



Constitution of Grimsby Morris

Adopted at Extraordinary General Meeting on 21/09/2026

1. Aims

- 1.1 To practise, promote and perform in public, such ritual dance and/or drama as the Membership feels fit, and in particular to practise the ancient art of Morris Dancing in whichever style the membership chooses to adopt.
- 1.2 To engage in research, development and performance of traditional 'Plough Plays' of Lincolnshire as well as from other counties and areas.
- 1.3 To support charities selected by the membership.

2. Objectives

- 2.1.1 Grimsby Morris (the side) will practise the dances of the repertoire regularly, usually weekly, but varying to allow for public performances.
- 2.1.2 The side will perform dances in public at invitation events, tours organised by the side, regular events and events to celebrate milestones in the side's history.
- 2.1.3 The side will promote its public performances by as many means as possible including the side's website, instagram and facebook, local and national press, radio and television where appropriate.
- 2.1.4 The side will promote participation and membership in the side via the channels listed above and will run training sessions, demonstrations or workshops as appropriate.
- 2.1.5 The side will raise funds to meet these objectives through member subscriptions, performance fees and donations at public performances.
- 2.1.6 Funds raised to meet these objectives will be clearly accounted separately from income for other purposes. The public will be clearly and fully informed of the purposes of collections to raise funds for the side.
- 2.1.7 Members of the side shall be voluntary and unpaid. Some out of pocket expenses may be met from the sides funds by agreement of the side.

- 2.2.1 The side will rehearse a selected Lincolnshire Plough Play during November and December.
- 2.2.2 The side will perform the play in public at various venues during December and January
- 2.2.3 The side will promote its public performances by as many means as possible including the side's website, instagram and facebook, local and national press, radio and television where appropriate.
- 2.2.4 The side will raise funds to meet these objectives through member subscriptions and performance fees (public donations at Plough Plays are collected for charity – see 2.3.1 to 2.3.5)

- 2.3.1 At the AGM or soon thereafter, the side will select a charity, usually local, to collect funds for during December and January.
- 2.3.2 Donations will be collected at public performances of the Plough Play.

- 2.3.3 Collecting tins will be clearly labelled with identifying marks of the charity.
- 2.3.4 The public will be notified that all donations will be donated in their entirety to the charity.
- 2.3.5 Funds raised for charity will be accounted separately from all other funds.

3. The Morris Ring

- 3.1 The Side is a Full member of the Morris Ring (The Founding National Association of Morris and Sword Dance Clubs) and supports its constitution, policies, aims and traditions, and strives to meet the standards and dignity expected of member sides.
- 3.2 Resignation from the Ring will require the approval of a minimum of two-thirds of members voting to that effect at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) called specifically for the purpose.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Membership of the side will be open to those who have made a significant commitment to the side by one or more of the following:-
 - a) attending practice and dancing at dance-outs.
 - b) attending practice and playing at dance-outs.
 - c) performing in Plough Plays.
 - d) taking on a character role such as Fool, Green Man or Apple Jack.
 - e) contributing to the side's forward planning.
- 4.2 Members attending practice will pay weekly or annual subscriptions. Members in categories c, d or e will not be expected to pay subscriptions but may do so if they wish.
- 4.3 Members will be presented with appropriate kit after the decision has been taken, by the Squire, that the new member is ready to dance-out (participate competently in public performance).
- 4.4 A person's membership may only be revoked at an AGM or EGM.

5. **Officers of Grimsby Morris**

5.1 The Officers will be -

Squire (*Chair*) - It is the duty of the Squire to take responsibility for the Sides activities, including the order of performance at dance outs and displays. The Squire will chair the AGM and any EGM's and other organisational meetings as notified to the Members. He may appoint a Foreman to oversee the quality and teaching of dances.

Bagman (*Secretary*) – It is the duty of the Bagman to act as Secretary for the Side and as correspondent with the Morris Ring and other outside bodies. The Bagman will be responsible for taking minutes at meetings. To act as stand in for the Squire in his absence.

Treasurer – It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep proper financial records and to produce a summary of the year end accounts at the AGM, or, to produce up to date financial statements when required.

Archivist – It is the duty of the Archivist to keep proper control of the Sides historical records and artefacts.

Other duties such as tour organisers etc. may be distributed to other members of the side as seen fit.

