

Annual General Meeting
Held at the Royal Geographical Society
On Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 12.15 pm.

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Present

Fee Bellamy, Mike Blakey, Mike Cross, Peter Drake, Graham Derrick (Chairman), Ted Grey, Dick Griffiths, Jess Kelly, Tony Jacklin, Roger Miller, Bob Schroter, Haydyn Tanner.

Apologies

Pete Allison, Chris Blessington, Sir Chris Bonnington, Mick Connell, Lorraine Craig, Roger Davis, Steve Gorman, John Hamilton, David Henson, Tony Land, Rob Lucas, Shaun Mockett, Paul Rignall, Gemma Wardle, David Williams, Nigel Winser.

Minutes of AGM 2014

Minutes of the AGM held on 21st October 2014 were accepted as a true record.

Appointment & Retirement of Trustees

The start of the meeting was delayed by a quarter of an hour from the advertised starting time in order to achieve a quorum. Graham Derrick, chairman, explained that he would not serve for a second term. He had followed three years as vice chairman with three as chairman but felt for some time that despite AGM & Council formal endorsement there was less than wholehearted support for the strategy that the trustees were pursuing. Whilst he was convinced that YET had in that time taken on a better shape and structure, well fitted to the aim, since YET's foundation, of serving and representing British youth expeditioning, some officer jobs were unfilled and it was in any case desirable that younger members fill key roles. He had therefore very recently concluded he should go. As his report, later in the agenda, would show he left an enterprise steadfastly pursuing the strategy agreed two years ago but was sorry not to have been able to give more notice and to have to leave any successor a Trust that is rather short of cash. Not wishing to be a ghost at the feast he would, therefore depart at once.

In the absence of a vice chairman, in accordance with the Articles of Association trustee Mike Cross took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He observed, before Graham departed, on behalf of his fellow trustees, members of Council and YET members past and present how sorry he was that Graham had decided to bow out and thanked him for the effective and extensive contribution he had made to YET since its inception. During the past six years in particular, as vice chairman and chairman, he had, despite some unwelcome headwinds to contend with, restructured Council to make it more effective and representative and laid out a clear strategy designed to ensure the continued relevance of YET. It was to be hoped that he would not lose touch since he still had much to contribute and the Trust could benefit greatly from that involvement.

Appointment of Officers

Trustees' reappointment of officers and advisers were noted, They were Ted Grey (Awards & Grants), Dick Griffiths (Treasurer), Tony Land (Publications), Roger Miller (Company Secretary), Shaun Mockett (Insurance Adviser), Paul Rignall (Web Editor), Haydyn Tanner (Membership), David Williams (Legal Adviser). Officers to manage forum, media and training and to administer evaluations were still being sought as well as someone to convene a resources group. Mike Blakey volunteered to fill the forum vacancy. He and Bob Schroter would work together. Ted Grey would like to find a younger person who after a period of joint working would take over grants & awards from him.

Appointment & Retirement of Council Members

There were no retirements required by length of service. Fee Bellamy was welcomed as a representative of small providers. It was noted with regret that there were at present no representatives of international schools, outdoor education, Learning Outside the Classroom Council or gap year organisations.

Annual Report & Accounts

Dick Griffiths was thanked for his work as treasurer. Income in 2014 had been about £10 thousand and expenditure about £15 thousand, leaving a year end balance of almost £52 thousand. The unrestricted cash balance had fallen to slightly under £3 thousand, only just enough for YET to be assessed as a going concern, and something would have to be done about that during this year to avoid having to wind up the Trust. It was noted that Restricted funds, from which the modest grants YET makes each year are paid and not available for general purposes were adequate for a good while at current rates of disbursements.

Report and accounts, previously circulated, were adopted. It was noted that the trustees had accepted the treasurer's recommendation that Hugh Miller be asked to inspect the accounts again in 2016.

Chairman's Report (previously circulated)

Whilst what YET achieves by using existing resources and volunteer effort had been effective in continuing to allow YET to pursue the strategy adopted two years ago, the chairman also drew attention to what lack of volunteers had made it impossible to do and the importance of fund raising to allow YET to achieve all that it wanted. He was grateful for the work that all officers had put in during the past year and thanked his fellow trustees for their help. For a fuller statement he referred members to the summary of achievement set out in the trustees report part of the 2014 accounts.

A very effective evaluation service had been maintained, albeit auditing four fewer providers than in the previous year, and coped with a brisk demand for its services. Beth Chapman had stood down as coordinator because of increased family commitments and was thanked for her work. YET awards attracted 140 applicants, a record number. The new award fund established last year was generously topped up with an anonymous £2,000 gift, making it possible to distribute £5,800 amongst 30 awards. YET would like to do more, and recommendation of more sources of funding were always very welcome. The annual Alfred Stephenson award, for service to youth exploration, went this year to Dave Hill to mark 14 very varied expeditions for the ATC and the Stephenson lifetime achievement award to Tony Arthur for his outstanding record of expeditions over 30 years that had, in his distinctive style, offered so much to so many disadvantaged young people.

The 20th forum meeting, to consider high quality outdoor learning, was held in Nottingham. YET had also continued to network and lobby in the interests of youth exploration including participating in the work of the Adventure Activities Licencing Authority, on whose newly formed Council he had served, English Outdoor Council and Outdoor Pursuits Division of the Sports & Recreation Alliance. It was decided that a clear desire to discuss networking in some detail be given effect in the meeting of Council scheduled to follow this general meeting.

Other Business

As a result of the chairman's resignation (and there being no vice chairman) there was no chairman for the imminent meeting of Council. It was agreed that members would confer informally and select a chairman for that meeting from amongst them, as the Articles provide in these circumstances. It was also decided that any proposal to elect a new chairman of the Trust should be deferred for subsequent consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.15pm.

