



# S.THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION

## XLII ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANNUAL REPORT  
2022 / 23

# 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

**L. A. L. Blanchard**



“They live on in the kindness they have shared and the love they brought into our lives”.  
-Leo Buscaglia

**We uphold in our thoughts and prayers our Teachers**

MR. PETER PERERA

MRS. BERYL RANASINGHE

**and Our Brothers**

MANOJ RAJAYAH

JASON SENANAYAKE

NALIN RAJAPAKSA

SHASHIHARAN ARASANAYAGAM

KEITH HENRICUS

SABRIESHAN PRABAHARAN

KARTHIGEYAN NARAYANAN

and all members of staff and alumni of S. Thomas' 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)



### 1. NOTICE OF 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023

Notice is hereby given in terms of Rule 4(a) of the OBU Rules that the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the S.Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (STPS OBU) will be held on **Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the School Hall** followed by lunch 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 41<sup>st</sup> AGM of 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.
4. Adoption of Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (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 2023/2024.
  - 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 31-12-17	3 MEMBERS
GROUP H	01-01-18 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 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2023** 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](mailto:prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk) ).

B. Rule 5(b):

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

- II. 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;
- III. 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;

- IV. 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 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**.
- 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](mailto:prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk)
- E. Past Prepites wishing to attend AGM or the Lunch and 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](mailto:prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk) no later than **12PM on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**. Past Prepites attending the AGM, or the Fellowship will be required to follow all prevailing mandatory health & safety measures.
- F. Notice will only be published in the Newspapers, OBU Website and circulated by electronic means.

### **S.Sri Ganendran**

Hony. Secretary 2022/2023

S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union

*(Notice convening the meeting was posted on the website of the OBU <<https://prepobu.lk/events/obu-42nd-annual-general-meeting/>> and on the Facebook Group and Page of the OBU, Instagram Page of the OBU as well as via Twitter, The Notice was also given publicity in **The Sunday Times of 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**, **Daily Mirror of 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**, by e-mail and WhatsApp at various time intervals commencing from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.)*





## 2. MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION (OBU)

**Date:** Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022 at 4.20 PM

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

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

### **Attendance:**

Rev Nihal Fernando	Kavindra S. Amaratunga	Ramesh Anthony
D. Arianayagam	Haroun Cader	Muhamadh Akbar Ali Deen
Dilshan Dissanayaka	Janaprith Salinda Fernando	Nilantha S. L. Fernando
Rohitha Fernando	A Gangatharan	Dushi Goonetillake
Dr. Dilan Ilapperuma	Santhosh P. Jayasinghe	M. Jayasuriya
Shamin H Jayawickreme	M. Steve Joseph	Gayan T R Keppetipola
Hashintha Kodagoda	Mawaad Zafir Millfer	A.N.E.Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy
Mithila Mendis	Mohamed Fayyaz Mukthar	Sulaiman Nishthar
P. L. C. Peiris	R.A. T. Rajindh Perera	R. L. Perera
Arun.W.J.Pillai	Akram ur Rahman	R.M.J Rajaratnam
Raj Rasiah	S. K. U. W. Rathnayaka	Jason Samuel
S. Sri Ganendran	K. Sugathadasa	Thimal Indula Sumanasekera
Muthukrishnan Sundaresan	S. Romesh Tissainayagam	Arvind Vijayaratnam
Manjula Vitharana	M. Andrew Shayan Wass	Chamantha Iroshana Welikala
Nalinaksha Wickremesinghe	Esmond. R. Wickremesinghe	Dimantha N. O. Wickremesinghe
Nirmal. W. Wickremesinghe	H. L. D. M. Wijewardena	T. Wijesinghe



The Headmaster, Rev. Nihal Fernando, led the House in Prayer prior to the commencement of the Meeting. Thereafter, the 41<sup>st</sup> 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-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 WhatsApp at various time intervals commencing from 7th May 2022, was taken as read.

2. **Excuses**

Kishan De Silva  
Chandan De Silva  
Denver Balan  
Nimesh Fernando  
Sushan Peiris  
M.R. Rawoof  
Oswin Osiris  
Sunil Jayawardene  
Lalith Dassenaik  
Harim Peiris

3. **Two minutes' silence in remembrance of Old Boys and Members of the Staff who have passed on since the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM of 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021**

The following names were recorded:

**Staff**

Mr. Kingsley Suntharalingam

**Alumni**

Shivahar Sirikanthan  
Asiri Perera  
Ashley Moni  
Sidath Nagahawatte

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 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

*The said Minutes were circulated by electronic means.*

The Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting were proposed and seconded respectively by Mr. Nilantha Fernando and Mr. Manjula Vitharana 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 Assistant Secretary**

The Assistant Secretary, Mr. Rajindh Perera, stated that the Annual Report of the activities of the OBU for the period: 2021/2022 had been circulated by electronic means

The Assistant Secretary highlighted the salient points of the report and explained some of the key matters.

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

Finally on behalf of Raj and himself, the Assistant Secretary thanked the members of the ExCo for supporting them during the last two years to conduct the OBU activities specially since both were involved in two sectors that was heavily impacted from the pandemic and the current political crisis in the Country. He also mentioned Raj is stepping down from the position of Secretary and he is stepping down from the position of Assistant Secretary. He mentioned that Ganendran who has been in the ExCo during the past years will be taking over the position of Secretary. While congratulating Ganendran on his new position he also mentioned that Gayan will be supporting Ganendran as the Assistant Secretary. He also mentioned that Sulaiman will be taking over the position of the Treasurer and congratulated them on their new positions. He also thanked everyone for standing by the Old Boy's Union during the last two years and continued to assist the School. He mentioned that as far as the OBU is concerned, it is not the largest nor the loudest. But it has continued to support the school in the best possible manner and have kept the bond between the students and the alumni of the School.

The Secretary made a Speech following the presentation of the Annual Report. See Annexure 1 for Secretary's Speech text



7. **Adoption of the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022**

The Treasurer, Mr. S. Sri Ganendran, stated that the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 had been circulated by electronic means.

He mentioned the financial position of the Union and the OBU Trust Fund. A comparative analysis of the key Balance Sheet values against the previous year were highlighted. The income and expense values were read out. 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 2021 to 31st March 2022 was proposed by Mr. Dilan Illapperuma and seconded by Mr. Laknath Peiris and duly adopted.

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

See Annexure 2 for complete text.

9. **Election of the Office Bearers for the Year 2022/2023**

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

<b>Hon. Vice Presidents:</b>	Mr. Haroun Cader Mr. Kishan De Silva Mr. Chandan de Silva	<i>(Uncontested)</i>
<b>Hon. Secretary:</b>	Mr. Sithambaram Sri Ganendran	<i>(Uncontested)</i>
<b>Hon. Asst. Secretary:</b>	Mr. Gayan Keppetipola	<i>(Uncontested)</i>
<b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>	Mr. Nishtar Sulaiman	<i>(Uncontested)</i>
<b>Hon. Asst. Treasurer:</b>	Mr. Rajindh Perera	<i>(Uncontested)</i>

The Outgoing Treasurer, Mr. S. Sri Ganendran, stated that the practice of appointing an Honorary Auditor was no longer in practice 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 good job and recommended and proposed that their services be retained for the following year. Based on a concern raised by Mr. Janaprit Fernando in the Treasurer recommending the appointment of the Auditor,



the recommendation was proposed by Mr. Mr. Nalinaksha Wickremasinghe and seconded by Mr. Janaprit Fernando and duly adopted. It was noted that the recommendation was made by the Outgoing Treasurer, and he was not going to continue in the role as Treasurer in the new Committee.

Thereby, MGI KAL Rupasinghe & Co. was duly appointed as the Auditor for the year 2022/2023.

#### 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. Nilantha Fernando  
Mr. Fayyaz Mukthar  
Mr. Muthukrishnan Sundaresan  
Mr. Dushantha B. Goonetilleke  
Mr. Romesh Tissanayagam  
Mr. Akram ur Rahman  
Mr. Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy  
Mr. Hashintha Kodagoda  
Mr. Denver Balan  
Mr. Nimesh Fernando  
Mr. Santhosh Jayasinghe  
Mr. Jason Samuel  
Mr. Kavindra Amarathunga  
Mr. Akbar Ali Deen  
Mr. Shayan Waas

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. Raj Rasiah  
Mr. Sushan Peiris  
Mr. Arvind Vijayaratnam  
Mr. Senaka Rathnayake  
Mr. Dinesh Hensman  
Mr. Ramesh Anthony



11. **Address by the newly elected Secretary**

See Annexure 3 for complete text.

12. **Any business of which due notice has been given**

There were no Resolutions received.

13. **Announcements**

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

1.2. The Headmaster invited the members of the OBU for refreshments and tea hosted by him after the AGM.

14. **School Song & National Anthem**

As there was no further business, the proceedings of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the OBU were terminated by the Headmaster after singing of the School Song and of the National Anthem.

Members of the Outgoing and Incoming Executive Committees were requested to assemble near the Fortrose building to take official photographs.

