



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 The side colours shall be Black, White and Green (Pantone 348) - based on the Devon Flag.
- 12.2 A long sleeved set of rags reaching the mid-thigh shall be worn based on a black shirt and bearing the colours in 12.1.
- 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

15.1 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.