

Annual General Meeting Motions 2019



University of Bristol
Expeditions Society

— EST 1960 —

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Motions

Motion	Raised by	Notes
1. Wednesday walks (see Annex 1)	Will Gompertz	<p>In the existing constitution, the Development Officer's duties are specified in letters a-g. This motion proposes that the role should include an additional responsibility (h) to be defined as "Organise weekly led walks aiming to allow members to develop navigational, expedition and physical skills."</p> <p>Should this fail to pass, a second motion is to be put to the membership, that is "the creation of a new role or additional development officer titled "walking officer". The roles would include helping facilitate the development of members expedition skills, supporting the development officer where necessary and helping to organise trips." Should this second option pass, I would like to put myself (Will Gompertz) forward as the "walking officer".</p>

<p>2. Clarification of "Friends of the Society" (See Annex 2)</p>	<p>Tom Kilcommons</p>	<p>In 2018, the AGM defined "Friends of the Society" as people who are not members but are interested in the group. This motion seeks to clarify further that (a) any involvement of non-members should be decided upon by the Committee on a case-by-case basis and they do not have a right to participate, (b) non-members should only be allowed to participate in a trip without registering if they "operate with substantial independence" from the main trip logistics, but that (c) the Committee can occasionally make exceptions as it deems appropriate, and (d) can also disallow anyone from participating in an activity if they so decide.</p>
<p>2. Official ceildh name</p>	<p>Claire Squires</p>	<p>This motion proposes that the annual UBES ceildh will be named 'Fenja's Ceildh'. At this event there will be an optional donation to Mountain Rescue on the tickets.</p>
<p>3. Wives and Girlfriends Officer (WAG's Officer)</p>	<p>Tom Gideonse</p>	<p>The creation of a role to provide moral support to romantic partners of UBESers (nominee need not be a member of UBES) in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with constant chat about how wonderful UBES weekends away are and not getting jealous, as well as listening to lengthy walk descriptions you don't care about • Providing a dictionary of crucial UBES terms such as 'body traversing', 'pan and sling' and 'sock wrestling' • Coping with the idea of their darlings doing lake bagging/scav hunt and exposing themselves to everybody <p>Should the creation of this role be approved, I nominate my girlfriend Stella for this role which I'm sure everyone will agree is vital in widening the gene pool of UBES.</p>
<p>4. Outgoing presidential mascot</p>	<p>James Wheeler</p>	<p>At the end of each year the outgoing president will conclude his or her official duties by acquiring a mascot for the next year's committee to look after. The following year [the one in which the new committee is looking after the aforementioned mascot] will then be named after [e.g. the year of the {insert mascot here}] the mascot so as to form a standard nomenclature for UBES years.</p>
<p>5. Euphoria's place in UBES</p>	<p>Claire Squires and Will Gompertz</p>	<p>Two motions were submitted for opposing sides of the same argument. They are as follows:</p> <p>i) Euphoria must be played on loud speakers as the wake up alarm on any UBES term time weekend trip. Any attempts to change this will be met with the punishment of porridge and slop pot wash for the next three trips the offender attends.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>ii) Revocation of Euphoria and instigation of Stand and Deliver by Adam and the Ants. As controversial as this may be, it is a much superior song, featuring a bugle, 80s background noise and yodelling</p>

Annex 1 - Context for 'Wednesday Walks' motion

There are two core activities that constitutes what UBES sets out to do as a society; walking and climbing.

Whilst there are a broad range of opportunities to practice lead or sport climbing at weekly trips to Redpoint, Bloc etc... the opportunities available for members who are not rope inclined are slightly more limited.

In addition, navigational skill development or other important skills like backpacking are confined to either the navigational weekend training, mountain leadership (which members may or may not have the opportunity to secure funding for) and members who are frequent walk leaders.

Thus, by creating a weekly Wednesday walk, there would be greater opportunities for lesser experienced walkers to learn such skills by leading these local walks, for example. Furthermore, it would also provide a greater social platform for individuals who don't participate in climbing and may be limited to weekend trips or pub evenings to meet new people. The main motivator for this however, is another excuse to go to the pub, i.e. walks can start and end at a pub.

There are two challenges to this idea:

- 1) The creation of the Sunday 'explorer-esque' society
- 2) In the past there has been the general consensus that ubes is strictly for expeditions. Personally, I believe recreational walks may provide a platform for skills development despite not necessarily being a challenging expedition.

Annex 2 - Clarification on the participation of non-members

BACKGROUND

From the constitution, “*full membership [of the Expeditions Society] is open to all members of the [Students] Union by application to the Secretary*” (Sec. 3.a). All students at the University of Bristol are automatically members of the Union and are thus eligible to join the Society as full members by paying the membership fee (currently £15).

The issue arises when other persons, who are not students at the University of Bristol, seek to participate with the Society in a variety of ways. By default, they are ineligible for full membership without first becoming a member of the Union. The Union current policy is to allow these non-students to apply for “Annual Associate Membership” **of the Union**. The current fee (for 2018-19) for this is £25. Once a member of the Union, the person is then entitled to join the Society as they would if they were a student¹. This process is largely defined by the Students’ Union byelaws, and is restated by our Constitution (thus it cannot be changed readily by the AGM).

