



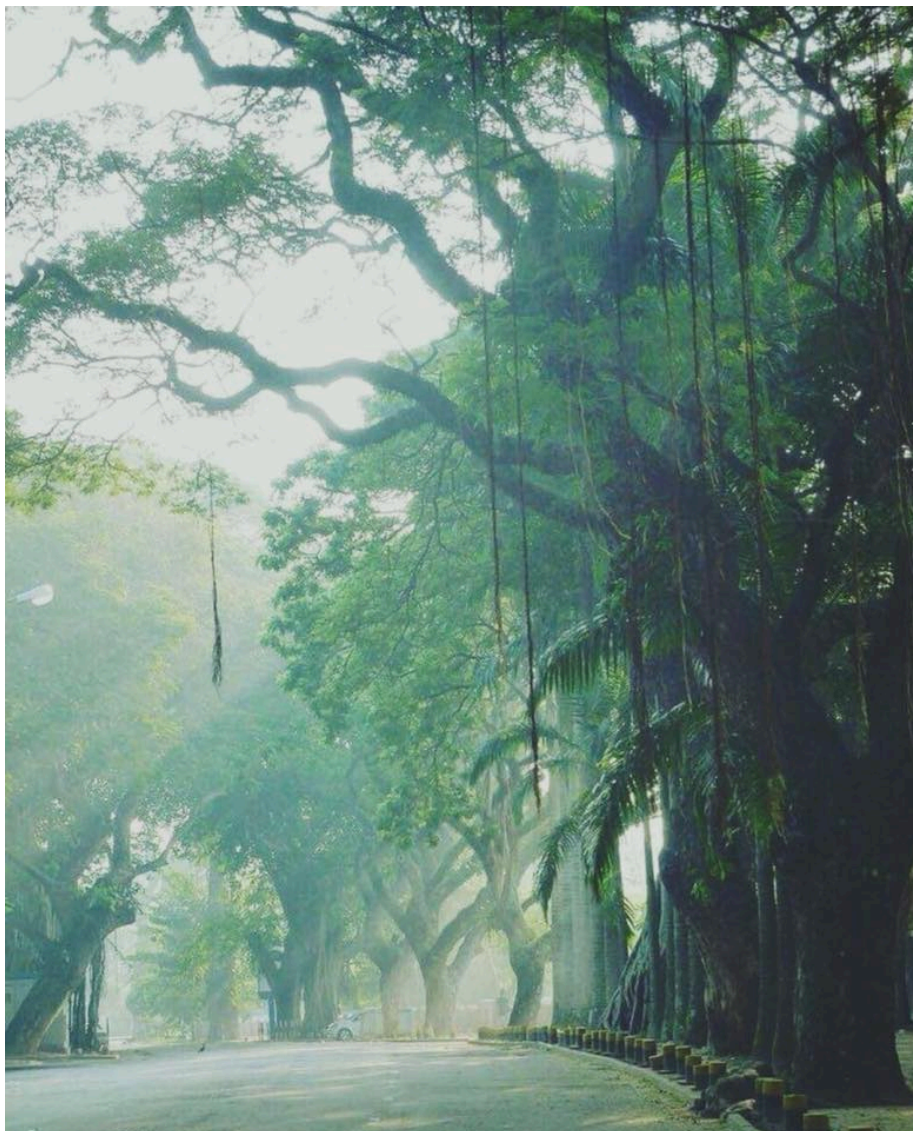
Old Royalists'
Association in the UK
www.oldroyalists.org.uk



From under the Tamarind Tree

Q1 - 2018 Issue

This is the second issue of 'From Under the Tamarind Tree', the official newsletter of the Old Royalists' Association in the UK. The purpose of the newsletter is, to keep the fraternity of Royalists in the United Kingdom informed of the news and activities pertaining to our alma mater, and of course ORAUK.



Highlights

- **Stubbs Shield winning Royal Boxers winning a Gold and 2 Bronze in Germany**
 - Royal won the 100th Stubbs Shield competition. This was the 19th occasion that Royal secured the Stubbs Shield, the highest among competing schools. The champions were rewarded with a tour to Germany, during which, they participated in Sven Lange Memorial International boxing meet, winning a Gold and two Bronze medals.
- **Royal – Thomian Cricket encounter ends in a draw, With Thomians winning the 50 overs Match (Mustangs Trophy)**
- **Royal wins the National Basketball Championship**
 - Royal won the basketball championship in National school games
 - Royal Cagers also won the All Island under 19 tournament, The team remained unbeaten right through the season.
 - Royal won the inaugural Basketball encounter against Gateway international school
- **Royal wins the Royal – Thomian Regatta and the champion team was rewarded with a tour to Australia, during which they competed in Ballarat Rowing Regatta and Melbourne Schools competition**
- **New Zealand tour of Champion Royal Rugby team**
 - The Champion Royal Rugby team completed their New Zealand tour. A contingent of 30 players, 5 coaches, Master in charge, Senior games Master and the Principal went on the tour, along with a group of supporters. The tour was sponsored by a few corporations and Alumni Associations, ORAUK being one of them. The players included the entire squad of 2018, providing the boys a fantastic chance to learn the game from greats such as former All Blacks coach, Sir Graham Henry.
 - Royal Starts the Rugby season with a bang! Beats Kingswood 29-3, St Anthony's 55-13 and our traditional rivals S. Thomas by 55-0, winning the Michael Gunaratne trophy. The rest of the fixtures in first round of the league are as follows
 - St Joseph's – 6th April
 - Trinity (first Leg in Colombo) – 21st April
 - Trinity (second leg in Kandy) – 5th May

