

RULES

Constitution of the Club

1. The Club will be called the Alpine Club.
2. The objects of the Alpine Club are to promote mountain climbing and exploration in good style throughout the world, to develop a better knowledge of the mountains through literature, science and art and through its meetings and publications, to encourage protection of the mountain environment and to conserve the Club's heritage.
3. The Club will consist of Full Members elected under Rules 17-20, Aspirant Members and Associate Members elected under Rules 17-19 and 21, and Honorary Members elected under Rule 22. All Full Members of the Alpine Climbing Group are Full Members of the Club. Membership of the Club is open equally to men and women. For detailed provisions regarding the various categories of membership of the Club see the Club's Regulations.

Management of the Club

4. The Officers of the Club will be a President, two Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Editor, an Honorary Librarian and the Chairs of the Climbing Sub-Committee, Marketing, Communications and Publications Sub-Committee, Membership Applications Sub-Committee and Exhibitions Sub-Committee.
5. The management of the Club and its operations will be the responsibility of a Committee consisting of the Officers, up to four Elective Members, the Chair for the time being of the Library Council, and such co-opted Members as may be appointed according to Rule 6. Seven will form a quorum.
6. The Committee will have power to co-opt any Full Member, provided that the total number of co-opted Members does not at any time exceed four. Co-opted Members will hold office from the time of their appointment until the following 31st December and will be eligible for re-appointment, but will not serve for more than three years consecutively.
7. If a casual vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Committee will appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to fill the office until the following 31st December. If a similar vacancy occurs in respect of any other Officer or Member of the Committee, the Committee may co-opt any eligible Full Member to fill the vacancy for the same period. Any such period of service will be disregarded in applying the conditions of Rule 35. Any casual vacancy in the office of Auditor will be filled by the Committee, subject to confirmation by the next General Meeting.
8. The Committee will appoint, maintain, and receive recommendations from the following sub-committees:
 - (a) a Membership Applications Sub-Committee, which will collect and scrutinise applications for Associate, Aspirant and Full Membership;
 - (b) a Climbing Fund Sub-Committee, which will manage and oversee the provision of grants;

- (c) a Finance Sub-Committee, which will manage and oversee the strategic financial affairs of the Club;
 - (d) a Property Sub-Committee, which will manage and oversee the strategic property affairs of the Club;
 - (e) an Honorary Membership Sub-Committee, which will collect and scrutinise applications for Honorary Membership;
 - (f) a Climbing Sub-Committee, which will manage and oversee the climbing activities offered by the Club;
 - (g) an Exhibitions Sub-Committee, which will plan and manage exhibitions to display items from the AC Collections and oversee loans from the collections;
 - (h) a Marketing, Communications and Publications Sub-Committee, which will manage and oversee all aspects of media and communications for the Club.
- 9 (a) The Committee will appoint and maintain a Bar Sub-Committee which will consist of the Treasurer and three other Members of the Club to manage the purchase for the Club and the licencing and supply by the Club of intoxicating liquor.
- (b) Members (and guests of such Members) of other clubs that exist for learned educational or cultural objects of a similar nature to those of the Club may be admitted to the Club's premises. Intoxicating liquor may be sold to them on behalf of the Club for consumption on the premises, provided that such admission or sale will be in accordance with conditions and occasions authorised by or in accordance with Regulations made by the Committee.
10. The Committee will have power to appoint other sub-committees as it considers necessary, and to define their terms of reference.
11. The Committee will appoint five Members to the Council of the Alpine Club Library, which will be given responsibility for the management of the collections of mountaineering books, tracts, archives, paintings, photographs and artefacts owned by the Alpine Club, and of making them available to the public.
12. The Committee will have power, and where required by these Rules a duty, to make from time to time Regulations deemed to be for the well-being of the Club. Regulations must be consistent with these Rules.

Appointment of Trustees

13. (a) The freehold and leasehold property of the Club, and such other property as the Committee may direct, will be held by not less than two but no more than four Trustees, who will be appointed by the Committee from Full or Honorary Members. However, cessation of Membership will not disqualify a Trustee from continuing in office.
- (b) Trustees will act in accordance with any lawful directions given by the Committee or any appropriate sub-committee appointed in accordance with Rules 8, 10 and 11.
- (c) The Committee will have power to appoint a new Trustee or Trustees in the place of a Trustee or Trustees dying, retiring, or becoming unable to act.

(d) The Committee will have power by resolution to remove a Trustee from office. Any Trustee so removed will agree to provide any documents requisite to give effect to this removal.

Investment Powers of Trustees

14. The Trustees will have the following powers as regards any property held by them (“the Trust Funds”):

(a) to invest the Trust Funds in whatever way they think fit, as if the Trust Funds belonged to them personally; except that they may only exercise this power to further the Club’s objects and not so as to benefit any individual;

(b) to deposit any securities or documents of title with any bank or similar institution in the United Kingdom, and to hold any investments in the name of nominees in the United Kingdom on such terms as they think proper;

(c) to insure any property in the Trust Funds for any amount.

Indemnities

15. Trustees, Officers, Committee and Sub-Committee Members or any other Member acting honestly and in good faith in the management and administration of the Club’s affairs will be indemnified out of the property and insurances of the Club against any civil liability (including costs and expenses) incurred as a result of their acts or omissions.

Dissolution of the Club

16. In the event of the dissolution of the Club any assets remaining after settlement of all debts and liabilities will not be paid or distributed among Members but will be given or transferred to recognised charitable or non-profit organisation(s) having similar objectives to that of the Club.

Election of Members

17. The election of Members will be subject to the approval of the Committee in consultation with the Membership Applications Sub-Committee.

18. No candidate will be elected who has not attained the age of 18 years.

19. The Committee will make Regulations which will prescribe the procedures to be followed for the election of Full, Aspirant and Associate Members.

20. Every candidate for election as a Full Member will be proposed and seconded by Full Members.

21. Every candidate for election as an Aspirant or Associate Member will be proposed by a Full Member or by a person approved by Regulations having personal knowledge of him or her.

22. The Committee will receive recommendations from the Honorary Members Sub-Committee and elect to Honorary Membership eminent mountaineers, or persons who have rendered services of exceptional value to the Club or to mountaineering.

Privileges and Liabilities of Members

23. All Members will be entitled to attend the General Meetings and dinners of the Club, and to use the Club rooms and Library at times and under conditions prescribed by the Committee. On payment of the appropriate subscription they will receive the ordinary Club publications.
24. Aspirant and Associate Members will not:
 - (a) be entitled to vote upon any requisition, resolution or motion of the Club;
 - (b) be eligible for election as Officers of the Club, or Members of the Committee;
 - (c) be entitled to propose or second candidates for Membership.
25. Honorary Members will be exempt from the payment of any subscription. On election an Honorary Member will become entitled to all rights and privileges, and will become subject to the rules and restrictions applicable to Full Members. However, Honorary Members will have no right to, or claim upon, the property of the Club, except for Full Members who are elected as Honorary Members.
26. Annual subscriptions will only be altered at a General Meeting of the Club.
27. The annual subscription will be due and payable on election, and on every succeeding 1st of January. The subscription of a Member elected between October 1st and December 31st will cover the period up to the end of the following year.
28. Every Member will be liable for his or her subscription for the current year, unless he or she forwards a formal resignation in writing to the Honorary Secretary before 1st of January of that year. The Committee may at their discretion waive payment of any subscription.
29. No Member whose subscription is in arrears will be entitled to attend any Club activity, or make any use of the Club rooms. In addition, he or she will not receive any Club publications, or serve on committees or sub-committees. No candidate is eligible for proposal if the subscription of his or her proposer or seconder is in arrears.
30. Every Member whose subscription is 12 months in arrears will cease to be a Member of the Club, but the Committee will have power at their discretion to reinstate such a Member on payment of arrears.
31. The application documents of every new Member will be available in the Club rooms for inspection by Members.

General Meetings

32. An Annual General Meeting for the election of the Officers, Committee and Auditors for the ensuing year will be held between the 1st October and 31st December of each year. Notice of the date, time and place of every Annual General Meeting will be issued to every Member of the Club at least 56 days before the date of the meeting. The details of the business to be transacted will be issued at least 28 days before the date of the meeting. No business will be taken at the meeting without such notice.

33. A Special General Meeting will be called by the Honorary Secretary if required by the Committee, or on receiving a requisition signed by not less than 25 Full Members of the Club, and specifying the object for which the meeting is to be called. Notice of the date, time and place of every Special General Meeting, and of the business to be transacted, will be issued to every Member of the Club at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. No business will be taken at the meeting without such notice. This notice will be issued within 28 days of the receipt of the requisition by the Honorary Secretary.
34. (a) On any resolution at a General Meeting (including the election of Officers and Elective Members of the Committee) every Full Member will have one vote. That vote may be cast either in person at the meeting or by proxy.
- (b) The notice of the meeting will give directions about the form of proxy notices and about the methods and time of delivering them to the Club. The directions may allow e-mail or other electronic means to be used, as well as ordinary post.
- (c) A proxy notice may appoint either the Chair or any other Full Member as proxy and may specify how the proxy is to vote on one or more resolutions. Unless the notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as allowing the proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting.
35. (a) The Officers and Elective Members of the Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting, to hold office from the following 1st January. They will be eligible for re-election, up to a maximum consecutive term of:
- Vice-Presidents: 2 years,
- The President and Elective Members: 3 years,
- Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and Chairs of Sub-Committees: 5 years,
- Honorary Editor and Honorary Librarian: 10 years.
- After these respective terms they will not again be eligible for election until after the expiry of one year.
- (b) If after the Annual General Meeting there remains any position which is unfilled for the following year, this will be treated as a casual vacancy to which Rule 7 applies.
36. Candidates for the offices as defined in Rule 4, and for the other Elective Members of the Committee, may be proposed by any two Full Members of the Club or by the Committee. If two Full Members propose any candidate, notice in writing of the proposal, accompanied by the consent in writing of the proposed Member, must be sent to the Honorary Secretary not later than 42 hours before the Annual General Meeting.
37. The details of an Annual General Meeting will give details of the candidates duly proposed as Officers and Elective Members of the Committee. If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of respective vacancies, then the Chair of the meeting will declare the candidates elected. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, the notice will provide for an election by Members' votes.

38. A General Meeting will have power by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting, to expel from the Club any Member for any cause that the meeting will deem sufficient. A resolution to expel a Member may be proposed by the Committee, or by a requisition made to the Honorary Secretary and signed by not less than 25 Full Members. The notice of a meeting at which such a resolution is to be put forward must state the grounds for expulsion and must include any lawful representations that the Member wishes to put forward. Any Member so expelled will forfeit all right to the use of, or claim upon, the property of the Club, but will have his or her subscription for the current year returned to him or her.

The Chair

39. The Chair, whether at a General Meeting or at a meeting of the Committee, will be taken by the President, or in his or her absence by one of the Vice-Presidents. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Meeting will elect a Chair from among the Members present.

40. The Chair, whether at a General Meeting or at a meeting of the Committee, will, in the case of equality of votes, have a second or casting vote.

Auditors

41. The Club will, at each Annual General Meeting, appoint Auditors to audit the Club accounts for the current year. Such accounts will, when duly audited, be presented by the Honorary Treasurer to a General Meeting of the Club for confirmation, a copy having been duly forwarded to every Member of the Club within the notice convening the meeting.

Dinners of the Club

42. The Members of the Club will, save in exceptional circumstances of which the Committee will be the judge, dine together each year.

Alteration to the Rules

43. A General Meeting will have power, by a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of the Full Members voting, to alter or add to the existing Rules of the Club.

29th November 2023