

# Ghar Parau Foundation

## Awards Meeting (Round One – Winter 2016)

**Purpose of meeting:** Annual Awards

**Date & time of meeting:** 10th April 2016 12:00

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

Invitees	Name	Responsibility	
Chairperson	Andy Eavis	Trustee and Chair	AE
	Nick Williams	Trustee	NW
	Dave Judson	Trustee	DJ
	Phil Rowsell	Secretary	PJR
	Paul Ibberson	Treasurer	PI
	Jeff Wade (Year 4)	Elected Member	JW
	Rich Hudson (Year - 3)	Elected Member	RH
	Helen Adams (Year -2)	Elected member	HB
	Rebecca Lawson (Year -1)	Elected Member	RL
	Trevor Faulkner	BCRA Foreign sec	TF
	Vacant (Rep: Paul Ibberson)	BCA Treasurer	??

Item No.	Description	Responsible
1.	Matters (Raise any issues not covered by agenda and schedule them for discussion)	PJR
2.	Apologies for absence	PJR
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	AE/PJR
4.	Matters arising	AE/PJR
5.	GPF Constitution - Comments were required	PJR
6.	2016 Round One awards	PJR
7.	Tratman Award - Ratify	PJR
8.	Website	PJR
9.	Fund raising Donation - Tony Waltham	PJR
10.	<b>The psychology tests project from Nathan Smith.</b>	PJR/ TF
11.	Members - discussion of elected member replacement.	AE
12.	Any other business	AE
13.	Date of next meetings	AE

**1) Additional Agenda items - None**

**2) Apologies :-** Helen Adams, Richard Hudson, Rebecca Lawson, Jeff Wade, Andy Eavis (late arrival)

**3) Acceptance of previous minutes**

12th April 2015 - accepted with minor corrections

- 1) Correction in the date 12th April 2015 not 12th March 2015!
- 2) Name correction from Ed Walters to Ed Waters.
- 3) Alex Pitcher - up to two applicants may apply.

27th Sept 2015 - accepted

**4) Matters Arising**

- 1) Meeting with MEF - See any other business
- 2) The GPF constitution dictates that the Ghar Parau Foundation should have 4 trustees. As a result Paul Ibberson was voted in as the fourth trustee

**5) Constitution**

A discussion was held about the current charity status of the Ghar Parau Foundation, being a subsidiary of the BCRA Charity. Participants thought it might be better for both parties that GPF seek to change status to be an independent charity. With this in mind, the constitution was reviewed and comments taken to amend the constitution to represent this potential change in status

**Actions:**

- 1) Nick Williams and Paul Ibberson to produce a white paper suggesting to BCRA the change of status of the Ghar Parau Foundation. This white paper will be taken to the BCRA committee by Andy Eavis at the next BCRA council meeting.
- 2) Providing the BCRA council agree, Nick Williams will approach the Charities commission will be made to inform them of our desire and to check with them that there are no associated problems.
- 3) Nick Williams and Paul Ibberson will amend the current constitution to reflect these changes

**6a) Treasures Report - Winter 2016 Finances**

**Accounts 2015 - Income**

Interest again reduced a little in the year. Deposit rates remain pitiful and show no sign of any improvement. Fund growth is currently the only safe way to augment the stream of income for distribution.

Donations in the year were again largely the result of the Gouffre Berger book proceeds (£2,500 received in the period).

Hidden Earth contributed a further £6,000, this representing funds from both 2013 and 2014.

China Caves funding was in respect of the single expedition making an application, whilst BCA funding of £5000 was received in the year. This was then added to the £900 retained from 2014 and £600 of the total was retained for distribution in 2016.

Fundraising receipts were as expected at a comparable level to the previous year given no new card projects etc.

#### **Accounts 2015 – Expenditure**

£825 of GPF grants were allocated, but against this one unclaimed prior year retention of £75 was credited back at the year end.

5 applications for Alex Pitcher awards were funded, totalling £375, plus the Tratman award was again financed in the year. Overall GPF distribution is thus in line with interest generation.

BCA and China Caves funds as noted above all allocated to expeditions. Net excess of income over expenditure was £9,497, thus growing the fund to £90,324.

#### **Accounts 2015 – Balance Sheet**

Further investments in the year were split between N.S.B. and Virgin, £8,000 in each case. Deposit balances remain in these easy access options while no better longer term product has yet been identified.

