

# Rockhoppers Constitution (as of October 2022)

## 1.0 Title

1.1 The title of the organisation shall be the Rockhoppers Mountaineering Club.

## 2.0 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the Club are: to engage in and encourage, hill walking, mountaineering and other related pursuits in the British Isles and abroad; to promote conservation of the mountain and other natural environments the Club visits.

## 3.0 Membership

3.1 Full membership may be granted to any person who is above the age of 18 and has paid the due subscription.

3.2 Full members shall be entitled to borrow or utilise the Club's equipment and property for the purposes related to the objectives of the Club provided that the officer in charge of the equipment or property consents. They shall be entitled to participate in all meets organised by the Club.

3.3 Applications for membership shall be made to the membership secretary or to another member of the Committee.

3.4 The Committee reserves the right to refuse a new membership application if it is not in the interests of the Club.

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

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

## 4.0 Subscriptions

4.1 The annual subscription payable by full members shall be determined at the AGM.

4.2 The membership year will run from the 1st of November to the 31st of October the following year. The subscription shall be due from the 1st of November.

4.3 Any member who has not paid by the first day the New Year shall cease to be a member. This is to ensure that members are suitably insured with the BMC, whose membership year runs from 1st of January to 31st of December.

4.4 New members joining after 1st July may be entitled to pay a reduced rate at the discretion of the Committee, unless they were members in the immediately preceding year.

## 5.0 Committee

5.1 A Committee of between eight and ten including a President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the AGM in each year and serve for one year. The Club shall be administered by these members. The members of the Committee must be members of the Club.

5.2 The members present at the AGM may decide on any special responsibilities for the members of the Committee.

5.3 No member shall serve on the Committee for more than three consecutive years.

5.4 Should any Committee member resign or otherwise leave the Committee, or cease to be a member of the Club, then the Committee shall be entitled to co-opt a replacement. The replacement may be co-opted from either the Committee or the membership. Such a replacement shall not be automatically nominated for the next annual election.

5.5 Should a vote of no-confidence in any Committee member be passed at a general meeting then that member must resign from the Committee.

5.6 In the event of circumstances arising wherein this constitution gives no guidance, the Committee shall be empowered to take action as it sees fit, subject to the provision of this constitution.

5.7 The Committee shall not be empowered to enter into any bank loan or any other formal debts

incurring interest without the agreement of the members at a general meeting.

5.8 The Committee may expel, refuse to renew the membership, or refuse to allow attendance at Meets, of any member who in their opinion acts against the interests of the Club. The affected member(s) can request an appeal to the Club secretary within 28 calendar days of being informed of the Committee's decision. The appeal will be heard and decided upon at a general meeting

5.9 The Committee shall appoint two members as trustees of any property that the club holds or may hold.

5.10 The Committee may purchase, rent, or hire such services, equipment, or property as the Committee considers of value in the pursuit of the Club's objectives, subject to a limit of £500 per annum before ratification is required by a General Meeting. The general costs of running the Club shall not count towards this limit.

## **6.0 Meetings**

6.1 Not more than eight weeks shall elapse between Committee meetings.

6.2 At a Committee meeting the president or, in his absence, the secretary shall preside.

6.3 The quorum for Committee meetings shall be four members, including the president or secretary.

6.4 At least seven days' notice of Committee meetings shall be given by the secretary to each member of the Committee unless agreed by no less than six members of the Committee.

6.5 Voting shall be by a show of hands. Alternatively, at the request of any member, the voting shall be by secret ballot.

6.6 Minutes of all Committee meetings shall be kept and distributed to all committee members before the next meeting.

6.7 The A.G.M shall be held in October.

6.8 The president or any nominee of the Committee shall be the chairman of any General Meeting including the A.G.M. The quorum for the AGM shall be ten percent of the active membership. For this purpose "active membership" shall be defined as the number of members who have attended one or more of the Club's official trips (those which are listed on the website, and are bookable through the website) in the previous 12 months. For the avoidance of doubt all current members, whether active or not, shall be entitled to attend and vote at the AGM.

6.9 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by a Committee of any seven members who so inform the secretary in writing. Only business for which notice is given under clause 6.12 below shall be transacted at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

6.10 Twenty-one days' notice shall be given for all General Meetings, to be issued to all members of the Club by a member of the Committee. Such notice shall include a draft agenda of the meeting. Notice issued by post will be deemed to be received three days after posting; notice issued by email will be deemed to be received at the time of the email.

6.11 Any member wishing to initiate business at a General Meeting shall give notice to the secretary in sufficient time to enable the secretary to comply with clause 6.12.

6.12 Ten days secondary notice shall be given for all General Meetings, to be issued to all members of the Club by a member of the Committee. Such notice shall include the agenda and the wording of all resolutions to be proposed at the meeting. Minor amendments of the wording shall be permissible at the General Meeting. Notice issued by post will be deemed to be received three days after posting; notice issued by email will be deemed to be received at the time of the email.

6.13 The chairman may accept amendments to resolutions proposed at a General Meeting, provided that these do not materially alter the subject of the resolutions concerned.

6.14 Any other business may be discussed at the discretion of the chairman, but no binding resolutions may be passed.

## **7.0 Elections**

7.1 The Committee shall be elected at the A.G.M by a simple majority of members present.

7.2 All classes of members shall have equal voting rights.

7.3 Nominations for the Committee shall be made by a proposer and supported by a seconder.

7.4 If more than one nomination is received for the same Committee post then the proposer shall speak on behalf of the candidate whilst the candidate is absent.

## **8.0 Accounts**

8.1 The financial year shall start on the first of September and end on the last day of August of the following year.

8.2 The treasurer shall prepare an annual statement of account and shall present a report at each Committee meeting.

8.3 The accounts up to the last day of August in each year shall be certified by two auditors elected at the AGM. The auditors shall not be Committee members.

8.4 The Committee is to open, maintain and close such bank or building society accounts, as it considers desirable to permit the efficient and economical handling of the club's funds.

8.5 The treasurer shall keep an inventory of all the Club's equipment.

## **9.0 Publications**

9.1 The Club shall issue free to all paid up members a regular newsletter and, if produced, annual magazine.

## **10.0 Rules**

10.1 The Committee shall have power to make such rules of the Club and to amend the same, as it considers necessary to facilitate the orderly running of the Club and the attainment of its objectives.

10.2 The rules of the Club, as amended from time to time, must be adhered to. A file of such rules and amendments should be kept by the secretary and any new rules and amendments should be published in the newsletter.

## **11.0 Affiliations and Donations**

11.1 The Committee shall have the power to affiliate the Club to bodies for the purpose of exchanging information or to further the Club's objectives. Such an affiliation shall not confer on the members of that body any rights or privileges appertaining to the Club.

11.2 The Committee shall have the power to make donations to rescue or conservation organisations of other organisations which sympathise with the Club's objectives.

## **12.0 Accidents**

12.1 The Club recognises that climbing 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.

## **13.0 Dissolution of the Club**

13.1 Should the Club be wound up, the assets of the Club are to be realised and, after paying off outstanding creditors, the net fund shall be donated to recognised mountaineering/ environmental / conservation charities or not-for-profits. The recipient(s) of these donations are to be decided at the general meeting called to wind up the Club.

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