

Constitution for BEDFORD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

1. NAME

1.1 The name of the Club shall be the Bedford Mountaineering Club. Hereinafter referred to as "the Club".

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

2.1 To promote the interests of climbing, hill-walking and mountaineering amongst members of the Club.

2.2 To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in climbing, hill-walking and mountaineering activities together.

2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.

2.4 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the cliff and mountain environment.

2.5 To take part in and support the work and activities of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC).

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB

3.1 Membership of the Club shall only be open to

- Individual adults over the age of 18 who recognise that all outdoor pursuits, including, climbing, hill-walking and mountaineering 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 hereinafter referred to as "the Members".

3.2 The 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, and, in the event of the BMC being wound up, shall pay the sum of not more than £1 on behalf of each Member included in a return filed by the Club with the BMC at any time within the preceding period of one year pursuant to the guarantee comprised in clause 6 of the Memorandum of Association of the BMC. The Members further acknowledge and agree that upon the Club being affiliated to the BMC and each becoming a Club member of the BMC that they will each be bound by the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the BMC.

3.3 All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the Club has adopted.

3.4 Members will pay membership fees, as determined at the Club Annual General Meeting.

3.5 Membership shall run from the 1st January to the 31st December; members who join after 30th September shall receive the remainder of that year's membership free, paying only the relevant fee due to the BMC.

3.6 The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat all Members equally within the context of Club activities and mountaineering activities, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.

3.7 The Club is committed to all Members having the right to enjoy mountaineering in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

3.8 All Members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

3.9 The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

3.10 The Club does not accept responsibility or liability for the actions of its members and visitors, whilst they are involved in Club activities.

4. COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB

4.1 The Management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Club Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

4.2 The Committee members shall all be Members of the Club.

4.3 The Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Club and only these posts are entitled to vote.

4.4 The Officers of the Club shall be the

Chairperson

Treasurer

Club Secretary

Meets Secretary

Membership Secretary

Social Media Secretary

Webmaster

hereinafter referred to as "the Officers".

4.5 All Officers will retire each year but will be eligible for re-election (to a maximum of 5 years).

4.6 Voting for the election of Officers shall take place at the AGM. If the post of any Officer should fall vacant after such an election, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding Annual General Meeting

4.7 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional non-voting members.

4.8 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected voting members. In addition to the AGM the Committee shall hold meetings as often as necessary.

4.9 The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.

4.10 The Committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.

4.11 The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

4.12 The decision of the Committee on the interpretation of this constitution and of club rules shall be final and the Committee is empowered to deal with any matters not covered.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

5.1 The AGM shall be held in November or December each year and notified to Members with 14 -days' notice, along with a draft agenda & statement of accounts.

5.2 The AGM will:

- Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM.
- Receive reports from the Chairman and Secretaries
- Receive a report from the Treasurer
- Elect the Officers on the Committee.
- Agree the membership fees for the following year.
- Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.
- Deal with other relevant business.

5.3 Nominations for Officers will be sent to the Secretary a minimum of 14 days' prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them to the Members at least 7 days before an AGM. Only nominations submitted by 2 full members of the Club will be accepted.

5.4 Proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the Secretary a minimum of 14 days' prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them to the Members at least 7 days before an AGM.

5.5 All Members present in person have the right to vote at the AGM. Each Member will have one vote and all matters shall be determined by a simple majority except any proposal pursuant to clause 12.1 or to clause 13.1.

5.6 The quorum for AGMs will be 25% of the membership.

5.7 The Chairman of the Club shall be entitled to vote on all matters and in the event of a tie shall have a casting vote at general meetings.

5.8 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 6 Members. The Committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the Committee members.

5.11 All procedures for an EGM shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

6. CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 6.1 Subscriptions will be set annually and agreed by the Members at the AGM. Subscriptions due by 31st January
- 6.2 The club treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.
- 6.3 The financial year of the club will run from 1st November and end on 30th October.
- 6.4 All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.
- 6.5 A statement of the annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.6 The Committee shall have the power to appoint an Auditor.
- 6.7 All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.

7. AFFILIATION:

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 The Club shall pay the appropriate subscription to the BMC on behalf of each member at the intervals required by the BMC.
- 7.3 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.

8. BYE LAWS:

~~The Mountain Code~~

~~The Countryside Access Code~~

The Countryside Code (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>)

The BMC Crag Code (<https://services.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-publishes-national-crag-code>)

9 DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

- 9.1 All complaints regarding the behaviour of Members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Club Secretary.

9.2 The Committee / nominated sub-committee will meet to hear complaints within 21 days of a complaint being lodged. The Committee / nominated subcommittee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

9.3 The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 14 days of the hearing.

9.4 There will be the right of appeal to a specially formed sub-committee following disciplinary action being announced. The sub-committee should consider the appeal within 14 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

10 EFFECT OF CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

10.1 On ceasing to be a Member a person forfeits all right to and claim 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 RULES OF THE CLUB

11.1 The Committee has the power to set Club Rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution and the policies of the BMC.

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

12.1 The Club can only be dissolved by two-thirds majority vote at an AGM. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members if the assets of the Club are not sufficient. The Committee will arrange to discharge any remaining assets by donating to Charity (i.e. Mountain Rescue) or to another organisation with similar aims and objectives (i.e. a local club) or to the British Mountaineering Council or to the Access and Conservation Trust (ACT).

13. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

13.1 This Constitution can only be amended by a two thirds majority of those Members attending the AGM. Notice of any amendment must be delivered to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

DECLARATION

This Constitution was approved and adopted by the Club on

V2.1 para 6.3 Financial year corrected CJR 11.12.25

Signatories

Chairman print

Secretary print

Treasurer print