

THE DARKSIDE CAVING & MINING CLUB  
CONSTITUTION 2016

**1. NAME**

The name of the Club shall be the Darkside Caving & Mining Club or DCMC. For the purpose of this constitution it shall be known as the Club.

The term caving or cave is taken to include all underground venues including mines.

**2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

- a. To provide training support for members in line with the LCMLA and CIC schemes, whilst not detracting from the need to seek qualified training and assessment for those wishing to lead groups underground. No commercial fees will be sought for training cavers on club time.
- b. Environmental awareness. To promote a strong environmental ethic and undertake conservation work where deemed appropriate. To inspire others to follow a code of good caving practice.
- c. To allow members to easily access the club permit scheme for caving trips.
- d. To support an increase in access to caving venues for all cavers, including professionals, clubs and individuals.

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

- a. The minimum age for membership shall be 18 years.
- b. Subscriptions shall be payable in December for the following year's cover & membership. Failure to pay by the 31<sup>st</sup> day of the following January will mean membership will be deemed to have ceased.
- c. Insurance fees are revealed in December by the BCA.
- d. New members may be nominated by an existing member or make direct approach.
- e. All paid up members are granted the title of Assistant Meet Secretary and are permitted to book permits for caves on the Club's behalf for use by club members only. This must be done via club headed paper which can be created by the applying individual.
- f. The member booking the permit accepts responsibility for the entire meet and those members conduct on it. Breaching the club into disrepute will result in removal of privileges or expulsion from the club.

**4. LIABILITY**

Neither The Club nor any member shall accept liability or responsibility for any accidents or injury sustained by any member or visitor on any meet whatsoever. Caving is a potentially dangerous activity and those taking part do so at their own risk.

**5. GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a. A General Meeting (GM) can be called at any time and will be quorate providing at least 1 Officer and 25% or more of the Club members are present. Agenda items should be notified in advance where possible.
- b. A majority vote of those present is required to pass a motion.
- c. Members not present may vote by written statement provided to a Club Officer.
- d. Officer posts or a change to the Constitution may be voted on at a GM.
- e. At least 50% of Club members are required to be present at a GM for a Disciplinary vote to take place.
- f. FACEBOOK & SOCIAL MEDIA: The internet can be used for communication where appropriate, e.g. Facebook meetings. In this case a vote can take place over a set time frame with 50% or more members required to cast a vote to be quorate.

**6. TACKLE and UNDERGROUND MEETS**

- a. Currently no tackle is owned by the Club. Any tackle used must be done so with the permission of the owner. Members take responsibility for any borrowed tackle.
- b. Club members are expected to be able to safeguard themselves and others whilst underground and have knowledge of emergency procedures. Any novices on a trip must be paired with a competent Club member.

**7. CONDUCT**

- a. Any member found to have acted in a way which is deemed detrimental to the best interests of The Club may have AMS status removed or be expelled from the club. A Disciplinary vote is required. An individual shall have the right to 2 weeks' notice and to submit a statement, either in person or written, prior to a vote.
- b. No fees shall be returned to excluded members or those with revoked permissions.

## **8. DISSOLUTION**

- a. If dissolution is sought an Extra-ordinary General Meeting shall be called and members given one month's notice of this date.
- b. Three quarters of the members shall be required to vote in favor for the motion to be passed.
- c. After all debts have been paid off any assets remaining shall be handed over to either the DCRO or another club with similar objectives to The Club's.
- d. Descent should be notified of our withdrawal from the Adopt-A-Cave scheme.

## **9. 'DESCENT ADOPT-A-CAVE SCHEME'**

The Club is involved with the Adopt-A-Cave scheme in relation to Carlswark Cavern, Derbyshire.

We understand that this infers no special rights or privileges over other individuals and organizations; neither does it allow special access or 'ownership of the site.

The Club will organize working parties as and when the need arises.

## **10. AMENDMENTS**

This constitution can be amended at a Club General Meeting or by postal or internet ballot.

## **11. OFFICERS**

The Club has a Chairman (voting), whose responsibility includes membership, BCA liaison and acting as Treasurer.

The Club has a Meet Secretary (voting) to help other members wishing to apply for permits.

The Club may create other Officer positions as required.

23/12/2015