

15 October 2007

BGWS CRUCIAL MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 IN OAK FARM COMMUNITY SCHOOL AT 1200 HOURS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

Ser	Subject / Issues	Action
(a)	(b)	©
1	<p><u>Opening Remarks.</u> The Gen Sec opened the meeting at 1200 hrs thanking all those in attendance. He stated that it was crucial to understand that members use the meeting to put forward any form of grievance(s) they may have about the Society and its activities. He reiterated that this was our Society and we should deal with any misunderstandings amongst ourselves.</p>	All
2	<p><u>Treasurer's Update.</u> The Treasurer gave his update on our fund's current state. He stated that subscriptions for 2007 was long overdue and requested that members forward their payment to the Head Office asap.</p> <p><u>Direct debit/Standing Order - Subscription.</u> Those who wish to opt for this method of payment are to consult the Treasurer first prior to making an arrangement with their bank.</p>	All
3	<p><u>Radio Update.</u> The Media Director began by thanking our ladies who volunteered prior and up to the 28 days trial period. He then explained the difference between a Commercial and Community radio licence; the former not viable due to the heavy costs involved hence BGWS Radio has applied for a Community licence. He envisaged that he will be in a better position to confirm our bid's progress by April 2008. In the meantime, the possibility of launching our radio via the internet over the Dashain and Tihar period is being looked at. He thanked our ladies for their excellent work during the 28 days trial period and hoped it will continue as and when required. He also pointed out that once our Radio was launched, we will need to hire permanent staff and pay them monthly salary etc. He also assured everyone that income to a certain degree will be generated through advertisement charges. Currently, our volunteers have recorded nearly 6,000 songs from CDs with the current target of 20,000 songs.</p>	All
4	<p><u>Chairman's Update:</u> He also followed up by thanking our ladies for their sterling voluntary work for our radio station. He also cleared that CDs purchased from Nepal are funded through our office in Kathmandu. Whilst he sincerely thanked everyone present, he reluctantly asked if there is still a need for existence of BGWS. He felt that on evidence of poor subscription payment and lack of interest shown by our members he reluctantly questioned the floor if there was any need to existence of BGWS. Perhaps, he said that this could be because of his leadership or his position as Chairman. And if need be and for the betterment of the Society, he is more than willing to step down and remain as an advisor. He also mentioned Prashant Tamang not only winning the Indian Idol competition but praised the unity shown by all Nepalese scattered across the universe.</p> <p><u>Folkestone BBQ.</u> He thanked Nabin Siwa sahib and all his area members for kindly inviting the Chairman and a few committee staff and their families to their annual BBQ. It was great fun and lovely to see such a close knit family.</p> <p>Litigation against the MOD. The Mr Prakash Grg (PR Rep) read out the translated version of the letter forwarded to the Society by the Hamilton Solicitors. Though it was not the response we were hoping for, the Chairman gave assurance that he will be looking for other solicitors who may take up the challenge on our behalf.</p>	All

