

## **Secretary's report for the year 2008/2009.**

It is my pleasure to present this report on the activities achievements and future plans of St. Patrick's College Jaffna, Alumni Association U.K. for the year 2008/09.

*'Little drops of water, little grains of sand,  
makes the mighty ocean and the pleasant land'.*

First and foremost duty of mine is to thank our members and donors alike for their generous contributions throughout the year. All your gifts, great and small are equally welcomed and appreciated by the executive committee.

Since the last AGM on the 08th December 2007 the executive committee met 8 times during the term in office. The meetings were very productive and constructive. The decisions were made democratically, were respected and carried through unanimously. The meetings were held at the Northolt Community Village Hall, Ealing Road, Northolt, Middlesex, and all credit go to every member of the executive committee for their dedication to the association. It is their dedication and hard work that has enabled the association to grow from strength to strength over the years in helping the College at these uncertain times. We are fortunate to have a blend of such vibrant and enthusiastic body of Ex-Co. members.

This year our President was determined to make the functioning of the sub-committees more efficient. Sub committees were assigned specific tasks and were asked to report at every meeting. Though not perfected, substantial progress has been made in improving the efficiency of each sub committee.

The increased efficiency and greater involvement by the sub-committees have enhanced the decision making process and saved invaluable time for the Ex. Co. All the decisions that were made at sub-committees level were tabled at the executive committee meetings for approval. This year following sub committees were formed. Finance, Membership, Publication, Web development and Sports. This year Board of Trustees took office in September. The PPF deed was signed and first meeting of the trustees was convened in September. The trustees sanctioned £3000 to be distributed to college form the income received from investments of the Patrician Perpetual Funs. This was the first distribution ever made from the PPF.

Prior to submitting the sub committee reports I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Chris Ponnukone who is stepping down from the committee after many years of dedicated service. So sincere is his dedication he had taken up the responsibility to be the Web Master to maintain our website. He will be badly missed. We also say temporary good bye to Mr Jude Antony who is also stepping down. Jude as Chairman of the Web Development Committee had wonderful plans to upgrade our website, due to family commitments he is unable continue but had also agreed work with the committee from outside. We keep the door open for his return.

## **Sub-committee Reports**

### ***Finance:***

#### ***Chairman: -Mr. Joseph Edirimanasinghe***

As Chairman of the Finance Committee and as Treasurer of the association Mr Joseph Edirimanasinghe will present his own report on future finance strategy and achievements during the year. It is my duty to thank him for his dedication and precision with which he handles the financial affairs of the association. The word 'pedantic' would be an insult to him if I were to describe his quality work.

### ***Membership:***

#### ***Chairman: - Mr. Joseph Vetha Louis***

The membership register now consists of 238 members including 52 life members, 166 general members, 7 USA members, 6 Members migrated (Canada/Aus) and 7 expired.

Finance committee and the membership committee worked very closely this year with the aim of maximising the income of the association. With regret I report that the income from subscriptions had fallen to alarming levels. Jointly they have identified the problems and taken steps to rectify it. Some of you may have been contacted by them regarding missing subscriptions. Please don't take it personally; they were only trying to do their job in the interest of the College and the association. I would urge those members who have been contacted by them to cooperate with them to resolve the issues.

It is the resolve of the membership committee to double the membership in the next 3 - 5 years. They are in the process of restructuring the ways the members are take care of for by the Ex-Co. More details to emerge in time to come. I thank them for their valuable work.

### ***Publication:***

#### ***Chairman: - Mr. A. Dominic***

This year we published our spring .newsletter in March and the Autumn one in December. We did not publish a souvenir for our Autumn Ball instead we went the hi-tec and greener way to go electronic. As you may know that the Patrician web page is fully functional & the address of which is <http://www.patrician.org>. It is the aim of the publication committee to go greener through our web to communicate interactively with Patrician's world over. Thank you Mr Dominic and members of the publication committee

### ***Sports:***

#### ***Chairman: - Mr. Edwin Gunaratnam***

We took part in TSSA Football Tournament held during May bank holiday. Though our team didn't succeed our participation was very much appreciated by the community. Thank you team.

It is to every one's surprise our Cricket team won the TSSA August bank holiday cricket tournament. Well done Mr Mike Seemampillai and the team (I prefer to call them Mike & the mechanics). I also congratulate the chairman and his vice for their efforts.

### ***Social & Hospitality:***

This committee was abolished since the last special general meeting and was replaced by event organisers. Mr Chelva Sabapathy and Mr Siva Sathianathan took sole charge of our Autumn Ball. Mr Xavier Manuelpillai and Me Edwin Gunaratnam took charge of St Patrick's day function today. My sincere thanks to all of them.

### ***Co-ordinating the welfare of the college:***

#### ***Chairman: - Mr S K Sathianathan.***

Due to reorganisation of this function this was taken over by the President. I expect his report to give more information on College welfare.

### **Special Projects 2008.**

Cyclone "Nisha" ravaged the war torn North of Sri Lanka this year. The Ex-Co launched a special appeal towards cyclone damage repairs. I must say even though the response wasn't overwhelming, we managed to raise £2,998 to date towards this project.

This year we also started 'Slone Robinson Year5 special teaching aid' project sponsored by Slone Robinson Investments Ltd. They have contributed substantial amounts towards the project in the past two years. This project is to provide additional teaching materials to prepare underprivileged year 5 students for the national scholarship exams. I take this opportunity to thank Slone Robinson Investments and the young Patricians who canvassed the donation successfully. I wish them all he success in this uncertain economic climate.

### **Future Plans.**

The association endeavours continuously to improve the Patrician Spirit among the Patricians globally. In the coming year we plan to link all the Alumni's around the Globe for information and experience sharing.

As the numbers Patricians coming to settle in the UK is dwindling, we have plans to recruit children of the Patricians over the age of 18 as associate members. Please encourage your children to support us.

We are also exploring many non traditional ways of raising funds. Parachute jump by Kajan Singarayer was a great success and raised over £3000. This year our ex president Dilip Tisseverasinghe has come forward run a half marathon under the

banner 'JUSTGIVING' to raise funds for the Association. The run will take place in Reading Berkshire on Sunday 29th March. A pledge form will be circulated among the members present here and I would urge all the members to sponsor him generously. You can contribute on line by visiting [www.justgiving.com/Dilip](http://www.justgiving.com/Dilip). We wish him every success.

Plans are underway to produce a brochure of the association to raise funds. Our main focus is to approach the corporate sector. We have consulted professional fundraisers and they have highly recommended the brochure. If the organisation you work for has a charity budget please give us an introduction to approach them.

I pray the uncertainties surrounding the College and the students will soon come to a peaceful end and wish the College and the alumni all the success in the coming years.

May God bless you all.

**Joseph G Rajmohan**  
**Hon Secretary**