

Constitution of the Lancashire Mountaineering Club

1. Title.

The club shall be called The Lancashire Mountaineering Club

2. Objectives

- i. The object of the club is to provide facilities for and promote participation of, the whole community in the sport of Mountaineering in its widest sense.
- ii. To give encouragement and aid to persons who are introducing young people to the mountains.
- iii. To promote safety in the mountains.

3. Management

- i. The committee shall manage the affairs according to the rules as defined by the Annual General Meeting.
- ii. The committee shall consist of:-
These officers, namely :- Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Hut Booking Secretary, Membership Secretary, Communications Secretary, Meets Co-ordinator, the wardens of the Club premises.
Three additional members.

Note - the committee may also appoint committee members or co-opt from the membership persons to carry out specific tasks for the benefit of members including representation on BMC committees.
- iii. All committee members have one vote.
- iv. Officers and other committee members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- v. The full committee will meet at least twice a year and at its first meeting after the A.G.M will decide on the number, composition, remits and terms of reference of sub-committees.
- vi. The trustees will be notified of any agenda item that could affect their position as a trustee and will for the purpose of that agenda item be a full committee member.
- vii. Any committee shall have the power to co-opt members.
- viii. A quorum at a full committee meeting shall be six.
- ix. All committee members shall be given at least 14 days notice in writing of a full committee meeting.

Note - all references in this constitution or in any club rules to “in writing” shall be interpreted to include electronic mailing unless the member has requested otherwise.

- x. Minutes shall be taken at all committee, sub-committee and executive meetings and shall be read at the following meeting. Minutes from executive and sub-committee meetings should be presented to a full committee meeting including any recommendations and actions taken.

4. Membership

- i. Full membership of the Club shall be open to all persons irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs; or of age, sex or disability except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of Mountaineering as a particular sport. The Committee may refuse membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against such a decision can be made to the Club’s members. The Appeal will be placed on the agenda of the next General Meeting and will be decided by a majority vote of those members present and eligible to vote.
- ii. Membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if the annual subscription has not been paid before 31st March.
- iii. A correctly called committee meeting, consisting of at least 8 committee members, shall have the right to suspend a person’s membership whose conduct is considered to have been injurious to the interests of the club. The person(s) concerned must have been informed, in writing, of the complaints against them and be offered the opportunity to reply to the said complaints and, if they wish, to attend the relevant committee meeting. Any suspension of membership must be placed on the agenda of the next General Meeting for ratification by majority vote of those members present and eligible to vote.
- iv. Temporary membership shall be granted to guests of full members or to members of bona-fide groups using the club huts with the authorisation of hut warden or hut booking secretary, for the period of the occupancy. Such membership allows full use of the Club’s facilities. Temporary members are subject to the same Club Rules as full members but have no voting rights.
- v. Student membership will be open to any person between the ages of 18 and 25 who is in full time education. The membership fee will not be more than 60% of the full member rate. A Student Member will be subject to the same rules as any other member and will have the same benefits as a full member – including voting, hut usage and introduction of guests.

- vi.
- vii. Associate membership may be opened to persons who are already and continue to be individual members of the BMC. Such membership, if offered, will only give that person use of the club's huts. It will not give the person any voting rights or other benefits that full members have, nor will they be eligible to stand for election, nor to introduce guests. No payment or levy to the BMC will be included in their membership. Associate membership fees will be set by the AGM. The committee will have total discretion to modify, refuse or terminate this membership at any time.

5. Club Rules

The Committee shall have the power to introduce, withdraw or modify such set of rules as they see fit. These rules will be subject to the scrutiny and ratification of the AGM, or EGM.

6. Finance

- i The joining fee, annual subscription for the ensuing year beginning January 1st and any other membership fees shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting.
- ii The Club's financial year shall begin on the 1st September and end on the 31st August.
- iii One auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and shall receive the accounts not less than two weeks before the following Annual General Meeting.
- iv The Committee may appoint another auditor if the one originally appointed is unable to serve.
- v The committee shall open a bank account in the name of the Club and all cheques written against this account shall be signed normally by the Treasurer. The Chairman and one other person nominated by the committee will also have the power to sign
- vi In the event of dissolution, the balance of the funds shall pass to the John Muir Trust or another mountaineering associated charity as decided at a General Meeting or by the remaining officers of the club.

