

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 who will announce on a Tuesday evening where the walk will be and 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 mid twenties through to one or two seventy year olds however the average age group for the walkers in the club is mid forties. The Rock Climbers are a bit younger I suppose and not just in age !

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

Yes, provided you can attend the meets required to be elected. Attendance on a Tuesday evening is not an absolute necessity however this may mean the period you would normally wait to be elected will be much 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 probably be able to advise you further when they have chatted to you and can tell you more what is needed equipment wise though 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 a near Gwydyr standard !

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 a very active group of climbers who manage to get out most weekends, such is the nature of the game many of their meets are not mentioned on the meets list as they are more 'weather dependant' activities than the walking side of things. They tend to organise

things on a Tuesday evening for the following weekend and often even later than that given the inclement British climate. It is usually not too difficult to find someone to climb with and trips to the Peak District or Clwyd Limestone are proving very popular so numbers really don't matter so much on the single pitch stuff.

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. Finding a partner can be difficult, however you have more chance of meeting a like minded person in a club such as ours than on a climbing wall. Our members are very experienced climbers on the whole and can give you a good grounding and pointers as to how to progress but we can't lead you the whole way (forgive the pun !)

What gear do I need for climbing outdoors ?

A Harness, Rock Boots, Belay Plate (not a Gri Gri) and a Screwgate 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 £52.00 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 charge (save for the electric meter !) and a generous discount of between 10% - 20% in many outdoor shops when buying equipment. Membership also allows you a deduction on renting our holiday cottage in Capel Curig.

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 it's important to come down on a Tuesday evening to see who is going on a particular trip. Once you become a member your details are entered onto our members list and everyone will have your phone number and you will have theirs which makes things a lot easier.

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 (called Quarter End Meetings !). It may all sound very formal but it's very straightforward and easy.

How many members do you have in the club ?

About 110 at the last count but we could always do with a few more !

What is the Chapel / Hut like ?

It is an old converted Chapel 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 though 20 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 and 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 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 Chapel for a shower, change of clothes and tea before (invariably) more beer and wine – there is a cracking 'social' side to the club as well.

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 Chapel 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 ½ miles from the Chapel's 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 Chapel 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 !