

NOTES FROM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF 6 GR ASSOCIATION

Held at the Oriental Club - 10 Nov 23

Present:

Lt Col Duncan Briggs (Chairman)
Capt Anne Griffith (via zoom)
Maj Khusiman Gurung (via zoom)
Maj Rick Bevan (via zoom)
Capt James Herbert
Capt Gary Ghale
Capt David Hitchcock
Maj David Bredin JP (Regt Sec)

In attendance:

Brig John Anderson OBE (President)
Lt Col Brian O'Bree (Archive)
Maj Manikumar Rai MBE DL (GBA Sec) (via zoom)

References:

- A. Proposals for the Future of 6 GRRA dated 6/2/18
- B. Proposals for the Future of 6 GRRA dated 22/4/18
- C. Proposals for the Future of 6 GRRA - the next step dated 9/9/23
- D. Proposals for the Future of 6 GRRA - the next step dated 19/10/23
- E. Annex A to Proposals for the Future of 6 GRRA (Welfare) - the next step dated 19/10/23
- F. Annex B to Proposals for the Future of 6 GRRA (Mechanics) - the next step dated 19/10/23

1. Proposal: Given the background and the current situation, it was accepted by all to take action to adopt an 'Association Light' (AL) version of the Association with a lesser role for the Regtl Sec (6 GR Sec) with GBA taking on more responsibility. However, it was noted that even with an AL version, without replacements for both Chairman and Sec, the Association would have to CLOSE.
2. GBA Membership:
 - a. Full members of 6 GR Association are automatically FULL members of the GB Association (GBA). No subscriptions will be required.
 - b. Associate and Honorary members of 6 GR Association may, if they wish become HONORARY members of the GBA. No subscriptions will be required.
 - c. Associate and Honorary members of 6 GR Association who are widows/widowers of Full Members or have close ties of kinship or by association, may apply to the GBA Sec through the 6 GR Sec for FULL membership of the GBA (two full 6GRRA members must propose)
 - d. Once AL adopted GBA will set up a "Distribution List" for each RA. Events/notifications will be sent to everyone on the list.
 - e. On adoption of AL, GBA Sec and GBA Comms Offer would 'own' and manage the 6GRRA updated membership directory following the action taken at para 2.a-c. above. 6 GR Sec will notify GBA of amendments to this list (eg deaths, change of details etc) which will be changed by GBA Comms Offer.
3. 6GRRA membership list: Once the updated list is made available to GBA this will become the 'Master' managed by GBA with updates sent by the 6 GR Sec. Communication from then will be carried out by e-mail/electronic means. Those who do not have an e-mail or who opt out of electronic communication should nominate either another member or even a relative with an e-mail to act as the point of contact.
4. Association Journal: everyone agreed that this was a very important offer to the membership - particularly those without electronic means of communicating. It was agreed that:
 - a. 2024 would be a 'bumper' and LAST printed (hard copy) version of the Journal - themed as "the 30 years since disbandment/amalgamation in 1994"
 - b. From 2025 to (approx) 2030 the Journal, would be issued in electronic form and include articles and family news. The services of our graphic designer would still be required in

this case at a cost of around £1200 pa and funds to cover this would be set aside by the Trust in the form of a grant (see para 12.b.below).

