

## **Mercian Mountaineering Club – Constitution**

### **1. NAME**

- 1.1 The name of the organisation shall be “Mercian Mountaineering Club”, hereinafter referred to as “the Club”.

### **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 To provide facilities for and encourage the pursuit of safe mountaineering in all its aspects.  
2.2 To arrange indoor meets for the purpose of providing lectures and discussions on Mountaineering and kindred subjects.  
2.3 The Club may acquire property to further its aims.  
2.4 The Club may affiliate to kindred bodies to further its aims.  
2.5 The Club will be affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council (BMC). Club Members therefore acknowledge and agree that they are additionally bound by the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the BMC.  
2.6 The Club is a not-for-profit organisation.

### **3. ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 Membership of the club shall be open to all persons who:-
- a) are at least 18 years of age,
  - b) have actively attended two Club meets,
  - c) have made application to the Secretary on the approved form.
  - d) recognise that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death
  - e) are aware and accept the above risks and agree to be responsible for their own actions and involvement
  - f) agree to be bound by this constitution
- 3.2 Notice of all applications shall be announced by the Secretary using suitable means (e.g. e-mail list) and objections to the application shall be made in writing and lodged with the Secretary within 14 days.
- 3.3 Approval of the application shall require a two-thirds majority of those present at the subsequent Committee meeting, held not earlier than 14 days after the aforesaid announcement. The Committee shall take notice of any objections or concerns raised by the membership.
- 3.4 Honorary Members may be nominated by the Committee and elected by the Club at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.5 Any Member who in the opinion of the Committee is guilty of conduct detrimental to the interests and the good name of the club shall be liable to expulsion. The Member shall have the right to appeal to the Committee.
- 3.6 The Club Secretary shall maintain a membership list and shall file the appropriate returns with the BMC each quarter (if necessary).

### **4. COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 The officers of the Club shall be:- Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Meets Secretary, Midweek Meets Sec, Promotional Secretary, Social Secretary, and Librarian.
- 4.2 The Committee shall act on behalf of and in the interests of Club Members.
- 4.3 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members.
- 4.4 The quorum shall be five.
- 4.5 The Committee shall be elected annually at the AGM and shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Club, interpretation of the Constitution and matters relating to policy.

- 4.6 The Committee shall have the power to set Club rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution, the policies of the BMC and the interests of the Membership.
- 4.7 The Committee may appoint from time to time such sub-Committee members as they deem necessary and may depute or refer to them such powers and duties of the Committee as the Committee determine.

## **5. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FINANCE**

- 5.1 The financial year will begin on the first day of November.
- 5.2 The subscription shall be set by the outgoing Committee and agreed by the members present at the AGM.
- 5.3 Newly elected Members' fees shall be subject to a discount of 25% of the of the annual subscription if joining after 4 months of the Club's financial year has elapsed and to a discount of 50% of the annual subscription if joining after 8 months of the Club's financial year has elapsed. Newly elected Members joining in the month before the end of the financial year will pay one year's full membership which will however be valid until the end of the following financial year.
- 5.4 Any Member failing to renew his/her subscription by the end of a four month period which starts at the beginning of the financial year shall after due notice from the Treasurer to be considered to have withdrawn from membership. A lapsed Member may be re-elected at the Committee's discretion.
- 5.5 The Committee may at its discretion, waive or defer in whole or in part the subscription of any Member of the Club in cases of financial hardship or other special circumstances.
- 5.6 The Treasurer shall prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts drawn up to the last day of October which shall be made available to any full Member upon request.
- 5.7 Accounts shall be opened in the name of the club at such financial organisations as the Committee may approve. All cheques shall be signed by any two officers appointed to do so by the Club.
- 5.8 Any Member or guest failing to attend a meet for which he/she has been booked shall be liable to forfeit any monies that have been paid in deposit.
- 5.9 The property and funds of the Club shall be vested in the Mountain Rescue Association.

## **6. GENERAL MEETING**

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in November of which one month's notice shall be given. Items for the agenda and the nature of any motions shall be given to the Secretary by the end of September prior to the meeting. Members shall be informed of the agenda not later than 28 days prior to the meeting.
- 6.2 The Committee may at any time or on written requisition from one fifth of the full Members stating the business, for which it is required, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting for any specific purpose which shall be called within 30 days of the Secretary receiving it.
- 6.3 The Secretary shall upon the request of any full Member circulate to the full membership such material necessary for the purpose of gathering support for an EGM.
- 6.4 No changes shall be made to the Constitution unless approved by a two-thirds majority of those attending (plus applicable postal or e-mail votes) at a General Meeting. The nature of any proposed alterations shall be circulated to all Members in the notice convening the meeting.
- 6.5 Members living outside the Birmingham post-code area shall be entitled to a postal (or e-mail) vote on matters affecting the constitution or other major matters affecting the operation of the Club.
- 6.6 Acceptance of the Constitution in accordance with the Members wishes shall be indicated by the Chairman and Secretary signing a copy (below) and the motion being recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

## **7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 7.1 The Club shall not be responsible for any loss or injury that may be sustained or caused by any Member or guest in pursuit of the Club's activities.
- 7.2 All Club equipment borrowed shall be returned to the meet leader or designate at the end of the meet.
- 7.3 All persons using Club booked accommodation shall adhere to the rules laid down by the Committee or the accommodation owners/officials.
- 7.4 Members' dogs are permitted in huts or booked accommodation only where permitted by the accommodation rules but not in bedrooms, dormitories, kitchens, dining areas or washing/toilet facilities. Members who fail to control their dog in a manner acceptable to other members will have their dog banned from huts and accommodation on further Meets.

## **8. NON-CLUB MEMBERS ON MEETS**

- 8.1 Non-club Members are permitted on meets subject to the following:
  - a) Registering as a Prospective Member and filing details with the Secretary as required.
  - b) Agreement to be bound by the rules of this constitution

## **9. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

- 9.1 The Club can be dissolved by two-thirds majority carried out in accordance of the General Meeting rules whereupon the Committee will arrange to disperse any assets to the Mountain Rescue Association. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members.

Agreed by:

Club Chairman

Club Secretary

Date: DD MONTH YYYY