

Palin pips Mears in the popularity poll

July 2008

Globetrotter Michael Palin's nice guy image has been reinforced by being named the most popular TV traveller in a brand new poll carried out by youth and education charity Raleigh. Ray Mears came a close second in the popularity stakes, beating off stiff competition from high profile personalities including Bruce Parry, Bear Grylls and Ben Fogle.

The survey results published in July 2008 saw 33.3 per cent of 832 former Raleigh volunteers – who have all been on expedition with the charity in locations as far afield as Chile, Ghana, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Brunei and Belize – choose the former Monty Python member as their favourite intrepid personality.

Michael Palin, whose most recent television exploits saw him explore Eastern Europe, was narrowly victorious over survival expert Ray Mears who racked up 29.3 per cent of the votes; former Royal Marine Commando and Tribe presenter Bruce Parry received 15.7 per cent of the votes; extreme adventurer, and the youngest person to scale Mount Everest, Bear Grylls, received 15.2 per cent; while Ben Fogle received 5.8 per cent of the votes.

Among the other findings discovered in the poll is that the Swiss army knife remains the number one travel essential among the 832-strong sample – beating wet wipes, mosquito repellent and gaffer tape respectively; and that China is the travel destination respondents would most like to go on expedition to in the future, followed by Mongolia, Nepal, Peru and Bolivia.

Since 1984, Raleigh's expeditions have inspired 30,000 people from all walks of life, nationalities and ages to achieve their potential, helping them develop new skills, friendships and make a difference to communities and environments across the world. Raleigh currently runs four- to ten-week expeditions to Borneo, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and India for anyone – whether they are aged 17 or 75 – considering taking a gap year, a career break or planning for retirement. For more information about Raleigh visit www.raleighinternational.org or call 020 7183 1270.

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Notes to Editors:

Raleigh

Raleigh is a youth and education charity. Since 1984 our expeditions have inspired 30,000 people from all walks of life, nationalities and ages to be all they can be, helping them develop



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new skills, friendships and make a difference to communities and environments across the world.

We all have an expedition inside us. Find yours at www.raleighinternational.org