



THE BLUE WHITE & GOLD

Volume 1

Issue 2

Apr 2014

Editorial

Between circulating the 1st issue of the News Letter and preparing the 2nd issue, much has changed at College. Change is inevitable and is to be embraced and not resisted. The biggest of the changes was the transfer of Rectors which ultimately happened after two postponements. The new Rector, Fr. Trevor Martin is eager to take St. Peter's to new heights and deserves the support of all.

The College had two separate functions for the farewell and welcome of the Rectors while the OBU organised a function of its own to bid farewell to the 10th Rector, Fr. Travis Gabriel and welcome the 11th Rector, Fr. Trevor Martin. The function was well organised and well patronised.

The season of sports is at hand and we saw the end of the cricket season albeit not with results that we can boast of. The cricket season closed with SPC losing their traditional 50 over match to St. Joseph's and also bowing out early from the Schools' limited over tournament though we were the defending champions. But with renewed hope we have seen the commencement of the rugby season sooner than normal and we wish our rgerites all success. The athletics season also has begun but the annual sports meet is delayed in view of the repairs going on at the College grounds. Needless to say the OBU was involved in supporting in the organizing of all sports activities.

It is disappointing that receipt of news for publication is slow in coming and sometimes nonexistent but we'll soldier on.

The AGM of the OBU is due to be held in June and members will receive their formal notice from the Hony. General Secretary and with the next issue of the News Letter due after the AGM, this Editorial Committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank all who supported us in our efforts to bring you news of the OBU and College via this organ and request your continued support to the new team that will take over after the AGM.

As The President Says

Come; join us to further develop our alma mater.

I consider it a privilege to pen down my thoughts in the second issue of our newsletter.

We currently have approximately 70 Committee (46 Management and 24 Co-opted) and 6500 General members. This general membership is grossly inadequate, considering that St Peter's College has been in existence for almost a century. On taking over office as the President of this prestigious college in June last year, I pledged to increase the membership by 500 new members. Even though this number has already been achieved, we have a long way more to go in terms of achieving a satisfactory general membership.

Let me remind all Peterites that a decisive factor for their current achievements has been the contribution of our alma mater. Thus we all have a social responsibility to further improve the quality of learning for the younger generations of Peterites. Many old boys do not join us for a variety of reasons; main among them is being unaware of the contribution made by the union to the college. Hence, I sincerely hope that this newsletter would create sufficient awareness on some of the activities carried out by the union.

I see a tremendous potential for progress particularly in attitudes and academic development, with the new Rector Rev Fr Trevor Martin taking over as the 11th making his contribution towards this worthy cause.

**Surgeon Rear Admiral NELW Jayasekera VSV,
USP, MBBS, MSc, MBA, MD.**

President OBU.

10TH & 11TH RECTORS OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

College bids Farewell to Fr. Travis Gabriel, 10th Rector (11th February 2014)



St. Peter's Welcomes Fr. Trevor Martin, 11th Rector (12th February 2014)



OBU Felicitation of Rectors (13th February 2014)

Farewell to Fr. Travis Gabriel and Welcome Fr. Trevor Martin

The OBU felicitation of the Rectors was held on 13th February commencing with cocktails served in the Sr. Flora Hall, then the main ceremony at the College hall. The hall was decorated tastefully for the occasion so much so that many expressed their surprise at the effects achieved.

Once the guests had taken their seats, the 10th Rector of St. Peter's, Fr. Travis Gabriel and the 11th Rector, Fr. Trevor Martin along with the outgoing and incoming Vice Rectors were brought in procession

accompanied by the President and past Presidents of the OBU. Bagpipers from the Navy led the procession and the Secretary and Treasurer of the OBU garlanded the 2 Rectors before they stepped on to the red carpet laid out for them along the aisle of the hall. A standing ovation greeted the Rectors till they were seated at the head table.

Toasts were proposed to the country and the two Rectors, while speeches were made in bidding farewell to the outgoing Rector and welcoming the new Rector. The Peterite Chorale provided entertainment in addition to which a student sang a song of appreciation. The President of the OBU made the presentation of the farewell gift to Fr. Travis Gabriel who apart from his 8+ years as Rector had served St. Peter's for over 22 years.

