

Avon Mountaineering Club

Constitution



1. Name

1.1 The name of the club shall be the "Avon Mountaineering Club", hereinafter referred to as "the Club".

2. Mission Statement

2.1 To promote the interests of mountaineering, climbing and hill walking amongst members of the Club.

2.2 In order to fulfil the mission statement, the objectives of the Club are:

- To provide opportunities for members of the Club to meet and participate in mountaineering, climbing and hill walking activities together, and act on behalf of and in the interests of the members of the Club.
- To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and the protection of the cliff and mountain environment.
- To participate in the work and activities of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC).

3. Membership

3.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to all adults (over the age of 18).

3.2 Members shall join the Club with the understanding that mountaineering, climbing and hill walking are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Members shall accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

3.3 Membership shall be open to minors under the age of 18 years provided that written permission is obtained from a parent or legal guardian.

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".

4.2 The Officers of the Club shall be the Chairperson, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

4.3 The Committee shall be composed of at least the three Officers of the Club, the Membership Secretary and the Trips Secretary. Extra roles may be defined by the existing committee, in order to meet the Club's needs. All committee members are elected from amongst the Full Members of the Club.

4.4 The election of the Committee shall normally take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Members are able to nominate themselves for any position on the committee, irrespective of the current position holder standing down or not.

4.5 In the event that any of the Officers posts should become vacant at any point in the year, that post shall be filled by election at a General Meeting (AGM or EGM) of the Club within three months.

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4.6 The Committee shall be able to co-opt members to fill any other vacancies on the Committee.

5. Committee of the Club

5.1 The Chairperson is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the Committee, and for ensuring that the Committee fulfils its responsibilities for the governance and success of the club. The Chairperson will normally preside at meetings of the Committee of the Club and shall be responsible for reporting to the Membership of the Club at the AGM. Where the Chairperson is not available, the committee shall elect a temporary Chairperson to allow the meeting to continue. The Chairperson shall also be available for consultation and support to all other committee members in aspect of their committee roles and responsibilities. The Chairperson shall take a lead in representation of the Club to external organisations.

5.1.1 The Chairperson should be a full club member, who has been in the club for 3 years or has previously served on the committee.

5.2 The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to Club affairs, for announcing Committee and Club meetings, and for the production and distribution of minutes from those meetings. The Secretary shall also be responsible for reporting the Membership to the BMC and also be responsible for payment of the Club's membership subscription to the BMC..

5.3 The Treasurer shall account for all income to the Club and expenditure on behalf of the Club and present an audited account of the Club's finances to the AGM.

5.4 The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a list of all current Club members and for collecting membership subscriptions from all members. The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for reporting the membership to the Secretary when requested.

5.5 The Trips Secretary is responsible for overseeing and advising on the booking of accommodation for meets of the Club. Trip Organisers are responsible for booking the accommodation for the trips. The Trips Secretary, along with the Treasurer, shall also be available for advice to club trip organisers on payments/collecting trip fees due for accommodation booked for the Club.

5.6 The remaining elected committee members shall be delegated tasks, as deemed suitable and necessary by the existing committee to cover areas such as, but not limited to maintaining the library, publicising the Club, and maintaining the Club's website.

5.7 The Members of the Committee shall undertake other duties as assigned to them by the Committee.

6. Meetings

6.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

6.1.1 The AGM shall be held during November each year.

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6.1.2 Members shall receive 28 days notice of the AGM and its agenda by email.

6.1.3 Items for inclusion in the agenda of the AGM must be submitted to the Secretary no later than 14 days prior to the AGM.

6.1.4 The quorum for the AGM shall be one quarter of the Members or 20 Members whichever is the smaller number.

6.1.5 The AGM shall, at a minimum, cover the following areas:

- a. Statement of accounts and activities for previous year from all committee members.
- b. Presentation, debate and discussion of submitted agenda items where necessary.
- c. Vote on submitted agenda items where necessary.
- d. Election of Committee members.

6.2 Extra-ordinary General Meetings (EGM)

6.2.1 Any Member of the Club may request an EGM at any time by presenting a petition; signed by one quarter of the Members to the Secretary.

6.2.2 The committee may request an EGM at any time.

6.2.3 The Secretary shall notify all members of the Club within 14 days of receipt of a valid request for an EGM. All members shall receive 14 days notice of an EGM and its agenda by email.

6.2.4 The EGM shall not consider any other business than that contained in the petition requesting the EGM.

6.2.5 The quorum for an EGM shall be one quarter of the Members or 20 members whichever is the smaller number.

6.3 Committee Meetings

6.3.1 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be four.

6.3.2 All members of the Committee shall be entitled to an equal vote. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

7. Club Subscriptions

7.1 All members shall pay such annual subscriptions as set by the Committee.

7.2 Annual subscriptions are due on 1st January each year.

8. Rules of the Club

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8.1 Membership

8.1.1 The Committee reserves the right to refuse membership if, in the opinion of the Committee, the inclusion of the potential member in the Club would be contrary to the interests of the Club or injurious to its reputation.

8.1.2 The Committee may suspend membership of any Club Member whose conduct is, or has been, in the opinion of the Committee, contrary to the interests of the Club or injurious to its reputation.

8.1.3 The suspended Club member shall be invited to explain his/her actions at a specifically arranged meeting of the Committee. The Committee has the right to expel the suspended member from the Club should, in the opinion of the Committee, a satisfactory explanation not be received.

8.1.4 Any member expelled in this way shall forfeit their membership fee, at the discretion of the Committee.

9. Amendments to the Club Constitution and Rules

9.1 The Constitution and Rules of the Club may only be amended by a General Meeting (AGM or EGM) of the Club. Notice of a motion to amend the Constitution or Rules shall be given to the Secretary in accordance with the rules for General Meetings.

9.2 In order to amend the Constitution or Rules of the Club, a majority of two thirds of the Full Members present must approve the change.

10. Dissolution of the Club

10.1 The Club may only be dissolved by a two thirds majority in a postal ballot of all Club Members, whereupon the Committee will arrange to discharge any assets equally amongst the members. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all members.

11. General

11.1 The Club Constitution shall be kept and maintained by the Club and be available to members of the Club.

11.2 Each member shall accept as final the decision of the Committee in all cases of dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation of the Constitution and Rules.