

**Constitution for Hereford Mountain Club (H.M.C)**  
**(November 2020)**

**1. Name**

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be Hereford Mountain Club. Hereinafter referred to as "the Club".

**2. Aims and Objectives of the Club**

- 2.1 To promote the interests of hill-walking and mountaineering amongst members of the Club.
- 2.2 To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in hill-walking and mountaineering activities together.
- 2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.
- 2.4 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the hill and mountain environment.
- 2.5 To take part in and support the work and activities of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) where the size of the current membership allows it.

**3. Membership of the Club**

- 3.1 Membership of the Club shall only be open to individuals who recognise that hill-walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Members shall be aware of and accept these risks and agree to be responsible for their own actions and involvement hereinafter referred to as "the Members".
- 3.2 The Members acknowledge that by joining the Club they will then become members of the BMC (dependant on 2.5 above) and that the Club shall pay the appropriate subscription on behalf of each Member included in the return filed by the Club with the BMC. In the event of the BMC being wound up, shall also pay the sum of not more than £1 on behalf of each Member included in a return filed by the Club with the BMC at any time within the preceding period of one year pursuant to the guarantee comprised in clause 3 of the Memorandum of Association of the BMC. The Members further acknowledge and agree that upon the Club being affiliated to the BMC and each becoming a Club member of the BMC that they will each be bound by the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the BMC.
- 3.3 All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the Club has adopted.
- 3.4 Members will pay membership fees, as determined at the Annual General Meeting and determined by cost of BMC affiliation.
- 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 Persons under 18 may accompany adult members taking part in the activities of the club. An experienced and responsible adult member will have sole responsibility for the person or persons under 18 and themselves.
- 3.7 Honorary membership may be allocated by the committee.
- 3.8 The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

#### **4. Committee of the Club**

- 4.1 The Management of the Club shall be vested in a committee consisting of six officers, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and three additional officers. Additional officers can also fulfil roles such as meets secretary, social secretary, publicity secretary and other tasks deemed necessary at the AGM for the following year.
- 4.2 The Committee shall be drawn from Members of the Club.
- 4.3 The Committee shall be composed of the elected committee and only the elected committee are entitled to vote regarding committee matters.
- 4.4 Officers shall be elected for the duration of one year, by ballot of interested parties at the AGM. Officers may be voted to hold the same post for consecutive years.
- 4.5 The Committee shall have the authority to co-opt additional non-voting members.
- 4.6 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be three officers of the committee. In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least *two* meetings each year.
- 4.7 The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- 4.8 The Committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
- 4.9 The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.
- 4.10 The decision of the Committee on the interpretation of this constitution and of club rules shall be final and the Committee is empowered to deal with any matters not covered.

#### **5. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

- 5.1 The AGM shall be held in Autumn each year and notified to Members with 28 days' notice.
- 5.2 The AGM will:
- Receive reports from the Chairman and Secretary.

- Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts.
- Elect the Officers on the Committee.
- Vote on any motions proposed prior to the meeting.
- Agree the membership fees for the following year.
- Deal with other relevant business.

5.3 Members who are interested in holding a Committee role but are unable to attend the AGM should notify the Secretary of their interest a minimum of 7 days' prior to the AGM.

5.4 All Members present in person have the right to vote at the AGM. Each Member will have one vote and all matters shall be determined by a simple majority except any proposal pursuant to clause 10.1 or to clause 11.1.

5.5 The quorum for AGMs will be 20% of the membership. Electronic and proxy votes will be accepted. This excludes amendments to the constitution, see section 11.

5.6 The Chairman of the Club shall be entitled to vote on all matters and in the event of a tie shall have a casting vote at general meetings.

5.7 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 10% of the Members. The Committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the Committee members.

5.8 All procedures for an EGM shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

## **6. Club Subscriptions and Finance**

6.1 All members will pay an annual subscription to be agreed at the AGM. The amount of the subscription to be determined by the cost of BMC Combined Liability insurance and club costs.