**S. Sri Ganendran**

Hony. Secretary

S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union



### 3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023



Name	Designation	Present	Excused	Absent	Total	Attendance %
Revd. Nihal Fernando	President (Ex officio)	10	2	0	12	83%
Chandana Lal De Silva	Hony. Vice President	6	6	0	12	50%
Kishan R De Silva	Hony. Vice President	7	5	0	12	58%
Haroun Cader	Hony. Vice President	12	0	0	12	100%
Sithambaram Sri Ganendran	Hony. Secretary	12	0	0	12	100%
Gayan Keppetipola	Hony. Asst. Secretary	12	0	0	12	100%
Mohammed Sulaiman Nishtar	Hony. Treasurer	10	2	0	12	83%
Rajindh Perera	Hony. Asst. Treasurer	6	5	1	12	50%
Akbar Ali Deen	Committee Member	3	8	1	12	25%
Akram ur Rahman	Committee Member	10	2	0	12	83%
Arvinth Vijayaratanam *Resigned w.e.f 11th Jan 2023	Committee Member	8	0	0	8	100%
Denver Balan	Committee Member	7	5	0	12	58%
Dinesh Hensman * Resigned w.e.f 16th Sep 2022	Committee Member	0	0	4	4	0%
Dilshan Dissanayake *Joined w.e.f 14th Dec 2022	Committee Member	2	4	0	6	33%
Dushantha Goonetilleke	Committee Member	10	2	0	12	83%
Fayyaz Mukthar	Committee Member	12	0	0	12	100%
Hashintha Kodagoda	Committee Member	7	5	0	12	58%
Jason Samuel	Committee Member	2	4	6	12	17%
Kavindra Amaratunga	Committee Member	11	1	0	12	92%



Name	Designation	Present	Excused	Absent	Total	Attendance %
Lasitha Attygalle * Joined w.e.f 15th Feb 2023	Committee Member	1	3	0	4	25%
Muthukrishnan Sundareson	Committee Member	4	6	2	12	33%
Nilantha Fernando	Committee Member	3	5	4	12	25%
Nimesh Fernando * Resigned w.e.f 16th Sep 2022	Committee Member	2	2	0	4	50%
Raj Rasiah	Committee Member	2	2	8	12	17%
Ramesh Anthony	Committee Member	8	3	1	12	67%
Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy * Resigned w.e.f 11th Jan 2023	Committee Member	3	5	0	8	38%
Romesh Tissainayagam	Committee Member	10	1	1	12	83%
Santhosh Jayasinghe	Committee Member	4	2	6	12	33%
Senaka Rathnayaka	Committee Member	8	4	0	12	67%
Shayan Waas	Committee Member	6	4	2	12	50%
Sushan Peiris	Committee Member	8	3	1	12	67%





## 4. 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 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the OBU.

This Annual Report reflects upon yet another remarkable year of camaraderie, achievements, and shared memories. This report serves as a testament to the unwavering spirit of our esteemed institution and the enduring bond that unites us as proud alumni.

Throughout the past year, our Union has continued to thrive, embodying the values instilled in us during our time at S. Thomas' Prep School. It has been a year marked by collaboration, innovation, and a deep commitment to fostering lifelong connections among our cherished Prep School community. Together, we have celebrated milestones, embraced new opportunities, and embraced the spirit of giving back to our alma mater.

Within the ensuing pages, you will find a comprehensive overview of the Union's activities, initiatives, and notable accomplishments. We have taken great strides to engage our members and provide a platform for networking, mentorship, and shared experiences. Through reunions, social events, and professional development opportunities, we have strengthened the bonds that tie us together and reaffirmed our collective commitment to the ideals of excellence, integrity, and service.

Additionally, this report highlights the remarkable contributions made by our Union towards the betterment of our beloved School. Through fundraising efforts, scholarships, and initiatives that support the school's growth and development, we have continued to make a positive impact on future generations of Prepites. Our dedication to nurturing the potential within our alma mater remains steadfast, and we are proud to witness the profound transformations our collective efforts have brought about.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the members, volunteers, and sponsors who have wholeheartedly supported the Union's endeavors throughout the year. Your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in our successes, enabling us to propel forward with passion and purpose.

As we reflect upon the accomplishments of the past year, we also eagerly anticipate the possibilities that lie ahead. The future of our Union shines bright, filled with promise and opportunities for growth. Together, let us continue to build upon the strong foundation laid by our founder Mr. William Thomas Keble, our former Headmasters, Staff, our predecessors and forge a path that ensures the enduring legacy of S. Thomas' Prep School.



In closing, we invite you to peruse this Annual Report and celebrate the remarkable achievements that have been made possible by our collective spirit. Let us remain connected, inspired, and committed to upholding the cherished traditions of S. Thomas' Prep School and nurturing the bond that unites us as lifelong Prepites.

## 4.1. OBU General Administration Activities

### 4.1.1. Inauguration of the JSL Fernando Memorial room

On Thursday, July 14th, 2022, we commemorated a momentous occasion by dedicating the room adjoining the Board Room in the Fortrose as the "J.S.L. Fernando Memorial Room" in memory of the longest-serving Headmaster of S. Thomas' Prep School, Mr. J. S. L. Fernando. This date also marked Mr. Fernando's twenty-second Death Anniversary, making the event even more poignant.

Mr. J.S. L. Fernando's contributions to our beloved school were immeasurable, and it is only fitting that we honor his legacy by dedicating this room in his memory. Notably, Mr. Fernando played a pivotal role in establishing the Old Boys' Union, which has fostered a strong sense of camaraderie among our alumni over the years. The "J. S. L. Fernando Memorial Room" will now serve as the administrative hub for our Old Boys' Union, providing a dedicated space for our organizational activities and initiatives.

Furthermore, the room will serve as a counseling center, offering a safe and confidential environment for alumni seeking guidance and support. Additionally, it will house the administration of the Education Grants Fund, which is aimed at assisting deserving students in their pursuit of education.

To serve as the centerpiece of the room, we have meticulously restored the desk that was once used by Mr. J. S. L. Fernando during his tenure as Headmaster. This restoration has been expertly undertaken by his son, Mr. Nilantha Fernando, preserving its historical significance and ensuring that it stands as a tangible symbol of Mr. Fernando's unwavering commitment to education and our beloved school.

While we would have preferred to have the beloved wife and family of the late Mr. J.S. L. Fernando physically present for this significant event, we acknowledge the circumstances that led to their virtual participation. Nonetheless, their virtual presence symbolizes their continued support and deep connection to our alma mater.

We are grateful for the unwavering support of our members, whose dedication and passion have been instrumental in furthering the objectives of our Old Boys' Union. Together, we will continue to uphold the values and traditions of S. Thomas' Prep School and make a positive impact in our community.





Special message by Mrs. Erica Fernando at the opening of the  
J.S.L. Fernando Memorial room

#### 4.1.2. OBU Administrative Session with Major Raajiv Dias Wanigasekera and Mithila Mendis:

Past Prepites are 'Dual Citizens' - we owe allegiance to two Schools. While most Prepites go on to S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, we have many alumni who have gone on to their traditional and friendly rival - Royal College. This unique characteristic of Prep School is exemplified by the fact that we can proudly boast of producing both a Secretary of the S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia Old Boys' Association (STCML OBA) and a Secretary of the Royal College Union (RCU). These two alumni associations hold tremendous prestige in the country and make significant contributions to their respective Alma Maters. In order to navigate the evolving landscape of traditional alumni activities, the OBU engaged Major Raajiv Dias Wanigasekera (Rtd), former Secretary of STCML OBA from 2018 to 2020, and Mr. Mithila Mendis, former Secretary of RCU from 2019 to 2021, to seek their insights and expertise, refining our plans for future activities on the 24th of June 2022

##### Highlighted Discussion Points and Key Takeaways:

##### 1. Membership Development:

- Conduct an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the outgoing batch, including a meeting and tea session.
- Emphasize the importance of OBU membership, requiring at least 5 years of membership to admit a child from the OBU category.
- Consider implementing different membership fee slabs, with the highest slab set at around 15,000.
- Introduce categories for junior and senior members and increase admission fees to support activities such as hosting AGMs and postage.
- Focus on maintaining an updated and organized membership database.

##### 2. Batch Registration Process:

- Establish a WhatsApp group for each batch, consisting of the President, Vice President, and Secretary.
- Arrange regular meetings with batches, aiming for at least three meetings per year to build trust and foster communication.
- Foster a strong communication channel between the OBU, batches, and the school, facilitating effective management.
- Provide a sample constitution for initiating a batch committee and guiding the registration process.



### 3. Branding:

- Strengthen the Prep brand by collaborating with companies such as “No Limit” and other potential partners.
- Consider creating a recorder or history book for OBU activities, which could be displayed within the school premises for easy access by visiting alumni.
- Encourage each house to maintain a recorder book.
- Form a dedicated committee to enhance the brand name, potentially merging with the Merchandising committee.

### 4. OBU Leadership:

- Strive to recruit dynamic individuals for the OBU Executive Committee (ExCo).
- Develop a long-term leadership plan for the OBU, outlining the maximum tenure of individuals serving in the ExCo.
- Foster a positive rapport with the Headmaster, utilizing the limited time window effectively.

### 5. Events Planning:

- Plan a variety of events targeting different age groups, including not only traditional dinner dances but also sing-alongs and special activities like cycling to school with fathers.
- Organize events in parallel with significant occasions like the big match to maximize participation and engagement.

### 6. Infrastructure Planning:

- Create an overarching architectural plan for the school's infrastructure development.
- Establish an Infrastructure Committee responsible for approving new developments proposed by batches or alumni.
- Implement a comprehensive maintenance plan to ensure the upkeep of any structural enhancements.

### 7. Legal Committee:

- Establish a legal committee to review and vet contracts associated with OBU activities and initiatives.

### 8. Financial Committee:

- Develop a financial planning strategy to ensure proper allocation of resources.
- Seek support from auditors or financial experts for auditing purposes and financial guidance.





### 9. Foreign Chapters:

- Explore the establishment of foreign chapters in countries where a significant number of Past Prepites reside.
- Maintain clear and consistent communication channels with these foreign chapters, fostering engagement and collaboration.

### 10. Committee Merging:

- Consider merging the IT and Media Committee for enhanced efficiency and coordination.
- Explore the possibility of merging the Outreach Committee with the School Liaison Committee to streamline efforts and maximize impact.