- 5.2 Nominations for Officer posts will be agreed at the AGM. In the event of more than one nomination for a post, election will be by a simple majority vote of members present, the Squire having a casting vote. Terms of office begin and cease at the close of the AGM. Officers may, if they desire, seek re-election to the post being vacated. The Side will decide its Officers by either a show of hands, or if so required a secret ballot.
- 5.3 The Side can decide to hold a ceremonial hand-over between Squires at the Annual Feast.
- 5.4 Members can remove an Officer by a majority vote at an AGM or EGM if that Officer is not fulfilling the role adequately or is acting in a way detrimental to the side. The meeting will be chaired by another Officer. The Officer in contention may speak but not vote.
- 5.5 Should an Officer post become vacant before an AGM, the vacancy will be filled by decision of the Members at an EGM convened for the purpose. Such appointment will be effective until the next AGM.
- 5.6 Members at an AGM can appoint other officers to carry out specific roles e.g. Foreman, Website coordinator etc. these appointments will be reviewed annually.

6. Subscriptions

- 6.1 The subscription rates will be recommended by the Treasurer at the AGM, and agreed by a simple majority. Members will be expected to pay their subscriptions on attendance at practice or as an annual fee at a discount.

7. Finances

- 7.1 There will be a bank account in the name of Grimsby Morris Men, all payments from which must be signed by two Officers.
- 7.2 The Treasurer will maintain accurate records of income and expenditure, make suitably authorised payments and bank all income in a timely manner. All bills will be paid promptly as they fall due.
- 7.3 The Treasurer will present a financial report to the AGM.

8. Health & Safety

- 8.1 The Side will keep an up to date health and safety policy which will be published on its website and be available on request.
- 8.2 The Side will subscribe to the Morris Ring's public liability insurance cover.

9. Child Protection

- 9.1 The side will follow, and keep updated, its Child Protection Policy. This will be published on the side's website and available on request.

10. Disabilities

- 10.1 The side will follow, and keep updated, its Disabilities Policy. This will be published on the side's website and available on request.

11. Gender and Sexuality

- 11.1 The side will follow, and keep updated, its Gender and Sexuality Policy. This will be published on the side's website and available on request.

12. Discrimination

- 12.1 The side has a zero tolerance approach to any form of discrimination.
- 12.2 Discriminatory behaviours are expressly prohibited on the grounds of age, race, gender expression, gender identity (transphobia), marital status, maternity or sexual orientation (homophobia or biphobia) as identified in the Equality Act 2010 but will not be tolerated for any reason.

13. Meetings of Grimsby Morris

- 13.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in September each year, the time and the date being published by the Bagman at least a month in advance on the website and in the events program. The date should be approximately one year after the previous AGM.
- 13.2 The agenda will include
- Apologies for absence
 - Officer reports (including financial report)
 - Election of Officers
 - The Future
 - Fees
 - Subscriptions
 - AOB (*to be given to the Bagman after notification and not less than 15 minutes before the start of the meeting and discussed at the Squire's discretion*).
- 13.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Officers or a minimum of 30% of the membership. At least two weeks' notice will be given of the meeting, including the publication of the agenda. There will be no other items added to the agenda.
- 13.4 A quorum for an AGM or EGM will be 50% of the members eligible to vote at that meeting.
- 13.5 All meetings will be chaired by the Squire or, in his absence, by one of the other Officers. If no Officer is present, or a quorum is not present, the meeting will be postponed, and four weeks' notice of a reconvened meeting will be given by the Officers within two weeks of the date of the postponed meeting.
- 13.6 If a vote is required or demanded at a meeting, a simple majority of members will be required for a decision to be taken, unless as stated elsewhere in this Constitution.
- 13.7 The Bagman will take Minutes of meetings; these will be distributed to members and ratified at the next AGM.

14. Winding-up of Grimsby Morris

- 14.1 If the Side considers that it is unable to meet its obligations and commitments, the Squire will call an EGM where the members will consider the way forward. If that meeting resolves to wind up Grimsby Morris, the Bagman will advise the Morris Ring, fellow sides and other parties with whom we have dealings, and the Treasurer will close the bank account when able to do so.
- 14.2 Upon disbandment of Grimsby Morris as an active Side, the remaining Members taking the decision to disband will determine the procedures relating to disbandment and disposal of assets. Such Members will bear the responsibility for ensuring that the Sides Assets, both financial and material are transferred to any organisation(s) with Aims and Objectives similar to those of Grimsby Morris (for example other Morris Sides registered as Members of any of the three Morris Organisations). Archival material may be transferred to a suitable local, regional or national archive
- 14.3 No member will stand to gain financially from the winding up.
- 14.4 A vote to wind up the Side will require the support of two-thirds of those eligible to vote.

15. Changes to this Constitution

- 15.1 This Constitution can be changed only at an AGM or EGM with the specific amendments included in the notice given about the meeting. Changes will require the support of two-thirds of those eligible to vote.