6.2 All subscriptions to be paid to the treasurer by the end of January.

6.3 The club year will run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

6.4 New members joining part way through the year, will pay BMC Combined Liability insurance pro rata depending on time of joining. New members are required to submit personal details for club and BMC records.

6.5 The club treasurer will be responsible for recording, managing and reporting on all financial records. The committee is overall responsible for the finances.

6.6 The financial year of the club will run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

6.7 All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.

6.8 The Committee will nominate a minimum of three Club Officers/members as signatories for the club account.

- 6.9 A statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the AGM.
- 6.10 Cheques over £200 will be signed by any two of the three signatories. Cheques under £200 may be signed by one signatory only.
- 6.11 All members of the Club shall be jointly responsible for the uninsured financial liabilities of the Club.

## **7 Discipline and Appeals**

- 7.1 All complaints regarding the behaviour of Members should be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
- 7.2 The Committee will meet to hear complaints within 21 days of a complaint being lodged. The Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.
- 7.3 The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 14 days of the hearing.

## **8 Effect of ceasing to be a member**

- 8.1 On ceasing to be a Member a person forfeits all right to and claim upon the Club and its funds.
- 8.2 A person who has been expelled from the Club shall not be entitled to participate in any subsequent activity of the Club.

## **9. Rules of the Club- Appendix 1**

- 9.1 The Committee has the power to set Club Rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution and the policies of the BMC.

## **10. Dissolution of the Club**

- 10.1 The club can only be dissolved if decided by a majority of two thirds of the votes received at an EGM. Votes can be submitted in person (by attendance at the EGM), by proxy or email. No other business can be discussed at an EGM set up for the purpose of dissolving the club.
- 10.2 Uninsured liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members if the assets of the Club are not sufficient to meet them. The Committee will arrange to discharge any remaining assets by *donating to Charity (i.e. Mountain Rescue) or to another organisation with similar aims and objectives (i.e. a local club) or to the British Mountaineering Council or to the Access and Conservation Trust (ACT)*. The choice of any such charity or charities may form part of the business of an EGM set up to dissolve the club.

## **11. Amendments to the Constitution of the Club**

- 11.1 This Constitution can only be amended by a two thirds majority of Members. Notice of any amendment must be delivered to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the AGM.

**Declaration**

This Constitution was approved and adopted by the Club at the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Signatories

President ..... print .....

Chairman ..... print .....

Secretary ..... print .....

Treasurer ..... print

## Appendix 1

### Rules of Hereford Mountain Club.

1. It is important that all members (existing and prospective) complete a registration/affiliation form to declare that they will abide by the constitution of the Club as part of their membership requirements.
2. The club holds member's email address, phone number and postal addresses electronically. This information is used to contact individual members in relation to Club activities and administration including BMC membership and insurance. All walk organisers will be a point of contact for those wishing to join the activity. None of this information will be passed on to any other third parties. If a member no longer wishes the Club to hold their personal contact information, the Secretary should be informed, and the data will be deleted. The member will be deemed to have resigned from the Club as the member will no longer be contactable.
3. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult member of the club, either a parent or guardian or someone nominated by the said young person's parent(s)/guardian(s). That adult member is responsible for that young person.
4. The contact for the walk is not a qualified guide. This means that the walk organiser is not responsible for personal safety and walks are joined at members own risk. The walk organiser may change the walk on the programme according to the circumstances or prevailing weather.
5. Members are expected to be suitably equipped for the day's activity and be suitably fit to participate in the walk.
6. Dog owners wishing to take their animal on a meet should discuss it with the organiser as some routes/accommodation may not be suitable. Dogs must be kept under control at all times and the owner should clear up after them.
7. Every member should have access to the Constitution and Rules and be bound to them in relation to Club activities.
8. The Committee have the right to suspend membership on breach of these rules.