After the vote of thanks by the General Secretary of the OBU the day's official proceedings came to a close with the singing of the College Anthem after which more cocktails and a sumptuous dinner followed. Light music was provided by a duo from the Navy, a saxophonist accompanied by a keyboardist.

The MC for the evening was an Old Peterite, Chandrishan Perera, who in his own inimitable style kept the crowd entertained in between the different speeches and presentations.



OBU ACTIVITIES

Attitude & Academic Development Team

A Welcome to New Students

In what has now become a well established tradition at St. Peter's College, the new entrants to the school (Year 1) were welcomed in a grand ceremony on 20th January 2014. This event was organised jointly by the College authorities and the Old Boys' Union.

The little ones had badges pinned on them welcoming them to the Peterite fold which was arranged by the OBU (the President of the OBU pinned the first badge and the blessing was imparted by the Principal of the Primary school, Rev. Fr. Vincent Ashley).

The event came to a close with the singing of the College anthem after which the children were led away to their classes by the teacher in charge of each class while the OBU treated the parents to refreshments. Vishal Rodrigo who led the OBU team deserves to be congratulated for a well organised event.



Health & Environment Team

Medical Clinic for Staff

The Peterite OBU Annual Medical Clinic was held at the Sister Flora hall on January 9th this year with over 150 teachers including the priest community and minor staff participating.

This was a joint effort by the OBU, Health Foundation and the Batch group of 87-92 (Legends) under the guidance of the President of the OBU. The Health Foundation provided the human and technical resources while the “Legends” provided the support services including refreshments.

With the establishment of the ‘Medical Centre’ at SPC in September last year, the Annual Medical Clinic which usually attracted about 50 participants each year was no longer required this year. Accordingly, a Special Health Screening Clinic targeting four key areas namely: metabolic syndrome (diabetes, hypertension & obesity), eye disease (vision, cataract, glaucoma), osteoporosis and cancer (cervical and breast) were held with the participation medical specialists in the field. Health education literature covering these areas was distributed among the participants.

The eye clinic detected 10 cases of cataract, 08 cases of glaucoma and gave away 32 spectacles. In addition 90 random blood sugars, 24 bone scans and 15 pap smears were carried out on the participants. The teachers and minor staff present truly appreciated the event and personally expressed their gratitude to the organizing committee.

Media & Membership Team

While the Media & Membership Team is actively promoting a drive to have new members enrolled to bolster the membership of the OBU, the committee also continues its efforts to keep the OBU fraternity informed of all OBU activities, including overseas branch news and their activities, not to mention information on College Activities and sports events.

The PEN (Peterite Email Network), the FB Page of recent origin, the Website and private circulation lists are effectively used in the exercise of news dissemination. The OBU FB page has done very well in terms of fans where within 4 months of existence it has acquired 2400+ fans and is continuing to increase the numbers.

Social & Welfare Team

The Stag Night

The traditional “Stag Nite” held before the Big Match was organised by the OBU on 6th March 2014 at the primary school quadrangle and the College Hall. This event normally held on the College grounds was forced to be shifted as the ground is being repaired and re-turfed.

A popular band “Black” provided the entertainment. It may be redundant but it must be said that all had a good time.

50 Over Match

The OBU had a special “Tent” at the 50 over Joe-Pete match played on 15th March. This tent, “Peter’s Bowers” helped the Old Petes to share their food and drink and more importantly provided music through “papare” bands and a live band. There was also a well attended After Party arranged at the Lounge though regrettably the loss to St. Joseph’s spoiled the party.

Sports & Co-curricular Team



Athletics

Achievements of College athletes

At the Junior SAF games held in the latter part of 2013, Peterite athletics captain Master Malik Khan won the bronze medal in 200m improving on his personal best timing by completing the race in 21.69. He also came 4th in the 100m with timing of 10.85.

Master Harsha Chathuranga was placed 3rd in 400m event despite being hampered by a niggling hamstring injury.

Last year’s cricket captain Dushan Hemantha who was also in the Peterite contingent, was placed 3rd in the 1500m with a timing of 4.02.57.

Apart from the individual medals, these athletes did the country proud by being members of the gold medal winning 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 teams where Malik and Harsha won medals in their respective races.

