



THE TERNION

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SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR!



The long hours of fitness and training paid off for the Thomian Water Polo team as they ploughed through the Under 20 Water Polo tournament with ease to meet their greatest contender, Royal College, at the finals. The Royalists were left stupefied as

the Thomians swept the game 5-3. Was this a premonition of what was to follow?

The days passed by and the 18th Dr. R.L. Hayman Challenge Trophy drew near. The Thomians who had been in the lead with 11 wins to 4, hoped to break the four year winning streak of their opponents.

As the first leg commenced on the 28th of September at the Sugathadasa Stadium Swimming Pool, the atmosphere was electric as spectators both past and present, filled the stands to root for their favourite team.

The match was even handed at the outset but quickly turned into a one sided affair at the end of the third quarter as the Thomians led 6-4. D.C. De Silva, B.A.C.A. Perera, S.R. Warnapura and N.H. Paranavithana contributed to the Thomian success. However the Royalist turned the tide in the fourth quarter taking the lead 8-7 at the end of the first leg

in what was noted to be one of the best comebacks from Royal.

The second leg which was held on the 2nd of October saw the Thomians poised for the kill as the Royalist only led by one. However as the match progressed this was not to be as the Royalist secured an early lead and progressed to win the second leg 7-4 and the challenge trophy for the fifth consecutive year. D.C. De Silva and J.F. Goonetillake scored for S. Thomas' in the second leg.

The Thomians did have something to rejoice about as the College Under 15 team emerged champions and regained the Mahinda Liyanage Trophy for the best junior squad with an aggregate of 10 -9. The main Thomian scorers were A.P.D. Peiris, Devshan De Mel and Uvin Wijesinghe.

Congratulations to the juniors on their performance and commiserations to the seniors. However the water polo season isn't over yet.

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Its time to pin your thoughts on 'Christmas' once again! Write a poem, short story or essay on the themes given below and win a treat for your class. Winning entries will be published in the next issue.

- +Lower School: - "All I want for Christmas is..." (about 75 words)
- +Middle School: - "What I would do this Christmas if I had Scrooge's money" (about 150 words)
- +Upper School: - "Do they know its Christmas time at all?" (about 250 words)

INTERVIEW WITH THE WARDEN

The Revd John Charles Puddefoot *assumed duties as the 17th Warden of S. Thomas' College on the 1st of July this year. The Ternion sat down with the former Deputy Head of Eton to discuss his thoughts of S. Thomas' and what he hopes to achieve during his term as head of the institution.*

Firstly, the question that is on everybody's mind: what made you give up your position at Eton to come to S. Thomas'?

By the end of this summer I had served Eton for 25 years and I had made up my mind then to leave. It was pure chance that I received the notice of the requirement for a new Warden at S. Thomas'. The e-mail made the job sound different and interesting and this prompted me to apply.

What were your first thoughts about S. Thomas' College?

One of the first things that struck me was the academic attitude of the students here at S. Thomas' College. In the UK the purpose of almost any boy is to gain admission to University. However, at S. Thomas' academic study is not the sole objective only. Other objectives such as acquiring social maturity and confidence as well as the idea of being part of a rich and long tradition which culminates to achieve the goal of producing mature young men are what seem to motivate boys. It does not necessarily buy into the UK or Australian model.

The fact that there are so many activities for the students to engage in was also something I noticed as I arrived. However, I wonder if it is the same faces that we see at all these sports events and it would be interesting to find out what proportion of

students actually engage in sports, clubs and societies. I would very much like to find out if there are any boys who do not engage in any extra curricular activity.

As you know sir, Bishop Chapman had S. Thomas' modelled on Eton. Do you see any similarities or dissimilarities between the two institutions?

Well, one stark difference between Eton and S. Thomas' would be that Eton unlike S. Thomas' is a hundred percent boarding school. However, what is interesting about S. Thomas' is that at any give hour you will find students within the school premises due to the various activities they engage in, sometimes till the late hours of the day, which is also what you would find at Eton.

Another difference would be the age groups admitted into the two institutions. In Eton boys between the ages of 13 and 18 are only admitted.

