



ANTONIAN

September 2023
Newsletter

1977: The Turning Point and the Role of SACKOBA

Golden Jubilee of the Sacerdotal Ordination of
Rev. Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB

A Tribute to Late Fr Theophane - a Great Builder of
College (From the Antonian 1954/55)

113th AGM of SACKOBA

Noteworthy Boxing History of SACK

Old Antonians Triumph at the 54th Saints Quadrangular
and more...





Antonian Newsletter

Publication of the newsletter of SACKOBA

This document is named “ANTONIAN NEWSLETTER” in accordance with the constitution of our 112 years old association.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) The organ of the association shall be "THE ANTONIAN" - the College Magazine in which special space shall be reserved for information pertaining to Old Boys.
- b) The Association may also publish a Newsletter titled "ANTONIAN NEWSLETTER" which shall consist of the achievements of Old Boys, Progress of the Projects undertaken by the Central Council and highlights of the school activities.



THANK YOU

Quadrangle.lk, Antonian Photographic Society,
Antonian Media Unit & Antonian Fraternity



Golden Jubilee of the Sacerdotal Ordination of Rev. Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB

Organised by SACKOBA

The 50th Sacerdotal Ordination of our beloved former Principal, Rev. Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB, organised by SACKOBA held at SACK College premises on August 12, 2023, marking half a century of Rev. Fr. Hilarion Fernando's dedicated priesthood. The proceedings commenced with a solemn prayer at the iconic College Chapel, a place of spiritual significance for generations of Antonians.

Following the prayer, a simple ceremony took place, symbolizing the enduring values and connections forged at St. Anthony's College which drew a distinguished assembly, including Reverend Fathers, esteemed past teachers, loyal Old Boys, and the dedicated SACK staff. It was a day of reflection, gratitude, and unity, encapsulating the essence of St. Anthony's longstanding legacy.







113th SACKOBA AGM 2023: Reflecting on Legacy, Uniting for the Future

The 113th Annual General Meeting of St. Anthony's College Old Boys' Association took place on September 23, 2023, at Hotel Thilanka Kandy. The event began with a Thanksgiving mass, followed by a series of informative addresses and presentations. Notably, Mr. Dayananda de Alwis shared insights into the historic handover of St. Anthony's College in 1977 and the pivotal role of the Old Boys' Association. The meeting also featured important procedural elements, including the presentation of the amended constitution and the election of office bearers for the upcoming year. The event concluded with a sense of unity and camaraderie, exemplifying the enduring spirit of the Antonian fraternity.







Honoring Excellence: SACKOBA Excellence Awards Shine at AGM



The SACKOBA (St. Anthony's College Kandy Old Boys' Association) Excellence Awards were a highlight of the recent AGM. These awards celebrated accomplished old boys who have excelled in their respective fields and recognized those who have tirelessly served and supported SACKOBA. The event was a testament to the unwavering commitment and achievements of St. Anthony's College alumni.



SACKOBA Excellence in Sports Award
Mr. Nishshanka Dunuwila
Senior Most Living Cricket Captain of
SACK - First XI Cricket Team 1962

SACKOBA Valor and Service Honor Award
Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) A. Janaka
Amerasinghe RSP, USP, MDS, MHRM,
MSSD, B.Sc.(Def.Stu) in Mgt, ndc, psc, JP



SACKOBA Valor and Service Honor Award
Senior Superintendent of Police (Retd.)
Athula Daulagala
M.Sc.(Explosive Eng.)



SACKOBA Excellence in Marketing, Sales and Financial Services Award
Mr. Sithumina Jayasundara
MBA(U.K.), ACH(U.K.), ANZIF (Snr Asso), Chartered Insurer

SACKOBA Excellence Award for Emerging Old Antonian Achievers
Mr. Umesh Nanayakkarawasam



SACKOBA Valor and Service Honor Award
Rear Admiral (Retd.)
Kassapa G. Paul
VSV, USP, nswc, MAIR BA(DS) Hons.



Mr. Dayananda de Alwis

SACKOBA
Honorary (Voluntary)
Service Award



Mr. Bunny Stephen



Mr. Tuan Dole



Mr. Sampath Wijesinghe



Mr. Chamara Bandara



SACKOBA Executive Central Council - 2023/2024

Organisational Structure

Patron:

Rt.Rev.Dr. Valence Mendis (Bishop of Kandy)

Vice Patrons:

Rev. Fr. Henry B. Wijeratne (Principal SACK),
Tuan Dole, Priyantha Ekanayake, Bunny Stephen

Senior Coordinating Committee:

Dayananda De Alwis, Srilal Mendis, C.P.P. Raj,
Chandra Mahawaththage, Sarath Fernando,
Salinda Gunasinghe, Dhammika Samarasekara,
Maufer Usoof, Thiru Sayandan, Rohan Daulagala,
Senaka Rajapaksha, Feroz Khan, Jayantha
Udukumbura (President of The Antonian Golden
Oldies - ex officio)

President: Mark Stephen

General Secretary: G.A. Amodha Galgamuwa

Treasurer: Sajeewan Gamage

Immediate Past President: Nath Weerakoon

Vice Presidents:

Aruna Amunugama, Chamila Samarajeewa,
Dinesh Bandara, A.J.M. Mushtaq, Indika Perera,
K.R.B. Wijesinghe (President CMB Branch - ex
officio), Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) A. Janaka
Amerasinghe (President DFP Branch - ex officio)

Assistant Secretaries:

Desmal Perera, Abdul Mujeeb

Assistant Treasurers:

Kokul Dev, Dinusha Rajapaksha

Executive Office Bearers:

Legal Advisor - Dinesh Bandara

Registrar - Parakrama Deerarathne

Chairman Old Antonian Sports Club - Chandra
Mahawaththage

Internal Auditor - Banuka Rajapaksha

Sports Coordinating Secretary - Indika Perera

Social and Welfare Secretary - Roshan

Weerakkody

Branches, Wings, Clubs & Groups Coordinating
Secretary - Samiddha Bandara

Event Coordinating Secretary - Dimuthu
Bandara

Media Secretary - Jude Xavier

Editor - M.A. Abdul Mujeeb

IT Secretary - M.A. Abdul Mujeeb

Manager Headquarters - Mangala Waidyaratne

Warden of the Hostel - Rev. Fr. Joseph Michael
OSB (ex-officio)

Secretaries for All Sports and Extracurricular Activities in College:

Cricket Secretary (Rep. of OACW) - Mr.
Samantha Siriwardhana

Rugby Secretary (Rep. of OARFC) - Mr. Gayan
Abeykoon - Secretary OARFC

Football Secretary - Mr. Chamara Gunarathne

Basketball Secretary (Rep. of Cager Club) - Mr.
Manoj Bandara

Table Tennis Secretary - Mr. Tharanga
Weerasekara

Tennis Secretary - Mr. Nishan Jayasekara



Badminton Secretary (Rep. of ABC) – Mr. Mohamed Azari
 Swimming Secretary (Rep. of OASC) – Mr. Jaliya Rajaguru - Secretary OASC
 Secretary OASC 9. Athletics Secretary (Rep. of OAAC) – Mr. Sampath Wijesinghe
 Hockey Secretary (Rep. of OAHC) – Mr. Narmathan Tharmathasan - President OAHC
 Chess Secretary (Rep. of OACC) – Mr. Umesh Nanayakkarawasam - Treasurer OACC
 Karate Secretary (Rep. of OAKC) – Mr. Chathuranga Gajanayaka - President OAKC
 Cadeting & Band Secretary – Mr. Nalinda Rambukwella - V. President APSA
 Gymnastics Secretary
 Scouting Secretary (Rep. of APSA) – Dr. C.C. Weerasekara
 Interact & Drama Secretary (Rep. of APIDC) – Mr. Duminda Ranasinghe

