

Golden Gleam Newsletter

The Official newsletter of the SPCOBWDC
Initiated in 1989, formalized in 2003



It is essential to pause a few hours from our hectic work schedules to raise awareness and better the state of the young, the infirm, and the ailing in our small way. The SPCOBWDC was initiated in 1989 and has been actively engaged in helping our alma mater in Sri Lanka through donations toward repair and reconstruction projects; uniforms and school books for the teaching staff at the school; and helping students through donations of equipment for studies and sports. We embarked on a further endeavor a few years back to raise awareness of the needs of children and raise funds to lessen the burden on their families.

For the past three years, in addition to helping our alma mater in Sri Lanka, we have targeted other organizations that could benefit from our efforts, namely, the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, the Pediatric Cancer Ward in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, and the National Foundation for Facial Reconstruction in New York. To help us raise funds, we held our third annual Peterite Golf Classic (PGC) which once again was well attended. We are very grateful for the support and sponsorships of our alumni, friends, and well-wishers in making it a successful event.

Our union continues to grow in size and in brotherhood. We have fared well in the many sports events organized not only in the Washington DC area, but out of state as well. Needless to say, our flag has flown high, both from the art of sport, to the gentlemanly behavior in our participation. The rugby tournament which was held on Memorial Day saw the Peterite Team sail into the semi-finals before bowing out in a hard fought game against the Thomians. We "played like true Peterites" in other tournaments and were victorious in the 24th annual Joe-Pete held in the DC area.

In closing, we would like to give a hearty round of applause to our indefatigable band of Peterites who rallied around the flag to do our alma mater proud.



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2014 Peterite Golf Classic - Charity Golf Tournament

The memorable and challenging Virginia Oaks golf course designed by the acclaimed P.B. Dye with picturesque Lake Manassas wrapping around some of the holes, was the venue of the third annual Peterite Golf Classic charity golf tournament organized by St. Peter's College OBU of Washington D.C. (SPCOBUWDC) on Saturday May 17th in Gainesville, Virginia. The pleasant 70 degree weather, coupled with the light breeze were ideal playing conditions for local golfers, players from the tri-state area of MD, DC and VA, and even across the pond, - their team aptly named "London Eye." The event was conducted by the PGA staff of Virginia Oaks and was well attended by players and guests. The awards presentation followed the buffet lunch.

The Peterite Golf Classic (PGC) is fast becoming a much anticipated sporting event in the Washington metropolitan area with an average player count of 90 over the last three years. Since the inaugural PGC in 2012, SPCOBUWDC has donated over 10,000.00 USD to different pediatric charities. The two beneficiaries of this year's PGC will be St. Peter's College Career Guidance Center in Colombo 4, Sri Lanka, and the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, USA.

As in past years very attractive prizes were offered by SPCOBUWDC to any of the hole-in-one winners with the marquee prize being a Nissan 350 Z coupe. There was also a \$100,000.00 hole-in-one shootout prize to the raffle ticket winner. In addition, each registered player had the option of mailing in a coupon for two free golf clubs.

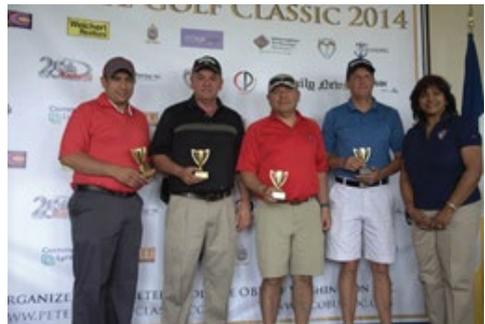
SPCOBUWDC thanks the sponsors and donors, whose generous financial partnerships have contributed to the success of the PGC.

The PGC Open winners and Sri Lanka School Tournament Winners

PGC Open



1st. Place – AOL#2 - Score 60
Paul Repola, Andrew Braksator,
Mike Heffner, Mario Hoo



2nd. Place - AOL – A&F - Score 64
Joe Bobek, Michael Johnson, Brent Penfield, Nate
Switzer



3rd. Place – TEAM COSTELLANOS - Score 64
Dino Tortorelli, Jay Bardon, San Sridharan, Jorge Castellanos

Sri Lanka School's Tournament



Winners of Schools Tournament
1st. Place - St. Peter's College - Gold - Score 69
Dakshi De Silva, Erik Somasundaram, Trevor Somasundaram, Gaddafi Ismail



2nd. Place - Royal College - Score 70
Khattab Markar, Logan Thiran, Namitha Jayatilake Suma Samaranyake



3rd. Place - Wycherly International - Score 72
Vasanth Dhanaraja, Radesh Menon, Amirtharaj Dhanaraja, Nirushan Sathi

Individual competition winners



Senior Mens Long Drive – Trevor Somasundaram



Senior Ladies Long Drive – Dr. Seemah Rajapaksa



Mens Long drive – Erik Somasundaram



Ladies Long drive – JoAnn Jony



Closest to the pin Men – Bill Johnson
Closest to the Pin Ladies – No winner

Peterite Karaoke evening (Paduru Party).