### Key Outcomes:

- Strengthened engagement with foreign chapters, fostering connections and collaboration with Prepites residing overseas.
- Focus on branding initiatives to enhance the visibility and recognition of the Prep brand, exploring potential partnerships with external companies.
- Emphasize effective communication channels and coordination among the OBU, batches, and the school.
- Commitment to ongoing infrastructure planning and maintenance, ensuring a conducive learning environment for current and future students.
- Establishing dedicated committees, such as legal and financial committees, to address specific needs and enhance organizational operations.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Major Raajiv Dias Wanigasekera and Mithila Mendis for generously sharing their time, expertise, and insights



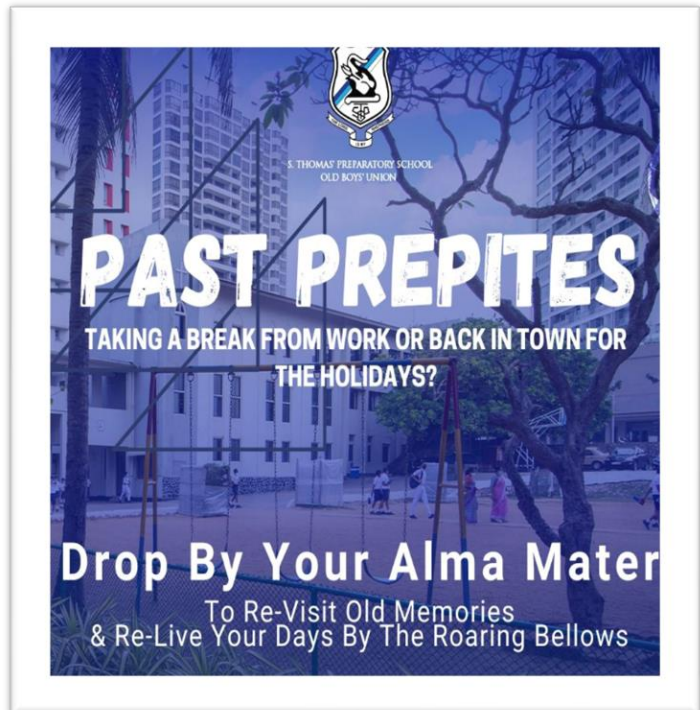
#### 4.1.3. "Drop By Your Alma Mater" Session for Fundraising Update

S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union (OBU) organized a special session called "Drop By Your Alma Mater," inviting past Prepites to revisit the school premises and receive updates on current proceedings. The event aimed to foster a sense of connection and engagement among past Prepites and provide them with an opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater. From December 14th to December 21st, ten walk-in sessions were conducted, facilitating alumni to participate at their convenience.

One of the significant highlights of the event was the presentation on various fundraising projects. The attendees were provided with an update on the ongoing initiatives, including Infrastructure Development, OBU Trust Fund, Education Grants Fund, Sports Development Fund, and the procurement of a bus for student activity transport. These projects play a crucial role in enhancing the school's facilities, supporting deserving students, and promoting overall development.

The session received an enthusiastic response, with nine past Prepites actively participating and attending the event. The names of the attendees were Duncan Toussaint, Dinuke Abeykoone, Shaan Jayasekera, Senal Nugawela, Ravishka De Mel, Jashan Gooneratne, Dushantha Weerasinghe, Chinthaka Gunaratne, and Abdul Hafeel. Their presence and involvement added value to the event, creating a vibrant atmosphere of camaraderie and shared memories.

S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union (OBU) extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for their commitment and support. Their presence at the session and engagement in the fundraising update reflect their dedication to their alma mater and the collective effort to drive positive change. S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union (OBU) acknowledges their contributions and remains committed to fostering a strong bond between past Prepites and the school community for the betterment of all stakeholders involved.



## 4.2. Sub-Committee updates

### 4.2.1. Branding & Merchandise Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Sushan Peiris

The Branding & Merchandise sub-committee was established with the primary objective of strengthening the identity and recognition of S. Thomas's Preparatory School, both locally and internationally. The committee aimed to position the school as a leading institution among the top schools in the country. Despite the prevailing economic crisis and numerous challenges faced by the country, we have achieved considerable success in accomplishing this goal through the organization of various events and the collective contribution of the Executive Committee (Ex-co).

In terms of Merchandise, the following items were made available for sale at the School office as well as the Beats of the Brotherhood OBU Event, which was held at the Liberty Ballroom, Ramada Hotel on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

- T-shirts
- Coasters
- Ties
- Car Stickers
- Cufflinks
- History Book
- Memorabilia Envelopes

For the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2023, the total income generated from the sale of memorabilia amounted to Rs. 243,500/-. The remaining items are currently available for sale at both the School and the Old Boys' Union (OBU) office. It is anticipated that the sale of these remaining items will contribute an additional Rs. 847,700/- to the OBU funds.

Moving forward, the Branding and Merchandise Committee intends to showcase these items at all major events organized by the OBU and the School. Additionally, a two-day merchandise sale will be held at the school premises. We kindly request the support and participation of past Prepites to contribute towards the OBU's overall plans and the vision set forth by this sub-committee.

**Committee members:** Dushantha Goonetilleke, Gayan Keppetipola, Jason Samuel, Rajindh Perera, Ramesh Anthony, Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy, Santhosh Jayasinghe, Shayan Waas, Sithambaram Sri Ganendran, Bill Richardson





## 4.2.2. Fund Raising Committee



**Chairman – Mr. Sulaiman Nishtar**

**Introduction:** The Fund Raising Committee for the year 2022/2023 was dedicated to supporting various projects aimed at enhancing the overall educational experience and facilities at the school. This report provides an overview of the key projects undertaken by the committee, focusing on the successful breakfast presentation on the Brotherhood of Prep, as well as the subsequent event, "Beats of the Brotherhood," which aimed to raise funds and spread awareness about the ongoing projects.



**Breakfast Presentation:** The breakfast presentation on the Brotherhood of Prep was organized as a platform to introduce and highlight four crucial fundraising projects to the school community. The event provided detailed information on each project, emphasizing their significance and impact on the school's development. The following projects were presented:

a. Hall Block Renovation: The Hall Block Renovation project aimed at upgrading the existing infrastructure to create a conducive learning environment for students. It involved refurbishing classrooms, improving facilities, and enhancing the overall aesthetics hall and of the building.

b. Sports Development Fund: The Sports Development Fund focused on providing financial support to improve sports facilities, promote student participation in various sports activities, and enhance the overall sporting culture within the school.

c. Trust Fund for Educational Excellence: The Trust Fund for Educational Excellence aimed to establish a sustainable financial resource that would support academic initiatives, faculty development programs, and educational innovations to further enrich the learning experience of students.

d. Educational Grants Fund: The Educational Grants Fund was designed to provide scholarships and financial assistance to deserving students, enabling them to pursue their education and reach their full potential.

The breakfast session witnessed a remarkable turnout, with a diverse representation from the school community. The presentations delivered during the session by the Headmaster and the heads of Committees effectively conveyed the importance of the four fundraising projects. Attendees were highly engaged and demonstrated a keen interest in supporting these initiatives.

"Beats of the Brotherhood" Event: Following the successful breakfast presentation, the Fund Raising Committee organized the "Beats of the Brotherhood" event at the Ramada Hotel to further raise funds and spread awareness among the fraternity. The event featured a variety of performances, including music, dance, and a presentation on the four projects by the Headmaster Rev. Nihal Fernando and the Hony. Secretary of the OBU S. Sri Ganendran.

Although the event broke even in terms of financial outcomes, it effectively conveyed the urgent need for additional funding for the ongoing projects. Attendees were inspired by the presentations and expressed their support for the fundraising initiatives. The event played a crucial role in raising awareness and encouraging the fraternity to contribute towards the projects. The event was also a platform to recognize the batches that contributed over Rs 1million to the total fund and the three batches recognized were the Batches of 1997, 1971 and 1995.

Based on the above project and the untiring effort of the fund raising committee and the exco members for following up with each of their batches and with other eminent past Prepites, approximately Rupees seven million has been collected as at the date of this publication. The Committee is indeed grateful for each, and every contribution made whether in cash or kind by each of the old boys in achieving the above contributions and for making these projects a success.

**Conclusion:** The Fund Raising Sub-Committee for the year 2022/2023 successfully executed a series of initiatives to generate funds for the identified projects. The breakfast presentation on the Brotherhood of Prep and the subsequent "Beats of the Brotherhood" event were instrumental in spreading awareness and fostering a sense of community support. Through these efforts, the



school community was made aware of the projects requiring funding, emphasizing the importance of their contributions.

The Fund Raising Sub-Committee expresses its gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and stakeholders who actively participated and generously contributed to these initiatives. The success of the events and the overall fundraising campaign would not have been possible without their support. Moving forward, the committee remains dedicated to ensuring the successful completion of the projects and the continued enhancement of our school's educational environment.

**Committee members:** Akram ur Rahman, Chandana Lal De Silva, Haroun Cader, Nilantha Fernando, Senaka Rathnayaka

**Project Committee:** Arvind Vijayaratnam, Fayyaz Mukthar, Gayan Keppetipola, Kavindra Amaratunga, Sushan Peiris, Sithambaram Sri Ganendran, Bill Richardson

### 4.2.3. Infrastructure Development Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Haroun Cader

#### SCOPE

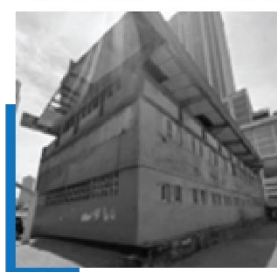
The Committee had a few preliminary meetings with the school administration to assess the requirement and scope of work that needs to be carried out in the school.

#### URGENT REQUIREMENTS

The Head Master along with the technical team consisting of the Consultant Architect, Structural Engineer and the Quantity Surveyor identified that the Middle School Building (Hall Block) needed extensive structural reinforcement on an urgent basis.



