

Ghar Parau Foundation

Awards Meeting - Minutes

Purpose of meeting: Annual Awards

Date & time of meeting: 10:30 – Sunday 4th March 2007

Location: Great Hucklow, Conformance Ltd, The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 RG

Invitees	Name	Responsibility	
Chairperson	Andy Eavis	Trustee and Chair	AE
	Nick Williams	Trustee	NW
	Dave Judson	Trustee	DR
	Roo Walters	Secretary	RW
	Paul Ibberson	Treasurer	PI
	Paul Mann	Elected Member	PM
	Paul Swire	Elected Member	PS
	Wookey	Elected Member	W
	Allan Richardson	BCRA Foreign sec	AR
	Dave Cook	BCA Treasurer	DC
	Phil Rowsell	Elected Member	PR

Apologies	Name
All Present	

1. Matters

1.1) Phil Rowsell raised a series of comments which will be discussed on 6.1. It was noted that Roo Walters was elected as secretary of the Ghar Parau Foundation and takes full secretarial duties from the close of the meeting. Dave Judson remains as one of the three trustees.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1) None

3. Minutes of previous meeting

3.1) Accepted as accurate.

4. Matters Arising

4.1) It was noted that the Welsh Sports council did not support the Dachstein expedition. However, they did support the SWCC trip to Belize. Phil Rowsell explained that the Welsh sport council wanted to support excellence and repeating an expedition to the same area would not necessarily be supported. They might consider a trip to an exotic location as valid. We are reminded that the SCW will only support residents of Wales that have been resident for at least four years (omits most students). **ACTION: RW** to start dialogue to understand SCW requirements for the future.

4.2) AE noted that the new electronic application procedures have by and large gone very well.

4.3) Reminded that the Elected members have a four year term. **ACTION: NW** will look at recruiting a diver as an elected member.

4.4) Wookey is elected unanimously for a further four years

5. Finances

5.1) The Financial report was enclosed.

5.2) It remains the aim to grow the fund to provide greater investment income for distribution. Any donations not specifically made for distribution will continue to be added to capital

5.3) All sports council funding for the BCA has now dried up. There is concern over the future of GPF funding from the BCA.

5.4) Three expeditions Matienzo, Oxford, SUSS have still not submitted post expedition feedback reports and so the retention monies have not yet been paid.

ACTION: PI. The treasurer will place a further £2,000 into bonds.

ACTION: PI. The treasurer will change the bank mandate to reflect the new members of the committee. The cheque signing authority is extended from two of five (Three trustees, the treasurer and the secretary).

5.5) It is likely that BCRA will change its year end to match that of BCA, i.e 31 December. This would mean there will be no need to consider changing GPF accounting date.

5.6) The treasurer indicates that £2650 is available (£1650 for 2007 plus £1000 from undistributed 2006 income). The Committee was concerned about the reduction in funding, particularly from BCA. The committee decide to retain £1000 of the BCA money for future funding and allocate £1,500 of this to the awards funds.

5.7) This means that the awards funds were sourced as:

GPF £2650, BCA £1500, China Caves Project £1000, Floorplans North £100, Conformance £200. Total £5450..

5.8) The awards fund for 2007 for agreed as £5450.

5.9) GPF have allocated £50 to the Tratman Award and retained £1000 for Round Two 2007, leaving £4400 for Round One distribution

6. Awards

6.1 Confirm Ground rules for 2007 awards

6.1.1) PR wanted to raise the possibility of targeting the GPF more effectively. He suggested looking at repeat expeditions and new expedition differently, perhaps by looking at equipment. AE reminded the committee the equipment pool has been running for 20 years, but things like rope have not worked. AE added that the GPF have always tried to look at student groups and new ventures favourably. NW pointed out that the recent Mulu trip did not look for any sponsorship because many current cavers preferred to look to their own resources.

6.1.2) The committee felt that it was not their remit to tell expeditions how to spend their money but would reflect the numbers of younger people in their awards. It was felt that GPF had responded to changing circumstances surrounding applications.

6.1.3) Suggestion on outreaching to the younger caving communities was well accepted. **ACTION: PR:** To organise address the CHECC weekend about expedition caving.

6.1.4) In the future application will be required to detail equipment purchases required for an expedition. The GPF will act as an informal referral agency for sourcing loan equipment. The vehicle for this will be the BCA message board. **ACTION: PR** to initiate a forum on gear loans and become its moderator, including gathering information on what is currently available.

6.1.5) The GPF should stress the importance of reporting to all applicants. Future applications awards will be dependent on receiving feedback reports from previous expeditions. On a larger scale if expeditions don't publish formal reports it will reflect future awards. This is currently reflected in the awards notification. **ACTION: W:** To reflect feedback requirements on the web site.

6.1.6) The GPF should reflect younger cavers more strongly, by increasing the number of Alex Pitcher Awards (these go directly to the people). Any expedition will be allowed to up to four Alex Pitcher awards for people, usually younger, but on their first expedition. The expedition leader will be requested to rank these in order of merit.

