



THE GROUP FOR BEARDLESS IRISES OF THE BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY

RULES AND CONSTITUTION 2004 (as amended 2007)

1 **The Title** shall be 'The Group for Beardless Irises of the British Iris Society'

2 **The Object** of the Group, as a section of The British Iris Society, is to foster interest in these plants around the world by the exchange of ideas, seeds and plants and to help growers with their problems.

3 **Membership** of the group shall be open to all people over the age of 18 years interested in the genus *Iris* and who having paid the annual subscription shall have voting rights when member's participation is required. Such Members shall be encouraged to join the British Iris Society.

Family membership shall be open, on request, to other residents at the same address, but will not carry voting rights.

Other categories of membership may be proposed by the Committee under special conditions and will be subject to approval by the membership, but such members will not necessarily have the right to vote.

Honorary Membership may be granted to outstanding persons after consultation with the Membership but will not necessarily confer voting rights.

4 **Administration** shall be by a committee of honorary officers approved by members of the Group: a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer, a membership secretary, a newsletter editor, a seeds officer. If necessary further members may be co-opted for a special reason by the Committee, but if the co-option lasts or is expected to last for more than ten months the appointment must be approved by the membership. There shall be no objection in principle to one person holding more than one office. When it is necessary to appoint a new officer the vacancy must be advertised to the members in the next newsletter/review and a request made for nominations or volunteers. In default of such persons coming forward, or an urgent time limit, the committee may nominate a candidate and shall publicise that nomination in the next edition of the newsletter.

Three committee members shall constitute a quorum to take decisions, but in the case of any dispute a simple majority of all the committee members shall decide.

5 **Communications.** The yearly newsletter/review is the way that the Group communications are at present conducted. With effect from the autumn of 2004 this shall be known as The Annual Review. All changes to the Group's arrangements should, if possible, be published in a preceding edition to allow at least 28 days for protests or suggestions from members.

6 **Meetings.** At present no meetings are held, but since most members live in the British Isles, there shall be no objection to meetings of members being arranged if a convenient opportunity permits and the proceedings are reported in the following newsletter/review.

7 **Finance.** The Treasurer is empowered to open and maintain such accounts in the name of the Group with banks based in the United Kingdom as may be needed for managing of the Group's funds. The Treasurer shall present audited accounts annually which shall be published in the subsequent newsletter/review and shall be sole signatory of cheques up to £50.00 or such greater sum as shall be authorised by the members; cheques for larger sums must be countersigned by the Chairperson, Newsletter Editor or Secretary.

Subscriptions should be fully sufficient to meet payments for the newsletter publication and necessary expenses incurred by officers.

8 **Subscriptions** shall be determined by the Committee and proposed to members in a newsletter with a time limit sufficient to allow for objections. The subscription year shall run from 1 January to 31 December and payments should be made before the 31 January.

Arrangements may be made, particularly for overseas members, for payment by a lump sum to cover more than one year. Precise details shall be settled by the committee and published in the newsletter/review and also in advertising material.

9 **Objections** by the membership to proposals from the Committee may be dealt with by direct mail outside a normal newsletter/review mailing. Similarly, proposals from the membership requiring urgent attention may also be dealt with by direct mail. Only fully paid up Members are entitled to vote.

10 **Amendments** to the Constitution must be published in a newsletter/review and sufficient time allowed for amendments and suggestions to be incorporated in the following edition or by direct communication.

11 **Winding up of the Group.** The proposal for this must be published in a newsletter/review 12 months before the proposed date of closure which shall require a majority of 60% of the members responding excluding the Committee members.

12 **Disposal of assets.** Financial: any monies remaining after all debts have been settled shall be passed to The British Iris Society to be used at their discretion, but with a request that they be held for a period of time to permit a new and similar group being formed to which the monies could be transferred.

The library shall be offered to the BIS librarian. Such material as is not of use there shall be offered for sale to members of the Group and the BIS and after that shall be disposed of as the librarian sees fit with any monies arising from such sales being added to the original Group monies.