

Chelsea Spelæological Society Constitution



1. **NAME**
The name of the organisation shall be the "Chelsea Spelæological Society" hereinafter referred to as the "Society".
2. **OBJECTS**
The Society shall further the exploration of underground places, both as a science and as a sport.
3. **MEMBERSHIP**
 - (a) All members of the Society shall be at least 18 years of age.
 - (b) Any Committee member may grant Temporary Membership for 14 days to inquirers upon receipt of the appropriate subscription. Temporary Members shall not have voting rights.
 - (c) The Committee may grant Provisional Membership for an initial period of six months to applicants making a written application for Full Membership. Provisional Membership periods may be extended at the Committee's discretion. Provisional Members shall not have voting rights.
 - (d) Provisional Members may be granted Full Membership if they satisfy the Committee of their suitability to participate in spelæological activities. The names of Provisional Members being considered for Full Membership shall be notified in writing to all members and their subsequent election shall be at the Committee's discretion.
 - (e) Any two Full Members living at the same postal address may apply to the Committee for Joint Membership. Joint Members shall receive only one printed copy of club publications and official correspondence from the Society but shall otherwise have the same rights as Full Members.
 - (f) Associate Membership may be granted by the Committee to those expressing interest in the Objects of the Society. Associate Members may use club premises on a guest basis and shall receive one printed copy of club publications but shall not have voting rights.
 - (g) Honorary Membership may be granted by a General Meeting following a recommendation by the Committee. Honorary Members shall have the same rights as Full Members.
4. **OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**
 - (a) Each Annual General Meeting shall elect the Officers of the Society comprising Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Cottage Warden, Meets Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Records Officer, Tackle Master and Web Master.
 - (b) All Officers must be Full Members of the Society.
 - (c) The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Committee comprising the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer with as many of the other Officers who at the time of their election are willing to join the Committee. The place of any Officer who does not join the Committee may be filled instead by electing any other Full Member at a General Meeting.
 - (d) The Committee may appoint Officers to fill any vacancies which arise between General Meetings and it may also appoint to such other temporary posts as it deems necessary. Temporary posts do not carry voting rights in Committee.
 - (e) The Committee shall meet wherever and as often as it deems necessary but at least four times per year to conduct the business of the Society. The quorum for all committee meetings shall be five Officers.
5. **ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT**
 - (a) The Financial Year for the Society shall run from 1st October to 30th September.
 - (b) The Treasurer and Cottage Warden shall keep accurate financial records and present an annual statement of accounts drawn up to September 30th at the next Annual General Meeting. These accounts may also be examined by a competent person appointed by the Committee.
6. **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FEES**
 - (a) Subscription rates shall be set by the Annual General Meeting and shall take immediate effect. Subscriptions are not payable by Honorary Members and Trustees.
 - (b) Subscriptions ordinarily become due on the first day of each Financial Year. Members whose subscription category changes during the Financial Year shall pay an additional amount or receive a credit on a pro rata basis.
 - (c) The membership of any person whose subscription is more than four months in arrears shall lapse and all membership rights cease. The Committee may at its discretion re-admit a lapsed member upon receipt of subscription payments as it deems appropriate to the circumstances.
 - (d) Fees for the use of club property shall be set by the Annual General Meeting and shall take immediate effect.
7. **GENERAL MEETINGS**
 - (a) An Annual General Meeting open to all members shall be held during the first quarter of every calendar year.
 - (b) The Committee shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting open to all members upon receiving a written request setting out the reasons for holding one which is signed by five or more Full Members.
 - (c) Written notice shall be posted to all members at least one month before any General Meeting.
 - (d) Motions shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have a casting vote, and if the Chairman abstains from voting then the motion shall be deemed to have been defeated.
 - (e) The quorum for all General Meetings shall be 20% of the Full Members of the Society.
8. **PROPERTY AND FUNDS**
 - (a) The Society may accumulate funds to pursue its Objects and may at a General Meeting appoint Trustees from amongst the Full Members to acquire or rent property to be held for the use of the Society.
 - (b) Upon the winding up of the Society such property and funds shall be disposed of according to decisions reached at a General Meeting explicitly called for that purpose.
9. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY**

Every person whether a member or not, making use of the services of a guide or guides or taking part in any activity or expedition organised by the Society or in which any member of the Society shall take part, shall do so at his or her own risk, and he/she or his/her legal representatives or assigns or dependants shall have no claim or right of action against the Society or any member thereof in respect any damage, loss or injury sustained, including death, notwithstanding any negligence of the guide or any members of the body of members of the Society.
10. **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee may suspend any member whose conduct they consider to be prejudicial to the interests of the Society until the next General Meeting which the suspended member shall be invited to address prior to a vote being taken on terminating or reinstating his/her membership forthwith.
11. **AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**
 - (a) The wording of any proposed constitutional amendment shall be posted to all members along with written notice of the General Meeting at which it will be discussed in accordance with Clause 7(c).
 - (b) Clause 7(d) above shall not apply to constitutional amendments which instead must be approved by a two-thirds majority of those Full Members present and voting at the General Meeting.
 - (c) Constitutional changes shall take immediate effect and an updated constitution document will be posted to all members within two months of any change.