

Red Rope - The Socialist Mountaineering and Walking Club

Constitution (as adopted at the AGM, 10 April 2022)

The Red Rope Constitution specifies the principles governing the club and its membership: its purpose, structure and governance. It should be read in conjunction with *Red Rope – Club Policies*, which describes the implementation of these principles.

In this document the term ‘region’ refers to a constituent Red Rope group, based on a UK nation, region or other locality. The term ‘national’ is used to refer to entities pertaining to the club as a whole, eg ‘national committee’, ‘national trip’.

1. About the Club

- a) The name of the Club is Red Rope – the Socialist Mountaineering and Walking Club.
- b) Red Rope is a Socialist Club, run by collective responsibility. Members undertake to share skills and to meet the needs and abilities of the membership.
- c) Charges for membership and for participation in Red Rope activities are scaled according to income.
- d) A Club event, whether nationally or regionally organised, is one which is open to all club members (with the exception of trips specifically for women or other disadvantaged groups) and is organised according to Red Rope principles.
- e) The Club will stress its socialist and green nature and will be guided by these principles in promoting its existence and organising its events

2. Purposes of the Club

- a) To encourage socialists to go walking, climbing and mountaineering, by organising activities that are affordable for all members.
- b) To initiate and support campaigns which fight for full and free access to all upland, forestry, coast and other uncultivated areas, and defend those areas from privatisation and commercial interests.

3. Membership of the Club

- a) The Club welcomes as members socialists aged 18 and over who are interested in walking, mountaineering or climbing.
- b) Members must recognise that climbing, hill-walking 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.
- c) Members will be subject to the regulations of the Constitution and will be deemed to have accepted these regulations and Club policies.
- d) The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat all members equally within the context of Club activities.

4. Structure of the Club

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- a) The basic unit of organisation of the club is the region, based on a nation, region or other geographical area of the UK. The Club strongly supports the formation of self-supporting regions within its overall framework.

5. Governance and Management

- a) The Club is governed by General Meetings or, on specific issues, by votes cast at meetings of members, convened for the purpose of discussing and voting on those issues (Section 6).
- b) The club is managed by a National Committee consisting of elected members (Section 7). Regions must ensure that they are represented on the National Committee.

6. General Meetings and Decisions Made by Local (Regional) Voting

- a) The quorum for General Meetings and the total number of votes required for making club policy via local voting is 50 members, or 10% of current paid up members, whichever is the lower.
- b) An **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is to be held not later than the 30th June each year to transact the following:
 - i) To approve the minutes of the previous AGM
 - ii) To raise any matters arising from the previous AGM which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda
 - iii) To receive and, if approved, to adopt a statement of the Club's accounts for the previous financial year, to appoint an auditor and to decide Club membership fees and other charges in the context of a budget for the current financial year.
 - iv) To receive reports from officers and from regions.
 - v) To elect national officers and other committees as determined by club policy.
 - vi) To consider constitutional amendments, policy resolutions and other resolutions, which must be circulated as outlined in Section 6d.
 - vii) To confirm the expulsion of a member as indicated by the Club Grievance Procedure or to reinstate a previously expelled member.
 - viii) To set a provisional date for the next AGM
- c) A **Special General Meeting (SGM)** may 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 bring before it.
- d) **Procedure for calling and running General Meetings (GM)** shall be as follows:
 - i) Formal notice of the General Meeting will be sent to all members listed on the club membership database at least 60 days before the meeting.
 - ii) Any resolutions submitted by regions or individual members must be submitted to the NC 42 days before the meeting.
 - iii) All documentation for the AGM must be circulated to the membership 28 days before the meeting. This should include:
 - Agenda for the meeting
 - All resolutions submitted, including any submitted by the NC

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- All officers' reports and reports from regions
- iv) Amendments to duly circulated resolutions must be submitted to the National Secretary 14 days prior to the GM.
- v) 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.
- vi) Any resolution proposed by an individual member must have a seconder.
- vii) Any duly submitted resolution or amendment to the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of those members present to be carried.
- viii) Any amendment to current policy requires a simple majority of those members present to be carried.
- e) Procedure for requesting that a matter be decided by local voting and the conduct of a local vote:**
 - i) Local voting on a specified motion will be conducted if requested by any one of the following:
 - A simple majority of members at a General Meeting
 - 50 members or 10% of the membership, whichever is less, those members coming from at least two regions
 - The National Committee
 - ii) Local voting will be conducted as described in 'Procedure for Conducting a Locally Based vote' (see Appendix of this document).

7. National Committee (NC)

- a)** The National Committee will consist of delegates elected by each region and the National Secretary, National Treasurer and other officers (see Policies), who will be elected annually by the AGM. The Committee may co-opt members between AGMs.
- b)** The national committee should meet at least 3 times a year.
- c)** The quorum for the National Committee meetings will be 6 committee members.
- d)** The NC is 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) Overseeing the Club Grievance Policy.
 - vi) Ratification of any decision to expel a member, but for the purposes of this rule, the vote of more than two thirds of the committee is necessary. The expelled member has the right of appeal to a GM.
 - vii) Overseeing production of the Red Rope Bulletin, the Monthly Information Sheet and other publications.
 - viii) Organising national trips.
 - ix) Overseeing safety and training.
 - x) Implementing the political policy of the Club.

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- xi) Overseeing the smooth functioning of the administration of the Club, the interpretation of Club policy and for recommending policy changes to the AGM.
- xii) Arranging necessary Club liability insurance.
- xiii) Overseeing the hut-sharing agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club and any other arrangements with partner clubs.

8. Collective Responsibility

Any member who acts in a representative capacity for the Club must follow Club policy and accept guidance from 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.

9. Club Finances

- a) The National Treasurer will be responsible for the management of club funds under the direction of the National Committee, and will control the bank account into which all membership charges will be paid. Additional national and regional bank accounts may be established to manage particular activities.
- b) The Club's financial year and accounts will run for a period of twelve months from 1st January. A statement of accounts for the previous year will be presented by the National Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) National Club funds may be used to support the purpose and activities of the club as defined in Section 2.

10. Affiliations

Red Rope will be affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council, Mountaineering Scotland and other appropriate organisations which further our interests in walking, climbing and mountaineering.

11. Grievance and Complaints Procedure

Any complaints or grievances will be dealt with as described in *Red Rope – Club Policies*, Appendix 6.

12. Dissolution of the Club

- a) The club can be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.
- b) Any net club liabilities at the time of dissolution will be the joint responsibility of all the members.
- c) The NC will arrange for any net club assets to be donated to a suitable organisation, such as Mountain Rescue, as decided by a simple majority of the membership.

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Appendix : Guidelines for Conducting a Locally Based Vote

1. On receipt of a valid request for a vote to be conducted via local (region) meetings, which must include the wording of the motion to be voted on, the National Committee will
 - a) Set a date by which votes must be received from its constituent regions and appoint two of its members to take responsibility for receiving the results of the local votes and otherwise overseeing the conduct of the process.
 - b) Write to all members (by post or email as appropriate) informing them that a valid request for a motion to be decided by local meetings has been received and including the motion.
 - c) Inform local secretaries of the need to organise a meeting to discuss, and vote on, the motion. The notice to local secretaries shall include
 - the motion
 - the closing date for the return of votes (which must be at least 28 days after the receipt of the notice)
 - the name and address (postal or electronic) of the person to which the result of the local vote must be sent.
 - A list of paid-up members of the local group at the time the notice is issued.
2. On receipt of a request to convene a meeting for the purpose of discussing and voting on a motion, a local secretary shall issue a notice to members, which shall contain:
 - the motion
 - the date of the meeting, which must be at least 14 days from the date of the notice
3. All paid up members who attend these local meetings may vote on the motion. A record should be made of the votes – for and against the motion and any abstentions. The secretary shall take responsibility for ensuring that all those voting are paid up members of the club, and are from that region.
4. Following the meeting, and in time to meet the deadline for receipt of votes, the local secretary shall forward the results of the vote to the person designated to receive these on behalf of the National Committee.
5. The overall result of the vote will be decided using a simple majority of the total votes cast, except for amendments to the constitution which will require a minimum of two thirds of the valid votes.

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6. Within 7 days of the closure date for receipt of votes, the NC members with responsibility for the conduct of the vote will arrange for the result of the vote to be posted on the web site. The result will also be included in the next available MIS.
7. Any complaints or objections to the conduct of the local meetings or other aspects of the vote should be sent to the National Secretary and will be adjudicated by the NC.