PROPOSED



PRESENT



## PLANNING

Subsequent to the structural reinforcement of the building (Phase 1), it was suggested that extensive renovation work to be carried out as Phase 2, which will make it conducive for classes to be in session even during the monsoon season. It is suggested that the restoration work bring back the original architectural features of the building, as designed by Mr Geoffrey Bawa.

The Committee along with Head Master Rev. Nihal Fernando, presented the drawings and restoration plans to His Lordship The Bishop, Rt.Reverend Dushantha Rodrigo, at a meeting held at the Bishop's office on 11 November 2022. This was to obtain the consent of His Lordship prior to submitting the proposals to the Board of Governors.

As the first phase of the renovation work, all the detailed structural drawings to reinforce the Hall Block was prepared along with the BOQs and bid documents calling for competitive bids from prospective contractors. Since the bids received were way above the QS's estimated costs, the school administration decided to go ahead with a labour contractor, closely supervised by the Structural Engineer.

## OPERATIONS

Work on the structural reinforcement commenced on 15 December 2022, and is now nearing completion with a few columns on the second floor needing attention. This work has taken more time than estimated as work is carried out only on three columns at a time and that too after school sessions are over for the day when the children have vacated the classrooms.

## MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee is currently working to implement the Master Plan developed by his Lordship The Bishop Rt. Rev Dushantha Rodrigo during his tenor as the Head Master. As a priority, the school Administration require more class rooms to house the entire middle school alongside the existing Hall Block.

## FORESIGHT

In the meantime, the committee has noted that the Primary School Building (Office Block), also designed by Mr Geoffrey Bawa, had lost the murals on its façade, which needs to be restored and brought back to its original glory.

**Committee members:** Akbar Ali Deen, Denver Balan, Fayyaz Mukthar, Muthukrishnan Sundareson, Nimesh Fernando, Yudish Ganesan



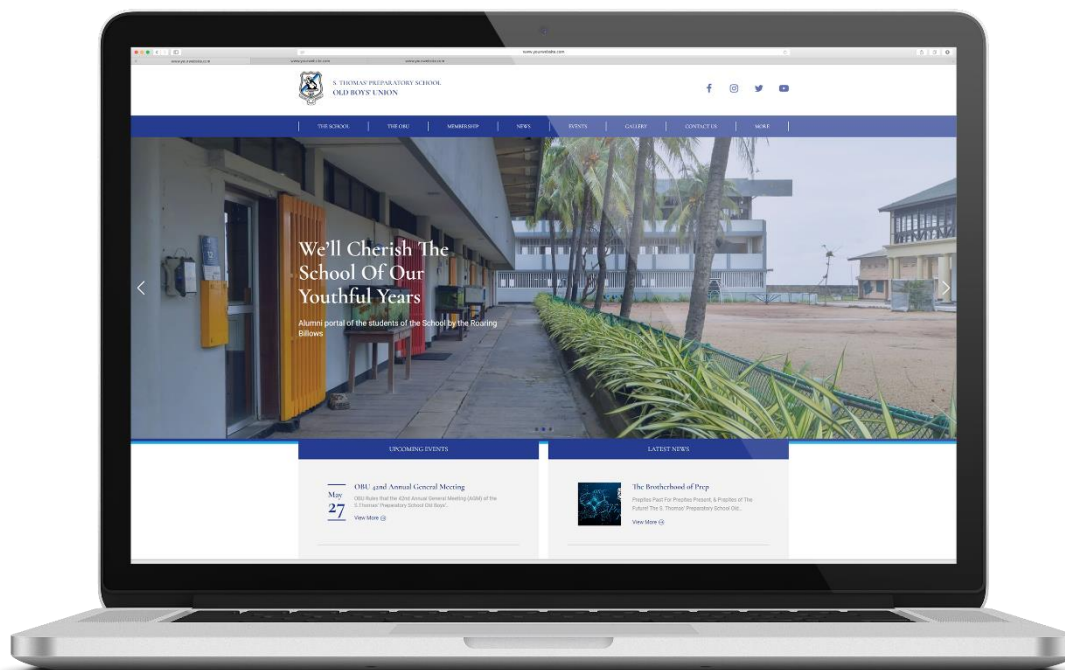


## 4.2.4. IT Infrastructure & Website Development Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Gayan Keppetipola

The IT Infrastructure and Website Development Committee of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union has made significant progress in improving the organization's online presence and enhancing member experiences. Working with a dedicated vendor, the committee successfully completed the development of the organization's website.

The website development phase was completed in May 2022, providing a solid foundation for subsequent activities. The committee collaborated closely with the vendor to ensure that the website aligns with the association's goals and effectively communicates its mission to members and the broader community.



Preview of the OBU website.

Efforts were made to transform the membership management process by implementing an online membership application system. This streamlined approach simplified enrolment, reduced paperwork, and improved overall efficiency. Additionally, an E-Shop was introduced, allowing members to conveniently purchase merchandise and support the organization's initiatives.



Recognizing the importance of digital transformation, the committee prioritized the digitization and electronic filing/documentation of important records and documents. This shift from traditional paper-based systems to a digital platform improved accessibility, reduced storage space requirements, and facilitated efficient retrieval of information.

In July 2022, Phase 1 of the website was successfully launched, receiving the endorsement of the Headmaster and generating excitement and engagement among members and the wider community. The website's user-friendly interface, intuitive navigation, and informative content provided visitors with a valuable resource.



Online session conducted for the launch of the website.


The committee then focused on planning Phase 2 of the website, aiming to further enhance user experience, expand functionality, and increase member engagement and participation.

To facilitate secure online transactions, the committee initiated the integration of an Internet Payment Gateway (IPG) with a partnering bank. This step ensured the secure processing of payments and instilled confidence in members using the E-Shop. Regular updates to the website's contents were prioritized, ensuring that accurate and up-to-date information was available.

Integration with social media platforms played a crucial role in expanding the organization's online presence and fostering community engagement. Seamless integration with popular social media platforms allowed for enhanced sharing of news, events, and updates, while analytics provided valuable insights into website performance and user behavior.





Name *	<input type="text" value="Enter Your Name"/>
Contact Number *	<input type="text" value="Enter Your Contact Number"/>
Address *	<input type="text" value="Enter Your Address"/>
Email *	<input type="text" value="Enter Your Email Address"/>
OBU Membership No	<input type="text" value="OBU Membership No"/>
Batch	<input type="text" value="Enter Your Batch"/>
Donation Type *	<input type="text" value="Select Donation Type"/>
Amount *	<input type="text" value="Enter The Amount"/>
	<input type="text" value="Select Currency"/>
Comments	<input type="text" value="Enter Your Comments"/>
<input type="button" value="Pay"/>	

### Preview of the IPG integration

Website security was prioritized with the update of the SSL certificate, ensuring encrypted communication between users and the website. This commitment to data protection and privacy strengthened the organization's credibility.

In addition to core website development, a dedicated section was created to foster a sense of belonging and community among members. Interactive elements, member stories, and a forum for discussions were included in this section.

Knowledge Transfer (KT) sessions were conducted to ensure a smooth transition and effective utilization of the website's features. Committee members were trained on managing content, updating information, and utilizing the website's tools and functionalities.

Demonstrations were conducted on the E-commerce section of the website, showcasing its functionality and readiness for deployment. The committee also focused on integrating the membership database with the new application process, aiming to streamline data management and improve efficiency in member-related operations.

By January 2023, Phase 2 development was successfully completed, reflecting the committee's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of the organization and its members.

In conclusion, the IT Infrastructure and Website Development Committee, in collaboration with a dedicated vendor, has achieved significant milestones in improving the S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union's online presence. The website serves as a central

platform for information, collaboration, and community engagement, empowering members and enabling the organization to thrive in the digital era.

**Committee members:** Arvinth Vijaratnam, Fayyaz Mukthar, Gayan Keppetipola, Indrajit Kanagasabai, Kavindra Amaratunga, Rajindh Perera, Ransley Burrows, Sithambaram Sri Ganendran

#### 4.2.5. Legal, Rules, Procedures & Practices Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Sithambaram Sri Ganendran

The Legal, Rules, Procedures & Practices Sub Committee of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union has been actively working on several key initiatives to ensure legal compliance, enhance procedural guidelines, and strengthen the organization's governing documents. The committee's focus has been on amending the OBU Trust Fund Deed, finalizing the Procedural Rules, and reviewing the OBU Constitution.

The committee initiated a thorough review of the OBU Trust Fund Deed to incorporate necessary amendments and align with current legal requirements. This step aimed to enhance the functionality and effectiveness of the Trust Fund in supporting the organization's initiatives.

A comprehensive evaluation of the Procedural Rules governing the OBU was undertaken to revise and update guidelines in line with evolving needs and streamline operational processes. Additionally, efforts were made to improve the registration process for batches, establish contact and formal communication channels with all batches, and foster greater engagement among Old Boys.

Review meetings were held periodically to assess the progress of ongoing initiatives, particularly the amendments to the Trust Deed and the finalization of Procedural Rules. These actions were aimed at ensuring that the necessary changes were implemented in a timely manner and aligned with the organization's objectives.

Throughout the process, the committee demonstrated a commitment to upholding legal standards, refining operational guidelines, and strengthening the governing documents of the Old Boys' Union. By prioritizing these efforts, the committee contributes to the efficient functioning of the organization and creates a solid framework for the OBU to thrive and effectively serve its members.

**Committee members:** Gayan Keppetipola, Kishan R De Silva, Rajindh Perera, Sulaiman Nishtar, Sushan Peiris





#### 4.2.6. Media Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Kavindra Amaratunga

The S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union Executive Committee has given priority emphasis to dissemination of information to the membership both accurately and timely, communicating with the membership regularly, and is keen in engaging members in an interactive sense rather than only in an informative sense, to further strengthen the links with the membership and to keep them engaged with the Old Boys' Union on a continued basis. Towards this end, the Media Team utilised social media platforms to the fullest extent as the primary communication tool for optimum results.



