

**BRIDGNORTH AND DISTRICT WALKING CLUB**  
**CONSTITUTION AND RULES** (as at November 2022)

**1. Title**

1.1 The Club shall be called `The Bridgnorth and District Walking Club`

**2. Aims**

- 2.1 To encourage walking in the countryside by providing a range of graded walks usually between 7 and 14 miles long covering some lowland walks, many hill walks and a few mountain walks.
- 2.2 To support all members of the Club in their enjoyment of walking and the countryside.
- 2.3 To assist in the preservation of public footpaths.

**3. Membership**

- 3.1 Interested persons are welcome to come on any walk suitable to their ability, after which they will be invited to join the Club. There is a small membership fee to cover Insurance, website and administration of Club Business.
- 3.2 All persons booking club holidays /short breaks must be club members at the time of booking and at the time of taking the holiday. Non-members will not be permitted on organised holiday walks.
- 3.3 New members will be asked to complete the Membership Application Form with their contact details and the Club Secretary will hold an up-to-date Membership list.
- 3.4 The Club has the following categories of membership.
- Ordinary Member
  - Student Member
  - Social Member
  - Longstanding Social Member – a longstanding member who no longer is able to join in walks may be invited by the Committee to retain their membership by use of this category
  - Honorary Member – to be awarded by a decision of an AGM to a member who has made and / or continues to make a significant contribution to the Club.

**4. Annual General Meeting**

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting will be held on any date in November, and at least 14 days' notice of the date, time and place shall be given to all members. A Quorum will be 3 officers of the Club and 3 other members.
- 4.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting will be convened at the request of not less than 6 members, in writing to the Secretary, and at least 14 days notice of a time, date and place and of the business to be transacted will be given to all members. A quorum will be 6 members.

4.3 Amendments to this Constitution can only be made by the Majority vote at an Annual or Extraordinary General meeting. Every member will receive a copy of this Constitution and be bound by it in relation to any Club activities.

## **5. Club Committee**

5.1 The Committee will comprise; the Chair, Vice –Chair, Secretary, Programme Secretary and Treasurer, plus up to 3 ordinary members to support the work of the Committee.

5.2 The Committee will have the power to appoint members to fill vacancies that remain or occur between general meetings.

5.3 The Committee may also co-opt up to two additional members for a period up to the date of the next AGM.

5.4 The Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

5.5 Committee meetings will be held as deemed necessary by the Chair and convened by the Secretary. A quorum will be 3 officers of the Club.

5.6 If an officer vacancy arises between general meetings the Committee will have the power to fill such a vacancy. Members will be notified when such decisions are made.

## **6. Subscriptions and financial arrangements.**

6.1 The annual membership subscription will be decided by the AGM and will be due by 1<sup>st</sup> January. Members not having paid by the 28<sup>th</sup> February will be regarded as lapsed and taken off the membership list.

6.2 Students and social members (ie members who do not walk but want to attend any social events offered by the Club) shall pay half the annual subscription. Honorary and Longstanding Social members are not required to pay a subscription.

6.3 The Club`s financial year will end on 31<sup>st</sup> October. The Treasurer will provide a report to the AGM on the Club`s finances for the preceding year.

6.4 An Independent Examiner must be appointed at each AGM to undertake a review of the Club`s financial records each year.

6.5 Members who recce a walk may claim expenses for fuel at the normal rate for mileage exceeding 80 miles for the return journey, either taken from Bridgnorth or their starting point, whichever is the shorter. This claim includes total mileage of two journeys if a second recce is deemed necessary.

## **7. Privacy Policy and Data Protection.**

7.1 The Club holds members` email addresses, phone numbers and postal addresses electronically. This information is used in relation to Club activities (see clause 7.3) and administration. None of this information will be passed to third parties.

7.2 If a member no longer wishes the Club to hold their personal contact information, the Secretary should be contacted and the data will be deleted. The member will then be deemed to have resigned from the Club as the member will no longer be contactable.

7.3 Members agree that the club will share their email address and mobile phone number with other members, for the purpose of organising walks and holidays, and for safety during walks. Members must not share these details with non-members or any other organisation, for any purpose.

## **8. Club Rules for Walks**

8.1 The Committee, Programme Secretary or relevant walk leader may change the walk on the programme according to the circumstances or weather prevailing at the time.

8.2 A member who has agreed to plan and lead a walk should make their best efforts to do so or if possible arrange for another Club member to do so. The Programme Secretary must be informed of any such changes.

8.3 Members and visitors taking part in Club activities do so entirely at their own risk. Neither the Club nor its elected officers or leaders will accept responsibility for any personal accident or loss of property.

8.4 Members are expected to be suitably equipped for the days walking. Any Leader who is of the opinion that a member or visitor is not adequately equipped may refuse to allow that person to take part in the walk.

8.5 Members and visitors should observe Countryside Code for walks in hill/mountain country. (Note: Information on the Countryside Code can be found on the Natural England website. They say; "The Countryside Code applies to all parts of the countryside. Most of it is just good common sense, designed to help us all to respect, protect and enjoy our countryside.")

8.6 Walk Leaders will be responsible for ensuring that an appropriate first aid kit is carried on all walks. If they do not possess one of their own the Club will provide one for them to keep.

8.7 The Committee have the right to suspend membership on a breach of these rules, or any other action prejudicial to the well-being of the Club.

8.8 No dogs may be brought on walks.

## **9. Affiliation**

9.1 The Club is affiliated to the Ramblers` Association and a representative will be appointed at the AGM to the Shropshire Area Council of the RA.

## **10. Dissolution of the Club**

10.1 If it ever became necessary for the Club to be dissolved this should be resolved by a majority of the members at an AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting.

10.2 Any remaining monies in the Club Bank account, once all expenses have been paid, should be donated to an appropriate charity.