Cash balance of £8,349 at 31/12/15 largely reflects the balance of donation income, plus residual retentions and deferred income.

PI continues to seek a suitable investment vehicle that can safely improve the return on both the accumulated fund and the surplus cash balance. (Note that post year end, a further £500 has been received from Gouffre Berger, along with a further £600 and thus approx £8,000 is available for reinvestment). Should a suitable product become available, this will be utilised in line with the 2015 resolution.

The 2015 Accounts were duly accepted and authorised for distribution.

#### **2016 Finance and Awards**

As noted in the accounts, PI proposed that £1200 be allocated for 2016 expenditure. Of this, £750 should be held for Round 2 and £75 maximum for the Tratman award, thus leaving £375 for distribution at this time. Added to that would be £600 plus £5,000 of BCA funds, of which PI proposed that £1,500 be retained for the summer meeting. Thus the total for allocation at this meeting would be £4,475.

#### **Gift Aid tax reclaim.**

This was completed in 2015 and is included under donation income. A further claim will be made in due course.

### Philippines Grant award 2015

Paul indicated that he had no contact /bank details from Henry Bennett and both the main grant and retainer was still being held by GPF. It was noted that both Paul Ibberson and Phil Rowsell had approached Henry several times and indicated (in fairly strong terms) that he would lose this money if the relevant information was not supplied. It was decided at the meeting that due to the lack of response from Henry that this money would be reclaimed and used for other expeditions.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell to write a letter to Henry and the BEC indicating the committee's dismay at the lack of consideration by Henry for not using the money, which could have been used to support other expeditions.

### 6b) Round 1 Awards

The new website pre-comment system worked well with all committee members adding their comments prior to the meeting. Only 6 applications were received which was disappointing but this may be due to Eurospeleo having an influence.

The committee had the following comments on the applications.

Application	Committee Feedback
GPF2016a-001	Good to see a relative young group of cavers going, with some old experience people going. Application lacked a bit of detail on previous work done in the area and the relationship with the local caving groups, permissions required. Both referees were unavailable for comment which was disappointing. The required answers to additional information was provided by other SUSS members. Hopefully it will be a great learning experience for all with some great new caves found. Watch out for the bombs! (Seriously)
GPF2016a-002	Good solid expedition, with great mix of new and experienced participants. Look forward to good results as usual.
GPF2016a-003	Worth while trip with a good team, be very interested in the results. Disappointing more young participants aren't involved to learn expedition techniques.
GPF2016a-004	Good strong team going back to potentially very interesting leads, look forward to the results. Disappointing more young participants aren't involved to learn expedition techniques.
GPF2016a-005	As in previous applications, supplying all the required information e.g. ages would be appreciated and allow the committee to make informed decisions. Otherwise, looks like the usual solid project, with some student attendance which is fantastic
GPF2016a-006	Great to see the expedition going back to the same area, slightly surprised it seems mainly to be focused on a diving objective, but with only one diver? Look forward to the results. Application lacking some information e.g. ages of some personnel.

A global comment was put on all the feedback to highlight that many of the applications were very close to the deadline and that some applications could

have benefited from more time to ensure the required information was in the application.

"The committee would also like applicants to note that many of the applications were submitted very close to the submission deadline. Some of the applications lacked the pertinent/ detail required, and the committee felt that more time and care would have benefited some of these applications. The application process is open for over 5 months before the deadline, with the ability to save and re edit applications prior to final submission. We suggest applicants take advantage of this in the future"

See page 6 for break down of distribution.

## **7) Tratman Award**

The committee ratified the decision of the Tratman sub-committee that the winner for the 2015 Tratman Award is Marion Dowd's 'The Archaeology of Caves in Ireland'.

The committee did express that more information should be provided to the GPF committee for the purposes of ratification and also subsequent inclusion on the GPF website.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell to produce the requirements that the GPF committee need the Tratman committee to report.

Discussion was had on the timing of the award and that it might be better moved to the Summer meeting (Hidden Earth). The committee would explore this idea further regarding implementation and consequences of changing the date of ratification and the announcement of the winner.