You may catch streaming of live Royal Rugby from <http://www.thepapare.com/live/>

- **Royalists dominated the world scrabble championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by aiding Sri Lankan youth scrabble team to win the team title.**
 - Four participants from Royal College represented the Sri Lankan team namely Aabid Ismail, Janul De Silva, Qays Sanghani and Pasindu Chammika. Aabid Ismail became the champion with 20.5 game wins and a margin of 1699, and another Royalist Janul De Silva emerged as the runner up.

- **1948 Group celebrates 70th Anniversary**

On 14th January 2018 fifteen former classmates of the “Royal College Class of 1948”, now all octogenarians, accompanied by their wives, attended a dinner at the Global Towers Hotel in Colombo to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of their admission to Royal College in January 1948, when they embarked on their secondary education as fresh faced and enthusiastic ten and eleven year olds still in their short trousers. While many who lived in foreign lands were unable to attend due either to poor health, mobility problems or the strain of long haul air travel, three of those present had travelled thousands of miles from faraway lands to grace the occasion.

The 1948 Group produced several eminent men which included doctors, engineers, lawyers, accountants, chairmen of public and private corporations, dental and veterinary surgeons, and a minister of religion. Late Lalith Athulathmudali, a cabinet minister who was assassinated in the prime of life in 1993, was perhaps the best-known member of that illustrious band of men.

The evenings’ highlights included a thoroughly enjoyed singsong, which took the attendees down memory lane back to their school days, and a group photograph, and culminated with the singing of the School Song “School where Our Fathers”.

Blue and Gold Ball 2018

The B&G Ball 2018, will be held at the Hyatt Regency, the Churchill on the 28th of April 2018. This is our main fundraising event and we hope to see most of you on the day. Your patronage will help us to continue the work we do to keep her fame inviolate!

Old Royalists' Association in the UK

**35th Annual
Blue & Gold Ball**

Hyatt Regency London — The Churchill
30 Portman Square
London W1H 7BH

Saturday 28th April 2018

**Reception: 6:45pm
Dinner: 7:30pm
Carriages: 1:00am**

*Drinks Reception, an exquisite dinner
with fine wine and live music by*
Sky High

*Grand auction and raffle
with fabulous prizes*

Tickets £85 *Dress: Dinner Jacket / Lounge Suit*

For reservations contact:
Rashantha - 077 9171 9231 • Janak - 07956 854 547
Hemantha - 077 8897 0606 • Earle - 020 8556 5687
www.oldroyalists.org.uk

Features

Sacred to the memory of Principal E. L. Bradby, founder patron of ORAUK.

*Taken from an article written by Mr T.D. S. A. Dissanayaka
Member of the Royal College Class of 1949*

Edward Lawrence Bradby, Principal of Royal College from 1939 to 1945, was born in 1907 and educated at Rugby and Oxford, where he took a double First in Classics. At the time of his appointment he was General Secretary of the NGO, The International Student Service. Earlier he was a much-respected House Master at Merchant Taylors School, which like Rugby is a famous Public School in England. By virtue of his educational background and proven ability as a teacher and as an educationist, he was well suited to be Principal of the renowned Royal College, which had celebrated its Centenary in 1935. However he had one major disadvantage, he was only 32 years old.

Fate decreed that Principal Bradby would be a wartime Principal of Royal College. His arrival in Ceylon in mid-September 1939 in time for the commencement of the Third Term for schools in Ceylon, was delayed by World War II. His initial contract as Principal of Royal College was for five years, thus ending in September 1944. It appeared in 1944 that World War II would end in 1945. Therefore, he accepted an extension of just one year because he wanted to get back to England, after World War II was over.

Before he left Ceylon in 1945 he presented The Bradby Shield for the two Rugby Football matches which are played annually since 1943 between Royal College and Trinity College, one in Colombo and the other in Kandy. Incidentally, from 1921 to 1942 only one match was played annually. -From a few hundred spectators in 1945, The Bradby Shield now caters for capacity crowds of several thousand spectators, with many disappointed being left out because of lack of seats and even standing accommodation. Besides the high standards in Rugby Football maintained by both schools, there is much revelry organized by Old Boys of both schools. For years the Old Boys of Trinity College organized a splendid Dance at the queen's Hotel, Kandy, of late the Old Boys of Royal College organize a dance to match it at The Citadel Hotel, Kandy. In Colombo at Old Royalists Rugby Dinner, coloursmen in Rugby Football scrum down to reminisce, to eat and drink in style at a five-star Hotel.

