



Zahira College Colombo

Group of 60

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 2 – July 2008

Under 20 Inter School Rugby Sevens Tournament

The Group of 60 Sports Committee headed by M.S.Mazeer has appointed a special committee headed by M.T.Ifthikar Ahamed to organize the Under 20 Inter Schools Rugby Sevens to celebrate 85 years of Rugby at Zahira. Other members of the Committee are Tony Amit (Tournament Director), Nizam Lantra (Tournament Coordinator), T.M.I.Hamid (Technical Advisor), Nazeem Ghaffoor (Ground & Match Arrangements, Technical/Referees), M.S.Mazeer (Sponsorship & Finance), Saqqaf Muheed (Souvenir & Media), Ashraff Ghany (Disciplinary), Palitha Kulathunga (Opening, Closing & Recorders), Nafaiz Hamdoon (Hospitality & Secretariat) and Dr. M.A Afzal (Medical).

Sixteen Schools will participate at the tournament on Saturday 30th August 2008 at the CR & FC Grounds, Colombo 7. Mr. Nimal Lewke D.I.G , President of the SLRFU will be the chief guest. Attractive awards are on offer for the Champions and Runners Up in the Cup, Bowl and Plate categories. The Champion teams of the Cup, Plate and Bowl will receive Rs.50,000, Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 20,000 respectively and Runners Up will receive Rs. 30,000, Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 10,000. Certificates and medals will be awarded for the members of the team. A keen tussle is expected which will offer the spectators an interesting and exciting day of Rugby.

Zahira's Champion Team of C Division League Rugby



M.Azarudeen Ishak (Capt), M.M.Nazar, N.A.Hamed, M.S.Mukeeth, M.Z.Zaakib, O.F.M.Ashad, M.I.Farooz, M.N.N.Imran, M.W.Akram, M.Ramzi, S.M.M.Azam, M.A.Munaf, A.H.M.Samil, M.I.R. Sheriff, N.M.Wazeer, M.S.Bansajaya, J.T.Usman, M.F.Khalid, M.D.M Nishad, M.Mohideen and T.A.Murshid.

Amana Takaful Insurance Supports Sportsmen

Amana Takaful Insurance has donated Rs. 300,000 for furtherance of education to sportsmen. Last year too they made substantial contributions for the same cause.



Pix shows the cheque being handed over by Mr. Eshan Zaheed, CEO , Amana Takaful Insurance to Mr. Ifthikar Ahamed, Chairman of Rugger Committee of the Zahira Group of Sixty. Also in the picture are Mr. M. S . Mazeer and Mr. Nazeem Ghaffoor.

Editorial

This issue contains useful historical data extracted from past magazines. It is very important for us to now seriously think of an archives centre at College to enable us to preserve such records and also to record the present activities. Everyone, every organization of the College is doing a lot for the development of the College as such it is important to recognize such activities and have them on record for our future generations. Lets think it over seriously and make it a reality.

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Milestones of Zahira

1891 - To a community hostile to Western influence Proctor M.C.Siddi Lebbe of Kandy made an impassioned appeal for Muslim Education.

1892 - Mr A.M. Wapiche Marikar and Mr I.L.M. Abdul Azeez overcame the indifference and hostility of the Muslims of the day and established a Muslim School with the active patronage of Ahmed Orabi Pasha of Egypt. It was called Al Madrasathul Zahira.

1894 - Al Madrasathul Zahira registered as Maradana Mohammedan Boy's School. Manager Mr A.M.Wapiche Marikar. Number on roll 35 students.

1905 - Foundation stone laid for a two storeyed building by Moulavi Rafiudeen Ahmed, B.A, LLB. Cricket & Soccer introduced.

1906 - New Building declared open by Orabi Pasha.

1911 - School was renamed Muslim Zahira College. Mr D.E.Martinus became first Principal.

1917 - Mr Wapiche Marikar after 25 years of devoted and selfless service hands over the management to Maradana Mosque. Mr Wapiche Marikar was the mainstay of the school in the early and most difficult days. Mr N.H.M.Abdul Cader appointed Manager.

1918 - Mr A.S.Abdul Cader, first Muslim English trained teacher appointed Head Master.

1921 - Sept.1 Mr T.B. Jayah appointed Principal of Zahira College. Number on Roll 59 Staff 6.

1922 - May 31. College showed rapid progress. Number on Roll 450 – Staff 30. Science Laboratory Building was donated by Al Haj N.D.H. Abdul Gaffoor at a cost of Rs.20,000.00. In June the College Magazine – The Crescent began publication. October 9 College privileged to hear inspiring address by the world famous poetess and later stateswoman Mrs Sarojini Naidu on “New World of Islam”

1923 - June , 30 scouts attended All-Ceylon Scout Rally at North Camp, Mutwal .They were conspicuous in their fez caps. Examination results. For the first time five boys had passed the Cambridge Examination (Junior).

