

Summer 2015 Awards Meeting - Minutes

Date & time of meeting: 11:30 – Sunday 27th September 2015

Location: Hidden Earth 2015

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
	Vacant	Elected Member	
	Helen Brooke	Elected member	HB
	Jeff Wade	Elected Member	JW
	Rich Hudson	Elected Member	RH
	Trevor Faulkner	BCRA Foreign sec	TF
	Vacant	BCA Treasurer	PI

Chairman:- Andy Eavis

Minute taker:- Phil Rowsell

1) Matters Arising For AOB

None

2) Apologies for Absence

Jeff Wade, Nick Williams.

Not Present: Trevor Faulkner, Dave Judson

3) Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the previous Winter meeting were reviewed and agreed to be ratified at the Winter 2016 meeting.

4) Matters Arising from the minutes

Phil Rowsell had not yet gone to the Royal Bank of Scotland to get his signature ratified.

Action: PJR to go to Royal Bank of Scotland with forms ASAP. Action completed on the 29/09/15.

Dave Judson: it was noted that no one has heard from or seen Dave Judson for a considerable period of time and it was questions whether he still wanted to be a trustee. Andy Eavis suggested that he would approach Dave and discuss.

Action: Andy Eavis to contact Dave Judson and discuss position.

5) GPF Constitution

The meeting was told that the constitution was now on the website, but really needed updating to reflect the current working of the committee. Trustees are particularly urged to review the constitution and send their comments to the secretary so this can be discussed and finalised at the next winter meeting, (2016). Once a new constitution has been proposed, it can be put to the BCRA Council to ratify at the appropriate time.

Action: Committee members (particularly trustees) to forward suggestions of changes to PJR for correlation and discussion at the next meeting.

6) Finances

A further £2000 donation has been received from Gouffre Berger, along with £3000 from Hidden Earth 2013.

A Gift Aid tax reclaim was made in the period since the last meeting and £378 reimbursed. This is to be added to the Accumulated Fund.

Reinvestment has taken place in the form of £8000 additional deposit in the Virgin Charities account plus the purchase of £8000 of NS&I Income Bonds.

Funds for distribution are £2000 BCA and £550 GPF. In line with previous years, £600 of the BCA funding should be retained for Q1 2016. Hence £1950 remains to be distributed. If required, a further £75 could be added as a result of an unclaimed prior year retention. AJE advised that the China Caves Project would provide funding for an appropriate award to Doshan, which should thus be assessed accordingly.

7) 2015 Round 2 Awards.

The new electronic commenting system was used, by all but Helen Brooke and Trevor Faulkner. No major issues were found bar a few small printing bugs which have now been fixed. At the meeting site however, no internet access was available and the award process had to revert to the manual process.

Andy Eavis produced a stats sheet which he had produced manually which proved useful to all. PJR suggested that this could be produced automatically from the database.

Action: Andy Eavis to forward electronic sheet to PJR for distribution to committee members, and committee members to review and suggest changes and other stats request before being implemented on the system. Action completed 1st October 2015 ;-). *See back of minutes.*

Each application was reviewed. The grant distribution was agreed and shown in the spreadsheet below. Associated feedback given in the table below.

Application	Committee Feedback
GPF2015-0b01	Standard well organised Mulu Expeditions but with a strong team and good mix of young and "more experienced" cavers.
GPF2015b-002	Good to see a club based expedition, lots of possible objectives. Good previous reporting record, looking forward to seeing this expeditions results
GPF2015b-003	Looks a very exciting follow up expedition in a remote area, with a relatively young team. Funding limited due to low number of UK members (5 out of 16). Looking forward to the report. GPF are surprised at the daily cost of the fixer and the decision to use charter flights from Brisbane. In view of the projected budget short fall these decisions might be worth reviewing.
GPF2015b-004	Looks like a well organised follow up expeditions, which has a large number of young cavers supported by a few old experienced hands. Glad to see some Alex Pitcher applicants being included.
GPF2015b-005	After and interesting Timor expedition, good to see the team returning to Myanmar. Good leads left from the previous expeditions, and no doubt will find come more new Myanmar firsts.