##### **OBU Website**

The website of the Old Boys' Union was completely revamped & phase one was launched during the year in review. The website is now up and running and is a key tool in dissemination of information to members. The Sub Committee has identified the key elements necessary for a complete and pleasant user experience and is currently working hard towards the satisfactory completion of the website.

An online form to enable members to update their membership details, as well as provision for online application will be introduced shortly, for a faster more convenient processing of information and applications, as phase two of the website development.

Please visit [www.prepobu.lk](http://www.prepobu.lk)

##### **Email Communication**

Members may communicate directly with the OBU via email by sending a mail for membership info / queries & general information

Email : [prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk](mailto:prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk)

##### **Prep OBU Facebook Page.**

The continuous update of key information regarding the OBU has proven to be useful in taking our organization to a wider audience by way of publicizing OBU activities, achievements of past Prepites, general information and school activities. The Facebook page continues to receive hits on a regular basis.

Please visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/prepoldboysunion/>



### **PREP OBU Facebook Group**

The Prep OBU Facebook Group remains a vital link in dissemination of information to the membership. Whilst being a quick and effective means of communication, it has proven to be highly interactive and popular with the multitude of past Prepites who rely on the group to keep themselves informed on up-to-date events and happenings of the OBU. Membership of this group has now exceeded over 1400 past Prepites. A kind reminder to answer the simple questionnaire when requesting to be added to this group, which will aid in quick verification, and subsequent membership to this group.

Accessibility to the Prep OBU Facebook Group is restricted to members only.

### **WhatsApp Group – Prep Batches**

The Prep Batches WhatsApp Group was created with the intention of having ease of access to at least one representative from each batch that has studied at Prep school. We have been successful in getting together quite a number of representatives and continue to add to this group. This group too, has proven to be an effective method of communication. Please drop an email to [prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk](mailto:prepobuadmin@prepobu.lk) to include your batch in this WhatsApp Group.

### **Instagram**

The OBU Instagram account continues to be a popular medium for younger past Prepites to keep themselves updated on recent events & current happenings at Prep School. This platform is continuously updated so as to keep the younger generation of past Prepites actively engaged and connected with the OBU.

Find us on Instagram:

<https://instagram.com/prepobu>

### **The Prep OBU Twitter Handle**

Although not as popularly or regularly accessed as other communication tools currently, Twitter continues to be another means of social media interaction with the membership.

Please subscribe to the Prep OBU Twitter feed: @prepobu

The Prep OBU Media Team is fully committed towards ensuring that communication with its membership is given top priority, and we have made every attempt to improve membership interactive methods to ensure a quick, effective process of getting all information across to members, and also ensure a pleasant user experience, whilst effectively addressing any concerns by quick and effective means and having a broad understanding of what exactly is required and expected of this sphere. We invite past Prepites using social media to interact with the OBU by commenting on social media posts so that we can open up a general dialogue with the membership on posted content, their memories of similar events and untold stories related to the specific content posted.

We shall strive to continue onward with the same determination and goal. It's imperative to mention that vital input from the School administration & office staff, & Headmaster



Rev. Nihal Fernando, whose enthusiasm and unstinted co-operation & support, assisted the Media Team to carry out its work for the period under review, 2022 - 23.

**Committee members:** Arvinth Vijayaratnam, Fayyaz Mukthar, Gayan Keppetipola, Kavindra Amaratunga, Rajindh Perera, Sithambaram Sri Ganendran, Bill Richardson

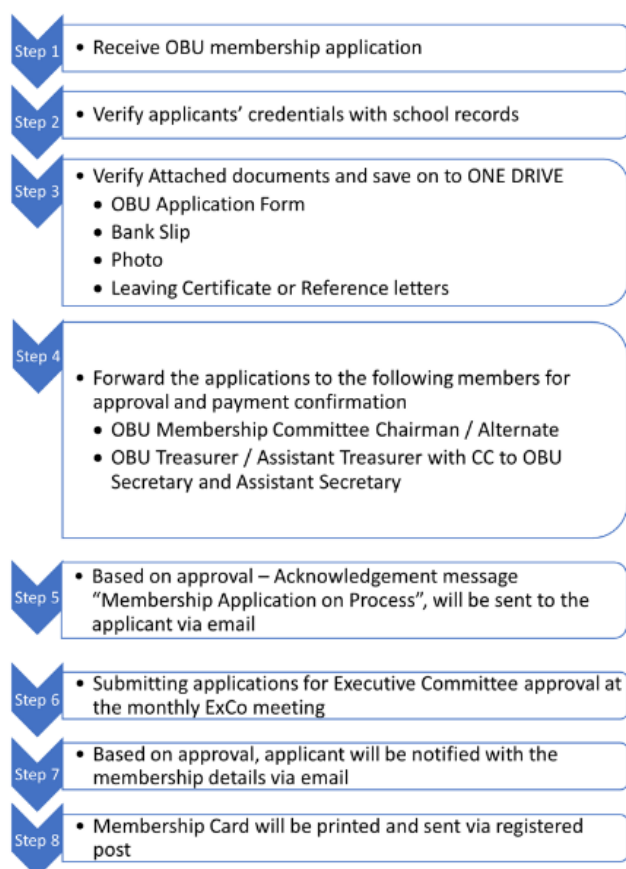
#### 4.2.7. Membership Development Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy

The Membership Development Subcommittee of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union has been actively working on refining membership processes, increasing the membership base, and introducing added benefits for members. The committee has implemented a comprehensive strategy aimed at streamlining procedures, enhancing member experiences, and attracting new members to the organization.

Efforts were made to refine membership processes, including the revision of application forms to improve clarity and ease of use. Processing fees were introduced to support administrative tasks and ensure efficient management of applications. A software solution for membership database management was implemented, enabling streamlined data organization and retrieval. The committee also introduced criteria for school admission, providing additional benefits to OBU members and their children.

#### OBU APPLICATION PROCESS



To enhance the value proposition for members, the committee successfully secured discount benefits from Vasan Eye and Dental Care as well as Hemas Hospitals. These partnerships allowed members to access specialized healthcare services at reduced rates, contributing to their overall well-being.



**EXCLUSIVE OFFER TO ALL STPS OBU MEMBERS** **vasan** Eye Care Hospital

**Discount Benefits**

- Free eye checkup for OBU members and immediate family members.
- Up to 30% Discount with selected frames
- Free minor repairs and adjustments on spectacles
- Free Dental checkup for OBU members and immediate family members
- Special discount for Dental whitening and filling

OFFER VALID TILL: October 2024  
Membership card should be submitted to avail this benefit  
\*T&C Apply



**EXCLUSIVE OFFER TO ALL STPS OBU MEMBERS** **HEMAS HOSPITALS**

**Inpatient Discounts**

- 10% discount on the room charges
- 10% discount on all laboratory investigations
- 10% discount on radiology & cardiology investigations

**Outpatient Discounts**

- 10% discount on all laboratory investigations
- 10% discount on radiology & cardiology investigations

**Health Checkup Packages**

- Special inpatient full body health check package:  
Special rate - LKR 70,000/- (Normal rate: LKR 120,000/-)
- Special outpatient health check-up:  
special rate - LKR 4,150/- (Normal Rate LKR 8,200/-)

Offer valid till: October 2023  
Membership card should be submitted to avail this benefit  
\*T&C Apply

The committee focused on increasing membership through various initiatives. A compelling value proposition was developed to attract new members, highlighting the unique benefits and opportunities available within the OBU community. The committee also engaged in targeted outreach efforts, encouraging non-member Old Boys residing abroad to join the organization during specific events and gatherings.

In collaboration with banking partners, the committee explored the possibility of offering exclusive banking benefits to OBU members. Discussions with NDB Bank were initiated to provide members with enhanced financial services and privileges.

Recognizing the importance of fostering entrepreneurship, the committee introduced the Prep Entrepreneurs program, offering support, mentorship, and networking opportunities for Old Boys interested in pursuing entrepreneurial ventures. This initiative aimed to cultivate an environment of innovation and collaboration within the Past Prepites community.

Efforts were also directed towards database management and cleansing. The committee undertook individual outreach to applicants with incomplete information to ensure data accuracy. Additionally, a dedicated database was created for honorary memberships, recognizing the contributions of esteemed individuals within the OBU community.

Throughout the implementation of these initiatives, the committee prioritized effective communication and engagement with members. Artwork and information regarding added benefits, such as healthcare services, were circulated through the OBU network and social media platforms. The committee also organized workshops and sessions offering career guidance, motivational speeches from established Old Boys, and networking opportunities to further enhance the member experience.

Overall, the Membership Development Subcommittee has made significant progress in refining membership processes, expanding the membership base, and providing added benefits to members of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union. Their dedicated efforts have contributed to the growth and vibrancy of the organization, fostering a strong sense of community and engagement among Old Boys, and ensuring a rewarding experience for all members.

**Committee members:** Dushantha Goonetilleke, Gayan Keppetipola, Jason Samuel, Rajindh Perera, Ramesh Anthony, Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy, Santhosh Jayasinghe, Shayan Waas, Sithambaram Sri Ganendran





#### 4.2.8. Outreach Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Rajindh Perera

The Outreach Sub Committee of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Old Boys' Union has been actively working on various initiatives aimed at fostering alumni connections, expanding networks, and facilitating participation in OBU activities. The committee's focus has been on organizing the meeting of Batch Representatives, launching the Batch Representatives program, updating the membership database, and reaching out to Prepites to highlight their achievements.

The committee played a pivotal role in organizing the meeting of Batch Representatives, ensuring the active participation of Batches in this important gathering. This initiative aimed to bring together representatives from different Batches, fostering collaboration and sharing of ideas.

