

20 December 2007

**BGWS MEETING HELD IN OAK FARM COMMUNITY SCHOOL ON SUNDAY 16  
DECEMBER 2007 AT 1330 HOURS – RECORD OF DECISIONS**

Ser	Subject / Issues	Action
(a)	(b)	©
1	<p><b><u>Opening Remarks.</u></b> The Gen Sec thanked all present for their attendance. He informed everyone that the Vice Chairman's father had recently passed away hence his absence from the meeting. He requested members to forward their condolence message to him. He then briefly explained the incentive behind Project BGWS Hospital and why it was important to give something back to Nepal. Though a BGWS initiative but on behalf of all ex Gurkhas irrespective which organisation they belonged to or not.</p>	All
2	<p><b><u>Treasurer's Update.</u></b> The Treasurer gave our fund's current state. He reiterated that subscription for 2007 was long overdue and urged Area Reps to actively pursue collection. (<i>Payment can also be made during the Election Day on Sun 6 Jan 08</i>).</p>	All
3	<p><b><u>Election Update – Maj(Retd) Kulbahadur Thapa.</u></b> He informed everyone that he has received no additional nominations to the ones announced in the previous meeting. It was agreed that the dateline for nomination would be extended until 30 Dec 07. He also requested members to forward constructive proposals to him in line with our 'current' constitution. He also briefly covered the format of the Polling day to include selection of new Area Reps or reselection of current incumbents. The issue of Asst VC and Asst Gen Sec was raised in the previous Re-Selection Meeting. As this was not covered in our constitution, he sought the member's view and decision on this. Though some gave their views, the overall consensus was that the current set up was sufficient and efficient enough. (<i>Election Day - Sunday 6 January 2008 from 0900-1900 hrs, Oak Farm Com School, Farnborough</i>).</p>	All
4	<p><b><u>Chairman's Update:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Project BGWS Hospital.</u></b> He spoke on the importance of this project and that eventually when we meet our target of £10,000, the project would be registered as a Charity to include local dignitaries as Trustees. The idea is to raise money and hopefully build a reputable hospital in Nepal for the benefit of all ex servicemen, their dependants and the poor in Nepal. The current collection stands at £4000 + (list of donors can be found in <a href="http://www.bgws.info">www.bgws.info</a>).</p> <p><b><u>Website.</u></b> He acknowledged that major improvement is needed to revamp our website. He informed everyone that our Webmaster is negotiating on this subject.</p> <p><b><u>Community Relation/Volunteers.</u></b> Being a member of the Governing body of Oak Farm Community School, he encouraged others to take on similar role in their local schools. This voluntary appointment assists schools with a better understanding of our cultural backgrounds, POC in case of troubles with Nepali children and importantly for the children to look up to for any help they may require.</p> <p><b><u>Radio Update.</u></b> He was pleased to say that the Rushmoor Council will push our case for a Community licence with the appropriate authority with their full blessing.</p> <p><b><u>Pension /GOTT.</u></b> He said that the package offered was totally unfair. To now openly declare that our service prior to 1 Jul 97 is considered as '<b>Overseas based Army</b>' is ridiculous; more outrageous is that our full actual service rendered would not be considered for monetary purpose should one opt for AFPS 75! He also claim that Pre Jul 97 wallas should also be included in this scheme.</p>	All

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	<p><i>Continued from Ser 4 above</i></p> <p><b><i>By excluding them, the scheme has created an unwanted division between Pre &amp; Post 97 wallas.</i></b> With the injustice shown once again by MOD, it was unanimously agreed by all that the <b><i>LEGAL</i></b> route was the best option to seek justice for all Gurkhas</p> <p><u>Gurkha Pensions Offer to Transfer Election Form.</u> He advised members to sign the form, enclosed with GOTT package, to meet the deadline set by MOD. But a paragraph will be added to the form. The modified form which will be available for all on Sun 6 Jan 08 from 0900-1900 hrs in Oak Farm Com School, Farnborough. All are requested to attend the election and also sign the form. The Head Office will then forward the consolidated forms to GOTT Service Centre.</p> <p><u>Consent from non members.</u> Ex Gurkhas who are happy with BGWS's initiative can show their support by completing the consent form which will be available on Sunday 6 Jan 08. They do not have to apply for membership but merely agreeing to the steps BGWS is taking to achieve equal rights. The modified election form (GOTT) will also be available for them if they so wish to do so. While they are encouraged to use the form to represent a single voice, please note that this option must be made in person on 6 Jan 08.</p> <p><u>The Royal British Legion (RBL).</u> He explained that RBL in the past have not been actively involved with Gurkha issues however after a meeting with a senior RBL Rep from London, assurance have been given that RBL will henceforth fully support Gurkhas' campaign for equal treatment and a liaison between the two organisation has now been formed..</p> <p><u>Nepali Community.</u> He clarified that BGWS is open for all walks of life and not just ex Gurkhas. He reiterated that we have many British and Nepali civilians who have signed up as Honorary Members. They will only be required to pay £20 annually instead of the norm £60.00. It would be unfair to charge them the full rate as most of the current issues dealt with are related to service grievances.</p> <p><u>Non Resident Nepali.</u> While we remain a force to be reckoned with, it seems we are ignored in being kept informed of all activities. Additionally we stand a stronger ground for dual nationality. This must be taken seriously into account by the NRN community for all future activities.</p> <p><u>Refusal of ILE.</u> He reiterated that the appeal on our lead case for ILE placed in Nepal has now reached the third stage of hearing. The Asylum and Tribunal (AIT) has still not given us a hearing date. The Chairman is chasing this up with the relevant authorities.</p> <p><u>Benevolent Welfare Aid.</u> The Chairman on behalf of all members kindly gave a cheque for £2,000 to Mr Chhabilal Thapa who recently lost his beloved wife. Mr Chhabilal Thapa then gave a short speech thanking the Society and members for all their support during this difficult time. The Chairman thanks all the members for their kind support in his hour of need.</p> <p><u>Our children.</u> He was concerned with the number of occasions he has been called upon by local authorities to assist with troubles involving our children. He stressed that the vast cultural differences was the key element to all the troubles. He pointed out that parents must educate their children and give importance of integration within the local community and not just Nepali. Our children must learn to co-exist and live in harmony with the rest of the community. To that extent various joint exercises in liaison with the Council, Police and other agencies are in process.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>

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	<p><u>Continued from Ser 4 above.</u></p> <p><u>NRN Rep.</u> Capt(retd) Hitman Grg MBE briefed everyone on the recent NRN Global Conference which took place in Kathmandu and also explained the definition of NRN. He followed that with a Property update. He highlighted that the property was an example to all Nepali organisations across the globe and envied by all. He asked members to refrain from withdrawing their investments. He said that the Annual Property Meeting will be held sometime post April 2008 and expect all investors to attend.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>The following comments were received from the floor:</p> <p>a. <u>Pension</u> - Legally challenge MOD for discriminative treatment. Invite non members to support our campaign albeit by giving their consent in writing on Sunday 6 Jan 08.</p> <p>b. <u>Dual Nationality</u> - It may become necessary to launch a separate campaign as ex Gurkhas. Lack of feedback from NRN (UK). Note: not a single meeting held since last election.</p> <hr/> <p>There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1545 hrs.</p>	All

[Original Signed]  
CHHATRA BAHADUR RAI  
General Secretary