

## Yeovil Mountaineering Club Constitution

1. The name of the Club shall be **Yeovil Mountaineering Club**
2. The club exists to enable people in the Somerset/Dorset area to meet together for the purpose of mountaineering, rock climbing and other related activities.
3. The club shall have a committee consisting of chairman, secretary and treasurer (one of whom may also be the newsletter editor), and others which may from time to time be agreed by members at an annual or extraordinary general meeting.
4. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within 15 months of the previous AGM. The date and venue shall be notified to members at least two weeks in advance.
5. The agenda of the AGM shall include, as a minimum, reports from the Chairman and Secretary, Treasurer's report and accounts, a report on the status of any equipment owned by the club, the election of officers, the setting of subscriptions for the year, and AOB.
6. An extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time on request by at least four members. The agenda is to be circulated to all members at least two weeks and not more than four weeks in advance of the meeting, which shall be within six weeks of the request.
7. Subscriptions become due immediately following the AGM. Only paid up members are eligible to vote at an AGM or an EGM.
8. The Club funds shall be held in an account with a reputable financial institution.
9. Membership is open to all persons wishing to participate in mountaineering and rock climbing (subject to 10 below). Approaches to the club for membership shall be made to the committee in writing. The committee may accept or reject applications at their discretion (for example it may be necessary to limit novice membership if there are insufficient experienced members willing to supervise them, or if a prospective member does not, in the opinion of the committee, fully share the aims of the Club). The committee may exclude persons or expel members at their discretion, e.g. on grounds of behaviour which is disruptive, unnecessarily dangerous, likely to bring the Club into disrepute, or not consistent with 2 above.

10. Juniors, i.e. persons under 18 years of age, may only join with the consent of their parent/guardian and on agreement by the committee. Juniors who wish to climb must do so with a climbing parent or with a consenting climbing adult member acting in loco parentis. At the discretion of the committee some flexibility may be granted with regard to supervision in a controlled climbing environment. Agreement for a member to act in loco parentis shall be given to the Club and the member in writing by the parent/guardian (*see footnote*).
  
11. Mountaineering and rock climbing are considered dangerous by many people. The Club accepts no responsibility for any incidents arising from these activities.
  
12. Changes to the constitution may be made, or the Club may be dissolved, at an AGM or EGM by a majority vote of two thirds of the members present. Any motions for such items to be debated shall not be permitted under 'any other business'. In the event of the dissolution the assets of the Club shall be sold off and the proceeds donated to a charity or non-profit sports related organisation as agreed upon at the meeting.

### **Notes on the operation of the Club**

The Club meets for training climbing on Tuesday evenings, during the winter months at Sherborne Girls School and during the summer months at Ham Hill. Climbing meets are held at approximately monthly intervals. Meet dates and venues are normally set by consensus at or following Tuesday training sessions, up to three or four months in advance. The meets list and meets reports are published in the Club newsletter which is compiled three or four times per year. Meets are local (i.e. day trip distance) cliff and hills, and two or three times a year to more distant venues (e.g. Derbyshire, Cornwall, Lake District). Members are seldom defeated by bad weather and will walk if too wet to climb. The Annual General Meeting is usually held in January.

*Footnote: The Club does not have a Child Protection Officer and in order to comply with Child Protection Legislation and our insurance requirements we are unable to consider unaccompanied junior members for any activity. The tightening of the rule on members acting in loco parentis is effective from the 2007 AGM. Juniors who joined prior to that date may continue the previous accepted practice and climb with any consenting adult member provided the junior member's parent/guardian is also present at the venue and keeps the junior within sight.*