

# The Ghar Parau Foundation - Constitution

## 1 Definition and Objects

1.1 The Foundation shall be called "The Ghar Parau Foundation", and shall be a charitable trust administered by, and under the general guidance of the British Cave Research Association (the BCRA).

1.2 The main objective of the Foundation shall be to give financial support to speleological expeditions organised in the United Kingdom, to carry out exploration and/or scientific research abroad.

1.3 In addition the Foundation may provide independent assessment for the distribution of grants on behalf of other organisations.

## 2 Capital Fund, Grants and Donations

2.1 The Foundation shall maintain a capital fund which shall consist of all its assets on formation on 1st January 1975, together with all subsequent income from whatever source. The Foundation shall be empowered to ask any person or body to make donations to the capital fund

2.2 The capital fund shall be invested only in such investments as are authorised by the Trustee Act 1961, as the trustees shall from time to time decide.

2.3 The capital of the capital fund shall not be used for any other purpose other than investments, as specified in clause 2.2.

2.4 The foundation may administer the distribution of grants on behalf of other bodies, and/or from government sources.

2.5 An audited account shall be published each year, and shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the BCRA.

## 3 Administration

3.1 The funds and day to day running of the Foundation shall be administered by four trustees, who shall be elected by the council of the BCRA. One trustee shall act as the Secretary/Treasurer.

3.2 The trustees shall be elected for life, or until they opt to retire.

3.3 The day to day expense and running costs of the Foundation shall be the responsibility of the BCRA.

## 4 Awards Committee

4.1 The Awards Committee shall consist of the four trustees, together with two ordinary members.

4.2 The two ordinary members shall be elected for a term of three years. They must be either Full or Associate Members of the BCRA.

4.3 The two ordinary members shall be elected by a ballot of the Full Members, Associate Members, and Members Clubs of the BCRA, (in the latter case, on the basis of one vote per club).

4.4 Trustee and Award Committee posts shall be entirely honorary. Other than postal expenses and provision of stationery, no expenses shall be paid.

4.5 Any member of the Awards Committee who has an interest in an expedition which is under consideration, must declare his interest and be prepared to stand down. In the event this BCRA Council may elect a substitute member for the current year only.

## 5 Awards

5.1 An award, awards, shall be made annually from the interest which is gained from the investment of the Foundation's capital fund.

5.2 The size and number of the Awards shall be decided by the Awards Committee, but in no event will the total sum awarded be greater than the sum of the interest which has accrued during the previous twelve month period, except as provided for in

5.3. If there are no applications in a particular year, or if the Awards Committee decided that none of the applications fall within the terms of Section 6 of this Constitution, then no award need be made, and the interest for that year shall be added to the capital fund, or may be used for an award the following year.

## 6 Applications

6.1 Applications will be considered from any organised expedition which is proposing to visit a specific area outside the British Isles, for the purpose of carrying out a specified programme of scientific speleological study, or conducting serious speleological exploration.

6.2 Application should be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Foundation; they should be made out on the "Award Application Form", and should reach him not later than 1st February in any year, for an award to be made in that year.

6.3 The Awards Committee will consider the applications, and may also require an interview expedition leaders, and awards will be made during February or March.

6.4 In the event of disagreement within the Awards Committee, the matter shall be put before the BCRA Council, where it may be voted upon and decided by a simple majority. Their decision shall be final.

6.5 The Awards Committee shall have absolute discretion in deciding whether or not to make an award, and shall not be required to give its reasons for granting or refusing any application to applicants.

## 7 Limitations, Winding Up, and Amendments to the Constitution

7.1 The Foundation shall not undertake to "sponsor" expeditions, but shall merely assist them by means of specific monetary awards.

7.2 The Foundation shall not accept any responsibility, actual or implied, for the financial affairs of any expedition, nor shall it become involved in any dispute between the members of an expedition.

7.3 In event of the dissolution of the BCRA, then the assets of the Foundation must be passed to the BCRA's successor, or in the event of their being no successor, passed to the Royal Geographical Society, with a request to administer the Foundation in accordance with this Constitution.

7.4 The Foundation may be wound up only by resolution of the BCRA, after a four-fifths majority of the Association's voting members have voted for this action at an Annual General Meeting, of special General Meeting, or when a two thirds majority of voting at a postal ballot of all voting members of the BCRA have voted this action. Assets may be passed to the BCRA, or the Royal Geographical Society.

7.5 Amendment to this Constitution may only be made by a postal ballot of all voting members of the BCRA. A two thirds majority of those voting being required to carry any motion. 28 clear days notice must be given for the return of ballot papers.

D.M.J. 20.09.74