

**Ickwell May Day Committee**  
**Eligibility to Participate, Vote or Stand for Election as May Queen**

General.

1. The Rules below govern participation in, and eligibility criteria to vote or stand, for the annual election of the May Queen and her entourage.
2. The Committee reserve the right to vary the rules of the election if circumstances demand.
3. The Hon Secretary will retain a comprehensive list of participants in the previous years' May Festival to determine eligibility to vote for the May Queen or stand as a candidate.
4. The election will be conducted by at least two Committee members who will be impartial and have no known connection with any of the candidates.
5. It is automatically assumed that to be eligible to dance, vote or stand for May Queen children will either:
  - a. Attend a village Lower School and dance and vote with that school.
  - b. Attend a school outside the parish and participate in dancing and voting based on their parental home address.
  - c. Attend a village Lower School and live outside the parish they will participate in dancing and voting based on their Lower School attendance.

Children will retain this association as they move through the school system, swaps will not normally be permitted.

Dancers.

6. Prospective dancers should either:
  - a. Have a residential/parental home within the parishes of either Northhill or Old Warden or.
  - b. Attend the village school in Caldecote or Northhill.

Note: If for any reason dancers are unable to participate in May Day (ie through illness or participation in an educational trip) they should notify the Hon Secretary so that the absence can be formally recorded at the time.

Election of the May Queen and her entourage.

7. Voting criteria:
  - a. All those aged 5 -17 yrs who have danced in the previous May Day (or have formally recorded a reason for absence) and either:
    - i. Attend the local village school in Caldecote or Northhill.or
    - ii. Have a residential/parental home within the Northhill Parish boundary or reside in Old Warden (for children who attend school outside the parish boundary).
8. May Queen eligibility criteria:
  - a. Aged 12-17 years on 31st August of the current year.
  - b. Have danced in the previous three May Festivals or three out of the last four festivals (see also para 6).
  - c. Have parental support for the decoration of trailers.

Election Organisation.

9. The May Queen will be selected alternately from the villages of Caldecote/Old Warden or Ickwell/Northhill/Thorncote and adjacent hamlets.
10. The Committee will advertise the election locally in a prominent position for a minimum of 2 weeks. The election timetable will be agreed by Committee to meet draft programme timescales.
11. Any problems concerning the election shall be referred to the May Day Committee for resolution, their decision is final, this may defer the election in extreme circumstances.
12. Voting slips will be issued to all eligible voters by the Hon Sec/Election organisers.
13. Voting slips will contain:

- a. List of Candidates in alphabetical order.
  - b. Date, time and place of election.
14. The election results shall be passed to the Hon Sec who will inform candidates of the results.
15. Results:
- a. 1<sup>st</sup> place – May Queen. In the event that the candidate declines to accept this role, the role of May Queen will be offered to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place candidate, The 1<sup>st</sup> place being offered the role of Garland.
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Garland
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Sceptre
  - d. 4<sup>th</sup> place – Attendant – may be omitted if there is difficulty with numbers.
  - e. 5<sup>th</sup> place - Attendant – may be omitted if there is difficulty with numbers.
  - f. 6<sup>th</sup> place – Reserve; may be used if there are 6 candidates and it would be insensitive to reject one individual. The Committee cannot accommodate more than 6 members in the entourage.
16. In the event of a tie the role will be offered to the oldest candidate.
17. Results will be published by the May Day Committee locally ie local paper/village magazine.
18. If for any reason the May Queen is unable to fulfil her duties on the day the situation will be discussed by the Committee and the decision will be binding on all concerned. If this is at short notice, ie illness etc, her role will be taken by the retiring Queen who will preside over the festival. The new May Queen will be crowned in absentia, receive the traditional locket and undertake any duties during the year, she will then crown the incoming May Queen the following year.

Updated 19th September 2012