

Wrekin Mountaineering Club Constitution

Adopted by the Club on 5/11/24

Signed R Ball.....Position: Chair

Signed P Perry.....Position: Treasurer/~~Membership Secretary~~

1. NAME

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

2. OBJECTS

- 2.1. To promote the sport of mountaineering among members.
- 2.2. To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and to participate in core activities of rock climbing and mountaineering, including indoor climbing, bouldering and mountain hill walking (during summer, winter or alpine conditions).
- 2.3. To act on behalf of the interests of the Members.
- 2.4. 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. APPLICATION OF INCOME AND PROPERTY

- 3.1. The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Membership of the Club is only open to individuals who recognise that the Activities are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Members shall be aware of and accept these risks and agree to be responsible for their own actions and involvement.
- 4.2. 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, either the Chair or Membership Secretary.
- 4.3. Members will pay membership fees, as determined at the AGM (defined below).
- 4.4. All Members acknowledge and agree that they will become Club Members of the BMC and that the Club shall pay the appropriate subscription on behalf of each Member included in the return filed by the Club with the BMC.
- 4.5. All Members will be subject to the terms of this Constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these terms and any codes of practice or Club rules that the Club adopts.
- 4.6. 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 walking or climbing area.
- 4.7. The Committee reserves the right to refuse or withdraw membership of any member. The disciplinary and cessation sections of this constitution provide further details.

5. EQUITY

- 5.1. The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat all Members equally within the context of the Activities regardless of, for example: age, ability, gender, sex, marital status, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality, disability or social/economic status etc.
- 5.2. The Club is committed to all Members having the right to enjoy the Activities in an environment free from the threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

- 5.3. All Members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- 5.4. The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to Club disciplinary procedures.

6. FINANCES

- 6.1. Membership fees will be set annually by the Committee and agreed by the Members at the AGM.
- 6.2. The Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the Club.
- 6.3. The financial year of the Club will run from January 1st to December 31st.
- 6.4. Membership is deemed to have lapsed if subscriptions have not been paid by the 31st January in the same year.
- 6.5. All Club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the Club.
- 6.6. The Management Committee will nominate a minimum of 2 Officers as signatories for the Club account, the signatories must include the Treasurer.
- 6.7. All Members shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.

7. COMMITTEE

- 7.1. The Club shall be managed by the Committee and composed of the four Officers and four or more elected open place members.
- 7.2. 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 who is distinguished by virtue of his or her association with mountaineering or a person who has rendered exceptional service to the club.
- 7.3. 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
- 7.4. The officers of the Club shall be Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Bookings Secretary.
- 7.5. The Chair shall have the casting vote in all matters.
- 7.6. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members as it deems fit.
- 7.7. The Committee shall manage, govern and determine the policies of the club as defined by the Constitution.
- 7.8. The Committee, with the approval of the AGM, has the right to appoint life members.
- 7.9. 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.
- 7.10. The Club may seek affiliation with any other bodies, as the Club may deem fit.
- 7.11. The quorum for a committee meeting shall be at least half of the sitting committee including the Chair or two of the Officers.
- 7.12. An Extraordinary General Meeting can be held at the request of the Chairman or any four committee members. The Secretary shall give 14 days' notice of the meeting.
- 7.13. The committee may amend this constitution, as it deems fit for approval at the AGM.

8. MEETINGS

- 8.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October or November each year and shall include:-
 - 8.1.1 A report from the Chairman on the previous year's activities.
 - 8.2.1 A report from the Membership Secretary on the previous year.
 - 8.3.1 A report from the Treasurer.
 - 8.4.1 The election of committee members.
 - 8.5.1 Discussion and agreement on membership fees for the coming year.
- 8.2. All general meetings other than the AGM shall be called special general meetings (SGM).
- 8.3. The Committee may call an SGM at any time.
- 8.4. The Committee must call an SGM if requested to do so in writing by not less than one quarter of the Members. The request must state the nature of the business that is to be discussed. If the

Management Committee fails to hold the meeting within 28 days of the request, the Members may proceed to call an SGM but in doing so they must comply with the provisions of this Constitution.

- 8.5. Committee meetings shall be held as often as necessary.
- 8.6. Meetings should be chaired by the Chair, unless there is no such person or they are not present within 15 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting an Officer nominated by the Members present shall chair the meeting.
- 8.7. Proposals may be put to a general meeting of the Club by any Member.
- 8.8. All proposals put to the vote at general meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast, except proposals to amend this Constitution or to dissolve the Club which shall require not less than two thirds of the Members present at the meeting to vote in favour.
- 8.9. Each Member shall have one vote. In the event of an equal number of votes for and against any proposal, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

9. NOTICE

- 9.1. The minimum period of notice required to hold any general meeting of the Club is 21 clear days from the date on which the notice is deemed to have been given.
- 9.2. A general meeting may be called by shorter notice, if it is so agreed by all the Members entitled to attend and vote.
- 9.3. The notice must specify the date, time, means and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an AGM, the notice must say so.
- 9.4. The notice must be given to all Members.

10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

- 10.1. The Chair shall give notice of all meetings.
- 10.2. The Chair shall, as far as possible, attend all Committee Meetings of the Club.
- 10.3. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings.
- 10.4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Club and shall pay all accounts when ordered to do so by the Committee.
- 10.5. 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.

11. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 11.1. A Committee member must:
 - 11.1.1 declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, in which they have in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Club or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the Club which has not been previously declared; and
 - 11.2.1 absent themselves from any discussion of the Committee in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between their duty to act solely in the interest of the Club and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest).
- 11.2. Any Management Committee member absenting themselves from any discussion in accordance with the above clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the Committee on the matter.

12. LIABILITY

- 12.1. 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.
- 12.2. The Club, its officers and members will not accept responsibility for death or injury to members or others involved in club activities.
- 12.3. 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.

13. **MEETS**

- 13.1. The committee will draw up a list of venues for meets. Points of contact for meets may be appointed for:
- 13.2. Providing the Secretary with details of the meet for forwarding to Club members (i.e. details of venue, times, directions, etc.).
- 13.3. Assisting members with arrangements for shared transport to and from the meets.
- 13.4. 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.
- 13.5. 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.

14. **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

- 14.1. All complaints regarding the behaviour of Members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Chair.
- 14.2. If at any time the Committee considers that the interests of the Club require it they may invite a member, including officers or committee members, 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.
- 14.3. 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.
- 14.4. 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. eg. by providing the member with a warning or other sanction.
- 14.5. 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.
- 14.6. Not less than four weeks' notice of the meeting must be given to all the members.
- 14.7. 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 him a proper opportunity of offering his explanation.
- 14.8. 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 his expulsion the member will immediately cease to be a member of the Club.
- 14.9. The voting at any such Special General Meeting must be by ballot if not less than five members present at that meeting so demand.
- 14.10. The Committee may exclude from the Club until the Special General Meeting is held any member whose resignation has been requested.

15. **EFFECT OF CEASING TO BE A MEMBER**

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

16. **DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

- 16.1. 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 to charity, decided upon by the committee. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members.

17. **MOUNTAIN CODE**

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

- 17.1. Learn the use of map and compass
- 17.2. Plan within your capabilities
- 17.3. Know simple first aid and the symptoms of exposure
- 17.4. Know the mountain distress signals
- 17.5. Where appropriate, take map and compass, torch and food
- 17.6. Keep alert all day
- 17.7. Avoid disturbance to farming, forestry and field sports