1924 - Playground provided by Al-Haj P.B.Umbichy.
Rugby Football introduced. Mr. C.E.Hettiarachy first coach.
January, Addresses by Maulana Shaukat Ali and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew.
August , Award of a Shield for cricket by Mr. N.D.H. Abdul Careem.

1925 - March 24th. Building of 12 class rooms donated by Al-Haj P.B.Umbichy declared open by H.E.Sir William Henry Manning, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon, who immediately after laid the foundation stone for the main building, the chief contributor being Al - Haj N.D.H Abdul Gaffoor.
Visit of H.H.Prince Hyder Aly Bey of Turkey.
Lecture by Mr.S.W.R.D Bandaranaike on “The Pagan and the Puritan”.

1926 - The Crescent that appeared as a monthly magazine for four years, to be published every term.
Seven Inter Collegiate cricket matches played - won 6.
Ananda Zahira cricket match ended in a tie. Immediate re-play on request of Mr.P.de S. Kularatne, Zahira then won by one wicket.
First century for Zahira by B.J.H.Bahar (Snr). against the Police.
August 19th. For first time Cadets set out to Diyatalawa with Lt.C. Hettiarachy and 2nd Lt.T.P.S.Laxana.
Football. 5 Inter-Collegiate matches played, won 4.

1927 - October 10th. First free night school in the island was established for adults.
November 22nd. Visit of Mahatma Gandhi and Mr.C.Rajagopalacharia. The Mahatma addressed the students.
December 6th. T/L S.M.J.Abdeen participated in the All-India Jamboree.

1928 - January 28th. Main building declared open by H.E.Sir Herbert J. Stanley, Governor and Commander - in - Chief of Ceylon.
June 8th. Visit of Lord W. Ormsby Gore, Secretary of State. Oct 28th. Commercial Dept opened by H.E. Sir H. Stanley.

To be contined in the next issue....

Appeal from the Chairman of the G60 Education Committee

Mr.T.M.Ibrahim Hamid, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Zahira College Group of 60 has appealed to old boys and well wishers to contribute generously towards the Marhoom A.M.A. Azeez Scholarship Fund. Deserving students have been granted scholarships and this has prevented students from going to other schools. The Scholarship amount is Rs. 1500 monthly for 2 years amounting to Rs.36,000 per student. As the month of Ramadan is approaching it is timely for such contributions says Mr.Hamid.

The Education Committee has been conducting seminars for OL & AL students and this year too seminars have been planned for July & October respectively. The Principal has informed the Chairman that these seminars have lessened the burden on the school and is very appreciative of the services of the G60 Education Committee.

Inter House Cricket Tournament

The Cricket Committee of the G 60 Sports Committee headed by that versatile cricketer M.M.Saheer organised the Inter House Cricket Tournament during March 2008 for Under 13, 15, 17 & 19 age groups.. The Grand Finale was held at the College grounds on 30th March 2008 with Mr Muttiah Devarajah Old Boy of the College who represented Sri Lanka. Over 200 cricketers participated in the tournament showing great enthusiasm. The tournament was held after a lapse of 15 years. The Challenge Shield was donated by the Vil Cassim family in memory of Marhoom Jiffry Vilcassim. Mr Branudeen Amit, past cricket Captain of the College donated a sum of Rs.100,000/-. The Group 60 wishes to thank them specially and all others who assisted to make this tournament a success. Others who donated trophies were Sam Macan Markar, Ashraff Ghany T.L.Doole and the family of Marhoom Weerabangsa. Other members of the cricket committee who were responsible for the tournament are Samsudeen Macan Markar, Ashraff Ghany, Tony Amit, Nizam Lantra, Branudeen Amit, T.L.Doole, Mr Shanthi Peiris, Head Coach and the two Prefect of Gamess. The G 60 thanks the Principal and Staff for their support.

Following are some of the pictures taken:



New Members

Two new members joined the fold of Group 60 namely Mr M.A.Ameer Former Soccer Captain and Mr Chithral Amaratunga a leading lawyer.

Members Day at Lulua Estate

That energetic Chairman of the Members Day, Rummy Hassen and members of his Sub Committee organised the Members Day on 6th April 2008 at the LULUA ESTATE in Avissawella. It was a memorable day for members and their families. The Principal, Mr T.K.Azoor took time off from his busy schedule to relax and enjoy at the Members Day.

Right from the start on arrival the members were in for a good programme of the day worked out by Saqqaf Muheed with games filled with fun. Games were organised for ladies and children separately. A Band was in attendance providing music for all ages and some took over the mike and let off steam with songs like Maa Baale Kaaley etc.

Soft Ball cricket, Treasure Hunt were the other highlights. Prizes were awarded to those who were successful at the Games. The Swimming Pool was not spared. So await the next MEMBERS DAY if you have missed this one.



