

## SUMMARY OF THE PAPER ON:

### “PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> QUEEN ELIZABETH’S OWN GURKHA RIFLES REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION”

#### Background.

1. Members will recall that, at the 6GR Regimental Association (6GRRRA) AGM on 10 Jul 17, attendees were briefed about the paper (the “Paper”) under preparation on the future of our Regimental Association. The aim of the Paper was to propose options for the future of 6GRRRA and the Regimental Trust (6GRRT).
2. The point was made that:
  - a. The opportunity has been taken to cover the history of the Association and the various Trusts in the Paper.
  - b. Nothing will happen in the near future, nor could we put a time frame on any significant changes. The paper would, in effect, be a living will.
  - c. Nothing will be done without full consultation.
  - d. The dispersal of our Trust funds would be addressed, against existing objectives and within Charity Commission rules, to possible beneficiaries.
  - e. The Gurkha Brigade Association (GBA) would be asked to formalise how the current antecedent regimental associations could be “homed”, bearing in mind the financial responsibilities GBA might inherit and the considerable trust funds that the associations might be dispersing.
3. The final draft of the Paper was endorsed out of committee by Members of the 6GRRRA Committee and the Trustees of the 6GRRT by 9 Feb 18, subject to some minor changes. The final Paper (6GR/5 dated 22 Apr 18) was issued to Committee Members and Trustees. (JA email of 2107hrs 25 Apr 18).

#### Summary of the Paper.

4. In 1994 6<sup>th</sup> Queen Elizabeth’s Own Gurkha Rifles became part of the Royal Gurkha Rifles, who are now our lineal descendant, carrying forwards our traditions, battle honours and ethos. They are also the custodian, together with the Gurkha Museum (GM), of our Regimental property. (Para 1).
5. However 6GRRRA provides a forum for members of the Regiment to keep in touch, organises events in both the UK and Nepal, produces an annual Journal, arranges attendance at Brigade events, and ensures that the Regiment is represented at special events when appropriate. The 6GRRT supports financially our overseas

branches and, perhaps more importantly, our Gurkha charities. But both have a finite life. The number of active members is declining, recruiting new office holders is increasingly difficult and support for the more traditional activities is waning: there is conjecture over the future viability of the 6GRRRA and the dispersal of 6GRRT funds. (These problems affect all four antecedent regiments. The GBA Constitution makes provision for membership of any disbanded Association members). (Paras 2 - 4).

6. The Paper examines the history, background and current arrangements and activities of the Association and Trust, lists the past and current objectives, and suggests possible reasons for declining support. (Over the past three years only 8% of the members are actively involved – about 30). (Paras 7 - 18).
7. Accepting that the Association cannot continue indefinitely in its present form, options for the future are considered, including being ‘homed’ within either the GBA or the RGR Association. The Paper makes clear that nothing will happen in the immediate future or without consultation and agreement of full members: that both Association and Trust will close together, and that dispersal of Trust funds must be in accordance with our objectives and Charity Commission rules. (Paras 19 - 25).
8. A simple proposal is made:
  - a. That 6GRRRA closes at a date to be determined and that membership is absorbed into the GBA, although certain events would continue. Closure will probably happen when there are insufficient members to staff the Association and Trust. (Paras 26 - 28).
  - b. That the relationship between closing Associations and GBA needs to be clarified to ensure representation at events, information flow, etc. (Para 29).
  - c. That at about the same time the Trust closes and disburses all funds to, for example, the GWT, the GM, the Gurkha Museum Pokhara, 6GRRRA (Nepal), RGR, GBA and the UK All Ranks Reunion (Paras 30 - 32).
9. The Summary of the Paper notes that these are simply proposals. Final decisions will have to be made by 6GRRRA Committee officers and 6GRRT Trustees at the time and voted on by the membership as per 6GRRRA rules. (Para 32).

Availability of the full Paper on “Proposals for the future of the 6<sup>th</sup> Queen Elizabeth’s Own Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association” dated 22 Apr 18.

10. The full paper – all 16 pages - will be posted in the Members Area of the 6GRRRA website within two weeks of this summary being issued.

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6GR/6a  
16 Aug 18