What makes Principal Bradby one of our great Principals? This article will attempt to answer that question. Principal Bradby had only childhood memories of World War I when he was a schoolboy at Rugby. In 1939, he had no illusions. Even his departure from London for Ceylon, with his bride was delayed because of the outbreak of World War II. When the Bradbys finally left London, their ship was diverted at Gibraltar and had to take the circuitous route via the Cape of Good Hope. Before leaving London, he had read widely about Royal College. That included every magazine of Royal College for the entirety of the decade of the nineteen thirties and every annual report of the Principal during that decade. Besides he had many long and fruitful discussions with Major H. L. Reed MC, our Principal from 1920-1932, acknowledged then and now as one of our great Principals, and Principal L. H. W. Sampson, his predecessor who had served from 1932-1938. Now he not only had to implement his corporate plan to usher Royal College into the decade of the nineteen forties but also to place the school on a war footing.

When Principal Bradby assumed duties in November 1939, he exhorted the boys of the Sixth Form at Royal College to join the armed forces and fight for King and Country. He gave vivid accounts of Royalists who had seen action in World War I. Some of them had won the Military Cross, others the Military Medal and many more were killed in action.

One of the best testimonials he gave for those seeking King's Commissions was to D. S. Attygalle who was our Head Prefect in 1940, the Senior Sergeant of our Cadet contingent, a coloursman in Athletics and Rugby Football. He took the sword of honour the Army passing out parade at Diyatalawa in 1941, whereupon he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Ceylon Light Infantry, our oldest regiment. In 1967, Major General D. S. Attygalle was appointed Commander of the Army. When he retired in 1977, he was a four-star General. Principal Bradby recommended to the Navy, in the strongest possible terms, Rajan Kadirgamar who had Captained our Rugby Football team in 1940, was a Prefect and the Senior Sergeant. As a Naval Cadet he took the sword of honour at the passing out parade at Trincomalee in 1941. As a Sub-Lieutenant, he saw action off the coast of Burma with the Royal Navy and was awarded the Burma Star. In 1960 Commodore Rajan Kadirgamar was appointed Commander of the Navy at the young age of 40 years. He was later promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

To keep the momentum with respect to the Armed Forces, Principal Bradby himself applied for a Commission in the Ceylon Cadet Corps. He was commissioned as a Major. However, at Royal College he refused to be called Major E. L. Bradby because Major H. L. Reed MC, a Principal of legendary fame, had seen action in World War I and was a much-decorated Officer.

As a scholar in the Classics, Principal Bradby was puzzled that, whereas Royal College down the ages had some of her best pupils studying the Classics, the Oriental Classics, namely Pali and Sanskrit, were not even in our curriculum. He set right that defect with immediate effect and took a personal interest in the teaching of these new subjects. Indeed Pali and Sanskrit turned out to be very popular subjects at Royal College. Many years later Principal Bradby was delighted to learn that one of his pupils, P. H. Premawardhana of the Royal College Class of 1944, took a First in Sanskrit at the University of Ceylon and joined the prestigious Ceylon Civil Service in 1956.

Principal Bradby was so pleased with the standard of English, both spoken and written, at Royal College and repeatedly said that our standards in English were even higher than those at Merchant Taylors School. By the same token he was puzzled, by all accounts he had received, that Sinhala and Tamil were woefully neglected. Therefore, corrective action was taken without delay.

Principal Bradby was a devout Christian and read the Bible frequently. However, professionally he had misgivings about one aspect of the traditions of Royal College, namely readings from the Bible at school functions. In his opinion Royal College, was a secular institution as opposed to a Christian institution, therefore there should be readings from the Buddhist, Hindu, and Islamic scriptures as well. Thus, in one master stroke in early 1940, he honoured Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam by having readings from all four scriptures at the daily general assembly. His strategy worked like a charm and it is a tradition of Royal College even today.

By then, quite clearly Principal Bradby had quickly got into his stride. Before his first year at Royal College was duly completed, he decided to utilize the inadequate funds collected to build a swimming pool ever since our centenary to build instead a gymnasium. It was ceremonially opened in 1941 and gymnastics was introduced to our curriculum

with immediate effect.

In December 1941, Principal Bradby was given a few days notice to vacate our splendid premises on Reid Avenue, to make way for a Military Hospital. Ironically Royal College made virtually homeless on Sunday 7th December 1941, the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, resulting in the United States entering World War II. Principal Bradby and the boys of Royal College marched out through the Boake Gates singing,

"Are we down hearted ?

Oh no, No '.

