

Nigel's Tribute

1) Letters of Condolence

Before speaking about Richard, as our father, Mum has asked me to specifically thank everyone for joining us here today to celebrate Dad's extraordinary life. We feel very fortunate and grateful to have so many wonderful friends here to share the memories and adventures of his life. Many of you here together with many others scattered around the UK and the four corners of the globe have written wonderful letters of condolence which have given us great strength and warmth over the past 2 difficult months...

They have brought back so many happy memories and brought to light quite what an inspiration Richard was to so many.... and above all, it is very clear that friends and family alike had immense respect for Richard's enthusiasm for life and his ability to look at everything as a positive opportunity, relishing any challenge...

One of the first letters we received from old friends recalled Richard's unfailing energy, his lively interest in everything about him, his enormous sense of fun and always his genuine kindness. They also referred to his great courage in the final stage of his life. These sentiments were repeated in many of the letters we received.

2) Gurkhas

Between school and university, Richard – or Tuan Basar, as we knew him (Tuan Basar meaning Big Boss in Malaysian) - was called up for National Service. He was first commissioned with distinction into the Royal Marines where he was selected to train commandos at Lympstone; but Richard did not join the forces to remain in Britain. As all of you who knew him will acknowledge, Richard was a man with burning passion and a sparkle in his eye. I can only imagine the look on his superiors faces when he told them that he wished to see the world and had applied for a transfer into the 2nd 6th Gurkhas. He completed this National service under fire, fighting the guerrillas during the Malayan Emergency based in Ipoh; service for which he was later decorated. He completed his

time with the Gurkhas as an acting Captain... quite an accolade for a 20 year old with only 2 years of service.

His service had a profound effect on the rest of his life and only added to his thirst for adventure and desire to see the world. He carried the experience and the friendships he fostered through his service with him through out his life. He was very fond of his fellow officers and the Gurkhas soldiers he shared his time with in the jungle. One fellow officer he is still very much in touch with is Patrick Robeson, who is here today with his wife Sheila.

The Gurkha soldier, a Hillman from Nepal, is widely heralded as a fierce and brave man. I am not here to make a hero of Richard... although as his son, he will always be... but there are some obvious similarities to be drawn between Richard and his fellow Gurkha soldiers.

There is always much laughter around the Gurkha camp. Richard was no different... he had an infectious laugh which is why he fitted in so readily with his men.

The Gurkha soldier is a man of honour and great loyalty. Richard's dedication to his family and his 40 years service at CDC speaks volumes.

Tradition runs strong in the Nepalese blood. Richard was never afraid of change but loved to honour tradition and to do things in style.

What the Gurkha soldier lacks in height he gains in stature and respect. Through out Richard's service he was referred endearingly by his men as "Gurkha Size Sahib". He towered over his fellow Nepalese soldiers by at least one or two inches.

I will now pass on to Justin who will reflect a little more on his qualities, and his passion for life, adventure and his family.