

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY, 2024

Minutes of the S. Thomas' College Old Boys Association Australian Branch Inc. Annual General Meeting held at the Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47, Miller Crescent, Mt. Waverley, on Friday 9th. February 2024, with Saman Liyanage presiding. The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Gerard Abeysena, Anil Abeywickrema, Suren Diyal Aponso, Richard Brohier, Bertram Daniel, Dr. Robin Daniel, Nalin Dassenaik, Jarit De Mel, Sarath De Mel, Lalindra De Silva, Milroy De Vos, Ralph D'Silva, L. Melville Fernando, M. Kingsley Fernando, Niral Fernando, Peneeth Goonawardena, Upali J. F. Gooneratne, Rayesh D Gunasekera, Rajan A. Hensman, Neomal Jasinghe, Asanka Jayawardena, Shehan Vinod Jayetileke, H. Selva Kanagasabai, Delwyn Lappen, Rohan Latham, Leon Howard Lewis, Milinda J. Liyanage, Saman Liyanage, Granville Allison Loos, Suresh Marcandan, Trevor Meares, Vidura Meemaduma, Glen Mendis, Trevor A. Mendis, Mark Nanayakkara, Vaseeharan Nesiah, Joe Rajadurai, Vasikaran Ratnarajah, Claud E. Reid, Dr. Barclay G.(Buddy) Reid, Ronnie Reid, Richard Roberts, Arasu Saravanamuttu, Ari Saravanamuttu, Peter Schoorman, Godfrey Senaratne, Michael Thiedeman, Christopher Varney, Raj Vytilingam, Jayantha Wanigatunga, Dr Tilak Weerasiri, Prasada Wijayasuriya.

1. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT: The President, welcoming all members and their spouses, thanked them warmly for their presence.

2. APOLOGIES: Jitendra Udugama, Sankha Wickremasinghe, Gavin Jayasekera, Kumar Hensman, Vinod Fernando

3. PRAYERS and IN MEMORIAM SERVICE: The President invited the Rajan Hensman to offer prayers for the OBA and its members. The Service was followed by a period of silence observed remembering the following Old Thomians and STC staff members who had departed during 2023 and early 2024 : Prassana Nimal Wikramanayake, Ivor Geddes, NITA IRANDA DISSANAYAKE (Parakrama's Mother), Major General A K Jayawardena, Kolitha Dharmawardena, Norman Allan Smith, Errol Lisk, Chandra Ratnarajah (Vasikaran's Mother), Ashley Varney, Cholmondeley Henricus, Sunil (Foxy) Jayasekera, M. Nazeer Rasheed, Nihal (CNJ) De Silva, Gloria Velupillai (Gerrard's Mother), B.D.JAYASINHA (Staff), Dr N P Perera, Suren De Alwis, Rosabelle Ranjitharanie Jeevaratnam (Staff)

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 10th. February 2023, was approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES: None raised.

6. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2023: Not tabled.

7. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023

Shehan presented the OBA's audited Annual Accounts for 2023.

Bank Balance as at 31st December 2023 : \$20,658

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Shehan thanked past President Delwyn Lappen for Auditing the Accounts for 2023.

The President thanked the Exco for the fantastic effort and the generosity of the sponsors, for the current healthy financial position of the Association.

8. PRESIDENT’S AWARD 2024: Past president Pajjo Silva introduced the recipient of the 2024 STC. OBA. President’s Award - **Peneeth Goonawardena**

Pajjo said that Peneeth Goonawardena had served the Ex-Co with exceptional dedication for over 20 years – 9 years as Vice President and 4 years as President and as Vice President still continues to be of service to the OBA.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS: The President thanked the Executive Committee for the hard work throughout the year and Past Presidents, Members and their partners for supporting the OBA and the events held during the year. He also thanked the sponsors who assisted the Dance, The Royal Thomian Cricket Festival and Thomiana. The President invited Past President Arasu Saravanamuttu to be the Chairman pro-tem.

9. Election of Office Bearers & Executive Committee 2024

Taking the Chair, Arasu thanked him for the privilege. Addressing the members, Arasu congratulated the Ex-Co. on the successful events organised during the year, and paid tribute to Dr Barclay G.(Buddy) Reid for being inducted into the Australian Table Tennis Hall of Fame, during the course of the year.

Moving on to the election of Office Bearers and the Ex-Co., Arasu announced that there was only one nominee for the President’s position – the current President, Saman Liyanage. With the unanimous approval of all members Arasu declared that Saman Liyanage will be the President for 2024.

OFFICE BEARERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for 2024:

Taking the Chair, Saman Liyanage thanked the House for re-electing him. He thanked the retiring committee members for their service. He stated that the year 2023 was successful due to the participation of the membership in events. He also thanked the past Presidents for their support.

The President said that the following were the only nominations received for all the remaining positions indicated against their names:

Vice Presidents:	Peneeth Goonawardena, Chris Varney, Rayesh Gunasekera.
Honorary Secretary:	Neomal Jasinghe
Honorary Treasurer:	Shehan Jayatilleke
Honorary Assistant Treasurer:	Milinda Liyanage
Honorary Editor:	Upali Gooneratne
Committee Members:	Praveen Bandaratilleke, Amesh Fernando, Dulith Gunaratne, Lalindra De Silva, Mahes Heenetigala and Joe Rajadurai

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

The President thanked the members who had relinquished their positions on the Ex-Co for their valuable service to the OBA. He thanked the immediate past Secretary Joe Rajadurai warmly for his service in Office. He also thanked Past President Pajjo Silva for guiding and assisting the Ex Co. whenever needed.

11. HONORARY AUDITOR: At the President’s request, Past President Delwyn Lappen consented to continue to be the Honorary Auditor for 2024. This was unanimously approved by Members. The President thanked Delwyn for his cooperation and honorary service to the OBA.

12. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT FOR 2024:

Saman, addressing members as the unanimously elected President of the OBA , thanked them for entrusting him with the administration of the OBA for a second term.

Going forward, he stated that his focus for the year would be to increase membership and continue to raise funds to refurbish the Lower School Library which was in a dilapidated state. He thanked the incoming Executive Committee for extending their invaluable support for another year which will make his work as the president that much easier.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

A discussion about fund raising events ensued, particularly with the diminished funds raised at the annual Ball in respect to the cost of the event. The President explained that the Ball was a success in terms of attendance (particularly amongst younger Thomians) with ticket sales far exceeding expectations. The President however resolved to look into the format of the dance and the associated outlay including charges for the venue and drinks.

The President also addressed the issue of the funds collected for the grave site of Warden Chapman. As it isn't possible on many fronts to make any changes to the grave site, the President said that the Committee will look into how these funds are to be used.

14. THE MEETING IS CLOSED: As there was no further business raised for discussion the President declared the meeting closed at 7.59 p.m. He requested all members to stand and sing the Thomian song.

The President invited all members and their ladies to drinks and dinner.

Neomal Jasinghe
Honorary Secretary