

# **Bremex Mountaineering and Climbing Club**

## **1. Constitution**

**1.1** The name of this society shall be '***Bremex Mountaineering and Climbing Club***'. (***BMCC***). Hereinafter referred to as "the Club".

## **2. Aims:**

**2.1.** The aims of the Club are to introduce members of lesser, similar or more experience who are willing to share experience in order to learn, develop, practice and maintain mountaineering skills within a structured programme guided by National Governing Body (N.G.B.) good practices, co-ordinated and led by volunteer members; to promote safety and good practice in the mountains; to meet like minded people and to foster an atmosphere of welcome, co-operation and team spirit.

## **3. Objectives:**

The objectives of the club are:

**3.1** To provide opportunities to members to participate in any of the following mountain activities: mountain walking; camping in the mountains; rock climbing; coasteering; winter mountaineering; snow and ice climbing and snow shoeing. It may also co-ordinate occasional activities e.g. ski-ing, mountain biking and kayaking; however these will be viewed as secondary activities and not a prime objective of the club.

**3.2** To offer opportunities to members to gain experience and consolidate skills in the company of more experienced mountaineers (who may be qualified but will not be acting in a professional or paid capacity or as technical experts) that can contribute towards gaining general mountaineering competence or gaining log book experience for an N.G.B. award.

**3.3** To provide opportunities to members to meet other members of similar experience who want to gain mountaineering experience and practice skills in the company of like minded people and participate in mountaineering activities both within the club environment and outside of it.

**3.4** To encourage members to attend formal training from recognised and accredited mountaineering training providers.

**3.5** To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the cliff and mountain environment.

**3.6** To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.

**3.7** To support the work and activities of the Mountaineering Councils

**3.8** As a member of a B.M.C. affiliated Club to strive to follow their recommended best practice and policies.

#### **4. Membership**

Membership of the club shall be open to any person:

**4.1(i)** aged 18 years and over, regardless of age, race, faith or belief, gender, sexual orientation or disability, (however limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis) or any person aged 14 up to 18 years if accompanied by a parent/guardian or nominated adult. Hereinafter referred to as "the Membership."

**4.1(ii)** who is interested in participating in mountain activities, supporting the clubs principles and values and abiding by the club constitution and rules.

**4.1(iii)** who recognise that climbing 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.

**4.1(iv)** who accepts and understands that any member offering advice or instruction is not acting as a professional mountain guide, instructor or technical expert.

**4.1(v)** who completes a membership application form, and pays the relevant subscription/joining fee as determined by the club committee.

**4.2** New members who apply for membership of the club will be invited to join as Associate members. Associate members will be required to attend a minimum of 3 weekends to establish whether they are compatible with the club aims and objectives. After completing a 'probationary' period Associate members may then apply to join as Full members. Associate members will not be entitled to vote.

**4.3** The membership secretary shall be responsible for the co-ordination of the members' application panel which will comprise of three club officials including the membership secretary, plus two Full Members.

**4.4** Membership fees will be set at the AGM and will become due at that time.

**4.5** Anyone interested in joining the Club is entitled to a taster of one weekend at a reduced rate of membership fee, after which, the Prospective member must join the Club if they wish to continue their involvement. This is in order to satisfy BMC insurance requirements. If the individual then joins the club (within the same calendar year) they will pay the difference between Prospective membership fee and Full or Associate membership fee.

**4.6** Children under the age of 14 are not eligible for membership but may attend designated Club events if accompanied at all times by their

parent/guardian, who must themselves be a club member. Children under the age of 14 will not be permitted to stay in huts on club weekends.

**4.7** Junior membership is open to people age 14 up to 18 years provided they are accompanied at all times by their parent/guardian or adult nominated by their parent/guardian. The parent/guardian or adult nominated by their parent/guardian must be a club member. Junior members will not be entitled to vote.

#### **4.8 Member categories**

Prospective member	Individuals attending on a trial basis that can attend one club weekend meet, but cannot act as group leader and do not have a vote.
Associate member	Individuals aged 18 years and over who can attend club events, but cannot act as group leader and do not have a vote.
Full member	Individuals aged 18 years and over who can attend club events, may act as group leader and do have a vote.
Junior member	Individuals aged 14 up to 18 years who can attend club events, but cannot act as group leader and do not have a vote.
Social member - Friends of Bremex MCC	Individuals who wish to support the Club; who can attend specified social events and who do not have a vote.
Honorary member	Individuals granted honorary membership as a result of their contribution to the Club or as a mark of respect. Who can attend club events, may act as group leader (if having previously been a Full member) and do have a vote.

