

BURTON-ON-TRENT RAMBLING CLUB CONSTITUTION

OBJECTS

To provide a healthy occupation for leisure, to cultivate a love for the open air, exchange ideas, promote the spirit of comradeship, and maintain the ideals of the open-air, rambling and amenity organisations to which it is akin.

CONSTITUTION

- 1 The Club shall be known as the Burton-on-Trent Rambling Club and may also be known as *The Burton Rambling Club* or *Burton Ramblers*.
- 2 The Burton-on-Trent Rambling Club is affiliated to the Ramblers Association and the Open Spaces Society.
- 3 The Club shall be governed by a committee consisting of President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Rambles Secretary, Wednesday Convenor and five ordinary members. All committee members must be members of the Club. The committee shall have the power to co-opt.
- 4 All officers of the Club and general committee members shall be elected to serve for a period of three years. At the end of this period any officer of the club may seek re-election to the committee as a general member or as an officer of the club. A general committee member may not seek re-election as a general member until after 1 year has elapsed, but they will be eligible to seek election as an officer of the Club immediately.
- 5 An Auditor shall be elected annually.
- 6 The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- 7 The committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and be held no less than two times per year.
- 8 Only the posts listed in paragraph 3 above will have the right to vote at committee meetings.
- 9 A quorum for a committee meeting shall be five members.
- 10 The names of all organisations to whom the Club pays affiliation dues, or with whom it has other similar connections shall appear on all the official stationery of the Club.
- 11 Membership of the club is open to anyone who is interested in the activities of the Burton Rambling Club. All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the club has adopted. Members will pay membership fees as determined at the annual General Meeting. Long-standing members of the Club who have served the Club with distinction may be deemed Honorary Members by the Committee and will not have to pay a membership fee.
- 12 Members shall be eligible to take part in all the activities and business of the Club, subject to the codes of practice of the Club.
- 13 The annual subscription shall be determined by a General Meeting, and is due on 1 January each year. Non-payment of the subscription before 31 March shall be deemed equivalent to formal resignation from the Club.
- 14 Children (under 18) are eligible for membership of the Burton Rambling Club but must be accompanied on all walks and activities by an immediate adult family member. If a child is accompanied by someone who is not an immediate adult family member, written parental consent must be obtained and shown to the leader of the walk. Children are exempt from paying a fee for membership.
- 15 Prospective members, after attending two Rambling Club activities are expected to become full members.
- 16 The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their activities, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.

The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy Club activities in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse. All Club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

The Club will deal with any incidence of abuse or discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.
- 17 All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary. The Committee will meet to hear complaints within 30 days of a complaint being lodged.

- 18 The committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any member whose conduct shall be deemed by them to be detrimental to the welfare or good name of the Club. Such member shall however, be given an opportunity of stating his/her case before the committee, and shall have the Right of Appeal to the next General Meeting of the Club. The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 21 days of the hearing.
- 19 Each ramble and Club activity shall be under the sole charge of a Leader, and members are required to conform with the directions of the Leader. Leaders are recommended to have gone over the ramble previously, and to advise the Rambles Secretary of details in time for such details to be published.
- 20 Members will be held responsible for any expense incurred on behalf of themselves and friends in the event of their non-appearance at Club events, if they have signified their intention of being present.
- 21 General Meetings are the means whereby the members of the Club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club's affairs. The annual General Meeting shall be held in March; an Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee, or by the Secretary on application being made by not less than 20% of the Club membership.
- 22 Notice of the AGM will be given in the published Burton-on-Trent Rambling Club programme.
- 23 The annual General Meeting will: Consider the annual report of the Club's activities; consider the Club's accounts for the preceding financial year; appoint the Honorary Officers; elect members to vacancies on the Committee; discuss, consider and vote on motions.
- 24 Members who wish to propose a motion to be dealt with at a General Meeting shall be required to send details to the Secretary in writing not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting concerned.
- 25 All members have the right to vote at the annual General Meeting.
- 26 The quorum for annual General Meetings will be 15.
- 27 The Chairman of the Club shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at general and committee meetings.
- 28 The Club Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club. The financial year of the club will run from 1 January and end on 31 December. All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.
- 29 An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the annual General Meeting.
- 30 Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of any two of the following Officers of the Club: Treasurer, Chairman, Secretary.
- 31 All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club with an individual limit for any one member of £20.00.
- 32 The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an annual General Meeting or an extraordinary General Meeting.
- 33 If at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Club to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two thirds of the Full Members present at the meeting, the General Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.

After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Full Members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having similar objects to those of the Club.

- 34 The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting or the non-receipt of a notice of meeting of any member shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meetings of the Club or any committee.

Revised March 2014