





Constitutions of the Widows Sons of Great Britain

Index

Charge of the Widows Sons

1. Name of the Association
2. Ruling and Governance
3. Chapter Areas and Membership Location
4. Use of the Widows Sons Logo and Charters
5. Charity
6. Financial Standing and Personal Conduct
7. Maintaining Harmony
8. Management of Funds and Property
9. Membership
10. Offices of the Chapter
11. Management of Chapter Funds
12. Appointment and Responsibilities of the National Co-ordinator
13. Chapter Meetings
14. Motorcycles.
15. Widows Sons Regalia
16. Charges and Disputes
17. Widows Sons Chapter Property
18. General Conditions
19. Cross Chapter Protocol
20. Financial Year End's, and Grand Return.

Charge of the Widows Sons

It is the responsibility of our membership to support the welfare and reputation of the Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain.

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

We pledge to educate and enlighten any organisation, which would seek to undermine or bring reproach on the Widow's Sons Bikers Association or its members, and we shall always strive to bring respect and dignity to the Widow's Sons Bikers Association.

It is the pledge of each member to be an ornament to the society of Free Masonry whilst wearing the Widow's Sons regalia, in direct accordance with the constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England and Scotland and of the craft lodge in which he is a member.

It is the pledge of the Presidents Governing Board, each Chapter President and Officers to enhance the welfare and general well being of the Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain, and the Craft, and to support Masonic charity.

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 Widow's Sons Association of Great Britain and to base all decisions on the betterment or improvement of the Widow's Sons Bikers Association.

So Mote it Be.



Constitutions of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of Great Britain

Section 1

Name of the Association

This organisation shall be known as the **Widow's Sons Masonic Bikers Association of Great Britain** a none profit making organisation with the principal mailing address of:

WidowssonsGB@Gmail.com

Section 2

Ruling and Governance

The organisation, **The Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain** was formally governed by the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of Florida, Grand Chapter, until our fourth chapter was formed. Upon chartering of the fourth chapter **The 'President's Governing Board' (the PGB) was created.**

The **PGB will assume all responsibilities for the ruling and governance of the Association** and is comprised of the **President and Immediate Past (OR Vice) President of each Chapter** and a National Coordinator, appointed by the Board. The PGB shall have **governance over the membership and activities** of any and all **British based chapters.**

All actions taken by the **PGB** will require a **majority vote** of the members

The **office's** of the PGB will comprise a **Chairman, Vice Chairman National Co-ordinator/Secretary and Treasurer. Additional offices may be appointed as the activities and the needs of the board expand.** These offices will be filled through **open nomination** (by PGB members) and **majority election** (by PGB members). **Election** will take place annually or within **30 days** of a vacancy in any of the offices.

PGB members will be required to meet a **minimum of annually, generally at the Widows Sons National Rally** to conduct association business.

Section 3

Chapter Areas and Membership Location

Notwithstanding **the right to define districts for chapter organisation**, throughout the boundaries of the counties of Great Britain, being reserved for future consideration by the Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain, the organisation shall not be **exclusively territorial**; a suitably qualified **Master Mason** may thus **apply for membership to any chapter** irrespective of his domicile throughout said boundaries. **Brethren applying for membership** of a chapter from **outside of the local area**, should **forward the details to the PGB** to ensure the brother applying for membership has not caused variance with another chapter.

Section 4

Use of the Widows Sons Logo and Charters

The Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain, being the sole owners of the Widows Sons logo, reserves the right to **issue or deny any and all use of the Widow's Sons regalia and logo** to any chapter that has been **designated**, but **not chartered**, a chapter of the Widow's Sons of Great Britain in accordance with these constitutions, and also reserves the right to **revoke the charter** it has issued to any **chapter within the boundaries of Great Britain** which **violates the constitutions** of the **United Grand Lodge of England/Scotland** and/or the **constitutions of the Widow's Sons**, or conducts themselves in an **un-Masonic manner**, or brings disgrace or embarrassment to any **chapter** of the **Widow's Sons Masonic Bikers Association** or any **Craft Lodge, Grand Lodge** or other **body of Masons**.

Any **appeal** against such **revocation** must be made to the **PGB** within **30 days**.

Charters will remain the Property of the Presidents Governing Board, and remain in the custody of the **President of each chapter**, and **passed** to his **successor**, when **elected**.

Section 5

Charity

It shall be an **objective** of **each chapter** of the **Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain** to **contribute** to **Masonic and non Masonic** Charities within their **Province** selected by the **membership** of each chapter. **All chapters** will be required to **conduct at least one yearly fund raising event** where the proceeds are donated to such charities.

Section 6

Financial standing and personal conduct

It is **required** by the **Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain** that all **chartered Widow's Sons chapters** under its governance require their **members to remain in good standing** in the records of their lodge and to **conduct themselves** in accordance with the charges of the Craft and all **laws of the country** in which they reside, or may afford them protection.