The Executive Members of the SACKOBA CC:

Sanath Rajapakshe, N.F. Usoof, Dhammika Elkaduwa, S. Sivabaskaran, Errol Perera, Susil Basnayaka, Arunda Ranasinghe, Shashika Malagamuwa, S. Ragunaathan, Kirubaharan, Nalin Abeysuriya, D.U. Fernando, Chamara Bandara, Safeekhan Siddeeqe, Amal Jayasuriya, Anuruddha Rajaguru, Jagath Punchihewa, Mahesh Nanayakkara, Rahal De Silva, Jithen Daulagala

Old Antonians' Sports Club

Chairman: Chandra Mahawattage
 Secretary: M.A. Abdul Mujeeb
 Treasurer: Kokul Dev

SACKOBA Junior Council

Chairman: A.J.M. Mushtaq
 Secretary: Desmal Perera
 Treasurer: Dinusha Rajapaksha

Administrative Pillars of the Association

 The President, General Secretary and the Treasurer Will Be Members of All Bellow Pillars

Education Development Pillar

Pillar Head: Desmal Perera
 Secretary: Dinusha Rajapaksha
 Members: Prof. Sanath Rajapakshe, Thiru Sayandan, Anjelo Wickramasuriya

Sports Development Pillar

Pillar Head: Indika Perera
 Secretary: Manoj Bandara
 Members: Chamila Samarajeewa, Sampath Wijesinghe, Arunda Ranasinghe

College Administration and Infrastructure Development Pillar

Pillar Head: Amodha Galgamuwa
 Secretary: Dimuthu Bandara
 Members: Sri Lal Mendis, Nalin Abeysuriya, Dinusha Rajapaksha

Image Building Pillar

Pillar Head: A.J.M. Mushtaq
 Secretary: Abdul Mujeeb
 Members: Dimuthu Bandara, Sarath Fernando, Jude Xavier

SACKOBA Headquarters, Souvenir Shop and OBA Infrastructure Development Pillar

Pillar Head: Mark Stephen
 Secretary: Dhammika Samarasekara
 Members: N.S. Weerakoon, Sri Lal Mendis, Desmal Perera, Susil Basnayaka, Safeekhan Siddeeqe



SACKOBA Other Projects and Events

Management Pillar

Pillar Head: Dimuthu Bandara

Secretary: Jaliya Rajaguru

Members: Kokul Dev, Manager Headquarters,
D.U. Fernando, Chamara Bandara

SACKOBA Social Activities Pillar

Pillar Head: Roshan Weerakkody

Secretary: Samiddha Bandara

Members: Chamila Samarajeewa, Kokul Dev,
Parakrama Deerarathne

Representations

School Development Executive Committee – (SDEC)

OBA Representatives: Mark Stephen

OBA Representatives: Dinusha Rajapaksha

Parent Representative: G.A. Amodha Galgamuwa

Parent Representative: Nalin Abeysuriya

Parent Representative: Dimuthu Bandara

College Development Council – (CDC)

SACKOBA President: Mark Stephen

SACKOBA General Secretary: G.A. Amodha
Galgamuwa

SACKOBA Immediate Past President: Nath
Weerakoon

Voice Of Kandy – Association of Past Pupils of Kandy Schools – (VOK)

Mark Stephen, Chamila Samarajeewa, G.A.

Amodha Galgamuwa, Desmal Perera, Sajeewan
Gamage, Kokul Dev, Dhammika Samarasekara

Kandy District Cricket Association – (KDCA)

Chandra Mahawaththage – Chairman of the Old
Antonian Sports Club, Nominee by the Old
Antonian Cricket Wing and approved by the
Executive Central Council

SACK Grade One (01) Admissions Interview Board:

Aruna Amunugama

SACK Grade One (01) Admissions Appeal Board:

Manoj Bandara





1977: The Turning Point and the Role of SACKOBA

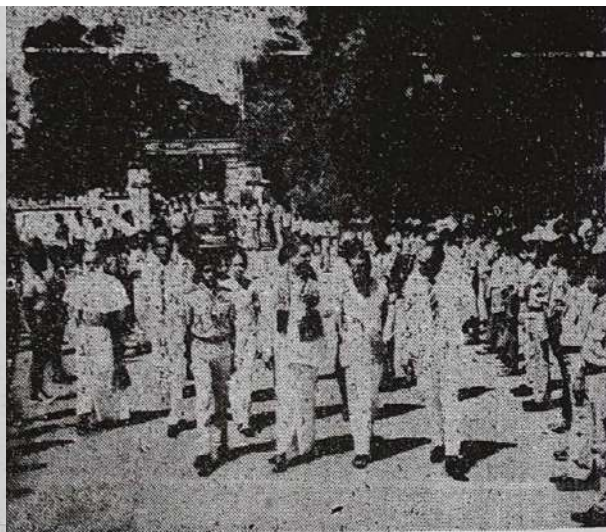
By Dayananda de Alwis

“Rt. Rev. Dr Paul Perera Bishop of Kandy then handed over the official vesting document to the minister amidst the beating of magul bera and the blowing of conch shells” - thus reported the CDN on 14.09.1977. With that the hundred and twenty three year old Church ownership of the college ended.

“It is not for prestige or any other consideration but with the sole intention of ensuring the future welfare of the student generation that I have taken over the portfolio of Education”, said the Minister of Education Mr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne at the special ceremony held at St. Anthony's College, Katugastota to mark the vesting of the school in the state.

The Minister and other distinguished guests were welcomed at the college gate by the Deputy Minister of Justice and MP for Senkadagala, Mr. Shelton Ranaraja, Rev. Fr. Aden Silva, principal, other education officials and conducted into the college in a colourful procession.

Rev. Dr. Paul Perera, Bishop of Kandy then handed over the official vesting document to the minister amidst the beating of magul bera and the blowing of conch shells.



The Minister of Education, Mr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne arriving at St. Anthony's College, Katugastota in the company of the Deputy Minister of Justice and MP for Senkadagala, Mr. Shelton Ranaraja, the Bishop of Kandy, Rev. Paul Perera and Education Department officials for the official handing over of the college to the Government.

How did this come about?. We have to go a few days back for the beginning of the end. It all began with a call for a walkout by the senior students on 4th of August 1977. As stated by Fr Aiden in his newsletter this walk out supposedly as a protest for lack of teachers became a commotion and a riot demanding the removal of the Principal. His lordship who had visited the College on hearing of the unrest, along with the other authorities, decided to close school immediately.

This incident, unprecedented in the history of the College, created a great unrest amongst the Old Boys. All efforts were directed towards reopening the college after taking remedial action. It was generally accepted that the boys alone would not have embarked on such actions without the active support of the teachers. The parents who were summoned for a meeting gave their unstinting support and the call was to get rid of the bad eggs and reopen College. Old boys too met regularly at the club house and discussed ways and means of resolving the issue. An OBA General meeting was to be summoned but an islandwide evening curfew declared because of communal riots became an obstacle.



