

**SWINDON MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
CONSTITUTION (including AMENDMENT 1 APRIL 05)**

1. NAME

- 1.1. The name of the Club shall be the Swindon Mountaineering Club, hereinafter referred to as "the Club".

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- 2.1. To promote the interests of climbing 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 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 individuals who recognise that 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.
- 3.2. Club Membership is open to minors (those under 18 years) upon written consent of their legal guardian who must also be a member of the Club.
- 3.3. Membership will be terminated automatically if subscription renewal is not paid within 28 days of expiry.
- 3.4. In general, club activities and privileges shall be restricted to club members only; however, non-members may participate at the discretion of the committee. Participating non-members shall be asked to sign a standard BMC participation statement advising the risks involved.
- 3.5. Subscriptions may be paid pro rata for new members joining through the membership year.

4. MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB

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

SMC CONSTITUTION (cont)

5. OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

- 5.1 As a minimum, the elected Officers of the Club shall be the Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Meet Secretary. Other officers such as an Equipment Officer and a Publicity Officer may be elected as required. All positions are honorary
- 5.2 Voting for the election of Officers shall take place at the AGM or EGM.

6. COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB

- 6.1 The Chairperson of the Club will normally call and chair all meetings of the Committee (or club). Where the chairman is not available the committee shall elect a temporary chairperson to allow the meeting to continue.
- 6.2 The Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Club (plus co-opted members from the Club Membership if desired).
- 6.3 The Committee can nominate a representative (or representatives) of the Club to attend BMC Area meetings and represent the views of the Membership and can nominate the Chairperson (or a representative) to attend the BMC AGM and vote on behalf of the Club.
- 6.4 The Club Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to Club affairs and for the taking and distribution of minutes including committee meetings. The Secretary shall also be responsible for announcing the AGM and shall give adequate notice of such a meeting and its agenda. Items for inclusion should be submitted at least 14 days prior to the AGM. The Secretary shall keep records about the Membership of the Club and shall report to the BMC the size of the Membership.
- 6.5 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of subscriptions and will account for any other income and expenditure made on behalf of the Club. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the payment of the membership subscription to the BMC.
- 6.6 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members.
- 6.7 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be 3 committee members. The Committee shall hold committee meetings during each year as required by club activities.

7. CLUB PRESIDENT

- 7.1 The position of honorary Club President may be invited by the Committee and approved by the Club at the AGM. The Club has the right to remove a President from office.
- 7.2 The President should be a mountaineer of local or national significance and must be a member of the SMC.
- 7.3 The role of the President is to promote the interests of the Club and the field of mountaineering.

SMC CONSTITUTION (cont)

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 8.1. The AGM of the Club shall be held by the end of May each year upon a date and time fixed by the Committee. It will normally be chaired by the Club Chairperson. Where the chairperson is not available the committee shall elect a temporary chairman from the committee members present to allow the meeting to continue.
- 8.2. The AGM shall proceed as follows:
 - 8.2.1. Receive from the Treasurer a full statement of accounts showing receipts and expenditures for year ending.
 - 8.2.2. Receive from other Officers, reports of the activities of the Club for the past year.
 - 8.2.3. Elect the Officers and Committee for the following year.
 - 8.2.4. Approve appointment of the President if desired.
 - 8.2.5. Undertake any other relevant business on the agenda.
 - 8.2.6. Set the subscription level for the ensuing year.
 - 8.2.7. Invite questions and comments from the membership.
 - 8.2.8. A quorum shall consist of 20% of the current membership.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 9.1 An EGM may be convened at any time by the committee, or at the written request (including e-mail) to the Chairperson of not less than six members. The Secretary shall notify all members in writing or by e-mail not less than 14 days before the proposed date of the meeting. A quorum shall consist of 20% of the membership.

10. CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 10.1. Membership subscription levels for the Club shall be decided at the AGM on an annual basis.

11. RULES OF THE CLUB

- 11.1. The Committee shall have 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. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

- 12.1. This Constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority at the AGM or EGM. Notice of any amendment must be delivered to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM or EGM.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

- 13.1. The Club can be dissolved by a two thirds majority vote carried out in accordance with Article 12. In the event of the Club being dissolved the Committee shall release the property and the assets and call in all monies owed to the Club and, after discharge of all liabilities, hand the surplus to such charitable institutions as determined by the AGM or EGM called for that purpose.

14. GENERAL

- 14.1. Every applicant for membership of the Club shall be furnished with a copy of the Constitution and the Club rules. Each member shall accept as final and binding the decision of the Committee in all cases of dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation of the Constitution and Rules.