

ULSA 2026 AGM

Present:

Aidan Keegan, Arthur Watkinson, Sophie Pearce, Faris Alkhamesi, Megan Grandsden, Joseph Bennet, Rio Smith, Lyndon, Alice Shackley, Tomas Fraser, Mike Butcher, George, Chris Williams, Emily Williams, Adam EJ, Baldock, Kat Brenton, Rachel Turnbull, Nathan, Carl, Larisa, Sam Harvey, Robyn Flavell-White, Tara Delaney, Sarah Parker, Nat Dalton, Abdulrahman al Marri, Des Gatie, Sacha Wood, Faron Copley, Dinny, Jono L, Janey, Alex May (joined at constitutional amendments)

Agenda:

Acceptance of 2025 AGM minutes

Alice proposes, Rachel seconds

For: unanimous

Against: 0

Absentions: 0

Officer reports

President

Been away recently but in general it's been a good year, some issues that we've had to deal with. The student club is in a healthy position.

Treasurer

~4.5 K in the bank, ~1 k is Watty fund, high outgoings to cover BCA, previous dinnermeet made ~800

Secretary

First year in the role and have mostly got to grips with it. Committee meetings happen regularly and minutes can be found on the ULSA website. This year we've had complaints about members' behaviour and this has taken up time recently, please do behave appropriately (in general and to other club members).

Training coordinator

There was a slight lack of structure in the first semester which led to some challenges. Put in place a plan for the second semester, going over some theory and training refreshers in

SRT. Now, LUUCaS, have a spreadsheet to record trainees progress (e.g. trained, untrained), ongoing thinking about whether we want to include other information on this spreadsheet.

Meets Secretary

No report provided

Librarian

Some items donated recently and on their way into the library; (a book on caving in Ireland) and a caving in Nidderdale book donated by Ben Chaddock. Also some surveys are incoming from an older member.

Distributions and sales

No surveys sold this year (Chris would like to sell more to empty his house). Currently scanning surveys to digitise them.

Photographer

No report provided

Editor

No report provided

Webmaster

Not keen to continue in the role, it would benefit from someone into website design/admin. Summarised previous discussions at committee meetings (around options for drag and drop options for website with increased cost). Won't be restanding but am happy to help out/remain on committee.

Conservation officer

Little to report; will aim to do some with RRCPC next year

Ordinary members

Rachel

101 ULSA members, 65 non-LUUCAS; (had 108 last year, in 2024 had 142), the club is gradually getting smaller. Rachel contacted everyone who didn't renew and had a trickle rather than a surge of responding/returning members. Rachel queried whether this slow decline is something we should be concerned about. Plea from Rachel to renew membership in good time to enable BCA insurance to occur in good time.

Chris addendum; the drop off is mostly due to student numbers dropping off (potentially fewer international students this year).

Lyndon

Having a good time in Guatemala, Canada and Australia. Previously did lots for dinner meet but will be stepping down this year. Comment on student membership numbers and the cyclical nature of this.

Vote of thanks for Lyndon arranging various dinnermeets (proposed by Nat, seconded by Rachel)

Mike 'Sniffer' Fearn

No report provided (he currently admin the email io group)

Elections:

- President (Mike - restanding); For: 32, Against: 0, Absentions: 1
- Treasurer (Chris - restanding); For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Secretary (Nat - restanding) For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Training coordinator (Adam EJ - standing down; Adam B is standing); For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Meets Secretary (Janey - standing down, Faris - standing); For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Librarian (Emily W - restanding); For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Distributions and sales (Shezz - restanding); For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Photographer (Ben C - standing down; Katie Brenton - standing); For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Editor (Kristian - restanding, Tara - restanding); For: 32, Against: 1, Absentions: 0
- Webmaster (Alice S - standing down); Left vacant (Nat happy to keep the website ticking along)
- Conservation officer (Aidan K - standing down; Joseph Bennett - standing); For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0
- Ordinary member (Lyndon - standing down, Mike F - unknown, Rachel T - restanding);

Rachel, For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0

Alice, For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0

Janey, For: 33, Against: 0, Absentions: 0

CNCC rep was flagged; not a committee position but it's something we should engage with more

Expected behaviour at club trips and events

Nat set out expected behaviour at club events; essentially don't be a dick. Any discrimination based on protected characteristics or any form of sexual harassment has no place in ULSA and won't be tolerated. Appropriate behaviour will be outlined as part of membership sign-up. Refreshed complaints procedure coming but any concerns, contact a committee member

Constitutional amendments

Committee Quorum:

Nat proposes, Jono seconds that: *"7.1.5 The quorum for all committee meetings shall be 50% of the incumbent committee members."* is replaced with *"7.1.5 The quorum for all committee meetings shall be 30% of the incumbent committee members."* Note this amendment was immediately superseded by a following amendment.

For: 16, Against: 3, Absentions: 3

Following that amendment Mike proposes, Dinny seconds that: *"7.1.5 The quorum for all committee meetings shall be 50% of the incumbent committee members."* is replaced with *"7.1.5 The quorum for all committee meetings shall be 30% of the incumbent committee members and a minimum of 3."*

For: 23, Against: 0, Absentions: 3

AGM Quorum:

Nat proposes that *"7.2.3 The quorum for an AGM shall be 30% of the club membership at that time."* is replaced with *"7.2.3 The quorum for an AGM shall be 20% of the club membership at that time."*

For: 24 , Against: 0, Absentions: 2

Any other business

Rachel would really like us (as a club) to build up to the Berger next year. Gives newer members something to aim for as an intro step to expeditions. If anyone is keen to learn more about european caving (big classic trips or expeditions), please do speak to older members at Dinnermeet

Date of next meeting

Tbc but before the students Easter break