Athletics Foundation

The Athletics foundation sponsored a pair of spikes and running shoes worth of Rs 45,000/- to Master. Harsha Chathuranga. He is one of only three athletes who have qualified to represent Sri Lanka in the World Junior Games and World Youth games. He will also represent Sri Lanka in the Asian Youth Games and Asian Junior Games. Harsha is a future Sri Lanka prospect and is the current 400m hurdles Junior Taret games record holder with a timing of 53.35 which he achieved at the age of 17.

In the picture overleaf the Chairman of the Athletics Foundation, Roshan Abeygunwardena is seen handing over sponsored spikes

Athletics Trivia

Houses at College – originally there were only 4 Houses, namely **Anthony, Maurice, Nicholas** and **Peter** and in 1982 two more houses were added, **Arthur** and **Basil**.

- **Anthony** - Named after Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Coudert OMI, Archbishop of Colombo (1903-1928) and founding Archbishop who rendered much to the initiation of St. Peter's College.
- **Maurice** - Named after Very Rev. Fr. Maurice LeGoc OMI, Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10 (1921-1940), founder of St. Joseph's College Colombo South (renamed St. Peter's College in 1927) and Rector of St. Joseph's College Colombo South - 18 January 1922 to 8 April 1927 (after renaming in 1927 Fr. Nicholas Perera was appointed as the 1st Rector of St. Peter's College).
- **Nicholas** - Named after Very Rev. Fr. D. J. Nicholas Perera OMI, President of St. Joseph's College- Colombo South (1922-1927) and First Rector of St. Peter's College (1927-1943).
- **Peter** - Named after Most Rev. Dr. Peter Marque OMI, Archbishop of Colombo (1930-1937) who was the incumbent Archbishop at the time of initiation of the House System.
- **Arthur** - Named after Rev. Fr. Arthur N. Fernando Mis. Ap., third Rector of St. Peter's College. (Served 1955-1963) and was introduced in 1982.
- **Basil** - Named after Rev. Fr. Basil Weeratunge OMI, Second Rector of St. Peter's College (1943-1955) and was also introduced in 1982.



Basketball

At a basketball tournament held among 10 schools to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Christ the King National School, Thudella and also to raise funds to develop the college grounds St. Peter's College Colombo emerged champions in this year's tournament.

The Champion St. Peter's College basketball team comprised Kaveesha Mendis, Anuth Lakjaya, Sadash Hagum, Lasitha Perera, Ashen Fernando, Manesh Perera, Atphan Mendis, Warren de Silva, Arij Adom, Heshan Karunarathna, Bonovin Perera, Hammad Hammeed, Akith Liyanage and the Officiating staff were - Assistant Coaches Rasitha Fernando, Ramesh Weerasinghe, Srinath Perera, Chaminda Sembukuttiarachchi (Coach), Noel Cooray (Master In Charge).

Cricket

The Peterite Cricket Foundation supported their Josephian counterparts in organizing the Big Match that was played on 7th & 8th of March. The only centurion of the match was Peterite Chandula Jayamanne though the Big match ended in a draw who. Jayamanne won the Man of the Match award.

The Cricket Foundation was also responsible for organizing the 50 over match held on 15th March. To the disappointment of Peterites, we ended on the losing side.



Football

The Football Foundation of St. Peter's College (FF SPC) initiated at a meeting held on 15th October 2013 was ratified by the OBU in February 2014 with the primary objective of supporting and uplifting the game of Football at St. Peter's College.

The FF SPC recently handed over of Soccer Goods much needed for training of players. The soccer materials were handed over by the Members of the FF to Rector, Rev. Fr. Trevor Martin in the presence of Rev. Fr. Lakmin Silva, Sports Coordinator and the Master-in-Charge Senior Teams, Mr. Christopher, Mr. Dale Rabot – Voluntary Sports Development Coordinator.



Rugby

The under 18 rugby team did St Peters Rugby proud when won the All Island 7s Championship conducted at the Royal Complex.

The season proper has begun and of the two games played so far, the 1st match against Kingswood ended in a tie (14 all) and 2nd against Science was won (27 – 22).

