**Borders Exploration Group**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Date**: Tuesday 15 November 2016

**Time**: 7:30pm

**Place:** Langlee Complex, Galashiels

**Minutes**

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| 1 | **Present**: Rosie Stewart, Ruth Longmuir, David Hunter, Geraldine Bouglas, Roger Hemming, Ron Sutherland, Ross Purves, Jim McPherson, Kieran Riddell, Nancy Anderson, Les Anderson, Nicola Stillie, Jono Ellis, Graham Little  **Apologies**: Pam Hunter, Christine Anderson, Pat Sutherland |
| 2 | **Chair’s report**    Jim commended David on the difficult decision to change the expedition destination from Brazil to Bolivia. It showed bravery to make the decision early in the planning process but undoubtedly the correct decision. The meeting agreed. |
| 3 | **Treasurer’s report**  Rosie circulated copies of the BEG accounts and reported that BEG is now complying with OSCR regulations. She explained that the accounts are in the OSCR format and talked through them. Income for the last year was £1276 which is down on last year (mainly because last year the Malawi expedition donated surplus funds). Membership income is up due to there being an international expedition. Expenditure was £1330, which is down on last year. This year we have overspent by £54, therefore income is being matched to expenditure fairly well. If we need to pay for premises costs (rent, fuel, building insurance etc) then we would need to fundraise to cover this cost. The balance sheet shows cash of just over £6000 which is a healthy position. BEG has reserves of £6800 which again is healthy. The accounts were independently examined by Kenneth Ovens. Rosie will arrange an appropriate gift to thank Kenneth.  BEG now has one expedition account which has removed the problems surrounding closing accounts. Signatories just need changed for the next expedition. When two expeditions run concurrently there is some overlap but this can be managed fairly easily with good record keeping.  Ron proposed the accounts and Geraldine seconded them. |
| 4 | **Election of a Committee**  A new committee was appointed:   * Chairperson – Rosie Stewart – nominated by Jim, seconded by Nancy * Vice Chair – Ruth Longmuir - nominated by Ron, seconded by Jono * Treasurer – Nicola Stillie – nominated by Jim, seconded by David * Secretary – to be decided at first committee meeting   Committee members – Keiran Riddell, Graham Little - nominated by Nancy, seconded by Ron. Committee members that were re-elected: Ron Sutherland, Jono Ellis, Eilidh Walker, Jim McPherson, Nancy Anderson, Geraldine Bouglas. |
| 5 | **Date of next meeting and AGM**  The next AGM will be on Tuesday 14 November 2017. The date of the first committee meeting will be organised by email. |
| 6 | **Bolivia 2017 update**  David reported at the training weekends have been going well so far. To avoid the risk of Zika virus the expedition will need to stay above 2000 metres which is slightly limiting possible activity options. Fundraising is also going really well. £1432 profit was made from the Tibet talks and the speakers have been asked to give the talk again elsewhere. Graham gave an update on the adventure phase and a possible four day trek in the mountains to the north west of La Paz. |
| 7 | **European destination proposal**  Roger Hemming proposed Belarus as a destination and gave a presentation on the country and some established links with a charity called Chernobyl Children’s Lifeline Link. Roger noted that he would not take on the role of Chief Leader. The meeting was in general agreement that it would make a great destination - Ruth proposed and David seconded it.  Graham suggested that one of the Balkan countries would also be a really good destination and he mentioned he had spent some time in Kosovo.  It was decided that as there is plenty of time before a decision needs to be made, the committee would investigate and discuss the options further and also work on recruiting a Chief Leader. |
| 8 | **AOB**  Membership fees will remain the same as last year – £10.  Nancy asked anyone that hasn’t already to complete a self-declaration form to start the PVG process. Any BEG member who wants to be involved with an expedition in any way needs to have a PVG check. |

**2017 committee**:

Rosie Stewart (Chair); Ruth Longmuir (Vice Chair); Nicola Stillie (Treasurer); Nancy Anderson; Jim McPherson; Jono Ellis; Ron Sutherland; Geraldine Bouglas; Eilidh Walker; Graham Little; Kieran Riddell