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SERVE

October 2024 Edition

The quarterly eNews Bulletin of the Old Royalists fraternity

Published by the **ORGACO** on behalf of the **Royal College Union (RCU)**



About Us

Old Royalist Groups Associations and Clubs Organizers (ORGACO) is a Statutory Committee of the Royal College Union (RCU) and acts as the conduit that **connects RCU affiliated groups**, associations and clubs and The Royal College. We serve and collaborate across borders. With the objective of solely and wholeheartedly serving The Royal College and the RCU, we endeavour to add value to our members and derive synergies to achieve the objectives set forth.

Given the diversity and the expansive global presence of our membership we always foster secularism, unity, camaraderie, and the passion to 'repay the debt we owe', as our core values.

We will work steadfastly and with all our might to achieve common goals that will nurture well rounded, value-centric citizenry; create a better place, for present and future Royalists; and will benefit broader communities.





Eligibility for ORGACO Membership:

Any Old Royalists Group, Association, Club, Society or Organisation that has been established and functions as a collective of Old Royalists is eligible to obtain membership of ORGACO.

Membership is subject to a joining fee and an annual renewal subscription.

For membership inquiries write to us at
orgaco@rcu.lk.

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Floreat !



ORGACO

Annual Get-Together celebrating giving back to College

After several years of pause due to the pandemic, the Old Royalists Groups Associations and Clubs Organisers (ORGACO) successfully hosted its much- anticipated annual get-together on the 7th of June at the SSC Members Lounge.

The event saw the participation of close to 100 attendees, including representatives from various Groups, Associations, and Clubs affiliated with the Royal College Union. The evening's highlight was a display of the many projects completed by the affiliated groups for the benefit of Royal College and the wider society. These projects were showcased on a giant LCD screen for everyone to see and appreciate the collective efforts.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Aruna Samarajeeva, Secretary of the Royal College Union.





Manju Ariyaratne, Deputy Chairman of ORGACO announced an exciting new initiative: a scheme to recognize the best-performing Groups, Associations, and Clubs starting in 2025. These groups will be honored at a gala awards ceremony next year.

After the brief formalities, the evening transitioned into a vibrant celebration with music, singing, and dancing. Attendees enjoyed a night of lively entertainment, with live music by a three-piece band led by Chandimal Fernando. A sumptuous dinner buffet was served, featuring live action stations. The evening's revelry continued until close to midnight, underscoring the strong bonds of camaraderie and fellowship among the attendees.





RCU Members' Night 2024:

An Evening to Remember

The RCU Members' Night was held in grand style on the 2nd of August 2024 at "Taprobane" in Colombo - 08, organized by the Membership Development & Services Committee. The event drew over 500 participants of all ages, making it a resounding success.

Billy Fernando and the band 2Forty2 provided live music, setting the tone for a lively evening that extended well past midnight. It was an unforgettable night filled with camaraderie, music, and celebration for all attendees.





Group of 2003 Renovates Junior Dental Clinic

The Group of 2003 successfully renovated the Junior Dental Clinic at Royal College, which was officially opened by the Principal of Royal College. The ceremony was attended by senior staff members, the Secretary of the Royal College Union, and other office bearers, along with the president and members of the Group of 2003.

This initiative reflects the group's continued dedication to enhancing the facilities at Royal College and supporting the wellbeing of its students.



LPMC

Scholarships:

Supporting the future of young Royalists

The Loyalty Pledge Management Committee (LPMC) held its annual scholarships award ceremony on the 28th of June 2024 at the RCU Skills Centre. The event was graced by distinguished guests, staff of Royal College, and members of the Royal College Union.

The Principal of Royal College, Mr. Thilak Waththuhewa, served as the Chief Guest, while the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Lakmal Kulasekara, Head & Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo. A total of 165 scholarships were awarded at the ceremony, with 151 students and 14 undergraduates of Royal College receiving financial assistance. Each scholar will receive a stipend of LKR 4,000 per month for the academic year 2024/25.

Special guests included former Secretary Mr. Kamal Abeysinghe and Mr. Nieranjan Mapitigama from the Royal College Old Boys' East Coast Foundation (RCOBECE). During the event, LPMC made a heartfelt tribute to its donors, whose generosity has been vital to the committee's work for over two decades. Acknowledging the continued support from old Royalist groups both in Sri Lanka and overseas, LPMC expressed confidence that these donors will continue to strengthen the Loyalty Pledge in the years to come.





EDEX Mid-Year Expo 2024: Empowering Sri Lanka's Youth

Celebrating over 20 years of empowering Sri Lanka's youth, the EDEX Education Exhibition and Careers Fair hosted its Mid-Year Expo from 6th to 8th September 2024 at the BMICH in Colombo. Building on the success of the main EDEX Expo held earlier this year, the Mid-Year Expo provided a wealth of opportunities for aspiring students and job seekers.

This year's event featured over 150 education stalls and 25 job fair stalls, showcasing prominent tertiary education institutions, vocational training centers, and skills development institutes,





alongside leading corporate entities. Attendees had access to a diverse range of options in higher education, training, employment, and entrepreneurship.

The Expo highlighted a variety of local and international higher education institutions, with representation from countries such as Australia, Japan, Canada, Malaysia, and Germany. The EDEX Mid-Year Expo 2024 received endorsements from key government bodies, including the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministries of Education, Higher Education, Sports & Youth Affairs, Labour and Foreign Employment, and Environment. Strategic partnerships with organizations like the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC) further emphasized the event's significance to industry stakeholders and employers.





RCU Sponsors **Teacher Training Programme**

The Royal College Union (RCU) sponsored an outbound Teacher Training Programme held over two days at the MAS Facility in Thulhiriya. This initiative reflects the RCU's commitment to investing in teacher training, ensuring that Royal College retains the best educators to provide quality education. By prioritizing professional development for teachers, the RCU aims to enhance the overall learning experience for students and uphold the school's esteemed reputation.

Colombo Leg of the Bradby Shield Encounter

The Colombo leg of the Bradby Shield Encounter was organized by the Rugby Matches Organizing Committee. In addition to the match, the committee also hosted a traditional team dinner for the players and officials from both schools, fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship between the teams.

This annual event not only highlights the competitive spirit of the schools but also strengthens the bonds among the players, coaches, and supporters.

The Committee also organized three additional rugby fixtures in Royal season calendar, including the traditional matches against S. Thomas' College for the Michael Gunaratne Trophy and St. Peter's College for the B.C. Angie Cup. Additionally, a league match against Kingswood College was held, with all fixtures taking place at the Royal College Sports Complex.





Group of 2010 Supports **Boxing**

The Royal College Group of 2010 generously donated Rs. 200,000 worth of boxing equipment to support the college's boxing program. This donation will provide students with essential gear for training and competition. The donation ceremony featured the participation of School Principal Mr. Thilak Waththuhewa, Senior Game Master Mr. Riyaz Aluher, Boxing Advisory Committee President General Jagath Jayasuriya, and representatives from the Group of 2010. This initiative exemplifies the continued dedication and generosity of the group's members.





Group of 2010 Cricket Tournament

In addition to their charitable efforts, the Group of 2010 marked a significant milestone by organizing their inaugural indoor cricket tournament, "Lancers Cricket Sixes." This event showcased the camaraderie and enthusiasm of its members, highlighting their talent and competitive spirit. With over 120 participants, the tournament fostered friendly rivalry and created unforgettable memories. The success of "Lancers Cricket Sixes" sets a positive precedent for future sporting events within the Royal College Group of 2010, strengthening the community and enhancing shared experiences among its members.







A Night to Remember:

Royal Gala Melbourne 2024

On the 7th of September 2024, old Royalists gathered at the Pullman Melbourne on the Park for another unforgettable Royal Gala. Hosted by the Royal College Old Boys in Australia Association, this 40th edition of the Royal Gala marked a highlight in a year filled with eight sporting and social events aimed at nurturing fellowship among Royalists.

This year, the association demonstrated its commitment to giving back to the Royal College community in Sri Lanka by doubling its contribution to the Royal College Retired Teachers Medical Fund. Additionally, they expanded their support for young Royalists by covering hostel fees for 15 more students, ensuring that financial hardships do not impede their education. Through these initiatives, the group continues to build on the Loyalty Pledge, having supported approximately 180 students to date. True to the spirit of their association, the Gala was not only a night of celebration but also a cornerstone of their fundraising efforts to sustain these ongoing initiatives. Attendees enjoyed an evening filled with camaraderie, entertainment, and the opportunity to contribute to the future of their alma mater.



REVIEW OF ROYAL RUGBY – 2024

by Graham Lawrence

Having lost just 6 seniors from 2023, Royal had the services of 22 players who had experienced game time at 1st XV level in the previous 2 years. He had also introduced 10 others at 7's games in the pre-season.

There were 8 coloursmen in the side including Skipper and fly-half/center Thivain Perera, 2nd rowers/joint-VC's Yehen Weerasooriya and Buwaneka Senanayake, prop Thineth Gamage, hooker/prop Afeef Faruk, 3rd rowers Yovindu Ethugala and Ayyash Shiyam and center/3rd rower Disas Pathirana. Returning to the side after missing the whole of 2023 through injury, were fly-half Idris Farouk and winger Fahad Nazar. The first 3 weeks of the season progress smoothly, with Royal securing 'try bonus' points in winning game 1 at home against Kingswood (60-5) and games 2 and 3 on the road; against Vidyarthi (25-10) and Zahira (34-7). The rosy picture begins to fade soon after. Week 4 is put on hold due to the unfortunate situation that the Sri Lanka Schools Referees Association has to face. More alarmingly, a training ground injury forces Royal to lose the services of a high performing front rower for the rest of the season.