The Peterites gathered on 6th September for some good food, company and a sing along. Suresh Jayasekera coordinated the musicians, that comprised of Yuraj Amarasekera, Himaransi Ranasingha, Ajantha Peries & Franco Gunesequera.

SPCOBUWDC would like to thank our generous host Madusha and Dammika.



24th Annual Joe/Pete

The 24th Annual Joe-Pete cricket encounter was held on September 13th at the Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg, MD and was organized by the Josephians. The Peterites wanting to bounce back strong from the defeat in 2013 gathered early at the grounds with the Joes to prepare the pitch. The rain had hampered the morning hours of play and as a result the match was reduced to 20 years per side. The toss was won by the Joes and the Peterites were put into bat on a damp pitch. The Peterites were led again by the veteran Dakshi De Silva. Shiran and Madusha could not get the Peterites off to a flying start as they usually do, but Dilan provided stability coming in at number 3 and scored 23 runs at a healthy strike rate. Although the top order did not get the Peterites off to a great start, the middle order built a number of valuable partnerships and also kept the scoreboard ticking. Dakshi, Suresh, Franco and Nuwan all contributed with valuable runs, but the top scorer and the batsman who held the Peterite innings together, was Hiru, with a score of 39 not out. The Peterites, thanks largely to Hiru ended the innings with 138 runs.

For the Joes, all the bowlers provided good support and picked up wickets. Anslem and Bigumal bagged two wickets each and Romesh and Francisco took a wicket each.

With having to score 139 to win, the Joes had to keep wickets intact and score over 6 runs an over. For the Joes, none of their batsman got going. Nuwan, Shiran, Madusha and Dilan came out with all guns blazing. As always Dakshi's variations caused trouble for the Joes. Franco and Sheran also provided good support with their medium pace. With the strong bowling attack from the Peterites, the Joes kept losing wickets at regular intervals and could not score more than 53 runs. With Trevor taking a stunning catch at covers, it was an all-round performance by the Peterites.

The game was followed by a hearty meal, arranged by the Joes. Both teams along with their family and friends enjoyed the afternoon and will look forward to a memorable 25th Joe-Pete cricket encounter





The Annual Pilgrimage to the Garden State

Much like in previous years, a band of brothers from the SPCOB UWDC and family members made their way up to the Garden State (NJ) in June of this year. They joined up with Peterites from the Tri-State area (NJ/NY/CT) to compete in the East Cost Cricket Festival organized by the Ananda College Old Boys' Association of the East Coast. The Peterites had their sights set on the Col. Henry Steel Olcott trophy. After a late night drive on the 20th, the six players from the DC area (Ajantha P., Dakshi D., Dilan M., Hiru P., Madusha P., and Shiran M.) and the four players from the Tri-State (Sharontha F., Michael J., Mario H. and Anton R.) followed by more than a dozen other Peterites, family and friends arrived early on Saturday the 21st at Tall Timbers Park in South Brunswick New Jersey to take another shot at the championship that had been elusive in the past few years.

The music was on and we were already in a great mood even before the first match. It was a perfect day for cricket.

Our lads faced the Royalists first. The Royalists, always a formidable group, were determined to turn the tables following their defeat to the Petes in 2013. They came out swinging with a talented team and succeeded. They scored a quick 51 in their five overs and dismantled our boys with two quick run outs. Despite the terrible defeat, always true to our nature, the party went on.

Then came Maris Stella. This was a close game to say the least. Maris Stella, batting first, put up a respectable score of 49 in their five overs. The Peterites seemed up to the challenge in the early overs. Despite the Peterites' resilience, ultimately, the Maris Stella bowling side was able to restrict the Peterites to 47 in their five overs.

Then it was time for some great Sri Lankan food. Kottu, hoppers, chocolate cake etc., and the beverages to match. The party went on.

The final game was against the Thomians. The eventual champions were simply unbeatable that day. They were able to limit our boys to a low 35 and reach that goal within three overs.

Even though the hopes of reaching the finals had once more eluded us, everyone had a great time, represented our alma mater with pride, and departed with vows to come back in 2015.

It is important to thank all Peterites from the tri-state area, the families, and friends that joined and supported us. We are truly indebted to them for enabling us to re-live memories from our college days.



Teacher's Day Fundraiser

Lending a Hand....

Keeping true to our tradition of close to a quarter of a century, SPCOBUWDC was able to financially support a few projects at college in 2014. One such project was the Teacher's Day events organized by the The Old Peterites Group of 87 – 92. Through the generous donations of many of our members we were able to make a contribution of \$570.00 toward the project this year. This is the second time SPCOBUWDC has donated funds to the Teacher's Day project, as we feel that these types of programs are essential for our students to receive the best possible education and schooling experience. This enables us to show our appreciation to the invaluable service provided by the teachers and also help in recruiting and employing high quality teaching staff.

A Quote from the confirmation email from the organizers:

"Thanks so much for the contribution from all of you. We also donated 3 Dell brand computers To college. Hope all of you will support us next year as well. Will also send you a CD of all snaps of the Teachers Day outing where all of you can see the Computers also been gifted to rector. God bless you all for the kind contribution that all of you did without any hesitation."



The Annual Washington, D.C. Rugby Sevens tournament

The Old Boys Associations of St. Thomas' and Trinity of Washington DC conducted their annual Old Boys Rugby Sevens tournament in Washington, D.C. on the 24th of May 2014. Sri Lankans living in North America got the opportunity to witness old boys from leading schools in Sri Lanka scrum down in this annual tournament. The Peterites were led by the able hands of former 1st XV and Sri Lanka winger Reshan Cooke and former College football captain Priyankara Katugampola (PK).

The Peterites started off with a defeat by St. Thomas' but they soon found their footing and worked in cohesion with as a team. The Old Joes, and the Old Zahirians were defeated easily in the following matches. The Peterites walked once again into the semi-finals for the 4th time running to face off against St. Thomas' once again. It was a hard fought battle with both teams rising to the occasion. A turning point was reached when a 60 yard try was called back for the Peterites, after a questionable call by the referee. The Thomians capitalized from here on and sailed through with a narrow victory. They went on to win the tournament.

Disappointment was telling with another defeat at the cup semi-final level for the Peterites. Regrouping and taking lessons learned to heart, the Peterites vowed to return with a vengeance next year. The Peterites enjoyed the rest of the day with the good food, primarily compliments of Hiru and included excellent canteen-like beef sandwiches, an SPCOBWDC themed cake, and Hiru's own version of the ever famous Elephant house hot dogs, and the company of Peterites young and old.





Donation of School Books to the Children of Non-Academic Staff at St. Peters

The SPCOBUWDC has been donating books to the children of non-academic staff of College over the last few years. Supporting the neediest of all Peterites is a matter the Old Boys deem of utmost importance; College personnel such as Lal, Manikkam, and Soma who took care of the Petrites during their young ages are some of the recipients of these gifts.

SPCOBUWDC has undertaken this project to donate books annually to this deserving cause.



Special Moments



Annual General Meeting of SPCOBWDC was held in March-2015. The below members were elected to office.

The Executive Committee for year 2014/2015

Madusha Peiris
Dakshi De Silva
Trevor Somasundaram
Trevor Mack
Gaddafi Ismail

Secretary

Dilan Mack

Treasurer

Trevor Somasundaram

Auditors

Shiran Mack & Sheran Fernando



THANK YOU!

Our wives, girl friends, fiancées, significant others, children, parents, siblings, families, friends and well wishers. Everyone who has supported us for over a quarter of a century. From cheering us on, to helping us raise funds. For attending our games, our meetings, our dinner dances, fund raisers and everything in-between. For tolerating what at times may seem like an unnatural attachment to our alma-mater and to our schoolmates. For helping us organize our gatherings, to being an extra man at our practices. For helping us set up our tents, chairs, tables and OUR FLAGS at various tournaments and events. For preparing food, transporting them and serving them. For washing our uniforms to allowing us to take up space in our houses to store our OBU logistics. For being our scorers at games to being our nursemaids after. For assisting us with public relations, to helping us be more creative, and for so much more.

Most of all, for allowing this old band of Peterites to relive a bit of our childhood,

WE THANK YOU!

SPCOBUWDC