Somehow Principal Bradby obtained special permission for just one term to locate Royal College next door, at The Colombo University College, now The University of Colombo. In that short period of time, Royal College was re-located at Turret House and three bungalows on Turret Road duly rented out for classrooms and even laboratories for Science practicals. The Colombo University College continued to make available their grounds for sports. The makeshift arrangements were operational for four long years reflecting much credit on the resilience of Principal Bradby. Exceptionally able though he was, Principal Bradby had a clear idea of his limitations. He needed to have the full support of the Old Boys and his staff. In the Royal College Union he had a series of special committees. For example the Committee on University Education had luminaries such as Professor Nicholas Attygalle (Medicine), Professor A. W. Mylvaganam (Science), and Professor J. L. C. Rodrigo (Classics). The Games Committee had former Captains of the Ceylon teams, such as C. C. Dissanayaka (Athletics), Dr. H. S. R. Goonewardene (Athletics), Dr. C. H. Gunasekera (Cricket), S. S. Jayewickrema (Cricket) and Danton Obeysekera (Boxing). On the Staff he regularly consulted Vice-Principal H. J. Wijesinghe, his successor Vice-Principal J. C. A. Corea (later Principal), Senior Science Master M. M. Kulasekeram (later Vice-Principal), C. Samarasinghe (later Senior Science Master and still later Vice-Principal), J. E. V. Pieris (Head Master of the Lower School), Bernard Mendis, and H. R. Fernando both Hostel Masters, senior teachers C. E. Belleth (Science) and R. Rajaratnam (Science), both of whom had played in the Royal-Thomian Cricket match in their time and other senior teachers, Captain C. P. De A. Abeyasinghe (Cadeting), Captain B. C. Anghie (Rugby Football), R. C. Edwards (Art) and T. M. Weerasinghe (English).

Principal Bradby was indeed a practical man. He rarely spoke in parables but instead spoke of well-established truths in the context of Royal College. Thus he spoke not of:

Mens sana in corpore sano (a healthy mind in a healthy body) as his distinguished predecessors had done, but instead he quoted from the Royal College Anthem:

"We will learn of books and men, and learn to play the game"

Accordingly, he accorded the highest honour at Royal College to those who simultaneously shone in studies and sports. A supreme example was Lakshman Wickremesinghe, our Head Prefect in 1944. He won both panel prizes in English, the Steward Prize and the Shakespeare Prize, another panel prize the Dornhorst Memorial Prize, the Best Speakers' Prize and several other prizes, was Chairman of the Senior Literary Association, Editor of the Magazine, won Colours in Athletics, and Rugby Football and entered The University of Ceylon on a scholarship. Four years later he took a First in Economics and a scholarship to Oxford. There he studied Divinity and was ordained a priest of the Church of England. At the age of 35 years he became a Bishop, the youngest Bishop in the worldwide network of the Church of England.

Principal Bradby attached much importance to debating. He was in raptures in listening to the oratory of one of

our Head Prefects in 1941, the diminutive Neville Kanakeratne who was a scholar in History. At the height of his career as a diplomat, Ambassador Neville Kanakeratne was looked upon as the finest orator Sri Lanka ever produced, even better than Prime Minister S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and President J. R. Jayewardene.

Principal Bradby also activated the Drama Society, which produced a play every year "The Shiam Trial" starring Neville Kanakeratne and "The Merchant of Venice" starring Neville Kanakarathne, as Shylock the Jew, were the most successful of such plays. All proceeds were donated to war charities.

By the same token Principal Bradby attached much importance to literary skills and hence the Editor of the Magazine was a key school appointment. C. G. Weeramantry, the Editor in 1943 was such a good writer and a scholar that he won the Dornhorst Memorial Prize without being Head Prefect. Today, he is a world-famous author on Law and was a Judge of the International Court of Justice, at the height of his career.

With the fall of Burma, Malaya and Singapore in early 1942, Ceylon could conceivably be the next victim. That became a stark reality on Easter Sunday 1942, when carrier - borne aircraft from Japan under the command of Admiral Chechi Nagumo of Pearl Harbour fame, bombed Colombo and Trincomalee caused havoc. Against this background Principal Bradby opened a branch of Royal College in Bandarawela, as a wartime measure. At peak, twenty percent of the school operated from "Glendale" Bandarawela. With the threat of an invasion by Japan receding in 1943, Principal Bradby continued expanding the school activities as he deemed fit. The Royal College Farm at Narahenpita which was opened in 1940 on a four acre plot was expanded in 1943 to twelve acres and provided the Hostel with all the fruits and vegetables that was needed, and the Boy Scout Troop, was established on a permanent basis in 1944.

Principal Bradby was a strict disciplinarian but a just man. As a matter of routine he put into operation the Royal College Motto "Disce Aut Discede (Learn or Depart). There were no exceptions, not even for those who had excelled in the Royal- Thomian cricket match or in The Bradby Shield Rugby matches. He went a step further and applied a similar discipline on the teachers. He came into class, sat at the back, and listened to them teach. Those who were sub-standard had to teach or depart.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Principal Bradby made to Royal College was to ensure that our hallowed traditions stood firm in dark days and in happier times. By virtue of these traditions, success is important but honour is even more important. Consequently, being a successful man is important, but being a gentleman is even more important. May those hallowed traditions of Royal College never perish.

