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Constitutions of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association, of England & Wales and its Districts Overseas.

Drawing together the fundamental principles and established precedents that constitute the legal basis of how the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association is governed for and by its' Members.

SECTION "WSMBA & THE PGB"

1. Name and structure of the Association

This entity shall be known as the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association of England & Wales and its Districts Overseas and including regular Masonic Constitutions in Amity with UGLE, hereafter referred to as the WSMBA, a not-for-profit organisation, Masonic Charitable Foundation Relief Chest No. E1072.

Purpose of the Association

To bring together practising Freemasons in good standing within lodges registered with, and in Amity with, the United Grand Lodge of England, hereafter referred to as UGLE. Men drawn together by a shared passion for Motorcycles and thus, by 'Association', to Freemasonry. As such, to support and promote Masonic Principles and Freemasonry as recognised by UGLE and its Provinces and Districts Overseas together with regular Constitutions of Foreign Grand Lodges in Amity with UGLE.

Ruling and Governance Introduction

The Presidents Governing Board, (PGB), is the ruling body for all Widows Sons Chapters in England and Wales and Districts Overseas, including Chapters from other Grand Lodges in Amity with UGLE that have been Chartered by the WSMBA and continue to abide by the WSMBA Constitution.

Membership of the President Governing Board

The membership of the PGB shall consist of the sitting President of each Chapter within the WSMBA.

The Reigning President of each Chapter will have a voting right on any ballot.

The President of the Chapter will represent his Chapter at the AGM, the National Rally and Quarterly Zoom meetings when called upon.

The Officers of the Presidents Governing Board

The following officers will be appointed by the PGB to run the WSMBA and will be collectively, hereafter, be referred to as the "Back Office":

Chairman

Vice Chairman North

Vice Chairman South

Secretary

Treasurer

Chairman

The role and responsibilities of the Chairman are:

- To convene meetings of the PGB as and when required.
- To chair meetings of the PGB, to an agreed agenda.
- To represent the WSMBA, in a positive light, at all times.
- To ensure that the Constitutions of the WSMBA remain current and fit for purpose.
- To ensure any issues that may damage the reputation of the WSMBA or the contentment of the members are dealt with in a swift and timely manner.
- To co-ordinate the WSMBA chapter growth ambitions.
- To liaise with Masonic bodies as required.
- In the event of a tie in a PGB ballot, the Chairman will have the deciding vote.

To qualify for the post of Chairman the Brother must:

- Be a past President of a regularly chartered WSMBA Chapter.
- Be in good standing with his craft lodge.
- Have been a member of the WSMBA for a minimum period of five years.
- Have an in-depth knowledge of the WSMBA and Craft Constitutions.
- Be elected annually, by the Presidents of the PGB.
- Can serve in office for a maximum period of ten years.

Vice Chairman

The role and responsibilities of a Vice Chairman, one appointed to the North and one to the South, are:

- To chair meetings of the PGB, to an agreed agenda in the absence of the Chairman.
- To represent the Widows Sons as and when required.
- To ensure that the constitutions of the WSMBA remain current and suitable.
- To oversee any disciplinary action taken by a Chapter.
- To ensure any issues that may damage the reputation of the WSMBA or the contentment of the members are dealt with in a swift and timely manner.
- To co-ordinate the WSMBA chapter growth ambitions in partnership with the Chairman and Chapter Presidents.
- To liaise with Masonic bodies as required.

To qualify for the post of a Vice Chairman the Brother must:

- Be a past President of a regularly chartered WSMBA Chapter.
- Be in good standing with his craft lodge.
- Have been a member of the WSMBA for a minimum period of five years.
- Have an in-depth knowledge of the WSMBA and Craft Constitutions.
- Be elected annually, by the members of the PGB and appointed by the Chairman at the President's AGM.
- Can serve in office for a maximum period of ten years.

Any Brother wishing to be proposed for the post of Chairman, or Vice Chairman, must inform the National Secretary at least 30 days prior to an AGM. Election to these offices requires a 51% vote of Presidents in attendance at the Presidents Annual Conference.

Secretary

The Secretary will be responsible for:

- Managing membership enquiries and general correspondence.
- Maintaining the administration of the WSMBA.
- Co-ordinating PGB votes.
- Administering a National return for the purposes of insurance and National membership numbers.
- Preparing Agendas and taking minutes at PGB meetings.
- Managing Data in accordance with current legislation.

Treasurer

The role and responsibilities of the Treasurer are to:

- Budget for and manage the cash flow required for National expenditure.
- Invoice the Chartered Chapters of the WSMBA in a timely manner to ensure prompt payment of required fees.
- Co-ordinate any nationally agreed collection of funds for WSMBA initiatives and charity appeals.
- Manage the annual British Motorcycle Federation Membership in partnership with the National Secretary.

