



Unclimbed peaks above the Hispar Glacier. Photo by Peter Thompson, 2017 Hispar Expedition.



Patron: H. R. H.
The Duke of Edinburgh,
K.G., K.T.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-2017

The Mount Everest Foundation is a UK charity dedicated to the support of mountain exploration and science. The Foundation was established after the successful Mount Everest Expedition of 1953, and was initially financed with the income from the book, film and lectures which followed that expedition.

OBJECTIVES

The object of the MEF is to provide financial support for exploration and research in mountain regions. Over the last 60+ years we have supported over 1,600 expeditions, and provided grants totalling more than a million pounds. The majority of these nowadays are small expeditions, but the Foundation has also supported expeditions to the world's highest peaks, including first ascents and new routes on Everest, Kangchenjunga, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Xixabangma, Nanga Parbat, Nuptse, Kongur and the Ogre. Approval by the MEF even without a financial grant, can be of value to those seeking sponsorship elsewhere.

Few serious expeditions of UK or New Zealand origin to mountain areas leave without submitting their plans to the MEF Screening Committee for scrutiny. Careful appraisal and advice from highly experienced expeditioners can be invaluable. Approval can provide encouragement to employers, academic institutions and other potential supporters.

We support expeditions to all mountain regions from the Arctic to Antarctic, including North and South America, the Himalaya, Karakorum, and Central Asia. We have also supported a number of caving expeditions, based on the recommendations of the Gar Parau Foundation.

In addition to mountain exploration, we also support expeditions of a scientific nature, including mountain medicine, geology, and glaciology. Recently we have seen a substantial increase in applications for expeditions studying aspects of global warming.

The Foundation encourages the protection of the mountain environment, including the populations, culture, fauna and flora, and require teams to follow strict environmental policies.

The MEF is administered by a Screening Committee, which scrutinises the grant applications, and a Committee of Management which looks after our resources and allocates grants. Members of these Committees are nominated by the Alpine Club and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). The Committee Members are unpaid.

An annual fund raising event is held each year in the Ondatje theatre of the RGS. The 2018 lecture will be on 6th November, and will feature Leo Houlding talking about his spectacular Spectre Antarctic expedition in 2017. For full details see the MEF website, www.mef.org.uk.

APPLY FOR SUPPORT

The main source which the grants are made is income from our investment fund. Individual grants in recent years have generally been in the range £1,000 to £4,000. Recent donations and bequests have made possible substantially larger grants ('Supergrants') for particularly deserving projects, and this year we are pleased to be supporting Leo Houlding's Spectre Antarctic expedition.

The MEF is a Registered Charity with the objective of encouraging and supporting exploration and research in mountain areas. Research in disciplines such as geography, geology, glaciology and high altitude physiology are likely to qualify for support. Unless an expedition has research as its primary objective it must have strong exploratory element to be eligible. First ascents of, and major new routes on, high or remote mountains are favourably considered.

Normally we will only consider expeditions where the majority of the participants are from the UK or New Zealand.

Since 1991 the MEF has also administered the Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant, which is made to deserving all-female expeditions, or to individual female climbers, who have applied for MEF grants. Following a generous bequest from the estate of the late Lord Chorley, and donations from those present at his memorial service, we are now able to provide additional grants to University expeditions.

Applications for grants should be made on the Application Form which can be downloaded from our website,

www.mef.org.uk, and then sent to the Hon Secretary as an e-mail attachment. This form can also be used for applications for grants from the British Mountaineering Council.

The main obligation for all expeditions accepting MEF grants is to provide a Summary Report and an account of expenses within four weeks of the end of the expedition. A Final Report is required as soon as possible afterwards. Failure to observe this requirement will result in expedition members being refused further support in the future. We also reserve the right to reclaim grants if this requirement is ignored. Copies of these reports are held by the Alpine Club and by the Royal Geographical Society. The Alpine Club is in the process of scanning all the reports from MEF supported expeditions since 1955, and these will become accessible on line on the Alpine Club website.

The Screening Committee meets twice a year in November and March. Closing dates for the receipt of applications are the 30th September and 31st January prior to these meetings. These dates are strictly observed, and expeditions are never considered retrospectively.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016/17

2016 saw expeditions supported by the MEF covering the usual wide geographical spread, and range of technical difficulty.

There were four expeditions to **Alaska**, three of which were unable to achieve their primary objectives because of unfavourable weather conditions. A team attempting a new route in the Thunder Glacier area aborted their attempt because of deep fresh snow. Moving to Denali they completed the first British ascent of the Infinite Spur, descending in worsening weather. Another group found very warm conditions in the Lacuna Glacier and also moved to Denali. After climbing Kahiltna Queen in a single day, they then also attempted the Infinite Spur, but encountered the worsening weather of the previous team and were forced to retreat. A large team of six hoping to make first ascents in the Juneau Icefield area had to abandon these objectives, but completed a 70km traverse of the icefield from Atlin on the Canadian side to Taku on the US side. An experienced party of two forced a demanding route on the West Face of Celeno Peak in the Wrangell-Saint Elias range. The route occupied four days, and involved much serious technical climbing.