1977: The Turning Point and the Role of SACKOBA

Against this backdrop there appeared a press notice by His Lordship summoning Old Boys and well-wishers for a meeting. This was widely welcomed by all concerned for it appeared that finally all is well. It would not be far-fetched to say that Old Boys attended the meeting gleefully. Despite the curfew there was a fair crowd gathered at the College Hall when His Lordship and the Vicar General walked in. It did not take long for the bombshell to explode. After a few introductory words the Lordship announced

“I as proprietor of St Anthony’s College have decided to handover the college to the state”. The mike was then taken over by the Vicar General who too came with an equally startling statement, “You are allowed to speak if you wish to but limit it to five minutes and give cogent and compelling reasons why the College should not be handed over”. A few did speak, mostly appealing not to hand over. One prominent Old Antonian got up and said one word, "Betrayal", and sat down. It was Spencer Dias. With that all speeches stopped. That one word conveyed the sentiments of all present that day, Betrayal.

Few days later the handing over ceremony was held. Soon the vesting was completed and a layman appointed as the Manager of the school who continued as the head till the appointment of Fr Stephen.

Only thing we would do then was to show our displeasure, which we did by passing a vote of censure against the Lordship. The Colombo branch wanted to go further. They gave notice of a resolution at the AGM which said, hand over the entirety of the college property to the state and the OBA to have as its Patron the Director of Education. This resolution had widespread support of the members and would have passed with a big majority had it being tabled. The older diehards however prevented it being tabled with the Chair declaring it wouldn’t be tabled as no proper notice was given, resulting in the Colombo Branch tabling a vote of censure against the Central Council for the manner in which its resolutions were dealt with. The AGM itself was divisive. For the first time there was a contest for the Presidency. The older guard led by Mr Maharoo carried the day but with a majority of only six votes. Had it gone the other way the status of the college today would be far far different.

Soon after the election I remember going with Mr Maharoo to pay a courtesy call on his Lordship. Much was discussed at this meeting. The letter now in circulation giving its outcome has been very helpful in our subsequent negotiations.

The Old Boys never accepted the handing over nor the splitting of the College premise. This was the land bestowed on the future generations of Antonians by our own Old Boy Bishop.



1977: The Turning Point and the Role of SACKOBA



St. Anthony's College, Kandy - Old Boys' Association.

President

S. H. M. Maharaj

Secretary

Dayananda de Alwis

Treasurer

F. J. David

4th April 1978

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Perera, D.D.,
Bishop's House,
St. Anthony's Cathedral,
Kandy.

May it please Your Lordship,

At the Central Council Meeting of our Association held on 10th February 1978 the President informed the meeting that he and the Secretary called on Your Lordship and had a discussion on matters affecting the O.B.A.

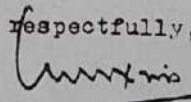
The President stated that from this discussion he was able to ascertain that

1. The O.B.A. Premises has been excluded from the property vested in the Government.
2. The O.B.A. will continue to house their headquarters in the premises now occupied by them as long as this property is not vested in the State.
3. Your Lordship will continue to safeguard the interests of the Association.
4. There is as yet no written agreement with the State regarding the handing over of the School.
5. The Hon. Minister of Education has given an assurance that the name of the school, its crest and the school anthem will not be changed and that its traditions will be maintained and that the O.B.A. will be given due recognition and representation in a Parent-Teacher-Association or in any such organization formed to help the school in its administration.
6. That St. Anthony's College will be an all island school.
7. That the College was given over to the State only after all possible alternatives had been considered.
8. That Your Lordship consider the handing over of St. Anthony's College was in the best interest of the School, the Students and Parents.
9. That Your Lordship assures that in the event of the O.B.A. having any fund raising project for the O.B.A., the College Hall will be available free of charge.

Finally in the event of Your Lordship entering into any written agreement with the State, we would desire that the rights, privileges, property and other interests of the O.B.A. be safeguarded.

The O.B.A. wishes to take this opportunity to express its thanks to Your Lordship for the courtesy shown to its President and the Secretary when they called on Your Lordship.

Yours respectfully,


SECRETARY

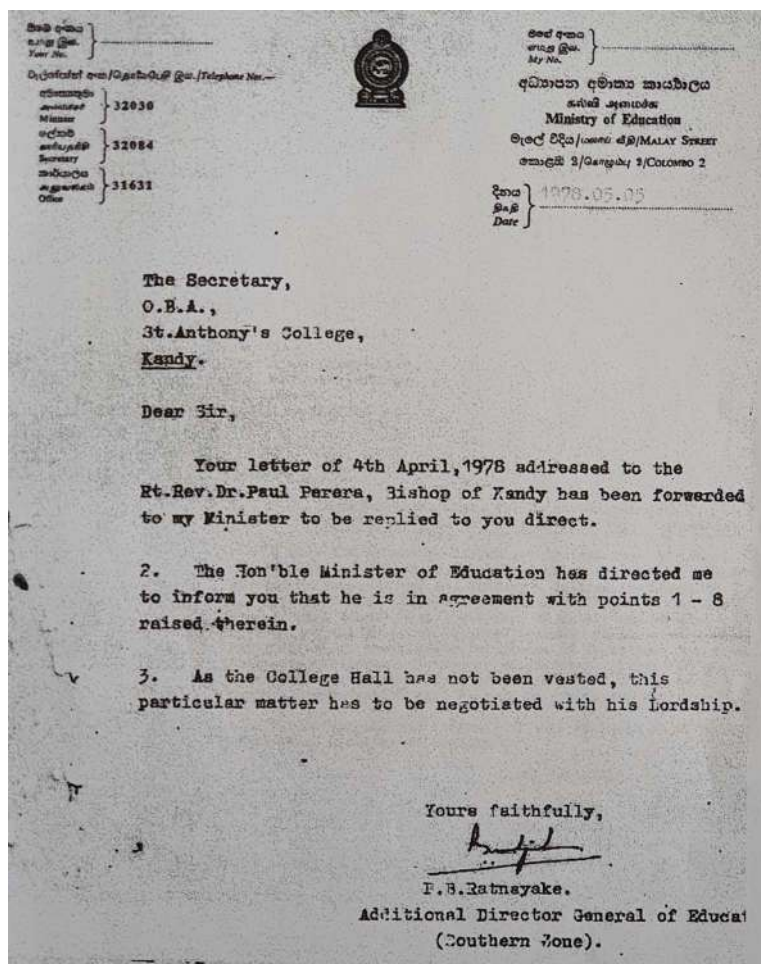
DdeA-trc.



1977: The Turning Point and the Role of SACKOBA

Like it or not we had to accept reality. College was now a Govt School. Yet there was much we could do. We set about doing it. The first was to get a Catholic priest as Principal. According to the letter sent by the Secretary the Govt had accepted on principle to uphold the traditions of the College. Then a Catholic priest as Principal is a must. Similarly to provide the same facilities and the environment and uphold the traditions the use of the entirety of land that constituted college is also a must. We the SACKOBA acted on that premise.

Getting Fr Stephen as Principal was a long process, a narrative too long to pen here. Suffice to say you are lucky if you are at the correct place at the correct time. I was. You will note all the letters I have had as secretary are addressed to Kandy Weaving Mills Ltd. This institution was forcibly acquired by the Madam Sirimavo govt under the nefarious Business acquisition Act. When JRJ came to power in July 77 a team worked on it and got it divested. I was in that team and joined this institution as an Accountant soon after the divesting. The relationships that were built up there helped us in our endeavor to get Fr Stephen appointed as Principal. We were able to take it to the Cabinet and get it approved. Once we got the good news we wasted no time but went to Monte Fano, collected Rev Father and rushed to the Department of Education to get his appointment. We had a problem there.

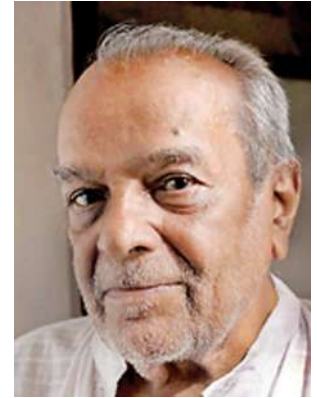




Renowned Old Antonian Soil Scientist, Dr. C. R. Panabokke, Passes Away

By A J M Mushtaq

Christopher Rajindra Panabokke was born in 1926 in Panabokke, a village in Udunuwara, Kandy. He boarded at Hillwood College, Kandy, in 1930, and later, in 1934, he was admitted to St. Anthony's College, Kandy.



When asked by an interviewer, "Why not Trinity?", his response was, "My parents believed that a Catholic school could instil discipline in a young boy. Besides, at that time, St. Anthony's had a better reputation for academic work."

He continued, "At St. Anthony's, my schooling was interrupted for two terms due to malaria. I was at the boarding house. When the College premises were taken over by the Army, I became a day-scholar. Those days, rules were applied to everyone, and there was no favouritism."

Afterward, he joined St. Benedict's College for one year before gaining entrance to the University of Ceylon in 1945. He graduated with honours in chemistry in 1949. He joined the Department of Agriculture and worked as a Research Personnel at Mahalluppallama, following a brief stay in Polonnaruwa Sugarcane research.

He was selected for a Soil Fertility Training course in India by FAO. Later, he pursued a Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of Adelaide in Australia. Dr. Panabokke returned to the country and was once again posted to Mahalluppallama.

From 1975 to 1977, he served as the Director of Research in the Department of Agriculture. He played a pivotal role in setting up regional research centres in Aralaganwila, Makandura, and Kilinochchi.

After his retirement, Dr. Panabokke worked in several international research organisations. He held the position of Senior Research Fellow at International Services for National Agriculture Research at The Hague and worked as an Irrigation Agronomist at the International Irrigation Management Institute (IMI). Dr. Panabokke authored numerous publications covering various aspects of soil science.

Throughout his career, Dr. Panabokke received several accolades and awards, including the National Science Council Award for Outstanding Research (1982), Vidya Jyothi in 1986, and Deshamanya in 1998. He also served as the Chancellor of the University of Sabaragamuwa.



Renowned Old Antonian Soil Scientist, Dr. C. R. Panabokke, Passes Away

Dr. C. R. Panabokke passed away in August of this year at the age of 97, and his cremation took place on the 31st of August in Colombo.

Dr. Panabokke remained a loyal Old Boy of St. Anthony's and was among the 102 distinguished Old Antonians who received the ANTONIAN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE in 2004 during the Sesquicentennial celebrations of the College. He also graced the Annual Prize Giving of the College in 1976 as the Chief Guest during the time of Late Fr. Aidan de Silva. The Antonian fraternity extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

May his soul rest in peace.



Donations



Mr. Prasad Kularathna (G2000) donated a Telescope to the Astronomical Society



Mr. SHM Yehiya donated a new water line for college starting from college main gate and throughout the college premises which costed LKR 2 million.



A Donation by Group 75 Sponsored by Damian Zieglaar (1975 Rugby Team Scrum-half)



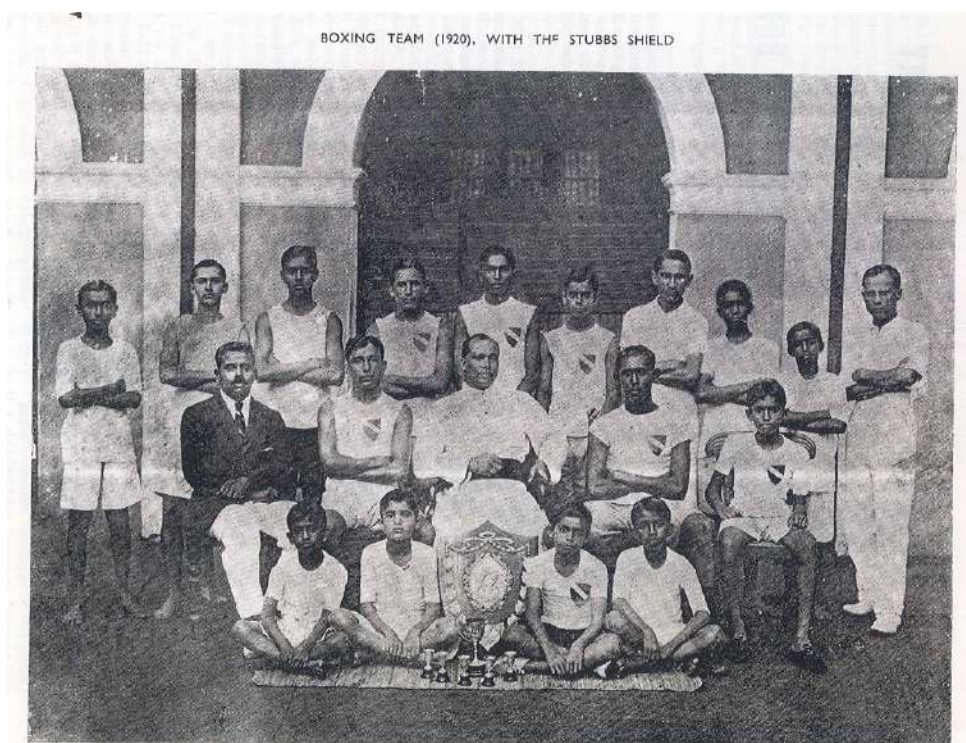
Noteworthy Boxing History of St. Anthony's College, Kandy

By A J M Mushtaq

Boxing was introduced to the schools in Ceylon during the first decade of the 20th century. Two Old boys, Messrs. Cyril E. S. Perera (later Queen's Counsel & MP for Colombo North) and M. J. Taylor, were instrumental in bringing the game to St. Anthony's College, Kandy, inspired by Mr. L. Mc D. Robinson, a lecturer at the Government Training College. St. Anthony's was fortunate to obtain the services of the famed boxing trainer, Mr. John Gaye. Boxing had become so popular that it was hard to decide which of the two games, cricket or boxing, was more popular, with a large number of athletes taking up the sport.

In the STUBBS SHIELD tournament, which started in 1914, St. Anthony's participated for the first time in 1918 and became the runner-up with 13 points, following Trinity's 19 points. The following year, St. Anthony's avenged the defeat to win the coveted Shield for the first time. In the year 1919, Jack Glanville, N. H. Keerthiratne (later a cabinet Minister), and Robert Wright, also the Antonian Cricket captain in 1919 and a respected teacher at the College in the latter years, won all their fights.

St. Anthony's retained the shield in 1920 with Greig Meynert, Keerthiratne, N. Rodrigo, and Jack Glanville defeating all their opponents, while Austin Williams lost in the final. "THE ANTONIAN" the College magazine of 1924, records the excellent performance of the three Ratwatte brothers, especially the youngest, Sidney, who won all his matches. St. Anthony's finished second in the tournament. Billy Forsyth won the finals of Light Heavyweights.





In 1922, Dicky Tennant, S. V. de Alwis, and N. Rodrigo were unbeaten, and the school came second in the STUBBS SHIELD. In the following year, fielding a side with a number of newcomers, the school was placed third behind the top teams Trinity and St. Thomas'. Ronald Stephens and Rodrigo won in their respective weight categories. The school won the STUBBS SHIELD for the third and the last time in 1924.

Antonian boxers had their heyday during this era, as in a matter of a few years, they reached a very high standard, and some of them gained recognition as All Ceylon Champions. L. V. Jayaweera, Robert Wright, N. H. Keerthiratne, Jack Glanville, S. V. de Alwis, Dicky Tennant, James Ferguson, Austin Williams, C. Radcliffe, V. Rosayro, Bill Forsyth, Albert Victor, Ronald Stephens, N. Rodrigo, and Bede Perera, to name a few of the Antonian Boxing Ring. St. Anthony's had the distinction of producing as many as eleven champions in the Ceylon Boxing Ring since 1921.

The school produced a "knock-out king" in Robert Wright, who was a dread for the other schools, having tasted defeat only once in his entire career.

L. V. Jayaweera (also Cricket captain in 1921) was undoubtedly the most accomplished boxer to come out of SACK. Some of his achievements were:

- 1923 - Featherweight Champion
- 1924 - Lightweight Champion
- 1925 - Lightweight Champion
- 1927 - Welterweight Champion
- Winner of Lightweight - Ceylon Defense Force Meet
- 1928 - Selected to represent Ceylon in the All India tournament
- 1930 - Winner of "Fellows Gordon" Cup for most scientific boxer

Sadly, the game started to fade away from the minds of Antonians in the early 1930s and sank into oblivion thereafter, least expected in a school that was a powerhouse in boxing in the early years.



L.V. Jayaweera

- Pinweight (Under 102 lbs)
- 1925 - H. A. Albert Victor
- 1926 - H. A. Albert Victor
- Flyweight (Under 112 lbs)
- 1922 - N. H. Keerthiratne
- 1923 - R. Tennant
- 1924 - R. Tennant
- Bantamweight (Under 118 lbs)
- 1921 - Jack Glanville
- 1922 - Jack Glanville
- Featherweight (Under 126 lbs)
- 1931 - S. V. de Alwis
- Lightweight (Under 135 lbs)
- 1923 - L. V. Jayaweera
- 1924 - L. V. Jayaweera
- Welterweight (Under 148 lbs)
- 1927 - L. V. Jayaweera



Old Antonians Triumph at the 54th Saints Quadrangular Tournament

Organised by Old Bens Sports Club

Congratulations to Old Antonians for winning the Overall Championship Trophy presented in memory of the late Ranjith Samarasekera at the 54th Saints Quadrangular Tournament. Matches (Rugby, Cricket, and Basketball) were played at the St. Peter's College Grounds, St. Joseph's College Grounds, and Royal College Sports Complex on the 29th & 30th of September, and Old Antonians accumulated 11 points across three sports while Old Peterites the previous winners (since 2017) accumulated 10 points and ended as the Runner-up. Old Josephians ended as the 2nd Runner-up with 08 points. The award ceremony was held at the St. Joseph's College Grounds. The tournament was organized by the Saints Quadrangular Association and hosted by the Old Bens Sports Club.

Source: Quadrangle.lk







A Candid Cameo - Revd. Fr. Theophane Wickremaratne O.S.B.

By M M Pararajasingham - Source: The Antonian 1954-1955

For over a month the College Boarding House lay shrouded in a peace that cast its spell over those who remained looking forward hopefully to rest after a term's hard toil. Then on the 17th January it began to show signs of a return to life. 'The Rainbow', 'the Mansion', 'the Villa', and 'Journey's End' awoke from their slumber, and echoed to the voice of youth. happy, buoyant, full of zest for pleasure and enjoyment. Soon voices died down to whispers, or rose here and there to a crescendo, recording varying human emotions-surprise, anxiety, love, grief, despair. Fr. Theophane, their Warden, had gone! It was incredible! It could not be true! Yes! It was true. He had gone, gone without a word to any of them, tearing himself away from the place he loved deeply, the boys, big and small, to whose interests he had passionately devoted his life, and who in turn rewarded him with their unstinted affection. Incredible, but true! Fr. Theophane, their beloved Warden, had indeed left them!

Who has not seen at St. Anthony's a dapper priest with luxuriant hair, and bright eyes twinkling through round, horn rimmed glasses, radiating warmth and cheerfulness around him? Like the electron, the tiniest particle known to physicists, he is in a state of perpetual motion, he leads a life of ceaseless activity. His tiny office with a porthole, bearing above it the legend, "The Warden. Hours of Business, 8-30 a.m.-12 a.m., 1 p.m.-3 p.m." is more often than not empty.. Callers for the day must first embark on a voyage of discovery of the elusive Warden. Will he be at the Infirmary? Not unlikely, as there are reports of a few fever cases. The Dairy? Probable, as there is a sick cow, and the yield of milk for the month has been rather low.

Not in either? It is quite possible then that he is inspecting the new building in the course of construction, or has gone to the neighbouring convent, or has been summoned suddenly to the Convent of the Carmelites. Guesses are hazardous, as they all prove wrong. Fr. Theophane took the early morning train to Colombo at 2-30 a.m., and in all probability will return at 11-30 p.m. on the same day!



Revd. Fr. D. Theophane Wickremaratne, O.S.B.



A Candid Cameo - Revd. Fr. Theophane Wickremaratne O.S.B.

One of the main features of Fr. Theophane's life during the fifteen years he spent at St. Anthony's was his activity. He often worked till late at night, but rose invariably well before the break of dawn. Mass at the Carmelite Convent preceded the work for the day, which never proved a drudgery to him. To Fr. Theophane, the interests of the resident students were closely bound up with those of the institution. One was a necessary corollary of the other. He strove, therefore, to improve the amenities of the boarders. A creative genius, he built and equipped with rare taste the College Infirmary, a model to other schools in the island, the two-storeyed extension to the Villa, the Mansionette, and the stately Refectory for the boarders. With a touch he transformed the shoddy shanties and shacks, relics of military occupation, into habitable dormitories, and a spacious temporary Chapel. An elegant Refectory for the Fathers, one for the resident masters, and a Staff room complete the ensemble of buildings that are monuments to the industry, no less than to the imagination of Fr. Theophane.

Fr. Theophane was the founder of 'The Young Farmers' Club', members of which interested themselves in gardening and animal husbandry. He capitalised the enthusiasm of students, not only to encourage the young to indulge in healthy recreation, but to give them a basic knowledge of the primaeval arts. The vegetable garden, the dairy, the piggery, and the poultry run, have all their votaries. The last mentioned is the most spectacular of Fr. Theophane's ventures. In spacious, modern pens, two hundred and fifty birds of the finest breeds, Australorps, Blue and White Leghorns, subsisting on a nutritious diet, reflect in their glossy plumage, their speed and activity, the joys of sane living! The Australorps have shown a lively sense of gratitude for the generous treatment accorded them! In their first year of production, an average of 65 birds laid 12,825 eggs, setting up a record for the island! Some of the young farmers have proprietary interests in the poultry run, owning among themselves a fair number of birds, from which they derive tidy incomes. In this undertaking, Fr. Theophane had the invaluable assistance of an old boy of the College, Mr. Stanley White of the Agricultural Department, to whom a great deal of its success can be attributed, and who continues to take in it the liveliest interest.

