

# The Ghar Parau Foundation

## Winter 2015 - Round 1 Distribution Meeting Minutes

### Awards Meeting - Minutes

**Date & time of meeting:** 10:30 – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**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	DJ
	Phil Rowsell	Secretary	PJR
	Paul Ibberson	Treasurer	PI
	Ed Walters	Elected Member	EW
	Helen Brooke	Elected member	HB
	Jeff Wade	Elected Member	JW
	Rich Hudson	Elected Member	RH
	Trevor Faulkner	BCRA Foreign sec	TF
		BCA Treasurer	PI

**Chairman:-** Nick Williams

**Minute taker:-** Phil Rowsell

### 1) Matters Arising For AOB

PR raised the Mount Everest Foundation application process.

### 2) Apologies for Absence

Helen Brooke, Jeff Wade, Andy Eavis and Ed Walters

### 3) Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from both the previous Winter meeting and Summer meeting were reviewed and accepted as a true record.

### 4) Matters Arising from the minutes

Philip Rowsell took over as Ghar Parau Secretary from Richard Walters on the 1st January 2015

### 5) Constitution

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The committee felt that it was operating broadly in line with the constitution, especially with the financial aspects. The ratio of trustees to elected members needs clarifying. The Secretary (PR) will produce a word format of the document to circulate to the committee, for comments and suggestions regarding possible amendments. It is also to be put on the GPF Website.

Nick Williams (NW) will raise the timing of a possible constitutional revision with Andy Eavis (AE) and Damian Weare (BCA) to establish when BCA are likely to have a future member ballot since this will provide an opportunity for the required postal ballot without extra expense to GPF.

### 6) Alex Pitcher

The Alex Pitcher rules were discussed and the following rules were agreed.

- *the applicant had to be a young person on their first caving expedition.*
- *the applicant had to be a UK national or student studying in the UK or a member of a UK caving club/BCA.*

*Only 2 applicants per expedition will be allowed.*

### 7) Finances

#### Accounts 2014 - Income

Interest reduced slightly in the year due to continuing squeeze on deposit rates. Fund growth was largely towards the end of the year, so little impact on overall return.

Donations in the year predominantly from the Gouffre Berger book proceeds (£11,000 to 31/12/14).

China Caves funding reduced in line with number of expeditions making applications, whilst BCA funding of £5000 received in the year to be added to the £600 retained from 2013. Of the total, £900 retained for distribution in 2015.

Fundraising receipts reduced after highly successful prior year.

#### Accounts 2014 – Expenditure

£375 of GPF grants allocated, but one expedition (£100 award) was cancelled and a prior year expedition which was delayed then cancelled returned their award of £200.

8 applications for Alex Pitcher awards were funded, totalling £600, plus Tratman award was once more financed in the year. Overall GPF distribution thus in line with interest generation.

BCA and China Caves funds as noted above all allocated to expeditions. Net excess of income over expenditure of £12,410, thus growing the fund to £80,427.

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### Accounts 2014 – Balance Sheet

No additional investments made in the year; deposit balances remain in N.S.B. Income Bonds and Virgin Money Charities deposit account.

Cash balance of £15,602 at 31/12/14 reflects level of donation income, plus residual retentions and deferred income.

PI proposed that a suitable investment vehicle be found to safely improve the return on the surplus cash balance as available at the present time. (Note that post year end, a further £1500 has been received from Gouffre Berger and thus approx £15,000 is available for reinvestment).

The 2014 Accounts were duly accepted and authorised for distribution.

**Resolution** : That PI be tasked with identifying a suitable safe term deposit (e.g. 3 months notice account) for the reinvestment of £15,000 of the Foundation's cash balance and that this account be operated on a "2 to sign" authority basis by PI, PR, NW, AE.

