

FAQ about the Wessex Mountaineering Club

Membership

What is the £5 joining fee used for?	It covers the cost of the initial paperwork and encourages members to pay before their membership lapses.
Can I pay a reduced subscription as I am already a member of the BMC?	No. The Wessex must pay a capitation fee for every member. Members of more than one club should recover additional capitation fees from the BMC. Claim forms are available on the BMC web site.
Is a student discount given?	Yes. See membership form.
Is a discount given for pensioners or the unemployed?	No.
Can I get a discount if I join part way through the year?	Any person joining after the end of June need only pay half the yearly subscription along with the full joining fee. See the membership form.
I am interested in joining your club. Can I come on a meet before deciding?	A non member cannot attend other than as a guest of a member. If you want to meet people for climbing before joining we suggest you come along to one of the regular climbing wall sessions (although it would be best to get in contact in advance). Alternatively you could ask to go on one of the local walks.
What age range does the club cater for?	Age doesn't seem important to members of our club - they all get on well with one another whatever the age. Currently the ages of members range from 20 to 70. However, there is a minimum age of 18 for membership. Persons under 18 can only come on meets as a guest of a member who is willing to take responsibility for them.

Hut

What do I need to stay in the club hut?	Sleeping is 'mountain hut' style with mattresses laid side by side. You will need a sleeping bag. Cookers and cooking utensils are available so you just need to bring food. A head torch is advisable.
Is the hut easily accessible?	The hut is a ten minute walk up a steep, uneven path from the road.

Equipment

What equipment do I need for walking?	This depends greatly on the conditions and route choice. Consider warm clothes (extra layers can be useful), waterproofs, sun hat, and sun glasses. You will also need boots, map and compass (and the ability to use them), head torch, food, drink, small first aid kit and a rucksack. In wintry conditions you should consider taking an ice axe, crampons and helmet.
What equipment do I need for rock climbing?	For indoor climbing you will need a harness, belay device and karabiner and are advised to have rock shoes. These can usually be rented at climbing walls. The same equipment will also be sufficient for seconding

	outdoors on shorter routes. Although also consider what clothing is need for the conditions.
Does the club loan equipment?	The club can loan members harnesses, belay devices, helmets, ice axes, and crampons on a short-term basis.

Training and experience

Does the club provide training for people new to climbing?	No. The club is not a commercial organisation and does not carry insurance for teaching. We suggest that you go on a commercial course to learn the basic skills of tying on and belaying.
--	---

Meets

Having climbed indoors can I come on a climbing meet?	Any member can come on a meet. However note there are no organised activities and you will be dependent on the goodwill of another member to climb with a novice. People are generally very willing to help but this is on a voluntary basis and cannot be guaranteed. It is generally best to start on a meet at a sport climbing venue or where there are shorter routes. Ask for advice before booking.
What do you do on meets?	It is entirely up to the attendees to decide what they want to do; nothing is arranged for most meets. However there is often a mix of people both climbing and walking. In general people chat about the options and their intentions and it is up to you to ask if you can accompany someone, or to sell your choice to someone else. Remember, all activities are voluntary and at one's own risk.
Where do you stay on meets?	Some meets are camping, and you will need your own tent or arrange to share with somebody. Others are in huts, either the Wessex hut or owned by other clubs etc.
Are meals arranged on meets?	People usually take and cook their own food or find the nearest pub. There are some exceptions where food is provided such as the Summer BBQ. Look at the meet details.
Can I share transport to a meet?	Sharing transport is encouraged. The Meet Secretary provides a list of those who have booked and from where they are travelling in an email circulated a week or so before the meet. It is then up to you to contact other attendees to arrange lifts. If you do accept a lift then you will be expected to pay a share of the costs.
I have booked on a meet and now find I can't go. What should I do?	You should cancel your booking as soon as possible - contact the Meet Secretary. Check with the Meet Secretary whether you owe anything for accommodation and, if you have accepted a lift from someone, offer to contribute towards their costs.

Other

Can I advertise my business to your members?	If you can offer our members a discount we will provide information to our members. Otherwise we do not support advertising.
--	--

I want to advertise some gear / an activity to the members. How do I do this?

If you are a member and the thing you want to advertise is personal rather than commercial (check with a committee member if in doubt), then you could request an ad in the Newsletter or use the mailing list.