Section 7

Maintaining Harmony

Members of the **Widows Sons** shall not **engage in political or religious discussion**, or **any activities** that **promote separation rather than unity**, or cause **controversy in the chapter** or within the **Widow's Sons Masonic Bikers Association**. It is the **duty** of the **chapter President** to **manage** any activity within his chapter that may **cause disagreement or controversy** inside the chapter or within the **Widow's Sons Masonic bikers association**.

Any member who **disregards or disobeys** a direct order by the **president** of his chapter to **cease and desist in any such activity** will have his **membership of the Widow's Sons suspended** pending a review of all relevant facts by the officers of his chapter.

The **facts** will be **presented to his officers by the chapter president** 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 in the **chapter's records** by the **chapter secretary**.

Section 8

Management of Funds and Property

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

Any **Chapter** that **closes or returns its Charter** to the P.G.B. must also **surrender all funds of the Chapter** raised through **Widows Sons activities**, any **items that exhibit the Widows Sons Logo**, and an **audited set of accounts** up to the point that the **chapter closed** or surrendered its Charter.

Section 9

Membership

Widows Sons Chapters shall **limit active membership** only to **Master Masons** who are current members in **good standing** of a **regular craft lodge** recognised by the **United Grand Lodge of England Scotland and Ireland**. Members are required to own a **road legal motorcycle** suitable for regular road use, or a **classic motorcycle** of any engine size.

No chapter shall include in their active **membership** any brother who is **not a Master Mason** in **good standing** in the records of his **lodge**, a **clearance certificate** should be obtained for any **new applicant for membership**. No person should be **admitted into the association** who is a **member** of any form of **clandestine Masonic lodge or order** Book of Constitutions Rule 176.

Each **subscribing full member** shall have **equal rights and privileges** in the **attendance of meetings** of his chapter, participation in the deliberations thereof, and in the **wearing of the regalia** as defined in the constitutions.

Each **chapter** may be required from time to time to **send representative officers** to special meetings called by the **Presidents Grand Board**.

Section 10

Officers of the Chapter

The **Officers of all Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association chapters** shall be the **President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer**. In addition, each chapter may **appoint additional offices** at the **discretion** of the **chapter president**.

All Officers shall be **elected democratically** at the **Annual General Meeting of the chapter**.

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.

No president of any chapter 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** etc a **new President** cannot be found for a chapter, the **current President** may be **permitted to continue in office** past the three year period, with **approval from the Presidents Grand Board**.

Section 11

Management of Chapter Funds

The **PGB** shall **oversee the implementation and review** of the **Constitutions** and **approve the disbursement** of all **funds** from the **account** of the **Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain**. At **individual chapter level** funds may only be

released after a **vote by the membership of the chapter**. The PGB will **release funds** after a **vote by the PGB members**. A special meeting may be called for such purpose.

The **Secretary and/or Treasurer** shall **countersign all notices/cheques** for the **expenditure of funds** from the **accounts of the chapter** and together with the **President**, shall exercise **joint custody and control** over all **chapter assets**.

Annual accounts for a **chapter** must be **audited** by an **elected person**, and **presented** at the **annual meeting** by the **chapter treasurer** for **approval** by the **members of the chapter**.

Section 12

Appointment and responsibilities of the National Co-ordinator

The **PGB** will **appoint a brother** of the PGB to the **position of 'National Coordinator'**. This post will be responsible for:

- **Managing membership enquiries**
- **Monitoring web sites, Facebook and other forms of public domain sites/publications for defamatory remarks etc that could be detrimental to the association.**
- **Administering a grand return for the purposes of insurance and national membership number**
- **Taking minutes at the PGB meetings**

This **position** will be **appointed on an annual basis**. Only the **members of the PGB** will be able to **propose and second a Brother** for the post and **ballot for such**.

Nominations will be accepted from **any member of the PGB** in **writing or e-mail**, and will be **submitted** to the **Chairman**.

The **Brother elected** must be a **member** of an **active chapter**. **Removal** from this position will take place with a **minimum 70%** vote of the **existing Chapter Presidents**

Section 13

Chapter Meetings

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

Members should be encouraged to wear the **Widow's Sons regalia** at all meetings, events and when riding.

Section 14

Motorcycles

All full members must own and operate a **legally licensed (for road use) motorcycle or Classic Motorcycle**. They must also possess a **valid motorcycle licence** 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 following the **12 month period** he **has not acquired another motorcycle or a Classic Motorcycle** he may **continue membership as an 'Associate' member**. **Associate members do not have voting rights** and will not have a voice in Chapter business, **but may continue to wear the Widow's Sons regalia** 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 Widow's Sons regalia.**

A member, who has to give up the use of a motorbike due to ill health or injury, may continue as an honorary full member, with the full agreement of the chapter members, and may continue to wear the regalia of the Association.

Section 15

Widows Sons Regalia

The presidents of the chapters will issue the regalia for their new members only sanctioned by the **Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain Presidents Grand Board.**

The regalia which is worn on the **Front** of a **jacket or waistcoat**, consists of an oval cloth badge with the words "Widows Sons" across the top, below which is exhibited a square and compasses, encircled by two sprigs of acacia, and the words "Masonic bikers association" underneath. The **regalia will only be worn by full members** of the association. The lettering is gold on a black background. No **Rockers or patches** that **claim** or could be **perceived as a claim** for a territorial area are to be worn on the **rear of a jacket or waistcoat**. Chapter area patches must only be worn on the front left of the jacket or waistcoat.