In addition to the above roles the “Back Office” may appoint experienced Members of the WSMBA to assist in the smooth running of the Association. The roles identified but not limited to as follows: IT support, Editor News Team, Media Communications, National Almoner.

2. Chartering Powers

The WSMBA PGB will consider Chartering a Chapter that has the following in place:

- At least 7 members all in good standing in a regular craft lodge.
- A Proposed and Seconded President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer elect, duly minuted.
- The approval of their area of operation’s Masonic Ruler.
 - Applications may still be considered without this providing that the appropriate approach and response is minuted in the Chapter records.
 - Where approval has not been given, the National Secretary and relevant Vice Chairman is to be informed.
- Accept to comply with the Constitution of the WSMBA without reservation.
- A bank account with at least two signatories.
- Approved draft Bylaws.
- Recognised annual charity event, masonic or non-masonic.
- In Amity with UGLE.
- Majority approval of the PGB.

The application will be submitted to the Secretary of the WSMBA PGB for scrutiny and potential approval and then circulated to the PGB to vote on acceptance, a 51% majority is required. Any application received after a formal meeting of the PGB can be circulated by email for a vote.

Freemasonry being universally spread across the World, the WSMBA shall establish Regional Representation (Regions), the boundaries of which shall be determined/reviewed from time to time by the Back Office and at the date of this Constitution shall be:

Provinces

- Region 1 Scotland North, West and East.
- Region 2 Ireland.
- Region 3 Cumberland & Westmorland, Durham, Northumberland.
- Region 4 Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire North & East Ridings, Yorkshire West Riding.
- Region 5 Cheshire, East Lancashire, Herefordshire, Isle of Man, North Wales, West Lancashire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.
- Region 6 Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, London North, Middlesex, Netherlands, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk.
- Region 7 Bristol, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Somerset, South Wales, West Wales, Wiltshire.
- Region 8 East Kent, Guernsey & Alderney, Hampshire IoW, Jersey, London South, Surrey, Sussex, West Kent.

Districts Overseas

- Europe: Cyprus, Gibraltar, Greece, Malta, Portugal.
- Asia Bengal, Bombay, Burma (Dormant), Eastern Archipelago, Hong Kong & the Far East, Northern India, Madras, Pakistan (Dormant), Sri Lanka
- Africa East Africa, Ghana, KwaZulu-Natal, Namibia, Nigeria, Orange Free State, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, South Africa-Central Division, South Africa- Eastern Division, South Africa-North, South Africa-Western Division, Saint Helena, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi
- Americas Bahamas and Turks, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Bermuda, Guyana, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Montreal and Halifax, South America-Northern Division, South America-Southern Division, Trinidad and Tobago
- Oceania Australia, North Island-New Zealand, South Island-New Zealand, South West Pacific, Papua New Guinea

Foreign Grand Lodges In Amity: Netherlands



SECTION “NEW CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT”

3. New Chapter Development

Introduction

The long-term goal of the Widows Sons MBA is to establish a Widows Sons chapter for each Province. This will assist in recruitment, develop a stronger regional identity and provide support to each Province. Our growth must be organic, and cannot be rushed, to ensure that strong healthy Chapters are formed. All Chapters must actively support the aims and objectives of our collective goal.

There are two routes by which a new chapter can be formed:

1. A Chapter formed by segmenting an existing larger Chapter covering a number of Provinces.
2. A new Chapter formed in a Province which does not currently have any Widows Sons members.

Forming a New Chapter from within an Existing Chapter

1. Chapter Presidents and the geographically appropriate Vice Chairman of the PGB should make a regular assessment of Chapter membership levels and the Provinces in which members reside. If this assessment highlights a minimum number of 7 members who could potentially form a new Chapter for a Masonic Province, those Brethren should be assembled and a discussion around the topic take place. Members themselves may also identify the opportunity for a new chapter and approach their President for advice.
2. Following this discussion, if the formation of a new Chapter meets with the support of the Brethren from within the Province identified, the Chairman of the PGB is to be informed.

The following process is then followed:

3. The Provincial Grand Master is to be formally contacted, by the President Elect of the prospective Chapter, to inform him that a Chapter of the Widows Sons will be operating within his Province and will be available to support and promote the Province within the local community.
4. The Chairman of the PGB, will announce the potential new Chapter on the PGB page and WhatsApp forum.
5. The new Chapter will be mentored by their sponsoring President, a Vice Chairmen of the PGB or an appointed experienced Brother and provided with the “New Chapter Guidance” and a copy of the WSMBA constitutions.
6. The founding offices of the new Chapter will be, as a minimum:
 - ✓ President
 - ✓ Vice President
 - ✓ Secretary
 - ✓ Treasurer

Additional offices may be appointed by the President and members of the Chapter.

