

Annual General Meeting
Held at the Royal Geographical Society
On Tuesday 17th October 2017at noon.

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Present

Mike Blakey, Oliver Blomfield, Alistair Cole, Mike Cross (Chairman), Luke Gregory, Ted Grey, Dick Griffiths, Jess Kelly, Tony Land, Roger Miller, Paul Rignall, Bob Schroter, Haydyn Tanner, Gemma Wardle.

Apologies

Pete Allison, Fee Bellamy, Nigel Bidgood, Chris Blessington, Chris Bonington, Quincy Connell, Graham Derrick, Peter Drake, Kevin Sidford, Mark Wager, David Williams.

Minutes of AGM 2014

Minutes of the AGM held on 18th October 2016 were accepted as a true record.

Appointment & Retirement of Trustees

No trustee retirement being due this year and no proposals to elect additional trustees having been received no election was made.

Appointment of Officers

Trustees' appointment of officers and advisers were noted, They were Nigel Bidgood (Forum), Dick Griffiths (Treasurer), Tony Land (Publications), Roger Miller (Company Secretary), Shaun Mockett (Insurance Adviser), Paul Rignall (Web Editor), Bob Schroter (Evaluations), Haydyn Tanner (Membership), Gemma Wardle (Awards & Grants), David Williams (Legal Adviser).

Nigel Winser had given most welcome help during the year, in the absence of a resources officer but would not be continuing in that capacity. It was noted that the title resources officer had confused some members and resolved, since fund raising was the chief job of that officer, to retitle the post fund raiser. A candidate to fill this position has long been and continues to be sought. Kevin Sidford had joined the evaluation team and it was hoped would in due course take up the job of evaluations coordinator. There was some debate about whether retaining a training & qualifications officer post was desirable and noted that the trustees would decide at their next meeting.

One element in implementing the plan drawn up following member consultations in 2015-16 had been to form an operations committee to encourage officers and those who helped them to interact directly with one another in the interests of the Trust. The committee had had an inaugural meeting but would, it was envisaged, do most of its work remotely. The committee had been asked to suggest who might best act as its chairman to coordinate its activities so far as necessary and it was expected that one would shortly be made for trustees' consideration. A proposal to establish ambassadors to publicise the uses and merits of YET had been adopted by a small group led by Phil Avery. As support for them an amalgamation of expedition film and interviews was being created, called the Voices Project.

Appointment & Retirement of Council Members

There were no retirements required by length of service. It was noted with pleasure that Army Cadets, EPA and Outward Bound had joined the Council during the year. Luke Gregory had succeeded Gemma Wardle as young members representative. There continued to be no representatives of international schools, Guides, Learning Outside the Classroom Council or gap year organisations.

It was noted that since the Council reverted to being a wholly advisory body, as originally constituted when YET was founded, the description of it, and, most significantly the rules relating to periods of service, had not been modified to accord with the new circumstances. The Secretary had made a proposal for fresh terms of reference that trustees would consider at their next meeting. Council would be invited to comment at its next meeting and approval to changes then agreed would be sought at the 2018 AGM.

Annual Report & Accounts

Dick Griffiths was thanked for his work as treasurer. Income in 2016 was, at over £14 thousand, about £3,000 more than in the previous year. Expenditure at about £9 thousand therefore left the balance of funds increased by £5 thousand and the the unrestricted cash balance increased to £8 thousand, the highest level for some years though still less than desirable. With much of the year now gone it was clear that 2017 accounts should also present a satisfactory picture.

Restricted grant funds of almost £46 thousand would allow grants at the current level of £3 thousand to £4 thousand a year to be made for some years, but income generated by these funds continued to need supplementing and members were asked to help by approaching their contacts who are interested in promoting the persoanal development of young people. The chairman pointed out that YET could offer a quid pro quo for such support by naming grants arising after the sponsor.

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 2018.

Grants & Awards

Applications had for some years remained fairly constant at between 100 and 120 a year but those from independent, voluntarily led, expeditions had steadily declined. It is thought that increased perception of risk, declining school budgets and more pressures on staff time are factors in shifting expedition provision from voluntary societies (though not from national well organised ones such as Scouts and cadets) and from schools towards commercial providers. Average application quality had been disappointing this year and although some excellent expedition reports had been received prompting late submitters was still going on.

Membership

The membership secretary reported noincrease in membership this year but significant progress in establishing a new, fellow,class of membership and creation of a credit card style membership card and pin badge. A youth membership scheme had not been taken up and would be reworked in the coming year.

Chairman's Report (previously circulated)

Commenting on the summary of achievement during the year set out in his report, previously circulated, the Chairman noted that more progress had been made in the year since the last AGM in adjusting YET's practice to deliver what members would wish. In particular, extra voluntary effort had been mobilised. Promotion, forums, grants and putting the Trust on a better financial footing had all benefited. He wished particularly to draw attention to greater participation by young people, a nascent ambassador programme, revival of the long established series of forum meetings after a long break and participation in the RGS Explore meeting. He hoped that members would use opportunities to refer to and publicise YET in the course of their own work and particularly so on Facebook etc. YET had continued, as in previous years, to network and lobby in the interests of youth exploration. This included participation in the work of the English Outdoor Council and British Standards (BS 8848).

Next Meeting

The Secretary was asked to fix with the RGS a date in October 2018.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1pm.