It may be said without exaggeration that as Warden, Fr. Theophane exercised an extraordinary influence over those in his charge. He showed understanding of adolescent minds. Tactful, sympathetic, withal stern when the occasion demanded it, he completely captured their imagination. They were certain that they would always receive at his hands justice tempered with mercy. His attitude towards them was paternal, motivated by deep interest in their moral and spiritual welfare. As for them, they regarded him as one of themselves. They bore down on him in his office. They made inroads on his leisure. They invaded the privacy of his room. They hung on him at every turn with constant chatter that



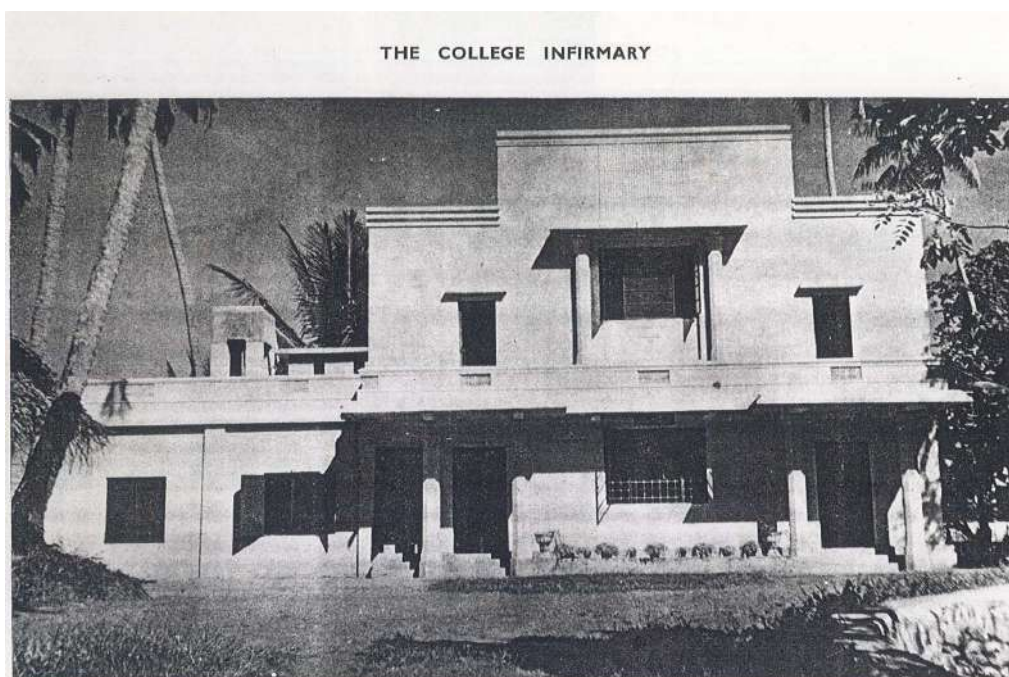
A Candid Cameo - Revd. Fr. Theophane Wickremaratne O.S.B.

would make ears tingle. However, Fr. Theophane appeared at all times serene and supremely happy in their company! He may have been reduced to utter misery, were he wantonly deprived of it!

Fr. Theophane is of the rare vintage of zealous priests, in whom sound judgement and great discretion are combined with a kind and affectionate nature, a cheerful temperament, and warm humanity. His geniality is never forced and unreal. Never even under the severest strain does his temper break away from its moorings of superhuman patience. Simple, modest, and unassuming, he is all things to all men. It is, therefore, easy to understand the universality of Fr. Theophane, the wide appeal he makes to all as a priest of the Catholic Church, as a man, and as a friend.

Fr. Theophane, newly appointed to the parish of Ampitiya, is one of the busiest priests in the diocese. He manages four schools, and ministers to over 1,500 Catholics in his parish, attends to the spiritual welfare of over 15 Catholic families in Mailapitiya, 12 miles distant, and overlooks a colony of 200 peasants in that village.

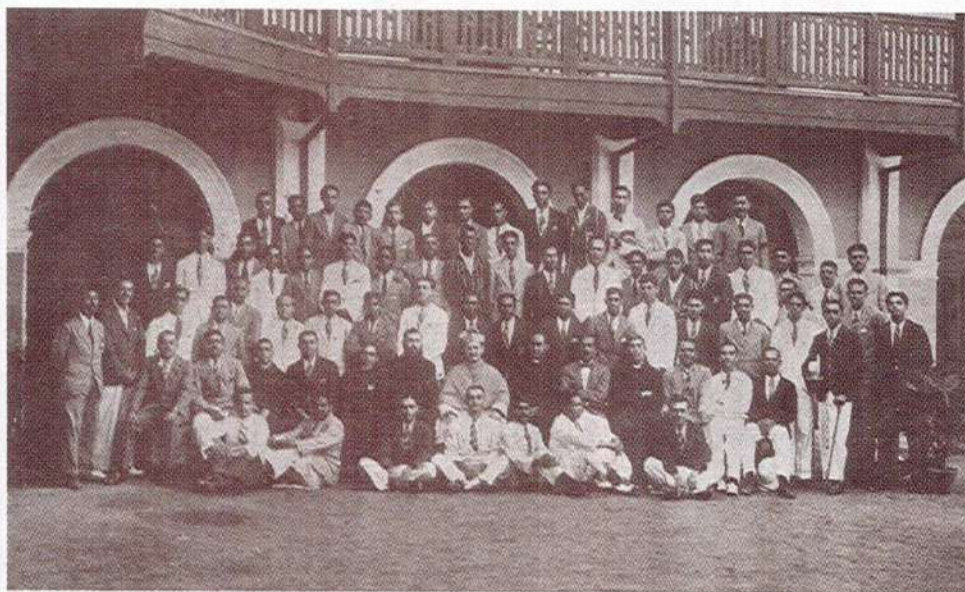
Fr. Theophane is ubiquitous, his energy inexhaustible. Widely scattered parishes present no difficulties for him, any more than the heavy burden of his new responsibilities. Miles have shrunk to a span, for he has the virtue of adaptability. Seated astride on a formidable looking Vespa, of which he is today the proud possessor, he laughs derisively at distances!





Siyapatha Finance Supports Road Safety: 'No Parking' Sign Installation at the entrance

Prominent "No Parking" sign boards were installed at the college's entrance area, in coordination with the Katugastota Police Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Rajapakshe. This initiative has been generously sponsored by Siyapatha Finance and effectively coordinated by Rasika Rathnayaka (G2000). The installation of these sign boards will help regulate parking and ensure a safer environment for students, staff, and visitors, ultimately contributing to a more organized and secure traffic flow.



A.G.M. Group 1924



The Andersons and a wonder-son who flew over Mount Everest - P2

By Sarath C Fernando

Part one in one sentence

Remember the first episode of this article in the last Antonian newsletter? The Interview with the great Antonian cricketer Jack Anderson and my return from the pearly gates of HEAVEN to which I travelled exceeding 300,000 km per hour in the vehicle "imagination"?

Finding the Nemo like

Yes, I was thinking of the last words JA said "Your school was supposed to have another one like me about 50 years after I left school." Well I was thinking about it over and over again, perused many Antonian magazines, Documents of yesteryear, googled and studied about many cricketers, who were playing for college during the 50 years after JC left school. Although I came across the names of many great cricketers who played for St Anthony's during the period I could not find a person like JA.

