

Ghar Parau Foundation

Awards Meeting (Round One – Winter 2017)

Minutes

Purpose of meeting: Annual Awards

Date & time of meeting: 26th March 2017 10:30

Location: Conformance Ltd, Gt Hucklow, Derbyshire.

Invitees	Name	Responsibility	
Chairperson	Andy Eavis	Trustee & Chair	AE
	Nick Williams	Trustee	NW
	Dave Judson	Trustee	DJ
	Paul Ibberson	Trustee & Treasurer	PI
	Phil Rowsell	Secretary	PJR
	Rich Hudson (Year - 3)	Elected Member	RH
	Rebecca Lawson (Year - 2)	Elected Member	RL
	Mark Wright (Year - 1)	Elected Member	MW
	Vacant	Elected Member	
	Trevor Faulkner	BCRA Foreign sec	TF
	Robin Weare	BCA Treasurer	RW

Item No.	Description
1.	Matters (Raise any issues not covered by agenda and schedule them for discussion) 1) Mount Everest Grant Application Process (PJR) 2) Induction of new Committee Members
2.	Apologies for absence Robin Weare Dave Judson (No Apology)
3.	Minutes of previous meeting 10 April 2016 - While approved at 30th October 2016, the minutes were ratified at this meeting with no changes 20th October 2016 - Minutes accepted but changes that T Faulkner had suggested to the proposed constitution had not been incorporated. This will be incorporated in the next version of the proposed constitution. (see Item 7)

4.

Matters arising from the 30th October 2016 minutes.

3&4 Matters from previous minutes

6) Treasurers Report - Letter to Henry Bennett. (Action 6a) Letter was written and was held to be sent after this meeting as timing would look more appropriate. Letter has been sent - **Action closed.**

7) Tratman: Actions a & b - see Item 8

8) Website Archive - Katie Dent has supplied Henry Patton with an table of Archive data and this will be incorporated into the website.

Action

N° 100: The process is still on going.

9) Fund Raising - Thank you note to Tony Waltham. Item dropped as Tony et al have all ready been thanks when initial donation made and now thought a little late to action. **Action Closed**

5) Round 2 Awards

Clarification of who is eligible to Apply for a grant - Clarification made and agreed was " a UK national or legal resident in the UK" **Action closed.**

7) GPF Constitution and BCRA - See item 7

8) Mount Everest Foundation - See item 12

10) Website - See item 9

11) Elected Members. Mark Wright was invited onto the committee and attended the 26th March 2017 meeting. **Action Closed.**

12) Any other Business

Initiation of (BCA Treasurer) Robin Weare on to the committee - Appropriate action has been done and Robin can access the committee pages etc **Action Closed**

Report to BCRA - Nick completed a report and presented it to the BCRA. **Action closed.**

5.

Financial Report

Accounts 2016 – Income

Fund has grown, but interest return is flat-lining. At last there seems to be a realistic possibility of an upturn, but current rates remain very low.

Donations down on 2015, but that included significant proceeds from the Gouffre Berger book.

No Hidden Earth or China Caves monies received in the year.

BCA funding of £5000 was received and added to £600 held over from 2015. At year end £1100 was retained for Q1 2017.

Fundraising income from Eurospeleo event and caving camps.

Accounts 2016 – Expenditure

GPF award of £300 to Shan Province expedition.

5 x Alex Pitcher awards of £75 made, offset by 2 uncashed prior awards being written back.

£4500 of BCA funding allocated, but against this £1450 of previous awards were written back (1 expedition cancelled, 1 award unclaimed).

Surplus of income over expenditure £5532

Accounts 2016 – Balance Sheet

NSB bonds topped up by £8000 in the year. Return has been tolerable, but is about to reduce from 1% to 0.75% from 1/5/17. Virgin deposit rate has continued to reduce and now stands at 0.50%. Majority of Virgin monies thus to be reinvested elsewhere (Cambridge & Counties) to improve the return.

Cash balance of £6156 includes £1300 of deferred/retentions. £4000 of balance to be added to NSB investment.

