in the same post;
- III. as Treasurer unless he possesses a recognized qualification in the field of accounting.

C. Rule 4(c) – Notice of any motions to be tabled must be by due notice given

which should reach the Honorary Secretary under sealed cover to S.THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION, No. 98, Steuart Place, Colombo 03 no later than **12 PM of Saturday 21st May, 2022.**

- D. Only duly enrolled Members will be allowed to raise any matter or vote at the AGM. Therefore, please bring your Membership Card / Membership No. / proof of payment of the membership dues. Membership details could be ascertained by calling +94 71 773 7628 (Bill) or sending an e-mail to prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk.
- E. Old Boys wishing to attend AGM or the Fellowship following the AGM must confirm their attendance by either calling +94 71 773 7628 (Bill) OR sending an e-mail to prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk no later than **12 PM on Wednesday 25th May, 2022.** Old Boys attending the AGM or the Fellowship will be required to wear a mask, maintain physical distancing and follow all prevailing mandatory health & safety measures.
- F. Notice will only be published in the Newspapers and circulated by electronic means.

Raj Rasiah
Hony. Secretary 2021/2022
S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union

*(Notice convening the meeting was posted on the web-site of the School <<https://www.stps.edu.lk/obu-41st-annual-general-meeting/>> and on the Facebook Group and Page of the OBU as well as via Twitter, The Notice was also given publicity in the **Daily Mirror of 13th May, 2022**, by e-mail and Whats.App at various time intervals commencing from 7th May 2022.)*



MINUTES OF THE 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION (OBU)

Date: Saturday the 11th of December, 2021 at 9.30 AM

Venue: School Hall, S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya

Presided by: Rev. Nihal Fernando, Headmaster/*Ex officio* President of the OBU

Attendance: Rev Nihal Fernando; Akbar Deen; Attygalle L. G.; Cassim S. I.; Chandana De Silva; Dinesh Jeyraj; Fayyaz Mukthar; Gayan Keppetipola; Goonetillake D. B.; Haroun Cader; Hashinntha Kodagoda; Jayawickrema S. H.; Kishan De Silva; M. Sundaresan; Raj Rasiah; Rajindh Perera; Ramesh Anthony; S Sri Ganendran; Shevahn Goonesekara; Sulaiman Nishthar; Tissanayagam S. R.; Wickremasinghe N. F.; Wickremasinghe N. N.; Dinuka Abeykoon; Senaka Rathnayake; Ram Kishore; Kavindra Amaratunga; Denver Balan; Dinal Edirisinghe; Navin Dissanayake; Dillon Sivapragasam

The Headmaster, Rev. Nihal Fernando, led the House in Prayer prior to the commencement of the Meeting. Thereafter, the 40th Annual General Meeting of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (OBU) was called to order by the Headmaster, who presided over the Meeting.

1. Notice Convening the Meeting

Notice convening the meeting was posted on the web-site of the School <<https://www.stps.edu.lk/obu-agm/>> and on the Facebook Group and Page of the OBU. The Notice was also given publicity in the Daily Mirror of 25th November, 2021 and by e-mail and WhatsApp and was taken as read.

2. Excuses

Stephan de Silva

3. Two minutes' silence in remembrance of Old Boys and Members of the Staff who have passed on since the 39th AGM of 12th of September, 2020

The following names were recorded:

Staff

Mr. Peramune

Mr. S. D. S. Senadheera

Mrs. Damayanthi Wickramaratne

Mrs. S. Suresh Chandra

Mr. Trevinne De Silva (Former Administrative Assistant of the OBU)

Alumni

Randy Rajaratnam
Kanishka Perera
Fazlin Ghafoor
Brandon Shamil Nanayakkara
Kamal Ratwatte
Collince Ravindran (Ravi) Swamydasan
Lakshman Seneviratne
Sanjeeva Corea
Suresh Mathew
Dorilal Siripala Soysa

All those in attendance stood and observed two minutes' silence, after which Rev. Nihal Fernando offered a prayer for the departed.

