

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING



Meeting Title OutdoorLads Emergency Board Meeting March 2020
Location: Teleconference
Date and Time Monday 16th March 2020 at 7.30pm

Attendees

Matt Tennant (chair)
Danny McKeown-Henshall (vice-chair)
Ted Youngman (treasurer)
Jimmy Brash
Neil Sharp
Dan Barcroft
Danny Ballantyne
Fergus Brunning
Steven Allan

Simon Hawthorn (Website volunteer)
Liam Russell (staff)
Dan Byrnes (staff)

An emergency meeting was called to discuss the implications and actions needed following the Coronavirus pandemic:

Matt chaired the meeting.

Matt summarised the announcement today from Boris Johnson in reference to social distancing, and that we need to look at standing down events for the foreseeable future.

How do we initiate a plan to get ODL back off the ground in a few months time – as the situation now sounds like it will last months rather than a couple of weeks – and pick itself back up in the future?

Following discussion, it was agreed that all events up until Sunday 5th April with overnight accommodation will be postponed, and that we should have a rolling programme as things are announced so we can react to the most recent advice.

How can we provide support for members who find themselves affected in the current circumstances?

There was a discussion around day walks still going ahead with strict parameters, could these be do-able with restrictions on contact and numbers?

Dan Barcroft suggested we buy ourselves some time by postponing events for the next 2- 3 weeks that gives breathing space to have a better strategy. Show action, without creating more problems for the group.

Simon said that we must count on people to be adult about this and act responsibly as individuals.

Need to start mapping what the impact of this will be – needs managing carefully to ensure that we do the best thing for the organisation.

Some members have raised some concerns about the moral case for doing the right thing. Which is the case for all of us.

Could consider asking members to donate their event fee to ODL to help with the finances and keep the organisation going – lots of goodwill amongst members.

Danny MH made the point about social media and that we need to watch comments frequently and respond appropriately.

It is important to maintain solidarity as a board and have a consistent message.

All agreed that if members experience any symptoms and are responsibly self-isolating we can give them a full refund for any event they are unable to attend.

But that NO refunds would be offered for events we are able to postpone to a later date (rather than cancelling – this is the optimal arrangement) should we find later any attendee is unable to attend the new date then they too will be offered a full refund.

Neil has pre-written a statement we can use to postpone events to week ending 5th April, he will forward to Liam/ office for distribution to members and leaders on those events informing them of our decision.

It was confirmed that we are postponing every event up to and including Sunday 5th April.

BIG Spring Camp

Discussed this; the option of potentially moving it to the August Bank Holiday, or another time? Liam to look at what has been invested so far, scenario planning, what would it look like to do it at various times. The view is that it probably won't be feasible to run it in late May. Liam to put a paper together with the option.

We will give ourselves a three week window to evaluate what is happening nationally and implement the best course of action.

We need to clarify the YHA policy with whom we have hostels booked - as on current T&C's there would be no refund if we cancelled.

Fergus asked if it is worth canvassing opinion of people going on Penpont and Easter events to see what their view is.

Ending on a positive note, Matt expressed this could be an opportunity to bounce back strongly as when this is all over people will want to get out more and go on lots of events, hopefully sooner rather than later.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next meeting will be Monday 20th April via teleconference.