

Gay Outdoor Club Limited Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year End 31st December 2025

Gay Outdoor Club Limited

Company registration number 8020133

Charity registration number 1158873

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st December 2025

Trustees' Report:

Reference and administration details

The Gay Outdoor Club Limited is a company limited by guarantee. It is known as the Gay Outdoor Club, frequently abbreviated to GOC.

Company registration number: 08020133

Charity registration number: 1158873

Registered office: 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AX

The following persons served as Trustees during the reporting period; they served the entire year except where noted:

Anne I Coombes	Chair	Appointed: 5 th October 2025
Robert Minikin	Secretary	Appointed: 25 th October 2025 (as Trustee 15 th August 2025)
Ian M Widdowson	Treasurer	
Allyson M Evans		
Martin Gilbraith		
Gabriella Giuffre		
David Ledsham		Appointed: 16 th July 2025
Brendan J McQuillan		Appointed: 16 th July 2025
Shaun Waller		Appointed: 16 th July 2025
David Willis		Appointed: 1st September 2025

Resignations:

James K Cornwell	26 th July 2025
Robert Davies	25 th October 2025
K H Chris Ng	8 th August 2025
Richard G Smith	16 th June 2025
Edward H Voelcker	26 th July 2025

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, Tonbridge, Kent

Accountants: Crest Accounting Ltd, 49 Verdayne Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 8TW

Structure, governance and management:

The Gay Outdoor Club existed as an unincorporated club from 1974. On the 4th April 2012 it was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and on the 16th October 2014, it was registered as a charity.

The charity is governed by the **Articles of Association**. These were last amended in 2023, with approval from the membership, to ensure that the club fulfilled its diversity and inclusive policy by welcoming **everyone in the LGBTQI+ community**.

During 2025 the Gay Outdoor Club experienced a number of changes at board level, with several trustees stepping down. Recruitment from within the club ensured continuity, and by year-end all but one of the vacated positions had been filled. In addition, a new twelfth trustee role was established.

The previous Chair stood down at the AGM in July 2025. Following an internal recruitment process, a new Chair was appointed from within the Club, and Anne Coombes took up the role later in the year.

All the **Activities** of the club are organised by members on a voluntary basis without payment. There are 33 local groups covering every part of England, Wales and Scotland, and ten specialist groups.

Each summer the club holds an **Annual Outdoor Gathering** where members come together over a weekend. In 2025 the event was held at Lancaster University. As always, it was well supported and gave our members a chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

Financial Review:

At the end of the financial year, the Club held total funds of £85,221, resulting in a surplus of £4,790 for the year. Cash balances remained stable, and no significant financial risks or uncertainties were identified. The Club remains in a secure financial position with sufficient resources to meet its ongoing obligations.

Taking into account that the Club does not experience significant periods of negative cash flow and that income is reasonably predictable, the Club's reserves policy aims to retain reserves equal to between nine and twelve months of total membership income turnover. This level is considered appropriate because the largest financial event the Club organises is the Annual Outdoor Gathering, where up to nearly 50% of the cost can be incurred before income is received.

As reserves have built up above this target range, the Club is continuing to reduce the balance. This ongoing work includes providing diversity and inclusion training, marketing initiatives, and establishing an "access" hardship fund.

The Charity has no restricted funds and does not act as a custodian or trustee for others. At year end, unrestricted reserves stood at £85,221, which is above the target range of nine to twelve months of membership income (£36,800).

Public benefit statement:

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Objectives and activities:

The objects of the company are:

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of any individuals who have need of such facilities especially, but not exclusively, everyone in the LGBTQI+ community with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Annual Activity Summary:

The Gay Outdoor Club continued to consolidate its position as the oldest and largest outdoors club in the UK for everyone in the LGBTQ+ community. Activities were organised primarily through the 33 regional groups, supported by 10 national activity groups whose events operate across regions.

In total, 693 events were held during the year, including 24 multi-day events. Walks remained the most common activity, both circular and linear, with routes selected to include points of interest within each region. Additional themed walks included a starling murmuration, visits to steam railways, the Chiltern Circular Challenge, and sections of recognised pilgrimage paths.

Other activities included water-based events such as the twitcher's cruise and the scone-and-jam cruise on the Thames. Social events were held both online and in person, including ten-pin bowling, evening meals, and coffee meet-ups.

Members attended nine Pride events, including London. Longer trips included weekends on Rannoch Moor, at Wortham Manor, and in Reading. Overseas trips to Sitges and Mallorca were organised, alongside camping trips in Matlock, Norfolk, and Shropshire.

All activities were organised and delivered by volunteers, demonstrating the commitment and energy of the membership.