

## Borders Exploration Group Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday 20 January 2014

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Place:** Argus Centre, Selkirk

Item	Responsible person
<p><b>1 Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Present:</b> Jim McPherson; Ron Sutherland; Geraldine Bouglas; Ross Purves; Nancy Anderson; Pam Hunter; Ruth Longmuir</li> <li>• <b>Apologies:</b> Lorraine Sinclair; David Hunter; Roger Hemming</li> <li>• Jim welcomed everyone and introduced Ross who is new to the committee.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Minutes from previous meeting (Sept 2013)</b> Approved by Nancy Anderson, seconded by Pam Hunter</li> <li>• <b>Notes from “informal meeting” Dec 2013</b> Approved by Ron Sutherland, seconded by Ross Purves</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Minutes from the AGM</b> Approved by Nancy Anderson, seconded by Ron Sutherland</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4 Matters arising from previous minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review of the constitution</b> <u>Action carried forward:</u> <i>A revised constitution to be drafted using the OSCR template</i></li> <li>• <b>Wrist bands and hi-vis jackets</b> – Rachel not present so no update given. <u>Action carried forward:</u> <i>Look into cost of wristbands as an alternative to membership cards for the next meeting</i> <u>Action carried forward:</u> <i>Batch of hi-vis vests with the BEG logo to be ordered</i></li> <li>• It was confirmed that Roger has the <b>template for the toposcope</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Gift Aid.</b> It is not known if Rosie has been approached. <u>Action carried forward:</u> <i>Rosie (as Malawi treasurer) to be asked about taking this forward</i></li> <li>• <b>BEG calendars.</b> Ron reported that only one person submitted photographs for consideration and so the idea was abandoned.</li> <li>• <b>PVG.</b> Lorraine has attended PVG training. It was noted that people who were Disclosed before the PVG scheme came into operation will need to join the scheme at some point.</li> <li>• Jim reported that an application was submitted to the <b>Small Grants Scheme</b> for funding for YET leadership training but that BEG was not successful.</li> <li>• The <b>accounts</b> have been audited and a gift given to Kenneth Ovens. Jim congratulated Ron for getting the accounts in order.</li> </ul>	<p>Jim (and Allan)</p> <p>Rachel</p> <p>Rachel</p> <p>Lorraine</p>
<p><b>5 Committee roles and responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles as agreed at the last meeting: Chair - Jim Vice Chair - David Treasurer - Ron Secretary - Ruth Newsletter - Pam Membership Secretary - Rachel Equipment - Nancy, Ross</li> </ul>	

