

# Ghar Parau Foundation

## Awards Meeting (Round One – Winter 2013)

**Purpose of meeting:** Annual Awards

**Date & time of meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013 11:00

**Location:** Conformance Ltd, Gt Hucklow, Derbyshire.

Invitees	Name	Responsibility	
Chairperson	Andy Eavis	Trustee and Chair	AE
	Nick Williams	Trustee	NW
	Dave Judson	Trustee	DJ
	Roo Walters	Secretary	RW
	Paul Ibberson	Treasurer	PI
	Phil Rowsell	Co-Opted	PR
	Ed Waters	Elected Member	EW
	Jarvist Frost	Elected Member	JF
	Helen Brooke	Elected member	HB
	Jeff Wade	Elected Member	JW
	Trevor Faulkner	BCRA Foreign sec	TF
	Vacant (Rep: Paul Ibberson)	BCA Treasurer	PI
Guest	Henry Patton	To discuss Website	HP

### **1 Matters (Raise Any Issues Not Covered By Agenda And Schedule Them For Discussion)**

Bring forward discussion of website to start of meeting.

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Helen Brooke and Jarvist Frost. Both sent notes in advance of the meeting.

### **3 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Proposed by AE, Accepted by all.

### **4 Matters Arising**

None.

## 5 Finances

A full treasurer's report has been supplied. PI summarised this at the meeting, highlighting that £1000 of donations have been received (£700, Mulu Caves, £200 from Chris Jewel and £100 from J Bennett). A further £3,000 has been donated from Hidden Earth. Interest rates continue to be low so £25,000 has been moved to a higher rate interest, but safe, account with Virgin. PI stressed that whilst higher it is variable, but as a repository for Charitable Funds, Virgin do seek to keep the rate high. It is currently 2.6%. £6000 of the year end cash balance is to be added to the Virgin account. Online banking has been established and will be used as the primary method for distributing funds. This will avoid the continuing difficulties regarding cashing of cheques particularly with regard to Pitcher Awards. PR stressed that the website updates for next year will not include banking and payment systems at this stage, however it remains the intention to incorporate them in the future.

PI recommended that £5600 of BCA funds and £1150 GPF funds should be made available for donations throughout 2013, with £50 being held for the Tratman award. This was accepted by members.

The accounts were approved by members.

## 6 Awards

Members expressed interest in applications as follows:

- PR going to Kosovo and Hidden Dragon
- JW going on Ario
- JF going to Slovenia and San Agustin.

Char Parau Foundation - Round One 2013																					
															Funds Available						
															BCA	GPF	China Caves	Alex Pitcher	Other	Total	
															£ 5,600	£ 700	£ 550	£ 450		£ 7,300	
Ref	Leader	Title	Country	Dates	Duration (weeks)	Total cost	Travel Cost	Personal Contribution	Special Costs	UK Cavers	Alex Pitcher/App's	Non-UK Cavers	Field person.days	MEP Rech	BCA	GPF	China Caves	Alex Pitcher	Other	Total	
GPF2013a-001	Chris Jewel	San Agustin	Mexico	Feb/Mar 13	8	£ 36,933	£ 29,000	£ 650	£ 5,663	28	0	12	824	Y	£ 1,300	£ -					
GPF2013a-002	Steph Dwyer	Ario Caves Project	Spain	Jul-13	5	£ 9,760	£ 5,800	£ 100	£ 100	20	2	15	1330	N	£ 500				£ 150		
GPF2013a-003	K Trimmis	Monaco Research Exp	Monaco	Sep/Oct 13	2	£ 1,500	£ 800	£ 50		6	0	3	64	N	£ -	£ 75	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
GPF2013a-004	Aiorn Zabala	CUCC Exp to Austria	Austria	Jul/Aug 13	5	£ 820	£ 120	£ 200	£ 200	7	0	6	260	N	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
GPF2013a-005	Gillian Simpson	Glasgow Uni - Trinidad	Trinidad	June/Aug 13	10	£ 30,327	£ 6,600	£ 600	£ 1,500	11	0	1	770	N	£ 100						
GPF2013a-006	Mark Sins	YUCPC Montenegro	Montenegro	Jul/Aug 13	3	£ 5,400	£ 3,000	£ 400	£ -	12	2	3	195	N	£ 500				£ 150		
GPF2013a-007	Matt Jones	Kosovo 2013	Kosovo	Sep-13	2	£ 4,710	£ 3,700	£ -		10	0	4	120	N	£ 250						
GPF2013a-008	Gavin Lowe	Habe Xue Shan	China	Aug/Sep 13	4	£ 3,852	£ 2,700	£ 1,000	£ -	3	0	0	69	Y			£ 250				
GPF2013a-009	Jason Mallinson	Pozo Azul - Spain	Spain	Aug-13	4	£ 3,980	£ 2,600	£ 130	£ 600	5	0	10	190	N	£ 750						
GPF2013a-010	Gina Moseley	Cave Explorations - Bhu	Bhutan	Sep-13	4	£ 2,700	£ 1,760	£ 700	£ -	2	0	4	150	Y	£ 200						
GPF2013a-011	Juan Corrin	Matienzo 2013	Spain	Jul/Aug 13	5	£ 13,000	£ 8,000	£ 650	£ -	20	0	4	560	N	£ 400						
GPF2013a-012	Rich Gerrish	Hidden Dragon Exp	China	Mar/Apr	4	£ 9,600	£ 7,000	£ 1,200	£ -	4	0	4	176	N			£ 300				
GPF2013a-013	Biver Myerscough	Z Miga na Kuk	Slovenia	Jul/Aug 13	5	£ 13,600	£ 4,150	£ 250	£ -	21	0	5	600	N	£ 600						
GPF2013a-014	Joe Dusbury	Montenegro (JD)	Montenegro	Feb-13	1	£ 2,000	£ 1,600	£ 500	£ -	4	0	0	24	N	£ 75						
GPF2013a-015	Alex Crow	CUCC Exp to Austria 2	Austria	Jul/Aug 13	7	£ 10,120	£ 5,000	£ 400	£ -	20	2	2	600	N	£ 300	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 150		