In addition, the committee took charge of launching the Batch Representatives program, which required updating the database. The objective was to have at least five individuals from each Batch to facilitate effective communication. Efforts were made to address the challenge of limited representation from the early years and the latest Batches, ensuring a broader inclusion of alumni.

The committee also focused on updating and highlighting the achievements of Prepites. This initiative aimed to recognize the accomplishments of former students and extend invitations to fundraising events, further engaging the Prepites community.

Although discussions with the Merchandising Committee regarding Overseas Representatives could not be conducted, the committee acknowledges the importance of establishing connections with Prepites residing overseas. A suggestion was made to create a dedicated group called "Prepites Overseas," overseen by Prepites living abroad. This group would provide support and assistance to Prepites seeking to migrate or relocate, taking into consideration their specific needs and preferences.

The proposed action plan of the Outreach Committee emphasized the need for a broader scope of the Outreach Program. In addition to focusing on Batches and Class groups, the committee proposed creating networks based on activities at school. Existing groups such as the Past Prepите Choir, Ruggerites, and the 39th Colombo Scouts were identified as examples of alumni groups with regular interactions. Such networks allow alumni to maintain connections with specific activities or teams they were part of, regardless of their Batch affiliation.

Furthermore, the committee highlighted the potential for establishing networks based on professions. While maintaining groups based on alma mater is discouraged in professional environments, the committee suggested exploring the involvement of professionals within the school community. This could include creating a council of



professionals to assist the school, recognizing achievements, providing career guidance and motivation, and continuing the Entrepreneurship program.

Finally, the committee recognized the significant number of Prepites living overseas, particularly in Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada. To address the challenges of reaching out to these individuals who are already part of overseas Thomian or Royal groups, the committee proposed the creation of a dedicated group called "Prepites Overseas." This group would be overseen by Prepites living abroad and provide support to those seeking migration or relocation. Accountability and auditing would be prioritized to ensure the effectiveness of this initiative.

By implementing these initiatives, the Outreach Sub Committee aims to strengthen the Old Boys' Union by expanding networks, promoting inclusivity, and fostering meaningful connections among alumni.

**Committee members:** Akbar Ali Deen, Hashintha Kodagoda, Jason Samuel, Rajindh Perera, Ramesh Anthony, Ramkishore Krishnamoorthy, Shayan Waas, Sithambaram Sri Ganendran



## 4.2.9. School Liaison Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Chandan Lal De Silva

**Objectives:**

1. In order to address the Headmaster's (HM) desire of developing rounded schoolboys capable of dealing with challenges in life, the School Liaison committee was tasked with selecting suitable topics and lining up speakers.
2. The HM was keen to initiate monthly talks from January 2023, which would be advertised internally as 'Fortrose Dialogues'.

**Actions taken by the Committee and progress made:**

1. Topics were identified.  
They included addressing the mental and emotional wellbeing, anger management, problem solving, preparing students for the next stage of their lives – culture at senior school, academic or vocational studies, existence of different pathways to a successful future.
2. A form was sent out to the STPS network to invite old boys who were willing (and able) to contribute, to identify themselves, so that a database of resources could be built up.
3. It was agreed that experts in subject matter would not be restricted to old boys.
4. The committee launched the first Fortrose dialogue in January '23 on the topic of 'Emotional and Mental wellbeing'.  
The HM was particularly keen to address this issue given some of the challenges faced by schoolboys during the isolation imposed during the Covid pandemic. This talk was given by Ms. Kimaya de Silva, a UK trained Psychotherapist. The talk was aimed at the senior school classes. Given the numbers, the boys were split into two groups and the talks were held over two consecutive days.
5. The Committee was ready to hold dialogues in February but given the scare created based on the ongoing renovation in the Hall building – which proved to be unfounded – certain classes were moved from the Hall to the Fortrose building. This meant that the Fortrose building could not be used for any other purpose.
6. Preparation for the 'O' levels followed and then the April 'Avurudu' holidays.
7. The Committee hopes to resume the dialogues soon, with speakers lined up to share insights into different pathways (academic vs vocational) for success, as well as a talk on how to prepare for life at senior school for the 'A' levels.

**Committee members:** Denver Balan, Haroun Cader, Nimesh Fernando, Sulaiman Nishtar





## 4.2.10. Sports Development Committee

**Chairman** – Mr. Dushantha Goonetilleke

The OBU Sports Sub-committee committee with the participation of the Headmaster, teachers – in charge and the coaches held a strategic brainstorming meeting for the first time in history with a vision of uplifting 8 key sports for the year 2022/2023, Namely **Cricket, Rugby, Athletic, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis & Badminton**. It was a very fruitful meeting and all stake holders committed strongly to upgrading the said sports to the next level through the planned & agreed strategies as a team which consisted of the OBU and the school administration. After understanding the needs, the OBU formed a 9 -member team as the sports sub-committee who were allocated to be responsible for each sport. Key policy decisions were made with the below action points implemented during the year.

Key strategy	Reason	Achievement by May 2023
Strategy for each sport with targets and the means to achieve it.	To clearly understand in which division these sports are in and implement a strategy to upgrade to the next level.	All age categories performed well while maintaining or upgrading to the next level with high sense of achievement, recognition & trophies in the school circle.
Sports gear & equipment	Understanding the requirements of equipment necessary for each sport, as advised by the Coaches.	The OBU procured & donated approx. Rs 500,000 worth of sports equipment to the school.
Sport - related picture frames erected within the school.	To encourage & motivate students to take part in sports activities.	10 large motivational frames installed within school premises.
Prep School sports attire	Mainly for branding purposes for STPS. It was decided that the design will be standard & not change for five years.	Implemented as a policy.



Sports Equipment for students use during interval and school hours.	This serves to mainly encourage students to engage in sports, especially those who are not currently engaging in any sports activity.	The OBU procured & donated Approx. Rs. 70,000 worth of sports goods to the school for Soccer, Basketball & Rugby
Digital media strategy	To engage & update past Prepites & to request support & assistance for development of sports at Prep School.	All sports achievements and updates were promptly given wide publicity on all OBU social media platforms with detailed results of all tournaments by the OBU Media team.
Professional Basketball rings	Building of proper basketball skills & upgrading the standards by students	2 x Professional BB concrete posts donated by the OBU & School admin.
Introduction of 'Sports levy'	To generate funds required for grounds, transport and other sports admin expenses.	Implemented by inclusion in the School fees by the school administration similar to other schools.
Dedicated Sports Room	To safely store sports goods & equipment and to conduct sport related meetings among the teachers in charge.	The former garage of Mr. JSL Fernando, lately unutilised, was allocated & renovated, and is currently used for this purpose.
Establishing Sports Academies	To upgrade the standard of sports and focus on improving students' skills.	Sports Academies for Cricket, Rugby Tennis, and Badminton were established with Tennis taken over by a professional who is a past Prepitem.
Review meetings with TIC's & Coaches	To continuously improve as a team with the school's sports administration & the OBU.	Conducted every two months with active participation and involvement of all stakeholders.

Looking back after a year of activities, there has been an increase in the number of students participating in all sports activities as compared to previous years. The standard



and skills of students have dramatically improved due to the setting up of sports academies, and procurement of the OBU funded & donated sports goods & equipment to the School which was greatly appreciated & lauded by both past Prepites and current parents. Significant advancement & achievements in tournaments were seen as results in school sports activities in all age categories. Teachers in charge and coaches are to be commended for their motivation, enthusiasm and commitment mainly due to continuous strategising and planning done during the review meetings held every two months.

A special word of thanks & appreciation for the involvement, direction & guidance given by the Headmaster Rev. Nihal Fernando to achieve the set vision for Prep School sports, as a team by the OBU & the school administration.

Apart from the initially identified eight sports, the OBU intends to include another additional five sports to focus on for the year 2023/24 and thereby further support prep sports in the coming years and keep up the momentum to raise the standards to even greater heights.

**Committee members:** Akram ur Rahman, Denver Balan, Hashintha Kodagoda, Jason Samuel, Raj Rasiah, Romesh Tissanayagam, Santhosh Jayasinghe, Shayan Waas



Sports picture frames installed in the school premises to motivate the students to take part in sports.

Donation of Sports Equipment to the school by the OBU in the newly set-up Sports Room.



Participants pose for a photo after the Prep Sports brainstorming session held between OBU/School Admin in February 2022.

## 4.2.10.1 Rugby Rumble 2023

### **Project Chair – Mr. Shayan Waas**

Rugby Rumble 2023 was a highly anticipated event for the S. Thomas' Preparatory School community, bringing together present and past Prepites for a day of rugby and sportsmanship. The event was held on the 25th of February 2023 at the S. Thomas' College Small Club grounds, which provided a great venue for the matches and activities. The tournament featured matches for various age categories, including Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, and Under 16 for present Prepites, and Under 25 and Over 25 age categories for past Prepites. This ensured that there was plenty of participation and representation from different age groups and levels of experience.

The opening ceremony of the event started at 8:30 am, with the participants, organizers, and spectators all gathering to kick off the tournament. Following the opening ceremony, the schoolboy matches began at 9:00 am. These matches were played with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship by all the participants, who showed their skills and love for the game. The matches were competitive, but also respectful and fair, with everyone showing a great attitude towards the sport. At 12:00 pm, the old boys' match began, featuring many talented players who had represented the school in the past. This match was a great opportunity for past Prepites to reconnect and relive their rugby memories, while also showing their support for the current generation of players.

Mr. Renganathan, the Chief Guest of the event, arrived for the evening proceedings, where he was warmly greeted by the organizers and participants, who were thrilled to have him in attendance. All the matches concluded at 5:00 pm, with the participants showing their appreciation for the game and each other. The award ceremony immediately followed the matches, recognizing the outstanding performances of the participants. The awards were a great way to showcase the talent and dedication of the players, who had worked hard to achieve success on the rugby field.