In 1983 Principal and Mrs. E. L. Bradby visited Sri Lanka as the guest of The Royal College Union for the centenary of Rugby Football match with Trinity College They were treated right royally. In 1996 he passed away at the age of nearly ninety years. Royal College. honoured him with a touching memorial service held at The Cathedral of The Church of Ceylon in Colombo. When His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo, The Right-Reverend Kenneth Fernando of the Royal College Class of 1943, waxed eloquence in saying an appropriate final prayer, his pupils, then in their seventies, were moved to tears, while some even broke down and wept.

May the turf lie gently over this great Principal of Royal College.

With no offence to our brothers from School by the Sea and other schools

OLD BOY'S CHOICE OF SCHOOLS

By Rajakeeya

The perennial debate that sparks off when old Royalists and old Thomians meet, often centre round the claim over which of the two schools had a better record in producing successful men. There is no doubt that both schools have produced men of eminence whether it be national leaders, academics, professionals, sportsmen, businessmen or those immersed in the fine arts. One unflinching test of the claim of superiority is to ascertain what eminent old boys themselves look for, when choosing an educational institution for their own sons.

Let's start with national leaders. The first Prime Minister DS Senanayake a man to whom a lot of "horse sense" has been attributed, had both his sons Dudley and Robert educated at his old school S Thomas. DS studied only up to the 7th standard at STC and was known as "Kalay John". He had two elder brothers nicknamed "Colombo John" and "London John". London John was none other than FR Senanayake the only one of the three brothers to receive a tertiary education. He was also the only one of the three brothers to study at Royal College. That must have had a great impact on him as all his sons RG (Richard Gotabaya) CU (Upali) and FT (Tissa) were admitted to Royal where they had their entire secondary education. SWRD Bandaranaike is often referred to as the most brilliant product of S Thomas although he attended school at S Thomas only for a couple of years! He was mostly tutored at home by a resident tutor from Britain, AC Radford employed by SWRD's father. He however must have appreciated the value of an education at Royal in preference to S Thomas, as his only son Anura received his education there. Premadasa of course staked his claim, which according to his detractors was a mythical education he was supposed to have received at St Joseph's! He even built some edifice there at enormous cost, so the school would have been more than pleased to admit his son. However, in his wisdom he chose to educate his only son at Royal. GG Ponnambalam who had part of his education at St Joseph's would not trust the old school to educate his son Kumar who attended Royal right through from Prep School through College till he left to follow his father's career. There was also Sir Oliver Goonetilleke arguably the most distinguished old boy of Wesley College who chose to send his only son Ernie to Royal. Mahinda Rajapakse would have dearly loved to send his sons to Royal as he himself would have preferred for his own education, to follow in the footsteps of his cousin George Rajapakse who captained the cricket first eleven and scored twin centuries in the encounter with Trinity. The area rule imposed by Royal came in his way and he had to make do with an education at Thurstan College, while choosing S Thomas for the education of his sons.

Now let's get to the Board of Governors of S Thomas which is a group of about 8 people including the Warden, representative of the Diocese of the Anglican Church which runs the school, and a few loyal old boys. For many years they were Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, Sir James Obeysekere, Mr CEA Dias, and Dr GH de Saram. Apart from Sir Solomon (who admitted his son SWRD to S Thomas) all the other members of the Board of Governors of S Thomas sent their sons to Royal, obviously knowing that their progeny could receive a better education there! Sir James Obeysekere for instance sent his only son JP Obeysekere to Royal, JPO later attended Cambridge University after which he flew to Ceylon in his own aircraft! Dr GH de Saram (who played for S Thomas in the famous 9 run match) sent his son GSW de Saram (later Prof of Forensic Medicine) to Royal where he was a tremendous asset to his old school always officiating at Athletics meets etc. Prof GSW sent all his sons, Willie, Christopher, John, and Allan to Royal and all had remarkable careers later. CEA Dias educated his son Stanley at Royal, and grandson

Michael captained Royal at cricket. So one could surmise that even the Board of Governors of S Thomas had an unconcealed admiration and respect for the education provided by Royal, so much so that their own progeny were educated there in preference to S Thomas.

Now to come to some other 'key' old boys of S Thomas. Bradman Weerakoon is one of the few old Thomians who entered the coveted Ceylon Civil Service and is often claimed by Thomians as the perfect embodiment of the phrase "men sana in corpora sano" (a healthy mind in a healthy body), as he captained the school cricket team in addition to his attainments in public service. He certainly must be having a "healthy" mind as he didn't trust his old school when he had to educate his son Asela, who was admitted to Royal, and that speaks volumes for the father's sense of judgment as Asela turned out to be a scholar in his own right and is a successful career diplomat. Senator M Tiruchelvam was an old Thomian who saw the merit of education in Royal and had both sons including the late Neelan, have their education at Royal. Neelan and his brother Rajendra would both have enjoyed their learning at Royal, their sons too being educated there. Then we have Sri Lanka's foremost partition lawyer SJV Chelvanayakam an old Thomian who took his penchant for partitioning to a national level by espousing federalism! He in his wisdom had all of his sons including Chandrahasan and Vaseeharan educated at Royal. Another lawyer and former Supreme Court Judge ARH Canekeratne whose portrait adorned the pages of the Centenary Number of the Thomian Magazine, would have assumed that his sons should get a better education than he did, and had both his sons Nihal and Ranjan educated at Royal. Ranjan's son Kris is an international corporate high flyer being the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Virtusa a Nasdaq quoted company in Silicon Valley with an asset register worth over US\$1 Billion, reinforcing the old saying "quality begets quality". Dr SC Paul distinguished surgeon, had his early education in a school in Jaffna, then moved to Colombo where he studied for a couple of years each at Wesley College and S Thomas College Mutwal. He married the daughter of Dr Aserappah an old Royalist, and had several children including two surgeons Dr Milroy Paul, and Dr AT'S Paul, and another son a well-known Civil Servant who took the name Paul Marcus Jeyarajan. Dr SC Paul in his wisdom chose to educate all of his sons at Royal, and the practice has continued to the next generation as well.

Now to get to a matter which will really raise the regard Thomians should have for Royal. When Royal College was founded as the Colombo Academy in 1835 it was set up deliberately as a secular institution as many families in Colombo wanted their children to be raised in a non-religious environment. Despite the fact that both Marsh and Boake the first Principals of Royal were "men of the cloth", education in the school was not coloured by any spiritual doctrine thus leaving students to be capable of independent thought and vision. That philosophy seemed to have paid rich dividends. The leading ecclesiastics in the country all were educated at the secular school called Royal College. Old Royalists who held high church office were Archbishops Lakdasa de Mel, Bishop Lakshman Wickremesinghe, Bishop Harold de Soysa (the first Ceylonese Bishop of Colombo), Bishop Cyril Abeynaike, Bishop Kenneth Fernando, Canon Beven, and recently Bishop Duleep de Chickera and Archbishop Roger Herft Archbishop of Perth, among a host of others too numerous to mention. The list goes on and on but there are no names that come to mind from S Thomas! The well known Buddhist prelate Rev Kassappa of Vajirarama is a great example of Royal's contribution to the cause of Buddhism, and recently retired Civil Servant and old Royalist Olcott Gunasekere followed his example and is now resident in Vajirarama as Ven Vajiraramavasi Nanaseeha Thero.

Someone recently wrote about the manner in which Royal College helped in the foundation of S Thomas in 1851. Let me add to that by referring to the munificence of an old Royalist Leslie WF de Saram who donated his 35 acre

orchard at Gurutalawa to S Thomas which helped that school establish its Gurutalawa branch there. I wonder whether any old Thomian could match his magnanimity in helping his old school, leave alone a rival school.?

When I entered Royal from Prep School my Form Master greeted the new entrants with warm words of welcome followed by an exhortation to sons of old Royalists among the new entrants to raise their hands, (for identification) and almost half the class did so. After all it is the school "where our fathers learnt their way before us". The Government's 2 mile radius rule introduced later kept out many sons of old Royalists from educating their children in the "school of their fathers". Thanks to President JR Jayewardene however, there has been some equity restored for old boys, fifty percent of vacancies in grade 1 being reserved for sons of old boys, a reservation which we hope will continue. Educational tradition needs continuity and we hope that the rule prevails to this day.

FLOREAT!

Dimensions of discipline and ways of punishing

By Malinda Seneviratne (<http://malindawords.blogspot.co.uk>)

In 1978, the first time Ranjan Madugalle captained Royal at the Big Match, a sporting declaration by him responded to by positive batting by the Thomians almost cost Royal the match. If I remember right, S. Thomas' had to score 44 in 8 overs with 4 wickets in hand (a piece of cake these days) but settled for a draw.

In 1978, Ranjan's team won the Mustangs Trophy, comfortably beating their arch rivals in the 50 over encounter. What happened therefore is the subject of this piece.

The Master-in-Charge of cricket at Royal was H. Nanayakkara, who was also the hostel warden. He was affectionately referred to as H. Nana (to differentiate him from D.D.R. Nanayakkara or 'Bus Nana' who handled matters related to the school bus service) and sometimes as Haramanis or simply 'Hara'. The following conversation is said to have taken place between Hara and one of the coloursmen. Hara, true to form had been disarmingly genial and good humoured.

Hara: So you people would have had a big party after the match?

Coloursman: No, sir, it was a small party.

Hara: Ah, so all you would have got cocked (drunk)?

Coloursman: No sir, we just had a couple of beers, that's all.

Hara: Only a couple of beers? The whole team?

Coloursman: No sir, just 5 of us.

The five, all coloursmen, were duly suspended. Royal had to field a team made of the captain and 10 freshers in the Exide Trophy tournament (the 50 over inter-schools event). Royal nevertheless won the Exide Trophy.

I related the story to a friend at this year's Royal-Thomian and he responded with a story (big matches are about swapping stories of old times). This was a soccer story. The chief protagonist was the soccer captain Gihan

Elikewala, the naughtiest, most mischievous boy in his batch, according to some. Gihan is said to have turned a teacher out of the class once. The said teacher had said (in Sinhala), 'Elikewala, either you go out or else I will,' and 'Elike', legend has it, had said 'then you go out sir!' He had been hauled up to the Vice Principal (E.C. Gunasekera, aka 'Kataya') and is said to have successfully pleased his case, pointing out that he had been given a choice and had figured that had he gone out of the class, he might have got into deeper trouble if Kataya or some other strict teacher had seen him.

Elike, according to my friend, had been 'put on detention' by Kataya. This meant that he would not be allowed to take part in extra curricular activities for a week. Sadly, probably for this first time, the Royal soccer team had made it to the finals of the inter-school tournament, thanks mostly to Elike's individual brilliance. Elike had broken the detention-rule and played in the final, calculating that Kataya would not be present at a soccer match. Kataya indeed had not been there. Unfortunately, Kataya had tuned into the Bristol Sports News at 7.30 pm that night. Royal had won. Elike had scored the winning goal and therefore his name was mentioned. My friend said that Kataya had summoned Elike the following Monday, congratulated him for the historic victory and duly slapped a punishment of 2 more weeks of detention.

Elike lives abroad. I sent him a message asking him to verify this story. Here's his response:

'Yes malla, mara waday macho...everything went well in the match...next day Kataya called me around 1000 o'clock...had a nice chat, even shared a chinese roll and tea with me, asked about the match !!! I mumbled saying it was ok, and he told me it was wonderful that we had won the championship, wanted to know if I had a twin, because he was bemused as to how I could be in two places at the same time...of course he congratulated me, and then told me that since my twin was still at detention, to make it a family affair by sitting next to him for two weeks...of course he brought it down to three days, when his chinese roll went missing...heh heh...'

That's the Elike of 1983/84. A quarter of a century has changed nothing, I felt.

I told him that this deserves to be written about because it illustrates several things. His commitment to his sport, team and the school at the cost of punishment; Kataya's sense of humour, ability to be gracious, readiness to reward him for his efforts and the determination to ensure that Elike learned that other things are as important as a victory on the sports field. I told him also that the person who told me this story said that things like this moulded him, guided him when faced with tough decisions and that we learned more from such things and such people than from our school books!

Elike was also easy going and despite his impishness by and large sided with the 'right' and 'good' in things that counted. He sent a short response: 'No worries macho...up to you malla, I have absolute faith in your ability....if I can do ANYTHING to develop someone to become better, then I'm your man...You take care, bro, and keep in touch when you can.'

Several decades after both incidents, my friend and I recalled how life-moulding they have been and perhaps not just for the two of us. Both stories were prompted by a recent incident where two school captains representing a national Under 19 team were caught entertaining prostitutes in the hotel where they were staying for the duration of an important international encounter. Both were highly talented. I don't know if the relevant authorities chided

them or put them on detention or spoke about twins over chinese rolls and tea, but neither were suspended from their respective teams.

I am wondering what kind of conversation two random men in their mid-forties would have 25-30 years from now about discipline and punishment. I only hope that there are as many Elikewalas and Haras as there are power-backed ruffians and arm-twistable authorities so that those two unknown individuals can speak in positive terms about school days and the lessons they learnt, of books and of men.

KEEPING HER FAME INVIOLETE!

The ORAUK has been supporting co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of Royal College, since its inception as the organisation representing Old Royalists in the United Kingdom. We have contributed well over £130,000 towards various projects of the college.

Some of the highlights over the last five years are,

Refurbishment of Chemistry Labs (2015 and 2017)

ORAUK sponsored the refurbishment of two of the Chemistry Labs contributing GBP 6750 (of the total Budget of about £20K) towards projects over the last two years. The labs had not been refurbished for more than 25 years and were in a dire state where the safety of the schoolboys was at risk. The first lab was refurbished with state of the art facilities and was the very first facilities of its kind, among schools in Sri Lanka. The second lab was renovated by repairing existing teak tables, with added safety features, a new floor and paint.



After the refurbishment of first lab



After refurbishment of second lab

Annual Contributions towards Royal Rugby

Royal Rugby has been benefitting annually from ORAUK and the teams have not failed to live up to expectations. Since 2010, Royal has won the league championship 4 times and also won the Bradby shield on three consecutive years. O'RAUK also made a contribution towards the New Zealand tour of Champion Royal Rugby team of 2016. The tour took place in September 2017, with boys getting a flavour of top class Rugby experience, including coaching sessions, games against two top high school teams and the ultimate experience of watching All Blacks live.