- c. Up to (approx 2030) the Journal would be issued ONCE per year.
 - d. From 2030 the creation of a Journal would be revisited by the Editors and 6 GR Sec with an option to abandon the issue of a separate 'Journal' and for a 6 GR section to be included in a GBA publication such as the "Kukri".
 - e. David Hitchcock and Anne Griffith have volunteered to continue as Editor and Families Editor respectively until approx 2030 (see para 4.d. above).
 - f. Funding for the 2024 Journal would be funded in the current format via a restricted grant from 6GRRRA Trust.
 - g. It is hoped that Funding of the 2025 Journal onwards would be via a restricted grant from GBAT (see para 4.b. above and 12.b. below).
5. Subscriptions: As from 1 Oct 2025 subscriptions should be cancelled. All members would be contacted in 2024 and asked to arrange this with their banks. To account for the inevitable delayed action by some, the Trust No 2 account may have to remain open until at least 2026.
6. Association Website: everyone agreed that the website is infrequently accessed by the membership - the Directory even less. It was proposed to have the Website "absorbed" into the GBA website and managed by the GBA Comms Offr (Mick Latter) with a focus on three areas:
- a. 'Fixed' - Historical 'stuff' for general public access
 - b. 'Live' - events, articles etc
 - c. Membership Directory - password protected for those who want it
- The costs incl the Domain name (although paid for next 5 years) will become the responsibility of GBA.
7. Archive Project: The collation phase continues and is closely linked to the Gurkha Museum (GM). It was suggested that this project to remain somewhat independent of other activities and funded by Trust until completion. Support from others required in particular to 'write up' the last few years (since 1982) of the Regiment's history. See also para 13.c.below.
8. 6GR Regimental Association Events: On adoption of AL set against the current activities anticipated future events would be as follows:
- a. **Annual Remembrance Service and Reunion** (normally November): to continue at Winchester Cathedral and GM. Lunch would be self-funding with a cash bar. It was proposed that the donation to Cathedral, payment for the Piper and wreath might come from a restricted grant from the Trust to cover the period up to 2030 (see para 12.b. below).
 - b. **Annual General Meeting**: currently required by Rules. On adoption of AL no longer required. The last AGM being probably November 2025.
 - c. **Committee Meetings**: currently required by Rules. On adoption of AL no longer required. The last Committee mtg being Mar/Apr 2025. The 6 GR Sec may occasionally call for discussions among officers (see para 10. below) and others when the need arises.
 - d. **2nd "Lunch" at Museum** (less Service and Piper) - see Director of the GM remarks at Trust meeting of 26/10/23.
9. 6GR Regimental Events:
- a. **All Ranks Reunion (6GR Bhela) Farnborough**: Maj Khusiman volunteered to continue to coord this for the foreseeable future - costs covered by self-funding (cash at door) with a restricted grant from the Trust. This restricted grant would continue until the Trust closure, after which a Trust restricted grant would be made to cover a further 5 years (via the GBAT if possible). All efforts to be made to encourage more BOs to attend.
 - b. **Cuttack Lunch Club**: currently run (Coord) by Alex Shaw with input from Regtl Sec - to continue self-funding using the Trust No 2 ac as a conduit, but on adoption of AL, accounting to be resolved.
 - c. **6GR Shoot and Dinner**: currently run (coord) by Jeremy Brade. Self-funding to continue as now.
 - d. **Others**: there may be events such as battlefield tours to be coord/org by a volunteer

10. Officers of the Reduced Association: There are no 'Officers' of AL save:
- The 6 GR Sec (Regtl Sec)
 - The Journal Editor
 - The Families Editor
- The 6 GR Sec may seek advice and call for discussions between the Officers, Volunteers and others when the need arises.
11. Role of the Regtl Sec/6 GR Sec: This should be, as the only administrative officer, as far as possible loaded as lightly as possible to make it both fulfilling and enjoyable and should not require the administration of accounts. This would also encourage others to volunteer for the role in the future. The 6 GR Sec will be the single POC between the 6 GR members and GBA.
12. Accounts: there is much to resolve here and is currently under discussion.
- a. The existing No 2 account, which is part of the Trust, would continue to support the Association activities eg Journal, Wreaths, Pipers, Cathedral, Hire of rooms etc until AL is adopted.
 - b. On adoption of AL, it is hoped that a GBA Sub Account could be created and managed by GBA similar to that which is in place for 4GR; funded for up to 5 years from 2025 by the Trust as a restricted grant, to be used for payments identified at para 8.a. and 9.a. above. This option/solution has yet to be confirmed by GBA Sec who has agreed to follow this up for confirmation. Should this prove possible it would be a good solution. If this is not possible it will create a significant problem as we need to avoid the 6 GR Sec having to run an account.
 - c. As from 1 Oct 25 there would be NO subscriptions.
13. Regimental Trust: It was generally agreed that the The Association would recommend to the Trustees that the Trust would close after it had fulfilled certain obligations:
- a. To support the Association as is currently the case until AL comes into being.
 - b. On adoption of AL (possibly November 2025) to provide restricted grants (hopefully via a GBA sub ac) to support:
 - (1) AL as shown at para 12.b. above.
 - (2) 6 GR Bhela (Farnborough)
 - (3) The Archive project (the Trust may have to remain open until this is complete.)
 - c. The Trust will have to remain open for delayed 'subs' that continue to be paid into the No 2 Ac - probably for 12 months after 1 Oct 25 after which subs will not be required.
14. Rules of the Association: There was insufficient time for this matter to be resolved. However, this will have to be addressed as to their amendment or if they are dispensed with entirely.
15. Way Forward: The way forward was not formally minuted, but in informal discussion it was agreed that a summary of the Meeting should be circulated to all Full Members and tabled at the next AGM and that a Sub Committee be formed to formulate the detailed manner in which AL will be adopted.

16 Nov 23

David Bredin
Regtl Sec
6 GRRA