2016 Accounts were duly accepted and authorised for distribution.

Actions

N° 101: PI to arrange transfer of £45000 from Virgin account to Cambridge and Counties

N° 102: PI to arrange further investments of £4000 in NSB bonds.

2017 Finance and Awards

Recommendation is that GPF expenditure be maintained at £1200 including Tratman and Pitcher awards. This will exceed current expectations on interest income for 2017, but can be considered in light of overall aggregate position.

BCA funds for 2017 have been confirmed as £5000, which can be added to the £1100 retention.

Proposed retentions for Round 2 are £450 GPF, £50 Tratman and £1600 BCA, thus suggested funds for distribution are £700 GPF and £4500 BCA. China Caves funding to be added as per committee decisions on awards.

6

Round 1 Allocations

The awards and feedback agreed by the committee are listed in the table below and in Figure 1 showing the meeting allocations.

It was noted that the GPF2017a-003 Mulu application had had a £2000 grant from the Mount Everest Foundation. It was requested by the Expedition Leader that the Expedition be only given a Token GPF grant, thus allowing GPF monies to be used for other expeditions.

The GPF2017b-001 Matienzo application was discussed as this application was not received until two weeks after the deadline. It was agreed to consider this in the Summer Round 2 application as it was an all round expedition.

All but two of the Alex Pitcher awards were granted, two being refused as it was not their first expedition.

Expedition	Feedback
GPF2017a-001	Well prepared and exciting technical project to a longstanding objective with potential for significant discoveries. Will be very interesting to see the results of the secondary objective.
GPF2017a-002	The expedition seems reasonably well organised; application reasonably researched and presented from a young not well known team. Hope the trip provides some good discoveries which are documented and published in the appropriate caving media.
GPF2017a-003	A large team of generally old veterans doing a mixture of remote and easy exploration. No doubt the results will be good, but a great shame more young people are not encouraged to go on this expedition to learn from the great experience present. It is an expensive place to go and channelling grant money to some younger members might increase their numbers.
GPF2017a-004	Interesting concept of "a family expedition", but, as seems to have been proven by last years trip, may be a good combination of allowing cavers with young families to still do expeditions whilst also making it fun for the children who will be the next generation of cavers. Expedition seems well organised with firm objectives. One negative comment - the application (specifically the personnel section) was incompletely filled in and needs to be improved for future applications.
GPF2017a-005	Another crack at Pozo Azul, pushing a system that is at the forefront of cave diving in the world. Flying the flag for British caving. Will be well planned and executed. We look forward to seeing the results.
GPF2017a-006	A large team with good exploration experience (the use "extensive caving experience" in peoples resume is a bit over done). There are a reasonable number of younger people who will benefit from the experience, but very few students going to benefit from a good expedition. Nice to see the Ario project having a major revival.
GPF2017a-007	Some realistic although potentially quite tough objectives for this expedition, especially considering the expedition is only two weeks. The team chosen however seems suitable for the task with plenty of hard Dachstein veteran experience. Look forward to seeing the results.
GPF2017a-008	A well-established expedition returning to continue exploration of a large system that they have systematically explored over many years. Good chance of success. Lots of students from several different clubs attending this as their first ever expedition. This will provide excellent expedition training as well as allowing students who have only previously only caved within their own clubs to cave with other students and other more experienced cavers.
GPF2017a-009	Small team of mostly older cavers with good exploration experience. The application lacks real info about the area or research. (e.g. No attachments, Google earth maps etc, which would show the Tiankeng's etc.) They could contact HMG and borrow a lot to the equipment and save a lot of money!!

