

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP.**

### **Do I have to be a member to go on the walks shown on your meets list?**

No, however we are seeking new club members all the time and if you chose to come on one of our walks or a climbing trip it is on the understanding that at some point you would wish to join the club. Of course after coming on a trip or two you may decide that it's not for you and that is fine.

### **What standard are the walks?**

They vary immensely from simple walks of a few miles up to big mountain walks and scrambles of many miles. You do not need to be an experienced mountain walker or super fit as the many trips cater for all standards of walking ability. The walks are 'organised' by individual members, and the details are shown on our website (under Meets/Future Meets). We try to arrange things so people travel out in full cars however you can travel independently if you wish.

### **What is the average age of the club?**

We have members ranging from their twenties through to some active seventy year olds however the average age group for the walkers in the club is forties/fifties.

### **I am not from the Wirral, can I still join?**

Yes, provided you can attend enough meets to get to know other members. Attendance on a Tuesday evening is not a requirement however this may mean the period you would normally wait to be elected may be longer.

### **I am not very experienced, do you take beginners out at all?**

The majority of our walks can be completed by anyone with a decent level of fitness. The person organising the walk would be able to advise you further when they have chatted to you, and can tell you more about what equipment is needed. Generally a pair of boots and a rucksack are all that is needed. Many walks even incorporate a pub at some point and the 'off the hill pint' is common!

### **I don't mind a bit of walking but really I would like to go Rock Climbing and Mountaineering, do your members do much of that?**

Yes, we have climbers who go rock climbing and winter climbing. There is a regular club meet on Tuesday evenings at the Awesome Walls indoor climbing centre in Liverpool. If you are interested the best thing is to come along on one of these evenings, and talk to the members there. We usually go to Gallaghers afterwards, which gives you a chance to talk to other members.

### **I've climbed indoors and want to climb outdoors, do you take beginners?**

Sometimes we arrange a meet just for beginners and while we are happy to give a 'taster' for the outdoor climbing we are NOT qualified in any way and we are basically a bunch of friends going out to climb. You would need and want to show a desire to get out under your own initiative.

### **What gear do I need for climbing outdoors?**

A harness, rock boots, belay plate and a screw-gate carabiner are essential as is a helmet. Some members have spare items you could borrow in the short term however you would need to acquire them at some point in the future.

### **Do you take under 18's?**

As a rule no, however many members have children of their own and they are welcome to come on the walking meets but they must be under the control and responsibility of the parents and the club can accept no responsibility / liability for them.

### **How much does it cost to join?**

Annual membership is currently £50 (provided that you pay by standing order) which includes the levy we pay to the British Mountaineering Council (see their website for details). Membership allows you to stay at our converted chapel in Capel Curig, Snowdonia without further charge and entitles you to a generous discount (usually up to 15%) in many outdoor shops when buying equipment. Membership also allows you a deduction on renting our holiday cottage next to the hut.

### **I don't have a car so how do I go on the trips?**

We try our utmost to car share whenever possible whether it is a day walk or a full weekend. If you don't have transport lifts can invariably be arranged which is why useful to come down on a Tuesday evening to see who is going on a particular trip. Once you become a member your contact details are entered onto our members list (provided that you agree to this) which makes it easier to make arrangements

### **How exactly do I become a member?**

You would need to attend a few meets over a period of a couple of months (or longer if needed) so that people get to know you. Coming down on a Tuesday evening is a great help in that regard. Once you have handed in your membership form (copy on our web site) to our Membership Secretary he or she will present it at the next committee meeting and we will then put you forward for membership. Election is by a simple majority vote of the members who are down on a particular Tuesday evening (held every two months). It may all sound very formal but it's very straightforward and easy.

**How many members do you have in the club?**

About 120, but we are open to keen new members

**What is the Hut like (see the details on the website)?**

It is an old converted chapel dating from the late nineteenth century, which was built for the quarrymen in the old slate quarries on the hillside at the back of the Chapel and Cottage. It sleeps 30 at a push although a few less comfortably in 'Alpine' style bunks – there are no separate M / F sleeping facilities . We have a large kitchen / dining area, Lounge, Male and Female showers and toilets and a brilliant drying room for all that wet gear. It is a fantastic facility right in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park. Moel Siabod is our 'local' hill which can be climbed right from the front door. The local pub the Tyn Y Coed (aka The Tinny !) is walking distance away and is the usual stop over for the 'off the hill pint' where we usually end the day after our walk / climb. Then it's back to the hut for a shower, change of clothes and tea before probably more beer and wine – there is a cracking 'social' side to the club as well.

In recent years the club has spent significant money on our hut, and it is a very comfortable base which we think compares very favorably with other hut accommodation.

**I hear the area around Capel Curig is becoming a 'Mountain Bike Mecca', what trips do you organise?**

Yes, we're really lucky with the hut being in the heart of Snowdonia, it gives us superb and easy access to some of the best mountain biking in the country with trails that are recognised as being world leaders. The Marin Trail is nearby, in fact it's a short 1.5 miles from the hut front door and so is a perfect short days ride. Over the valley is the Penmachno Trail, and snaking their way across the National Park are so many other exciting options for mountain bikers. We're really spoiled and those members who are keen bikers often put together routes that cater for beginners looking for a 'taster' of the sport, to more challenging options, such as an off road ride to the hut from the Wirral over several days.

**One final thing**

It can be a bit daunting joining a new club however you only get out of something what you put in. We are a friendly bunch of people who don't bite and we will understand if you are a bit quiet on your first couple of trips but you'll soon relax and get into the swing of things and have some really good trips and days on the hill, which after all is what it's all about !