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	<p><i>Continued from Ser 4 above</i></p> <p><u>Office Staff.</u> He explained the fact that the office staff de facto could not be classified as pure office staff hired by BGWS in the true sense. It was the Chairman's responsibility to cater for all immigration applications and in order to meet this requirement a fee had to be levied to pay for clerical assistance, stationery, etc. The salary paid to the staff therefore come from this fund. To simplify when the new committee takes over the responsibility to run the office and man the staff will be decided by the committee. With the decline in applications etc, the salary will be paid by subscriptions. Once this is in place however employed by BGWS can be classified as office staff. For the current staff the sterling work they have provided selflessly, it is only fair to give them a three months notice before a decision to cut down staff is made. It is then the committee responsibility to employ the person they select.</p> <p><u>GOTTs Package.</u> Still to date, we have not received a response for HQ BG to our request for a roadshow similarly organised to our Brigade Units. He cautioned everybody to wait out until the roadshow at least before making any formal decision.</p> <p><u>19% Pension Increase</u> He clarified that this increase in pension conforms with the announcement made by Indian Pay Commission for its Armed Forces and is backdated to January 2006.</p> <p><u>Action Against Ministry of Defence (MOD).</u> He stated that our Solicitors have briefed him that that the Government has justification for selecting the 1 July 1997 date. Although the reasons are far from satisfactory to us it will be unlikely to be beneficial to us should we wish to take further action on this. The Chairman gave assurance that he will not let it lie down and will do what he can to take this to a Judicial Hearing.</p> <p><u>Refusal of ILE.</u> He stated that the appeal case for one of our member whose ILE in Nepal was refused is currently on its 3rd hearing. The Asylum and Tribunal (AIT) has yet to confirm the hearing date.</p> <p><u>Change of Area Rep (AR).</u> Mr Ajitkumar Rai owing to changes in his personal circumstances, wishes to handover the responsibility to Mr Ratna Thapa as the new Area Rep Essex. The Chairman thanked him for all his hardwork especially his initiative to capture the BGWS's magic moments on CD. Mr Ratna Thapa was welcomed as the new AR and he wished him well on his new appointment.</p> <p><u>Donation.</u> The Chairman also thanked Mr Ombahadur Thapa (M/No:137) for kindly donating a working desk to the Society which is placed in the Chairman's office.</p> <p><u>Re-Selection of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Gen Sec & Treasurer.</u> The Gen Sec read out the names of nominations received from Area Reps. The Chairman then asked for volunteers to form an independent committee to run the election day. The following volunteered: Maj(Retd) Kulbdr Thapa, Lt(Retd) Muktijang Grg, WO1(Retd) Yubaraj Rai, Mr Kumar Grg, Mr Uttarbdr Grg, Mr Ratna Thapa, Mr Bhaktabdr Grg, Mr Mimbdr Purja, Mr Shobh Grg, Mr Shivakmr Rai, Mr Omendra Grg, Mr Dilipkmr Rai, Mr Gajbir Thapa, Mr Krishna Rai, Mr Tharka Sen, Mr Gopi Grg The Election Day will be announced by the above in due course.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
5	<p><u>Vice-Chairman's Update</u> He cautioned everyone to think twice before committing to GOTTs package. He said that it was crucial to have a 'united response' and to get in touch with the head office if need any advice.</p> <p><u>Capt(Retd) Lokbdr Grg, Branch Leader BGWS Kathmandu.</u> He covered the importance of integration within the local community. He also spoke on safeguarding one's culture and traditions of own 'Jat'. However, he also emphasised that one must be able to integrate within the Nepali community as well and being ex Gurkha soldiers, must try and live as a Gurkha.</p>	<p>All</p>

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	<p><i>Continued from Ser 5 above</i></p> <p>Property Update. With the Property Director being away, Mr Jumkaji Grg (Prop Sec) spoke briefly to cover the current burning issues such as members wishing to withdraw their investments. He also reminded that members should take note that investment should be looked at as ‘temporary loan without interest’ to the Society. Valuation and interest will only be considered if the unthinkable happens ie BGWS being dissolved but until then, investments would be returned pound for pound without interest. He also mentioned that there will be a Property Meeting taking place in December 2007. Investors are asked that they attend this meeting. The main core of the meeting will be to discuss how best to deal with investors wishing to withdraw their investments.</p> <p>Donation of Property Investments. The following members have agreed to donate their investments to their Society: Mr Hiranya Rai – M/No: 165 / £1,000 Mr Rabin Shrestha – M/No: 210 / £1,000 Mr Dachhebdar Grg – M/No: 249 / £1,000 Mr Ramesh Tamang – M/No: 366 / £500 <i>(Afternote: The Chairman on behalf of all members thanked them for their kind generosity).</i></p>	All
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Tihar. As before will be celebrated in Gurkha Bhawan. It was agreed that that the following will run the ‘Tiripasha’ and ‘Dice’: Mr Kumar Grg – ‘Tiripasha’ Mr Jiwan Phago – ‘Dice’ With a lot of members now showing keen interest to run Tihar, it was agreed that the next year’s Tihar will be granted on tender basis. Members are to take note and put forward their tender in good time.</p> <p>Messing. The Gen Sec stated that messing cooked using wood for fire must cease with immediate effect. This was due to numerous complaints received by the Rushmoor Council from our immediate neighbors over smoke pollution. Members who book Gurkha Bhawan for their private functions are to use the kitchen for their cooking.</p>	All
7	There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1515 hrs.	

[Original Signed]
CHHATRA BAHADUR RAI
General Secretary