

Widows Sons Durham Chapter By-Laws

1. The Chapter

- a. This Chapter is known as the Widows Sons Durham Chapter, part of the WSMBA (Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association).

2. Membership

- a. Application forms for new members must be accompanied by a clearance certificate from the lodge of the Brother applying to be a member.
- b. Names and Lodge membership of applicants will be circulated to all members to ensure no brother is admitted to the association who may be at variance with another member. If any member of the association has a concern over the applicant, they must contact the President in confidence within 7 days. Any issue or concern must be fully settled before the brother can be admitted to the association.
- c. Membership of the Widows Sons (WS) Durham chapter is restricted to Master Masons in good standing with their craft lodge.
- d. They must have a full motorcycle license, own a road legal motorcycle above 400cc engine capacity, which is legal to use on all public highways, when participating on a Widows sons ride/ event, correctly insured and MOT'd (if applicable i.e. classic motorcycles), and in regular use by the applicant for membership.
- e. Every member must support the officers of the WSMBA.
- f. All members **MUST NOT** bring the name of Widows Sons or Freemasonry in to disrepute.

3. Maintaining Membership of the chapter

- a. Membership can only be maintained by brethren who remain active and in good standing with their/any craft lodge.
- b. He remains a full and regular member of his Chapter and his regular Masonic Lodge, unless his vocation, incapacity or family commitments prevent attendance.
- c. His financial responsibilities to his Chapter and his regular Masonic Lodge are maintained.
- d. He remains a fully licensed rider and owner of a road legal Motorcycle for road use. (refer to paragraph 2 d.)
- e. His conduct and behaviour remain in keeping with the principles of Freemasonry, and the Constitutions of his Grand Lodge, the Constitutions of the WSMBA, and the by-laws of his Chapter.
- f. That he DOES NOT under any circumstances bring the WSMBA or Freemasonry into disrepute.
- g. If a Brother resigns from his lodge, or his lodge folds, he must join an alternative lodge within a 12 month period otherwise his WS membership will be terminated.
- h. Attendance at social occasions is actively encouraged.
- i. He does not join any alternative motorcycle organisation with questionable associations (i.e. 1% clubs).
- j. Inactive membership will be regularly reviewed by the Management Team for potential termination of membership.

4. Subscriptions

- a. Subscriptions are payable 1st of February each year. Fees will be agreed at the AGM by the brethren. The first years' subscription includes the members Club patches. Brethren will also pay a charitable contribution with their subscription.

5. Regalia

- a. The Club patches of WS Durham, consists of a name badge (Widows Sons MBA), a cloth patch bearing the insignia of the association being a square and compass surrounded by acacia and a province badge stating Durham.
- b. The Club patch is to be positioned on the left side of the brother's waistcoat or jacket.
- c. No badges or insignia are to be worn on the back of a brother's waistcoat or jacket other than approved WS badges or insignia or at the President's discretion.
- d. No additional support badges for MC clubs or clubs associated with MC culture are to be worn.
- e. The Club patch remains the property of the Durham chapter and must be returned if membership is discontinued for any reason.

6. Motorcycles.

- a. All road going motorcycles used or owned by members of the association **MUST** be in road legal condition and maintained in a safe road worthy manner when participating on a Widows sons ride/ event . Every Brother is expected to keep his road bike fully insured and in possession of a valid MOT certificate for the bike (if applicable e.g. classic motorcycles). Exceptions are if the motorcycle is SORNed or going to a MOT appointment.

7. Officers of the Association

- a. The Officers of the Durham WS shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two Wardens.

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- b. The President will be elected at the annual meeting to be held in January of each year. The president can hold position for a maximum of three continuous years.
- c. The Treasurer is to be elected/re-elected at the annual meeting
- d. A yearly balance sheet of the WS Durham accounts will be produced for the brethren at the annual meeting, audited and signed by the President and Vice President.
- e. The Wardens will act as the Road Captains.
- f. The President, Vice President and immediate Past President will be the representatives of the chapter on the Presidents Governing Board, and will be expected to attend meetings when called upon.
- g. The President and Vice President are the representatives of the chapter at the North East Coalition of Motorcycle Clubs.

8. Chapter Ride Outs

- a. Ride outs will be arranged to take place throughout the year. Members may organise ad-hoc ride outs (including midweek) as long as they do not clash with scheduled planned rides.
- b. The Wardens will act as the Road Captains, and will plan and prepare the routes for the brethren's ride outs. One Warden will lead the run, and the second will take the rear of the group in case any Brother has any difficulties.

9. Constitutions of the Widows Sons of Great Britain

- a. Members of the Durham chapter must adhere to the constitutions of the Widows Sons of Great Britain Presidents Governing Board as well as the by-laws of their chapter, the constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, and the by-laws of their mother lodges.

10. Widows Sons Charter

- a. The Widows Sons Charter will remain in the custody of the President of the Chapter, and must be handed to his successor when elected. The charter will remain the property of the Widows Sons of Great Britain's Presidents Governing Board, and must be returned to the board in the event of the termination of the Chapter.

11. Chapter Funds

- a. The use of Chapter funds must be agreed by a ballot of the members. In the event of an emergency, when funds may be required for a particular urgent issue, the President and Vice President may decide together if the use of funds is acceptable and masonically appropriate.

12. The North East Coalition of Motorcycle Clubs

- a. The Durham chapter of the Widows Sons, became members of the coalition in June 2010. The purpose of the coalition is to ensure all the motorcycle clubs/associations are familiar with each other and communicate freely with each other about their activities and events.

13. Ruling and Governance

- a. The Widows Sons of Great Britain and all of its subordinate chapters shall be ruled by the Presidents Governing Board, which consists of the Presidents, Vice Presidents and Immediate Past Presidents of all the chapters within Great Britain.
- b. A review of these by-laws will take place yearly or amendments made as deemed necessary.

14. Contact

- a. e-mail address is:
secretary@durham.wsmba.uk

Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association By-laws of the Durham Chapter Founded January 2016