The one expedition to **Greenland** completed four new routes, including two first ascents, near the Mirror Wall area of South Renland.

A total of five expeditions went to **India**, three of these to Himalchal Pradesh. A highly experienced team of two made the first ascent of Sersank, a 6000m peak at the head of the Sural Valley, by it's North Face. This involved five days of high standard mixed climbing, but with the benefit of excellent weather conditions.

Another experienced party of four visited the Miyar Valley, and made three first ascents, including the North Spur of Pk 5755 at alpine grade ED2. Another two man team had their permit for Rimo III refused so transferred their objective to the NW Ridge of Gangstang which they climbed over four days at alpine ED1. A team of two aiming for unclimbed peaks around the Panpatia Glacier in Garhwal had to be aborted because of the ill health of one member. The Nubra Valley in East Karakorum was visited by a senior party of five, who achieved the first ascents of two 6000m peaks.

Nepal was visited by four expeditions, two of a scientific nature. One of these studied supraglacial pond

development on the debris covered Khumbu Glacier, enabling the estimation of surface water storage from satellite images. The second was part of a much larger Joint Services expedition to the Dhaulagiri region, and studied the development of Acute Mountain Sickness, and the effectiveness of pre-acclimatisation strategies. The two climbing expeditions in Nepal, one an attempt on Kangshung, the other on the North Ridge of Chamlang, both suffered from unfavourable snow conditions, and were unable to complete their objectives.

The one expedition to **Tibet** had an objective in the West Nyainqentanglha range to the west of Lhasa. While on the approach to the North Buttress of Naiqentanglha Feng they spotted a huge buttress on the Norh Side of Naiqentanglha South East, and decided to attempt this instead. Initially handicapped by a heavy snowfall, they persevered, and were rewarded with a five day ascent of a mixed route involving both deep snow and steep ice.

Only one expedition to **Pakistan** was supported in 2016, an attempt on the Gulmit Tower in the Hunza region. The attempt was abandoned when their base camp was hit by a major rockfall. They moved to the nearby Moorkhun Valley to try the South Face of Pregar (6026m). Starting from a bivouac at 5075m they got to within 20m of the summit, but were turned back by dangerous snow conditions.

Central Asia was again very popular with a total of five expeditions, four of these in **Kyrgyzstan**. Two expeditions, one to the Djenghi-Djer range, the other to the Kindyk valley, were successful in making multiple ascents of unclimbed 4000+m peaks. The third had the objective on the North Face of Muz-Tok in the Pamir Alai range.

After a number of attempts which failed due to poor weather and climbing conditions, they succeeded in climbing a pillar on the face, but were unable to surmount the short final headwall. A large university party visited the Kaindy Glacier. After several days of heavy snow they were able to make two first ascents, but bad conditions caused a number of other attempts to be abandoned. A ski-mountaineering expedition to the North Alichursky region of the **Tajikistan** Pamirs made three ascents of peaks of about 5000m, almost entirely on skis.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

This has been a busy year for the Management Committee of the MEF. We carried out a review of the management of the Foundation, led by our Honorary Legal Adviser Dan Bastide, in order to comply with current practice for charities. This led to an updating of our Articles of Association to increase the number of Trustees, and to introduce more flexibility in the term of service for Trustees.

In 2013, the 60th anniversary of the successful Everest expedition, the celebrations produced a substantial addition to our funds. A decision was made that, rather than simply increase the general level of funding, to use this to support a particularly ambitious expedition, and this became known as the 'supergrant'. The first application to fit the criteria is the Spectre Antarctic expedition, and they have been given this award. It is clear that the availability of this support was not made known as widely as it should have been, and we are taking measures to prevent this happening again. A recent substantial bequest from the estate of Ron Giddy has made further larger grants available to qualifying applicants. Ron was a member of an expedition in 1986 which received an MEF grant of £400, and this has been repaid many times over by this bequest. Current beneficiaries of MEF grants please take note!

In 1990 the MEF took over management of the Alison Chadwick Memorial Fund which offers financial support

for women mountaineers and expeditions. Following a generous bequest from the estate of the late Roger Chorley we are establishing a further award for expeditions involving university mountaineers which will be administered in a similar manner.

As always we owe a great debt of gratitude to all trustees, members of the Management and Screening Committees, and the Treasurer and Secretary, none of whom receive any financial reward for their work throughout the year. I would particularly like to thank Sash Tusa, who stepped in following the death of our Hon Treasurer Richard Morgan, and kept the grants flowing with a minimum of disruption. Unfortunately, because of the increasing demands of his day job Sash has resigned, and he will be replaced as Treasurer by Richard Coatsworth.

