

HAMILTON RAMBLERS CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. The club shall be called the Hamilton Ramblers Club.
2. The object of the club shall be to bring together a group of like-minded people who are interested in country walking by providing an outlet for that interest through a programme of guided walks. The club shall be open to all regardless of race, ethnic origin or religious background. **Owing to the nature of the club we cannot offer membership to people with limited mobility.**
3. The club shall be run by an elected committee consisting of a president, secretary, treasurer and six other members at present, who will have full powers to transact all business of the club.
If future requirements change the committee members may be increased in number, thus enabling future developments to take place.
Office bearers shall hold office for a period of two years initially, after which they may stand down or stand for re-election.

Other committee members serve initially for one year only, after which they shall either stand down or stand for re-election.

Election or re-election shall be by nomination and majority vote and shall take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nomination forms should be submitted before the AGM to the committee.

4. The AGM will be held in November at a time of 7.00 for 7.15pm.
The secretary's report for the year will be submitted at the AGM.
The treasurer's report for the year will be submitted at the AGM.
5. **Committee meetings will usually be held on the first Wednesday of every month** except January at a pre-arranged venue.
The time of the meetings will be 7.00 for 7.15pm.
The Quorum for meetings will be based on the number of committee members or the number regularly attending in any year. The calculation will be 50% of the number on committee which will then be increased by 1 or .5. For example, committee of 8 quorum is 5. Committee of 9 quorum is 5.

The president shall be chairperson of all meetings and in his/her absence any member of the committee may be appointed at the meeting to chair the meeting.

The secretary will be responsible for all correspondence to and from the club and for recording the minutes of the meetings.

6. The treasurer, under the direction of the committee, will bank and disburse all monies both incoming and outgoing to or by the club. He/she will be responsible for keeping proper accounts at all times and render a full account for the year ending on 31 October. The accounts will be audited prior to submission and will be submitted to the committee one week prior to the AGM, or as directed by the committee. All cheques on the club account must be signed by two designated committee members.

7. Any complaints relevant to the business of the club must be forwarded to **the secretary in writing, who will bring same to the attention of the committee**. All members are eligible to attend committee meetings on three occasions per annum, as observers only.

They may not take an active part in the business of the meeting.

Should any club member wish a particular topic to be brought up for discussion at a meeting at which they propose to attend, they should **submit the topic for discussion to the secretary in writing at least one calendar month prior to the meeting** at which it is to be discussed.

8. The annual subscription and bus fare shall be decided in November at the AGM. **However, the cost of the bus may be increased at any time** should circumstances merit a change.

Payment of the annual subscription is required on receipt of the programme in December or as soon as possible thereafter.

General club information will be included with the programme.

9. The club may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members in a majority vote at a special meeting. Two-thirds of the meeting will be deemed to be a majority on any vote.

Any assets or remaining funds, after debts have been paid, shall be transferred to chosen Mountain Rescue groups at the discretion of the committee.

10. If it is brought to the attention of the committee that a member of the club has been behaving in a manner contrary to the interests or good name of the club, then the committee after due consideration shall have the power to revoke the membership of the said member.

During the course of the investigation, the member shall in the first instance be given an opportunity to have an informal discussion with a chosen committee member. The issue can then be clarified so that the member understands the problem and has an opportunity to follow club rules. Further to this, the

member may be asked to attend a meeting of the committee, chair excluded, if the problem cannot be resolved. If an amicable solution is not reached at this point, then a full meeting of the committee, including the chair, shall have the authority to rescind the person's membership. The decision to rescind membership by the full committee shall be final.

Reasons given for termination of membership:

- Being a general nuisance to other members on the bus or during a walk or social event run by the club;
- Being drunk and disorderly during a club outing;
- Refusing to abide by the country code while on walks; and
- Any behaviour deemed to be discriminatory or objectionable.

November 2015