

Rockhoppers – Commitments to Climbers

This document outlines the commitments that Rockhoppers Mountaineering Club (RMC) will make to members interested in climbing, and also what expectations we have of members who wish to make use of the resources outlined here. It covers indoor climbing and single- and multi-pitch rock climbing only; ice and alpine climbing are not included here.

Please contact the Climbers' Rep (climbersrep@rockhoppers.org.uk) to get involved, or if you have any questions.

RMC commitments

- RMC will endeavour to make it easy for members to either try out climbing, learn to climb, improve their climbing, or find climbing partners. No guarantees can be made on the latter, however, as it relies on the goodwill and availability of other members.
- RMC cannot provide training but can assist members in finding training providers.
- RMC will encourage more experienced members to assist novice climbers, though we cannot guarantee that members will be willing or available on any given dates.

We will:

- Arrange regular indoor climbing meets.
- Run an annual novice meet at outdoor venues and give follow-up advice.
- Provide recommendations on where to learn to climb indoors, wall-to-outdoor courses, climbing guides/instructors/coaches.
- Help members find climbing partners.
- Work with trip leaders to help new members or new climbers get on the rock.
- Provide further climbing advice and help on request.

Expectations of members

- As with all RMC activities, members – whether novices or experienced climbers - are responsible for their own safety and wellbeing, per the BMC Participation Statement:

"The BMC recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

- Although RMC will attempt to help new members and novices find partners to climb with on meets, members should accept that unless they agree in advance to climb with someone, they may not always get to climb. Sometimes an experienced climber will say no because he or she does not feel comfortable climbing with someone new, or because he or she wants to climb with a regular partner. We suggest that new members climb with existing members indoors before attending outdoor meets.
- Members should note that possession of a rack and rope(s), and the ability and willingness to lead trad routes, will increase their likelihood of finding regular climbing partners.
- New members, and those with limited climbing experience, may contact the Climbers' Rep to talk through what they're looking for, which trips they intend to attend etc. The Climber's Rep can assess their level of experience, advise what gear is required, and try to find partners or groups for them to climb with.
- Members, especially novices, should be aware, and accept, that other members, regardless of experience, and including those perceived of as 'in charge', are not necessarily qualified, do not need to be qualified, are not regarded by the club nor regard themselves as 'technical experts', but are amateur climbers with some experience who are happy to impart their knowledge. Any advice given should be viewed with this in mind by the recipient.

- Novices must appreciate that not all climbing venues will be suitable for them and that members will only take a novice climbing where they feel they can comfortably manage access, risk and possible incidents.
- Members who are attending a meet and need a climbing partner, or who would like to benefit from the help of experienced climbers, should let the Climbers' Rep and/or trip organiser know in advance, so that we can try and find them a partner or group to climb with.

Insurance

RMC recommends that all climbers consider taking out insurance for injuries, personal liability etc.

- RMC membership includes BMC club membership, which provides [civil liability insurance](#); climbers should consider [upgrading to individual membership](#), which gives additional benefits, including personal accident insurance, the quarterly Summit magazine and access to the instructor award schemes, and also helps fund BMC work such as access and conservation.
- An alternative provider of specialist insurance for climbers is [Snowcard](#).