

Ghar Parau Foundation

Winter Committee minutes

Hucklow - 6th April 2014

Minute Taker:- Phil Rowsell

1) Additional matters arising for discussion at the meeting

None

2) Attendees and Apologies

Attendees: Philip Rowsell, Nick Williams, Andy Eavis, Paul Ibberson, Ed Walters, Helen Brooks, Jeff Wade, Trevor Falkner

Apologies: Jarvist Frost, Roo Walters, David Jusdon

3) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from the last Winter Meeting 2013 17/02/2013 and the Summer Meeting 28/9/2013 were ratified as being a true account of the meetings.

4) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

None

5) Treasurer's Report

PI discussed the draft 2013 accounts previously circulated.

Interest income was up in the year partly as a result of the increased value of the Accumulated Fund but also as a result of the transfer of investment cash to Virgin's higher return Charities account. The rate on the latter has subsequently been reduced in line with most other options; this will impact on the income available for distribution in 2014.

Donations increased in the year, reflecting a greater number of donations from diverse sources. It seems that raising the profile of GPF through increased fund raising efforts is also starting to boost the level of donation income. The total also includes the first stage of tax reclaim on Gift Aid donations. A further reclaim for 2012 and 2013 will be made in 2014.

Hidden Earth once more provided a significant donation to the fund.

Funds from both BCA and China Caves were distributed in the year. £600 of BCA funding was carried forward to 2014, mirroring the deferred income from 2012 which was realised in 2013.

Finally, fundraising activities produced a substantial contribution to the Foundation - the Committee noted with great appreciation the efforts of the team and thank them for their excellent work.

In terms of expenditure, GPF awards were boosted by the writing back of unclaimed retentions and uncashed cheques. This helped to facilitate an increased distribution whilst maintaining a net position compatible with the level of interest income.

China Caves and BCA funds received in the period were distributed accordingly.

The Accumulated Fund at 31 December 2013 stood at £68,417 and the cash balance at £2,692. Of the latter, £1,275 relates to retentions and deferred income, with the remainder a working balance for cash flow purposes. In due course, the cash balance will be reviewed with a view to reinvestment in a suitable income-generating account.

In the absence of any questions, the Accounts for 2013 were duly accepted.

PI also noted that the online payment system was implemented during the year and had proved very helpful in the timely and accurate distribution of awards.

It was proposed that £1200 of GPF funding be made available for 2014 awards.

N.B. Full Report will be available on the Committee Website.

6) Awards

The Ground rules for the allocation of fund were agreed. The use of the new web based committee pages would be trialled in this meeting and a brief demonstration of the pages were given.

A brief discussion on GPF criteria for Alex Pitcher (and subsequently the GPF constitution) took place, but the committee agreed that it was not clearly defined and that a good criteria should be developed for the next committee meeting for ratification.

It was suggested from discussion that *the AP applicant had to be on their first expedition, be a UK national or student studying in the UK or a member of a UK caving club/BCA . Only 2 applicants per expedition are allowed.*

In addition to the Alex Pitcher, attempts should be made to locate the original GPF constitution (possibly by writing to the Charities commission) and If not, a new constitution should be written and presented to the committee at the next meeting.

Discussion on the applications lead to the following allocations.

7) Tratman Award 2013

The Committee reviewed the recommendation given to the GPF by the Tratman award committee, and ratified the decision that "Mendip Underground" by Alan Gray, Rob Taviner and Richard Witcombe. The Tratman Committee full citation is attached at the end of the minutes

8) Fund Rasing

An overview of the Fund Raiding undertaken during the year was given by Phil Rowsell. The full report is given at the end of the minutes.

9) Website

The website application process has been successfully been moved to a web-based system and was used on this round (Winter 2014). The process proved relatively trouble free with only minor glitches and 11 applications were received. The web based system was also used to conduct and allocate the funds at the Winter 2014 meeting, but an error in coding prevented the process to be fully completed.

Phil & Henry are generally pleased with the performance of the Web best system (bitterly disappointed about the glitch in the meeting software), but overall the system seems to be working well and a great improvement over the old system.

The use of the committee pages during the commenting and fund allocation stages, highlighted a number of small improvements which will be implemented.

The final stage will be to tackle the Feedback process and it is hoped that this will be operational by the committee meeting.

10) Members

Jarvist Frost has come to the end of his four year term and a replacement is sort. It was suggested that a mature member possible with diving experience might be a good addition to the committee.

It was agreed that Rich Hudson would be contacted to see if he would like to undertake a 4 year rotational term, if not to contact Dave Rhyal.

Action No	Action	Deadline	Status
GPF 2	Phil to contact the proposed candidates and establish whether they are prepared to do a 4 year term.	01/05/14	On Going

11) Date of Next Meeting

Summer Meeting 2014 at Hidden Earth : **Sunday 28th September 2014 @ 10:00 am**

Winter Meeting 2015 at Great Hucklow: **Sunday 12th April 2014 @10:30 am**

12) Any other matters arising.

It was proposed that a vote of thanks be given to Anna for providing the GPF committee with a great lunch and all the cooking that she had done.

