

Red Rope - The Socialist Mountaineering and Walking Club

Constitution

(as adopted by the 2015 Annual General Meeting)

1) The Club shall be called Red Rope - the Socialist Mountaineering and Walking Club.

- a) Red Rope is a Socialist Club run by collective responsibility on an income-sharing basis. Members undertake to share skills and meet the needs and abilities of the membership.
- b) The Club welcomes as members all socialists, whatever their abilities, irrespective of age, race, gender or sexual preference.
- c) A Club trip is one, which is notified to and approved by the National Secretary or regional secretary according to Club policy.
- d) The Club will stress its socialist, anti-racist and anti-sexist nature and take positive steps to promote its existence and organise its events guided by these principles.

2) Purposes of the Club

- a) To encourage socialists to go rambling and mountaineering, by organising income sharing trips, including women only trips.
- b) To fight for full and free access to all upland and uncultivated areas, and to defend those areas against the ravages of capitalism.
- c) The region is the basic unit of organisation of the club. The Club strongly supports the formation of self-supporting regional groups within the National framework of the Club. Regions must ensure that they are represented on the National Committee.

3) Governance

The Club shall be governed by General Meetings (section 4) or on specific issues, by votes cast at regional meetings of members convened for the purpose of discussing and voting on those issues. The club shall be managed by a National Committee consisting of elected members (section 5)

4) General Meetings and Decisions made by Regional Voting.

The quorum for General Meetings, and the total number of votes required for making club policy via regional voting, is 50 members or 10% of current paid up members, whichever is the lower.

- a) An **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** shall be held not later than the 25th December each year to transact the following:
 - i To receive, and if approved, to adopt, a statement of the Club's account for the financial year, to appoint an auditor, to decide Club membership fees and trip rates in the context of a budget for the current financial year.
 - ii To receive the reports of the officers and of regions.
 - iii To elect the National Committee and other committees as determined by club policy.
 - iv To consider Constitutional amendments, Policy resolutions and other resolutions.
 - v To confirm the expulsion of a member as laid down by point 5aV or to reinstate a previously expelled member.
- b) **Special General Meetings (SGM)** shall be convened at any time at the request of the National Committee, or ten ordinary members, to consider any matter that the National Committee or the ten ordinary members shall bring before it.
- c) **Procedure for calling and running General Meetings (GM) shall be as follows:**
 - i Notice of the GM shall be sent to all members listed on the club membership database at least 28 days before the meeting.
 - ii Any resolution or amendment submitted by the National Committee, its subcommittees, regional AGMs or individual members must be submitted for circulation with the notice of the GM.
 - iii Amendments to duly circulated resolutions must be submitted to the National Secretary a week prior to the GM.
 - iv Other amendments may, with the approval of the meeting, be submitted from the floor. Any such amendment, if approved, will not have the status of full policy until ratified by a subsequent GM.
 - v Any resolution proposed by an individual member must have a seconder.
 - vi Any duly submitted resolution or amendment to the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of those members present to be carried.

- vii. Any duly submitted resolution or amendment to such a resolution, or amendment to current policy, requires a simple majority of those members present to be carried.

4d) Procedure for requesting that a matter be decided by regional voting and the conduct of a regional vote.

- i) Regional voting on a specified motion will be conducted if requested by
 - (a) A simple majority of members at a General meetingor
 - (b) 50 members or 10% of the membership, whichever is less, those members coming from at least two regionsor
 - (c) The National Committee.
- ii) Regional voting will be conducted as defined in 'Guidelines for conducting a regionally based vote' (see Appendix 3 of Club Policies).

5) National Committee (NC).

The committee shall include regional delegates elected by regional meetings, the National Secretary, National Treasurer and other officers as defined by Appendix 2 of Club Policies, who shall be elected annually by the AGM. The Committee may co-opt members between AGMs. The quorum for the National Committee meetings shall be 6 voting committee members.

a) The NC shall be responsible for:

- i Ensuring that the interests of members as a whole and those of particular interest groups mesh smoothly.
- ii Encouraging the formation of regional groups.
- iii Overseeing the financial regulation of the Club.
- iv Organising the AGM and reporting to it.
- v The expulsion of members, but for the purposes of this rule, the vote of more than two thirds of the committee shall be necessary. The expelled member has the right of appeal to a GM.
- vi Overseeing production of the Red Rope quarterly Bulletin and Monthly Information Sheet and other publications.
- vii Organising national trips.
- viii Overseeing safety and training.
- ix Implementation of the political policy of the Club.
- x Overseeing the smooth functioning of the administration of the Club, the interpretation of Club policy and recommending policy changes to the AGM.
- xi Arranging necessary Club liability insurance.
- xii Overseeing the acquisition of a Club hut.

b) Collective Responsibility

Any member who acts in a representative capacity for the Club must follow Club policy and be specifically guided and instructed by the National Committee over particular issues. Failure to do so would lead to public repudiation by the National Committee of the representative's individual membership and the return of their subscription. Such representatives must attend National Committee meetings when required.

6) The Club's financial year and accounts shall run for a period of twelve months from July 1st. National Club funds may be used for the following purposes:

- i As an advance to enable Club approved activities.
- ii To cover losses incurred by Club approved activities.
- iii Occasional publications, badges, T-shirts, etc.
- iv Club liability insurance.
- v Contributing to the costs of General Meetings and National Committee meetings.
- vi Affiliation to relevant organisations.
- vii Donations to relevant political or environmental causes and mountain rescue services.
- viii Financial support for regions.

- ix Financial support for sub-committees.
- x To defray the legitimate administration costs of National officers or other authorised members.
- xi Any other items for general use.

7) Affiliations

For the purpose of affiliation to the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS), members whose notified address is in Scotland are deemed to belong to Red Rope (Scotland) which is affiliated to the MCofS, and all other Red Rope Members will be affiliated to the BMC.

8) Dissolution of the Club

The club can be dissolved by two-thirds majority vote whereupon the NC will arrange to discharge any assets equally amongst the members. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all the members.