Another difference would be the way friendships are struck between students. In Eton the house structure is 'vertical'. As a result students would form close friendship with those in the same house, from those who are their own age to those who are younger or older. However, at S. Thomas' College it is different. Friendship is more 'horizontal' which explains the various year groups that exist, and form lifelong friendships, which is extremely different from the UK. Other than the house structure another probable cause of the way in which friendships are struck is the age group that is admitted into Eton. For example, a student may have visited several other educational institutions such as prep school before arriving at Eton. But in S. Thomas' that is rarely the case. The same year

*The direction in which education starts a man will
determine his future life: - Plato*

group will be together for about 13 years, other than the minority of boys who join later.

Another difference would be the small amount of sports space for the large number of sports this school offers and the number of boys. In S. Thomas' you find just the Small Club and Big Club grounds for students to engage in hockey, cricket, rugby and football which would also explain the large amount of competition that exists among the students to get into their teams, but at Eton there are upto 25 pitches thereby ensuring that all get a chance to play.

Sir, as you highlighted at assembly a problem faced by the college is the growing trend in students to disregard their education for the fame and glory of sport. What advice do you hope to give such students?

What is most important is that they must realise that it is possible to do both equally well and the two do not conflict with one another. It is untrue to say that you can only be truly successful in just sports or studies; each complements the other in various ways. For one, you learn how to manage your time effectively when you engage in both. Physical fitness makes one mentally fit as well, and by no means do they clash in any way.

I have no objection to students obtaining leave for sports events. For example, the Big Match is played on Thursday and Friday and I have no objection to that. But when students miss lessons for the sake of practice it is generally unacceptable and I believe the same view was shared by Dr Ponniah. Students should be in school when they should be and involved in sports outside academic time. Both add up to a balanced package and make a Thomian the

successful individual that he is. You need A/L to get into a good university but you need qualifications and personal strength both to succeed in life.

S. Thomas' lays a lot of emphasis on tradition. What are your views on tradition and how it should be carried forward?

The answer may sound a bit strange, but I think tradition is wonderful when it is wonderful. The fact that it is a tradition does not necessarily make it a good thing. It could even be a barrier towards the improvement of a school.

Sir, we heard of the book "God and the Mind Machine," which you have written and is at the forefront of the philosophical-scientific-theological debate. What does this book deal with?

The book deals with whether or not machines can be intelligent. The human soul is supposed by some to survive death and, according to some religions, to return through reincarnation; that is what is supposed to be unique about humans. If it was even conceivable that a machine could think, what would that say of the relationship between God and man? It is quite a controversial topic for if proven true, it sheds new light on the human soul.

Sir, you say this subject is controversial. Why?

It is controversial because it goes against the traditional beliefs of Christianity and creates exposure to non-conservative views. In 'the West' if I may call it that, Christianity has many facets. In Sri Lanka on the other hand, Christianity is rooted in a particular form of Christian faith. In the West, there are radically different approaches to studying religion. For example, questioning the validity of

Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten: - B. F. Skinner

the Bible is probably unheard of in Sri Lanka. However, in the West, this is a frequently asked question. There was once a fixed mind set on religion, but now this mind-set is gradually changing. But these challenges deepen faith rather than weaken it because they lead to a more profound understanding of God.

What are your thoughts on the general demeanour and decorum of Thomians?

Actually the majority of Thomians are generally well behaved. However, one very disappointing bit of news that reached my ears was that there are some who behave like vandals and it is very disappointing to see such individuals in any environment or institution and it baffles me that they turn their anger on the very things that help them. But as I stated before, Thomians are generally well behaved and this is quite evident at assembly, for example in the way the middle and upper school boys behave, which is quite admirable given the extremely uncomfortable conditions up there.

Sir, finally, what advice would you like to share with this generation of Thomians?

These are years of opportunity you will never have again when you can try everything this institution has to offer, and it would be tragic to waste them by doing nothing. You really do belong to "one of the best of schools". Make the most of it!

SCOUTS EMERGE CHAMPIONS!

The senior scouts of 16th Colombo regained the brigadier C.P. Jayawardena Challenge shield for the best senior troop after a lapse of two years, while the juniors retained the Mayors Flag for the best junior troop for the fourth consecutive year. Adding to the glory the Cub scouts

emerged the champions of the C.M.P. Wannigatunga Challenge flag for the best cub pack in the Colombo District.

It must also be mentioned that Mrs. Wathsala Wijewickrama the Group Scout Leader of S. Thomas' was appointed the chief organizer of the Colombo District Scout Camporee, which is the largest gathering of scouts in the district. This is the first time in the history of the movement that a female was bestowed this office.