Action No	Action	Deadline	Status
GPF 3	Phil to send GPF card with thanks	16/04/14	Completed

Tratman Award 2013

The Tratman Award has been awarded annually since 1979 to a caving-related paper-based publication in memory of E.K. Tratman, who died in 1978. It covers books, journals and articles published in a calendar year and is administered by the Ghar Parau Foundation, but judged by three independent cavers; for 2013 these were Joe Duxbury, Alan Jeffreys and Martin Mills (though other opinions were also sought).

As usual, a great deal of discussion ensued around a short list of titles that grew longer before becoming shorter. It is worth mentioning Thomas Arbenz' editing and publication of *Cave Pearls of Meghalaya*, given its links to UK expeditions, but although it is of a superb standard it lies outside the scope of the Tratman Award. The final shortlist was winnowed to the following, here presented in author order:

Tim Allen and Frank Pearson, for the linked articles 'A Midge-infested, draughtless no-hoper ...' and 'We should have gone to Aygill' in *Descent* (230), which the judges picked out as particularly evocative of digging.

Peter Barry and Alasdair Kennedy (eds) of *Irish Speleology* (20), which clearly presents not only solid information, but also maps and surveys with a range of highly interesting topics – an almost perfect example of what a journal should be.

Martyn Farr for the attractive *Classic Darksite Diving*, covering cave diving sites in Britain and Europe and data-packed with locations and details on how to safely undertake dives.

Dave Gill for 'Bottoming the Berger – on Ladders' in *Descent* (235), an article which brought an element of speleohistory to the fore in an engaging and entertaining manner.

Alan Gray, Rob Taviner and Richard Witcombe for their work compiling *Mendip Underground*, a monumental task to have been completed work on a regional guidebook to such a high standard.

Jim Rieuwerts for *Adventurers in the Lead Trade*, not forgetting the photography of Phil Wolstenholme that made this well-researched volume so highly visual.

Tony Waltham and David Lowe for *Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales*, another in-depth title that will become a standard reference for the area.

The final decision went unanimously to the comprehensive and attractive *Mendip Underground*. Congratulations therefore go to Alan, Rob and Richard, who we are sure would wish to also note the involvement of a huge number of other cavers in checking details of references and cave descriptions, and producing surveys and photographs, with (once again) Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley's fine touch in layout. The remaining entries above are highly commended, a prestigious result on its own. The award is a piece of original artwork by Gonzo, which will be presented at the Hidden Earth 2014 conference.

Chris Howes, on behalf of the judges

Fund Raising 2014

Fund raising has continues through 2014, big events are highlighted below.

GG Winch

Both winch meets operate differently, which is also reflected in the amount sold. The Bradford allow GPF sales team to attend and this year £1200 was taken compared to the craven that prefer to do things their own way took £182.

GG Packs

GG meets provides a good potential for fund raising for GPF. A new card pack dedicated to GG winch meet was commissioned as a trial. A short print run of 100 packs was produced (5 cards in a pack), which resulted in a high print cost. At the Bradford winch meet all 100 packs were sold at £5, (cost £400, profit £223). The cards produced by the printer this time was perfect with the cards of very good quality and folded correctly. Packs were made up by GPF rather than vacuumed packed by the printer resulting in a better product and cheaper.

It is thought that possibly producing a 7 card pack and charging more will greatly increase the profit to GPF. The Pack also proved to be a success, and that there is a market at the GG meets for such a product. It is suggested that a longer print run is acceptable which again will reduce production costs.

General Packs

Some sales of these packs was achieved at the GG meets, since all cost have been accounted each subsequent sale is bottom line profit. Over 40 packs were sold totalling some £320.

Single Cards

The GG single cards proved to sell well and the stock of old "style" cards have now been exhausted. Approximately 150 cards were sold at the Bradford winch meet, again proving a good market. GPF currently have enough stock of these cards for the following year. Current profit associated with sales of all single cards is £240 after all associated expenses. GPF have a stock of 1289, (of which 830 are GG) so good profit should be made on all future sales.

Bruno

Despite great effort to get the cards to Bruno, sales team lacked enthusiasm. Jenny Potts did a great job to 9 packs. It was felt this could have been a lot more. On return stock control was dire!

Hidden Earth

Scurion donated a lamp which was raffled at hidden earth, in total £1859 was taken in a sterling effort by all who attended , £1374 from the raffle and £584 in card sales. Most of the card sales were repeat business which is good.

Stock

At the last count GPF have 276 of 2011 packs, 182 of 2012 packs and 1289 single cards. Many of the single cards were acquired cheap being print over runs from the various prints. Many however will probably not be sold bar the 830 GG cards.

It is not thought that it is worth reprinting any of the 2011 or the 2012 packs as it is will be better to diminish the current stock, and then possibly produce a new pack. The exception to this is a new GG pack which is though worth while pursuing from the success of the sales at the Bradford winch meet last year.

A new stock take desperately needs to be taken as cards have been distributed to a number of people and continuity has been lost.

Takings and Profit

In 2013, £4014 pounds was paid into the GPF account.

Expenses 2013 GG packs £400, extra single cards £387 extra GG cards, Total £787