

RULES OF THE CLUB



1. NAME

The name of the Club is the Merseyside Mountaineering Club.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Club is to encourage mountaineering by organizing meets, holding regular meetings, arranging accommodation for members in mountainous districts and by such other ways as the committee thinks fit.

3. COMMITTEE

The Club shall be managed by a committee of full members consisting of

- the President,
- the President Elect, when in post,
- the Secretary,
- the Treasurer,
- the Membership Secretary,
- the Meets Secretary,
- the Hut Warden,
- the Hut Bookings Secretary,
- the Website Manager,
- the Digital Content Officer

and any other officer that the committee deems needed and no less than three, and not more than six other members.

The committee must meet at least quarterly.

Individual members of the committee may hold concurrently more than one of the officer posts.

The committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall attend meetings regularly. Unless their membership of the Club ceases due to expulsion or resignation, or any other reason, the elected officers shall serve until re-elected, or their successors are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Cessation of membership triggers termination of appointment to the committee.

The committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that occurs between AGMs, but the appointment must be ratified at the following AGM and the co-opted member will serve a term of office from the date of the ratification of appointment.

The retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election each year.

The President shall be eligible for office for a term of two years. He/she may be re-elected to that office again only if one year has passed since the end of their last term. In exceptional circumstances e.g. there is no immediate replacement (or President Elect), the term of office can be extended if the individual agrees to stand and this is ratified at the AGM. The extended term will last until a replacement is identified or 1 year whichever is shortest.

The President Elect shall be eligible for office for a term of one year.

Ordinary members of the committee shall serve a term of two years and shall not be eligible for re-election as an ordinary member unless one year has passed since their last term.

Ordinary members (past or present) of the committee are eligible for election to any elected officer post, regardless of whether or not one year has passed since their last term.

For each committee vote taken, individual committee members shall be entitled to a single vote, regardless of how many committee posts they hold. Rule 13 will apply in the event of equality of votes.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be opened to persons of 18 years and above with knowledge of or who show enthusiasm for mountaineering, in particular to persons who have attended a course in mountaineering organized by the BMC or similar body.

All applicants for full membership shall complete a period as a graduate member. This period, commencing from the date of receipt of one year's subscription, shall be for a minimum of one year and may be extended at the discretion of the committee. During this period, the graduate member

should attend at least three full weekend meets, one of which should be a work meet. If a graduate is unable to attend a work meet due to reasons acceptable to the committee, then the graduate shall, by agreement with the committee, carry out alternative activities. The application for full membership must be made upon the appropriate form. The election of the candidate shall be by the simple majority vote of the committee present. During the period of graduation graduate members have no voting rights at an AGM or SGM.

5. SANCTION

If the conduct of any member shall in the opinion of the committee be incompatible with membership of the Club or otherwise injurious to the status or interests of the Club, the Secretary (or if unavailable a designated officer of the Club) shall write to the member calling their attention to such conduct and offering them an opportunity to provide an explanation of their conduct. If the member so requested shall not within fourteen days from the date of the letter offer an explanation satisfactory to the committee or resign their membership then the committee must submit the question of expulsion to a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Club, whether or not the member requests such a meeting. No less than twenty-eight days' notice of this SGM must be given to all members.

The letter must inform the member in question of the time and place of this SGM and the nature of the complaint against him/her in sufficient time, but not less than twenty-eight days, to afford him/her a proper opportunity to offer an explanation to the Club.

At the meeting the member must be allowed to offer his/her explanation of his/her conduct, either verbally or in writing, and may be accompanied by a friend. If after that, a ballot vote of two thirds of the members present vote for expulsion, the member in question will cease immediately to be a member of the Club.

The committee may exclude from the Club until the SGM is held any member from whom no satisfactory explanation has been received.

On ceasing to be a member he/she forfeits all rights and claim upon the Club, its property and its funds. A member who has been expelled from the Club, or has resigned subsequent to the request for an explanation of their behaviour, shall not be entitled to participate in any subsequent activity of the Club nor visit the Club's premises.

6. SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription shall set at the AGM for full members and graduate members and shall be due on the 1st June each year.

Upon election to full membership a further proportion fee is payable by a graduate to bring them to the next 1st June.

If a subscription has not been paid on or before 1st of September following, the member shall cease to be a member. If a satisfactory explanation is given to the committee, they may, at the discretion of the committee, be re-admitted to membership on payment of all arrears.

A past full member may rejoin the Club, at the discretion of the committee, without completing a new graduate year.

