

Annual General Meeting
Held at the Royal Geographical Society
On Tuesday 22nd October 2013 at 12.00 hours

Present

Fee Bellamy, Mike Blakey, Chris Blessington, Beth Chapman, Mike Cross, Sharon Cruse, Graham Derrick, Adrian Ferraro, Ted Grey, Peter Harvey, Caroline Hodges, Jess Kelly, Roger Miller, Bob Schroter, Haydyn Tanner, Gemma Wardle, Shane Winser.

Apologies

Sir Chris Bonnington, Steve Bull, Mick Connell, Peter Derrick, Peter Drake, Michael Edney, Beth Gardner, Dick Griffiths, Steve Gorman, John Hamilton, Robbie Johnston, Tony Land, Rob Lucas, Jim Macpherson, Dennis Marriner, Stuart Morris, Roger Putnam, Patricia Rueda, Julian van Loxton, Marcel Wagner, Dave Watkinson, David Williams, Marcus Watts, Georgia Yurkwich Spink.

Minutes of AGM 2012

Minutes of the AGM held on 7th June 2012 were accepted as a true record. It was noted that an undertaking to supply a breakdown of personal and corporate members had not been fulfilled and the failure was remedied.

Appointment & Retirement of Trustees

Chris Blessington, retiring by rotation, was re-elected, to a further five year term. Mike Cross and Roger Miller who had been co-opted by the Board as Trustees in January were elected, two members dissenting in both cases.

It was suggested that the Trust might benefit from a stronger commercial representation amongst the Trustees. The Board would like to appoint a Vice Chairman as had been traditional but no candidate had been found since Julian Penney's resignation a year ago.

Appointment of Officers

Trustees' appointment of ten officers and two advisers were noted, They were Beth Chapman (Evaluations), Michael Edney (Media & Publicity), Adrian Ferraro (Forum), Ted Grey (Awards & Grants), Dick Griffiths (Treasurer), Tony Land (Publications), Roger Miller (Company Secretary), Shaun Mockett (Insurance Adviser), Haydyn Tanner (Membership), Julian van Loxon (Website), Dave Watkinson (Training & Qualifications), David Williams (Legal Adviser).

Appointment & Retirement of Council Members

An entirely new Council made up of representatives of various interest groups within YET membership was elected. This way of constructing a Council was welcomed as good for providers and for YET. Some vacancies remained to be filled and suggestions for other appointments were made. Members proposed so far were Mike Blakey of Air Cadets (Uniformed Cadet groups), Peter Derrick of Brathay Exploration Group (National voluntary Exploration Societies), Peter Drake of Yorkshire Schools Exploration Society (Regional voluntary Exploration Societies), Beth Gardner of The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (Outdoor Education), John Hamilton of Round Square Schools (International schools), Jess Kelly of the Scout Association (Scouts, with a watching brief for Guide interests), Rob Lucas of the Field Studies Council (Fieldwork), Gemma Wardle of British Exploring Society (young members), Marcus Watts of Year Out Group (year out interests). Members were concerned that the interaction of all these people, and especially Officers and Trustees, should be well managed and give full scope for Officer innovation. A particular concern had been promptness of posting reports on the website. It was explained that an attempt was being made to devise arrangements that would allow responsible officers to make their own changes, speeding the process, while not compromising the integrity of YET's

communications. The relationship between the role of Council and that of forum meetings also appeared to require some thought. It was not evident from these appointments and elections how it was proposed to carry forward the mentoring that Mike Blakey had been leading. It was confirmed that he would continue in this role, discussing with the Chairman how it would best fit in the new framework.

With these comments all proposals for election were accepted.

Strategy 2013-15 & accompanying Memorandum of Operations

These lengthy documents had been thoroughly reviewed by Trustees and Council during 2013 and were commended to the AGM. Members were keen to know whether a shift from the traditional core purpose of the Trust as the voice of British youth exploration was implied or intended and were reassured it was not. There had also been concern that an evaluation trail might wag the Trust dog and particularly that if extended too far might bring unnecessary trouble on the Trust and even find it acting *ultra vires*. Trustees had taken these fears very seriously during the year, got authoritative legal assessment that what was being done was entirely proper and explained at length why they also thought it right. Publication of this strategy should reassure members that no element of YET activity would be allowed undue dominance. Nor would any, amongst which fieldwork was of particular concern to members, be squeezed out. It was noted that training is most likely to be best served for some time by signposting others' provision rather than by trying to provide everything in house.

How YET is to develop its network and influence was of great significance to members, as were direct member benefits. A member only section of the website had for some time been contemplated and member benefits had been recognised as a key issue. It was intended that the Council meeting following this general meeting should spend some time considering how to pursue this matter. Mike Edney had made a useful difference to the reach of YET publicity and more was hoped for. This was one area in which financial constraints were keenly felt. Some attempt to cross reference aims set out in the memorandum with those in the strategy was felt to be desirable and the secretary, as the focus on the Board for legal and administrative matters, was asked to undertake this work. He was also asked to ensure that the memorandum & articles were easily accessible to members.

With these comments the strategy and accompanying memorandum of operations were endorsed.

Trustees Annual Report & Accounts

In the absence of the Treasurer Bob Schroter introduced the report and accounts for 2012, thanking Dick Griffiths who had taken over as Treasurer in difficult circumstances and very quickly achieved order and started collecting outstanding debts. Funds available for general purposes are too limited to allow YET any freedom of action beyond what volunteers can achieve and grant funds at current rates of interest relatively pitiful contributors to expedition viability but YET is a going concern. Reclaiming Gift Aid tax was the Treasurer's next job, which would improve matters somewhat further.

Members asked whether muted reference to the outstanding Lucas case was a deliberate attempt to conceal a contingent liability and were assured that it was not. There remained some feeling that a more prominent statement might have served YET better but on balance, since insurance means that there are no financial implications, Trustees were content that the matter had been correctly handled.

Report and Accounts were accepted. It was noted that Trustees had accepted the Treasurer's recommendation to appoint Hugh Miller to inspect the accounts which he had done in 2012 and was expected to do again in 2013.

Chairman's Report

Graham Derrick presented his second Chairman's Annual Report. He noted that as his predecessor as Chairman had said in his 2009 AGM report that youth expeditioning was changing and the Trust must also in order to take and hold a position in the vanguard of that change, not a mere responder to it. He had been more concerned by the danger of inertia than the risk of an occasional mistake in trying to meet the Trust's aims of safe and responsible youth expeditioning,

helping young people to explore the world and themselves. The appointments and initiatives just accepted by this AGM reflected Trustees' commitment to keeping YET relevant and strong despite the constraints imposed by limited finance.

He was sad to note the death during the past year of Clive Jermy, former YET chairman, with the academic clout of a department head at the Natural History Museum and Peter Smith, Geography HMI, RGS Trustee and long time supporter of what YET could do for British youth.

Highlights of the year had been maintenance of a very active Evaluation Service together with extensive advice to young people's expeditions and some grant aid, formation of an informal archive group that had done some effective work, and Forum meetings going from strength to strength. Many volunteers had done sterling work. Volunteer input had been reorganised and maximised, the benefit of which YET will continue to see during this year and next. He had an eager sense of anticipation that 2013 and even more 2014 would be good years for YET.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.30pm.