The Rugby Foundation prepared the squad for the season by conducting an out bound session held on March 16th 2014 at Palm Village, Uswetakeiyawa, Hendala



It was a two day bonding session with a night included at a 4 Star resort property. Fr. Trevor Martin, addressed the team on focus, discipline and results. His presence was extremely important and much valued.



The highlight of the intervention was the motivational and mentoring session by former Peterite and top tier Rugby player of the Sri Lankan and UK rugby circuit, Chandrishan Perera. With his many years of experience in playing and coaching at the highest level, he motivated the young team towards unleashing their potential.

The event logistics and sponsorship was by Chanaka Goonewardene of the RF SPC along with OBU Past President, RF SPC.

Airtel Sponsorship Handover Event

Airtel for the third successive year has sponsored St Peter's Rugby in 2014. Rev Fr. Trevor Martin, Rector and Sports Coordinator Rev. Fr. Lakmin Silva were at hand to accept the sponsorship from the Leadership Team at Airtel.



Tennis

Based on the information received from the Coach, Mr. Dinith Pathiraja, tennis at St. Peter's continues to do well.

According to information given by him Master Isuru Wijeratne was selected to represent Sri Lanka in the Asian Junior Tennis Championships in Qatar where only the 10 best teams were selected to participate. Master S Innthujan was selected for the ITF/ATF Zone Gr II tennis championships in Bangkok, Thailand for 2014. (This is the 13th consecutive year that a Peterite has got selected for Junior SL teams, Under 14 or 16). This student was also selected for the World Junior tennis Pre Qualifying tournament Sri Lanka pool for 2014 in the under 14 category.

Master Nabeel Sabri was selected to represent the Sri Lanka Junior Davis cup team in the Asia/ Oceania Pre qualifying tournament in Kuching in the Under 16 category.



PETES AROUND THE GLOBE

Canada

The Josephian-Peterite Alumni Association (JPAA) conducted their AGM on 31st March and its current President, Upali Obeysekera was re-elected for a 2-year term starting March 31, 2014 until March 31, 2016.

We congratulate Upali on his reappointment and offer him our best wishes to continue the good work he has been doing.

USA – Washinton DC

The 3rd. Annual Peterite Golf Classic, organized by St. Peter's College Old Boys' Union of Washington, D.C. (SPCOBUWDC) is scheduled to tee-off at the Virginia Oaks Golf Club, Gainesville, Virginia on May 17th, 2014. Golfers of all skill levels will get an opportunity to, not only compete and enjoy a game of golf in fine Virginia weather, but also to '*Lend a Heart and Lend a Hand*' in two charitable causes.

The Committee reports

“The success of the inaugural Peterite Golf Classic (PGC) and the astounding support and participation of the international community in the Washington metropolitan area, made it possible for us to “*raise the bar*” at last year’s tournament as we boldly expanded our fund raising efforts. The PGC which is fast becoming a much anticipated annual event in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, attracts over 100 golfers to each tournament. The participation and generous sponsorships have enabled SPCOBUWDC to make notable contributions to four children related charities thus far.

Since 2012 the PGC charity golf tournaments have contributed over \$ 10,000 in total to the following children related charities - * Kennedy-Krieger Institute (KKI) Baltimore, Maryland, USA; * The new Pediatric Cancer Hospital Unit in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, * Establishing a Career Guidance Center and developing a Trust Fund at St. Peter's College, Colombo, Sri Lanka and * National Foundation for Facial reconstruction (NFFR) New York, USA.

The PGC 2014 will take place on Saturday, 17th May at Virginia Oak, Golf Club in Gainesville, USA, and will coincide with the peak of the golfing season. It is scheduled to feature 30 teams, consisting of four players each, engaging in 18-hole of exciting golf. Various challenge competitions for both ladies and gents will be featured at specific holes during the tournament, with a Nissan car and USD 100,000.00 offered to the Hole-In-One winners.”

Australia - Brisbane

Old Boys Club in Brisbane at their AGM held recently elected the following office bearers:

President - Herbert Tucker for a second term as President; Vice President - Stewart Schneider-Loos;
Secretary - Warren Loos for a second term; Treasurer - Shiran Seneviratne; Sports Secretary - Chanaka De

Silva; Membership Secretary - Don Abeysekera for a second term and Committee members - Suren Rodrigo & Warren Hamer

As in 2013 the Club sponsored a student for a scholarship in only its second year of existence from the proceeds of a dance. They have pledged to work closely with Fr. Rector & the OBU in Sri Lanka for endeavours that benefit College.