**Agreed unanimously.**

### 2015 Finance and Awards

As noted in the accounts, PI proposed that £1200 be allocated for 2015 expenditure. Of this, £550 should be held for Round 2 and £75 maximum for the Tratman award, thus leaving £575 for distribution at this time. Added to that would be £900 plus £5,000 of BCA funds, of which PI proposed that £2000 be retained for the summer meeting. Thus the total for allocation at this meeting would be £4,475.

### Bank Mandates

With PR taking over from RW as Secretary, it is necessary to amend the bank mandates. This is a straightforward remove/add change, but requires appropriate resolutions. These are as follows :-

**RBS – Resolution** – The authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the Foundation's current and deposit accounts, be changed in accordance with the Change of Signing Authority document (tabled by PI) and the current mandate will continue as thus amended.

**Agreed unanimously.**

(Note – for the record, the existing mandate is any two of Trustees, Secretary and Treasurer for unlimited amounts).

**Virgin – Resolution** – the existing mandate be amended such that PR replaces RW and the mandate continues as amended with any 2 to sign.

**Agreed unanimously.**

### Gift Aid tax reclaim.

It was noted that there is an outstanding Gift Aid reclaim which PI expects to complete before the next meeting. This will be detailed at that point.

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### 8) 2015 Round 1 Awards

The committee reviewed all the comments entered into the new web based admin systems and discussed any differences of opinions. The following comments were made on each expedition, and the distribution of funds are seen over leaf.

Application	Committee Feedback
GPF2015a-001	Great ongoing project, producing the goods and training the UK's future cavers
GPF2015a-002	Level of GPF funding reflects significant funding from other sources. Committee hopes that the necessary permissions and political considerations have been addressed. This was not apparent from the application. It is important to include referee contact numbers so that the Committee can raise any concerns during the meeting.
GPF2015a-003	The committee are excited to hear the results of this interesting venture. With the current fluid political climate, please keep the secretary updated of any changes
GPF2015a-004	Good to see renewed interest in this area, with good prior ground work and presentation at Hidden Earth. We also note the great work with the local caving community. Look forward to seeing and expedition report.
GPF2015a-005	Another well prepared expedition, look forward to seeing the results. Please Note, full referee contact details including phone numbers are required, in case the ommittee wishes to clarify anything with them on the day.
GPF2015a-006	Application Withdrawn
GPF2015a-007	Unique unknown area to visit, we look forward to seeing the results
GPF2015a-008	Continue the good work in the Totes Gebirge. Look forward to seeing the updated survey. Please note:- It is important to include referee contact numbers so that the committee can raise any concerns during the meeting.
GPF2015a-009	Referee contact details not filled out fully - a bit slap dash! Nevertheless looks like a very interesting project and good luck with linking the gaps.

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GPF Grant Allocation Meeting: Winter 2015														
Meeting date: 12-04-2015														
Ref.	Leader	Exped Name	Field Man Days	Country	Info	BCA	GPF (incl. AP)	China Caves	Other	Exped Total (no AP)	Alex P allocated (applied)	£75 awarded	Grand Total	Comments
GPF2015a-001	Philip Papard	Matienzo 2015	900	Spain		£550	£1,125	£0	£75	£7,100			£7,100	
GPF2015a-002	Rhys Tyers	There and Back Again	126	New Zealand		£200	£550	£0	£0	£2,550			£2,550	
GPF2015a-003	Katie Rockliff	UK/Ireland - Iran 2015: Women's Caving Exchange	52	Iran		£450	£575	£0	£75	£4,550			£4,550	
GPF2015a-004	Henry Bennett	Speleo Philippines 2015	357	Philippines		£1,000	£575	£0	£0	£4,250	3 (5)	£225	£4,475	
GPF2015a-005	Oliver Myerscough	ICCC Slovenia 2015	33	Slovenia		£800	£0	£0	£75	£800			£800	
GPF2015a-006	Matthew Watson	Cambridge University Caving Club Austria Expedition	0							£0			£0	
GPF2015a-007	Mark Tringham	Kaokoland 2015	14	Namibia			£350			£350			£350	
GPF2015a-008	Matthew Watson	Cambridge University Caving Club Austria Expedition	437	Austria		£550				£550			£550	
GPF2015a-009	Mike Bottomley	Ario Caves Project - C4	165	Spain		£350				£350	0 (1)		£350	