6.2 2007 Round One Applications

Ref	Name	BCA	China	GPF		
		Award			Alex Pitcher	Special
07/00	OUCC, Spain			£500		
07/01	CUCC, Austria	£500			£150	£300
07/02	Dachstein, Austria	£500				£300
07/03	ICCC, Slovenia	£500			£150	
07/04	SMCC, Iceland			£250		
07/05	Yunnan, China		£350			
07/06	Matienzo, Spain			£250		
07/07	HMCES, China		£650			
	Distributed	£1500	£1000	£1000	£300	£600
	Retained	£1000	£0	£1000		
Total		£2500	£1000	£2,000	£300	£600

6.2.1) Notes: CUCC have requirements for £4,000 of scientific Equipment. GPF agreed to make a separate award specifically for the scientific equipment for research into cave humility on the basis that this goes ahead. Award made on the basis of receipt for purchase of the equipment. Dachstein have shortage of equipment issues, therefore £300 was award to them on proof of purchase of equipment totalling the special award amount.

6.3 2007 Round Two Advanced notifications

6.3.1) The expedition to Roraima was noted but the status of this was unclear. A total of £1,000 was retained for applications later in the year. It is expected that applications to China will be forthcoming.

7. The Tratman Award

7.1) Publications received are:

“Essential Sources in Cave Science”, by Graham Proudlove.

“Subterranean Fishes of the World”, by Graham Proudlove.

7.2) The Tratman award is given to Graham Proudlove for his efforts in bringing both these two publications to fruition to be awarded at Hidden Earth 2007. **ACTION : RW** to write to graham proudlove.

8. Future Electronic Applications Processes

8.1) Overall the view of the process is very favourable. It is understood that all known glitches have been cleared. The GPF recognised Wookey's contribution to this process.

8.2) A future change is that applicants will receive confirmation of their application.
ACTION: W: Implement application confirmation for electronic process.

8.3) Issues surrounding the format of forms which need to be forwarded elsewhere such as MEF.

8.4) Need to collect all applications into a single page on the website so that all members can view all the data. **ACTION: W:** Collation of applications into a web page.

8.5) The online application needs to capture essential data to analyse applications, including travel costs, students, first time expeditioners, equipment needs, special needs, Alex pitcher applications.

ACTION: DC, NW, PR: Look at means and resources to improve electronic applications and information.

9. Any Other Business

9.1) Raising money. It was agreed that a program to raise capital funds was required. RW agreed to formulate a plan to this which would be launched at the Hidden Earth Conference. **ACTION: RW:** Formulate a funds raising program and arrange a lecture at the Hidden Earth Conference.

10. Date of next meeting

10.1) On Sunday at 09:00 at the Hidden Earth Conference. Currently 23rd Sept 2007.

10.2) The 2008 awards meeting will be Feb 17th 2008.

10.3) AE closed the meeting at 15:45.

11. Summary of Actions

ACTION: RW to start dialogue to understand SCW requirements for the future.

ACTION: NW will look at recruiting a diver as an elected member.

ACTION: PI. The treasurer will place a further £2,000 into bonds.

ACTION: PI. The treasurer will change the bank mandate to reflect the new members of the committee.

ACTION: PR: To organise address the CHECC weekend about expedition caving.

ACTION: PR to initiate a forum on gear loans and become its moderator.

ACTION: W: To reflect feedback requirements on the web site.

ACTION: W: Implement application confirmation for electronic process.

ACTION: W: Collation of applications into a web page.

ACTION: DC, NW, PR: Look at means and resources to improve electronic applications and information

ACTION: RW: Formulate a funds raising program and arrange a lecture at the Hidden Earth Conference.

ACTION : RW to write to Graham Proudlove.

GPF

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

First Round: Year: 2007-2008

ref	expedition	leader	pers	wks	p/ds	tr.cost	total	p/c	GFP	AP	SC	MEF	away dates	other funding/comments/notes	
07/01	AUSTRA (cucc)	Aaron Curtis	17+3	6	460	£2,200	£12,750	£ 470	---	2 *	---	no	7 Jul-18 Aug	£4,760 + ? * Ollie Stevens (20) + Serena Povia (26) Over-costed!? Independent funding!	
07/02	AUSTRA Dachstein	Phil Rowsell	30+4	5	840+	£ 500	£ 3,200	???	---	no	no	no	8 Jul - 8 Aug	none Equipment rather than financial needs!	
07/03	SLOVENIA Migovec (ICCC)	J M Frost	19+11	4	400	£3,275	£ 8,665	???	---	2 *	---	no	14 Jul-11 Aug	???	* Ben Banfield (19) + James Hugget (20)
07/04	ICELAND (smcc)	Ed Waters	10+3	7	100	£5,550	£ 7,750	???	---	no	---	no	14 Jul-28 Aug	???	Other funding?
07/05	CHINA Yunnan, Sanba	Gavin Lowe	6+1	5	140	£5,750	£ 6,800	???	---	no	---	yes	21-Jul-26 Aug	???	
07/06	SPAIN Matienzo	Juan Corrin	20	5	540	£8,000	£12,500	???	---	no	---	no	23 Jul-26 Aug	???	
07/07	CHINA HMCES Tian Xing	Duncan Collis	9+2	9	649	£6,400	£11,500	???	---	no	---	no	1 Sep-31Oct	??	