



This is the CONSTITUTION of BORDERLINE

Nothing contained in this Constitution may be changed without a two-third majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

WHAT WE ARE

- 1.1 We are a mixed sex Border Morris Side who dance and play for fun.
- 1.2 Our main aim is to Meet, Practice and Dance-out on Thursday evenings in the North Devon Area, such times to be termed 'Sessions' herein.
- 1.3 We may also perform at other times at Festivals, Fêtes, Carnivals, or for Reward, Charitable or Educational purposes, if, in each case, enough Members are willing and able to do so.
- 1.4 We will make no distinction between Members who Dance, Play or carry out any other function for the Side.
- 1.5 Members may participate in more than one role so that, as far as possible, there is always something to do.
- 1.6 We will collect donations at dance-outs.

THE MORRIS FEDERATION

- 2.1 We will be members of Membership of the Morris Federation.
- 2.2 We will insure ourselves as a Side through the Morris Federation.

SESSIONS

- 3.1 Each person attending a Session will be expected to contribute fully and in a positive way to the purpose of that Session.
- 3.2 Each Session will be led by the Squire or Foreman.
- 3.3 In their absence, such Officer may be elected for the Session by the Members present.

MEMBERS

- 4.1 A Member will be deemed to be anyone who has been elected into membership.
- 4.2 Members shall treat their fellow Members and the Side with respect.
- 4.3 Members may partake in the activities of other Sides.
- 4.4 Any dispute or question as to Membership shall be decided by vote at a Session.
- 4.5 An Aspirant Member must have attended at least 12 Thursday Sessions either at Practice or Participating at a dance stand where subs will be collected. For this purpose the first free 'taster' Session will not be counted. An Aspirant Member must be approved by a majority vote of two-thirds by ballot at a meeting with at least the higher of 8 or 75% Voting Members attending. Persons failing this vote will be advised that they are ineligible for membership.
- 4.6 During such attendance, an aspirant shall pay £1 (14 to 18's – 50p) per Session, such payments to be deducted from subsequent Annual Subs.
- 4.7 Any question of exclusion from Membership raised by an Officer or at least two Members not related by blood, marriage or co-habitation shall be decided at an AGM or EGM by a two-third majority ballot to close Membership to any person. Any person subject to such a dispute shall have full rights of notice and representation.
- 4.7 A list of Members shall be maintained by the Treasurer, against which a record of subs will be kept.

MINORS

- 5.1 The side welcome the participation of members under 18, providing they are accompanied by a parent or other suitably responsible adult.
- 5.2 Those between the ages of 14 and 18 will pay half the standard sub and be entitled to vote.
- 5.3 Those under 14 will not be required to pay a sub and will not be entitled to vote.
- 5.4 Minors shall not be exempt from the provisions of section 3.1.

SUBS

- 6.1 Subs will be on an Annual basis at a rate to be decided by the Side from time to time and due on the 1st October each year following the AGM.

PERFORMANCE

- 7.1 The Foreman will decide and be responsible for the performers for each dance.
- 7.2 Both the Foreman and performer should feel confident about their ability.
- 7.3 The Performer should be fit enough to participate.
- 7.4 Non-members may be 'invited' to perform, taking account of limitations, such as small children and elderly and frail people.

RECORDS

- 8.1 The Treasurer shall maintain Membership and Financial records.
- 8.2 The Bag shall maintain the Constitution and records of Resolutions.

FUNDS

- 9.1 All funds will be held in common and accounted for by the Treasurer.
- 9.2 A Treasury Account will be operated with all Officers as signatories, any two of whom will be required to authorise payments.

OFFICERS

- 10.1 The Officers shall be
 - Squire - who shall act as chairman and convener
 - Foreman - who shall direct the performance
 - Treasurer - who shall account for funds and keep membership records
 - Bag - who will coordinate the programme and be Secretary
- 10.2 All Officers will stand down at the AGM.

VOTING

- 11.1 A Vote may be called for by a Proposer and must be Seconded at any Session, EGM or AGM with at least the higher of 8 or 75% Members attending.
- 11.2 The leader of a Session may propose or second a vote, but may only have a casting vote.
- 11.3 Except where otherwise stated, all decisions will be made by a simple majority vote of all Members present.
- 11.4 The decisions of each valid Session will be binding on the Side and notified to and recorded by the Bag.
- 11.5 Members who have attended less than 8 times in the previous 12 Thursday Sessions may be asked to abstain from voting subject to the side's discretion.
- 11.6 A Member is entitled to vote only when subs have been paid.

KIT

- 12.1 A long sleeved set of rags reaching the mid-thigh shall be worn based on a black shirt.
- 12.2 The tatters basic colours and proportions, representing the Devon Flag, shall be plain green(5), white(2) and black(2) and 15cm x 3.5cm (6in x 1.5in) at random in rows 10cm (4in) apart extending to the knee. Extensions to the shirt may be made to do this. Two tatters per layer on back, front and each sleeve can be of a different texture or finish - sparkly, ribbon, sequinned, netting etc. Two tatters per layer on back, front and each sleeve can be 25cm (10in). The basic block of colours should be retained.
- 12.3 A Model set of Rags will be held by the Side as a standard.
- 12.4 The legs shall be enclosed in black – trousers, shorts, skirts, tights, socks.
- 12.5 Footwear shall be clean, black polish-able shoes or boots.
- 12.6 Decorated black rimmed hats shall be worn.
- 12.7 Members must wear a Black long or short-sleeved t-shirt, vest or shirt OR any top agreed by and supplied through the side at all times. During a performance a rag jacket should be worn fully fastened.
- 12.8 Bells shall be worn in a visible position below the knee. These may be removed whilst playing an instrument.
- 12.9 In line with the Tradition of Disguise, faces shall be blacked at least two-thirds symmetrically. In addition, suitable SMALL green figures may be added. A mask may be worn to instead of all or part of blacking.

AGM

- 13.1 The AGM will be held in September each year.
- 13.2 Must be convened by proper notice of two weeks to all Members containing an Agenda.
- 13.3 Minutes will be kept and all Resolutions confirmed BEFORE the end of the meeting.

EGM

- 14.1 An EGM may be called by an Officer or at least two Members not related by blood, marriage or co-habitation.
- 14.2 Must be convened by proper notice of two weeks to all Members containing an Agenda.
- 14.3 Minutes will be kept and all Resolutions confirmed BEFORE the end of the meeting.

CHARITY

- 15.1 At each AGM, funds in excess of current and contingent requirements shall be voted to local charitable purposes.

WINDING-UP

- 16.1 In the event of the Side Winding-Up, an EGM will be called and all monies and property held in common shall be surrendered for purposes associated with Morris or local charitable purposes.