

**Annual General Meeting**  
Held at the Royal Geographical Society  
On Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 12.00 hours

**Present**

Mike Blakey, Chris Blessington, Beth Chapman, Mike Cross, Peter Drake, Graham Derrick (Chairman), Ted Grey, Dick Griffiths, John Hamilton, Caroline Hodges, Helen Littlejohn, Tony Land, Roger Miller, Bob Schroter, Haydyn Tanner, Gemma Wardle, David Williams.

**Apologies**

Pete Allison, Paul Bond, Sir Chris Bonnington, Matt Bramble, Mick Connell, Lorraine Craig, Roger Davis, Peter Derrick, Michael Edney, Steve Gorman, Robbie Johnston, Jess Kelly, Rob Lucas, Paul Rignall, Malcolm Tillyer, Julian van Loxton, Dave Watkinson.

**Minutes of AGM 2013**

Minutes of the AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 were accepted as a true record.

**Appointment & Retirement of Trustees**

Bob Schroter, retiring by rotation, was re-elected, to a further five year term, nobody dissenting.

The Board had not succeeded during the past year in finding a Vice Chairman. It would like to do so both to provide, whilst not ruling out other candidates, an option for a smooth transition when the present chairman retires and to allow the chairman's duties more easily to be shared. Member help in finding a suitable candidate would be welcome.

**Appointment of Officers**

Trustees' reappointment of seven officers and two advisers were noted, They were Beth Chapman (Evaluations), Ted Grey (Awards & Grants), Dick Griffiths (Treasurer), Tony Land (Publications), Roger Miller (Company Secretary), Shaun Mockett (Insurance Adviser), Haydyn Tanner (Membership), Julian van Loxton (Website), David Williams (Legal Adviser). The resignation due to pressure of other work of three officers, Mike Edney, Adrian Ferraro and Dave Watkinson was noted with regret and they were thanked for their contributions. Officers to manage Forum, Media and Training were therefore being sought as well as someone to convene a Resources Group, an office not as yet filled.

**Appointment & Retirement of Council Members**

Council having been wholly remade during the past year there were no retirements required by length of service. It was noted with regret that Beth Gardner had resigned on leaving Learning Outside the Classroom, creating a vacancy, and that Lorraine Craig of Imperial College had joined to provide a link to higher education as had David Henson to take particular care of the interests of members with disabilities and inclusivity in general. These elections were accepted.

**Annual Report & Accounts**

Report and accounts, previously circulated, were adopted. Dick Griffiths was thanked for his performance of the treasurer's role in difficult circumstances. Income in 2013 had been nearly £16 thousand and expenditure about a thousand pounds less, leaving a year end balance of almost £57 thousand. All but about £6 thousand of this balance was restricted funds from which the modest grants YET makes each year are paid and not available for general purposes. Whilst a more substantial operating balance was very desirable this left YET as a going concern. It was noted that the trustees had accepted the treasurer's recommendation that Hugh Miller be asked to inspect the accounts again in 2015.

## **Chairman's Report**

Graham Derrick presented his Chairman's Annual Report.

Whilst what YET achieves by using existing resources and volunteer effort had been effective in allowing YET to pursue the strategy adopted last year, the chairman drew attention to the importance of fund raising to allow YET to achieve all that it wanted and the contribution the treasurer was making in managing limited funds. He was grateful for the work that all officers had put in during the past year and that membership had held up, referred to the summary of achievement set out in the trustees report that formed part of the 2013 accounts and noted briefly what had followed.

A very effective Evaluation Service had been maintained and coped with a brisk demand for its services. Bob Schroter as supervising Trustee and Beth Chapman as Coordinator had managed an established team of voluntary evaluators, many of whom had taken the trouble to achieve ISO 9001 lead auditor status, to excellent effect. This had taken place in a year in which YET was also heavily involved in revising BS8848. A revised standard had been published in August. Despite rigorous evaluation the expedition year had included major incidents and tragic fatality. The number of participants in expeditions each year makes it likely that best efforts will not alter this pattern of events but YET would work carefully with member organisations to learn lessons and improve processes and procedures.

YET awards continued to attract many applicants. A new award fund was established with an anonymous £2,000 gift and another with funds resulting from dissolution of Derbyshire Youth Exploration Group given to YET. In 2014 this will allow £4,800 to be distributed amongst 20 expeditions. Whilst considerably more than in 2013 this remains a modest contribution and recommendation of more sources of funding would be very welcome. The annual Alfred Stephenson award, for service to youth exploration, went this year to Lesley Sleight to mark 25 years of leading youth expeditions and the Stephenson Lifetime Achievement Award to John Hegarty for his major contribution to Dorset Expeditionary Society.

A Forum meeting dealing with philosophical and practical issues when planning an expedition that includes people with disabilities was well received.

The YET website had been refreshed under the guidance of Paul Rignall and further work is envisaged.

YET had also continued to network and lobby in the interests of youth exploration including participating in the work of the English Outdoor Council, the Outdoor Pursuits Division of the Sports & Recreation Alliance, the Outdoor Employers Group and AAIAC.

The Chairman reported that sadly two men who had been significant contributors to YET, and youth expeditioning more generally, had died during the past year and YET mourned the passing of Richard Crabtree and John Tyson.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 1pm.