4. Adoption of Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting

The said Minutes were circulated by electronic means due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting were proposed and seconded respectively by Mr. Nalinaksha Wickremasinghe and Mr. Lasitha Attygalle and duly adopted.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

6. Presentation of the Report of the activities of the Union by the Honorary Secretary

The Secretary, Mr. Raj Rasiah, stated that the Annual Report of the activities of the OBU for the period: 2020/2021 had been circulated by electronic means due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Secretary read out his Report which was published at page 8 of the Annual Report.

The Annual Report was duly adopted by the House, pursuant to being proposed and seconded by Mr. Akbar Ali Deen and Mr. Nalinaksha Wickremasinghe respectively.

7. Adoption of the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021

The Treasurer, Mr. S. Sri Ganendran, stated that the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 had been circulated by electronic means due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that either he or the Audit Manager who was present could take any questions. There were none. The audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 was proposed by Mr. Lasitha Attygalle and seconded by Mr. Dinuka Abeykoon and duly adopted.

8. **Address by the Ex-Officio President, Revd. Nihal Fernando**

See Annexure for complete text.

9. **Election of Office Bearers for the Year 2017/2018**

Since there was no contest for any of the posts the Headmaster read out the names of the Office Bearers who were duly elected:

Hon. Vice Presidents: Mr. Haroun Cader; Mr. Kishan De Silva; Mr. Chandan de Silva
(*Uncontested*)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Raj Rasiah (*Uncontested*);

Hon. Asst. Secretary: Mr. Rajindh Perera (*Uncontested*);

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Sithambaram Sri Ganendran (*Uncontested*);

Hon. Asst. Treasurer: Mr. Nishtar Sulaiman (*Uncontested*);

The Treasurer, Mr. S. Sri Ganendran, stated that the practice of appointing an Honorary Auditor was no longer possible and that the services of an audit firm were retained for a professional fee. He stated that the present auditor MGI KAL Rupasinghe & Co. had done a very good job and recommended that their services be retained for the following year. There was no objection to this proposal. Therefore, MGI KAL Rupasinghe & Co. was duly appointed as the Auditor for the year 2020/2021.

The above recommendation was proposed and seconded respectively by Mr. Rajindh Perera and Mr. Nalinaksha Wickremasinghe and duly adopted.

10. **Election of Committee Members to represent Age Groups**

Since there was no contest for any of the Age Groups the Headmaster read out the names of the Committee Members who were duly elected to represent Age Groups:-

Mr. Fayyaz Mukthar
Mr. Romesh Tissanayagam
Mr. Dushantha B. Goonetilleke
Mr. Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy
Mr. G. Thilina R. Keppetipola
Mr. Kavindra Amarathunga
Mr. Santhosh Jayasinghe
Mr. Denver Balan
Mr. Jason Samuel
Mr. Akbar Ali Deen

As there were vacancies in the Executive Committee the Headmaster inquired if any of the Members in attendance would like to serve on the Executive Committee. The following Members volunteered:

Mr. Basheer Cader
Mr. Nilantha Fernando
Mr. Navin Dissanayake

Mr. Dinesh Hensman
Mr. Shevahn Goonesekera
Mr. Hashintha Kodagoda
Mr. Ramesh Anthony
Mr. Nalinaksha Wickremasinghe
Mr. Muthukrishnan Sundaresan
Mr. Senaka Rathnayake
Mr. Dilshan Dissanayake

11. Any business of which due notice has been given

11.1 Resolution under and in terms of Rule 3(a) of the Rules of the STPS OBU to confer Honorary Life Membership of the STPS OBU on His Lordship Rt. Revd. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo

The said Resolution was published at page 17 of the Annual Report.

The Headmaster called on the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Rajindh Perera, to explain the Resolution.

The Assistant Secretary stated that under and in terms of Rule 3(a) of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (STPS OBU) there was provision to confer 'Honorary Life Membership' of the Union on a maximum number of fifteen (15) persons at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). He stated that according to the records available with the OBU such 'Honorary Life membership' had not been conferred on any individual. He stated that at a Meeting of the Executive Committee he had proposed and Vice Presidents Haroun Cader and Kishan de Silva and the Treasurer, S. Sri Ganendran had seconded a Motion that Honorary Life Membership of the OBU be conferred on Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, who was at the time the Headmaster of S. Thomas' Preparatory School and *ex-officio* President of the OBU on his election as the 16th Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo, and that the proposal had been unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

He then read out the text of the Resolution:

WHEREAS Rev. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo, an alumni of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia was appointed as the 5th Headmaster of S. Thomas' Preparatory School (Prep School) in January, 2015 and by virtue of this office served as the *ex-officio* President of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (OBU).