Royal Team with the All Blacks Coach, Sir Graham Henry



Royal Team after playing Kings College, Auckland

To those who toiled to mould us into men...

ORAUK part sponsored the Drama 'MANAME' to raise funds for the much needed, Medical Assistance Programme, implemented in aid of retired Teachers of the College, by the Past Teachers Association of Royal College

Backing the willow-wielders since 2014

Since 2014, ORAUK have sponsored a number of Royal Cricketers to visit UK and play league cricket, to gain much needed exposure to English conditions. The Cricketers were chosen based on their performances during the school season. The cricketers benefitting from the sponsorships were; Randev Pathirana, Thiran Dhanapala, Chamika Karunaratne, Himesh Ramanayake and the Royal- Thomian winning skipper, Devind Pathmanathan. These players also took part in the Royal Thomian and the FOC tournament. A few individuals and ORAUK provided funding for Cricket equipment to them at a cost of over £1000. This is an ongoing commitment from ORAUK to help Royal cricket to improve the standards and produce skilled and high-quality players for the national team.



Thiran and Randev (3rd and 4th from Right) with the Royal Team at the Roy-tho



Hashen, Devind with their arch rival Thomian Skipper Madushan

Uplifting theatre since 2012

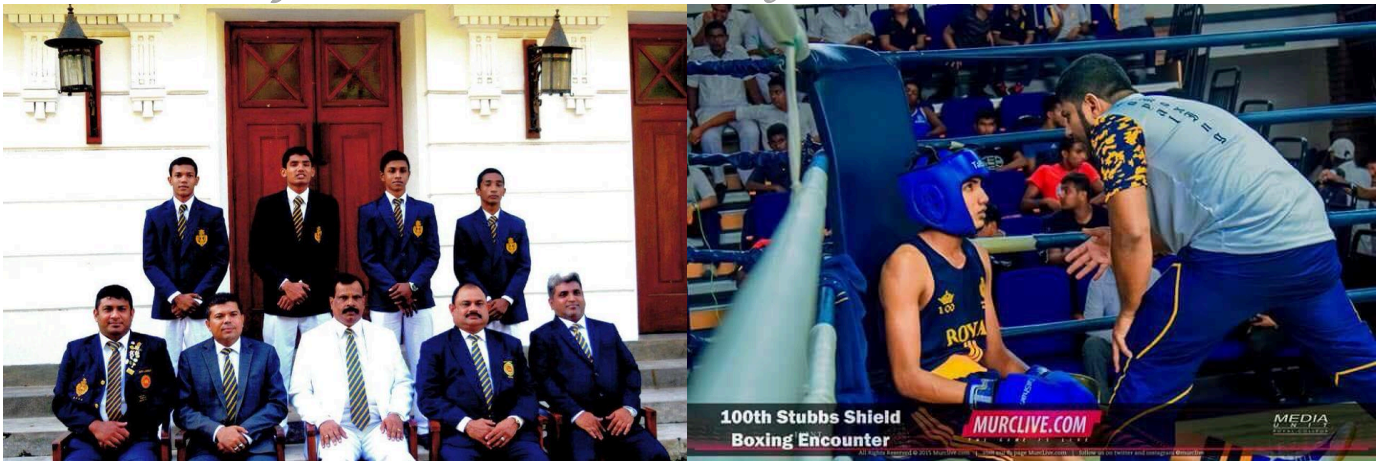
ORAUK annually sponsors the English drama society of Royal College in the Shakespeare drama competition, enabling the present day students, to bring their talents on stage and to develop their language skills and inter-personal skills. Over last five years, the college has won the competition twice.

Royal College Sports Complex (Sky Pavilion) - 2012

ORAUK made its largest part contribution in their history towards this project, which was delivered at a cost of Rs 80 million. This has increased the seating capacity at the stadium by 2500, enabling approximately, 18,000 people to witness Rugby, Hockey and football games.

Adding a punch to Boxing

ORAUK also makes contributions to Royal Boxing. It is heartening to see the Royal boxers winning the 100th Stubbs shield on the 10th of October. This is the 19th time Royal has won the shield, which no other schools in the country has achieved in Stubbs Shield boxing.



Memories from the 34th Blue and Gold ball, held at the prestigious Hyatt Regency, the Churchill, on the 22nd of April 2017.





For more photos and news on ORAUK, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/ORAUK/> and <http://www.oldroyalists.org.uk>





Some Royalists gatherings in the UK!



Some senior Royalists with our Patron Mr Gamit Amarasekera



Doctors Hemantha Abeywickrema and Gamini Pannila Vithana, with their families and friends.

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Editor's note : If you have stories / feature articles from your time at Royal or indeed anything that could be of interest to Royalists, please send them to Hemantha.edirisooriya@unilever.com, rashantha@hotmail.com, sujithnw@gmail.com.