**4.9.** Only Full members can be volunteer group leaders. Any member acting as a volunteer group leader must demonstrate a continuing level of activity/competence in the activity they are leading. They will be required to undergo an 'in house' assessment (regardless of qualification) to ascertain their level of experience, keep a written log of mountain days, hold a current first aid certificate and will be encouraged to attend formal training from a recognised mountain activities provider. The Club reserves the right to refuse to allow a member to be a leader if it is considered they do not have the relevant experience or competence. Assessment will be carried out over a period of at least two weekends by a minimum of 3 different Full members based on written criteria.

**4.10** Each member will pay a yearly subscription. Membership runs annually from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. This will pay towards administration, organisation and marketing of the club; any monies will be used solely in the interests of the Club. Hut/ camp fees, food and transport will be the individual responsibility of members.

**4.11** 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 included in the return filed by the Club with the BMC, and, in the event of the BMC being wound up, shall 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 6 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.

## **5. Expulsion**

If in the opinion of the Committee the conduct of any member is incompatible with membership of the Club or otherwise injurious to the status of the Club, the Secretary shall call their attention to such conduct by letter, and give them an opportunity of offering an explanation either in writing, or, if the Committee shall think fit, by appearing before the Committee or both. If no explanation acceptable to the Committee is received from such a member within a reasonable time, the Committee shall have the power to take any disciplinary action which they consider appropriate, including expulsion from the Club. No motion for expulsion shall be moved unless there are at least five members present and competent to vote. Any member expelled under this rule shall forfeit to the Club any fee and subscription which they may have paid.

## **6. Management of the Club**

The Management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Club Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

## **7. Committee Officers**

**7.1** The elected executive officers of the Club shall be the:

Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Health and Safety co-ordinator, Membership secretary

**7.2** The elected ordinary Officers of the Club shall be the:

Weekend meets co-ordinator, Huts/camping booking co-ordinator, Press/advertising co-ordinator, Website co-ordinator, Development & Training co-ordinator and other officials as deemed necessary.

## **8. Election of Officers**

**8.1** Executive officers shall be elected every three years and ordinary officers annually, to constitute the committee of the Club. All officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, from, and by, the Full members of the Club.

**8.2** All executive officers are elected for a period of three years, after which they may be elected to another office.

**8.3** All ordinary officers are elected for a period of one year, but may be re-elected to the same office or another office for further years.

## **9. Club committee**

**9.1** The Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than three times per year. Additional meetings can be called at the request of at least three committee members. Quorum shall be four Committee members including at least two executive officers (i.e. Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership secretary, Health and Safety co-ordinator). Decisions made at a Committee Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those committee members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the Chair shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

**9.2** Where possible Committee meetings shall be open to all Club members, however there may be exceptions to this rule where use is made of telephone conferencing or internet technology.

## **10. The duties of the Club Committee shall be:**

**10.1** To control the affairs of the Club on behalf of the members.

**10.2** To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the club through the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall draw up a balance sheet for the current year's finances prior to the AGM. An auditor shall be appointed from the Club to survey the accounts before the AGM is held, and shall advise the AGM on the acceptability of the Treasurer's accounts.

**10.3** The Club shall maintain a bank current account. The Treasurer and up to four other committee officials shall be authorised to sign club cheques.

**10.4** To co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee feels this is necessary. Co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote.

## **11. Annual General meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings**

**11.1** The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the end of December each year. Three months notice shall be given to Members of the Annual General Meeting. Full Members must advise the Secretary in writing of

any business to be moved at the Annual General Meeting at least 60 days before a meeting. The Secretary shall give notice of the agenda for the meeting to Members not less than 7 days before the meeting.

**11.2** The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to: Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting.

**11.3** Receive the audited accounts for the year from the Treasurer.

**11.4** Receive the annual report of the Committee from the Secretary.

**11.5** Elect an auditor.

**11.6** Elect the Officers of the Club.

**11.7** Review subscription rates and agree them for the forthcoming year. Transact such other business received in writing by the Secretary from Members 60 days prior to the meeting and included on the agenda.

**11.8** NOTE: The agenda could provide for "Any Other Business", but Members should be encouraged to refer other items to the General Committee and give the required notice for important Annual General Meeting business.

**11.9** Any ten Full Members of the Club may sign and submit a request to the Secretary calling for an Extraordinary General Meeting. The meeting may only discuss issues notified in the request. Having received such a request the Secretary will call a meeting of the Club giving not less than fourteen days notice.

**11.10** The Committee may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting by giving at least fourteen days notice.

**11.11** Nomination of candidates for election of officers shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting date. Nominations can only be made by Full members and must be seconded by another Full member.

**11.12** At all General Meetings, the chair will be taken by the Chairperson or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Club or by Full members attending the meeting.

**11.13** Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those Full members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

**11.14** A quorum for a General Meeting shall be 6 Full members and 3 Officers of the Club including 2 from the Chairperson; Secretary, Treasurer, Health and Safety Coordinator or Membership Secretary

**11.15** Each Full member of the Club shall be entitled to one vote at General Meetings. Junior, Prospective, Associate and Social Members shall not be entitled to vote.

## **12. Rules of the Club**

**12.1** The Committee shall have 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.

## **13. Liability**

**13.1** 'Everyone has a Duty of Care to not cause harm to others by their acts or omissions; in situations where individuals of comparable experience climb or walk together (in a Club environment or otherwise), there is often no discernable 'leader', and therefore each will owe the other an equal Duty of Care, but nothing more. At times, individuals will find themselves providing informal advice, or more formal instruction, to those less experienced than themselves. This could include introducing a newcomer to the sport, or taking a group to the mountains, and applies proportionally depending on the difference in experience. In this situation, it is vital that any Club member(s) perceived to be 'in charge' and/or who has the highest level of experience, is aware of the greater level of Duty of Care that may be placed upon them. Within this context, individuals have a duty to ensure that those in their care are aware of the hazards and risks that may arise. Put simply, the main question over suitability to lead is that the objective is within the capability of the leader, and the physical and mental capacity of the group. Therefore, if an incident occurred, the person perceived of as 'in charge' could expect to have to show that they had suitable and sufficient experience for the activity that was undertaken.' (BMC Leadership and Duty of Care)

**13.2** All Club members have a duty to read the Club constitution and rules and be bound by them.

## **14. Alterations to the Constitution**

**14.1** Any proposed alterations to the Club Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any alteration or amendment must be proposed by a Full member of the Club and seconded by another Full member. Such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than two-thirds of those Full members present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.

## **15. Dissolution of the Club**

**15.1** If, at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

**15.2** If, at that Extraordinary General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full members present at the meeting, the General Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.

**15.3** After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Full members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects or objectives similar to those of the Club.

## **16. Club programme**

**16.1** The Club shall assemble for regular outdoor meets through out the year. The time and venue of the meetings shall be arranged by the Committee.

**16.2** Outdoor meets will be structured in terms of introducing people of similar experience. Where possible each group will be allocated a volunteer leader/s who is more experienced. Where this is not possible members of similar experience will be introduced and will operate together. Groups will be encouraged to operate at different levels according to experience. Leaders will not be acting in a professional capacity or as a technical expert but may advise or instruct members less experienced than themselves. This will offer leaders the opportunity to gain experience of consolidating their leadership/mountain skills and/or gaining log book experience at the same time as offering opportunities to less experienced members to gain experience and skills.

**16.3** The Club is keen to promote a strong ethos of safe practice in mountaineering and will strive to follow good practice guidelines set by N.G.B bodies. The club will encourage members to gain relevant training and qualifications from established mountain activity providers, although it is not a requirement of the club to be working towards an N.G.B. award. The levels are based on the standards set by the different stages of the NGB awards.

## **17. Mountain Activity Levels**

### **17.1 Hillwalking**

Level 1	Introductory Summer: Hut based or summer base camping for anyone with limited hill walking who want to learn the basics of navigation and moving in the mountains.  Suitable for those working towards BELA, the British Expedition Leader's Award.
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Level 2	Aimed at people who have done their Mountain Leadership (Summer) training and who want log book experience including night navigation, rope work, and expeditions etc to enable them to progress on to their Summer ML assessment  OR at people who want to gain mountaineering skills.
Level 3	Aimed at people with their Mountain Leadership (Summer) assessment who want to consolidate their skills  OR at people who want to develop/extend mountaineering skills and competency.
Level 4	Introductory Winter: aimed at people wanting to develop some basic winter skills OR wanting to attend Mountain Leadership (Winter) training.
Level 5	Aimed at people who have done their Mountain Leadership (Winter) training and who want log book experience to enable them to progress on to their Mountain Leadership (Winter) assessment  OR at people who want to develop/extend winter mountaineering skills.

### **17.2 Walking and Snow shoeing abroad**

Level 1	Opportunities for use of different maps, experience of non UK terrain
Level 2	Introduction to snowshoeing
Level 3	Consolidation snow shoeing

### **17.3 Scrambling**

Level 1	Introduction to scrambling
Level 2	Consolidation scrambling
Level 3	Scrambling Development

### **17.4 Rock Climbing**

Level 1	Introduction to single pitch rock climbing.
Level 2	Single pitch Development
Level 3	Introduction Multi-pitch climbing
Level 4	Multi-pitch climbing development

### **17.5 Winter climbing**

Level 1	Introduction to winter climbing
Level 2	Winter climbing consolidation
Level 3	Winter climbing development

## **18. Club Events**

A co-ordinator should be appointed for each outdoor group meet, including day events, weekend meets and indoor meets.