Polar Bear

Time passed and one Saturday evening, whilst having a chat with my three-year-old grandson "Chaarya", I asked him which animal do you like most? He immediately said "Polar Bear". We never heard about Polar bears even when we were about Ten Twelve years old, but today many children talk about things that we didn't learn during our teenage thanks to TV and YOUTUBE. I asked him, "What do you know about Polar bears?" He said "They are white. They are in 'ARC Tikka' (Arctic) there is a lot of ice, everything is white". and he asked "Can you PLEASE take me to ARC Tikka and show a polar bear? Can you pleeeeeease? Ok?"

Northern lights

That night I was dreaming of going with him to the Arctic Region, located above Canada. And I saw we were in Northern Canada, watching that celestial phenomenon that delights and confuses in equal measure, displaying vivid unimaginable scenarios - the Northern lights. Chaarya was thrilled and after a few minutes he asked me, where are the Polar bears?

The next thing I remember was that we were in Kingston at my Cousins residence facing the frozen Lake Ontario. It was freezing cold and everywhere you look, you see white colour. A thick layer of ICE on the lake, the slowly falling snow. And far away I saw a live object coming towards us, it looked like a polar bear. I was thrilled that I found the one my little angel was anxious to see. I showed the blessed creature to him and said "hey look there is the polar bear you wanted to see". His eyes glittered with joy like a person getting elected as a head of a state with one seat in the parliament.



801- The Film

He hugged me as if I had taken 801 test wickets and broken our own legend Muttiah Muralitharan's unbreakable and unique bowling record.

Heaps of ideas started flowing into my mind, well if I had taken 801 test wickets, would someone make a film? And who will act for me? Will popular young film stars come to watch the first show? Or the oldest living film stars will come talk good about taking 801 wickets? The snowing has stopped and the object looks about 50 ft away from us coming towards us.

Oh my God. It's coming on two legs, and what's he carrying. Holy ghost it's a fishing rod, how advanced are the polar bears in Canada? Suddenly something went into my mouth. Then only I realised that I had been watching this scene with an open mouth as it was a big surprise.



Meeting the Super Star

The object is 20 feet away now and I found that it's a person who has gone ice fishing in the lake. He was wearing pure white warmwear. And inside the white kit was a handsome looking guy with a reddish face. As he came closer I found that his face was very familiar. I saw him trying to pass the road on the side of the house but I went out and invited him for a hot drink. He came in and I offered him a seat first and started the conversation.

Hi, you look very familiar. Are you Clint Eastwood in for a few dollars more?

Nope I am not Clint Eastwood but I always welcome a few dollars more when I get my salary.

Sorry Mister then are you LOBO? who sang Try a little kindness in 1970.

No, I am not Glen but I have been a very kind person at college in 1970.

Sorry again. You are a very familiar foreigner.

I am not a foreigner. I live here, you must be a foreigner for sure.

Me a foreigner? No way. Why not? You are a Sri Lankan and now you are

in Canada and it looks like it's a visit visa. Oh Yes, but How do you

know that I am a Sri Lankan and I am on a visit visa?

Christopher Columbus type DISCOVERY

I follow Antonian news and you were at SACOBA AGM a few weeks ago. Can't you make me out? I am Christopher?

Christopher? Christopher Columbus? No cant' be he died on 20th may 1506. I am also a Sri Lankan and an Antonian, (he was smiling)

Oh Christopher, I Remember the javelin champ and rugger player Christopher Joshua, and cricketer Christopher Bultjens, but they are below 6 ft in height. The only Christopher who was taller than 6ft was Christopher Anderson. Oh my God Andy what are you doing here.

I came to do some ice fishing. It's one of my hobbies.

The Tea Morning instead of Coffee Morning

What do you like to drink? Coffee?

Hey we are Sri Lankans, let's have some tea, yes ginger tea with less sugar. If you have Jaggery, it is better.

My grandson is looking at him surprised. He must be wondering how a polar bear has turned to a handsome man and talking nicely.

And I realised the words of JCA. He left college in 1918 and Christopher Anderson left college in 1972. 54 years. And both are Andersons, Chris too has performed extremely well in major sports (but not cricket) yes this is the person Jack Anderson mentioned.

The Double Eagle winner and the Double international

Whilst having tea I told him, 'Andy (that's how we called him at college) good that I met you today. SACKOBA is publishing a quarterly digital magazine and this time I want to write about you. Can I ask three questions please?

Yeah go ahead.

Chris! You have been a Rare Double eagle winner at college representing Sri Lanka Schools both in Rugby and Basketball in 1972. And also, you have been a champion Athlete at college sports meets in athletics from under 14 to under 19. Furthermore you have been the champion athlete in the under 19 age group at the central province athletic meet and represented college at many Ceylon school's athletic meets, my first question is How did you start your sports career and how did you reach great heights in three sports namely Athletics, Basketball and rugby at college provincial and national level.

Well I started my sports career at the age about 8 years when I took part in the under 10 high jump events at the lower school sports meet and was placed 1st. From then on I realised that I had a passion for sports activities and indulged in whatever that was on offer. I also realised that I possessed some inborn talent for sports, was blessed with good height and easy access to the facilities. Being a boarder at college gave me an advantage over the others. I was also a very competitive person by nature and didn't like to lose or to be second to any activity that I undertook. It used to anger me when at various sports events I heard the chanting of T R I N I T Y or R O Y A L and this gave me the resolve to show them that the ANTONIANS were made of sterner stuff.





As you know up until 1972 we were getting beaten in almost all sports disciplines. But all that changed in 1972 when we were able to beat them in Cricket, Rugby, Basketball and for the first time achieve first place at the Central province athletic meet and I am proud to say that I was part of three of those disciplines. For me the old adage "never mind if you win or lose but how you played the game" DID NOT APPLY. I always played the game to WIN.

Motivation and back up support

Thanks Andy, you have continued these wonderful achievements even after leaving college as you have Represented National Basketball team in 1976 and 1977. Represented Sri Lanka police Basketball team from 1976 to 1980. Then Represented the high riding Sri Lanka Police Rugby team from 1976 to 1981. You also Represented SLRFU President's team against a team from Zambia 1973.

Now with all that sports achieves can you please tell us your observations about our college teams during your time at college and present times and what back up support and motivation etc., you got during those days? And were there any role models you admired?

Yes, during my formative years in school, I did not have any particular role model that I tried to emulate. Of course, I did admire some of the senior students for their prowess in various sports, but cannot recall anyone in particular. However, in my late teens I developed an admiration for an ex Peterite, namely the late Royden De Silva, a double international who played rugby for Havelocks and Basketball for Orient sports club. He possessed true grit in both disciplines and was one of the finest gentlemen you could ever meet.

During my sports career in school I had many mentors who prodded me along to achieve the success I achieved. Starting from Mr. George Mackie who used to watch me practise the high jump on his way home from school and lecture me on the finer points of high jumping. But the greatest inspiration, motivation and backing came from our former Principal the late Rev. Fr Aiden De Silva and Fr Aeldred Samarakoon. Without any reservation I can boldly say that I was these two priests who put St Anthony's College back on the map from the nonentities we were, prior to their arrival. Some of the other teachers who backed me during my sports career in school were late Messrs. Angelo Peiris and Willie Fernando.

Well Andy, I remember at school, once you mentioned that your honest intention was to bring honour and glory for the college in whatever sport or any other competitor activity you were engaged, as you associated major part of your early life at the school and being a boarder for almost one and a half decades.

I also remember the Prefects investiture in the early 70s where you were also elected as one of them among 2,500 students. Remember we had only 1 round 20 prefects as the qualifying criteria was very tough then.



1972 SACK Rugby - Christopher Anderson standing on the second row and fifth from left



Being Fearless

Like your wonderful achievements in sports, you also excelled in other extra-curricular activities such as being the President of the English Literary Circle, Winning the college English elocution contests from Junior to Senior levels and becoming First in the Central Province oratorical contest in 1972.

You know that many of our old boys are helping the college, sports and extra-curricular activities irrespective of where they live and what they do. Can you answer my final question please which will benefit the young eagles, Yes, what advice would you like to give the present Antonian sportsmen?

First, I would like to say to all young Antonians "Consider yourself privileged to be educated in an institution like ST ANTHONY'S COLLEGE, which has a proud history of having some of the most outstanding and well-respected personalities in a wide spectrum of fields in Sri Lanka",

My advice to the youngsters at St Anthony's College involved in sporting and other extra-curricular activities is to be fearless in whatever you do because fear causes doubt. Be second to none and believe in your ability to be better than the other after all your opponents are also human. In the school leaving certificate given to me by the then Principal Late Rev. Fr. Aidan De Silva stated the following "Christopher Anderson distinguished himself in whatever he undertook". This should be your goal as well.

Back to senses

Well thank you, I would definitely convey this very important and inspiring message and your story through "Antonian Newsletter" quarterly digital magazine. And I looked to find my grandson Chaarya to go say goodbye with me to this great sportsman and gentleman.

He was not to be seen, but there were little footsteps on snow from the house towards the frozen lake I got damn scared and shouted loud as I could

CHAARYA! CHAARYA! WHERE ARE YOU?

And I felt someone was tapping me on my shoulder. It was my wife trying to wake me up. I asked where is Chaarya?

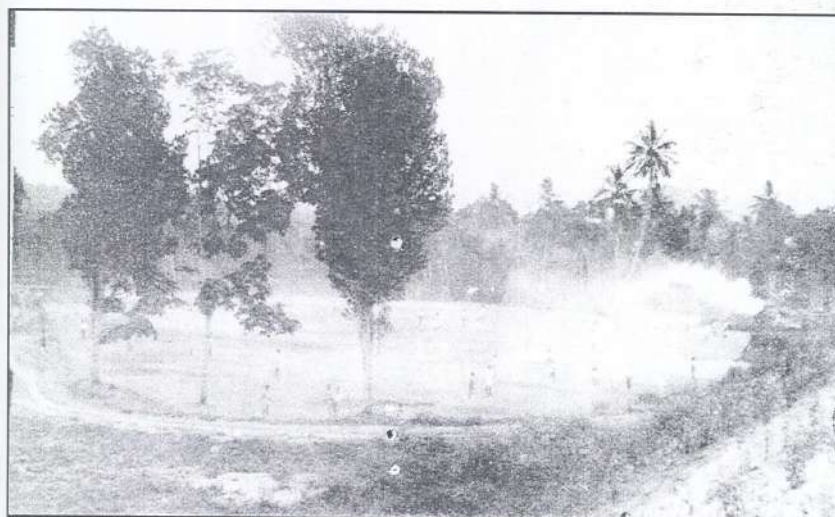
She said Chaarya is sleeping well in the other room. And the time is now 3.15 a.m.

Oh! That's the time many human beings go to deep sleep according to some human scientists.

Editor's Note:

Having found the e-mail address of the great Christopher Anderson through an Antonian contact, The author of this article sent the creative part of this article to him requesting his views on 3 areas. Christopher obliged promptly giving answers to those three questions in his own ways and they are embedded without any changes.

The last episode of this series will be published in the next quarterly magazine and that will cover the remaining 50 years till 2022.



Playground in the making - 1930's



Obituaries



Our Heartfelt Condolences



Mr. Nimal Dabare
Old Antonian - Group 1979



Our Heartfelt Condolences



Mr. Bandula Widanagamage
Old Antonian - Group 1983
Former Member - SACKOBA Central Council



Our Heartfelt Condolences



Mr. Mohomed Nusry Nidar
Old Antonian - Group 1983
Former Member of SACK SDEC - Principal of Al Safa MV



Our Heartfelt Condolences



Dr. Christopher R Panabokke
Old Antonian - Internationally renowned Soil Scientist,
Former Director of Agriculture, Research Fellow ISNAR



Our Heartfelt Condolences



Mr. Ralston Pietersz
Old Antonian





Glimpses from SACK

CONGRATULATIONS



S.L. RASHEED
2ND RUNNER-UP
46-48 WEIGHT CATEGORY
SE 2004 YEARS
AT THE 52ND T.B. JAYAH
MEMORIAL BOXING
CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

Central Province Inter Zonal
Athletic Championship

U20 100m x 4
3rd place



PERFORMANCE-45.0 s

CONGRATULATIONS

BOTH SENIOR AND JUNIOR CHOIR GROUPS WON THE
1ST PLACE AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL
AND QUALIFIED TO COMPETE AGAINST ALL ISLAND LEVEL



CONGRATULATIONS
ON BEING SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE SRI LANKA
U19 CRICKET TEAM IN THE UPCOMING
WEST INDIES TOUR OF SRI LANKA



**KAVESHAP
PIYUMAL**

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL GAMES 2023

Swimming

U16

- A.M. Gunarathne
100m back stroke 5th place
20m IM 7th place
- O.K.S Deenuka
50m Butterfly 4th
100m Butterfly **2nd**
200m Free style 4th

U18

- I.M.R.S.B.Allahakoon
50m breastroke 9th
100m breastroke 9th
- C.N Bandara
200m Breastroke 6th
- A.G.Thanushka Desilva
50m Butterfly **2nd**
200m IM 4th
100m Butterfly 5th
- C.Jayavanath
200m Butterfly 4th
200m IM 5th
100m Butterfly 5th

U20

- M.M.H.A Jayasinghe
50m Butterfly **3rd**
100m Butterfly **3rd**
50m Freestyle **3rd**
- Relay U18
- Medley 5th
- A.G.T De Silva
I.M.R.S.B.Ilankoon
M.Aadhil
C.Jayavinath
- Free 5th
- A.G.T De Silva
C.N.Bandara
M.Aadhil
C.Jayavinath

**EASTERN MUSIC COMPETITION
PROVINCIAL LEVEL 2023**



1) SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
1ST PLACE
2) INSTRUMENTAL SOLO -SANTHUR
1ST PLACE
3) INSTRUMENT SOLO-FLUTE
1ST PLACE

EASTERN MUSIC TEACHERS : MRS K.V.S.RAMYALATHA
MR D.A.WILSONDARA

THE CHAMPIONS
OF THE IDEALIZE 2023

TEAM SYNTAX



CHAMPIONS
LKR 30,000

The national player
and the captain of
the college Karate
team, Mast. Seminda
Yapa has achieved
the level of Karate
Black Belt 2nd Dan.
He is the very 1st
Antonian Karate
Player to achieve this
standard.






Glimpses from SACK



Photography workshop for St. Anthony's College, Kandy organized by the Department of Wildlife Conservation was held on 1st-3rd September in Horton Plains National Park