Discussion Notes.

1) Alex Pitcher Award. In the Doshan, China expedition it was noted that one of the Alex Pitcher Applicants was 28 years old. This was thought too old as the award is aimed at young applicants. Since no mention on the age of the applicant is made on the website or application process, it was decided to grant this applicant an award, but unanimously agreed that a clause should be placed that applicants must be under 25 years of age at the time of the expedition.

2) On Tuesday 29th September 2015 Phil Rowsell (secretary) and Paul Ibberson (treasurer) met to catch up the electronic system. Again the system preformed well although two minor bugs were highlighted.

8) Fund raising.

Gift Cards - PJR indicated that the sales of the cards had plummeted since he had been spending significant time in China. At both Gaping Gill meets this year no cards were sold.

Berger Book - Paul indicated that £13,000 had been received from the sales proceeds of this book. A vote of thanks to both Robbie Shone and Mark Wright was given at the opening ceremony of Hidden Earth.

Eurospeleo 2016. At previous April meeting Nick Williams has suggested that GPF should run the raffle at Eurospeleo 2016. He suggested an up market affair with proper tickets etc. After a discussion it was decided that a "cloak room" style raffle

would be better being easier to organise. Helen Brooke agreed to ask the organising committee for both permission to hold the raffle, have a stand at the event, and potentially donate prizes for the raffle as she was in charge of sponsorship for the event.

On the stand, GPF personnel would sell raffle tickets, gift cards and the Berger book. Alys Mendus was ask to help organise this along with PJR as it is thought it has the potential to good event for Ghar Parau. The auction of the Jim Eyre's Cartoons donated to GPF could also be organised for this event.

Other

Alys Mendus had organised a nipple tassel exhibition (including LEs Williams) which had raised £252 at Hidden Earth for GPF. GPF thanks have been passed on.

Basher Bains and Paul Doulton donated their DJ fees to Ghar Parau the value being £250. GPF thanks have been passed on.

9) Website

PJR reported that the website was pretty much up and running now with the electronic feedback system working with the imperial "There and back again" being the first to use the new system.

Additional work had been focused on the administrative side of the site, but PJR was unable to show the committee due to lack of WIFI!!!

Work continues.

10) New Members

Two new members were required this year to replace Ed Walters and Helen Brooke. After a discussion of several names, it was decided that Helen Brooke be re-elected for another term, and that Rebecca Lawson be asked if she was interested in doing a term. If she declined, Josh Bratchley would be asked.

Action PJR to contact Rebecca Lawson. Action complete 28th September 2015, Rebecca Lawson agreed to stand for a term.

11) Any other business

None

11) Date of next meeting

A number of committee members indicated that they would not be able to make the suggested date of the next meeting so it was agreed to move the meeting date to the 10th of April, being the same weekend as the BCA Council meeting.

Andy's Stats Page

	MULU	THAILAND	PNG	MYANMAR	CHINA
	1	2	3	5	4
1. Number of Expedition Members	16	16	16	5	14
2. Date leaving Great Britain	Oct 1	Feb 5	Dec 10	Dec 19	Nov 14
3. Approximate Days in the Field	30	24	29	23	23
4. Total Man Days	450	380	460	115	322
5. Cost per Member	£1149	1200	2580?	1670	1595
6. Total Expedition Costs	22K	21K	41K	8.5K	22K
7. Number of members under 35 years old	5	2	11	1	11
8. Man Days of under 35 year old Members	150	50	319	23	253
9. Contribution by under 35 year old Members	5.5K	2.5K	30K	2K	17K
10. Split of Total using under 35 year old Members only on a man day basis	375	140	1800	130	
11. Split of Total using all Expedition Members on a man day basis (Using £2,625)	600	600	1160	250	
12. Best Attempt – on split	650	600	1100	250	750
13. Alex Pitcher - Yes/No	-	-	-	-	2