

# Constitution of British Dupuytren's Society



## **1 NAME**

The charity's name is British Dupuytren's Society

## **2 THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE:-**

To improve the quality of life for people affected by Dupuytren's Disease, Ledderhose's Disease and related conditions by:

- providing improved support and information to people affected by these conditions
- increasing public awareness of the conditions, thereby promoting earlier diagnosis and better choice of treatment options
- promoting the advancement of research into the prevention and treatment of the conditions, and the coordination of research and trial projects
- promoting the use of new and innovative treatments both private and in the NHS
- promoting high standards of health care for people with Dupuytren's Contracture and related conditions

## **3 TRUSTEES**

The charity shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity.

## **4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES**

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

1. raise funds, receive grants and donations
2. apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
3. co-operate with and support other organisations with similar purposes, especially the International Dupuytren Society.
4. do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

## **5 MEMBERSHIP**

The charity shall have a membership. People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over, and who agree to pay an annual subscription, can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees, membership lasts for life or until cancelled by the member or the trustees. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The trustees may appoint honorary members at their discretion.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

Medical Professionals will be invited to become members of the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board exists to evaluate research, and assist with surveys of patient data.

Medical Professionals may become trustees, but there must always be a majority of patients among the trustees.

## **6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM**

1. The AGM must be held every year, with 28 days notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
2. The AGM can take place as telephone- or internet conference or in an pre-arranged location.
3. Every member has one vote.
4. The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
5. Any member may stand for election as a trustee.
6. Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

## **7 TRUSTEE MEETINGS**

1. Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year, by telephone or internet conference or at a pre-arranged location. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.
2. At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
3. If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
4. During the year, the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM and can be re-elected.
5. The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

## **8 MONEY AND PROPERTY**

1. Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
2. Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.
3. Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses, to be decided by the other trustees or at the next AGM.
4. Money must be held in the charity's bank account. All payments out of the account must be authorised by 2 trustees, to be appointed at the yearly AGM.

## **9 GENERAL MEETINGS**

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 28 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

1. **Winding up** - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one.
2. **Changes to the Constitution** - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.
3. **General Meeting** - called on written request from a majority of members.
4. Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership

## **10 SETTING UP THE CHARITY**

This constitution was adopted on 1 August 2011 by the people whose signatures appear below. They are the first members of the charity and will be the trustees until the AGM, which must be held within one year of this date.

J Proctor, H Orton, A Schurer



Back to' about us'