

Club Constitution

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be the *South Devon 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 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, mountain and moorland 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 approved applicants hereinafter referred to as "the Membership".
- 3.2 Club Membership is not open to minors. Members are welcome to bring juniors to club meets but must remain responsible for them at all times. (Refer to Article 8)
- 3.3 There will be a category of membership for the unwaged and for students.
- 3.4 Joint membership will be open to 2 people living in the same household.
- 3.5 Applicants may only be approved once they have returned a completed SDMC Membership application form. The committee will have the power to refuse membership to any person on grounds they consider justifiable. Whenever the committee refuses membership, that person may appeal to a Special General Meeting of the club.

3.6 In addition to 3.5 above membership of the Club shall only be open to individuals who recognise that climbing 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.

- 3.7 The Club is affiliated to the BMC, 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 returned 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 the Club is 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.

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".

5. Officers of the Club

- 5.1 The elected Officers of the Club shall be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, Walking Meets Co-ordinator, Climbing Meets Co-ordinator, the BMC Representative, the Webmaster, the Social Secretary, the Equipment Officer and up to 3 General Committee members; hereinafter referred to as "the Officers".
- 5.2 Voting for the election of Officers shall take place at the AGM. The committee will have the power to fill any vacancies that may occur on the committee during the year. Any co-opted member will serve until the next AGM.
- 5.3 At the third consecutive AGM following a member's election to the committee, that member will not be eligible for re-election to the same position.
- 5.4 All committee members will be Club members

6. Committee of the Club

- 6.1 The President of the Club will normally preside at and chair all meetings of the Committee (or Club) and shall be responsible for reporting to the Membership at the Club's AGM.
- 6.2 The Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Club (plus a number of elected members from the Club Membership if desired).
- 6.3 The Committee shall nominate a representative (or representatives) of the Club to attend BMC Area meetings and represent the views of the Membership and shall nominate the President (or a representative) to attend the BMC AGM.

- 6.4 The Club shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to Club affairs and for announcing Committee meetings, and the production and distribution of minutes from those meetings. The Club shall keep records about the Membership of the Club and shall report to the BMC the size of the Membership.
- 6.5 The Treasurer and Secretary shall be responsible for the collection of subscriptions and the Treasurer will account for any other income and expenditure made on behalf of the Club. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be responsible for the payment of the membership subscription to the BMC and the Insurance premium if this option is taken up.
- 6.6 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional non-voting members.
- 6.7 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected voting members. In addition to the AGM the Committee (or Club) shall hold at least four (or another suitable number) meetings each year (See also Article 14)
- 6.8 No club member will enter into correspondence or any undertaking on behalf of the Club without the approval of the committee

7. Finance

- 7.1 The Committee shall have the power to set membership subscription levels for the Club on an annual basis. Club subscriptions will be fixed for the following year at each AGM
- 7.2 Subscriptions will be due by 1st November each year
- 7.3 The club treasurer must provide accounts for the previous year at each AGM, which will be presented to the committee at its meeting prior to the AGM.

8. Child-Protection Policy

- 8.1 The Club does not allow members under the age of 18 and as such is not required to adopt a Child Protection Policy or appoint a Youth Officer. Reference can be made to the BMC Child Protection Policy. This can be viewed at www.thebmc.co.uk/thebmc/pols.child_protection.htm
- 8.2 Under 18s may join in with club activities as long as they are under the direct supervision of their parent/carers who are members of the Club.
- 8.3 The only residential Club meets under 18s can attend are Family meets (attended only by club members and their families) or Open meets (attended by club members and their families and club members without children) and only under the direct supervision of their parent/carers who are members of the Club.
- 8.4 A meet is only a Family or Open meet when expressly designated as such by the meet organiser.

9 Expulsion of members

- 9.1 If at any time the Committee considers that the interests of the Club require it they must 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.
- 9.4 If the Committee confirms their original decision and the member concerned does not resign the Committee must submit the question of his 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 Honorary Secretary must inform the member in question of the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the complaints against him in sufficient time to afford him a proper opportunity of offering his explanation.
- 9.7 At the meeting the member must be allowed to offer an explanation of his conduct verbally or in writing and if after that two-thirds of the members present vote for his expulsion he 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 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 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. General Meetings

- 12.1 No AGM or SGM shall take place unless more than ten members are present
- 12.2 The AGM is to be held each Spring, on a date specified at least one month in advance by post or by e-mail.
- 12.3 This meeting is for the purpose of electing a committee, presenting accounts, reports, and other pertinent business.
- 12.4 The meeting can only deal with proposals and nominations submitted in advance. These must be received at least two weeks before the meeting.
- 12.5 All club members shall be eligible to attend, vote, propose and second motions and nominate candidates at all AGMs and SGMs .
- 12.6 The Club secretary shall convene an SGM giving at least one month's notice, by order of the committee or on receipt of a requisition signed by at least one quarter of the Clubs' members specifying the purpose of any such meeting.

13 Amendments to the Constitution of the Club

- 13.1 This constitution shall not be added to, altered, rescinded, or suspended without the consent of at least two thirds of the members present at the AGM or SGM. Notice of any proposed alteration to the constitution, together with the names of the proposer and seconder of every such amendment shall be given to the club secretary at least one month before the AGM or any proposed SGM at which the amendment is to be considered.

14. Dissolution of the Club

- 14.1 The Club can be dissolved by two-thirds majority vote carried out in accordance with Article 9 whereupon the Committee will arrange to discharge any assets equally amongst the Members (or donated to Charity, Mountain Rescue etc.). Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members.