



CHESTER GREAT OUTDOORS CLUB

CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be the Chester Great Outdoors Club (CGOC) (hereinafter referred to as “the Club”).

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- 2.1 To promote the interests of hillwalking and a range of other outdoors activities, for example mountain biking, road cycling, climbing, mountaineering, surfing, sailing, canoeing, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “the Activities”) amongst members of the Club.
- 2.2 To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in the Activities together.
- 2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interest of Club members, in line with the other objectives.
- 2.4 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the outdoor environment.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB

- 3.1 The Membership of the Club is hereinafter referred to as “the Membership”.
- 3.2 The Club shall have the right at its entire discretion to refuse any application for Membership.
- 3.3 Club Membership shall only be open to individuals who recognise that participation in Club Activities is inherently risky. Members shall only get involved if they are personally prepared to accept these risks and recognise that they may be exposed to potentially life-threatening situations. Members shall be responsible for their own actions and involvement. Members shall also be aware that their actions may affect the health and safety of others, both Members and non-members.
- 3.4 Club Membership is not open to minors.
- 3.5 Club Members consent to their details being passed to the BMC or any other organisation that the Club affiliates to.
- 3.6 Club Members consent to their details being passed to any insurer if the disclosure of such information is a precondition of the Club insurance but this provision shall not oblige the Club to maintain insurance.
- 3.7 The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat all Members equally within the context of Club Activities.
- 3.8 The Club is committed to all Members having the right to enjoy Club Activities in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

4. MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB

- 4.1 The management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Club Committee, hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”.

5. OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

- 5.1 The elected Officers of the Club shall all be Members of the Club:
- 5.1.1 the Chair
 - 5.1.2 the Treasurer
 - 5.1.3 the Club Secretary
 - 5.1.4 the Membership Secretary
 - 5.1.5 the Events Coordinator.
- 5.2 Voting for the election of Officers shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.3 The Officers shall be re-elected each year.

6. COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB

- 6.1 The Chair of the Club will normally preside at and chair all meetings of the Committee or Club and shall be responsible for reporting to the Membership at the Club’s AGM.

- 6.2 The Chair shall also be responsible for announcing the AGM and shall give at least 6 weeks notice of such a meeting and at least 2 weeks notice of its agenda. Items for inclusion should be submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the AGM.
- 6.3 The Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Club together with such other elected Members of the Club as may be decided at the AGM.
- 6.4 The Club Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to Club affairs and of announcing Committee meetings and the production and distribution of minutes and action items from those meetings.
- 6.5 The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of the Membership of the Club.
- 6.6 The Club Secretary or Membership Secretary shall report to the BMC the number of Members in the Club.
- 6.7 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of subscriptions and will account for any other income and expenditure made on behalf of the Club.
- 6.8 The Treasurer shall also be responsible for the payment of the membership subscription to the BMC and the insurance premium if this is taken up.
- 6.9 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional non-voting members in addition to the elected voting committee members.
- 6.10 Committee members will serve for a period of no more than 3 years in a single role or 4 years in total before standing down. Having served on the Committee members would, however, be permitted to stand for election again after a period of 1 year.
- 6.11 The nomination and election of committee members shall be conducted in a fair and transparent manner. Club Members are encouraged to stand for any position. Nominations for committee members should be invited when the AGM is announced. Any Member can stand at any time up to the vote at the AGM, provided they are proposed and seconded by Members at the AGM. In the event that there are no nominations for a particular position 4 weeks before the AGM, the Committee will approach any Members who the committee think may be suitable for that particular role.
- 6.12 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.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 7.1 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected voting Committee members.
- 7.2 In addition to the AGM the Committee shall hold at least 3 other Committee meetings per year.

8. CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 8.1 The Committee shall have the power to set membership subscription levels for the Club on an annual basis.

9 EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- 9.1 If the Committee has reasonable grounds, and considers that is in the interests of the Club, they must invite a member to resign from the Club. This should be by letter, specifying the reasons for their request. The member should be offered an opportunity to provide an explanation within a reasonable time period, either in writing or in person.
- 9.2 If the member concerned requests a meeting to provide an explanation, the committee must arrange a meeting within a reasonable period of time and provide the member with not less than seven days written notice.
- 9.3 The Committee must consider the explanation provided by the member in good faith and have due regard to all available evidence and may confirm or vary their original decision.
- 9.4 If the Committee confirms their original decision and the member concerned does not resign, the Committee must submit the question of their expulsion to a Special General Meeting (SGM). The SGM will be convened for this purpose, whether or not the member requests such a meeting.
- 9.5 At least four weeks' notice of the meeting must be given to all the members.
- 9.6 The Chair must inform the member in question of the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the complaints against them in sufficient time to give the member a proper opportunity to offer an explanation.
- 9.7 At the meeting the member must be allowed to offer an explanation of their conduct verbally or in writing and if after that two-thirds of the members present vote for his expulsion they will immediately cease to be a member of the Club.

- 9.8 The voting at any such Special General Meeting must be by ballot if requested by at least five members present at the meeting
- 9.9 The Committee may suspend any member whose resignation from the club has been requested, until the Special General Meeting is held.

10 EFFECT OF CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

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

11. RULES OF THE CLUB

- 11.1 The Committee shall have the power to set Club rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution.
- 11.2 Club rules will be in accordance with the policies of the BMC.

12. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

- 12.1 This constitution may be amended by a two third's majority of those Members who cast a vote. Notice of any amendment must be delivered to the Chair at least 4 weeks prior to the AGM.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

- 13.1 The Club can be dissolved by two thirds majority vote carried out in accordance with BMC Article 10 whereupon the assets of the Club will be applied first to payment of any liabilities of the Club and any surplus distributed equally amongst Club Members. If the liabilities of the Club on dissolution or winding up exceed the assets then each Club Member shall contribute a sum equal to the annual subscription payable by him or her for the last year but shall not be further liable.

14. BMC AFFILIATION

- 14.1 The Club shall be affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) so long as the Committee determine this to be in the interests of the Membership.
- 14.2 If the Club ceases to be affiliated to the BMC then the articles of this Constitution that relate to the BMC shall cease to apply.
- 14.3 So long as the Club is affiliated to the BMC, the Members acknowledge and agree that they will be 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 so long as the Club is affiliated to the BMC and each is a Club Member of the BMC that they will each be bound by the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the BMC.

This Constitution was approved and adopted by the Club Members at the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 7 November 2019.