GPF Grant Allocation Meeting: Winter 2017

Meeting date: 26-03-2017



	BCA	GPF (incl. AP)	China Caves	Other	Exped Total (no AP)	Alex P allocated (applied)	Alex P awarded	Grand Total	Comments
Funds (2017)	£6,100	£1,150	£700	£0			£7,950		
Retained for R2	£1,600	£450	£0	£0			£2,050		
Available now	£4,500	£700	£700	£0			£5,900		
Allocated	£4,500	£700	£700	£0	£5,450	6 (8)	£450	£5,900	
Left	£0	£0	£0	£0			£0		

Ref.	Exped Name	Country	Field Man Days (Cavers)	Award/MD	Award/PP	Info	BCA	GPF	China Caves	Other	Exped Total	Alex Pitcher #	Alex Pitcher £	Grand Total	GPF Feedback	App Log	MEF
GPF2017a-001	Huautla Resurgence 2017	Mexico	120 (6)	£4.17	£83.33		£500				£500			£500			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-002	ASUL: Atlantis Subterranean Landscapes	Greece	96 (8)	£5.21	£62.50		£350	£150			£500			£500			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-003	Mulu Caves 2017	Malaysia	450 (25)	£0.22	£4.00			£100			£100	0 (2)		£100			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-004	Thailand Krabi Family expedition	Thailand	200 (20)	£3.00	£30.00		£600				£600			£600			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-005	Pozo Azul - 2017	Spain	230 (8)	£3.70	£106.25		£850				£850			£850			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-006	Ario Caves Project 2017	Spain	450 (35)	£1.78	£22.86		£800				£800	2 (2)	£150	£950			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-007	Tresviso 2017	Spain	181 (14)	£2.76	£35.71		£500				£500	1 (1)	£75	£575			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-008	Cambridge University Caving Club Austria Expedition 2016 (CUCC)	Austria	750 (35)	£1.20	£25.71		£900				£900	2 (2)	£150	£1,050			<input type="checkbox"/>
GPF2017a-009	Napo, China 2017	China	113 (9)	£6.19	£77.78				£700		£700	1 (1)	£75	£775			<input type="checkbox"/>

7	<p>GPF Constitution and BCRA</p> <p>NW indicated that the revised GPF constitution and the suggestion that GPF should be a separate Charity in its own right was taken to the BCRA committee. He was surprised by the adverse reaction of the BCRA committee. Due to work commitments, further work on this has been slow and has been parked for the meantime. The GPF committee discussed further the logistics and timing of this. It was agreed that NW should talk to the Charity Commissions to seek its view on the matter and that this fits with the GPF committee objective to be its own independent charity.</p> <p>PJR requested that at the next meeting with BCRA (due to the adverse reaction that the GPF proposal) that GPF need to have prepared well with a well thought out argument and the necessary personnel to attend, to lessen potential problems / discussion. This must also include commitment by the Trustees to attend the BCRA meetings to reinforce that this is the will of the GPF committee.</p> <p>TF also requested that his proposed changes to the GPF constitution be included into it which they so far had not. (as above)</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Nº 103: NW to contact the Charity Commission and discuss the logistics of changing GPF to a full standalone charity. The results and proposed documentation for the next meeting with BCRA to be circulated to the GPF committee for comments.</p> <p>Nº 104: NW to incorporate TF comments into the working version of the new GPF Constitution.</p>
8.	<p>Tratman Award - Ratification and Rules</p> <p>a) Tratman Award Committee recommendation</p> <p>PJR contacted Chris Howes a week or so before the April meeting and asked if the Tratman committee had met. Chris indicated that he had been very busy of late and that he hoped he would have a document to the Ghar Parau Committee before the meeting. No document was received.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Nº 105: PJR to chase Chris Howes for the Tratman committee's recommendation.</p> <p>b) Tratman Announcement and reporting requirements.</p> <p>Reporting requirements</p> <p>PJR talked about the suggested requirements that the Tratman committee should supply to the Ghar Parau committee, for both ratification and website purposes.</p> <p>These were,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A photo of the winning book 2) A short paragraph about the winning book about its contents and why this was chosen over the other books, based on comments on by the Tratman committee members (combined). 3) Short list of books considered in that year containing:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authors name The book title A short description of the book and comments on the book by the Tratman committee members (combined).

