

# National Caving Awards for 2003

There are now several of what could be termed the 'national caving awards'. The 2003 awards were announced at *Hidden Earth* last October.

## Treatman Award for 2002

This is presented by the Ghar Parau Foundation, a charity associated with BCRA, for the best contribution to British speleology in print. This can be in the form of an article, report or book. It was first awarded in 1979.

The 2003 award, relating to a publication in 2002 is awarded, posthumously, to **David Yeandle (a.k.a. 'Pooh')** for the publication *The Adventures of Another Pooh*. (ISBN 0-595-22466-0)

The judges, Ric Halliwell, Don Mellors and Tony Jarrett write "Although the book is published in the States by Writers Club Press it is an English caver writing about English caving and therefore we believe it should be eligible even if the rules are a little ambiguous about this. We also noted that there is nothing in the rules to prevent a posthumous award. We found the book fun to read and believe that it gives a good flavour of what caving was like in the second 'Golden Age' of British Caving. It also helps to give good historical insights into some of the more exciting episodes of British caving history.

Lists of past winners of this award, and of the other national caving awards, as well as rules and guidelines can be found on the Hidden Earth web site.

*Citation by Judges:*

*Ric Halliwell, Don Mellor and Tony Jarrett*

☞ Brook, D. (2002). *Obituary: Dave Yeandle 1951-2002*, *Caves & Caving* 92, p7.

## Footnote

It has become apparent that the rules of the Treatman Award, as listed on BCRA's web site, are only a brief summary of the original notes that were published in an early edition of *Caves & Caving*.

Also, the GPF has expressed its wish to update the rules so that BCRA publications are not automatically eligible, since this is difficult to achieve in practice. Updates to the rules are in progress and an announcement will be made in due course. In the meantime, it should be assumed that for a publication to be awarded it must be nominated.

The 2004 award, for a publication in 2003 has already been awarded, and an announcement will be made in due course. If anyone has a nomination for the 2004 award, this should be communicated to the judges by the end of January 2005. You can contact the judges via the BCRA chairman (see p42).

## Arthur Butcher Award

This is presented by BCRA for, broadly speaking, 'excellence in cave surveying'. It was first awarded in 1988. This year it is

awarded to **Juan Corrin and the Matienzo Expedition**. The judges liked the display of surveys on their stand at *Hidden Earth 2003* and felt that the use of surveys in their presentations, together with other audio-visual elements was interesting and innovative. The winners receive the Arthur Butcher trophy to hold for a year and a cheque from BCRA for £100.

*Citation by Judges:*

*Olly Betts, Allan Richardson, Juan Corrin*

**To nominate someone for the Arthur Butcher Award see [www.hidden-earth.org.uk/rules.arthurbutcher.html](http://www.hidden-earth.org.uk/rules.arthurbutcher.html)**

## Giles Barker Award

Giles Barker lost his life while caving in Spain in 1992. An accomplished cave photographer, Giles was a member of the Red Rose CPC and Morgannwg CC. These clubs have annually, since 1993, presented the Giles Barker Award in his memory. This prestigious award is presented to a person connected with any aspect of cave photography in recognition of his or her excellence and contributions to the field.

Giles was often involved with teaching the sport to young people. It is particularly fitting, therefore, that the 2003 award goes to a film-maker who has produced three instructional caving videos (the *Cave Safe* series), as well as entertaining cavers worldwide with his productions of *Solo*, which has won several international awards, and the recent dramatised account of the discovery of the caves in *Fairy Cave Quarry, A Rock and a Hard Place*. Congratulations to **Andy Sparrow** for his well-deserved award.

Andy was presented with a figurine of a cave photographer, hand-crafted by Ceris Jones, at *Hidden Earth 2003*.

*Citation by Morgannwg Caving Club and the Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club.*

## Cave Radio Group's Award

This award, given for the first time in 2001, is presented by the BCRA's Cave Radio & Electronics Group for an outstanding contribution to Cave Radio and / or underground electronics.

**Stuart France** is probably the most prolific designer of practical cave electronics projects in the UK and, amongst CREG members has, perhaps, the broadest practical knowledge of cave electronics; however, Stuart's projects are not widely known about.

Some years ago Stuart (with Bob Mackin) designed, built and published a design for a radiolocation beacon. Stuart also designed a fully-functional cave radio and, recently, he has produced a commercial

design for a high-performance LED lamp. But the field in which he deserves special recognition is that of data-logging.

Stuart's caver counters have been installed in many caves where, by accurately recording caver traffic, Stuart has been able to resolve disputes concerning cave access and conservation. Stuart now manufactures his counters for commercial use; collecting data on pedestrian and vehicular traffic for national parks.

Stuart has adapted his cave data-loggers to measure water depth, temperature, barometric pressure and ultrasonic bat squeaks. His equipment has been installed in caves in England, Wales and Ireland where it has contributed to professional cave science research. Several university undergraduate projects are currently underway using data from Stuart's flood-pulse equipment, which has raised questions about our understanding of cave hydrology. Stuart's logging of bats has contradicted conventional views on bat behaviour.

CREG is a part of BCRA, and the aims of BCRA include promoting the study of cave science. Stuart, although not a BCRA member himself, has perhaps contributed more to BCRA's core aims than any other member of CREG.

*Citation by David Gibson, on behalf of the Cave Radio & Electronics Group.*

☞ *CREG Award 2003*, *CREG Journal* 54, p21, December 2003.

## Bryan Ellis Award

Many people will have known Bryan Ellis as a former Chairman and then General Administrator of BCRA over many years. He did much good work on behalf of the Association. In his memory, his widow Pauline has generously offered to make available an award of £100 every year to be given to a project of benefit to the caving community and which has relevance to Bryan's caving interests, which included surveying, publications and exploration on the Mendip Hills.

This year, the award is given to **Tony Jarratt** and his team for the work done at Hunter's Lodge Inn Sink. The cave is a fantastic find and in an unparalleled location. We hope that the award can be used towards the cost of scientific examination of the archaeological remains found in the cave.

*Citation by Bill Tolfree on behalf of Pauline Ellis and BCRA Council*

Lists of past winners of these awards, as well as rules and guidelines can be found on the Hidden Earth web site. ■

☞ [www.hidden-earth.org.uk/info.competitions.html](http://www.hidden-earth.org.uk/info.competitions.html)