We congratulate the newly appointed committee and wish them all the best in their efforts to serve the branch.

Australia - Melbourn

A Seniors Christmas Lunch was held at the Oakleigh Hall on the 8th of December 2013 as a prelude to the Christmas season was a very pleasant social afternoon with much Christmas cheer and back-slapping in evidence with greeting of “*Nice to see you again machang*” being the catch phrase of the afternoon.

‘**Full Toss**’ organised by the young members of the club was a stag night in sync with mates in ‘Bamba’ to herald the big-match spirit. This was on the 28th of February.

This year the joint Joe-Pete organising committee is arranged a family oriented **Joe-Pete Cricket** match on 2nd ay March.

UK

The weather has settled, the sun is shining, the rain has gone to Spain, so we can get on with organising our events this year!!!.

With our dynamic group of 'new blood' Peterites, led by President - Shamila De Silva and Sports Secretaries - Cricket :- Ramesh Subasinghe (07804245796), Rugby/Football :- Mervyn Peter (07939050809), who are all eager to keep BLUE, WHITE AND GOLD, flying very high, this year. we are ready, willing and able to start off as follows:

June

01 - Sunday 0900 - S.L. Sports Fiesta (7 - a side and Junior Football, Soft Ball Cricket, Netball) at Ashford (Middlesex) Town F.C., Short Lane, Stanwell, TW19 7BH.

22 - Sunday 1800 - 26th Annual General Meeting of St. Peter's College, Colombo OBU, UK Br. at Rising Sun Hotel, 138 Greenford Road, Sudbury Hill, Harrow, HA1 3QL

29 - Sunday 0930 - S.L. Schools Touch Rugby Festival 6th Year at Staines RFC, Snakey Lane, Hanworth, TW13 7NB.

July

20 - Sunday 0900 - 26th Annual FESTIVAL OF CRICKET - at Merchant Taylors School grounds, Northwood, HA6 2HT. Nearest tube: MOOR PARK on Metropolitan line.

27 - Sunday 1200 - PETERITE/JOSEPHIAN ANNUAL CRICKET "BIG MATCH" at Winchmore Hill C.C. Grounds, London N21 3ER

August

17 - Sunday 1000 - SAINTS' QUADRANGULAR - Annual Cricket matches between:

St. Anthony's, St. Benedict's, St. Joseph's and St. Peter's.
at Winchmore Hill, London N21 3ER.

?? - Date to be fixed - Peterite/Benedictine Families day get-together !.
(Venue to be advised)

September

?? - Date to be fixed - FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL
at Winchmore Hill c.c. grounds, London N21 3ER.

Those able to play in any of the teams are requested contact the sports secretaries mentioned in the first paragraph of this message.

Fellowship will prevail during the day and follow into the night after all events! All Peterites, whether members of the UK OBU Branch or not, are welcome to join in the fun and contribute towards the festivities in whatever way they can..!!!.

The AGM

The next most important item in the OBU calendar is the AGM scheduled for Sunday, **29th June 2014** (the feast day of St. Peter and St. Paul). Await the official notification.

College Activities

Annual Prize Giving

The annual Prize Giving was held at the College Hall on 21st February. The Chief Guest, Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo was received at a colourful welcome ceremony. Rev. Fr. Ranjith Madurawala, General Manager of the Catholic private schools and Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel, former Rector and present Rector of St. Joseph's College were also in attendance.

The annual report was presented by the Rector, Rev. Fr. Trevor

The ceremony included prizes awarded to students of the Gampaha branch of the College, students who had qualified to receive special scholarships made available by Old Boys and well wishers and awards to teachers who had achieved 100% attendance.

The proceedings were interspersed with lively performances by the oriental and western choirs of the College and concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by the Head Prefect, Mas. Shahren Yatagama followed by the singing of the College and National Anthems.