Brethren are reminded that **when wearing the regalia** of the **Widows Sons**, that they are representing **Freemasonry** as a whole, and their **conduct must be representative of the craft at all times.**

Approval for the Use of the Widows Sons Logo

Chapters and individual members are required to **receive approval** from the **PGB** regarding any **promotional materials** printed, sewn, made or distributed, which includes the **Widow's Sons logo or title or any representation thereof.**

Supportive or Offensive Patches

No **supportive badges or patches** may be worn by **any member** of the **Widows Sons** for **any form of 1%/outlaw club**, or **any article** that may be misconstrued as such. Patches/badges that may cause offence, must not be worn at any time, a general rule is, if the patch/badge is not appropriate for a Masonic meeting, it is not appropriate for a Widows Sons member to wear.

Section 16

CHARGES AND DISPUTES

It is the intent of these constitutions to **keep peace and harmony** between all members and chapters. In the event of a dispute between members or chapters all parties involved will be directed to meet and resolve the dispute to the benefit of the Widow's Sons in general and the Masonic fraternity in particular.

This failing, the dispute will be brought to the attention of the PGB, by submitting it in writing to the Secretary. A meeting will then be convened by the PGB, 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 a consensus and resolve the issue. If such resolution is not achieved, the issue will be decided by a vote by the officers of the PGB, the ruling will be final and not subject to further appeal.

Section 17

WIDOWS SONS CHAPTER PROPERTY

The **Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain**, has the authority to **suspend or revoke the charter of any chapter issued by the P.G.B.** , subject to the appeals procedure as stated in the constitutions. In the event the charter of a chapter is suspended or revoked, all of the **chapter's funds, books, paper, and other properties** shall be forwarded to the **Secretary of the Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain's PGB** who shall hold them for reorganisation. If no

reorganisation occurs within a period of two (2) years, such funds and/or property shall be transferred to the Widow's Sons Bikers Association of Great Britain PGB.

Section 18

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The **Widow's Sons Masonic Bikers Association of Great Britain** shall be a democratic organisation and any **changes to these constitutions** that materially affect the rights or privileges of any chapter or individual member, shall only be effected by a democratic vote of the PGB.

Any chapter not wishing to comply with such changes may at anytime **dissolve its charter** by a **majority vote of its membership** and return to the PGB all materials relating to its operation.

Chapters may amend the constitutions only through their own By-Laws, which each chapter may be permitted to produce. Such **Chapter By-Laws** must be **presented to the PGB for approval**. No Chapter By-Law will be permitted that materially alters the intent or purpose of the constitutions.

Proposed changes to a chapter's bi-laws must be **submitted in writing to the Secretary of the PGB for approval prior to implementation**. The PGB will conduct a ballot to decide whether to accept or reject the proposed changes within 60 days of submission of proposed changes. The submitting chapter will be notified in writing of the decision. In all cases e-mail will be considered an appropriate method of communication.

Section 19

Cross Chapter Protocol

From time to time it may be required to **ride across another chapters area**, in which **certain control measures are in place to ensure harmony** between the **Widows Sons and a local bike club**. A **cross chapter protocol** is in place to ensure this **harmony is maintained**, and it is the **responsibility of all members** of a chapter travelling into another area, to **make contact with the home chapter** first. It is also the **responsibility of all chapters** to ensure that the **Protocol is followed**. **Contact must be made with an areas chapter President before travelling, or travel without wearing regalia on display.**

Section 20

Financial Year End and Grand Return

As the **Widows Sons of Great Britain**, arrange events to which **members of the public** may attend or be affected, **public liability insurance** is required to protect the association from potential personal injury litigation. **The British Motorcycle Federation** offer **associate membership to organisations'** such as ourselves, which the PGB voted to join.

The **BMF membership** runs from the **1st January to the 31st December**, and the fee for **associate membership** is a **per-capita arrangement**. As such the following must be arranged in all chapters.

- ✓ **Chapters** must **adjust their financial year end** to coincide with the **BMF**.
- ✓ A **Widows Sons Grand Return**, must be **completed and sent** via e-mail to the **National Coordinator** by all chapters together with the **appropriate membership fee**.

In accordance with the **Data Protection Act**, **no information contained within the Widows Sons Grand return** will be shared with any **third party** and will be for the sole use of **administering the membership of the association**.

The grand return will also assist with:

- ✓ Giving an accurate up to date list of all members
- ✓ Details of any Brother who has been excluded from the Association or refused entry.

Widows Sons MBA

The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association is a registered Limited Entity, the registered Directors are:

Bro George Young. Northumberland Chapter

W. Bro Peter Younger. Northumberland Chapter

The Company number **08977221**

The Presidents Governing Board also hold the copyright for the Logo, and the Trade Mark.

Widows Sons MBA Trade Mark No: **UK00003273748**