The event ended at 5:30 pm, with the participants, organizers, and spectators all feeling a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. Rugby Rumble 2023 was a great success, bringing together the S. Thomas' Preparatory School community and showcasing the spirit and talent of rugby. It was a day that will be remembered for a long time by all who attended.

We would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to everyone who helped make Rugby Rumble 2023 a great success. Firstly, we want to thank Father Nihal Fernando, the Headmaster of S. Thomas' Preparatory School, who coordinated with various Past Prepites and helped in acquiring sponsors for the event. Without his efforts, this event would not have been possible. A special thanks goes to Mr. Ramesh (Master-in-Charge of rugby) for his dedication and hard work, which were essential to our success. Mr. Anandan (the Prefect of Games) and the rest of the school team who played an integral role in coordinating with various suppliers and ensuring that everything was ready on time.





We also want to thank the coaches, Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Ranjith, for their commitment to the event and for making sure everything ran smoothly. Awaad Millfer and Romesh Tissainayagam who were instrumental in ensuring that everything was on track. The OBU Sports Committee for all their support throughout. Finally, We want to thank Mr. Gihan Dias for his passion and initiative in getting the ball rolling and for inspiring the team to do their best. Thank you all for your contributions and for making Rugby Rumble 2023 a memorable event.





### 4.3. Other work

#### 4.3.1. Quadrangle Green Project

Based on the vision of a green school by Headmaster Rev. Nihal Fernando, a project to turf the quadrangle area was initiated by the OBU. The main reason was to utilize the grounds for student sports activities and to maintain an eco-friendly green environment on the premises. The project took almost 7 to 8 months to complete, and satisfactorily culminated with successful results.

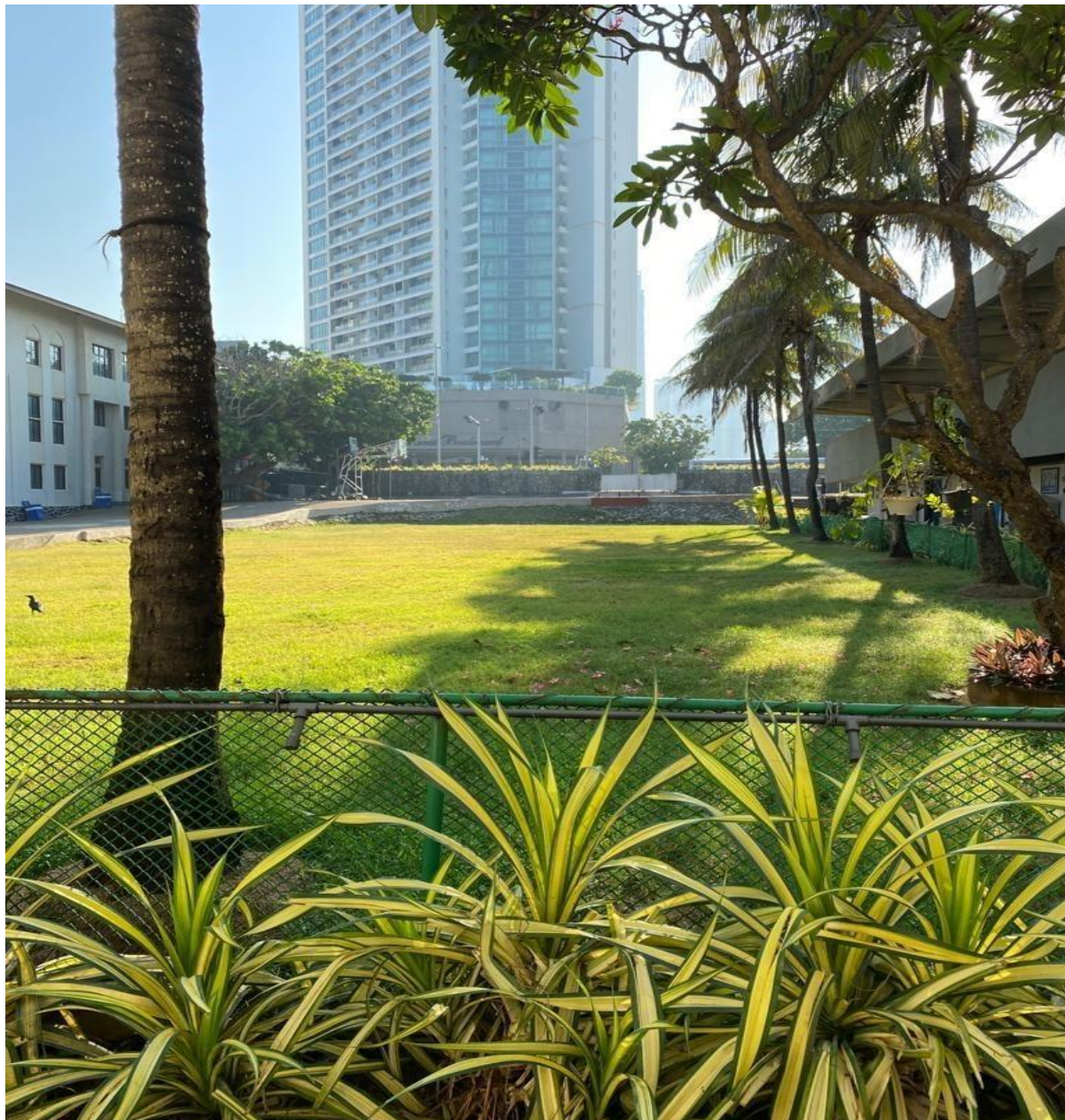


Commencement of the Quadrangle Green Project.



Project in progress.





A successfully completed project resulting in a Green Quadrangle

#### 4.3.2. Health Camp by the batch of 1998 batch

The Batch of '98 in consultation with the Headmaster organized a Health Camp at Prep School for past and present members of the staff to coincide with Founder's Day on 17th May 2022.



Two reputed private institutions involved in healthcare conducted the Health Camp.

#### 4.3.3. Service of Thanksgiving (Late Jason Senanayake)

The Old Boys' Union together with the Prep School Community organised a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and service of the late Jason Senanayake on the 18th of September 2022 at St. Paul's Church, Borella (Kynsey Road).

The OBU would like to thank everyone who also contributed towards the appeal the OBU made to support Jason's family in their hour of need. Funds thus collected was handed over to his family at the Service of Thanksgiving.



In memory  
of  
Mr. Jason Senanayake  
1994 - 2022





#### 4.4. OBU / Past Prepate donations

- a. **Medical** checkup vouchers being handed over to the Headmaster by Batch of 1998 President Mr. Ram Krishnamoorthy



- b. Official handing over of 20 DELL Laptop computers for use by students, to the Headmaster by Mr. Chrishan Fernando representing the Batch of 1981, on the 19th of July 2022.



- c. Handing over a Donation of Rupees One Million to the Headmaster, towards the development initiatives of S. Thomas' Preparatory School by the STC OBA (Canada branch) at the request of the STPS OBU.



- d. Donation of much needed rugby equipment to the School by members of the STPS Class of '94.



- e. Donation of a consignment of cricket equipment by distinguished past Prepate Mr. Naveen Dissanayake





## 4.5. OBU Participation

### 4.5.1. Participation at school events.

- a. 84<sup>th</sup> Founders Day - The OBU Executive Committee was invited by the School to participate in the 84th Founder's Day Service of Thanksgiving held on 17th May 2022.



- b. Sports Meet 2022 The OBU Executive Committee was invited as guests for the 2022 Sports Meet. Mr. Raj Rasiah, former Gen. Secretary/current ExCo member was the chief guest.



- c. INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 of S.Thomas' Preparatory School was held on 12th November. Mr. Dushantha Goonetilleke, member of the ExCo & head of the sports sub-com was the chief guest.





- d. SHADES OF COLOUR- Art Exhibition was held on the 18th of November 2022) Hony. General Secretary of the OBU Mr. Sri Ganendran was the chief guest on this occasion.



- e. The ICT Club & The Inventers Club of S. Thomas' Preparatory School held their exhibitions on the 08th of December 2022. Hony. Asst. Secretary of the OBU Mr. Gayan Keppetipola was the chief guest.



- f. Carol Service 2022 The OBU Executive Committee was invited by the Headmaster to participate at the Carol Service held at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Polwatte





- g. The Annual Prize Giving of S. Thomas' Preparatory School for the year 2022 was held on 30th January 2023. The OBU Executive Committee was invited by the Headmaster for this event.



- h. Annual Inter-house Athletics Meet 2023 - The OBU Executive Committee was invited by the Headmaster for this event.



- i. The Annual Ifthar Ceremony organised by The Islamic Society was held on 8th April 2023 at 'The Fortrose'. OBU Executive Committee Member Mr. Akram ur Rahman was invited as Guest of honour/Key note speaker.





- j. 85th Founders Day - The OBU Executive Committee was invited by the Headmaster to participate in the Service of Thanksgiving held to mark the 85th Founder's Day on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



#### 4.5.2. Participation at branch school events.

- a. Sing - A - long Sundown, an event organized by S. Thomas' College Bandarawela OBA in December 2022 - Members of the Prep OBU Executive Committee participated by having a table at this event, in support of making this fundraising project a success.



- b. STC Mount Walk A Mile - Members of the Prep OBU Executive Committee were invited to join this event, and enthusiastically did so, in showing solidarity with our brothers at STC.





- c. Inaugural Expatriate Old Boys Tea Party - organised by the STCML OBA - The Prep OBU General Secretary attended this event having been formally invited to join this evening gathering, at tea.
- d. Christmas With The Stars - Organized by the STCML OBA in December 2022. The Prep OBU General Secretary was formally invited to attend this glittering evening at Mount Lavinia Hotel.



## 4.6. OBU Administration Staff

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 splitting his working 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.

Mr. Richardson has been a good find; his obliging nature and positive attitude has been a tremendous support to the members of the Executive Committee to carry out their duties. He has been actively involved in many of the projects. We thank him for the continuous service and support.



## 4.7. Achievements

Name	Activity
Dr. Rohan Pethiyagoda	Winner of the Nobel Prize for Zoology 2022
Shehan Karunatilaka	Winner of The Booker Prize 2022
Dinesh Jebamani and Arvind Vijayaratham	Inducted as Fellow Members of the Digital Marketing Association of Sri Lanka at its Annual General Meeting 2022.
Chrishmal Warnasooriya (Former Secretary of OBU)	Appointed to list of Counsels of International Criminal Courts, in recognition of his knowledge of international criminal law, experience and good character.
Ishan Kavan Abeysekera	Recipient of the Young Structural Engineering Professional Award 2022 of the Institution of Structural Engineers.
Arshad Mohideen	Winner of CEO of the year award under the Real Estate category by CEO Sri Lanka
Laksiri Perera	Appointed as the 16th Headmaster of S.Thomas' College Gurutalawa
Vijeji Abinandan	Winner of the 'Best News Presenter - Tamil' for the year 2022 at the 19th RAIGAM TELE'ES, The Nation's Tele Awards 2022.
Jeremy Naveen Ariadurai	Topped the batch with First Class Honors & Distinctions in Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics & Psychiatry from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.
Akbar Deen	Recipient of the CSA Chairman's Gold Medal for the Year 2023 From the City School of Architecture.
Yohan Mendis	Noteworthy achievements and stellar performances in the sport of Cricket, both locally and overseas.



## 5. New Members

(Since 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

No	Name	No	Name
1	WIJESINGHE D. J. T .M.	13	RAVINDRAN K.R.
2	BALAI AH J.S	14	VINCENT R.J.
3	WICKRAMARATNE K.R	15	LIYANAGE A.J.
4	RATWATTE R.D.M	16	JAYASEKERA D.P.A.K.G.
5	WIJERATNE D.H.B	17	DE SOYSA A.S.A.
6	MOHAMED M.F.	18	ROCKWOOD R.J.
7	GUNASEKARA D.M.R.C.	19	SINHAPITIYA S.B.S.
8	FERNANDO N.T.	20	ABEYWARDANA D.D.S.B.
9	V. SIVASUBRAMANIAM	21	KORALE A.J.M.
10	ATAPATTU K.S.	22	RUWANWELLA S.J.
11	DE ALWIS A.N.	23	J. KARTHIGEYAN
12	SUMITHRARACHCHI K. M.	24	A.A.ANWAR





## 6. ANNEXURES – 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

### 6.1. ANNEXURE 1 – OUTGOING SECRETARY'S SPEECH

Thank you everyone. As Rajindh mentioned I'm also stepping down as the Secretary. We have to let go certain things for the betterment of the School. I take this opportunity to thank the office bearers for the continuous support during the last two years. Being secretary of OBU, I have done the best possible with the country's situation and the economic crisis. As a team we have done the best in these circumstances and I'm so proud of it. The person who is taking over this position is Gane, I wish him all the best for accepting the position of Secretary. I also wish to thank the President, Headmaster for providing the guidance and always being with us. The plans he is working on for the school has been really good. He has always been pushing us to support. Although I step down as the Secretary, I will be supporting the Sports Development activities. I see lots of sports persons here. I humbly request you all to support the Sports Development fund as well as the Sports Development activities that have now been started. Finally, I thank all the office bearers as well as the ExCo members for their support given during the last two years. I wish Gane and the new office bearers to be appointed in the ExCo all the best.

Thank You All!

**Raj Rasiah**

Hony. Secretary 2021/2022

S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys Union



## 6.2. ANNEXURE 2 – HEADMASTER’S SPEECH

Good evening to all of you!

At the very outset I would like to welcome all of you to the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting all the Old Boys’ Union of Prep School.

You all come to your Alma Mater, where you receive your education and where you molded your personalities. This visit would certainly bring back all your fond memories of your dear School.

### **EDUCATION GRANT FUND**

First of all, let me express my sentiment of gratitude to some of the Past Prepites who responded to our call and contributed towards the Education Grants Fund which was initiated by me and the OBU in supporting deserving Prepites who struggle to pay their School fees. The main aim of this project was to give an opportunity and provide necessary fund to present Prepites who struggle with demands of the present era. I hope and pray that other batches also will contribute towards to Education Grants Fund. Speak to your friends and make your contribution.

### **RESTORATION OF GRADES 4 AND 5 BUILDING**

As you may have observed when I took over the school in 2021, Grades 4 and 5 building was in dilapidated condition. You can see in the pictures how the old look was. Through the donations I received through OBU and OTAUk I was able to restore the existing building and to give it a facelift. The OBU contributed Rs. 1000,000 and OTAUk contributed Rs.1500,000. My sincere thanks to both organizations.

### **QUADRANGLE PROJECT**

In keeping with my vision to create a green school, I commenced this project in March 2022. This project is in progress, and we hope to complete it by end of June 2022. I sincerely thank Mr. Dushantha Goonetilleke who found a donor to contribute Rs. 1,000,000/- towards the Project. I extend my gratitude to Mr. Rukshan Perera a past Prepites who supported me to fulfill my dream.

### **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

Warden of S. Thomas’ College Mt Lavinia, Rev Marc Bilimoria, Mr. Dinesh Kumarasinghe, Head of Sports, STC Mt Lavinia, Mr. Raj Rasiah, Mr. Dushantha Goonetilleke, POG of Prep School and Teachers in Charge of Sports and I met at S. Thomas Mount Lavinia to discuss whether students of Prep school could make



use of sports facilities available at S. Thomas' college Mount Lavinia for training activities. This meeting was held on 7th February 2022. It was ground-breaking meeting and the Warden consented to allow present Prepites to use their sports facilities for training activities. Since then, we have been sending our students to S.Thomas' Mount Lavinia for Sports training activities. The Warden and I will sign a MOU very soon to arrive at Terms and Conditions pertaining to this joint venture

### **MY 2022 DREAM**

Like Martin Luther King Jnr, I also have a dream to fulfil in this year. This is to restore the Middle School building to its former glory. I observed that the building was not in good shape. Hence, I consulted a past Prepites Yudish Ganeshan, a Chartered Architect to get a subject expert to inspect the building. The task was given to Mr. Laksiri Silva a Structural Engineer who made his observations and gave a report to me on 24.09.2021. The middle school building was designed by the late Mr. Jeffrey Bawa a renowned Architect who built it before 60 years. The building is set out parallel to the coastline. The structural form of the building is a series of concrete portal frames and extended corridor with grill work and vertical pergolas fixed as guard wall. Internal steel reinforcement of structural columns of portal frame are corroded mainly due to age and the severe exposure to the coastal environment. There are no cracks in the portal beams at top floor roof. Columns reinforcements are corroded in different elevations. Concrete elements extended outside of said portal frames which are constructed to protect from sunlight and the rain are severely damaged due to corrosion. Several photographs showing said cracks and damages will be displayed on the screen now.

### **Proposal for rectification**

- All the cracks should be mapped in a plan and should be numbered.
- Then those places should be cleaned by demolishing deteriorated concrete to see the severity of corrosion
- Accordingly, treatments and repair have to be estimated and planned.

Therefore, an appeal to all past Prepites who are present here and to all batches to support me to restore the existing Middle School building. Due to the prevailing situation, we cannot think of construction of a new building. Hence, I wish to have a better school hall (auditorium). As you may observe the school hall is also in very bad state. If you walk into a village school, they have a better auditorium than your own school. Come on board and help me in whatever way possible to make my dream a reality.



I would like to wish you all the best. Thank you very much for your support and may God Bless you all.

**“The Lord is my Shepherd”**

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys  
God Bless you all.

**Rev. Nihal Fernando**

Headmaster, Ex-Officio, President  
S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys Union

### 6.3. ANNEXURE 3 – INCOMING SECRETARY'S SPEECH

Very Good Evening!

First of all, as Rajindh said it's pleasing to see the turnout today despite all the obstructions we had, we have closed to about 40 to 50 of us present here by this time. It is indeed an honor and privilege to stand in front of you today as the 8th secretary of OBU which has been in existence way back in 1950's onwards, but formally incorporated in 1978. So, very humbly I take up this position and I thank all of you for the confidence you all have placed in nominating me and accepting me as the New Secretary.

I would like to thank the Headmaster for all the guidance which he has given us throughout the last two years. And thank Raj, Rajindh and all the office bearers and all the Executive committee members of the previous committee, out of whom some will continue and some wont, for the support which were provided to get the good job done. The report that Rajindh presented on behalf of Union shows that despite the tough challenges we had over the last three years the number of activities we were able to do. As Headmaster said I request all past Prepites who are here and who are not here to get together and work for the betterment of the School and take it to the next level.

We have a few plans which we must carry forward from the previous year which we will continue, and we will formulate new plans as well and reach out to you. Although we have only twenty-one members and seven office bearers in the ExCo as per the constitution, it doesn't stop anybody outside the ExCo to come forward with your suggestions and help us. We are reachable via the social media channels; the office number is also published. Our website will also be up and running soon. You can communicate and reach out to us, and we can see what to do moving forward.

The team who has come forward, we will put are right foot forward and Father as you mentioned we will try not to be seen as lethargic as in previous circumstances;



please accept our apologies for that. We will strive to deliver up to your expectations or we will try to archive more than that as well. As a team we promise that we will do our best. .

“Words do inspire, but the actions will create the change” and we will move forward with our Actions Plans than Words.

Thank you!

“Let’s Cherish the School of our Youthful Years”

**S. Sri Ganendran**

Hony. Secretary 2022/2023

S. Thomas’ Preparatory School Old Boys Union

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