In Week 5, Royal scores 20 points in twelve 2nd half minutes against Wesley and record a comeback win of 27-14 at Havelock Park, but they miss a try bonus point in the process. They are forced to replicate this performance a week later at the same venue, by scoring 21 points in twenty three 2nd half minutes against the Joes, winning 28-19. But this victory comes at a further cost as joint VC Weerasooriya is red carded in the game. He would thereby miss the crucial battle of the group's 2 unbeaten teams in the following week.

In the eagerly anticipated game at the Royal Sports Complex, Royal attempt to counter SPC's magnificent 4 try blast by scoring 19 2nd half points in the last 15 minutes, but it is 'too little too late' and Royal is defeated for the 1st time this season at 22-31. Royal get back to winning ways in week 8, as they travel to the Sugathadasa Stadium and beat Division 1 newcomers Thurstan by 97-16. They end the 1st round of the school's league in 2nd position of group 1A.

The 2nd round of the league sees Royal make another visit to Havelock Park and despite scoring 18 points in the 2nd half against Isipathana, Royal are unlucky to lose the game at 18-19. The 1st of 3 games against Trinity is the last of the 2nd round and played at the Stadium. Royal forge to a commanding 22-0 lead in even time and manage to fend off a fast finishing Trinity side, winning the game 22-19 and ending the league in 3rd position.

The 1st leg of the 78th Bradby Shield encounter is played at the complex and sees Royal in a decent 5 point 1st half lead. They only score 3 points in the 2nd half and face another heart breaking one point loss at 16-17. A similar story unfurls at Pallekelle in the 2nd leg, as Royal's healthy half time lead of 20-13 is squandered and disappointingly ends in a 23-25 loss at the final whistle.

In the 1st 8 games (which were mainly league games), Royal scored an average of 24.75 points in the 2nd half, but this dropped to a miserly 3.75 points in the last 4 games of the season. In the 3 games against Trinity, it was a shockingly low average of 2 points per game. Unsurprisingly, Royal lost the Bradby Shield after 10 years when they were unable to post more points in the 2nd half.

This was however corrected in the STC game, where Royal scored 9 points in the 2nd half and won 26-20 at the complex, the season ending with the retention of the Michael Guneratne trophy.

Multiple injuries during the course of the season and the need to develop a pool of players, saw Royal use 32 players over the 12 games. The biggest setback towards the crucial tail end of the season, was the unavailability of 3 high performing forwards through season ending injuries, one of them being a coloursman.

Royal's win % in 2023 was a healthy 80% (from 10 games), but it dropped to 67% in 2024. There was a slight shift in strategy this year as 58% of the 57 tries scored, came through the backs. In 2023, the forwards scored 59% of the 44 tries. There was a noticeable improvement in overall kicking efficiency from 53% to approximately 75% this year.

The writer is;

- Royal Rugby coloursman - 1983
- Royal Cricket coloursman - 1984
- Canon Lucien Jansz Memorial Prize winner - 1984





The Inauguration of **The Law Society** of Royal College and the Felicitation of **The Attorney General**

It was a memorable afternoon on the 11th September, 2024 as two unique and prestigious events took place at the Royal College Hall. The student members and office bearers of the Law Society of Royal College were installed at their inaugural meeting. This was indeed a significant milestone for the School, which has produced outstanding members of the Legal Fraternity, many who have reached the heights of their respective areas of work.

The recent appointment of old Royalist Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, President's Counsel, after a long and distinguished career in the Official Bar as the Attorney General of the Nation was a source of immense pride to the Royal fraternity. To celebrate the bestowing of this honour on Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe,



a felicitation ceremony was conducted by the Royal College Union (RCU) and the Royal College Lawyers' Association (RCLA). The Principal of Royal College, the Secretary of the RCU and the President of the RCLA addressed the gathering, which was well attended by distinguished members of the Old Royalist legal fraternity.

The Hon. Attorney General also addressed the gathering, fondly recollecting his memories of the School.

The much acclaimed Royal College Orchestra added lustre to the event with some impressive performances.



Group of '92 Supports Swimming Team

with New Kits

The Royal College Group of 92 proudly co-sponsored active wear and jerseys for the Royal College Swimming Team for the year 2024. The kits were presented to the Royal College swimming team during a special ceremony held at the college on the 8th of July 2024.

The jerseys, featuring the distinguished "Cavalry" brand associated with the Royal College Group of 92, symbolize the group's dedication to their Alma Mater.

