

Constitution for Dartington Morris

Adopted at EGM held on 8 November 2024

1. Objectives

- 1.1 The objectives of Dartington Morris (hereafter referred to as “The Side”) shall be the promotion, practice and performance of Cotswold Morris dancing and associated activities, such as (but not limited to) longsword dancing and mumming.

2. Membership

- 2.1 There shall be four categories of membership: Ordinary Membership, Associate Membership, Honorary Membership and Junior Membership.
- 2.2 An Ordinary Member must be aged 18 or over, have paid the membership fee and play an active part as required by the side.
- 2.3 An ordinary member may vote at the AGM or EGM, be elected to any of the Offices of the Side and take part in all of the activities of the Side, including dancing.
- 2.4 Associate membership is open to anyone aged 18 or over. An associate member may not vote at the AGM or EGM, nor be elected to any of the Offices of the Side, nor take part in activities of the Side. No membership fee applies.
- 2.5 Honorary Membership can be awarded to previous members that are considered to have made a significant contribution to the club. Such a member would have the same rights as an ordinary member, except (1) they are not able to vote or hold an elected position and (2) they are not required to pay the annual membership fee. Honorary membership can be proposed at an AGM or EGM and is awarded only if there is unanimous agreement by ordinary members.
- 2.6 Junior membership is open to anyone under 18. A junior member may take part in all of the activities of the Side, but not vote at the AGM or EGM, nor be elected to any Offices of the Side. A nominal membership fee applies.
- 2.7 Membership fees for the year will be decided at the AGM. Membership fees are due immediately following the AGM and if not paid it will be deemed that the individual no longer wishes to remain an ordinary member.
- 2.8 New members that join the side during the practice period are permitted three practices before they are required to pay the membership fee.
- 2.9 An individual's membership may be revoked by a two thirds majority at an AGM or EGM.
- 2.10 No member may profit from membership of the Side, unless in provision of professional services. In exceptional circumstances out of pocket expenses may be met if the Squire and Bagman in consultation consider it appropriate.

3. Privacy and personal data

- 3.1 Members must consent for their contact details to be held by the Bagman for the purposes of communication.
- 3.2 Personal data will be limited to full name, email address, postal address and phone numbers. Such details may be shared within the Side but will not be shared with third parties unless with the explicit permission of the member concerned.

- 3.3 Date of birth may be required for specific purposes, such as personal accident insurance and this and contact details may need to be shared with the relevant organisation.

4. Officers of the Side

- 4.1 There will be two categories of Officer: the Elected Officers and the Appointed Officers
- 4.2 The Elected Officers of the Side will be: the Squire, the Foreman, the Bagman and the Treasurer.
- 4.3 The Elected Officers are elected at an AGM by simple majority vote. Elected Officers should preferably be nominated in advance of the AGM, but nominations may be accepted at the AGM. Each nomination requires a proposer and seconder and the consent of the nominee.
- 4.4 Elected Officers serve for a minimum term of one year, after which they may be re-elected.
- 4.5 The Appointed Officers of the Side will be any person who may be appointed from time to time as necessary to carry out a specific task, for example that of Publicity Officer or Bagman for a particular event.
- 4.6 Appointed Officers are appointed by the Squire as and when they deem it to be necessary. The candidate must give their consent to the appointment. These appointments are effectively delegations of tasks and authority which otherwise would belong to the Squire or Bagman.
- 4.7 The business of the Side is run by the Squire, with the exception of those responsibilities specifically allocated to the Foreman, the Bagman or the Treasurer, and those tasks delegated to the Appointed Officers.
- 4.8 The Foreman shall teach the dancing. They may call upon other members of the Side with particular areas of expertise to assist them.
- 4.9 The Bagman is the Secretary of the Side. They will deal with all correspondence and keep a record of which members will be available to fulfil particular bookings or meet other obligations. They take the minutes at an AGM or an EGM and shall circulate those minutes to the entire membership within one month of the meeting.
- 4.10 The Treasurer will handle all the finance of the Side. They will maintain accurate records of income and expenditure, make suitably authorised payments and bank all income in a timely manner.
- 4.11 A person may hold two (but not more than two) Elected Offices, and/or an Elected Office and any number of Appointed Offices simultaneously.

5. Dartington Morris performance costume

- 5.1 The costume (kit) for dancers and musicians is described in detail on the club website. It is the responsibility of the Squire to ensure that kit is suitable for use.

6. Meetings

- 6.1 There shall be four categories of meeting: the Ordinary Meeting, the Officers' Meeting, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- 6.2 Ordinary Meetings shall take place as and when deemed necessary by the Squire for the practice of Morris dancing and other associated activities. At each meeting any

correspondence received by the Bagman shall be presented and decisions may be made informally concerning attendance at bookings and invitations to future events; such information and decisions may also be conducted by written correspondence (eg email).

- 6.3 Officers' Meetings shall be called from time to time by the Squire to discuss specific concerns. All of the Elected Officers may attend, and any other member or members may also attend if invited to do so by the Squire.
- 6.4 An EGM may be called by the Squire, or by a simple majority of the Elected Officers, or by a simple majority of ordinary membership. The business of an EGM shall be to discuss and vote on a single specific motion, which must be proposed and seconded, and circulated by the Bagman to the membership at least seven days before the date of the meeting. No other business may be conducted.
- 6.5 The Quorum for an AGM or an EGM shall be the lesser of ten or 50% of all ordinary members.

7. The Annual General Meeting

- 7.1 The time, date and agenda of the AGM shall be determined and published to the entire membership by the Bagman at least one month before the meeting. No more than thirteen months shall elapse between AGMs.
- 7.2 The agenda will include:
 - Reports from each of the Elected Officers, including a full financial report by the Treasurer. Appointed Officers may also make reports if requested by the Squire or if they themselves wish to do so.
 - Election of Officers.
 - Annual Subscriptions.
 - Motions tabled, proposed and seconded in writing. Motions may be added to the agenda after the date of the meeting has been published but must be circulated to all members by the Bagman at least seven days before the meeting.
 - Notice of future events.
 - Any other business: items for discussion must be submitted in writing to the Bagman seven days before the meeting. No formal vote may be taken on items under this heading.

8. Health & Safety and Safeguarding of minors

- 8.1 The Elected Officers of the Side will keep an up-to-date generic Risk Assessment for performances which will be available to view on request.
- 8.2 The Side will obtain Public Liability Insurance through Membership of the Morris Ring.
- 8.3 The Side will follow the Safeguarding Policy of the Morris Ring to ensure protection of junior members of the side.

9. Attending events

- 9.1 In attending a range of events for the enjoyment of the members and the public, the side shall not support or endorse any such event which might be considered political or contentious in nature or potentially divisive. Any such invitation is to be considered by the elected officers in this context as it may arise.

10. Changes to this Constitution

- 10.1 Changes may only be made by a motion proposed, seconded and tabled at an AGM or at an EGM called for the purpose. Changes to the Constitution require a simple majority of those present at the meeting and eligible to vote.

11. Winding up of the Side

- 11.1 The Side may be wound up by a motion proposed, seconded and tabled at an AGM or at an EGM called for the purpose. A two thirds majority of those present at the meeting and eligible to vote is required. Once all of the financial obligations of the Side have been met, any surplus will be given to an organisation whose aims concur with paragraph 1.1 above.