

BEDFORD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB – CONSTITUTION

1. NAME: The name of the Club shall be the Bedford Mountaineering Club.

2. OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the Club shall be:-

(a) to promote the sport of mountaineering, climbing and hill walking among members:

(b) to promote such other things as are conducive or incidental to the achievement of (a).

3. MEMBERSHIP: The membership of the Club shall be open to the following groups, all of whom shall abide by the Club rules and bye-laws:-

(a) any persons over the age of 18 years;

(b) membership shall run from the 1st January to the 31st December;

(c) members who join after 30th September shall receive the remainder of that year's membership free, paying only the relevant fee due to the British Mountaineering Council;

(d) membership shall only be open to individuals who recognise that mountaineering, climbing and hill walking are activities which can give rise to 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.

(e) the club does not accept responsibility for the actions of its members and visitors, whilst involved in Club activities.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS: The annual subscription shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting

5. OFFICERS: The officers of the Club shall be:-

Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Meets Secretary

Membership Secretary

Social Secretary

6. COMMITTEE:

(a) The Club shall be managed by the Committee, composed of the officers and two elected open place members.

(b) The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

- (c) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt no more than two additional members.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to formulate club bye-laws.

7. MEETINGS:

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in November or December each year. Fourteen clear days notice of such a meeting shall be given.

The Agenda shall include:-

- (i) The election of officers
 - (ii) A report from the Secretaries on the previous year's activities
 - (iii) The Treasurer's Report.
- (b) An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held at the request of a quorum of the Committee, or of any six members. Fourteen days notice of such a meeting shall be given.
- (c) Committee meetings shall be held as often as necessary.

8. QUORUM:

- (a) The quorum for an Annual or Extraordinary Meeting shall be one quarter of the membership.
- (b) The quorum for a committee shall be four committee members including an officer.

9. VOTING:

A simple majority shall rule on all occasions except for amendments to the Constitution, votes to dissolve the Club, and votes to expel a member, where in each case a majority shall be 2/3 of those present.

10. FINANCE:

- (a) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of monies, shall keep the books, shall prepare the financial statement for presentation to the Annual General Meeting or as directed by the Committee
- (b) The Committee shall have the power to appoint an Auditor.

11. AFFILIATION:

- (a) The Club is affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council ("the BMC") and members of the Club will become Club Members of the BMC upon paying their annual subscription to the Club. Members of the Club are therefore deemed to agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the BMC.
- (b) The Club shall pay the appropriate subscription to the BMC on behalf of each member at the intervals required by the BMC.

(c) In the event of the BMC being wound up, the Club shall pay not more than £1 on behalf of each member pursuant to clause 6 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the BMC.

The Club may seek affiliation with any other bodies the Club may deem fit.

12. BYE LAWS:

The Mountain Code

The Countryside Access Code

The Crag Code

13. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

(a) If at any time the Committee considers that the interests of the Club require it, they must write to a member either to warn them as to their future conduct or, if the Committee considers that a warning is insufficient to safeguard the interests of the Club, to invite the member to resign from the Club. In either event the Committee's letter shall set out the reasons for their warning or resignation request, and shall offer the member an opportunity to provide an explanation either in writing or in person before a specified date.

(b) If the member concerned requests a meeting to provide an explanation, the Committee must arrange a meeting at a suitable time and place within a reasonable period of time and must provide the member with not less than 7 days written notice of that meeting.

(c) The Committee must consider any explanation provided by a member in good faith and have due regard to all available information. They may confirm or vary their original decision.

(d) If the Committee confirm their original decision to request a member's resignation but the member does not resign, the Committee must submit the question of his expulsion to an Extraordinary General Meeting having given 14 days notice of such meeting to all members. At the Extraordinary General Meeting the member must be allowed to offer an explanation of his or her conduct verbally or in writing. If, after considering the Committee's reason for their request and any explanation provided by the member, 2/3 of those present vote for the member's expulsion, he or she will immediately cease to be a member of the Club.

(e) The voting at any such Extraordinary General Meeting must be by ballot if not less than five members present at that meeting so demand.

(f) The Committee may exclude from the Club until the Extraordinary General Meeting is held any member whose resignation has been so requested.

(g) On ceasing to be a member a person forfeits all right to and claim upon the Club and its property and funds, and they shall not be entitled to participate in any subsequent activities of the Club.

14. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB:

(a) The Club can be dissolved by a 2/3 majority vote at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened in accordance with paragraph 7(b) above.

(b) In the event of the funds of the Club falling below £500 the Committee will convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to enable the members to decide whether the Club should be dissolved.

(c) In the event of the required 2/3 majority of the members voting to dissolve the Club, the Committee will arrange to discharge any assets equally amongst the members or to donate them to such charities or organisations as the members shall decide.

(d) Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all members.

[Last updated 14 December 2013]