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### **9) The Tratman Award**

The Tratman Committee's decision that the book "Gouffre Berger" by Robbie Shone and Mark Wright should win the 2015 Tratman award was ratified by the committee. PR will notify Chris Howes.

It was suggested that a standard form be generated for the Tratman Committee to report back to the GPF Committee be generated to facilitate the easy display of the decision on the GPF website. All agreed.

### **10) Fund Raising.**

#### **a) GPF Cards.**

Fund raising through GPF cards has dropped significantly, mainly due to PR spending a significant time abroad (This year only £47.50 was raised at The Bradford GG winch meet as opposed to £1200.00 the previous year!), but also it is felt that the caving community and sales team needs a break.

Sales of cards this year (2014) only netted £478.00, with and currently £80 for 2015.

It was suggested that the International Caving Conference in 2016, should be a bit GPF sales event with GPF running the main raffle. PR to organise.

#### **b) Berger Book**

Donations from the sales of the Berger book have been fantastic and have resulted in large donations to Ghar Parau:- £11000 in 2014 and £1500 in 2015 to date. The committee felt that it was appropriate that both Robbie Shone and Mark Wright be publicly thanked for their contribution to the Ghar Parau Foundation.

#### **c) Andy Eavis/ Richard Walters - Presentation**

Andy Eavis and Roo did a presentation about the laser scanning they have done around the world and sold £160 worth of GPF cards (figure included in the above total) and a further £440 in ticket sales and donations.

### **11) Website**

The admin part of the committee pages was used for the complete process, with the emails to the applicants indicating their award, being sent an hour after the meeting. The committee were happy with the performance of the site.

Several applications did not have all the referee information. More documentation to explain why this information is required by the committee will

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be included in the application process, and some of the inputs such as phone numbers will be made mandatory.

As mentioned above, the GPF constitution and Alex Pitcher Rules will also be included on the site. There were a number of other improvements seen that PR has noted and will liaise with Henry Patton.

### **12) New Committee members**

Suggestions were put forward to whom might be a good candidate to replace Ed Walters

Josh Bratchley, Chris Jewell

### **13) The date of the next meetings:-**

**Summer meeting:** Sunday 27th September 2015 (Hidden Earth)

**Winter meeting:** Sunday 13th March 2016 (Great Hucklow)

There was a particularly low turn out at this meeting and the committee members present felt that it should be stress that it is important that committee members actually attend these meetings. The dates are well known in advance and part of the responsibility of being on the Committee is to attend the meetings.

### **14) AOB**

#### **Mount Everest Foundation**

Despite concerns about MEF potentially viewing caving as not true exploration, the MEF committee awarded the ICCC trip to New Zealand £1350, which was quite a surprise. A thank-you to the MEF has been sent.

Problems with the timing of the application deadlines and the meeting dates were discussed. NW suggested that now the new committee website system is fully working and the pre-meeting comments are speeding up the GPF meetings, it would be possible to have the GPF meeting before the MEF meeting in early March. This would alleviate the problems seen this year, where GPF had to make recommendations on the MEF applications ahead of the GPF meeting. This would only give GPF committee members 2 weeks to review the applications but it was felt this was long enough.

The proposal was agreed by the meeting and that GPF should meet mid March each year prior to the MEF meeting late March.

Prior to the meeting PR has already been in contact with Glyn Hughes regarding a possible meeting between GPF and MEF to discuss application process for both charities. PR will pursue this with a view of Andy Eavis and Phil Rowsell, meeting Glyn to discuss.