7. General Meetings

- i. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October
- ii. The Honorary Secretary shall send to all Officers and members of the club :-
 - a. a notice of meeting not less than six weeks before the Annual General Meeting. Unless there is an alteration, this notice can be deemed as satisfied by the venue as published on the Club Card.
 - b. an agenda at least 14 clear days before the Annual General Meeting. The agenda will list the nominations for electable officer posts including officers who are willing to continue and others who have indicated in writing to the secretary their willingness to stand, together with their proposer and seconder.
- iii. No motion which is not on the agenda, other than formal motions of appreciation, congratulations or condolence, or motions to amend motions duly before the meeting, shall be in order at the Annual General Meeting, except as provided in clause iv below.
- iv. The Annual General Meeting shall receive reports from the Chairman and Honorary Secretary and a Statement of Accounts, duly audited, from the Honorary Treasurer. Reports and accounts shall be open to question and any motion referring to any item in either shall be in order, and they shall be voted on.
- v. All motions including nominations for officers as referred to in iib for the Annual General Meeting shall reach the Honorary Secretary, in writing, not less than 28 days before the meeting and shall appear on the agenda as per section iib above.
- vi. The Annual General Meeting shall elect the Officers and members of the Committee referred to under Management. .
- vii. The Annual General Meeting may award Life Membership at the recommendation of the Committee.
- viii. The meeting will invite a suitable person to be President of the Club. Nominations will be proposed and seconded from the floor.
- ix. The post of Honorary Vice-President is one for which the Annual General Meeting may invite members or others who have greatly contributed to the development of the Club, to hold for a period of three years.
Founding Vice Presidents, once elected, shall serve as long as they wish.

8. Extraordinary General Meetings

- i. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be summoned :-
 - a. within 21 clear days of a request being received in writing by the Honorary Secretary and supported by at least ten members and precisely stating the motion to be proposed at the meeting together with the names of the proposer and seconder.
 - or**
 - b. if deemed necessary by the committee.
- ii. The Honorary Secretary shall send an agenda and notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting to all Officers and members of the Club at least 14 clear days before the meeting.
- iii. No business which is not on the agenda shall be in order at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

9. Voting

- i. All fully paid up members present at any General Meeting shall be entitled to one vote.
- ii. All voting shall be by show of hands unless either the Chairman shall direct or one third of the members present shall demand a ballot.
- iii. At all Meetings the Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

10. Constitution

Any motion for a change to the constitution shall require to be carried by a majority of two thirds of the members present at a General Meeting and eligible to vote.

11. Interpretation of the Constitution.

The Chairman shall have the power to settle all points of interpretation arising from the Constitution, provided that such power shall not override any subsequent ruling duly passed by the General Meeting.

12. Trustees.

The Club shall appoint a minimum of two Trustees for each of its properties. The Club indemnifies all present and future Trustees with regard to any liabilities they might incur when acting on behalf of the Club. Trustees cannot enter into any new, or alter any old, agreement on behalf of the Club without the prior authorisation of the Committee.

13. Income and Property

- i. The Income and Property of the Club shall be applied solely towards promoting the Club's objects as set forth in this constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, to the members of the Club other than reimbursements properly incurred when acting on behalf of the club and approved by the committee.
- ii. Matters appertaining to the acquisition or disposal of the Club's real estate shall be subject to the approval of a General Meeting.

The above constitution is the one that currently controls the activities of the club. Although the club has had a constitution since its formation in 1967 a major review was undertaken during 2003 and a revised document was presented to the AGM in Sep 2003 and adopted. Minor additions (Student Membership) and a modification to the bank signatories were made at the October 2004 AGM.

In 2008 the AGM approved the introduction of Associate Membership.

At the EGM in May 2009 amendments were made to meet with the requirements of CASC application

CJW May 2009