AND WHEREAS during his tenure as the Headmaster of S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Rev. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo:

invited the Old Boys' Union to once again be a part of the life of the School;

led the efforts to organise the first ever Walk by Prep School together with the OBU and raised over Sixteen Million Rupees for the renovation of the Fortrose;

caused the restoration of the Fortrose, the spiritual home of the School, to its original glory;

rallied all forces that form a part of the Prep School Community to rebuild the School in the aftermath of the destruction caused by the gale force winds on the night on the 28th of November, 2017;

re-built the badly damaged Chapel of the Good Shepherd and expanded it to a space that could bring together the entire School in prayer and devotion; and

gave the Old Boys Union a permanent home inside the School premises.

AND WHEREAS *Rev. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo while serving as the Headmaster of S. Thomas' Preparatory School was appointed as the 16th Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo and relinquished the office of Headmaster on the 31st of January 2021 to serve his higher calling.*

NOW THEEEFORE, *the Members of the Old Boys' Union gathered for the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Union at the School Hall on this 11th day of December 2021 hereby resolve to approve the proposal by the Executive Committee to confer Honorary Life Membership of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union on His Lordship Rt. Revd. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo under and in terms of Rule 3(a) of the Rules of the Union in recognition of his contribution to 'Prep School', fellowship with the alumni and leadership of the Old Boys' Union.*

The Resolution was unanimously approved by the House.

11.2 Resolution under and in terms of Rule 10 of the Rules of the STPS OBU

The said Resolution was published at page 18 of the Annual Report.

The Headmaster called on the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Rajindh Perera, to explain the Resolution.

The Assistant Secretary read out the original Rule and the proposed amendment. He stated that the Rules could only be “altered, amended, repealed, or added to” only at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and that it was not practical to do so as there were several mandatory matters that had to be taken up leaving little time to properly discuss any proposed amendment of the Rules.

12. Announcements

Mr. Gayan Keppetipola was asked to brief the House on the development of the STPS OBU website.

The Headmaster invited the members of the OBU for lunch hosted by him after the AGM.

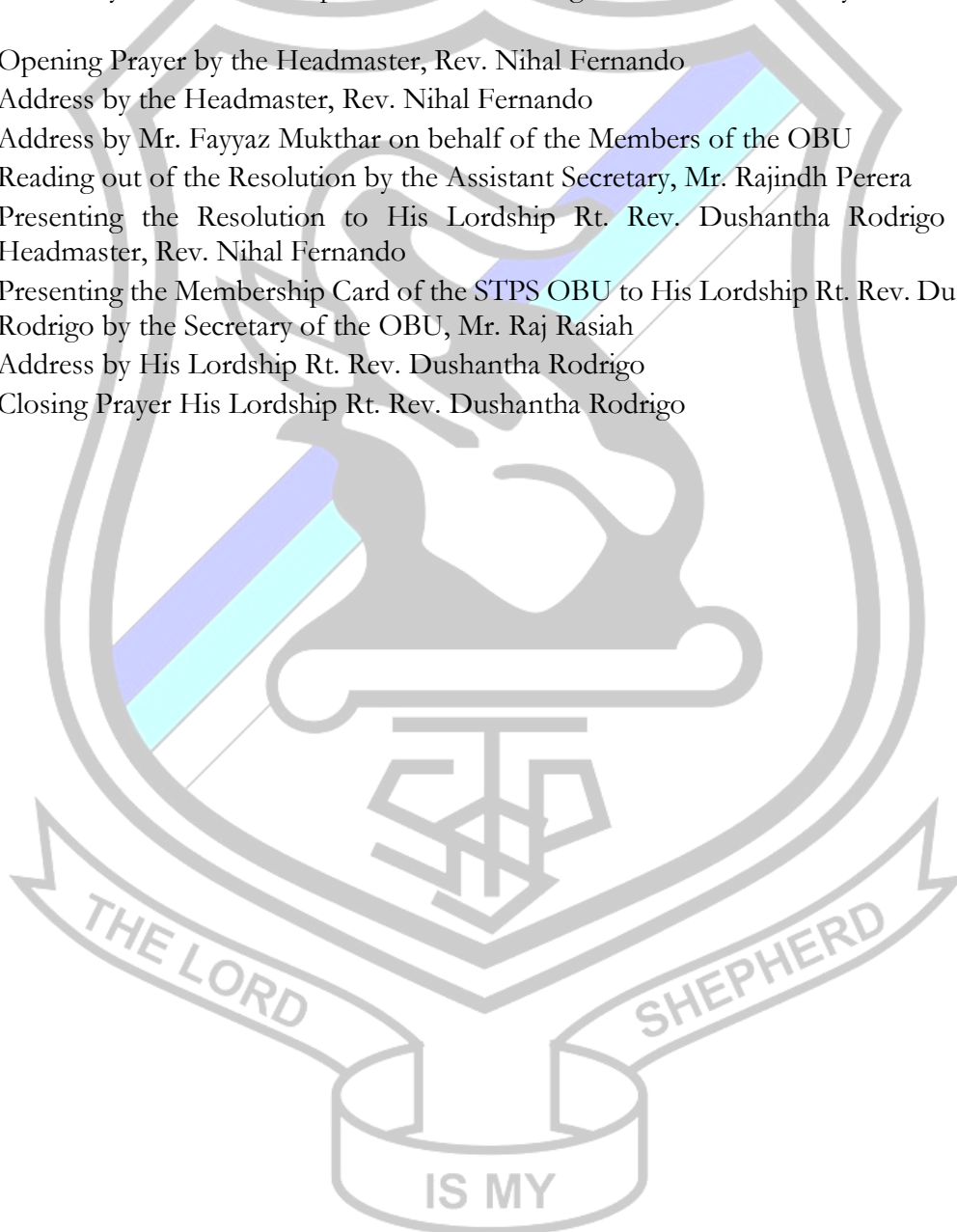
13. School Song

As there was no further business, the proceedings of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the OBU were terminated by the Headmaster after singing the School Song.

Raj Rasiah
Hony. Secretary
S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union

After the conclusion of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the OBU a ceremony was held in the School Hall to felicitate the former Headmaster, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, and to confer Honorary Life Membership of the OBU. The agenda for the ceremony was as follows:

- Opening Prayer by the Headmaster, Rev. Nihal Fernando
- Address by the Headmaster, Rev. Nihal Fernando
- Address by Mr. Fayyaz Mukthar on behalf of the Members of the OBU
- Reading out of the Resolution by the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Rajindh Perera
- Presenting the Resolution to His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo by the Headmaster, Rev. Nihal Fernando
- Presenting the Membership Card of the STPS OBU to His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo by the Secretary of the OBU, Mr. Raj Rasiah
- Address by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo
- Closing Prayer His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2020/2021

President (Ex officio)	Revd. Nihal Fernando
Vice Presidents	Chandana Lal De Silva
	Kishan R De Silva
	Haroun Cader
Hony. Secretary	Raj Rasiah
Hony. Asst. Secretary	Rajindh Perera
Hony. Treasurer	Sithambaram Sri Ganendran
Hony. Asst. Treasurer	Mohammed Sulaiman Nishtar
Committee Members	Nilantha Fernando
	Mohamed Fayyaz Mukthar
	Muthukrishnan Sundareson
	Dushantha Goonetilleke
	S Romesh Tissainayagam
	Basheer Cader
	Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy
	Hashintha Kodagoda
	Denver Balan
	Dinesh Hensman
	Santhosh Jayasinghe
	Jason Samuel
	Kavindra Amaratunga
	M Akbar Ali Deen
	Shevahn Goonesekera
	Gayan Keppetipola
	Ramesh Anthony
	Nalinaksha Wickremasinghe
	Dilshan Dissanayake

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OLD BOYS' UNION

The Executive Committee of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (OBU) is pleased to present the Annual Report of its activities to the Membership at the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the OBU.

The past year, like the previous year, had been a difficult one for Sri Lanka and as the COVID-19 pandemic gradually resided an economic crisis has gripped the country. Therefore, several of the larger plans and activities of the Executive Committee for the benefit of the School and the membership had to be deferred or scaled back and we opted to assist the Headmaster with specific projects that he had identified as being immediately necessary for the School.

Some of these projects were:

- Completing the design of the OBU web-site
- Donation of laptops requested by the Headmaster for the IT Laboratory
- Sponsoring two (2) workshops for the members of the Staff
- Continuing support to the Education Grants Fund
- Contribution towards repairs to the Year 4 and 5 Block

and details of them can be found below.

The Executive Committee is extremely grateful to the alumni of the School (both individuals and Batch/Class Groups) who made these Projects possible.

In executing our tasks we have the pleasure of working together with the Staff, who continue to support the activities of the OBU. They work tirelessly to preserve the vision of our Founder, W. T. Keble, in an ever changing social and economic environment that has had a massive impact on education, and we are grateful for their service.

As always we are indebted to the Headmaster who has stood firmly by his word to work closely with the OBU and the alumni of the School. He has been frank and open with matters concerning the School and the OBU and not afraid to issue a friendly warning when things were getting delayed.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OBU

Mr. Stephan de Silva, an alumnus of Prep School who served as the Administrative Assistant of the OBU and whose efficiency was the backbone of the extremely successful membership development drive in the past year resigned from the Staff to take up other employment. He also relinquished his duties as the Administrative Secretary and we thank him for his service to the School (which includes the design and development of the web-site of the School) and the OBU.

Mr. Bill Richardson, a young alumnus of S. Thomas' College Bandarawela was employed by the School and the Headmaster gave him permission to serve as the Administrative Assistant of the OBU after School hours on the payment of a stipend by the OBU.

The OBU shared the cost of purchasing a laptop for use by the Administrative Assistant together with the School on the understanding that it could be used by any Administrative Assistant of the OBU.

MEMBERSHIP

The new Administrative Assistant was trained by Mr. Stephan de Silva on processing applications for membership and membership cards. After a short break in processing applications during this handover the process has now recommenced and is progressing smoothly.

Nine alumni were granted membership of the OBU since the last AGM and their details are provided in Annexure #1.

The process of digitizing the Admission Records of the School which commenced last year is being continued.

COMMUNICATIONS

Re-design of OBU web-site: the re-design and development of the STPS OBU reported in the last Annual Report is continuing and has fallen slightly behind track due to issues in locating content. Members of the Executive Committee, Gayan Keppetipola and Kavindra Amarathunga, continue to lead this initiative. Mr. Kavindra Amarathunga, a professional photographer carried out a photoshoot of the School for the web-site.

OBU Social Media Channels: the social media channels of the OBU are handled by Kavindra Amarathunga and have continued to be active in providing news of the School and the OBU to the Prep School Community.

SMS Service: the services of a bulk SMS service provider is still in place, but not used regularly due to the cost. If any member does not use a smart phones or social media and wishes to receive an SMS of OBU activity can do so by informing the Administrative Assistant.

ASSITANCE WITH SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

As a means of developing sports at Prep School, which suffers from not having any facilities for sports, the Headmaster came to an understanding with the Warden of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, Rev. Marc Billimoria, for the students of Prep School to use the facilities at STC Mount Lavinia. To coordinate this task the Headmaster constituted a Committee comprising the Master-in-Charge of Sports and Mr. Raj Rasiah and Dushantha Gunatilake from the OBU. The Committee has been able to create a schedule for the use of facilities at STC Mount Lavinia and arranged a series of friendly matches between the two Schools. The OBU places on record it's deep appreciation of the gesture by the Warden.

Some of the other activities by the Sports Committee are setting up a WhatsApp Group to coordinate sports development, procuring equipment for cricket, designing new attire for all sports teams and are in the process of compiling a list of sporting achievements by Prepites, growing the Sports Development Fund and organizing motivation camps for students. The Committee has also recommended that the Application Form for membership of the OBU include a space for details of sports the applicant participated in while at School.

ASSITANCE WITH STREAMLINING FINANCES

The Headmaster requested the Executive Committee to nominate a group with expertise in finance and accounting to assist the School with improvements to the processes and systems of the Finance Department. The Executive Committee nominated Vice President, Mr. Chandana Lal de Silva, and the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Sulaiman Nishtar, for this purpose. They held two discussions with the Headmaster and the Finance team to get an assessment of the key areas that needed improvement as well as to ascertain as to what financial information was required by the Headmaster to make timely decisions. Subsequently they made some suggestions on improvements to the system to enable timely financial information being made available to the Headmaster and on the accounting software as well as processes to be under taken to reconcile differences in fee collections that was an issue to the finance team. They will continue to hold discussions whenever the Headmaster or the finance team needs support.