FASTEST 1000 RUNS FOR SRI LANKA BY A PETERITE

(Extracted from the ESPN's Sports Media Section)



April 14, 2014

The finest of Sri Lanka's early years



Roy Dias: the fastest Sri Lankan to score 1000 Test runs © Getty Images

In recent articles I looked at the first great batsman from [India](#) and [Pakistan](#). After watching Sri Lanka's meritorious victory in the World T20 recently, I was motivated to continue this wander through the history of some of my favourite cricket-playing countries and move on to consider who was Sri Lanka's first great with the blade.

As I have noted previously, one of the difficulties in such an endeavour is trying to evaluate performances across eras and times, and particularly for players we may not have witnessed personally and for whom there is no available video footage to review. However, Sri Lanka are easier in this regard than either India or Pakistan, as they are a relatively recent introduction to the family of Test-playing nations.

I am using the same criteria as with the previous pieces in only considering batsmen who have played at Test level. Sri Lanka made their debut in 1982. This means that many undoubtedly very good players are not eligible. Batsmen such as [MK Albert](#), [LDS Gunasekera](#), Nihal Gurusinghe, [Frederick C de Saram](#), [Mahadevan Sathasivam](#), [Sargo Jayawickreme](#), [TCT Edward](#), [Mano Ponniah](#), [Stanley Jayasinghe](#), [Anura Tennekoon](#), [Sunil Wettimuny](#) and [Ievers Gunasekara](#) all have excellent reputations and are worth acknowledging for their performances for both Ceylon and Sri Lanka prior to their country becoming a Test nation.

Other players, including [Bandula Warnapura](#) (who captained Sri Lanka in their inaugural Test match), [Duleep Mendis](#) and [Sidath Wettimuny](#), likewise deserve recognition for their efforts in getting Sri Lanka to a point where they were admitted as a Test nation, and then for their performances in the team's early years of international competition.

However, my choice for Sri Lanka's first great batsman is [Roy Dias](#). He was, without question, a truly great batsman. As with many countries during their early years in Test cricket, Sri Lanka struggled with a lack of bowling strike power to

really threaten any of the established nations. However, the reliable presence of Dias in the top order ensured that their batting had a stability that most new teams take years to develop.

Roy was a classically correct strokemaker, capable of both attack and defence, depending upon the circumstances and, unlike many of his compatriots, equally comfortable against both pace and spin

Dias was born on October 18, 1952 in Colombo. His ball skills were apparent early, and he was lucky to have a number of Sri Lanka's best coaches assist him through his schooling. Carl Obeysekera, a former All-Ceylon cricketer, was a major influence during Dias' formative years. He provided him with his first coaching lessons, and contributed to his developing a classic technique that facilitated his ability to adapt to changing pitch conditions.

Dias left school (**St. Peter's College**)* in 1972 and was quickly picked up by the Colts Cricket Club in Colombo. He played for them for the next eight seasons, before moving to the Sinhalese Sports Club in 1980, and finally finishing his career with the Colombo Cricket Club in 1988. He was selected to make his formal international debut for Sri Lanka in the 1979 World Cup. On the back of strong batting performances by him, Mendis and Tennekoon, Sri Lanka had established themselves as the dominant side among the Associate nations. The highlight of Sri Lanka's then very short international career came in their third and final match, [against India](#). Sri Lanka won their first game, putting together a score of 238 for 5 on the back of half-centuries from Dias, Mendis and Sunil Wettimuny. In reply, India slumped to 191 all out. This victory was a pivotal moment in Sri Lanka's push to become a full-fledged Test nation. Following the intense lobbying of Australia's delegates, among others, Sri Lanka were finally admitted as a Test-playing nation in 1981.

Their inaugural Test match commenced on February 17, 1982 at the P Sara Oval. Dias' [first Test innings](#) was a disaster: he was dismissed for a duck, caught by Geoff Cook off Bob Willis. While Sri Lanka were dismissed for 218, they did well to limit England's response to just 223. However they could only manage 175 in their second innings, reaching the total predominantly due to Dias' magnificent 77, with only two other players managing to get double figures. It was not enough, though, and England won easily, by seven wickets.

Dias was quite old when he made his Test debut - nearly 30. However, his experience and skills were to prove of inestimable value to his nation. He was a classically correct strokemaker, capable of both attack and defence, depending upon the circumstances, and unlike many of his compatriots, equally comfortable against both pace and spin.

