

The Climbers' Club Rules 2022

1. TITLE

The Club shall be called 'THE CLIMBERS' CLUB'. Its objects shall be to encourage mountaineering and rock-climbing and to promote the general interests of mountaineers and the mountain environment.

MEMBERSHIP

2. MEMBERSHIP

All people interested in the objects of the Club, as defined in Rule 1, shall be eligible as Members. This shall be regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

3. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The election of members shall be in the hands of the Committee, which shall decide upon a candidate's qualifications.

4. CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

Every candidate for admission shall be proposed and seconded by members of not less than two years standing, who must have personal knowledge of the candidate. Both the proposer and the seconder shall submit a written report to the Committee in regard to the candidate. The candidate shall supply on the proposal form such details as are requested by the Committee, including particulars of his/her mountaineering experience and any other grounds on which eligibility is claimed. Any omission or inaccuracy in the particulars relating to the description of a candidate shall render the election voidable at the option of the Committee.

5. ON ELECTION

The Honorary Membership Secretary shall send notification to a new member of election to the Club and forward a copy of these Rules. Payment by such new member of the subscription for the current year shall constitute an acceptance of the Club Rules. A new member shall not enjoy any of the privileges of the Club until this subscription is paid, and, if the same is not paid within three months of the date of election, the election shall be null and void.

6. ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

The Committee is empowered to elect as Honorary Members people who have rendered eminent service to the objects of the club. An honorary member shall have all the rights of an ordinary member but is entitled to exemption from the annual subscription. Honorary members remain liable for hut and other fees as they become due.

7. SUBSCRIPTION

a) The annual subscription shall consist of the British Mountaineering Council subscription and the Club subscription. The British Mountaineering Council subscription shall be as set at the Annual General Meeting (or subsequent General Meeting) of the BMC. The Club subscription shall be determined by the club in General Meeting from time to time, subject to the Committee being empowered, without reference to a General Meeting, to increase the subscription to an amount no greater than that as last decided in General Meeting, plus the increase in the Retail Price Index since that Meeting and rounded up to the nearest pound. Members elected after 30th December in any subscription year shall pay half the annual subscription for that year. Members under the age of 25 shall pay half the Club subscription. Members over 70 years of age, with at least 15 years of continuous membership, may elect to pay half the Club subscription. Members over 80 years of age, with at least 15 years of continuous membership, may elect to pay a reduced subscription, as set by the committee. The Committee may, in exceptional circumstances, offer the reduced rate to members under 80 years of age. No member over 65 years of age currently paying the reduced subscription shall have the benefit withdrawn. The annual subscription will be collected as a single item.

b) In the event that members resolve that the club shall affiliate to the BMC the members acknowledge and agree that they will become club members of the BMC and that the club shall pay the appropriate subscription on behalf of each member in the return filed by the club with the BMC.

8. SUBSCRIPTION IN ARREARS

No member shall vote or enjoy any of the privileges of the Club until the subscription has been paid. The Committee is empowered to remove the name of any Member not having paid the subscription within three months from the time when it became due, but may re-admit him/her on such terms as it shall think fit.

9. MISCONDUCT

Any complaint by one Member against another must be in writing and addressed to the Honorary Secretary. If in the opinion of the Committee the alleged misconduct appears to have been prejudicial to the interests of the Club and/or its members, the Honorary Secretary shall by letter request an explanation from the member complained against. If no explanation acceptable to the Committee is received by the Honorary Secretary within a reasonable time, then the Committee shall have the power to take any disciplinary action which it considers appropriate. In serious cases, where it seems essential to take immediate action, the Officers shall consult among themselves to decide on the interim action to be taken pending the next Committee Meeting at which the matter will be determined. If expulsion from the Club is to be considered then the member must be invited to the Committee Meeting to make their case. If expulsion of the member or members concerned is deemed by the Committee to be appropriate it shall be by a two-thirds majority of the committee members present at the meeting, the member shall have the right of appeal at an Extraordinary General Meeting called by Committee for this purpose at which the majority for expulsion must be two-thirds of the members present. There shall be no rebate of subscription for an expelled member.

10. NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Every notice to a member shall be considered as duly given when, posted to, transmitted electronically to, or delivered by hand at the last notified electronic or postal address.

COMMITTEE

11. OFFICERS

The officers of the Club shall be the President, up to three Vice-Presidents, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Membership Secretary, the Honorary Meets Secretary and the Honorary Communications Secretary.

12. COMMITTEE

The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee for which any member of the Club shall be eligible. The Committee shall consist of the Officers as defined in Rule 11, the Honorary Finance Secretary, eight ordinary members, and the Chairman or one nominated representative from each current Sub-Committee. The Committee shall have power from time to time to co-opt up to four extra members. At meetings of the Committee nine shall form a quorum. All decisions shall be reached by a majority and where there is equal voting the presiding chair shall have a second casting vote.

13. SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees for which any member of the Club shall be eligible. Sub-Committees may include non-members but they shall not have voting rights. At meetings of Sub-Committees four shall be a quorum except in the case of HMSC where it shall be six. All decisions shall be reached by a majority and where there is equal voting the presiding chair shall have a second casting vote.

14. DELEGATION OF POWERS

The committee shall have the power to delegate such executive powers as it deems necessary to ensure the efficient administration of the club in accordance with the objects of the Club as defined by Rule 1.

15. PERSONAL INTEREST

Any member of the Committee or any Sub-Committee having a personal interest of whatsoever nature in any matter under discussion must declare that interest to the meeting giving full particulars. Such a member shall not be entitled to vote on that matter and may, at the discretion of the Committee or Sub-Committee, be debarred from discussion of that matter or be requested to withdraw from the meeting during discussion of that matter.

16. OFFICIALS

The Committee shall appoint members as Honorary Finance Secretary, Honorary Club Archivist, Honorary Journal Editor, Honorary Librarian and Honorary Hut Bookings Secretary. The Committee shall have the power to appoint members and non-members of the Club to such offices other than those referred to in Rule 4, and those named in this rule, as the Committee may determine. The Committee shall determine if they are to be members of the Committee as well.

17. ELECTIONS

All Officers of the Club and all ordinary members of the Committee shall be elected by the Club at the Annual General Meeting for one year; they may be re-elected subject to the following limitations, namely, that no President or Vice-President shall serve as such for more than three years and no ordinary member of the Committee for more than four years consecutively. The normal maximum term for the other Officers shall be five years. If the committee wishes to re-propose an officer/official to the AGM for greater than five years it may do so subject to a committee vote on the issue. This shall constitute a personal interest of the officer who shall withdraw from the room and take no part in the discussion or vote. All Committee appointments shall cease at the Annual General Meeting each year; they may be reappointed by the Committee and shall be subject to confirmation each year by the Club at the Annual General Meeting. All times are reckoned from one Annual General Meeting to another.

18. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Committee shall have power to fill, until the next Annual General Meeting, any vacancy occurring among the Officers or the rest of the Committee. For the purpose of Rule 8, such ad- interim service shall not be counted.

19. REGULATIONS

The Committee may make Regulations for the operation of the Club, and for the use of Club huts and other facilities. These regulations shall not contradict anything contained in the rules.

FINANCE AND ASSETS

20. INCOME

The income of the club shall be used solely for furthering the objects of the club and for no other purpose. The committee may make donations to funds or organisation with objects consistent with those of the club as stated in Rule One. All proposed donations to bolt funds shall be put to the club at a General Meeting.

21. DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the club any assets remaining after settlement of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid or distributed among the members but shall be given or transferred to recognised charitable or not for profit organisation(s) having similar objects to those of the club

22. CONTROL OF ACCOUNTS

The Committee shall control the financial affairs of the Club, including bank accounts and other financial agreements and will, at all times, act prudently. The President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be signatories on all Club accounts. The Committee may approve additional signatories as required. Signatories will be added to or removed from accounts within two calendar months of the individual taking or leaving office.

Administration shall be made as the Committee shall from time to time direct and in accordance with these Rules.

