

Gwydyr Mountaineering Club - Members Charter 2024

Background: As new members join it's worth describing the general responsibilities of a member of the club and the rules that the club operates within. It's also useful to remind existing members as well.

The club is entirely reliant on being run by member volunteers and many members have enormously helped the club over the years. The notes below are intended to be helpful.

(This charter highlights various sections of the club constitution, which details the club governance, all members should read and use it as a reference source, the constitution can be found here:

<https://gwydyrmc.org.uk/Members/Document/3223>).

So, what can a member do to help the club?

1. Be aware of why the club exists – from article one of the constitution - **"The club shall be known as the Gwydyr Mountain Club and shall exist to promote an interest in mountains and activities thereupon"**
 - a. This is why we promote all sorts of meets, subsidise training and, very importantly, allow other clubs from all around the country to use the hut at what is relatively cheap rates.
 - b. Just as important as point a above, it allows our members to use the club's facilities at what could be argued is a very cheap membership fee considering that just under 50% goes to BMC for insurance.
2. Familiarise yourself the history of the club, it's all on the website and it is an interesting read, we stand on the shoulders of all that have gone before us to this point.
 - a. 1967 to 1998 <https://gwydyrmc.org.uk/Club/HuxHistoryContents>
 - b. 1999 to 2019 <https://gwydyrmc.org.uk/Club/DGHHistoryContents>

Individually what can a member do, how can you contribute, what's expected of a member of the GMC?

1. Attend walks and meets that other members have put time and effort into setting up. Support the walks.
2. Organise a walk or meet, a few members do this regularly, we need more!
3. Attend the work weekends – this is very important and helps enormously with the maintenance of the club and helps keep costs down.
4. If you can't attend the work weekend, then what else can you do on other visits. Help is needed all year round with various items. Everyone can do something.
5. If you can help other members with their training, then that is greatly valued and appreciated.
6. Join the committee and get involved. There are multiple roles that need to be filled and working on the committee helps you understand some of the complexities of the environment that the club operates under e.g.
 - a. BMC club affiliate rules and advice
 - b. Insurance requirements for being in the mountains
 - c. Legal requirements
 - d. Snowdonia National Park requirements
 - e. Financial and Tax requirements
 - f. Devolved acts of legislation that the Welsh Government has the power to pass that can affect the club.

We do not operate in a vacuum from society, the committee ensures all these requirements are adhered to. Please note that all committee tasks are carried out during committee members own time on a voluntary basis. They are not paid members of staff and at times they contribute a lot to ensure club matters are dealt with effectively and as efficiently as possible.

7. If you use the hut, then please be mindful that you are expected to:
 - a. Contribute to the clean up as required, just emptying the recycling is the minimum that you can do.
 - b. Report faults, help out where you can.
 - c. Be mindful that your fellow members are there to use the facilities the same as you are and they are entitled to relax and enjoy the environment without harassment.
 - d. Be aware that with a property such as the hut things will go wrong and with no one on site repairs can take a while. Our recent experience over the last few years of trying to get professionals to fix issues at the hut has been very difficult. Please bear that in mind.
8. What is the committee allowed to do?
 - a. Section 11 of the club constitution covers this, so broadly "The Committee is empowered to conduct the day-to-day management of the Club including the authorisation of expenditure as set per the limits set out and approved by the membership at AGM."
 - b. The committee meets approximately every 6 to 7 weeks throughout the year. Dates are published on the club website.
 - c. Minutes are circulated after every meeting to inform members of outcome of the discussion which has taken place at the meeting and provide information of any future decisions that need to be made. This is so that members feel they have been consulted and given the opportunity to provide feedback. It is the responsibility of each member to read the minutes so that they are fully informed of any future club plans.
 - d. Members can ask for specific issues to be discussed at committee meetings.
9. What if a member is not happy with a committee action (or non action).
 - a. First discuss it with the appropriate committee member and/or send them an email.
 - b. Be polite, committee members are volunteers and not members of staff.
 - c. Committee members are obliged to discuss any matter if requested to do so by a member, but please do this at the appropriate time. They have every right to enjoy their attendance at meets.
10. Ultimately if a member is not happy with a decision after consultation with the committee, then what can they do?
 - a. Raise the issue with the Chair for further review.
 - b. If still unhappy then:
 - i. Members shall have the right to require a general Club vote on any decisions reached by the Committee upon the presentation to the Club Secretary of a requisition signed by not less than five full members calling for a Special General Meeting to be convened under Clause 6.
11. What if a member has a complaint about another member?

- a. Section 12 of the constitution - "Conduct of members" covers this.
 - b. In summary, an investigation is carried out.
 - c. The investigation shall be conducted in such a manner as to give all involved the opportunity of a fair hearing.
 - d. If appropriate disciplinary action can be taken and may be one of the following:
 - i. A warning as to future conduct
 - ii. Suspension of membership for a specified period
 - iii. Immediate termination of membership and all associated rights and benefits
 - e. Should the member be dissatisfied with the decision of the committee he/she may appeal to a Special General Meeting called for that sole purpose.
12. Respect for all other members, including committee members is a given and a full expectation. Please consider this when voicing an opinion or raising a concern. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated in the club.

The club is very welcoming and friendly, offering many opportunities to broaden horizons, visit new or favourite places at a discounted rate and improve individual expertise through learning from others. The Hut is very comfortable and self-sufficient with facilities envied by other clubs. The membership fee is very nominal for what is offered. Please contribute where you can to help the club run smoothly.