



Constitution

Revision adopted 21 May 2020

1. PURPOSE OF ORGANISATION

To promote and display traditional English men's morris dancing within Wantage and the Vale of White Horse, and present displays in other locations as required to promote morris dancing traditional to Oxfordshire. Members shall be recruited, although not exclusively, from the locality and instructed by competent officials of the team or specialist external instructors as required. The team shall participate in the activities of the national Morris Ring.

2. FINANCES

The team shall be a non-commercial, non-professional, unincorporated, non-profit making organisation and no individual officers of the side shall receive payment for that office. Finances to meet the running costs of the team shall be raised by subscriptions, donations, collections or accepting fees for performances. Any revenue raised in excess of running costs and the maintenance of a prudent reserve shall be donated to a local or national charity as determined by the officials of the team. Members shall be entitled to reasonable refund of expenses for attending events. In the event of the club ceasing activities any money remaining in accounts shall be donated to a designated charity as determined by remaining members.

3. POLICIES

Policies may relate to kit, practices, performance criteria, punctuality, Ales, Day of Dances, Fetes, Shows, conduct, supervision of members under 18 years old, dance traditions, music, events, etc. The election of officers, creation of policies, amendments to policies, etc. will take place at an Annual General Meeting to be held in October of each year (typically the 1st Wednesday in October). Unless otherwise specified, decisions shall be by a simple majority of those paid-up or payment-exempt members attending or voting by proxy and shall be recorded in written minutes. A meeting shall be quorate if attended by two-thirds of the eligible members. One week's notice of the AGM shall be given. An EGM shall be called at the request of at least 20% of the membership.

4. OFFICERS

The following positions shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting which must constitute more than 50% of the paying (or payment-exempt) membership of the team.

SQUIRE : The Squire shall be the chief official of the team and shall determine performance content and arrangements and other matters relating to the running of the team.

BAGMAN : The Bagman shall be responsible for administrative arrangements and diary management, determining when to accept invitations to dance and determining the annual programme of events.

PECUNIAN : The Pecunian shall be the treasurer of the team collecting subscriptions, collections and fees, ensuring a bank account and/or savings account is maintained and making payments to suppliers of services and products. Invoices shall be issued to organisations hosting performances as required.

FOREMAN : The Foreman shall be responsible for overall dance standards and for organising the arrangements for practice and rehearsal evenings. He may appoint tradition specialists to assist with practice of specific dance traditions.

FOOL : The Fool shall arrange peripheral entertainment at performances and interact with the audience as appropriate. He should act as a Master of Ceremonies.

STICKMAN : The Stickman shall ensure a satisfactory supply of good quality box (or similar) sticks for performances of appropriate dimensions.

WEBMASTER : The Webmaster shall ensure the maintenance of an internet website on the World Wide Web which is suitably up to date and reflects the current activities of the team.

ARCHIVIST : The Archivist should be the custodian of all non electronic documents and photographs of the team's activities and present them in an annual format.

Elected positions shall normally run for a minimum 2 year term unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.

5. YOUNG MEMBERS

The team shall operate a policy for young members in line with that determined by the Morris Ring. This shall be a written policy with signatures required from parents / guardians to authorise the activities of those under 16 years old.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the team shall not be restricted on the basis of race, colour, religion or similar discriminatory basis. However, in order to fulfil the team's purpose of promoting and displaying men's morris dancing membership shall be restricted to males. It is considered that for practical purposes and with due consideration for safety the activity is not suitable for those under the age of 11.

Members in full time schooling, or university study (etc.), or without full time employment may apply for an exemption from the annual membership fee. The membership fee "in principle" should cover the cost of practice facilities. Membership may be refused, or an existing member may be expelled, if there are reasonable grounds for so doing. The decision to refuse or expel shall be made by the Officers following consultation with the members.

7. ACCOUNTS

At the Annual General Meeting the Pecunian should present bank statements, balance sheet and a statement indicating acquisition and disposal of funds to the Squire and Annual General Meeting for approval. This will be indicated via the Squire's signature.

8. DISSOLUTION

A ballot on a proposal to dissolve the Side shall be held at the request of the Officers after consultation with the Side. Those voting shall be the paid-up or payment-exempt members of the Side. A majority of at least 75% of those voting shall be required to pass the dissolution motion.