



Zahira College Colombo

Group of 60

NEWSLETTER

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members only*

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GCE OL Seminar Series

The seminar series by the Education & Welfare Committee of the Group of 60 was inaugurated by the President Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof, PC, on 6th March 2007 at the Gaffoor Hall, Zahira College, Colombo, in the presence of Professor Tuley de Silva, Mr. Abdul Ahad, Acting Principal and his staff, Executive Committee members of the Group of 60 and students. This one day programme is one in a series of seminars for students sitting the GCE (Ordinary Level) examination in December 2007. The series will consist of special lectures on Science and Mathematics in which present day Zahirians need assistance. Special attention will be paid to sportsmen who have to spend additional hours at practice, to help them improve their performance at the examination.



A similar series of seminars were successfully conducted and concluded recently for the GCE AL students.

Previous issue of the newsletter:

Vol 1, Issue 1 – Sept 2006
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Seminar Programme

AL Seminar Series

28th Jun 2006 - 1st Seminar
28th & 29th Nov 2006 - 2nd Seminar
12th & 13th Mar 2007 - 3rd Seminar
18th & 19th Jun 2007 - 4th Seminar

OL Seminar Series

6th Mar 2007 - 1st Seminar
26th & 27th Mar 2007 -
12th & 13th Jun 2007 - 2nd Seminar
30th Aug 2007 - 3rd Seminar

Award of Scholarships in July 2007

The ceremonial award of scholarship has been planned to take place on 30th July 2007 at the College Assembly. This is a programme of the Dr. A.M.A. Azeez Scholarship Fund initiated last year on a proposal by Al Haj Samsudeen Macan Markar, the founder President of the Group of 60. While the Group has made an initial grant of Rs. 50,000 to help launch the Fund, appeals to donors have produced results and the Fund now stands at around Rs. 600,000 or the equivalent of 24 scholarships. Each scholarship will consist of a payment of Rs. 2000 per month per student for a period of 2 years. The students will be selected on the basis of 3 categories - merit, sports and the needy. A special committee has been appointed to formulate the criteria for selection including the decision on the final proportion of the 3 categories.

New Principal & DS for Zahira

Mr. T.K. Azoor, Attorney at Law & NP, took office recently as the Principal of Zahira College, Colombo. At the same time Mr. N.M Anverdeen was appointed as the Director of studies. The group of sixty wish both of them asuccessful

Members Day

It was a memorable day of fun and frolic for members, their families and friends at the Langs Land Estate in Neboda, Mathugama on 25th February 2007. The property belonging to the Hamdoon brothers seems to have appealed to the Group of 60 to have their annual outdoor get together as this was the 2nd consecutive year. The drive and walk itself to this location was a thrilling experience not to mention the natural scenic beauty and the countryside atmosphere. The estate bungalow provided ample space for relaxation and the swimming pool was most welcome to cool off. While most men were enjoying a game of soft ball cricket, the females and children were engaged in several indoor and outdoor games organized by M/s Muheed and Hazmie Yusuf. Prizes were given to all winning team and individuals.



Past Rugby Players Honoured

Seventeen past players of Zahira who represented the country in the game of rugby were honoured at a Gala Dinner held on 3rd February 2007 at the Galle Face Hotel in the presence of a distinguished gathering of leading businessmen, professionals, members of G60 and their spouses. The event was also an occasion to felicitate all present players of Zahira for their recent achievements.

Zahira College which has a proud history has produced several ruggerites who have gone onto represent Sri Lanka with distinction . Among them are Kuthdoos Dorey, A.H.A. Samad, Naleem Saleem, Abdul Majeed, Ibrahim 'Tanker' Hamid and Sharmast 'Omar' Sheriff. In recent years Hafeel Marso, Azad Junkeer, Rizan Saldin, M.J.Mushtaq and Kishore Jehan too donned the national jersey. The greatest of them all was Abdul Majeed who went onto lead Sri Lanka against the All England team led by Budge Rogers in 1971.



At the welcome speech, the President of the Group of Sixty,

Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof, PC, said that rugby is a game for those with strength and courage but rugby sense and intelligence does play a major role in haping up victory. Dr. Neville Edirisinghe, who captained Zahira in 1960 is a shining example who bears testimony to the fact that playing rugby develops one's mind as much



as his body, as he went on to become a UN expert on nutrition. The point is that rugby helps one to make quick decisions and in fact develops intelligence and is a game for all. As such the Group of Sixty in its efforts to develop rugby at Zahira, has concentrated on sports as well as education.

