



## **This is the CONSTITUTION of BORDERLINE**

Nothing contained in this Constitution may be changed without a two-third majority vote at an A.G.M. or E.G.M.

### **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 18 or over 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 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 A.G.M. or E.G.M. 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 those under 18, providing they are accompanied by a parent or other suitably responsible adult.
- 5.2 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 1<sup>st</sup> October each year following the A.G.M..

## **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 Current Bank Account will be operated with Signatories to be decided from time to time by the Side, any one of whom will be able 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 A.G.M.

## **VOTING**

- 11.1 A Vote may be called for by a Proposer and must be Seconded at any Session, E.G.M. or A.G.M. 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. Shirts will be purchased by Members (to fit) and pay for material which will be bought through the Side. They will remain the Member's property.
- 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. They will be supplied by the Side and remain the property of the Side.
- 12.9 In line with the Tradition of Disguise, faces shall be disguised using green, black and white. Other colours may be used appropriate to the occasion. A mask may be worn to instead of all or part of the disguise.

#### **A.G.M.**

- 13.1 The A.G.M. 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.

#### **E.G.M.**

- 14.1 An E.G.M. 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 A.G.M., 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 E.G.M. will be called and all monies and property held in common shall be surrendered for purposes associated with Morris or local charitable purposes.