	<p>Announcements</p> <p>NW suggested that the Announcement should be as follows: after ratification by the Ghar Parau Committee at the annual Winter (March) meeting, the announcement will not be made until the closing ceremony of the Hidden Earth, where a piece of artwork (a caver reading a book with Tratman Award 20XX visible) will be presented. The artwork not to exceed £75 (inc Vat). After the Hidden Earth announcement, the results will be published in Descent and placed on the Ghar Parau Website.</p> <p>All agreed to these clarification of the requirements and announcement suggestions.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>N° 106 : PJR and AE to relay this information to Chris Howes and the Tratman Committee.</p>
9.	<p>Website</p> <p>PJR gave demonstration of the Application Management system that he and Henry Patton had been working on, showing how the system manages the application from receipt on application to the final retainer being paid. All times and comments of events etc are captured in the Applications Log.</p> <p>A request for a page on the main website to highlight to the public the cash distribution for each round and Expedition, similar to that published in Descent.</p> <p>A problem was noted with the individual comments page where some data seemed to be possibly getting lost. A number of other minor faults and improvements were noted and will be discussed with Henry</p> <p>Action</p> <p>N° 107: PJR and Henry Patton to discuss the issues raised and implement if regarded worthwhile, as well as other noted improvements.</p>
10	<p>Fund raising</p> <p>PJR told the committee that no fund raising had be conducted since Eurospeleo 2016. He also noted that GPF had a number of donations (paintings, set of Descents, Jim Eyre's Cartoons etc) that the should be auctioned/ sold/ raffled to raise money. Mark Wright also indicted that he had a special Berger Book signed by the original explorers that GPF could use for fund raising purposes.</p> <p>NW suggested that a proper raffle could take place with printed tickets, to be sold both at Hidden Earth and at the RGS weekend in December with the draw being made at the end of the RGS weekend. NW and PI we happy to do a lot of the initial arrangement of this raffle and organise the tickets and necessary permissions etc. PJR and RL would help organise a sales team.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>N° 108 :NW and PI to ensure the necessary permissions are in place for the sale of these raffle tickets and Hidden Earth, RGS weekend, and any other appropriate place (website??)</p> <p>N° 109: PJR and RL to organise a sales team for the two events.</p>
11.	<p>Members - discussion of elected member replacement.</p> <p>A fourth elected member needs to be found. PJR suggested that Rob Middleton or Mike Bottomley might be good candidates, both being expedition active.</p> <p>Action</p>

	<p>N° 110: RH to talk to Mike Bottomley and AE to talk to Rob Middleton to see if their are interested in serving a term on the committee, and report back to the committee.</p>
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>a) Mount Everest Foundation</p> <p>PJR indicated that the current method of MEF applications seems to be a good solution for both the MEF and GPF committee:</p> <p>Applications still come through the GPF website, but those applications wanted to be considered for MEF must be submitted to GPF by early January. The GPF Committee will use email to review these applications and make their recommendations to MEF by the 1st Feb so that the MEF committee can use the GPF recommendations in their subsequent meetings.</p> <p>This process needs to be incorporated into the Website so that applicants know these new rules.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>N° 111: PJR to work with Henry Patton and ensure that the Mount Everest Application process is clearly explained on the website.</p> <p>b) Induction of new Members.</p> <p>In both cases the new committee members Rebecca Lawson and Mark Wright, it was felt that the new committee members were informed adequately of the responsibilities of a committee members, e.g making comments prior to the meetings on the website etc. Suitable documentation should be produced to inform Committee members of their duties.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>N° 112 : PJR to produce some form of documentation that can be emailed to new rotating committee members.</p> <p>c) Vote of thank to Anna</p> <p>A vote of thanks for the committee was expressed to be given to the wonderful lunch cooked by Anna Williams. This is both noted in the Minutes as well as a card will be sent.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>N° 113: PJR to send a card to Anna expressing the committee's thanks</p>
13	<p>Date of next meetings</p> <p>Summer meeting: Sunday 1st October 2017: 11:00 - Hidden Earth</p> <p>Winter meeting: Sunday 25th March 2017 :10:30 - Great Hucklow</p>

GHAR PARAU FOUNDATION

TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR ENDING 31.12.16

- 1 The accumulated fund once more grew significantly in the year. Despite this, the overall return continues to diminish as a result of the ongoing reduction in interest rates. In this environment it remains difficult to even maintain the income stream; generating any material improvement would entail an unjustifiable risk to capital.
- 2 During the year, £300 of G.P.F. funding was allocated. Additionally, five applications for the Alex Pitcher award were funded and £66 was paid in respect of the Tratman award. Against this total, £150 of prior year Alex Pitcher awards were written back due to the funds remaining uncashed/unclaimed.

- 3 Donations were received from the following during the year :-

Gouffre Berger	£	500
AC Waltham - J Hallam		<u>600</u>
		1100

Gift aid tax reclaims from 2015/16 remain outstanding and will be submitted in due course.

- 4 No China Caves Project funding was allocated in the year.
- 5 During the year, £5000 of funding for distribution was received from B.C.A. Of this, £3900 was added to the £600 deferred income from 2015 and the total then allocated to 2016 expeditions. The remaining £1100 has been deferred to 2017. In addition, £1450 of prior year awards were written back due to the expeditions either not taking place or failing to claim the funds awarded.
- 6 2016 saw increased net income from direct fundraising. Much of this arose from efforts made during or around the Eurospeleo event. £2045 was raised directly from the event and a further £604 from the Camps held around the UK.
- 7 At the year end, £200 was outstanding overall against awards (funding retained subject to reporting).
- 8 The fund has increased by 6.1% in the year. This once more derives from the level of donation income plus the fundraising efforts. Current expectations on interest rates still suggest that fund growth merely offsets ongoing interest rate reductions. The net income available for distribution in 2016 is likely to be around the level of the previous year.
- 9 I recommend that funds for distribution should be a minimum of £1200 in 2017. This would entail a small deficit on interest income, but in light of 2016 expenditure levels this is reasonable taking the two years together. Tratman and Pitcher awards should form part of this total. Additionally, £1100 of BCA funding remains deferred from 2016. Any further BCA funding should be allocated once confirmed and the same principle applies to any funding which may be forthcoming from the China Caves Project. Should the level and quality of applications justify it, there would also be the opportunity to reallocated some of the £1450 prior BCA awards now returned to the fund. Donation income will once more be added to the accumulated fund unless specifically targeted for distribution.

G HAR PARAU FOUNDATION**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.16****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - 12 MONTHS TO 31.12.16**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
INTEREST RECEIVED	909	857
DONATIONS	1100	2948
HIDDEN EARTH	0	6000
CHINA CAVES PROJECT	0	575
B.C.A.	4500	5300
FUNDRAISING (NET OF COSTS)	2664	883
TOTAL INCOME	<u>9173</u>	<u>16563</u>
G HAR PARAU FOUNDATION GRANTS	300	750
TRATMAN AWARD	66	66
ALEX PITCHER AWARD	225	375
CHINA CAVES AWARDS	0	575
B.C.A. AWARDS	3050	5300
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>3641</u>	<u>7066</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>5532</u>	<u>9497</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.12.16

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
N S B BONDS	44000	36000
VIRGIN MONEY DEPOSIT	47000	47000
INVESTMENTS AT COST	<u>91000</u>	<u>83000</u>
GRANT RETENTIONS	-200	-425
DEFERRED INCOME	-1100	-600
CASH AT BANK	6156	8349
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>95856</u>	<u>90324</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD	90324	80827
EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	5532	9497
ACCUMULATED FUND	<u>95856</u>	<u>90324</u>

- 10 During the year, a further reinvestment was made. £8000 was allocated to the N.S.B. Income Bonds. Whilst the interest rates reflect the current poor state of returns on safe investment, the risk profile for materially improving this position remains unacceptable. However, the situation remains under review and if appropriate alternatives become available, these will be pursued during 2017.
- The current cash balance relates partly to retentions and deferred income, with the majority the result of donation and fundraising income in 2016. As in prior years, I propose that the latter elements are reinvested to improve the return whilst continuing to minimise risk. Any further additional income should be dealt with as arising.

Funds held at year end were as follows :-

Title	Value	Maturity	Interest
National Savings Bonds	44000	N/A	Variable
Virgin Money Charities A/C	47000	N/A	Variable
Total	<u>91000</u>		

The bank balance is £6156

P.N. Ibberson - Treasurer 21/01/17