

London Mountaineering Club AGM 2011

Proposed change to the Constitution: Removal of two tier membership

Background

At last year's AGM members voted to agree to a change to the Constitution. This change retained the two-tier membership of Introductory and Full Members, but changed the process by which Introductory Members become Full Members. Instead of Introductory Members having to apply for Full Membership, they automatically became Full Members after one year's membership. This change to the Constitution has now been in place for one year.

The debate at last year's AGM around this proposed amendment raised the issue of whether the Club needs a two tier system of membership at all. The original intent behind the two tier membership was to enable the committee to vet members. However, a number of issues were raised in the debate at last year's AGM including:

- to the current committee's knowledge, no Introductory Member has ever been refused full membership. That is, the two-tier membership is not operating as a means of vetting members; and
- there is low take up by Introductory Members of Full Membership as members see few benefits in Full Membership.

Given that the two tier system appears to have no benefits, members at the 2010 AGM expressed a strong desire to remove the two tier membership and replace it with a single tier. The minutes record that the committee was asked to come back to the Club with a proposal to change the Constitution to do this. This proposal responds to the wishes expressed at last year's AGM.

Proposal

The Constitution currently reads in section 3:

- b) Membership of the Club shall be divided into two classes, introductory and full, both limited to persons over the age of eighteen approved by the Committee.
- c) The Committee may grant introductory membership to new applicants for membership who should normally reside or work in South East England. Such introductory membership shall not carry voting rights and shall be for a limited period, normally one year.
- d) Introductory members shall be automatically granted full membership upon renewing their membership for a second or subsequent year. The committee reserves the right to decline offering full membership to an introductory member on a non-discriminatory basis.

The Proposal is to amend it to read

- b) Membership of the Club shall be limited to persons over the age of eighteen approved by the Committee. Members should normally work or reside in South East England.
- c) The committee reserves the right to decline offering membership on a non-discriminatory basis.

Subsequent paragraph letters changed

The Constitution currently read in section 7:

- f) A quorum for General Meetings shall be 25 full members.

The proposal is to change it to:

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The Constitution currently reads in section 8:

- b) The Committee shall arrange all activities of the Club and all activities of the Club shall be attended by a full member responsible to the Committee.

The proposal is to change it to:

- b) The Committee shall arrange all activities of the Club and all activities of the Club shall be attended by a member responsible to the Committee.

The Constitution currently read in section 7:

- a) All real and leasehold property acquired by the Club shall be vested in three full members of the Club appointed by the Committee, who shall hold such property upon trust for the Club.

The proposal is to change it to:

- b) All real and leasehold property acquired by the Club shall be vested in three members of the Club appointed by the Committee, who shall hold such property upon trust for the Club.

The Constitution currently reads in section 10:

Any member, whether introductory or full, who in the opinion of the Committee has been guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Club, shall be liable to expulsion from the Club, subject to the right of appeal to an Extra-ordinary General Meeting. This provision shall apply whether the conduct in question occurred during the period of membership of the Club or previously if the Committee were unaware of such conduct at the time of admission to membership of the Club.

The proposal is to change it to:

Any member who in the opinion of the Committee has been guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Club, shall be liable to expulsion from the Club, subject to the right of appeal to an Extra-ordinary General Meeting. This provision shall apply whether the conduct in question occurred during the period of membership of the Club or previously if the Committee were unaware of such conduct at the time of admission to membership of the Club.