

NEWPORT OUTDOOR GROUP CONSTITUTION

2nd October 2021

1. NAME

The name of the group is Newport Outdoor Group.

2. MEMBERSHIP

a. Anyone is eligible to join the Group regardless of race, age, or gender.

Participation in Group events will be subject to the current Child Protection Policy and current Covid-19 regulations.

b. An individual may join the Group by paying an annual subscription to become a full member of the Group, Subscriptions will be set at the discretion of the committee to help pay for Group expenses.

At the discretion of the committee, new members may attend initial events before paying the annual subscription, during this time they will be Temporary Members of the Group, similarly members may bring friends on specific events who will become Guest Members of the Group. Annual membership lasts for 12 months from the date the subscription is payable.

c. A copy of the current programme will be available to all members.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Group shall be:

1. To maintain a regular published programme of events including a Monday night event, Thursday walks, weekend walks, cycle rides and other outdoor orientated events.
2. In the summer, late Spring, and early Autumn these events will focus almost entirely on the outdoors. Monday evening events may be mostly walks of varying terrain. Some may have a theme or a visit to a place of interest incorporated. Other events to vary the pattern can include barbecues, games evenings such as boules, bowls, or rounders, boating etc.
3. In the Winter many of the Monday evening events can be indoors based but with some moonlit walks occasionally inserted. These may be generally urban walks for safety reasons but can be historical or theme based walks often ending at a place of refreshment. Examples of popular and successful indoor events include:
 - a. Presentations on group events such as long distance trails or weekends away.
 - b. National and international walks and travel; often presented by members of the group.
 - c. Talks relating to Newport and the surrounding area. These could include history, archaeology, nature, conservation, and many others.
 - d. Games such as bowling, skittles, Zap Zone. Quizzes and culinary events are also popular.
 - e. Photography either as a competition or a talk on photographic techniques.

Future programmes will be strongly reflected by the interests and pastimes of Nogs members.

4. The Thursday walks particularly but all events in general will be advertised through MeetUp, Facebook, and the group website. These media channels will be maintained and updated on a regular (daily if possible) basis.
5. The group will attempt to organise one weekend away per month with a mixture of venues including mountains, coast, countryside, and city breaks. Festive trips away for December and the New Year may be included. A longer break to facilitate travel to more distant locations may be offered at Easter or other times.
6. The group will attempt to organise at least one long distance path per year.
7. The group will help organise at least one challenge walk per year in conjunction with the mountain rescue team, to raise money for the mountain rescue organisation as well as the Nogs.
8. The group will maintain links with other local and National groups relating to the Outdoors.

4. CONDUCT & SAFETY

Members, when attending Group functions, are not to conduct themselves in a manner which reflects discredit on the Group and must pay due regard to their own and others safety.

5. COMMITTEE

a. The Group will be managed by a committee consisting of at least five elected committee members and a non-elected Child Protection Officer to form a functional committee, initially without specific defined roles.

The roles of the volunteers are to be agreed and documented at their first committee meeting and the roles communicated to all Group members following the meeting.

The roles agreed should ensure that the following responsibilities are assigned to named individuals at each meeting for the next meeting:

- appointment of a facilitator for each committee meeting and the AGM.
- appointment of a person to take minutes for each committee meeting and the AGM and the circulation of these minutes.

Also, the appointment of one person to maintain the Group accounts and provide a report for committee meetings and a full report for the AGM

b. The committee shall be elected at the AGM, contested appointments will be by secret ballot.

c. Full members may be co-opted onto the committee to give a maximum of ten committee members.

d. The quorum for a committee meeting shall be five committee members

e. In the event of a committee member resigning midterm, a Special General Meeting will be convened to elect a replacement.

f. Committee meetings shall be held monthly or every other month where possible.

g. Accurate minutes shall be taken and presented in writing at the next meeting.

h. The committee shall have the right to make bye laws and settle disputes not provided in this constitution.

i. Full Group members may attend committee meetings but shall not have the right to vote.

j. In the event of a Nogs committee tied vote, the chairperson at the time has a casting vote in addition to their regular vote to resolve the issue.

6. DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP

a. The Group may be dissolved by a resolution of not less than three quarters of the full members of the Group present and voting at a General Meeting of the Group called for that purpose.

b. In the event of the dissolution of the Group, any assets remaining after all liabilities have been met shall be passed to a charity or charities, as agreed at the General Meeting to dissolve the Group.

7. FINANCE

a. A bank account shall be held in the name of the Group.

b. Cheques shall carry two committee members signatures.

c. The Treasurer shall maintain a proper record of all financial transactions

d. It is deemed a term of every contract or engagement entered into, that the assets of the Group alone are liable for any debts, obligations or engagements incurred or entered into on behalf of the Group, and that no member or officer of the Group is to be under any personnel liability in respect thereof.

e. No individual is to enter into any contract or engagement on behalf of the Group without the prior consent of the committee.

f. No Group member shall receive payment from Group finances other than for expenses incurred on behalf of the Group.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a. An Annual General Meeting of the Group shall be held each calendar year in October. At least 21 days notice of the date, time and place of the meeting shall be given to the Group by the committee.

b. The Annual General Meeting shall:

i) Receive the Statement of Accounts.

ii) Elect a committee to hold office during the period up to the end of the next

Annual General Meeting.

iii) Appoint Auditors.

iv) Discuss any other business connected with the affairs of the Group.

c. The minutes of the A.G.M. shall be prepared by the outgoing Secretary.

d. Nominations for committee posts may be made verbally at the A.G.M. or in advance, in writing, to the Secretary.

e. The retiring committee members will automatically go forward for re-election unless they indicate otherwise.

f. The A.G.M. will be conducted according to standing orders accepted at that A.G.M.

g. All voting is restricted to Full Group Members

h. Amendments to the constitution are not effective at the A.G.M. at which they were passed. They become effective following the completion of the A.G.M.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (S.G.M.)

(Virtual or emailed meetings may be substituted as the committee feels appropriate)

a. The Secretary shall convene an S.G.M. within 21 days upon receiving a requisition from either:

1) Not less than two thirds of the membership

2) The committee

Subject to giving the Group 7 days notice of the S.G.M.

b. Notices of Motion, amendments to the Constitution and voting shall be as specified in Section 8 of the Constitution.

This Constitution, agreed by the Group membership via an SGM conducted by email on 2nd May 2021, and as discussed by the group committee in June 2021, replaces the original constitution of 2 May 1960 and all subsequent amendments.

Last updated: 2nd October 2021