



By-Laws

Widows Sons

**Masonic Bikers Association of England
And
Affiliated Chapters**

Adopted 5 February 2003 - Updated 18 May 2004

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE

It is the pledge of the membership to support the welfare and general well being of the Widows Sons Bikers Association.

We further pledge that as members of the Widows Sons Bikers Association, we shall set a good example and never bring dishonour to the Association, ourselves or Freemasonry in general.

We pledge that we will support our brethren in the Widows Sons regardless of race, creed, colour, or national origin, and will never knowingly bring reproach upon a fellow brother of the Association.

We pledge to combat any forces, which would seek to undermine or bring reproach on the Widows Sons Bikers Association or its members, and we shall always strive to bring respect and dignity to the Widows Sons Bikers Association.

It is the pledge of each member to conduct himself or his business, when wearing the Widows Sons patch, in direct co-ordinance to the bylaws of the United Grand Lodge of England and of the craft lodge in which he is a member.

It is the pledge of the Chapter President and Officers to enhance the welfare and general well being of the Widows Sons Bikers Association of England.

It is the pledge of the President and Officers to rule and guide the association with due and equal regularity in the best interest of the Widows Sons Association of England and to base all decisions on the betterment or improvement of the Widows Sons Bikers Association.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1:

NAME

Section 1

This organization shall be known as the Widows Sons Bikers Association of England a not for profit organization with the principle mailing address of:

secretary@widowssons.org.uk

Section 2

The organization, The Widows Sons Bikers Association of England shall be governed by the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of Florida, Grand Chapter until such time as there are 4 or more active chapters (inclusive of the Grand Chapter), duly granted a charter by the Grand Chapter within the State of Florida. Upon chartering of the fourth chapter a 'President's Governing Board' (the 'Board") will be implemented.

The 'Board' will assume all the responsibilities of the Grand Chapter and will be comprised of the President of each chapter and the State coordinator. The 'Board' shall have jurisdiction over the membership and activities of any and all English based chapters, inclusive of the Grand Chapter, as prescribed in this constitution.

All actions taken by the 'Board' will require a majority vote of the members who are chapter Presidents. The State Coordinator will vote only in case of a tie, with the exception that he will be permitted to vote in the election of 'Board' officers. In all cases each member will hold one (1) vote.

The 'Board' will remain the governing body, once instituted and authority will not revert to the Grand Chapter unless the number of active chapters falls to two (2) or less and only if the Grand Chapter is still one of the two active chapters. If neither remaining chapter is the Grand Chapter, a vote of the 'Board' will be taken to determine which chapter will assume responsibility.

The 'Board' will be comprised of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. These offices will be filled through open nomination (by 'Board' members) and majority election (by 'Board' members). Election will take place every January or within 30 days of a vacancy in any of the offices.

'Board' members will be required to meet a minimum of once every six calendar months to conduct association business. This meeting may be conducted via conference call once per year.

Section 3

The right to reserve districts for chapter organization throughout the boundaries of the counties of England are reserved for future consideration by the Widows Sons Bikers Association England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate.

Section 4

The Widows Sons Bikers Association of England, Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate reserves the right to issue or deny any and all use of the Widows Sons patch and logo to any chapter that has been designated a chapter of the Widows Sons of England in accordance with these by-laws, and also reserves the right to revoke the charter or patches of any chapter(s), it has issued within the boundaries of England, who violates the bylaws of the United Grand Lodge of England, and/or the bylaws of the Widows Sons, and/or governs themselves in an un-Masonic manner, and/or brings disgrace or embarrassment to any chapter of the Widows Sons Bikers Association and/or any Craft Lodge, Grand Lodge or other body of Masons.

Article 2

PURPOSE

Section 1

It shall be the objective of each chapter of the Widows Sons Bikers Association of England to contribute to the relief of the widows of Master Masons within the boundaries of their jurisdiction set by the Widows Sons Bikers Association England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate, and to donate to Masonic related charitable organizations selected by the President of each chapter. All chapters will be required to conduct at least one yearly fund raising event where the proceeds are donated to such a charity.

Section 2

It shall be required by the Widows Sons Bikers Association England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate that all chartered Widows Sons chapters under its jurisdiction require their active members to remain in good standing in the records of their blue lodge and to conduct themselves in accordance with all state, federal and local laws.

Section 3

The Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate and all subordinate chapters shall not engage in political, religious or any activities that promote separation rather than unity, or cause controversy in the chapter or within the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association. It is the duty of the chapter President to cease any activity within his chapter that may cause disagreement or controversy inside the chapter or within the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association.

Any member who disregards or disobeys a direct order by the President of his chapter to cease and desist any activity will have his membership in the Widows Sons subject to termination pending a review and of all facts by the officers of his chapter.

The facts will be presented by the chapter President to his officers within 30 days of the violation, in writing, and action will require a majority vote of the chapter's officers. A full record of the proceedings will be kept by the chapter secretary in the chapter's records.

Section 4

It shall further be an object of this organization to receive, manage, invest, expend or otherwise use the funds and property of this organization to achieve the objectives set forth in this constitution and for such additional purposes and objects not inconsistent therewith as will further the interests of this organization, and its members directly or indirectly.

Article 3

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

This organization and its subordinate chapters shall limit active membership only to Master Masons who are members in good standing of a craft lodge recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England and who have their primary residence within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England.

No chapter shall include in their active membership anyone who is not a Master Mason in good standing in the records of his lodge, nor shall they accept into any form of membership anyone who is a member of a clandestine lodge, or a lodge that is not recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England.

Individuals who have attained the degree Entered Apprentice may be allowed to be members but will be designated as such and may wear the Widow patch, but not the rockers until such time as they have attained the degree of Master Mason. This designation may be kept for no longer than 12 months or until the Master degree is attained, whichever comes first. The individual will be responsible for payment of active member dues and will be bound by all sections of the by-laws, except he will not have a vote in chapter business. He may also be excluded from any chapter meeting or function at the request of any active member if approved by the chapter officers present. If after 12 months the individual has not progressed to the degree of Master his membership will be terminated without any right of appeal. He may re-apply for membership only after having attained the degree of Master Mason.

Section 2

Each affiliated Chapter shall be entitled to four (4) delegates, who shall consist of its President, and additionally Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer if these offices are filled. These offices to be filled by a vote of the chapter membership at a meeting to be held in March of each year.

Section 3

Each member to this organization shall have equal rights and privileges in connection with attending meetings and the participation in the deliberations of such meetings, except as outlined for 'Fellowcraft' members. Each Chapter may be required from time to time to send representative officers to special meetings called by the Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate.

Section 4

Each chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate may at its discretion offer Associate memberships to any individual or organization that wishes to support the chapter so long as this individual or organization is not involved in any illegal activity nor does it violate regularly accepted Masonic conduct. Associate members will not be issued and may not wear the full Widows Son logo, chapter name nor location rockers, as described herein nor will they have any right to vote or take part in the directing of official Widows Sons business.

Article 4

OFFICERS

Section 1

The Officers of all Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association chapters shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition each chapter may have a Chaplin, Sgt-at-Arms, and Road Captain at the discretion of the chapter President.

Section 2

The President of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of England's Grand Chapter shall be the General President of the Widows Sons Bikers organization of England unless/until the requirements for the 'Board' have been met and it has been established as per Article 1, Section 2 of these bylaws. He or the 'Board' as appropriate shall enforce all provisions of the Constitution and bylaws. He or the 'Board' as appropriate shall approve the disbursement of all funds from the accounts of the Widows Sons Bikers Association of England. At the individual chapter level funds may only be spent after a vote of the membership of the chapter. At the 'Board' level funds may be spent only after a vote of the 'Board' members as prescribed in these bylaws. A special meeting may be called for such purpose.

Section 3

The Vice-President, in absence of the President, shall preside and perform all duties pertaining to the office of the President, and render such assistance as may be required.

Section 4

The Secretary and/or Treasurer shall countersign all notices/checks for the expenditure of funds from the accounts of the chapter and together with the President, shall exercise joint custody and control over all assets chapter. They shall act in accordance with the wishes of the membership as laid out in these by-laws. The 'Board' will in similar fashion handle and disburse funds under its control. "Membership" in this case will be defined as members of the 'Board'.

Section 5

The Chaplin will be responsible for leading prayer at appropriate times during chapter activities.

The Sgt-at-Arms will be responsible for maintaining order during chapter functions and providing for the overall security during these functions as needed.

The Road Captain will assist in setting up rides and act as the ride leader.

Section 6

Each chapter shall be allowed to have the same number of Officers as the Widows Sons Bikers Association of England Grand Chapter as outlined in these bylaws, with the same authority over its Chapter as the Officers of the Grand Chapter.

Section 7

The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of England will maintain the position of 'State Coordinator'. This position will be responsible for the coordination of activities between Chapters, activities to enhance the public perception of the Widows Sons and promote the growth of its membership. This position will also be responsible for the chartering of new Chapters after they have been approved by the Grand chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate.

This position will be held for a period of two years with election and transfer of responsibilities to take place in March of each alternate year. Only the officers of the Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate will have a vote. E-mail will be considered an appropriate voting method.

Nominations will be accepted from any officer of the Grand Chapter or member of the 'Board' as appropriate, in writing or e-mail submitted to the Secretary. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary by February 15 on the year of election. The President of the England Grand Chapter or the Chairman of the 'Board' as appropriate will be responsible for balloting and announcement of the results.

The person elected may be a member of any currently active affiliated chapter. Removal from this position may only take place upon a 100% vote of the existing Chapter Presidents

Article 5

MEETINGS

Section 1

Chapters will have the right to schedule their own meetings to fit their purposes. Chapters will be required to have a minimum of 6 meetings per year (scheduled group rides will qualify as a meeting).

Section 2

Members will wear their patch at all meetings and events and when riding.

Article 6

MOTORCYCLES

All full active members and Fellowcraft members must own and operate a legally licensed (for street use) motorcycle of at least 500cc except if said member is operating a Classic Motorcycle. They must also possess a valid motorcycle license and comply with all laws governing the operation of said motorcycle.

Motorcycles must be kept in legal and safe operating condition at all times. Any member operating an unsafe motorcycle or operating in an unsafe manner may be excluded from group rides for the safety of other riders.

If a current active member disposes of his motorcycle he will be granted a period of 12 months to acquire another. If at the end of the 12 months he has not acquired another motorcycle of at least 500cc or a Classic Motorcycle he may continue membership as an 'Associate' member. He will not have voting rights and will not have a voice in Chapter business, but may continue to wear the Widows Sons patch and participate in all activities (he must also maintain membership in his Craft Lodge) for an additional 12 months. At the end of this period if he has not acquired a motorcycle he will relinquish all rights to wear the Widows Sons patch (he will have to turn the patch back into the Grand Chapter), but may still continue as an 'Associate' member based on a vote of Chapter membership.

Article 7

LOGOS

Section 1

The Presidents of the chapters will order logos (patch) for their new members only from the Widows Sons Bikers Association of England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate or a supplier designated by such. The logo (patch) will always remain the property of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of England and will be returned to the Association upon demand.

Only active members will be allowed to wear the full logo (patch).

Section 2

The full logo (patch) will consist of a top rocker stating the words Widows Sons. Below that a central logo of Square and Compass. The bottom rocker stating Masonic Bikers Assoc. Below that, small patch with the letters GC standing for Grand Chapter. Below that a straight rocker stating England. Only the Grand Chapter of England will use the words Grand Chapter and England.

Section 3

Each chapter will be required to receive approval from the President of the England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate prior to having any promotional

materials printed, sewn, made or distributed that includes the Widow logo or any representation thereof.

Article 8

FINANCES

Section 1

Initiation fees will be set by each chapter by a vote of the officers.

Section 2

Yearly dues will be set by the individual chapter officers.

Article 9

CHARGES AND DISPUTES

It is the intent of these by-laws to keep peace and harmony between all members and chapters. In the event there is a dispute between members or chapters all parties involved will be directed to meet and resolve the dispute to the benefit of the Widows Sons in general and the Masonic fraternity in particular.

This failing, the dispute will be brought to the attention of the England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate by submitting it in writing to its Secretary. A meeting will then be convened by the President of the Grand Chapter or the Chairman of the 'Board' as appropriate to include all involved parties. It is fully expected that peace and harmony will prevail and that all parties involved will work together to reach consensus and resolve the issue. If a resolution is not reached to which all parties agree, the issue will be resolved by a vote of the officers of the England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate. Their ruling will be final and not subject to further appeal.

Article 10

PROPERTY

The Widows Sons Bikers Association of England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate has the authority to suspend, trustee, or revoke any Chapter. In the event the Chapter is suspended, trustee, or revoked, all of its funds, books, paper, and other properties shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Widows Sons Bikers Association England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate, who shall hold them for reorganization. If no reorganization occurs within a period of Two (2) years, such funds and/or property shall be transferred to the Widows Sons Bikers Association England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate.

Article 11

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate reserves the right to amend or change any or all by-laws listed in this document at its sole discretion. Any subordinate chapter not wishing to comply with any changes may at anytime dissolve its charter by a majority vote of its membership and returning to the England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate all logos, patches, and materials relating to its operation or obtained from the England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate or any other Widows Sons chapter from any jurisdiction. Affiliated Chapters may amend these by-laws for their use only in so far as their changes add to the conditions and terms set forth in these by-laws. No change will be permitted that materially changes the intent or purpose of these by-laws. Interpretation of any changes will be solely at the discretion of the England Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate.

Proposed changes to a chapter's bylaws will be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Grand Chapter or the 'Board' as appropriate for approval prior to implementation. The President/Chairman will hold a vote of his officers to decide whether to accept or reject the proposed changes within 60 days of submission of proposed changes to the Secretary. The submitting chapter will be notified in writing of the decision. In all cases e-mail will be considered an appropriate method of communication.

Masonic Associate Members

Any Freemason in good standing in a Craft Lodge recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England who does not ride/own a motorcycle may be elected as a 'Masonic Associate Member'. As such he will not be eligible to vote in chapter affairs nor hold office but will be entitled to all other rights and privileges. Initiation fee will be set by the 'Board' which will include first calendar year dues. Yearly dues will be thereafter called upon. A special patch/shirt will be designed and approved and will be issued. Annual dues will be due no later than March 1 of each year.

Charter Members

The first 20 active members will be considered "Charter" members of the chapter and will be accorded all rights and benefits as may now or at a later time be designated by the chapter.

No other patch or insignia is to be worn on the back of the vest, except for small 'In Memory' patches for fallen Brothers.