

# MARPLE DISTRICT RAMBLING CLUB

These are the rules and guidance on good practice that Club members should observe

## General

1. The Club year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Subscriptions are payable annually in advance. Any member who fails to renew his/her subscription by 31 May in the relevant year shall be deemed to have resigned. The subscription of a member who joins the Club between January 1 and March 31 (inclusive) does not expire until March 31 in the following year.

2. Chairman's Charity walk days may be held on an annual basis but members who walk on those days are under no obligation to contribute to the nominated charity.

3. A member of the Club acting in his/her capacity as such a member may not, without the consent of the Committee, seek to raise funds for any charitable or other object or use the Club's name for such a purpose.

## Walks

### Before a walk

4. Walk leaders should ensure planned walks are suitable regarding length, difficulty of terrain and expected weather conditions for the group they are leading. If leaders have questions about any of these issues, they should seek guidance of the relevant walk coordinator.

5. The walk leader or their deputy should attend the meeting point as stated on the programme and wait there until the designated start time.

6. A leader has the right to refuse to take a member on a Club walk if in the opinion of the leader they are not properly shod, or do not have appropriate clothing for the walk, or are not capable of meeting the requirements of the walk.

7. A walker who wishes to take a dog on the walk must first obtain the consent of the leader not later than the day before the walk. The leader may refuse consent without giving a reason. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

8. To comply with the conditions of the Club's public liability insurance policy, walkers must either be a member of the Club or a non-member on a 'taster' walk. A non-member may join a maximum of three 'taster' walks.

9. Walk leaders will inform walkers of the start point of the walk and will give instructions how to get there. If a member opts to join the walk at the start point rather than at the meeting point, he/she does so at his/her own risk, bearing in mind that the walk may be cancelled or changed at short notice, e.g. due to poor weather conditions. If a walk is cancelled or the start point changed, there is no obligation upon the leader to attend at the original start point. Where weather conditions raise doubts, members are advised to contact the walk leader before travelling to the meeting point.

10. Leaders are strongly advised to carry a map of the walk and a mobile phone (or ensure they have access to a mobile phone carried by a walk member). The leader is asked to supply the number to all members on the walk and to leave the phone switched on for the duration of the walk.

11. If numbers are large, or if the route has many turns, or for any other reason, the leader should appoint a backmarker. The backmarker's duties include ensuring that any stragglers do not lose contact with the group, and that the leader is alerted to any problem.

### During a walk

12. Walkers are responsible for their own safety. All walkers are encouraged to carry a first aid kit (to meet their own requirements), a whistle and a survival bag. They should also carry an Emergency Contact Card.

**13. Walkers should walk behind the leader if instructed to do so. All walkers should ensure that they have each other in visual range at all times. No walker should get so far ahead of the leader that they are out of communication with the group. If they do so they may be assumed to have left the group.**

14. In all conditions both the leader and all members of the group must ensure that all are aware of any unsighted turn that is being taken.

15. The leader should issue instructions about the precautions to be taken to ensure no member of the group becomes separated or is exposed to unnecessary risk. The group should adhere to the requirements of the Countryside Code, a link to which can be found on the club's website.

16. Members are asked to remain with the group until the end of the walk. However if a member leaves the group during the walk he/she must inform the leader.

17. In an emergency, alert the leader and/or other members of the group by, for example, a single long blast on a whistle. If necessary, the blast should be repeated at intervals.

18. If a member is unable to continue the walk for any reason, arrangements should be made to accompany them safely to the starting point or to any other convenient place of safety.

19. In the event of injury in a location far from a traffic carrying road call 112 and ask for the police and then mountain rescue. Be ready to give map coordinates for your location, when asked. If an accident or injury occurs, the leader should report the incident and any action taken to the Chair of the club, for the incident and any consequent changes in procedure to be considered by the committee.

## Holidays

20. Club holidays are restricted to members. If any member wishes to take a relative or friend who is not a member, the latter must first join the Club. The guidance given in this document applies equally to walks undertaken on club holidays. It is the responsibility of members participating in club holidays to arrange their own travel insurance.

## Expulsion of Members

21. Clause 8 of the Club's Constitution reads:

Members of the Club whose conduct is inappropriate or who declines to abide by any of the Rules may be expelled or suspended by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Club's officers where the member's entry fees and subscriptions may be forfeited. Members shall have the right of appeal in person to the full committee with regard to any decision affecting them, provided that notice of such appeal is submitted to the Club Secretary in writing within seven days of the notification of the decision.

January 2020