

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING



Meeting Title OutdoorLads General Meeting
Location: Online
Date and Time Wednesday 6th December 2023 7pm

Attendees:

Interim Board

Peter Walter
Dave Lawrence
Neil Sharpe
Supported by Matt Tennant

Staff

Liam Russell
Dan Byrnes
Yvonne Goldsmith-Rybka

23/54 Welcome

Peter Walter opened the meeting, confirmed that the meeting was quorate, and explained the purpose of the meeting was to elect four new trustees, with the view to them taking on the following roles and forming the new permanent board:

Rob Mitchell - Chair
David Norris – Trustee for Members, Leaders & Staff
Dan Blackwell – Trustee for Day Events
Joe Bailey – Trustee to Represent Members

Peter explained the old board had stepped down at the AGM with the exception of Jake Higgins, Treasurer. Since then, the interim trustees have run a recruitment process involving a written application, as well as interviews with staff member & charity secretary Liam Russell. All candidates have extensive experience of OutdoorLads, alongside strong business and leadership experience in the outside world which will put them in good stead for leading OutdoorLads into the future.

He invited each candidate to introduce themselves, and asked all those in attendance to put any questions in the Q&A panel.

23/55 Candidates

[Read the full manifestos of each candidate](#)

Q: Given that the board is predominantly white middle class and male, how are you planning to represent a wider range of members and embrace diversity within the group?

A: David Norris said that we will undertake surveys to find what would members like to see more of? Joe Bailey agreed that it will be emphasised that there is an open door policy, and to keep engaging with all members. Dan Blackwell said we need more diverse leaders across all regions.

Q: How are you going to prevent bad behaviour being repeated by board members?

A: Rob Mitchell said this would be achieved through more training of trustees and acting as a team. David Norris said the board would have a protocol or “ways to do things” to assist with board behaviours. Dan Blackwell emphasised the importance of revisiting the OutdoorLads code of conduct.

Q: To Rob Mitchell: How was your resignation letter widely circulated?

A: Rob said he’d sent his letter to a few members that had invested in me as chair, but had no idea it would be circulated and shared as widely as it was. It was not a deliberate act.

23/56 Voting

Secretary Liam Russell managed the voting, with some votes placed in advance for those members who were unable to attend the meeting (by proxy). In order to be successful each candidate must receive a percentage of 51% or above. Abstentions are not included in the percentages.

Dan Blackwell:

Proxy		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
48	8	1

Meeting		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
106	12	3

Combined		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
154	20	4

Percentage FOR - 88.5% - Elected

David Norris:

Proxy		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
53	3	1

Meeting		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
108	8	5

Combined		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
161	11	6

Percentage FOR - 93.6% - Elected

Joe Bailey:

Proxy		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
50	2	5

Meeting		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
114	5	4

Combined		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
164	7	9

Percentage FOR - 95.9% - Elected

Rob Mitchell:

Proxy		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
51	6	0

Meeting		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
110	9	4

Combined		
<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
161	15	4

Percentage FOR - 91.5% - Elected

23/57 Conclusion

Liam Russell congratulated the successful candidates; and on a closing note emphasised the future of the charity is now really positive with a new board to move forward. He thanked all members and celebrated the current level of engagement highlighted by the high numbers attending the meeting. This was reflected by both the interim and the new board.

Following the general meeting a board meeting will be held in order for the interim board to officially step down and for the new board to be voted into their roles.

There were many positive comments made by members in the chat and thanks to the interim board for their work in getting us this far.

Peter thanked the interim board, and Rob Mitchell closed the meeting saying that he would be focusing on members and events in his role as chair.

The Meeting closed at 7.42pm