Mr. Dilroy Fernando, CEO of the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union was very impressed by this event and commented that this will set a trail blazer for other leading schools to follow.

One of the highlights of the evening was the brilliant multimedia presentation by Munshif Hussain on 'Rugby Past, Present and Future' which captured the history of rugby at Zahira over the past four decades while giving the plans ahead for the development of the game.



Donations for Development of Rugger

The Group of Sixty received a donation of Rs. 240000 from Amana Takaful Insurance for the development of rugger at Zahira. Picture shows Mr. Nazeem Ghaffoor, Zonal Manager of Amana Takaful Insurance handing over the cheque to Mr. M.S. Mazeer, Chairman of the Sports Committee of the Group of Sixty. Also in the picture are Mr. I. Ishan, Accountant/Manager, Amana Takaful (on extreme right) and Mr. Tony Amit, Chairman, Zahira Sports Council.



A donation was also received by Mr. Nath Kottegoda, Director Operations, Shore to Shore. He has also pledged that he will continue to support the cause of the group to promote rugger at Zahira.

Education Programme for Rugger Players

A **special educational programme** for rugger players of various grades commenced in May this year. The purpose of this activity is to train and retain players for a longer school career to enable them to play until 20 years. At present, most players drop out of school early as they are unsuccessful at public examinations.

On this subject, Mr. M.S. Mazeer, the Chairman of the Sports Committee of the Group of Sixty said that around eighty students from grade 6 and upwards have been identified for special classes in the subjects Sinhala, Mathematics and English. The classes will be held on 3 days a week for 2 hours on each day and conducted by experienced teachers. He also expressed his opinion that it would take at least 3 years to produce results from this exercise and therefore the project once commenced has to be sustained for this period for which a regular source of funding has been planned in the coming months. The Sports Committee Members also feel that as stakeholders investing on this project, some sort of monitoring mechanism be in place to ensure that the funds are utilized in a proper manner and that the students are benefited. Some of the members volunteered to visit these special classes as observers and report on the progress.

A meeting of the parents of the rugger players was held where the Sports Committee briefed them of our plans and sought their support as parents to encourage and ensure that the students follow these classes regularly.



A meeting of the parents of the rucker players was held where the Sports Committee briefed them of our plans and sought their support as parents to encourage and ensure that the students follow these classes regularly.



Rugby Training

Monthly allowances for trainers of rucker at Zahira were enhanced as a means of encouraging them to produce even better results in the future. These allowances will be paid to the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Junior Coach, Masters in Charge and the Physiotherapist. In addition, an amount has been allocated for Nutrition. On the medical side, Mr. Salahudeen Cader, Vice President will take care of medicine and vitamins required by the players.

It has been estimated that a sum of around Rs. 60,000 per month would be required to cover expenses on this project.

Down Memory Lane

The musical extravaganza and dinner held at the Galle Face Hotel on 9th June was a great success. Attended by a large gathering of past Zahirians, their spouses and friends, it was an evening to

relax with the popular band Rajiv and the Clan in the lead supported by artistes such as Ishaq Baig, Ronnie Leitch and Supriya Abeysekera while the present college boys gave a colourful cultural dance performance. The principal sponsor for this event was Cavagna Group from Italy, who are manufacturers of domestic LP gas regulators, introduced by Fuad Jain, the Chairman of the Fund Raising & Finance Committee. In fact, Down Memory Lane was his brain child and opened the event not only to Old Zahirians but to others as well to have a glimpse of the past. A multi media presentation by the Group of Sixty traced the history of Zahira for over one century showing on the screen pictures that brought nostalgic memories to many who were present.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Hassan Madani, Country Chairman/MD of Shell Gas Lanka Ltd during his address expressed his sincere thanks for having the honour of being invited for this grand event.

For the ticket raffle draw Etihad Airways sponsored a ticket to London and it was won by Mr. Mackie





Zahira Group of 60

Executive Committee – 2006/2007

President:	Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof
Imm. Past President:	M.S.Macan Markar
1st Vice President:	Ashraff Ghany
2nd Vice President:	S.M. Salahudeen Cader
Hony. Secretary:	M. Hazmie Yusuf
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Help the G60 to Grow in Strength

How?

- By introducing new members
 - By participating at the events organised
 - By donating to the Scholarship Fund
 - By donating for the development of Rugger
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