



Christian Rock & Mountain Club Club Policy

December 2006

Club Ethos

The club is a Christian organisation that has a clear declaration of faith and seeks to apply biblical principles to the way that it organises itself. The aims of the club are listed in the constitution. The constitution states that associate members must be in sympathy with the aims of the club. Guests are expected to abide by the same standards expected of all members.

Membership

The club membership year runs from January to December. New members joining on or after 1st July join for half the annual fee; new members joining on or after 1st October will have 15 months membership for the price of 12. This is not available to members who fail to renew. Members who rejoin after a break in membership of at least a full year are eligible.

BMC insurance protecting the club against 3rd party claims covers guests for 3 months only. A guest may come on as many events as they wish in the 3 months after attending their first event. They must then join the club if they wish to come on further events. The BMC may invalidate our insurance if we abuse this.

Although guests may come on week events, these are often very popular and it is unfair to allow guests places at the expense of members. Week events also take substantial planning and usually involve the club in significant expenditure in booking accommodation that it is not guaranteed to recover from bookings. For these reasons a non-member wishing to go on a club event will be expected to join the club.

Child membership is open to the children of full or associate members at the discretion of the committee. In exceptional circumstances the child of a non-member may be allowed membership, in which case, a club member must sponsor them. The sponsoring member must take on the full responsibilities that the club would normally expect a parent or guardian to assume and must know both the child and parent/guardian well.

Terms and Conditions of Booking

- 1) All enquiries, bookings and cancellations should be directed in the first instance to the event organiser specified in the programme.
- 2) The event organiser will hold a provisional place for a maximum of 7 days, pending the arrival of payment. After this the place may be reallocated. A waiting list will be held by the event organiser.
- 3) In the event of cancellation being necessary by the member, the club will retain a booking fee of £5 per person for weekend events or £10 per person for whole week events. If the cancellation is received earlier than four weeks before the start of the event, the club will refund the balance of accommodation fees paid. The event organiser should be informed at once if you intend to cancel the booking. Any request for a refund must be sent in writing to the event organiser, who will then arrange for a cheque to be forwarded to you.

- 4) If you cancel less than four weeks prior to the start of the event, a refund of only 50% of the fees paid will be made. In exceptional circumstances, a greater refund may be made at the discretion of the committee. Such a special request may be sent (in writing) to the chairman. Although last minute cancellation is sometimes unavoidable, members should be aware that, in general, cancellation after the travel arrangements have been organised (usually about ten days before the start of an event) might unexpectedly increase the travel costs of other members and/or inconvenience the event organiser.
- 5) Event organisers will hold a waiting list if an event is fully booked. If practicable and the event is or becomes full, the organiser will transfer the booking to another person. If a substitution is possible then a full refund, less the £5 or £10 booking fee, will be made by the club even during the final four weeks. However, this may not always be possible due to limitations imposed by the allocation of separate rooms to men and women.

Club Safety Policy

The club has a Safety Policy in place and when applying for annual membership all members will have signed to confirm that they have read and agree to abide by the recommendations made in this policy. In particular members should ensure they fill in a route card for each day. Members should also make themselves aware of the Default Call-out Times in force at each event. Unless members make a prior arrangement with the event organiser, or specify a later return time on their route card, the event organiser is instructed by the committee to advise the local Mountain Rescue Team that a party is overdue if they have not returned by the Default Call-out Time. Members should make every effort to contact the event organiser as soon as they become aware that they may return later than their specified return time to avoid an unnecessary call-out. A full copy of the Safety Policy is available on the club website.

Children on Events & Child Protection Policy

Each child wishing to participate in a club event must be a child member of the club. An **Activity Consent Form** must be signed by a parent/guardian for each event the child attends. At least one parent/guardian must accompany the child on both the event and each day's activities.

In rare cases, a child may be allowed to participate in club activities without the presence of a parent/guardian. In such cases, a parent/guardian must complete the **Additional Consent Form** which gives permission for a named club member (or members) to act in their place. The named member(s) will then assume the responsibilities of a parent/guardian.

Careful consideration should be given to the activities to be undertaken by children, bearing in mind that they have less stamina than adults and will decline more quickly in extreme conditions. The duty of care owed to children is greater than that owed to adults and this duty is borne by the club as a whole, but particularly by the committee and event organisers. Legally, the responsibility for a child engaged in outdoor activities rests with the most *qualified* (as opposed to experienced) member of the party. Parents/guardians should be aware of the responsibility this imposes on other club members and understand that some may decline to accept it.

All members are expected to have read and to abide by the recommendations of the Child Protection Policy, which provides guidance on good practice for working with children and vulnerable adults on club events. A copy of this document is available on the club website.

Accommodation on events

Accommodation booked by the club will normally offer separate accommodation for men and women. If this is not the case then this will be pointed out in the event update. Accommodation booked in houses is often in a number of rooms and this will be organised on the basis of separate rooms for men and women. Where circumstances permit it may be possible for married couples to share a room.

Accommodation is not always suitable for children and the event organiser may decline to accept a child booking. Where suitable accommodation is available, family rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Beds occupied must be paid for at the full rate.

Anyone unhappy with these arrangements should seek their own accommodation and discuss the matter with the club chairman.

Low income subsidy

The club has set aside a sum to subsidise members on low incomes. This will enable members who qualify to receive a discount of 50% on weekend events and 20% on week events subject to a limit of two weekend events and one week event per member per year. Once the allocated sum is used the scheme will cease for that year. Members are reminded that there is a reduced membership fee for members on low incomes.

Equipment hire

The club owns a limited number of ice axes and crampons which are available for use by members. This equipment is stored by various members in different parts of the country. Members or guests wishing to use this equipment should advise the organiser at the earliest opportunity to enable them to make suitable transfer arrangements. Owing to difficulties in assessing the condition of degradable equipment such as ropes, slings and harnesses, the club is no longer able to lend these to club members. Members are, of course, welcome to borrow any equipment from other members but the club cannot be held responsible for the condition of that equipment.

Travel

The club will pay 15p a mile for travel on club business.