



# THE RYE & DISTRICT BONFIRE SOCIETY

*Formed to benefit the people who live in and around the Town of Rye*

## **Code of Conduct 2015**

***These guidelines have been produced to ensure the safety of all members of RDBS when participating in processions***

Please raise any queries with: Nikki Lawton, RDBS Membership Secretary,

***This Code of Conduct covers the requirements for RDBS and the bonfire procession in Rye. When attending other processions please be aware that you must abide by the requirements of the host Bonfire Society, which may be different.***

### **Membership**

- Subscriptions run from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 28/29<sup>th</sup> February
- All subscriptions must be paid directly to the Membership Secretary.
- Subscriptions paid after 1<sup>st</sup> September will be at a higher rate.
- All new members are required to pay an additional £1 for a share in the company.
- Returning, lapsed members are not required to pay an extra £1, but may be required to provide evidence of previous membership.
- New members must be proposed & seconded by members of RDBS and are encouraged to attend a meeting as soon as possible.
- No membership applications or renewals will be accepted after the bonfire procession.
- Members found to have endangered the safety of others may be removed from membership.
- Names and contact details of all members are retained by the Membership Secretary and are stored electronically. They are made available to Captains of RDBS, but NOT to individual members or third parties.
- Membership badges will be issued before Bonfire Season starts.
- It is requested that all members of RDBS participate as fully as possible in the work of the society to secure the future of this tradition, not just the Bonfire Procession, for example: fundraising, torch-making and marshalling. Please contact any Committee Member for further details.

## **RDBS Dress Code**

- The colours for Rye are red and black
- The emblem is the burning boat
- The standard costume consists of:
  - Black trousers or skirt
  - Red shirt
  - Black waistcoat
  - Bonfire hat
  - Belt with Tankard and Rookie Rope (optional)
  - Bonfire badges – lots!
  - Face paint (optional) – for example: half red, half black
- Non standard costumes are welcome – but should be checked in advance with the committee..

## **Procession Protocol**

### **Dress Code**

- Smart RDBS dress code (or approved costume) should be worn. Current Membership badges should be clearly displayed at all times.
- RDBS members not wearing RDBS dress code will be invited to process in the unlit section, in front of the Rye banner.

### **Torches**

- Only fully paid members (over the Age of 14) are covered by RDBS insurance to carry torches in a procession.
- Only fully paid members can process in the lit section of the procession, behind the Rye banner.
- Non-members are NOT covered by RDBS insurance and for Health & Safety reasons cannot process with members holding torches. Any Non-Members found in the lit section of the procession will be asked to leave the procession immediately.
- Torches can be dangerous and care must be taken to ensure safety at all times. Any Member found to be irresponsible will be asked to leave the procession immediately for Health & Safety reasons..
- Expired torches should be left carefully at the side of the road, for collection by the firecarts.
- Torches picked up by members of the public MUST be removed immediately as they are not covered for this under the terms of our Insurance.

### **Fireworks/Pyrotechnics**

- Fireworks and Marine Flares are strictly prohibited in the procession.
- Fireworks can only be discharged in specific designated areas, by the host society
- Any member in breach of this will be reported to the committee, who will decide further action to be taken

### **Children (Under Age 14)**

- RDBS cannot provide supervision for children.
- Children under the Age of 14 must walk with their responsible adult at the front of the procession, behind the banner.
- Children under the Age of 14 are not allowed to carry torches. This is a stipulation of the RDBS Insurance.
- No adult should supervise more than 2 children.
- Any child found to be irresponsible (or their responsible adult found to be irresponsible) will be asked to leave the procession immediately for Health & Safety reasons.

### **Juniors (Over 14, Under 18)**

- Under 16s require a responsible adult to walk with them.
- No adult should supervise more than 2 children
- Over 16s do not require a responsible adult to walk with them (although this is recommended for the first couple of processions).
- Can carry torches
- Any Junior found to be unreliable will be asked to leave the procession immediately for Health & Safety reasons

### **Fireside Protocol**

- Fireworks are allowed to be discharged on the fire-site in a responsible manner, in line with Sussex tradition
- A warning should be given before discharge, for example: "Fire in the Hole".
- Boom-bins should be used, if provided
- Nothing larger than a Rookie or Spanish No 3
- Anyone seen to be acting irresponsibly will be reported to the Committee (and the Police if appropriate) and further action will be taken.
- Strictly no fireworks near to the fire-site perimeter and the general public.
- Please note that flouting of these guidelines will compromise the future of Sussex Bonfire

Directors: P.Carey – F Warren                      Secretary: R Kirk                      Treasurer: I Foster  
Rye & District Bonfire Society is a company limited by guarantee  
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