

WREKIN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB CONSTITUTION



March 2013

1. NAME

The name of the Club shall be The Wrekin Mountaineering Club hereinafter referred to as the Club.

2. CLUB OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. To promote the sport of mountaineering
- 2.2. To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and to participate in rock climbing and mountaineering activities, including indoor climbing, bouldering and mountain hill walking.
- 2.3. To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the cliff, the mountain environment, and to observe the mountain code.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. Full membership is open to all persons over the age of eighteen, and applications for membership can be approved by the Committee or a nominated Officer, namely the Club Secretary.
- 3.2. Youth membership is open to persons aged between 16 and 18 at the discretion of the Club's Youth Officer and subject to the requirement that parents or legal guardians sign informed consent and medical forms.
- 3.3. The Club has adopted and fully endorses the British Mountaineering Council's Child Protection Policy.
- 3.4. We aim to ensure that all people, irrespective of their sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, marital status, age, race, ethnic origin or disability have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in climbing, hill walking and mountaineering.
- 3.5. We aim to minimise the impact that our Club has on the environment, we ask that all members behave in a manner that meets the best environmental practices of any area that we may visit, be it within the UK or abroad. As a minimum this means complying with any current legislation or access agreements restrictions, as well as respecting the ethics of any particular climbing area.
- 3.6. The Committee reserves the right to refuse or withdraw membership of any member. The Disciplinary and Cessation sections of this constitution provide further details.

4. COMMITTEE

- 4.1. The Club shall be managed by the Committee and composed of the three Officers and nine elected open place members, one of whom shall be the Youth officer.
- 4.2. The Committee subject to the approval of a two-thirds majority at the AGM shall have the power to appoint for life a club president. Such an election shall only be done in exceptional circumstances to a person.
 - a) Who is distinguished by virtue of their association with mountaineering or a person who has rendered exceptional service to the club.The Club President shall have the right to vote on committee meetings and to be involved as he or she may wish in all club activities
- 4.3. The officers of the Club shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 4.4. The Chairman shall have the casting vote in all matters.
- 4.5. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members as it deems fit.
- 4.6. The Committee shall manage, govern and determine the policies of the club as defined by the Constitution
- 4.7. The Committee, with the approval of the A.G.M., has the right to appoint life members.
- 4.8. The Committee shall be empowered to form a Sub-Committee and co-opt members of the Club to serve as required. The Sub Committee will have to report back to the Committee who will make any decisions required.
- 4.9. The Club may seek affiliation with any other bodies, as the Club may deem fit.
- 4.10. The quorum for a committee meeting shall be six people including one of the Officers
- 4.11. Annual Subscription rates shall be decided by the Committee.
- 4.12. Membership subscriptions fall due on the First of January each year and membership is deemed to have lapsed if subscriptions have not been paid by the 31st January in the same year.
- 4.13. An Extraordinary General Meeting can be held at the request of the Chairman or any six committee members. The Secretary shall give 14 days' notice of the meeting.
- 4.14. The committee may ammend this constitution, as it deems fit for approval at the AGM.

5. MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October each year and shall include:-

- 5.1. A report from the Chairman on the previous year's activities.
- 5.2. A report from the Secretary on the previous year.
- 5.3. A report from the Treasurer.
- 5.4. The election of committee members.
- 5.5. Committee meetings shall be held as often as necessary.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

- 6.1. The secretary shall give notice of all meetings.
- 6.2. The secretary shall, as far as possible, attend all Committee Meetings of the Club.
- 6.3. The secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings.
- 6.4. The treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Club and shall pay all accounts when ordered to do so by the Committee.
- 6.5. The treasurer or a nominated person shall be responsible for the collection of monies, shall keep an accurate record of all accounts and shall prepare the financial statements for presentation to the committee and to the Annual General meeting.

7. LIABILITY

- 7.1. The Wrekin mountaineering club recognises that climbing and Mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Members of the club participating in these activities should be aware of and accept the risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.
- 7.2. The Club, its officers and members will not accept responsibility for death or injury to members or others involved in club activities.
- 7.3. Membership of the BMC obtained via the club provides liability insurance. It shall be the responsibility of each member or guest to provide adequate insurance cover for themselves for personal accident, injury, loss etc.

8. MEETS

- 8.1. The committee will draw up a list of venues for meets. Meet co-ordinators may be appointed for:
 - 8.1.1. Providing the Secretary with details of the meet for forwarding to Club members (i.e. details of venue, times, directions, etc.).
 - 8.1.2. Assisting members with arrangements for shared transport to and from the meets.
 - 8.1.3. Being at the arranged venue in good time to meet members and to ensure arrangements for the day are such that all needs of members are met.
- 8.2. Bearing in mind that in the Club there will be a wide range of competency, strengths and interests, the meet co-ordinator should, as necessary, provide suggestions and make arrangements to ensure an enjoyable day is had by all.

9. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 9.1. If at any time the Committee considers that the interests of the Club require it they may invite a member to resign from the Club by a letter, specifying the reasons for their request and offering the member an opportunity to provide an explanation either in writing or in person and the date before which the reply should be received.
- 9.2. If the member concerned requests a meeting to provide an explanation, the committee must arrange a meeting at a suitable time and place and within a reasonable period of time and must provide the member with not less than seven days written notice of it.
- 9.3. The Committee must consider the explanation provided by the member in good faith and have due regard to all available evidence and may confirm or vary their original decision. E.g. by providing the member with a warning or other sanction.
- 9.4. If the Committee confirms their original decision and the member concerned does not resign the Committee must submit the question of the member's expulsion to a Special General Meeting to be convened for the purpose, whether or not the member requests such a meeting.
- 9.5. Not less than four weeks' notice of the meeting must be given to all the members.
- 9.6. The Secretary must inform the member in question of the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the complaints against the member in sufficient time to afford the member a proper opportunity of offering their explanation.
- 9.7. At the meeting the member must be allowed to offer an explanation of their conduct verbally or in writing and if after that two-thirds of the members present vote for their expulsion the member will immediately cease to be a member of the Club.
- 9.8. The voting at any such Special General Meeting must be by ballot if not less than five members present at that meeting so demand.

- 9.9. The Committee may exclude from the Club until the Special General Meeting is held any member whose resignation has been requested.

10. EFFECT OF CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

- 10.1. On ceasing to be a member a person forfeits all right to and claims upon the Club and its property and funds.
- 10.2. A person who has been expelled from the Club shall not be entitled to participate in any subsequent activity of the Club.

11. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

- 11.1. The Club can be dissolved by two-thirds majority vote carried out either at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting whereupon the Committee will arrange to discharge any assets equally amongst the Members (or donated to Charity, MCI Environmental Defence Fund, Mountain Rescue etc.). Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members in equal amount.

12. MOUNTAIN CODE

The Club and its activities are guided by The Mountain Code. The main features of this are:

- 12.1. Learn the use of map and compass
- 12.2. Plan within your capabilities
- 12.3. Know simple first aid and the symptoms of exposure
- 12.4. Know the mountain distress signals
- 12.5. Where appropriate, take map and compass, torch and food
- 12.6. Keep alert all day
- 12.7. Avoid disturbance to farming, forestry and field sports