EDITORIAL

The atmosphere was filled with suspense and uncertainty as many Thomians prepared for the climax of the season in their respective sports. The painful fitness, the great self control, sacrifice of time, energy and the tiring and painful training schedules were about to be judged for their actual worth. The coaches and players grab the spot light as the stage is set for the epic Royal Thomian battles that are to unfold in the coming month.

All Thomians are on tenterhooks as each and everyone is either directly or indirectly affected by the outcome of these encounters. The Badminton team certainly did their alma mater proud with their stunning victory over Royal but an equally stunning bit of news though not on the same happy note was the defeat of the Thomian Water polo team at the hands of our archrivals. The Football, Rowing, Hockey and Basketball encounters are to be held in October. We hope you make it a point to be present and support our teams.

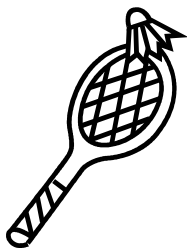
However for those studying in the Upper Six form sports isn't the main cause for concern. The ordinary level examinations are around the corner and we wish the best of luck to all those who are currently sitting their withdrawals for this exam. On a happier note the advanced level examinations are over and along with it a much awaited sense of freedom has finally dawned upon those who've faced three years of hard work.

The Ternion had the privilege of interviewing the Revd John Charles Puddefoot, the 17th Warden of our great institution and not only received valuable advice but even an insight to his book, "God and The Mind Machine," but more of that in the interview segment of the issue.

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news but the third term examination is around the corner and it's time to hit the books but faint not for after that the ultimate prize, Christmas!
Esto Perpetua.

Badminton players make history!

Badminton at College has seen much progress during recent times, and this was evident at the 3rd Royal-Thomian badminton encounter which was held on the 1st of October 2009, where the Thomians emerged victorious for the first time in the short history of this encounter.



The Thomians proceeded to claim victory in all three age groups, winning 3-1 in the Under 12 age group, 3-2 in the Under 14 age group and a praiseworthy 3-0 in the Under 19 age group. Umesh Fernando Captained the Thomian team while Malinka Ranasinghe acted as Vice Captain.

It is also worth mentioning that the Thomian team performed well at the recently concluded All Island Under 19 Championships where they were placed 3rd.

A promising future awaits the Badminton players and we wish them the best of luck in their endeavours.

Squash

It was a fairly successful year for the Thomian squash players as the months of hard work and training paid off.



Some of the events the team participated during the year were the Janashakthi Open, Air Force Open, S.S.C. Open, Trans Asia Open and the most important event of the year the All Island Inter- School Squash Championships.

The boys from College put up a gallant performance at the All Island Inter-School tournament this year, emerging second

Runners-up by losing to D.S. Senanayake College by 2 points.

It must also be mentioned that Gihan Suwaris, the Captain of the College team, was selected to represent and Captain the Sri Lankan Squash Team as he remained unbeaten through out the above tournament, while Kavinda Hurulle was selected for the 2009 Sri Lankan National Junior pool.

We congratulate the squash players on their superb performance and wish them the best of luck for the upcoming Junior Nationals, C.C.C. Open and the Senior Nationals.

Basketball

Sri Lanka Schools Basketball Association U 19 National Schools Tournament hosted at S. Thomas' College. The boys from S. Thomas' have been doing well losing only one match in the tournament thus far.



They progressed to the semi finals beating Azar Central College Kandy 77- 64, to face St. Benedicts. The Thomians won the semi finals and went on to face St. Peters at the finals.

However the Thomian team didn't have the luck that it did during its previous matches and despite a hard fought match, S. Thomas' lost the match 57-85.

It must also be mentioned that there was a hard fought brawl after the match as well. Several people were injured in this shocking display. The Ternion would like to express its

disappointment towards this atrocious behaviour and we hope that those responsible for this act of violence are dealt with, severely.

Football

The 16th annual Royal-Thomian football encounter was held on the 23rd of October at the CR & FC grounds. At this encounter, the Thomians managed to achieve their first victory in the history of the encounter.



The under 13 match was lost 0-1. The under 15 match ended in a draw with the score 1-1. The under 17 match was yet another loss, with the score 1-2.

However, despite the bad luck that the junior football players had, it didn't hinder the success of the under 19 team. The under 19 match was truly one to remember. The final score was 2-1, with the 2 Thomian goals scored by L. S. Lihinkaduwa and A. Paul.

It was the day the Thomian Football players made history and we hope they will continue to win future Royal-Thomian encounters as well.