**Action.** Nick William to propose a suitable alternative to the present system.

## GPF Grant Allocation Meeting: Winter 2016

Meeting date: 10-04-2016



Ref.	Leader	Exped Name	Field Man Days	Country	Info	BCA	GPF	China Caves	Other	Exped Total (no AP)	Alex P allocated (applied)	Alex P £75 awarded	Grand Total	GPF Feedback	Internal Log	MEF	
GPF2016a-001	Jack Dewison	SUSS go Pester Serbia	275	Serbia		£1,000				£1,000	1 (1)	£75	£1,075			<input type="checkbox"/>	
GPF2016a-002	Benjamin Honan	Neprehojene poti - "Untaveled paths"	30	Slovenia		£1,100				£1,100	2 (2)	£150	£1,250			<input type="checkbox"/>	
GPF2016a-003	Mike Bottomley	Ario Caves Project 2016	224	Spain		£400				£400			£400			<input type="checkbox"/>	
GPF2016a-004	Phil Walker	Tresviso 2016	225	Spain		£400				£400	0 (2)		£400			<input type="checkbox"/>	
GPF2016a-005	Matthew Watson	Cambridge University Caving Club Austria Expedition 2016	474	Austria		£700				£700			£700			<input type="checkbox"/>	
GPF2016a-006	Mark Sims	Durnitior 2016	195	Montenegro		£500				£500	2 (2)	£150	£650			<input type="checkbox"/>	
						BCA	GPF (incl. AP)	China Caves	Other	Exped Total (no AP)	Alex P allocated (applied)	Alex P £75 awarded	Grand Total	Comments			
					Funds (2016)	£5,600	£1,125	£0	£0				£6,725				
					Retained for R2	£1,500	£750	£0	£0				£2,250				
					Available now	£4,100	£375	£0	£0				£4,475				
					Allocated	£4,100	£375	£0	£0	£4,100	5 (7)	£375	£4,475				
					Left	£0	£0	£0	£0				£0				

## 8) Website

### **General**

General comments was that the website was working well. Phil Rowsell reported that a lot of work had been done on the "Application Management System" which is designed to manage the applications through the whole process from application to final feedback and retainer paid.

Several suggestions for improvements from using the system during the meeting were suggested. These were accordingly noted.

It was also decided that the Referees would be emailed a copy of the application to make them aware that they were a referee for that application and they might be more up to speed if the committee decided to call them during the meeting.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell to discuss all comments about website with Henry Patton

### **Back up of the GPF site.**

Nick Williams asked about the backing up of the site. Phil Rowsell did not know the current arrangement. It was agreed at the meeting that Henry and Nick should discuss this question with the possibility of moving the GPF data to Nick's server.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell to liaise with Henry

### GPF Archive

Nick Williams inquired about the state of the archive with the new system as Katie Dent was now available again to help work computerising some information.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell would liase with Katie Dent and establish what work had been done and develop an implementation plan.

## 9) Fund Raising

### **1) Card Sales**

Phil Rowsell reported that there had been no sales of cards this year, mainly due to him being based in China.

### **2) Tony Waltham Donation**

A donation was made through Tony Waltham via a group of caves to GPF for £600. While both the Secretary and Treasurer had already thanked Tony for this donation via email, it was thought that it would be a formal thank you letter might be appropriate.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell to approach Tony to see who it would be best sent to.

### **3) Eurospeleo Raffle**

Andy Eavis indicated that the Eurospeleo team were happy for GPF to run the Raffle. GPF needs to decide whether it has the man-power to run the raffle and to find a suitable person to organise it, be it a proper ticket raffle or a cloakroom type. At the meeting no one could commit the time to do this. Phil Rowsell had indicated that he had emailed Alys Mendus, but had had no reply.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell will attempt to find a suitable person to organise this

## **10) Replacement of elected member**

Jeff Wade has now completed his term and election of a new rotating member is required. Names suggested - Ric Stanton, Mark Wright.

It was suggested that further thought for additional candidates is made with a final decision made at Eurospeleo, prior to the next GPF meeting in October.

## **11) Any other business**

### **1) MEF Meeting**

Phil Rowsell indicated that GPF had still not met with MEF and that this should still be pursued. At the meeting it was suggested that Phil Rowsell and Andy Eavis meet MEF to build up a rapport and discuss the application process.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell to approach MEF and arrange a meeting.

### **2) David Judson access to site.**

Nick Williams had spoken to David Judson and he had requested access to the new GPF Site.

**Action:** Phil Rowsell to action.