The event was attended by staff members, officials from the Royal College Union Aquatic Club, the Secretary of the Royal College Group of 92, and other sponsors, celebrating a shared commitment to fostering sports excellence at Royal.





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GRANDEZA 2024

Organized by the Personality and Communication Skills Development programme of the RCU Loyalty Pledge Management Committee, this performing arts show took stage at the Navarangahala on August 29. With the Principal of Royal College, Mr. Thilak Waththuhewa, as Chief Guest, the event showcased the immense talent and enthusiasm of over 400 young Royalists in front of a packed audience.

This grand evening of performing arts featured a vibrant mix of songs, dances, and theatrical performances in various languages, promoting diversity and cultural pluralism in Sri Lanka. Highlights included captivating renditions of songs like “Shalalala,” “It’s My Life,” and “As Long as You Love Me,” alongside stand-up comedy, dramas, and action songs. The colorful costumes and striking lighting enhanced the experience, making the event truly unforgettable.

GRANDEZA was born out of the Loyalty Pledge’s Personality and Communication Skills Development programme, which aims to nurture leadership and personality among junior Royalists. Launched in January 2023, the event has evolved into a large-scale production, offering students the chance to showcase their talents to a wider audience. The dedication of Mrs. Sagari Tharanga Wijesundara, alongside the support of the staff and donors, has been instrumental in the success of GRANDEZA, empowering students to excel in the performing arts.



80th Anniversary Celebrations of RCOSA

The Royal College Old Scouts Association kicked off its 80th anniversary celebrations with a charitable event at Sri Jinananda Children's Home in Wellawatta on September 29, 2024. In the presence of the Royal College Principal, a medical camp and eye check-up were conducted for 60 children, with six found in need of spectacles. Donations included football boots for five children, as well as electrical equipment, stationery, and toys. The total value of the project surpassed Rs. 250,000. The celebrations will continue with an Achievers' Night and Fellowship Dinner scheduled for October 18, 2024.





Group of 2005 and LPMC sponsor Leadership Programme

The Group of 2005, in collaboration with the LPMC Sports Guild, organized the annual Leadership Development Training Program for Royal College Sports Captains and Vice Captains. The two-day residential program took place at the MAS Athina complex in Thulhiriya, with over 50 players participants representing various sports. The closing ceremony was graced by the Principal of Royal College, Mr. Thilak Waththuhewa, as the Chief Guest, alongside Assistant Principal and Senior Games Master, Mr. Riyaz Aluher.



Bradby Express 2024:

A Journey to Remember

15 years after its inaugural journey to Kandy, the Bradby Express was back on tracks in 2024. The project, organized by the group of 2007, was a resounding success - bringing together over 600 enthusiastic Royalists and their families as they traveled to Kandy to witness the much-anticipated second leg of the Bradby Shield. The special train journey symbolized not only our Royal spirit but also the strong sense of brotherhood that unites the college community.

The journey was filled with excitement, camaraderie, and nostalgia, as generations of Royalists came together to support the team. The project received overwhelming positive feedback from passengers, who praised the smooth organization, travel convenience and the vibrant atmosphere onboard. The Bradby Express 2024 has truly set a high standard for future Royal pilgrimages to watch the Kandy leg, further strengthening our cherished traditions.



Infrastructure projects that require Urgent Attention

The Infrastructure Management Committee of the Royal College Union (RCU) has been working diligently to address the infrastructure needs of the college. The committee has finalized the architectural drawings, Bill of Materials (BOBs), and costing for several infrastructure projects that require urgent attention. These projects are critical to maintaining the safety and functionality of the college's facilities and ensuring a conducive environment for learning. The RCU is now seeking the financial and logistical support of its affiliated groups, associations, and clubs in implementing these projects. The support of these groups is crucial in ensuring that the projects are completed on time and within budget. The RCU recognizes the important role that these groups play in the college community and is confident that they will rise to the occasion to support this vital initiative. The RCU requests the Groups, Associations, and Clubs affiliated to the RCU, both here and overseas, to volunteer their commitments via ORGACO, the coordinating body of the Groups, Associations, and Clubs affiliated to the RCU.

‘SERVE’ Quarterly News Bulletin

This newsletter is the relaunched eNews of the Royal College Union (RCU) and is being published by the ORGACO. We aim to connect all Royal alumni living and working across the world with news from the Royal College Union as well as what the old boys are up to in their respective groups, clubs, and associations. We are proud of our alumni and are humbled by the energy and effort all of us channel towards our alma mater, our home away from home. It is this synergy that binds us together. Advertising space is available in the ‘SERVE’ eNews Bulletin. It is circulated to all members of the Royal College Union (RCU) and have registered their email addresses with the RCU secretariat. Currently the database consists of +7,000 emails of members located across the world.

For advertising opportunities please contact us on orgaco@rcu.lk or call any of the office bearers of ORGACO.

ORGACO

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