For background, the reason behind this mandatory financial contribution to the Union comes from the fact that, as a charity, the Union must exclusively serve its stated charitable objectives. In this case, the charitable objectives are to support and further the learning of students **at the University of Bristol**. The Society receives Union funds in many ways, both directly and indirectly, such as through grants, rent-free use of our store room, vehicle hire services, financial services, etc. Therefore to appropriate these funds for the benefit (directly or indirectly) of people who are not students at the University of Bristol would be in violation of those fundamental objectives. Hence the Union requires non-students to contribute to these overhead costs.

In recent years, previous AGMs have introduced the term ‘*Friends of the Society*’ to refer to those who have some interest in the Society but do not attend trips as ordinary members would. The most typical example of this has been recent alumni attending the AGM **trip** (not to be confused with the democratic meeting itself), typically arriving in their own vehicles and supplying their own tents – in these cases, they would typically agree a sensible amount to contribute towards shared costs such as food. In essence, they operate substantially independently, except where it might be convenient and appropriate to participate.

As far as the proposer is aware, the de facto policy of recent committees has been that non-students who wish to participate in trips *as if they were a full member* must become a member of the Society (which includes registering as an Associate Member of the Union). This applies regardless of whether the non-student is a former student, local outdoor enthusiast, family member or friend of a current member, etc. Clearly, allowing non-members to participate fully in trips would not be fair or justifiable to the majority of participants who *have* paid their membership fee.

There have been exceptional cases where alumni who have greatly supported the Society have been allowed to participate without this additional process. So far, this has been handled at the Committee’s discretion and in only a very small number of cases. The justification for such exceptions are that it gives thanks those who have contributed greatly, and encourages them to continue supporting the Society, particularly if they might contribute by leading walks on a particular trip. Such a case is arguably different to (for instance) a family member joining on a trip. Other mitigating factors that might be taken into account by the Committee are whether or not the trip was full (e.g. is it displacing an ‘ordinary’ member). The reasons for awarding/not awarding such discretion are clearly complex, and therefore not well suited to codifying (which is perhaps why they have not been).

Note that only intending to participate in a single trip, or financial difficulties in affording the fee, are not normally acceptable reasons to waive the membership fee for *students*, and so would not seem fair on

¹ The Society must maintain at least two-thirds of its members being full members of the Union, so exceptionally it would be possible for an Associate Member of the Union to be denied membership.

our many paying members to for *non-students* to enjoy a privilege not enjoyed by our members. Ordinarily, students who struggle to afford the costs are encouraged to apply to the Union hardship grants, which are usually quite generous.

VOTES PERTAINING TO THE MOTION

This AGM of the Society moves that:

1. **Any participation of non-members** The quorum agrees that any involvement of persons who do not hold membership of the Society (regardless of their student status) should be at the sole discretion of the Committee (or properly delegated officers) to judge on a case-by-case basis. The quorum further agrees that in making these judgements, the Committee should not be required to justify their decision to the person in question, unless they decide it is appropriate to do so.
2. **Partial participation in trips by non-members** The quorum agrees that the constitutional provisions made for "Friends of the Society" are intended for the participation in "some aspects" of trips, but not to participate so fully such that the person is indistinguishable from an ordinary member. They should operate "with substantial independence" from the Society's logistics. The Committee should have the authority to judge these matters fairly, but on a case-by-case basis.
3. **Exceptional full participation in trips by non-members** The quorum agrees that there may be some exceptional circumstances where "Friends of the Society" are permitted to participate fully, such as in recognition of outstanding commitment to the group. The Committee should have the authority to judge these matters fairly, but on a case-by-case basis.
4. **Committee's authority to exclude any person** The quorum further agrees that the Committee should be given the authority to disallow **any person** or persons from participating in any activity for any reason, except for reasons which would be unlawful under discrimination laws or contrary to Union byelaws. Where the person or persons are full members, the decision to disallow participation should be taken by a quorate vote of the Committee only, not by a delegated officer.
5. If all of the above are agreed upon, the quorum agrees to adopt the proposed constitutional amendment as follows.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

REPLACE ALL OF 3(b) with:

3.b. All other persons who are interested in the aims and objectives of the Society may request to associate as Friends of the Society, subject to the sole discretion of the Executive Committee. Only Society members with full membership (i.e. fee paying to, and members of the University of Bristol Student's Union) are able to take part in trips in a full capacity. Friends of the Society may request to take part in some aspects of trips (e.g. by organising their own transport and/or accommodation) but must do so with substantial independence, at their own expense, and should agree to contribute to any shared costs (such as any shared accommodation, food or transport) before the trip leaves. The quorate Executive Committee reserves the right to disallow any person or persons from participating in any activity for any reason, except where it would be unlawful under discrimination laws or contrary to Union byelaws. In exceptional circumstances and at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee (including but not necessarily limited to alumni who have given substantial benefit to the Society), the Executive Committee may occasionally permit Friends of the Society to take part in trips in a full capacity.

Change comparison (for information only)

All other persons who are interested in the aims and objectives of the Society may associate as Friends of the Society, however, only Society members with full membership (i.e. fee paying to, and members of the University of Bristol Student's Union) are able to take part in trips in an official capacity (driving vehicles or otherwise). Friends of the Society are welcome to take part in trips but do so at their own expense and should agree any shared costs (accommodation, food, transport) before the trip leaves.

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