  

		BCA	GPF	China Caves	Alex Pitcher	Other	Total
Funds Allocated		£ 4,600	£ 450	£ 550	£ 450	£ -	£ -
Funds held for next round		£ 1,000	£ 250	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 7,300

The members rejected GPF2013a-003 as the application was very poor and did not seem to constitute a legitimate application, especially as a second application, GPF2013a-015 was received from CUCC. This application was received late. Members decided to honour this application after some consideration as CUCC have and continue to 'test the resolve' of GPF members with late applications and very late feedback reports. GPF will make it clear that late applications will not be possible with the new automated systems that are due to go live post Hidden Earth 2013. RW to Make declaration on deadlines in all letters. In addition to this concern was expressed by AE

on the quality of bids regarding membership and the disregard of referees. To this end it was agreed that the deadline for submissions should be moved to 1<sup>st</sup> March to allow more time for teams to consolidate. RW agreed to stress to applicants, and via GPF news in Descent, that independent referees to all applications will be required.

## **7 Tratman**

Chris Howes reports that the judges this year were four: Alan Jeffreys, Martin Mills, Ric Halliwell and Chris Howes.

Two publications were in line for winning, so it was a close call between Trevor Shaw & Alenka Cuk for Slovene Caves & Karst, and Marie Clarke, Neville Gregory and Alan Gray for Earth Colours. In the end, after an incredible amount of arguments for and against, the award will go to Trevor and Alenka for Slovene Caves.

The runner-ups are Earth Colours, CREG Journal (for the series), Bath Stone Quarries, Phil Hendy's series in Mendip Times, and Tim Allen for his series of articles on the Three Counties breakthrough that appeared in Descent. (Chris Howes excluded himself from any judging but the other three judges were unanimous in their commendation.)

Chris Howes has requested GPF consider a change to procedure:

A change to the timing required for informing GPF, as the end of January is very tight to complete this work. The reasons then, as now, are that the awards committee cannot close off entries until the end of the year, and even then it is hard to ensure that everything of note has come to light or arrived. Members agreed to move the deadline to 1<sup>st</sup> March, in line with the deadline change for applications.

GPF formally re-elected Chris as the Tratman Coordinator though it is likely that for 2013 he will be a coordinator only, not a judge, given a forthcoming title to be published this year which with his has a close association.

## **8 Fund Raising**

Sold nearly £900 this year totalling £2750 so far, with potential for approximately £9000 if all current stock is sold. Not planning on printing a new set this year, apart from producing more Gaping Ghyll cards for the two winch meets. Members agreed for PR to print more cards as needed. Do a raffle at Hidden Earth of a Scurion lamp and auction the pictures at the dinner. Other selling opportunities: to buy a pack as part of the Hidden Earth registration and sell cards at International Conference in Brno. PR stressed to all members that their help in the direct selling of cards would be very helpful.

## **9 Website**

PR and HP gave a brief review of the website to date. Target to launch at Hidden Earth ready for 2014 Round One applications. Further work would be conducted at a separate meeting in order to place more data within the system and review and finalise the process. This meeting will be in May.

NW – asked that backup, Domain registration etc was appropriately processed to ensure security.

All members reviewed email details. PR stated that members need to say if there are problems with emails so issues can be addressed.

All members delighted with progress.

PJ raised issues around the date, suggestion that a deadline later in the year would lead to better applications.

PJ raised issue of funding experienced covers on trips where there is no expedition application. AE stated that there is nothing against an individual making an application, it does not have to be the leader. Therefore no change to process is required, but words on the application can be updated to reflected.

## 10 Members

GPF removed the BCA treasurer as a de-facto member of GPF; it is PI anyway and there is plenty of council representation on the committee already.

Members as of 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013 are therefore:

Andy Eavis	Trustee and Chair	
Nick Williams	Trustee	
Dave Judson	Trustee	
Roo Walters	Secretary	
Paul Ibberson	Treasurer	
Phil Rowsell	Co-Opted	
Ed Waters	Elected Member	Expires after Winter 2014
Jarvist Frost	Elected Member	Expires after Winter 2015
Helen Brooke	Elected member	Expires after Winter 2016
Jeff Wade	Elected Member	Expires after Winter 2017
Trevor Faulkner	BCRA Foreign sec	

## 11 AOB

Members decided to move winter round application date to 1<sup>st</sup> March of each year, for expeditions from 1<sup>st</sup> April onwards. Trips going Jan-March should continue to apply the previous year and major trips should provide advance notification at round one.

There has been a proposal for a UK exploration Fund. GPF think that the proposal from Hidden Earth to form a UK Exploration Grant scheme is a great idea. PR and NW to work with Murray Knapp (Author of current outline proposals) to consolidate plans.

TF expressed concerns around relationship with BCA and BCRA and that GPF does not promote and recognise its relationship with them appropriately. GPF could also do more to promote contribution to Speleology. PR suggested that all web feedback could easily be sent to Speleology. AE then suggested it would be up to Hugh Penny to request further information on items of interest.

## **12 Next Meeting**

Hidden Earth in September and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Gt Hucklow.