

**The Mourne Rambling Group
Constitution
Effective April 1989.
(Latest Amendment Oct 2011, item 5)**

NAME

1. The Club shall be known as the Mourne Rambling Group

AIM

2. The aim of the club shall be to provide opportunities for individuals to participate in hill walking and rambles with other like-minded individuals.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Subject to any Insurance restrictions which may apply, membership of the club shall be open to all persons aged eighteen years and over who have paid the appropriate annual subscription and who have agreed to abide by this Constitution.
4. The annual subscription shall cover the calendar year 1 October to 30 September.

COMMITTEE

5. The affairs of the club shall be managed by a Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting and consisting of :

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

President (amendment to original)

2 Members representing A walkers (amendment Oct 2011)

2 Members representing B walkers (amendment Oct 2011)

2 Members representing C walkers (amendment Oct 2011)

3 Members to meet the requirements of the committee (amendment Oct 2011)

The chairperson will stand for a maximum of 3 years.

6. To stand for election a member must be proposed and seconded by two fully-paid-up members of the club either at the Annual General Meeting or submitted, in writing, to the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting.
7. No person may be elected to the committee unless he/she be present at the Annual General Meeting, or alternatively, that a written statement indicating his/her willingness to act and signed by him/her, be presented to the meeting.
8. The committee shall have power to co-opt a maximum of two additional members by the unanimous vote of a Committee meeting.

9. In the event of a vacancy arising among the elected members, the other committee members may co-opt a successor.
10. The Committee shall have overall control of all Club activities, finance, and of all matters pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the Club. In October or November of each year, the Committee shall organise the programme for the next Calendar year.
11. The quorum at Committee meetings shall be five.
12. In the absence of agreement the decisions of the Committee shall be taken by a simple majority vote. In the event of equality of voting on any issue, the Chairperson, or the person acting as Chairperson in his/her absence, shall have a casting vote.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be convened no later than the second Sunday in October each year. At least seven days notice of the meeting shall be given.
14. The quorum at an Annual General Meeting shall consist of 15 members or 20% of the paid-up membership for the current year, whichever is the lesser. In the event of there not being a Quorum the meeting shall proceed with all business matters but exclude changes to the constitution.
15. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
 - a) To hear reports of club activities from the Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - b) To consider, and if approved, sanction any amendment to the constitution.
 - c) To elect the Committee for the coming year.
 - d) To consider such business as the Committee desires to bring before the members, and motions raised by members, notice of which should ideally be given to the Secretary on or before the 31st August. Motions may be added to the Agenda at the start of the meeting, provided a majority of paid-up members agree. All motions must have a proposer and seconder, at least one of whom must be present at the meeting. Motions may be amended prior to a vote being taken.
 - e) To fix the annual subscription and agree other financial subscriptions or donations.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

16. A Special General Meeting may be convened:
 - a) by the Committee.

OR

 - b) by written request signed by at least 15 members or 20% of the paid-up membership, whichever is the lesser, to the Secretary stating the purpose of the meeting. The meeting must then be held within twenty-eight days of the receipt by the Secretary of the request.
17. The notice convening a Special General Meeting shall be issued to members at least seven days before the date fixed for the meeting, and it shall state the business to be considered at the meeting.

18. The quorum for a Special General Meeting shall be 15 members or 20% of the paid-up membership, whichever is the lesser.

PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

19. At all General Meetings of the Club, the Chairperson, or in his/her absence a member selected by the Committee, shall take the Chair.

20. At the Annual General Meeting, the outgoing Chairperson shall conduct the business of the Meeting, and vacate the Chair upon completion of the Meeting.

21. Every member present and entitled to vote shall have one vote upon every motion and in the case of equality of voting, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote, except during the election of the new Committee.

22. During the election of any of the three main Office bearers, if more than one person is proposed, election shall be by show of hands, the nominees having left the room. In the event of a tie, a further vote shall be taken.

23. During the election of the A, B and C Committee members, if more than 3 persons are proposed for each category, then election shall be by voting paper. Votes shall be counted by tellers appointed by the outgoing Chairperson. In the event of a tie for the last remaining place or places, a further vote shall be taken.

F I NANCE

24. The Club's finances shall be used as instructed by the Committee.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

25. Notice of any amendment to the Constitution which has been proposed and is to be considered at an Annual General Meeting, shall be delivered, together with the name of the proposer and seconder, to the Secretary on or before the 31st August. Notice of the proposal shall be included in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting.

26. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall not be carried unless they receive two-thirds of the votes cast.

27. All amendments passed at General Meetings shall take effect immediately.

COMPLAINTS

28. If a complaint is made about a member, the accusation must be explored by the Committee before any further procedure is taken. Details of the event must be fully checked and witnesses sought. The member must be fully informed of all the details of the complaint. No further details should be submitted at a later stage.

The member accused shall be given the opportunity to present their version, and to mount a defence. This entails allowing evidence from witnesses, documentation and the cross-examination of those giving evidence against.

No person involved in the initial decision as to the justification of the complaint may be involved at any later stage, and no complainer can sit in judgement at any stage.

Only if the above has been followed can the committee ask for a resignation or remove a person from membership.

DISSOLUTION

29 A resolution to dissolve the Club shall only be passed at a General Meeting if supported by not less than two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

30 In the event of the Club being dissolved, surplus finance remaining after the satisfaction of debts and liabilities shall be disposed of to an organisation or club with similar aims, in accordance with the members' wishes.