23. PROPERTY

The property of the Club, except real property and leaseholds and any accounts that require trustees, shall be vested in the Committee for the time being. The Committee shall appoint Trustees in whom shall be vested real property and leaseholds and the income arising therefrom, and may from time to time appoint Trustees in whom shall be vested such part or parts of the property of the Club as the Committee shall direct. Separate Trustees may be appointed for any part of the property of the Club. All such Trustees shall deal with the property so vested in them as directed by resolution of the Committee from time to time (of which resolution an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence), and they shall be indemnified against any claim, question, risk and expense out of the property of the Club. The Trustees shall be either members of the Club (in which case their number shall not be more than 4 nor less than 2, and they shall hold office until death or retirement unless removed from office by a resolution of the Club in General Meeting) or a company or other incorporated body competent to act as a Trust Corporation (in which case they shall hold office until retirement or resignation unless removed from office by a resolution of the Club in General Meeting) and may be remunerated for their services in accordance with their scale of charges for the time being in force.

24. INDEMNITY

Any Officer, Official, Committee or Sub-Committee member acting in connection with the management or administration of the affairs of the Club in accordance with the objects of the Club as defined in Rule 1 shall be indemnified against any civil liability incurred as a result of their acts or omissions. Any resulting costs or expenses will be met by the Club. The Committee shall arrange appropriate insurance to cover this liability.

24a. GUARANTEES AND INDEMNITIES

The Committee shall have power to appoint guarantors to give indemnities to the London Clearing Banks, the Scottish Clearing Banks and the Irish Banks, as the Banks may request in connection with the scheme known as the 'Direct Debit Scheme' for the collection of member subscriptions by way of direct debit. The guarantors shall be entitled to be indemnified in respect of any claim question risk or expense arising out of the giving of the indemnities to the Banks out of the property of the Club.

GENERAL MEETINGS

25. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held during February or as soon thereafter as possible, to receive the Statement of Accounts, to elect the Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee for the ensuing year and to transact general business.

26. NOTICE OF AGM

At least one month's notice shall be given of the date fixed by the Committee for the Annual General Meeting and 14 days at least before the Meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall send to each Member of the Club a copy of the Statement of Accounts and notice of the Meeting, which shall include particulars of the motions to be brought forward.

27. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Committee shall at any time, upon the requisition in writing of not less than 25 Members stating the motion or motions to be brought forward, call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club. Alternatively, the Committee may resolve to call an EGM.

28. NOTICE OF EGM

Not less than 21 days' notice shall be given of an Extraordinary General Meeting; the notice convening the Meeting shall state the business to be transacted thereat and no business shall be transacted at such Meeting other than that specified in the notice.

29. GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting shall have power, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting, to alter or add to the existing rules of the Club.

30. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

No vote shall be taken on any original motion affecting the rules or finance of the Club at a General Meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, unless notice in writing of that motion, signed by two Members, shall have been received by the Honorary Secretary at least 28 days before the time of such a Meeting. All candidates for election must be proposed by the committee or by two Club members 28 days in advance of the meeting.

31. VOTING

The voting on all resolutions submitted to a General Meeting shall be by a show of hands, but a ballot shall be taken if demanded by not less than three Members.

32. QUORUM

At any General Meeting 35 shall form a quorum.

33. DINNERS

The Committee may arrange entertainments, including Dinners, for the Club, to which it may invite guests on behalf of the Club. Members may, so far as space permits, introduce guests at their own expense. Except under special circumstances, an Annual Dinner shall take place on the same day as the Annual General Meeting. Notice of the date appointed for the Annual Dinner shall be sent to each Member at least one month before such day.

COMMUNICATIONS

34. JOURNAL

The Committee shall be responsible for the Journal and appointing its Editor. It will ensure that, subject to the availability of sufficient resources, Journals are published at least biennially.

35. ARCHIVE AND LIBRARY

The Club shall maintain an Archive of all its published material including Annual Reports, Guidebooks, Journals, Newsletters and all Hut Log Books and a Library of all Books, Journals and Periodicals acquired for or on behalf of the Club, or donated to it. The Committee shall act as ex-officio trustees of the Archive and Library and shall be responsible for ensuring that they are housed in secure locations and accessible for reference to all Members and other bona fide researchers. No disposal of the whole or any part of the Archive and Library shall take place unless the Committee are so authorized by a resolution of the Club in General Meeting of which due notice has been given and passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting.