

BEDA Chapter of Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Assn.

Bylaws February 2026

Beda Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA) is a non-commercial, non-profit Chapter operating under and subordinate to the Constitutions of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of Great Britain. (Copies of the Constitutions are available for every Member via the Beda website).

The Chapter acknowledges the authority of the President's Governing Board (PGB) as the governing body of all UK Chapters. In the event of any conflict, the National Constitution and rulings of the PGB shall take precedence over these bylaws.

The Chapter is open to Full membership to Master Masons in good standing with a regular Masonic lodge under the United Grand lodge of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and regularly attend a Masonic lodge. The chapter is also open to Non-Master Masons and non-Freemasons and their respective partners.

The purpose of the Chapter is to always represent and promote Freemasonry in a positive light while also serving to raise money for charitable causes, Masonic and Non-Masonic, whilst enjoying Motorcycling and friendship.

Beda Chapter is a strictly Non-Back Patch chapter. Both riding and non-riding members are entitled to wear cuts only with approved patches. All regalia, patches, and insignia worn by members must comply with current WSMBA Great Britain regulations. No BEDA member attending a Beda ride out or event, or any other Widows Sons ride-out or event is to display any patch or other clothing that is designed or intended to cause offence to others. Badges and patches for other legal motorcycle groups are allowed on the front of the Cut but not to the detriment of the WSMBA and BEDA Chapter patches. Chapter-specific rules shall not override national guidance issued by the PGB regarding regalia.

Members participating in ride outs must ensure that their motorbike is roadworthy and must have current Road Tax unless exempt as list by DVLA, MOT, and Insurance. Riders must also hold a valid license for the vehicle they are riding and be capable of riding in a safe and considerate manner. All riders must comply with all rules and regulations of traffic laws applicable to the UK roads and any other country being visited.

Riders are expected to maintain appropriate positioning within the group and make reasonable efforts to keep pace with the pack where safe to do so, without causing unnecessary disruption or

separation of the group. At no time should a rider act in a manner that compromises safety or encourages unsafe riding.

Membership

Master Masons in good standing order with a full motorbike licence who own a roadworthy legal motorcycle, qualify for Full membership of Widows Sons and wear WS patches as agreed by the national chapter. On application for membership a clearance certificate must be obtained by the Beda Secretary from the Brother applicants Lodge.

Freemasons below the rank of Master Mason, non-masons and those without a Full licence are eligible to join as associate members, hereafter known as Beda Clangers.

Membership is subject to approval by the Beda masonic members after joining criteria has been met.

If a Widows Son member disposes of their motorcycle he will be granted a period of 12 months to acquire another. If following the 12-month period he has not acquired one he may continue membership as a Clanger (an Associate) but he may continue to wear Widow's Sons regalia for a further 12 months, at the end of such period and he has not acquired a motorcycle he must relinquish all rights to wear his Widows Sons regalia but can wear Clangers regalia.

A member who has to give up use of a motorcycle due to ill-health or injury may continue as an honorary full member with the full agreement of Beda Widow Sons members and continue to wear Widows Sons regalia.

Any vote put to the Masonic Membership will run for a minimum of 7 days. Majority rule will apply to any result. In the event of a tie The President will have the casting vote.

Whilst BEDA members may also be member of other Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association Chapters, membership of unrecognised chapters of the Widows Sons International Masonic Riders Association or any associate of unrecognised chapters of the Widows Sons International Masonic Riders Association is incompatible with the membership of BEDA Chapter and Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association and is not permitted.

There is no objection to riding or socialising with members of unrecognised chapters of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association however when doing so must NOT wear any Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association regalia.

All membership decisions remain subject to the overarching authority of the WSMBA Great Britain Constitution and, where applicable, review or direction by the President's Governing Board.

Members Conduct

Beda Members shall be careful in engaging in political or religious discussion or any activities that could promote separation rather than unity or cause offence within the Chapter. The President will monitor and manage any such activity taking appropriate action where necessary.

Beda members are subject to a 3-strike rule. Strikes will go to an officers panel and be voted on. Three confirmed strikes will result in dismissal from Beda chapter. The three-strike process operates at Chapter level; however, serious breaches, repeated misconduct, or actions affecting the wider Association may be escalated to the PGB at any time.

Strike will be reviewed from the first strike date by the Officer Committee.

A strike can be issued for the following:

a. Riding styles that bring the chapter into disrepute

b. Bringing the chapter into disrepute, e.g., misuse social media, unbecoming behaviours.

c. Breaking of a Beda bylaw or WS constitution.

Beda Members – Widows Sons, Clangers and any other person affiliated with a member should not engage in political or religious discussion or any activities the promote separation rather than unity or cause controversy in the Chapter. The President is to manage any such activity.

If a Widows Sons Mason leaves Freemasonry either voluntarily by resignation from the Craft or through by Expulsion from the Craft they **MUST** advise the Beda Secretary immediately by email to president@beda.wsmba.uk including advising the reasons. The Beda Secretary will advise the BEDA Officers who will discuss the position, to which the person can make written disposition via BEDA Secretary to the Officers. After hearing all evidence and views a vote on whether the person can remain within the BEDA Chapter as a BEDA Clanger or whether they will have to leave the BEDA Chapter entirely. Decisions of the Beda Officers shall stand unless overturned or reviewed by the President's Governing Board (PGB).

In any case on leaving the Craft the person must remove all Widows Sons regalia and can replace it with BEDA Clangers regalia if it is agreed they can stay within the Chapter. If the decision is that they must leave the BEDA Chapter they are no longer entitled to wear any regalia relating to WSMBA.

All members of the BEDA Chapter WSMBA, Widows Sons, Clangers and any person associated with persons within the Chapter are required to act in an upstanding and honest manner and within the laws of the UK and any Country they are visiting. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from BEDA Chapter of WSMBA. Any serious infringement must be advised to BEDA Secretary by the person or anyone who reports it for the good of BEDA Chapter and WSMBA. The Beda Secretary will advise the BEDA Officers who will discuss the position, to which the person can make written disposition via BEDA Secretary to the Officers. After hearing all evidence and views a vote on whether the person can remain within the BEDA Chapter as a Widows Son or BEDA Clanger or whether they will have to leave the BEDA Chapter entirely. The decision of the vote of the BEDA Officers will be final. '

Any member as detailed before who disregards or disobeys a direct order of the President to cease and desist in any such activity will have their membership suspended. The facts will be presented by The President within 30 days of any violation, in writing and action will require a majority vote. A full record of the proceedings will be kept in Beda records by the Beda Secretary.

Active Member status

The purpose of Active Member status is to recognise and encourage participation, rather than penalise members who, for genuine reasons, are unable to attend regularly. Consideration will always be given to work commitments, illness, family circumstances and other reasonable or exceptional situations.

It is expected that members will endeavour to attend at least 60% of official Chapter ride-outs during the membership year and support at least one major Chapter event and at least one promotional activity. Members achieving Active Member status will be recognised by the Chapter for their participation, commitment and contributions to BEDA.

Notwithstanding the attendance criteria above, members who make, or have made, a considerable contribution to the Chapter may be awarded Active Member status by a majority vote of the Chapter Officers.

Beda Committee

The governance of the Beda Chapter operates within the framework set by the WSMBA Great Britain Constitution and remains accountable to the President's Governing Board.

The Beda Chapter Committee will consist of the President, serving officers and Immediate Past President (so as chapter matures it's not ruled by the old guard) It shall meet when called to do so by the President and in any event at a convenient date in December each year to propose officers for the ensuing year.

The Officer Committee will consist of actively voted on officers at the Annual General Meeting and named on BEDA website plus the Immediate Past President. If the Immediate Past President does not wish to be on the committee, for whatever reason, the position can be offered to a previous Past President to act in their stead.

The Officers of Beda Chapter of Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association must be Widows Sons when holding the following Offices - President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, the President may appoint additional offices to assist with operating the Beda Chapter efficiently. Whilst each will be considered a 1-year appointment there is nothing to preclude reappointing officers.

All Officers shall be elected democratically at the Annual General Meeting of the chapter. Offices will be proposed by the President. In event of an office not being voted in, the Masonic membership can propose an alternative candidate to be voted on. Officers name in Beda committee A and B are exempt from the 1-year vote

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer will be voted on biennially by the Masonic

Membership of the Chapter in advance of the relevant AGM. The post holder is expected to commit to holding office for a minimum term of two years to provide continuity to the Chapter, there is no maximum term attached to them.

A. The Offices of Charity Steward and Almoner will be appointed biennially. The post holders are expected to commit to holding their respective offices for a minimum term of two years to provide continuity to the chapter, no maximum term attached to them.

All appointments will be made annually at the AGM unless circumstances otherwise dictate in which case all members will be notified.

Once a member is "past" their office they will be required to remove the relevant patch from their cut and pass it to the new officer. Past Presidents can keep their President patch and wear it upside down if they so desire.

No Beda President shall hold such office for a term longer than three years and will not be eligible for re-election to such office for a period no less than three years from the termination of his tenure. If due to issues with progression or no Candidate being available resulting in no new President can be appointed for the Beda Chapter, the current President may be permitted to continue in office past the three-year period, with approval from the Presidents Grand Board of WSMBA

All meetings will be chaired by the President, if the president should not be available the Vice-president will preside however if the Vice President is also not available the President will appoint an officer to chair for that meeting.

All Officers on the Committee will have one vote to decide on any matters after a Motion is discussed, Proposed and Seconded. In general, the voting will be conducted in an open manner i.e., show of hands. However, if the matter is considered to be of a delicate nature i.e., disciplinary, then The President or Chair of the meeting can call for a secret vote i.e., sealed envelopes with voting papers. Secret Voting opening of envelopes and counting of the votes will be conducted in private by the President or Chair and he will announce the result. If the President finds the secret vote is tied, he can use his casting vote in secret. Spoilt voting papers will be void.

The President or Chair of the meeting will abstain from any vote unless there is a tied vote in which case the President or Chair will have the casting vote.

Where governance matters arise that fall outside the scope of these bylaws, or where conflict exists, guidance shall be sought from the PGB.

Cross-Chapter Protocol

Beda Chapter members engaging with other Widows Sons Chapters must do so in accordance with WSMBA Great Britain guidelines.

Members must respect the authority, customs, and leadership of host Chapters when attending events.

Any inter-chapter disputes shall not be handled solely at Chapter level and must be referred to the PGB where appropriate.

Finances

a. The Beda Chapter Account to be held with HSBC unless the HSBC Banking conditions become untenable to the Officers and then the Bank Account can be moved to another provider with acceptable conditions and by agreement of Officers of Beda Chapter.

b. The Bank Mandate Signatures will be the Officers in the following positions, unless it is deemed appropriate this is changed after full discussion 0f Officers of Beda and having been agreed by majority.

President
Treasurer Secretary
Charity Steward.

c. The President or the Treasurer can authorise payments up to £149. Any sum more than £150 will need the agreement of the Beda Chapter Officers meeting and duly recorded in the Minutes. If it is deemed an ad hoc Emergency Payment say to assist a Brother in need with payment required above £150 this can be agreed by President and Treasurer jointly, after giving notice of the payment on the Beda Officers WhatsApp page.

d. The Bank Mandate will require any two signatories for physical paper documents i.e. Cheques issued. Item c. must be adhered to.

e. The use of HSBC Internet Banking or any Internet Banking system of any future Banking provider is agreed to be used to assist with smooth running of the Beda Finances. To accommodate and operate the system the following roles and privileges apply to the following Officers.

1. Treasurer – Primary User – Make payments in accordance with item c.; Manage user profiles.
2. President – Secondary User – Make payments in accordance with item c; Manage user profiles
3. Secretary – Secondary User – Make transactional payments in accordance with item c.
4. Charity Steward- Secondary User – Make transactional payments in accordance with item c.

f. Should any Officer of BEDA wish to view the Banking Account, they can request viewing of accounts at an Officers Meeting, and this must be made available to them.

The President together with the Almoner are authorised to make charitable contributions up to £100 at short notice. Any such contributions should be reported to the officers as soon as possible.

The Chapter shall comply with any national financial reporting requirements as directed by the WSMBA Great Britain Constitution or the PGB.

Accounts

a. The Accounting period of the Beda Chapter is from 1st March to 28 (or 29th) February Annually. This can be changed if required subject to agreement of The Officers.
b. The full Accounts will be presented by The Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting. A Copy of the Accounts will be made available approximately 7 days prior to the AGM on Officers WhatsApp Group page and any questions can raised for discussion at the AGM.
c. Due to the current size of BEDA, the accounts will not need auditing unless the Officers decide otherwise. The Beda Accounts will be available to any Officer on request to the Treasurer who must provide access to them and answer any questions.
d. A summary of the Beda Financial position will be supplied prior to each Officers Meeting and posted on the WhatsApp page consisting of 1. Beda Money 2. Beda Charity Money available 3. Relief Chest position

General

The Annual General Meeting when all members of Beda are welcomed to attend will be held on or near the last Sunday of February (or a convenient date within 3 weeks of the last Sunday). This will be held at The Keep in Bedford unless advised of another venue.

Annual Membership and Joining Fees (which includes that year's annual membership fee) will be reviewed annually by The Treasurer and any changes required will be presented to an Officers Meeting and voted on. Any change to the previous year will be implemented in the following year.

Annual membership fee is due on 1st March annually. Any membership payment not made by 1st May will result in the membership suspension. If payment is not further resolved by 1 July, the member's membership will be cancelled and there will be no entitlement to wear the regalia of Beda WSMBA or WSMBA in general. In case of a member's financial hardship and circumstances and the Officers can by majority vote agree to cover that year's membership fee from the Charity Funds of Beda Chapter if felt appropriate to a member of good standing within Beda Chapter.

Any amendments to Beda Chapter bylaws must be approved by the Chapter officers and ratified by the Masonic membership.

No amendment shall conflict with the WSMBA Great Britain Constitution. Where required, amendments may be subject to review or approval by the President's Governing Board