ASSISTANCE WITH LANDSCAPING THE QUADRANGLE

As the Headmaster has a vision to make 'Prep School' a 'green' School he initiated a project to develop the Quadrangle and invited the OBU to be a part of it. The funds for the project were raised through a donation to the School and the approval of the Board of Governors was sought and obtained. Mr. Dushantha Goonetilleke, a member of the Executive Committee, worked on the project with the Headmaster which was initially supported by the Batch of 91. Subsequently, the Batch of 89 supported the project with an irrigation system. A qualified professional landscaping company with the services of several alumni as consultants with experience in this field was retained. Although work on the project has been severely impacted by the current economic crisis it is due to be completed by August, 2022 and will create a pleasant environment for the students of Prep School.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE SCHOOL

IT Laboratory: the Headmaster informed the OBU that there was a shortage of laptops for the IT Laboratory of the School, which was initially set up with a contribution from a Batch/Class Group in 2015. The Batch of 1991 made a donation of Rupees Six hundred thousand to the OBU to donate four laptops to the School. The Class of 1989 donated five laptops directly to the School.

Training & Welfare for the Staff: as the members of the academic staff were due to return to full time in-person teaching in October (2021) the Headmaster wanted to organize a workshop to train them to deal with the new challenges they would face in the classroom. The Workshop had to be postponed to January,2022 and had to be conducted in two stages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The total cost of Rupees 171,000/= was donated by the Old Boys Union which has been pledged by the Class of 1991 to be re-imbursed.

The Batch of 1998 conducted a Health Camp for the past and present members of the Staff on Founders Day in May, 2022. This was an initiative by the Batch in consultation with the Headmaster and financed directly by the Batch who were able to secure the services of two leading healthcare providers. The Members of the Staff were extremely appreciative of this gesture.

Continuing support for the Education Grants Fund (EGF): the Education Grants Fund was set up in 2021 with the objective of ensuring that no student has to suffer losing out on their education owing to a turn of fortunes that their parents face as a result of circumstances beyond their control. Several individuals, Batch/Class Groups and charitable foundations have contributed towards the Fund and some of the contributions have been utilised to settle the outstanding school fees for 2021 (in terms of the criterion that was developed) and the balance will be utilised to build up the EGF. Batch/Group contributions were made by the Prepites in Canada (coordinated by Mr. Basheer Cader), the Batch of 1998, the Batch of 1999 and the Batch of 1994 and the OBU is extremely grateful to them and all the donors.

Infrastructure Development: known as the 'Year 5 Block' to some and the 'Year 4 & 5 Block' to others it is the last block of Classrooms that was constructed at Prep School and was completed just prior to the retirement of Mr. J. S. L. Fernando as the Headmaster. It was one of the buildings that was badly damaged by the gale force winds that wreaked havoc on the School in November 2017 and was temporarily repaired as the plan at the time was to eventually bring down the building to make a larger playing area for the students. However, time and tide have taken a toll on the building and the Headmaster commenced repairing it on an urgent basis as plans on new class rooms have been met with several challenges. The cost was met by a donation from the OBU (Rs. 1,000,000/=) and the Old Thomians' Association in the United Kingdom (OTAUK) (Rs. 1,551,100/=).

S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' TRUST FUND (STPS OBUTF)

The Trust fund balance as of 31st March 2022 is Rupees Seven Million Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty-Seven (Rs 7,872,527). Interest Income during the financial year was Rupees Three Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fifty-Nine (Rs 381,859). While Rupees Six Hundred and Four Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy-Three (Rs 604,373) was paid to School to support the Incentives paid to teachers.

ANNEXURE #1: NEW MEMBERS (SINCE 11 DECEMBER 2021)

1. WASS M. J. H.
2. SURESHCHANDRA V. G.
3. SHRIKAANTH S.
4. WICKRAMASINGHE M. M.
5. ABEYWICKRAMA U. S.
6. SIVARAJ N.
7. RATHNAYAKA S. K. U. W.
8. MENDIS L. M. C.
9. JOSEPH M. S.

