

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING



Meeting Title OutdoorLads Emergency Board Meeting 8th April 2020
Location: Teleconference
Date and Time 7.30pm Wednesday 8th April 2020

Attendees

Matt Tennant (Chair)
Danny McKeown-Henshall (Vice-Chair)
Ted Youngman (Treasurer)

Neil Sharp
Danny Ballantyne
Fergus Brunning
Dan Barcroft

Liam Russell (Staff)
Dan Byrnes (Staff)
Yvonne Goldsmith-Rybka (Staff)

Simon Hawthorn (Website Volunteer)

Apologies for absence

Jimmy Brash and Steven Allan

Matt explained that with the recent strain on the healthcare sector, Jimmy is under a lot of pressure at work and will have to step back in his role as staff manager, for the next few weeks Matt will take on this responsibility and cover until the situation improves.

Approval of previous minutes

The draft minutes published on 2nd April 2020 were formally ratified and approved by the Board.

Actions from Previous Meeting

Liam has now discussed our office rent with the landlord and will report back with the result once agreed, but is hopefully of securing some rent reduction.

All comms and video have now gone out to members re cancelled and postponed events.

Dan Barcroft is going to commit to writing the new Concession eligibility parameters this week in light of the C19 situation and how it might affect some members.

Board Membership

Matt asked that Simon Hawthorn leave the meeting temporarily whilst the Board voted on whether to formally co-opt him ahead of this years AGM. Although there was some concern that governance be followed in how we appoint Trustees, in his role as volunteer website manager it was agreed that this is an exceptional appointment, and as Simon has already contributed much of his time and attended board meetings as a guest it was felt this the right course of action by all.

Simon re-joined the meeting.

Operational Update from Liam

Both the video and comms have been well received, with so many positive comments from our members. The change in tone and a more personal approach has sat well – and as a result we have so far received over £2500 in donations (Dan Byrnes has applied for our GiftAid status in order to maximise the benefits from this.)

Events until the end of June have now either been cancelled, or postponed - although not all of those postponed have yet been allocated a new date including BIG Spring Camp on which we are waiting from a decision from the rugby club if we can have the site for an alternative weekend, (although there may be a compromise on numbers, campervans, and vehicle numbers/parking.) As yet no-one has yet asked for a refund and seem to be happy to wait until the new date is announced.

#StayinMore – we are seeing more events and innovation from leaders, and a positive from this is that we could continue to offer these type of online events in the future.

Actions:

Liam to message all regional co-ordinators and ask that the focus be on #GetoutMore events as opposed to Socials, to get them prepared and ready to go as soon as the lockdown is lifted.

Neil to incentivise all leaders to come up with an event for when things 'go back to normal' in order to really smash it when we can with a full schedule/calendar of events.

Danny Ballantyne to speak to his contact at Manchester Pride to see what events are going ahead there.

Finance Update from Ted

Ted has made it clear to our accountant John Toon that we are now under pressure financially and that we need the VAT status moving forward.

John Toon has assured this is happening and we should have an answer this month.

A full finance update will be provided for the next scheduled board meeting.

Volunteering Opportunities & Priorities

There are probably many members currently furloughed with extra time on their hands that may wish to volunteer – eg walk assessments/ hostel manuals/ cooking guides/ hostel and camping directory – Liam to channel through regional co-ordinators.

Whilst there are no events taking place, this is also a time we can focus on tightening up key areas – Fergus brought up prioritising the questions raised on the insurance policy and agreed to lead on this.

Risk assessments need updating.

Neil to ask if any of the leaders are able to get on top of the Leader handbook/ hostel handbook/ camping handbook/ and how to deal with problems in certain situations – maybe get them into one document where all areas are covered.

Leaders coming up with new walks is also something to focus on.

Simon and Fergus have been working on Google advertising and landing pages and have asked ex-chair Peter Walter for help with copy and images.

Any Other Business

None

Staff

Staff were asked to leave to enable the Board to discuss what to do re staff over coming months. Trustees discussed details of the COVID-19 Job Retention scheme and considered the adoption of the scheme to our paid employees. The board agreed on the adoption and would be consulting staff the following day.

The Meeting closed at ?

Next scheduled board meeting on 20th April 2020.

