

**TIM ACHUB OGOFAU DE A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU**  
**SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM**  
**CONSTITUTION - 2018**

**1. Name:**

The team shall be known as "the South & Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team" hereinafter referred to as "***the Team***".

**2. Objects:**

The object of the Team shall be to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons or animals endangered by accident or natural hazards underground by the provision, at the request of the police, of search and rescue for any persons or animals endangered.

In furtherance of the above object but not otherwise the Team may exercise the following powers:

- a. To run, maintain and accommodate on a non-profit basis a vehicle or vehicles for use to support underground rescue work.
- b. To own and maintain sufficient equipment and materials to facilitate the Team object.

**3. Membership:**

**a. Member**

Any caver who is 18 or over and has agreed to be included in the Team's call-out list and accepts their responsibility for understanding team procedures and operating practices according to their likely role. Members may be called upon to support rescue activity. Membership shall cease if the Member states that they no longer wish to be on the call-out list or they do not respond to requests to update call-out details. In exceptional circumstances the Executive may decide to remove a Member from the call-out list.

**b. Associate Member**

Any person wishing to indicate their support for cave rescue may become an Associate Member. Associate Members may receive communication from the Team and invitations to fund raising events and public occasions. Associate membership shall cease if the Associate Member states that they no longer wish to be an Associate Member. In exceptional circumstances the Executive may terminate an individual's Associate membership.

**c. Affiliate Clubs.**

A **Caving Club** may be elected to the status of **Affiliate Club** by a vote at a general meeting. **Affiliate Clubs** may appoint a representative to the Executive. Before a vote takes place a Club must be nominated by 3 members, one of whom is also a member of the Executive, and the nomination **must** be published in the notice for the general meeting.

**Affiliate Club** membership shall cease if:

- i) when requested by the Team Secretary, the Club fails to confirm its wish to continue as an **Affiliate Club** within 28 days.
- ii) the Club, in writing, states its wish not to be an **Affiliate Club**.
- iii) by a vote at a general meeting a resolution is passed withdrawing the status of '**Affiliate**' from that Club.

#### **4. Administration:**

- a. The management of the Team shall be by an Executive elected for that purpose.
- b. The Executive shall consist of the following officers; Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Training, Equipment, First-aid, Communications, Fund Raising Manager, up to five members all elected at the AGM, plus a representative from each **Affiliate Club**, if the Club so wishes, and the Wardens.
- c. The Executive shall appoint from amongst their numbers such additional officers as may be required.
- d. The Executive shall have the power to make replacements for those elected and to co-opt up to two further members.
- e. **An individual may undertake the position of Chairman for no more than three consecutive years.**
- f. The Executive, except the Wardens, shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.
- g. Members and Associate Members or **Affiliate Clubs** are not permitted to represent the Team without prior permission of the Executive or the Controller at a rescue

#### **5. General Meetings:**

- a. An Annual General Meeting shall be held within 54 weeks of the previous AGM.
- b. The quorum for a general meeting shall be 20 Members eligible to vote
- c. Extraordinary General Meetings shall be held at the request of either the Executive, or of twelve Members. The business of an EGM shall be limited to that set out in the notice of the meeting. Any EGM shall be held in the Team's Headquarters (2 Powell Street, Penwyllt)
- d. Notice of meetings including an agenda shall be sent to Members at least 28 days prior to the meeting. Notice shall also be promulgated through regional bodies and the caving press where this is possible. Included in the notice for an AGM shall be a report from the Secretary.
- e. Proposed changes to the constitution, if any, must be included in the notice of the meeting.
- f. The Team's accounts for the year shall be presented to the AGM

#### **6. Voting:**

- a. At a general meeting, ordinary motions and elections to the Executive shall be determined by simple majority of those Members present and voting. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- b. At a general meeting, changes to the constitution shall require the assent of two thirds of those Members present and voting.

- c. At an Executive meeting, decisions shall be taken by a vote and determined by a simple majority of those Members of the Executive present and voting. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- d. Any Member or **Associate Member** of the Team may vote at a general meeting

### **7. Wardens:**

The Executive shall appoint a number of individuals to act as Callout Wardens. **The Executive may ask for advice from existing Wardens in determining the number of Wardens required and determining the suitability or otherwise of a person for the role. However, the Executive will ratify the appointment or removal of any Warden.** Removal of a Warden shall be agreed by a majority of two thirds of those Members of the Executive present at a meeting of the Executive convened specifically for this purpose.'

### **8 Ensuring effective liaison and co-ordinating arrangements for Cave Rescue in South and Mid Wales**

The Executive shall ensure that liaison with the emergency services, public bodies, other rescue teams and the British Cave Rescue Council is maintained to ensure the efficient delivery of the Team's objective. The Executive shall **provide** a callout list for the Police and endeavour to ensure that arrangements for mobilising the Team are appropriately co-ordinated with other organisations.

### **9. Funding:**

- a. The Team may obtain funds by whatever legal means may be deemed appropriate.
- b. The Executive shall have responsibility for organising fund raising.

### **10. Audit of Accounts:**

- a. The Team accounts shall be audited annually before presentation to an AGM.
- b. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed at each AGM.
- c. A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Team.
- d. All cheques shall be signed by two signatories authorised by the Executive.

### **11. Dissolution:**

In the event that the Team ceases to function in fulfilling its objects, for whatever reason, then it may be dissolved. This shall occur if two thirds of those members present at a general meeting convened for the purpose so resolve. In this event, the assets of the Team shall be made over to an effective Cave Rescue service in South Wales. In the event that no such body or organisation can be identified or agreed upon, then the assets shall be made over to the British Cave Rescue Council.

### **12. Amendments:**

Alteration to the Constitution shall only be made as follows:

A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Team at least 35 days before the general meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. The Secretary must include notice of the alteration proposed in the agenda for the meeting.

### **13. Interpretation:**

In the event of any dispute as to the interpretation of this Constitution the Executive shall be the sole adjudicator.

### **14. Property:**

- a. The property of the Team, other than cash at the bank, shall be vested in not less than two and not more than four Trustees, or at the discretion of the Executive in the Official Custodian of the Charity Commissioners, Charities Land Holding Service. They shall hold the property upon trust for the members of the Team in accordance with the lawful directions of the Executive.
- b. The Trustees shall deal with the property as directed by lawful resolution of the Executive and an entry in the minutes of a meeting of the Executive signed by the Chairman as a true record shall be conclusive evidence of such resolution. The Team is entitled to sell, exchange, mortgage, lease or build upon the property.

### **15. Trustees:**

- a. Trustees, if required, shall be elected by a general meeting and, if appointed, shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution of a general meeting. A resolution to appoint or remove a Trustee may only be carried by two-thirds majority of those members present
- b. The Chairman is nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees within the meaning of section 36 of the Trustee Act 1925. A new Trustee or new Trustees shall be nominated by resolution of a general meeting and the Chairman shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the general meeting as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Team and the provisions of the Trustee Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such deed of appointment shall in favour of a person dealing bona fide with the Team or the Executive be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.
- c. The Trustees shall be indemnified by the members of the Team for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the discharge of their duties, and provided they act in accordance with the lawful directions of the Executive, the Trustees shall not be held liable for the acts and defaults of the members.

**As amended by the SMWCRT AGM on 21st January, 2018**