Sri Lanka quickly followed this one-off Test against England with a three-match tour of Pakistan. Dias just missed his first Test century in the second game, [in Faisalabad](#), scoring 98 before being caught off left-arm spinner Iqbal Qasim, with the game ending in a draw. In the third Test, [in Lahore](#), he managed to get triple figures and finished the series with [295 runs at 49.16](#), reinforcing his rating as the best batsman in the team.

He followed this with scores of 60 and 97 in the one-off Test against India [in Madras](#). At the conclusion of his career, Dias was to rate this 97 as the best innings he ever played. One of his opponents, Sunil Gavaskar, also considered the performance, on a wearing pitch against India's spinners, to be one of the best batting displays he ever saw.

Sri Lanka's next Test series was against New Zealand in 1984 and Dias was again in top form, making his second Test century [in Colombo](#) (108 out of 289) against an attack featuring Richard Hadlee and Ewen Chatfield. The following year he had his best Test series. He started disappointingly with scores of 4 and a duck in the [first Test](#) against India. However, Sri Lanka recorded their first victory when they beat them [at the P Sara](#) in the second match. Dias made 95 and 60 not and India were bowled out for 198, giving Sri Lanka a 149-run win. Dias scored his [third Test century](#) in the final game of the series, and finished with [273 runs](#) at 54.60.

Dias was one of a number of players discarded for both Test and one-day matches by the selectors following Sri Lanka's disappointing 1987 World Cup performances. While it was claimed that Sri Lanka were looking for new talent to take them forward, it was a sad end for a man who had done so much to make his nation competitive over the years since their admittance into international competition. Dias was over 35 by this time, but he still appeared to have much to offer in the five-day game, and it seems unfortunate that his Test-match place was lost largely on the back of poor limited-overs results.

His final Test batting average of 36.71 is perhaps not overly impressive when viewed in isolation, but it fails to capture his immense contribution to a young and inexperienced team. He is still the fastest Sri Lankan to 1000 Test runs, getting there in just 23 innings, which ranks in front of current players such as Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara.

His peers all rated him very highly. A measure of his standing in the game was demonstrated when Viv Richards was asked to name his World XI. He overlooked many of his own team-mates, such as Richie Richardson and Larry Gomes, to name Dias as his No. 3.

Following his early enforced retirement, Dias kept his links with cricket alive. He set up an academy for talented players in Colombo, and was one of the selectors who picked the 1996 World Cup-winning squad. He was appointed as Sri Lanka's coach after Bruce Yardley was sacked in 1998, and Sri Lanka had a very successful 15-month period under him, beating England comprehensively in a one-off Test at [The Oval](#) and also winning a series against New Zealand. However, Dias was sacked after Sri Lanka's poor performances in the 1999 World Cup.

From there, he was offered a position as coach of the Nepal national team, and he helped them take great strides. The Nepal Under-19 side were the Plate runners-up in the 2002 World Cup and won the Plate title in 2006, and Dias' efforts were recognised by King Gyanendra, who awarded him the Prabal Gorkha Dakshin Bahu (IV Class), an honour Dias described as being equivalent to a knighthood or OBE. Roy has also been an ICC match referee and subsequently coached the Oman and Malaysian teams since leaving Nepal.

Stuart Wark works at the University of New England as a research fellow

 Feeds: Stuart Wark

TRIVIA – PETERITE FIRSTS

Fife and Drum Band – The Peterite Fife and Drum band created by the late Fr. Arthur Nicholas Fernando in 1960 was the first ever such band for a school in Ceylon.

Carnival of carnivals – Fun-O-Rama held in 1960 during the rectorship of Fr. Arthur N Fernando, was another first for a carnival of that nature anywhere in Ceylon, leave alone in a school at that time. There was close circuit television in Ceylon for the first time at this carnival.

1st Walk - St. Peter's College pioneered the "Walks" for a cause by anyone in Sri Lanka, when the 1st ever Walk (titled Walkathon) was held in 1986.

Those aware of other firsts are kindly invited to send information to the Editor, OBU St. Peter's College, Colombo 4.

ADVERTORIAL SECTION

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