

THE BENEVOLENT CONFRATERNITY OF DISSECTOLOGISTS - CONSTITUTION

As amended at the EGM held on 27th September 2025 at Langley Burrell Village Hall, Chippenham.

1. NAME

The name of the club shall be the “**Benevolent Confraternity of Dissectologists**”, [hereinafter called the **BCD**].

2. OBJECTIVES

- [A] To promote national and international interest in all aspects of the hobby of jigsaw puzzles.
- [B] To undertake research into the history and development of jigsaw puzzles.
- [C] To encourage the manufacture, collection, restoration and preservation of jigsaw puzzles.
- [D] To encourage the compilation and maintenance of archives of all forms of jigsaw puzzle related material and to promote the sharing of such information with others for reference and research purposes.
- [E] To keep members in touch with one another, to advertise members’ special interests and to arrange members’ meetings and events.
- [F] To produce and circulate Newsletters to members on a regular basis.
- [G] To arrange or participate in public or other events which further the objectives of the **BCD**.
- [H] To encourage and foster the social enjoyment of “**doing**” jigsaw puzzles.

3. MEMBERSHIP

[A] Membership of the **BCD** shall be open to anyone with an interest in jigsaw puzzles upon payment of the appropriate annual subscription.

[B] There shall be two classes of membership, viz ~

1. Individual Membership
2. Family Membership ~ An Individual Member shall be entitled to nominate one or more people living at the member’s address to be Family Members upon payment of a single increased annual subscription.

Note: Family Members shall not be provided with their own copies of the Newsletter or other printed materials, but in all other respects they shall have the same rights as Individual Members including voting rights at the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting and be entitled to have their contact details and puzzling interests included on the confidential Membership List.

4. OFFICERS

The Officers of the **BCD** shall consist of a Chairman, Committee Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Events Organiser and Publications Editor who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year but if any Officer post becomes vacant the Committee shall fill the vacancy from amongst the existing Committee membership or by co-opting another member until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Committee at its discretion may assign other specific roles or areas of responsibility as may be required to any member of the club who need not be a member of the Committee.

5. COMMITTEE

- [A] The management of the **BCD** shall be vested in a Committee of 12 members comprising the Officers ex officio and additional Committee Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year but if any Committee Member post becomes vacant the Committee shall fill the vacancy by co-opting another member until the next General Meeting.
- [B] The Committee shall meet not less than 3 times a year but additional meetings may be convened by the Chairman or upon request of any 4 members of the Committee by written notice to the Chairman.
- [C] The quorum for Committee meetings shall be 5.
- [D] The duties of the Committee shall be ~
 - to manage the **BCD** in pursuance of the **BCD**’s objectives;
 - to execute the day-to-day business of the **BCD**;

5. [D] continued

- to cause Minutes to be recorded of every meeting of the Committee, the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting;
- to cause true accounts to be kept and to appoint an Independent Examiner, who need not be a member of the BCD Club but **must not** be on the **BCD** Committee, to undertake an annual examination of the accounting records;
- to determine the rates of the annual subscriptions.

[E] The Committee shall oversee the financial affairs of the **BCD** and funds shall be used solely for the objectives in Article 2 above. The Committee shall not borrow money or incur debt that cannot be met from the financial resources of the **BCD**.

[F] The Committee shall have authority to expel any member from membership of the **BCD** if in the opinion of the Committee the jigsaw related activities of a member has brought the **BCD** into disrepute.

6. ANNUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

[A] Advance notice of the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given to every member in writing stating the business to be transacted; it shall be the aim to give members at least 14 day's notice.

[B] The Annual General Meeting shall be held within 3 calendar months of the end of each financial year and the business shall be ~

- to receive and, if approved, adopt the report from the Committee on the previous year;
- to receive and, if approved, adopt the accounts for the previous financial year which have been signed by the Independent Examiner;
- to elect Officers;
- to elect Committee Members;
- to consider any item notified by any member to the Chairman in writing before the preceding 1st January;
- to consider any other items which may be considered at an Annual General Meeting pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution.

[C] An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time upon the request in writing to the Chairman of not less than 20 members stating the purpose for which the meeting is required.

7. FINANCIAL YEAR AND PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The **BCD's** financial year shall be 1st January to 31st December. Annual subscriptions shall be due by the preceding 31st December following prior notification of the subscription due, if any, which shall be given to members in writing via the last Newsletter of that calendar year. If a subscription is not paid by 1st March in the following year the membership shall be deemed to have lapsed.

8. HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT

Members may in General Meeting elect an Honorary Life President and such election shall be for life or until voluntary retirement. The President shall be entitled to attend all Committee meetings in a non-voting capacity and shall also have such functions and privileges as the Committee may designate from time to time.

9. HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Members may in General Meeting elect Honorary Life Members and such election shall be for life or until voluntary retirement. Honorary Life Members shall be granted membership of the **BCD** without payment of the annual subscription.

10. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The provisions of this Constitution may be amended, extended or repealed by resolution at any Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting provided that no resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it is carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present and voting.

11. DISSOLUTION

If at any Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting a resolution for dissolution of the **BCD** is passed by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present and voting, the Committee shall forthwith, or at such date as shall be specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the property of the **BCD** and, after discharging all liabilities, donate any remaining assets to a charitable organisation, including a museum, which promotes or has a particular interest in jigsaw puzzles or interests generally in sympathy with the objectives of the **BCD**, such organisation may be specified in the resolution failing which it shall be determined by the Committee. Upon completion of such donation the **BCD** shall be dissolved.