	<p>Website - Jim, Ruth PR - David, Geraldine, Robert, Ross PVG – Lorraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim thanked everyone for taking on their various roles.</li> <li>• <b>One more committee member</b> is needed. It was suggested that Jono be asked on the condition that he wouldn't need to be a regular attendee at committee meetings. <i>Action: Jim to approach Jono</i></li> <li>• <b>Communication.</b> It was decided at the last meeting that communication between the committee and other members, especially the current expedition, needs to be improved. It was noted that communication is a two way thing and that it is perhaps not solely the committee that is at fault. It was pointed out that this committee is aiming to do something to improve this. <i>Action: Put minutes on website without password protection</i> <i>Action: The password for the website to be provided on membership cards</i></li> </ul>	<p>Jim</p> <p>Ruth Rachel</p>
4	<p><b>Office Bearers' Updates</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> – no business.</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main BEG account balance is £4,824.62.</li> <li>• There is a £60 cheque that still not been cashed – now assumed that it won't be and the money will be reabsorbed into the account.</li> <li>• £50 has been received from Barclays Charities Trust along with a confusing letter. It was suggested that it could be linked to David Mitchel. <i>Action: Nancy to speak to David about it</i></li> <li>• Ron now has the forms to unfreeze the Chile account. Once they are processed the account can then be closed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secretary</b> – no business.</p>	<p>Nancy</p>
5	<p><b>Events</b></p> <p><b>Kirsty MacAskill.</b> It was decided that this needs tackled in the same way that the Tower Trophy was organised ie. with a small planning group, meeting regularly and starting well in advance. It was agreed that the whole event needs rebranded. <i>Action: A planning subgroup to be formed at the next meeting</i></p> <p><b>Members Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Archery</b> – no progress. <i>Action carried forward: Contact Sir Michael (BEG Patron/Philipaugh landowner)</i></li> <li>• <b>Planned walks.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planned Cheviot walk did not happen in December but the walk to the summit of Ruberslaw went well with about 20 people attending.</li> <li>• 1 or 2 March walk from Hawick to Jedburgh.</li> <li>• Nancy suggested Ben Vrackie for the Pitlochry area walk.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The subgroup met and came up with various suggestions of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take part in a raft race</li> <li>• Ben Nevis trip</li> <li>• Scottish winter walk/ski weekend</li> <li>• Family day</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Jim</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local walks</li> <li>• Beach day</li> <li>• Clay pigeon shoot</li> <li>• Archery</li> <li>• Newcastleton weekend – Whithaugh Park</li> <li>• Map reading/orienteering</li> <li>• West Highland Way</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee agreed that these are all good ideas and proposed adding <b>cycling</b> with Keith Irvine to the list.</li> <li>• Nancy and Les are willing to organise the <b>skiing/winter walking weekend</b> but they are not prepared to “lead” either activity due to not holding relevant qualifications. Therefore either it is not to be marketed as being led or BEG need to find someone with a ML or ski party leader qualification. It is also important that those who are walking need to have the appropriate equipment and know how to use it. Possibility of booking accommodation now such as Mill Cottage at Kincaig. Nancy can book it because of her climbing club membership.</li> <li>• It was agreed that <b>members events are for anyone</b>, not just members, as it is a good way to get other people involved. However the question was also raised as to what the benefit of membership is.</li> <li>• <b>Map reading</b> could be done in house or <b>orienteering</b> led by Robert Sloan. <i>Action: Ron to organise a map reading event</i></li> <li>• It was suggested that winter would be a good time to have a weekend at <b>Whithaugh</b>. <i>Action: The subgroup will have another meeting and decide dates</i></li> <li>• <i>Action: The newsletter should be smaller but more regular ie. monthly, and include details of upcoming events</i></li> </ul>	Ron  Subgroup Pam
6	<p><b>Expeditions</b></p> <p><b>Cuba 2012</b> <i>Action carried forward: Discussion to be had with Bank of Scotland re closing the Cuba account</i></p> <p><b>Malawi 2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geraldine reported on <b>TW4</b>: Leaders only on Friday night, very impressive venturer led Burns Supper on Saturday, emergency evacuation on Sunday morning.</li> <li>• <b>Projects</b> are coming together really well including a community phase with LUV Leprosy. Trying to minimise travel because of associated risk.</li> <li>• The <b>training team</b> had talks with leaders, chief leader, training coordinator and everything seems to be under control. Need for the committee to be kept informed so that they can be sure everything is being covered as they are ultimately responsible.</li> <li>• <b>Doctors</b>. There are not currently any doctors in place but this is being pursued by the leader team. <i>Action: Poster to be sent round committee for distribution to any contacts</i></li> <li>• The committee agreed to pay for a leader to do a <b>lifeguarding course</b> which could cost about £180. <i>Action: Geraldine to speak to Malawi leaders about this</i></li> </ul>	Ron  Geraldine Geraldine
7	<p><b>Any Other Competent Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Mitchel, a friend of Nancy’s, would like to join BEG and offer his services – he gets a couple of days off a year to volunteer.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Newsletter.</b> Ruth reported that it is very nearly finished. It was agreed that it should be distributed as soon as possible along with a membership form. <u>Action:</u> <i>Ruth to send completed newsletter to Pam asap</i> <u>Action:</u> <i>Pam to print at Selkirk High School and to arrange mailing/delivery</i> <u>Action:</u> <i>Pam to contact Rachel for the up to date membership form</i></li> <li>• At the recent <b>Selkirk High School inspection</b> Ron spoke about BEG because it is part of the wider community.</li> <li>• A <b>pop-up shop</b> is to be started in Hawick and will cost £25 a day.</li> <li>• <b>Trees.</b> Roger has asked if 4 or 5 BEG members would be willing to help thin out some trees on the side of Ruberslaw. It was agreed that BEG could do this. <u>Action:</u> <i>Roger to provide dates</i></li> <li>• Roger has also asked if BEG would be interested in helping with tree planting if a grant can be sourced. It was agreed that BEG would do this. <u>Action:</u> <i>Roger to provide dates</i></li> <li>• <b>World Challenge article.</b> A news article about a death on a World Challenge expedition was circulated and discussed in relation to BEG expeditions. The article can be found online at: <a href="http://news.sky.com/story/1194414/teen-morocco-death-parents-slam-trek-company">http://news.sky.com/story/1194414/teen-morocco-death-parents-slam-trek-company</a> It was agreed that it is unrealistic to expect the same level of emergency response as in Britain. Fitness is part of the training that BEG expedition participants undertake and so it is hoped this emergency situation could be avoided. It was noted that it is important to be open and honest with parents about risks and also the precautions taken ie. doctors present, location of hospitals, medical equipment etc. In light of this it was agreed that another Malawi parents evening is needed and also that there should be an appointed parent liaison officer within the team. <u>Action:</u> <i>Geraldine to follow this up with Catherine.</i></li> <li>• <b>Website profiles.</b> It was previously agreed that the committee should have profiles on the website. <u>Action:</u> <i>Ruth to arrange similar profiles to those of the Malawi leaders</i></li> <li>• Catherine has requested a <b>check list/expedition timetable</b> for a chief leader. <u>Action:</u> <i>Ruth and Nancy to organise a date and circulate it. Anyone who can is welcome to attend</i></li> <li>• <b>Future newsletter contents.</b> Pam suggested interviews with BEG members, events, TW reports, any celebrations, people's holiday stories/reports. <u>Actions:</u> <i>Names of venturers/leaders who are currently abroad to be sent to Pam, along with any other ideas</i></li> <li>• <b>Queen's garden party.</b> Jim has been asked by Michael Strang-Steel if he could put his name forward along with one other for a possible invitation. It is on 2 July 2014. Most people were unavailable on that date but Ruth agreed to her name being put forward.</li> </ul>	<p>Ruth Pam</p> <p>Pam</p> <p>Roger</p> <p>Roger</p> <p>Geraldine</p> <p>Ruth</p> <p>Ruth/Nancy</p> <p>All</p>
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Monday 3 March 2014, 7:30pm at the Argus Centre, Selkirk</p> <p><b>Future Meeting Dates (all Mondays)</b> 28 April, 2 June, 18 August, 29 September, 17 November (AGM)</p>	

Future agenda items: