

Constitution of Bremex Mountaineering and Climbing Club

1. Name of the club

1.1 The name of this club shall be ***Bremex Mountaineering and Climbing Club***, hereinafter referred to as “the Club”.

2. Objectives:

2.1 The objectives of the Club are:

(i) to introduce people who wish to share and learn from each other’s experience in order to develop, practise and maintain mountaineering skills within a structured programme guided by relevant national governing body (NGB) good practice, co-ordinated and led by volunteer members;

(ii) to promote safety and good practice in the mountains;

(iii) to enable members to meet like-minded people and to foster an atmosphere of welcome, co-operation and team spirit;

(iv) to provide opportunities for members to participate in mountaineering activities including mountain walking, wild camping, scrambling, rock climbing, coastering, winter mountaineering, snow and ice climbing and snowshoeing and occasionally in other outdoor activities, e.g. skiing, mountain biking and kayaking;

(v) to provide opportunities to members, both within the club environment and outside of it, to learn and consolidate skills in the company of like-minded people who may have different skills and experience to offer;

(vi) to support members who wish to undertake formal training from recognised and accredited mountaineering training providers;

(vii) to promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the mountain environment in particular and the natural environment in general;

(viii) to act on behalf of and in the interests of its members;

(ix) to support the work and activities of the representative bodies for hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers in the UK;

(x) as a British Mountaineering Council (BMC) affiliated club to strive to follow the BMC’s recommended best practice and policies.

2.2 Participation in the Club’s activities may help members to gain general mountaineering competence or log book experience for an NGB award.

2.3 Any members who have relevant qualifications will not be acting in a professional or paid capacity or as technical experts when partaking in the Club's activities.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to any person who:

(i) is (a) aged 18 years and over or is (b) aged 14 to 17 and is while partaking in Club activities accompanied by a member who is their parent/guardian or who is a responsible adult nominated by their parent/guardian; and

(ii) is interested in participating in mountaineering activities, supporting the Club's principles and values and abiding by this constitution and the Club's rules determined in accordance with clause 11.1; and

(iii) recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death, accepts these risks and agrees to be responsible for their own actions and involvement; and

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

(v) completes a membership application form and, unless the individual is an Honorary Member, pays the relevant membership fee.

3.2 People who apply for membership of the Club and meet the criteria set out in 3.1 will be accepted as Associate Members. Associate Members will be required to attend a minimum of three meets (which may include a meet they attend as a Temporary Member) to confirm that they meet those criteria. They may then apply to become Full Members.

3.3 The Committee shall determine whether an Associate Member applying for full membership will be granted full membership or remain for the time being an Associate Member.

3.4 Anyone interested in joining the Club may apply to become a Temporary Member in the relevant calendar year in order to attend one Club meet in that year.

3.5 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 or a responsible adult nominated by their parent/guardian, who in each case must themselves be a Club member. Children under the age of 14 will not be permitted to stay in group accommodation, such as bunkhouses and climbing huts, on Club meets.

3.6 Subject to the age restrictions set out in clauses 3.1(i) and 3.5, membership of the Club shall be open to everyone who meets the criteria set

out in clause 3.1 regardless of age, race, faith or belief, gender, sexual orientation or disability, although individuals' circumstances may from time to time prevent them from fully participating in the Club's activities.

3.7 The following table sets out the categories of membership and whether members in each category (a) may act as voluntary group leaders and (b) are entitled to vote at General Meetings.

Category	Definition	May act as voluntary group leader	Entitled to vote at General Meetings
Temporary Member	Prospective member attending one Club meet in the relevant calendar year on a trial basis	No	No
Associate Member	Individual aged 18 years and over who has been accepted as a member but has not yet been accepted as a Full Member	No	No
Full Member	Individual aged 18 years and over who has previously been an Associate Member and who is accepted as a Full Member in accordance with clause 3.3	Yes	Yes
Junior Member	Individual aged 14 to 17 years who has been accepted as a member	No	No
Honorary Member (sub-category of Full Member)	Full Member granted free membership as a result of their contribution to the Club or as a mark of respect and having the same rights under this constitution as other Full Members	Yes	Yes

3.8 Only Full Members may be voluntary group leaders. Any member acting as a voluntary group leader must demonstrate a continuing level of activity/competence in the activity they are leading. They must either hold a current first aid certificate or ensure that another member of the Club who is present holds such a certificate.

3.9 Each member other than an Honorary Member shall pay a subscription determined by the Full Members at the AGM. Subscription monies shall be used solely for the benefit of the Club and its members.

3.10 Members acknowledge and agree that, as the Club is affiliated to the BMC, they are Club Members of the BMC and that the Club will 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. Members further acknowledge and

agree that they will each be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the BMC.

4. 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 that member's 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 four members of the Committee present and competent to vote. Any member expelled under this rule shall forfeit to the Club any membership fee which they may have paid.

5. Management of the Club

5.1 The Management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Club's committee ("the Committee").

6. Officers of the Club

6.1 The officers of the Club ("Officers"), who shall be members of the Committee, shall be the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary.

7. Election of Committee Members

7.1 Committee members shall be elected annually at the AGM, from, and by, the Full Members.

8. Committee Meetings

8.1 The Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than three times per year. Additional meetings may be called at the request of at least three Committee members. Quorum shall be four Committee members including at least two Officers. 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.

8.2 At the Chair's discretion, members of the Club who are not members of the Committee may attend and participate in Committee meetings, but shall not have a vote.

9. Role of the Committee

9.1 The duties of the Committee shall be:

- (i) to control the affairs of the Club on behalf of the members;
- (ii) to keep accurate accounts of the finances of the Club through the Treasurer;
- (iii) to co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee considers is beneficial to the Club. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote;
- (iv) to make recommendations to the Full Members at the AGM on matters relating to the business of the AGM, such as membership fees.

9.2 The Club shall maintain a bank current account. The Treasurer shall be authorised to sign cheques and other Officers may also be authorised to sign cheques.

10. General Meetings

10.1 An annual general meeting (AGM) shall be held each year. At least one month's notice shall be given to members of the AGM. Full Members shall advise the Secretary in writing of any business they wish to be considered at the AGM at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting. The Secretary shall give notice of the agenda for the meeting to members not less than seven (7) days before the meeting.

10.2 The business of the AGM shall be to:

- (i) Confirm the minutes of the previous AGM and any General Meetings held since the previous AGM;
- (ii) Receive the audited accounts for the year from the Treasurer;
- (iii) Receive an annual report of the Committee from the Chair and/or Secretary;
- (iv) Elect an auditor;
- (v) Elect the Committee members;
- (vi) Review membership fees and agree them for the forthcoming year;
- (vii) Transact such other business received in writing by the Secretary from Full Members 14 days prior to the meeting and included on the agenda.

10.3 Accounts for each year shall be presented to the members at the AGM. An auditor shall be appointed to examine the accounts and the report of the auditor on those accounts shall be put to the AGM in order for the Full Members to determine whether the accounts shall be agreed as final.

10.4 Any ten Full Members may sign and submit a request to the Secretary calling for an Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM"). Such a meeting may

only discuss issues notified in the request. Having received such a request the Secretary shall call the meeting giving not less than 14 days' notice.

10.5 The Committee may at any time call an EGM by giving at least fourteen days' notice.

10.6 Nomination of candidates for election as Committee members shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days in advance of the AGM. Nominations may only be made by Full Member and must be seconded by another Full Member.

10.7 At all AGMs and EGMs ("General Meetings"), the chair will be taken by the Chair or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Committee or by Full Members attending the meeting.

10.8 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 Chair shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

10.9 A quorum for a General Meeting shall be six (6) Full Members including at least two Officers.

10.10 Subject to the Chair having an additional casting vote, each Full Member shall have one vote at General Meetings. For avoidance of doubt Honorary Members are a sub-category of Full Members and shall have a vote. Temporary, Junior and Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote.

11. Rules of the Club

11.1 The Committee shall have the power to set Club rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with this constitution and the policies of the BMC.

12. Safety and Duty of Care

12.1 The Club acknowledges that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death and accepts as its policy the BMC statement on duty of care.

12.2 The Club is keen to promote a strong ethos of safe practice in mountaineering and will strive to follow good practice guidelines set by NGBs. The Club will support members who wish to gain relevant training and qualifications from established mountain activity providers.

12.3 All members have a duty to read the Club constitution and rules relating to safety and duty of care and to be bound by them.

13. Alterations to the Constitution

13.1 Any proposed alterations to this constitution may only be considered at a General Meeting convened with the required written notice of the proposal.

Any alteration or amendment must be proposed by a Full Member 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.

14. Dissolution of the Club

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

14.2 If that EGM is quorate and the resolution to dissolve the Club is carried by at least two thirds of the Full Members present, the 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.

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

15. Club programme

15.1 The Club shall assemble for regular outdoor meets throughout the year. The time and venue of the meets shall be determined by the Committee.

15.2 Club activities will be structured in order to encourage members to share knowledge and experience. Where appropriate a member of each group will act as a voluntary leader. Such voluntary leaders will not be acting in a professional capacity or as technical experts but may advise or instruct other participants. 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 other members to gain experience and skills.