

Ghar Parau Foundation
Awards Meeting (Round One March 2024)

Minutes

Purpose of meeting: Spring Awards

Date & time of meeting: 14th March 2024 : 18.00 pm

Location: Zoom

Invitees	Name	Responsibility	
	Andy Eavis rotate 2031	Trustee	AE
Chairperson	Nick Williams rotate 2029	Trustee & Chair	NW
Treasurer	Paul Ibberson rotate 2025	Trustee & Treasurer	PI
	Alex Hannam (Year-4)	Elected Member	AH
	Fleur Loveridge (Year - 3)	Elected Member	FL
Apologies for absence	Chris Jones (Year -2)	Elected Member	CJ
	Rachel Turnbull (Year - 1)	Elected Member	RT
	Rob Watson	BCRA rep	RW
Secretary	Howard Jones rotate 2027	BCA Book keeper & Ghar Parau Secretary & Trustee	HJ

1. Minutes of the last GPF meeting held 05/10/2023

The minutes were discussed and approved. No matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

2. Trustee matters

Nick welcomed the two new members, (Rachel and Alex). It was noted we had apologies for absence from Chris Jones. Following elections in autumn 2023 Alex Hannam took Elaine Oliver's position (now year 4) and Rachel Turnbull was elected

year 1. We currently have one other volunteer for the elected member's role. We will decide Alex's term of office at the Autumn 2024 meeting.

3. Discussion regarding 2024 funding of applications and Finance Report

PI introduced his finance report.

The accounts to 31 December 2023 reflected bank base rate increases which impacted favourably; interest received in the year was £5,320 against £2010 in the previous year. A further increase to approx. £6.5k is expected in 2024. Donations of £1k were augmented by a further £1k of Gift Aid tax reclaim. The £800 donation from Gloucester CRG is to be distributed a.s.a.p. and has been allowed for in 2024 funds. £3000 of BCA funding was received in the year. Fund raising yielded £835 net of costs.

Net distributions in the year comprised £2,950 GPF, £3,000 BCA, £925 Alex Pitcher, £150 Ian Timey and £6,000 Mulu. There are no expeditions ring fenced at present.

Net assets £210k are invested in a number of places with varying interest rates which have been high in the last 12 months, but are likely to fall over the coming months. Any surplus funds are to be reinvested while rates remain advantageous.

For distribution in 2024 it is assumed £3,000 BCA monies and £6,150 GPF the latter to include Pitcher and Timney but not Mulu and £800 GCRG. Spring round monies to be distributed are £7,600 and £2,350 is held back till autumn 2024 round.

Mulu trips are funded via the Merdeka ring fenced monies, likewise Timney monies are ring fenced.

Examiner for Trustee report and accounts has been Alastair Gott and Paul will ask him if he would do so again. Report needs to be submitted to Charity Commission by end October 2024. **Action PI.**

4. Consideration of Spring applications 2024

The Committee agreed the recommendations (totalling £7,600) which would be communicated to the expedition leaders, **Action PI/HJJ.** £2,350 carried forward to autumn 2024 applications.

Spring 2024 distribution result : £3000 BCA, £3650 GPF/AP, £150 Timney, £800 GCRG

5. Review of outstanding actions from previous meetings

See separate document.

6. Members update.

See above. The committee will discuss Alex Hannam's position at the autumn 2024 meeting **Action HJJ**

7. MEF update

MEF decided to go back to the previous arrangement for references for caving expeditions that apply to them i.e. a précis of GPF comments. They had an application from the Peru team and GPF submitted their comments as requested. **Action HJJ**

8. BCRA/GPF symposium:

RW updated the committee on this matter which had been a success. BCRA might repeat. Article in Descent **Action RW**

9. Website and expedition database

HJJ redacted 290 old expedition reports and Henry has uploaded them to the new website. Henry thanked for the new website work.

10. Long term future of GPF

NW will produce a discussion document for autumn meeting. Longer term thoughts included conservation, leader development, science, local caving involvement etc. **Action NW**

11. Fund raising: 2023 saw good fund raising with card and book sales, still have cards to sell **Action HJJ**

12. BCA will soon have a new treasurer (Chris Bolton) and he will represent BCA on GPF. **Action HJJ**

13. Review GPF website to see if marketing for donations are well placed, also change gender language (man days to be person days) **Action HJJ**

14. Trustee succession planning, start to consider replacements for the incumbents **Action All**

15. Date of next meeting

September 2024 in person (Hidden Earth) and by Zoom. Exact date TBC

Meeting closed 20.15