My own term of office has now expired, and John Shears takes over as Chairman. I wish him well in taking on this responsibility, and trust that he will find it as rewarding as I have.

Luke Hughes

Chairman

Mount Everest Foundation

MEF COMMITTEES 2016/17

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

NOMINATED BY THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Doug Scott
Alastair Macleod
Mike Smith
Stuart Dunning

NOMINATED BY THE ALPINE CLUB

Luke Hughes (Chairman)
Colin Scott
John Porter
Peter Holden

CO-OPTED

Andy MacNae (BMC)
Lindsay Griffin (MEF Screening Committee)

SCREENING COMMITTEE

Julian Freeman-Attwood
Becky Coles
Sundeep Dhillon

Lindsay Griffin (Chairman)
Chris Imray
Kenton Cool
Paul Ramsden

Nick Colton (BMC)

HON. SECRETARY
Glyn Hughes

HON. LEGAL ADVISER
Dan Bastide

HON. TREASURER
Sash Tusa

2017 SUPPORTED EXPEDITIONS

Ref	Expedition	Leader	Location	Objective	Grant
17-01	Spectre Trans-Antarctic	Leo Houlding	Antarctic	Technical ascents/ Queen Maude Mountains	£50,000
17-02	British Gokyo	Simon Yates	Nepal	North Face of Kangchang	£1,200
17-03	British Staunings Alps	Molly Thompson	Greenland	Ski traverse with scientific observations	£1,200
17-04	Gorakh/ Kangla Himal	J. Freeman-Attwood	Nepal	Ascent of an unclimbed 6000m peak	£2,900
17-05	Towers of Paine	Calum Muskett	Chile	New route on South Tower of Paine	£1,650
17-06	Glacier melt/Ganges River	A. Winter-Billington	India	Investigate ice-melt on Satopnath Glacier	£1,450
17-08	Far West Nepal	Becky Coles	Nepal	First ascent in the Lor Khola Valley	£2,900
17-09	Graham-Hawthorn Patagonia	Peter Graham	Argentina	New routes in Fitzroy Massif	£1,650
17-11	Imperial College Chapursan	Tim Sears	Pakistan	Ascents in the Chapursan Valley	£2,000
17-13	Link Sar	Graham Zimmerman	Pakistan	First ascent of Link Sar, 7040m	£4,000
17-14	Sumar Valley	Derek Buckle	India	Unclimbed 4000m peaks in Ladakh	£2,400
17-15	Gasherbrum IV	Bruce Normand	Pakistan	Ascent of G IV by unclimbed line	£1,625
17-16	British Arjuna	Ben Sylvestre	India	W Pillar of Arjuna in Kishtwar Himal	£2,400
17-17	British Chilling	Mick Fowler	India	First ascent of Chilling II, and traverse to Ch I	£3,250*
17-18	Djenghi-Djer	Sally Hudson	Kyrgyzstan	Unclimbed 4000 peak	£1,650
17-20	Apex 5	Chris Graham	Bolivia	Investigation of effects of hypoxia	£900
17-21	Morkhoon Valley	Tim Oates	Pakistan	Ascents of Pregar West and Zartgarbin	£2,000*
17-23	Breaking in Borkoldoy	Neil Cox	Kyrgyzstan	Unclimbed 5000m peaks in Borkoldoy Range	£1,650
17-24	British Shishal	George Cave	Pakistan	First ascents in Shimshal region	£2,000
17-27	Khumbu Valley Meteorology	Emily Potter	Nepal	High altitude meteorology in Khumbu	£1,000
17-28	Mulu Caves	Andy Eaves	Malaysia	Exploration of cave systems in Sarawak	£2,000
17-30	Greenland Ice Sheet	Andrew Sole	Greenland	Measuring thickness of Greenland Ice Sheet	£2,900
17-31	Alaska	Twid Turner	Alaska	New Route on Bear's Tooth or Middle Triple	£1,650
17-33	Annapurna South Glacier	Rachel Carr	Nepal	Study ice loss from Annapurna South Glacier	£3,250
17-36	Braisvart	Paul Weber	Arctic Norway	Study of Svartisen Glaciers, Saltfjellet Mtns	£1,650
17-37	Huaguruncho	James Moneypenny	Peru	Central Spur of S Face of Huaguruncho	£1,650
17-38	Ardang	Emily Ward	Nepal	Unclimbed Peaks in Far West Nepal	£2,900
17-39	Chinese Tien Shan	Emily Ward**	China	Glacial system east of Xuelian Feng	£2,400*
17-41	Guyana Expedition	Sam Newmark	Guyana	Routes on Tepuis beside the Wenamu River	£1,450*
17-42	Hispar	Peter Thompson	Pakistan	First ascent of Pk 6630, Hunza Valley	£1,450

* Expedition cancelled.

** Recipient of the Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant.