

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY HIKING CLUB

CONSTITUTION

(As passed by the Committee in Feb. 1988; amended in Dec. 1992, Feb. 1995, Feb. 1996, Oct. 1996, Feb. 1997; amended by the Committee in March 1997; amended by General meeting in Feb 1998, Oct 1998, Feb 1999, Feb 2000 and June 2006)

AIMS

1. The name of the club shall be the Lancaster University Hiking Club. Hereinafter referred to as "the Club".
- 2.1 The Club exists to promote the interests of hiking amongst members of the Club and to encourage safe practice and appreciation of the open countryside.
- 2.2 To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in hiking activities together.
- 2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.
- 2.4 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the mountain environment.

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Club membership shall be open to all members of the University, including past and present members and open to others at the discretion of the Committee. Non-members of the Club may attend meetings as guests at the discretion of the Committee.
- 3.2 In addition to 3.1 above, membership of the Club shall only be open to individuals who recognise that hiking 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.
- 3.3 Club participation is not open to minors (unless written parental consent is obtained).
4. The annual membership fee shall be payable at the start of the academic year, the amount to be fixed by a meeting of the full Committee.
5. Past Committee members shall become free life members in reward for their services.

COMMITTEE

6. There shall be a Committee consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, Equipment Officer, Social Secretary, Publicity Officer and Web Officer.
7. All executive positions shall be filled by persons elected annually at a General Meeting. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Safety Officer must be held by current students of the University.

7.1 On the condition that a new full Committee has been elected, a joint Committee meeting shall be called by the former President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer within 7 days of the election. Both the former and newly elected Committees are required to attend this meeting in order to ensure an orderly transition.

7.2 It is the responsibility of the former Committee to communicate all information and training required for the newly elected Committee to manage the Club. This includes a financial statement made by the former treasurer and all trip booking details by the Vice- President.

7.3 Thereafter, the management of the Club will be the official responsibility of the newly elected Committee.

8. In the event of the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Safety Officer falling vacant for any reason, then GMs shall be called within each period of 28 days until that position is filled.

9. The positions of Equipment Officer, Social Secretary, Publicity Officer and Web Officer shall be filled by persons nominated by elected Committee members if the positions are not filled at a GM.

10. All members of the Committee shall be bound by such rules and guidelines as are pertinent to their office and are included in the Rules of the Club, defined hereunder.

11. Committee meetings shall be held on a regular basis and there shall be at least four such meetings in each term. These meetings shall be called by the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer and all Committee members should be given reasonable notice of these meetings.

12.1 Attendance at every meeting is expected of each Committee member. Apologies for absence will be accepted, but if three consecutive meetings are missed by any one person then a vote of no confidence may be taken for that person. Meetings of less than four shall not be considered official

12.2 These meetings shall be open to all Club members, however, only Committee members shall have a right to speak. At the beginning of a meeting any other member wishing to speak on a specific issue must first gain the permission of the Committee.

12.3 Any members not on the Committee being disruptive may be requested to leave by the Committee.

13. Decisions shall be taken by vote if no other agreement is reached. In the event if a tie the President shall have the casting vote.

RULES

14.1 The Committee shall formulate such Rules of the Club as they consider necessary for its efficient and safe running. All members shall be bound by these Rules.

14.2 The Rules shall be the subject of annual scrutiny by the Committee, which shall have the power to initiate, alter or revoke them but any such action must be taken at an open Committee meeting and any GM shall have the power of veto.

14.3 The Club will act in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy of Lancaster University Students Union.

15. The Club shall have a Code of Practice, which will be made readily available to all members. All members shall be bound by this Code.

ORGANISATION

16. The organisation of the Club shall be shared between all Committee members. A debt incurred by the Club shall be the joint responsibility of the whole Committee.

17. The organisation of any meeting of the Club shall be the responsibility of the Committee. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of the Club.

18. Any member of the Club may be suspended from taking part in Club activities by the full Committee.

LEADERS

19. There shall be an Assessment Panel of experienced leaders, approved by the Safety Officer and the full Committee, responsible for the assessment of potential leaders.

19.1 Members wishing to become leaders must be approved by the full Committee. They must show their ability in the areas of navigation, mountain safety and group leadership to the full satisfaction of at least two members of the Assessment Panel.

19.2 Leaders can be nominated Assessors once agreed, in confidence, by the full safety committee.

20. Party members have a responsibility to themselves and to others on the hill. The assessed leader is only an additional safety measure to maximise the safety of the party.

21. If a dispute shall arise with any member of their party then the leader may refuse to take that person. Any further dispute shall be taken to a Committee meeting, or, if still unresolved to a GM.

GENERAL MEETINGS

22. A GM shall be held annually at a time to be decided by the Committee. At least ten days notice shall be given.

23. An EGM may be called by not less than nine members, by the Committee or by the President. The Secretary must be notified and the meeting shall take place within fourteen days of notification.

24. Proposals and motions must be handed to the Secretary at least 5 days before the meeting and an agenda published at least 24 hours before the meeting.

25. At any GM 6% of the membership shall form a quorum for business. Decisions require the support of the majority of members present and voting, unless otherwise stated.

26. At any election each candidate shall be proposed and seconded in writing. The President will be chosen first and voting shall be confidential. In the event of a tie the President shall have a casting vote.

27. A GM has the power to vote any committee member out of office providing the proposal has the

support of two thirds of those present and voting.

28. The Constitution may be amended at any GM by not less than two thirds of those present and voting. Proposals for amendment must be handed to the Secretary at least 5 days before the meeting.

LIABILITIES

29. Members and guests attend at their own risk.

30 . The Club will not be responsible for any damage incurred whilst attending meetings. If any member or guest should willfully cause damage, they themselves shall be responsible and liable to expulsion from the Club.

31. If any damage to Club property is caused by the negligence of a member or guest they may be called upon to replace the property.