7. OFFICERS

The duties of the officers are outlined in the document "Appendix to Rule 7 – Duties of Club Officers".

In addition to those duties listed in the summary document, each officer shall submit a written report, for publication with the AGM notice or at the AGM, relating to their time in the role since the previous AGM.

The elected officers should use the Club letterhead for Club correspondence only.

8. CHECKING THE CLUB ACCOUNTS

Two full members (not being officers or members of the committee) shall be appointed at the AGM to check the Annual Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet and shall verify the same before circulation.

9. TRUSTEES

The property of the Club shall be invested in four trustees consisting of the President and three other members of the committee or full members who shall be appointed or re-appointed at the AGM. At least one of the Trustees must be a trustee under the leasehold of the Club hut.

A general meeting shall have the power to remove any of the trustees and all vacancies occurring by removal, resignation or death shall be filled at the same or next AGM.

The Trustees shall have the power to invest money (for example in Government Securities, Trustee securities, Premium Bonds etc) and adopt such measurers as may appear to them in the interest of the Club.

They shall deal with the property as directed by the resolution of the committee of which an entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence and they shall be indemnified against risk and expenses out of Club property.

Should any Trustee be unable or unwilling to discharge their duties then the committee can appoint a replacement.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A general meeting of the Club shall be held in October or November of each year for officers to give reports and to transact the following business:

- (a) To receive, and if approved, adopt the statement of the Club accounts to the end of the accounting year. The accounting year is from 1st June to 31st May.
- (b) To consider, and if approved, sanction any duly made alterations of the rules.
- (c) To appoint the officers and other members of the committee. The President and newly appointed officers are to take office at the conclusion of the AGM at which they are elected.
- (d) To appoint the Financial Statement Checkers.
- (e) To deal with any matters which the committee wish to place before the members, to consider any matters raised during the meeting or notified to the Secretary before the meeting.

Proposals under Rule 10(b) may only be considered if they have been proposed and seconded by paid-up, full members and notified to the Secretary not less than 4 weeks prior to the AGM. Notice concerning the AGM shall be made available to members not less than 2 weeks before the date of the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

Approvals shall be adopted upon a two thirds majority vote of paid-up, full members present at the meeting. A majority vote is required for appointments.

11. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the committee or shall be convened within twenty one days from the receipt of a requisition signed by not less than one tenth of the full members specifying the object of the meeting for any of the following purposes:

To consider, and if approved, sanction any duly made alterations to the rules.

To deal with any special matter the committee may desire to place before the members.

To receive any resignation of the committee or to remove any member or members thereof from office and fill any vacancy caused thereby.

To deal with any special matter which the full members requiring the meeting may desire to place before the Club.

Notice convening the meeting shall be sent to the members not less than seven days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

12. QUORUM

At committee meetings six individual committee members shall form a quorum.

At general meetings fifteen paid-up, full members shall form a quorum.

13. CHAIR AT MEETING

At general meetings and committee meetings the President shall preside, if present. In the absence of the President, a chair shall be elected from the paid-up, full members present. The President/chair has one vote plus a casting vote in the event of any equality of votes.

14. BYELAWS

The committee shall have the power to make byelaws for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Club provided the same are not inconsistent with these rules. Such byelaws shall be binding on all members.

15. ALTERATION OF RULES

The committee shall have the power to draft alterations to the rules, but no such alteration shall take effect until it has been confirmed at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting.

16. DISSOLUTION

If at any general meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the paid up full members present, then a Special General Meeting shall be held not less than one month thereafter. Not less than one half of the paid up full members need to be present at this SGM. Confirming the resolution is by voting by a majority of two thirds of the paid up full members present at the SGM. The committee shall thereupon, or at such future date as shall be specified in such resolution, proceed to realize the property of the Club, and, after discharge of all liabilities shall apply the property to such purpose or purposes akin to the objects of the Club as may be decided by the Special General Meeting. If after the dissolution of the Club and after the satisfactory discharge of all debts, any remaining assets shall be given to one or more clubs or organisations with similar objects.

17. MEMBERS' CHILDREN

Full members' children only will be allowed to use Cae'r-frân if accompanied by their parent. They will not be allowed to use Cae'r-frân during official meets.

Persons up to eighteen years of age will be classed as children and will be charged members' rates. At eighteen years and over guests' rates and conditions will apply.

**Rules amended following the AGM held on
Friday 15th November 2024
at The Ship & Mitre pub on Dale Street, Liverpool**