It is also worth mentioning that the First XI soccer team qualified for the knockout stages in the FFSL 'B' division schools tournament after placing 2nd in their group. Despite a close 2-3 loss to St. Joseph's Maradana in the first match, the team bounced back to beat St. Anthony's Wattala 2-1 and Nalanda College 5-0, after Sri Dharmaloka MMV conceded a walkover. L.S.Lihinkaduwa was the top scorer of the campaign with 4 goals.

We congratulate the Football players on their outstanding victory at the Royal-Thomian and we wish them the best of luck in their future matches.

Rowing

The 36th annual Royal-Thomian regatta and 40th



annual boat race was held on the 24th of October at the Colombo Rowing Club. The Thomians emerged the victors once again with a score of 40-12, thus beating the Royalists by a large margin once again.

The Thomians won 6 out of 9 events. The annual boat race, which is the A4 race, was won by S. Thomas' College. The winning team comprised of R. Weerasinghe, M. S. De Silva, D. Jayanetti and E. L. Goonewardene.

The A-Pair race, A-Skull race, A-double Skull race, B-Pair race and the B-Skull race were all won by S. Thomas' College.

However the B4 race, C4 race and B-double Skull race were won by Royal.

This is indeed yet another proud moment for the Thomian oarsmen and we wish them the best of luck in their endeavours.

Hockey

The 10th annual Royal-Thomian hockey encounter was held on the 25th of October at the Royal College grounds.

The First XI match ended in a draw with the score of 1-1. The Thomian goal was scored by P. Wijewardene who just happens to be the S. Thomas' College hockey First XI captain.

The old boys match ended with S. Thomas' College claiming victory over the royalists.

While not being able to achieve an outstanding victory as the players did during the rowing or football Royal-Thomians, the Hockey Royal-Thomian proved to be yet another one of the unique encounters that Thomians as well as the

Royalists, eagerly looked forward to, and watched.

DIVERS STRIVE AHEAD

The Sub Aqua club recently held its AGM and the following were appointed as office bearers for the year 2009/2010.

President :- M.S. De Silva
 Secretary :- D.A.Goonewardena
 Treasurer :- D. Perera
 Equipment Officer: - S. Ahangama

The Club has also been organizing weekly dives to the Mount Lavinia beach, which have been a success. Any student who wishes to participate is welcome to join the club.

INTERACTORS TAKE OFFICE

The Interact Club of S. Thomas' College held its A.G.M. on the 17th of September 2009 and the following were appointed as office bearers for the year 2009/2010.

President - D.W.S. Ferdinando
 Vice President - I.B.H. Pilapitiya
 Secretary - V.R. Ladduwahetty
 Treasurer - D.D. John

THE PRIZE GIVING

The prize giving was held on the 9th of October at the college hall.

- The Saravanamuttu Prize awarded to a student demonstrating "early promise of exhibiting human excellence and virtue in adult life" was awarded to D. S. Rajasingham
- The Victoria Gold Medal for the best all round student was awarded to S. A. Wijesinghe
- The Admiral H. A. Silva VSV Challenge Trophy for the best all round student in academics and sports was awarded to R. Nirrushan

- S. E. Satarasinghe Memorial Prize for the first and second best performance at the G. C. E. (Advanced Level) Examinations was awarded: -

First: - T. D. I. Sellahewa

Second: - D. S. Wickramasuriya

- The Hinton De Alwis Seneviratne Memorial Trophy for an academic achievement was awarded to T. D. I. Sellahewa
- Prize for the best all round student who had qualified to enter a university in Sri Lanka was awarded to S. A. Wijesinghe
- The Dr R. L. Hayman Memorial Trophy for the best all round boy among the college boarders was awarded to A. U. B. Kohonna.

Notices

- D. S. Rajasingham has been appointed as the Head Prefect of the College.
- R.C. Dalpadado, W.E.N. De Mel and M. E. Wickremesinghe, have been appointed as editors of the Ternion.
- Colours Nite 2009 will be held on the 20th November.
- The Carol Service will be held on the 6th of December.

We apologize for the omission of S. C. V. Pathirane's name in our previous issue from the list of those who received first eleven cricket colours this year.

Here's a lesson for all teachers: You may know what you're saying, but you never know what you're teaching - Frank Van Dun



EDITORS

Mrs. T. Bartlett, A.P.S. Dias, V.R. Ladduwahetty, R.C. Dalpadado, W.E.N. De Mel, M.E. Wickremasinghe,