7. All meetings regarding the development of the new Chapter are to be minuted/recorded accurately by Secretary Elect of the prospective Chapter.
8. The Mother Chapter may, with approval from their membership, provide a “startup fund” from Chapter funds.
9. The following factors need to be approved by the Chairman of the PGB prior to voting on by the Founders:
 - ✓ Chapter Name - it should have a strong regional/Provincial identity, whilst also considering local territorial motorcycle clubs.
 - ✓ Chapter Logo or Identifying Badges – should not resemble anything used by another Motorcycle Club or Association
 - ✓ Chapter By-Laws – they must not be at variance with the WSMBA Constitutions.
10. Once the new Chapter has been developed to the point of self-sufficiency, with a full list of officers, a bank account for the Chapter, approved name and by-laws, the Chairman will approach the PGB for approval.
11. Approval is gained by a majority vote of Presidents at a formal, minuted, meeting of the PGB.
12. Once approval is gained, the Charter is prepared and is signed by the Chairman, Vice Chairmen and all the ruling Presidents, prior to being presented to the Founding President and Brethren at the Widows Sons National Rally.
13. In extenuating circumstances, a digital Charter may be provided, as an interim measure, until time and circumstances allow for the formal presentation.
14. The new Chapter will continue to be supported/mentored for a period of one year by the relevant Vice Chairman and/or the Mother Chapter’s President, if felt necessary by the Chairman.

The Formation of a New Widows Sons MBA Chapter

From time to time the Widows Sons MBA are contacted by a Brother who may not currently be a member of the Widows Sons but is interested in joining and has several Brethren who meet the criteria for membership and wish to form a new Chapter.

Founders to become Widows Sons Members

The starting point is for all the Founders to become members of the Widows Sons MBA.

Arrangements are to be made for them to become members of the neighbouring chapter to the proposed location of the new Chapter.

The President of the neighbouring chapter, or a Vice Chairman, will be appointed as the mentor for the new chapter and the process is followed as if forming the Chapter from within an existing one.

4. Use of the Widows Sons Logo and Charters

The WSMBA, being the sole owners of the Widows Sons logo, the PGB reserves the right to issue or deny any and all use of the Widow's Sons regalia and logo to:

- a. Any chapter that has been designated, but not chartered, a chapter of the WSMBA in accordance with these Constitutions.
- b. Also reserves the right to revoke the charter it has issued to any chapter within the boundaries of operation which violates the Book of Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England Wales and/or the Constitutions of the WSMBA, or conducts themselves in an un-Masonic manner, or brings disgrace or embarrassment to any chapter of the WSMBA 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 remain the Property of the PGB, and are to remain in the custody of the Chapter President and passed to his successor when elected to that office.

Each chapter will be required to receive approval from the Chairman of the PGB prior to having any promotional materials printed, sewn, made or distributed that includes the Widows Sons logo or any representation thereof.

4. Charity

It shall be an objective of each chapter of the WSMBA 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.

5. Financial Standing and Personal Conduct.

It is required by the WSMBA that all chartered 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.

6. Maintaining Harmony

Members of the WSMBA should remember their masonic commitment not to engage in topics of political or religious discussion, or activities that promote separation rather than unity, or cause controversy in their Chapter or within the WSMBA as a body. 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 WSMBA. 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 WSMBA 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.

Any offensive behaviour including racist, political, religious, sexist, homophobic, controversial comments or inflammatory remarks, will not be permitted. Anyone behaving in an offensive way or bringing Freemasonry into disrepute may be asked not to attend further meetings or to resign from the WSMBA if an apology is not given or the behaviour

is repeated. The individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Chapter Officers, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

If the Chapter is unable to resolve the issues, the appropriate Vice Chairman is to be informed and a meeting will then be convened to include a minimum of 5 members of the PGB and all involved parties. It is expected that the PGB members chosen by the Vice Chairman will not be directly involved in the issue or have any conflict of interest. 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 Chairman of the PGB will circulate the details of the issue to the PGB and decided by a full vote of the PGB. This decision will be final and not subject to further appeal.

7. 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/surrenders its Charter to the PGB 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 "MEMBERSHIP"

8. Membership

Introduction

The focus of this section of our Constitutions is to support and attract quality membership across the Association, and to ensure the correct steps are taken in every Chapter of the WSMBA to cement continued Brotherhood and stability. Membership will be drawn from those who are considered a free man, and in reputable circumstances bound by the Book Of Constitutions of their Regular Grand Lodge in Amity with UGLE.

8.1 Requirements for Membership of the WSMBA

To be eligible to be considered for membership of the WSMBA, the following criteria must be met by the applicant:

- 8.1.1 They are a Master Mason in good standing within a recognised regular Masonic lodge registered with the United Grand Lodge of England, Ireland, Scotland and Foreign Grand Lodges in Amity with UGLE, and regularly attend said Masonic lodge.
- 8.1.2 They have a full motorcycle license, own a road legal motorcycle of any engine capacity, which is safe to use on a public highway, correctly insured and tested, and in regular use by the applicant for membership.
- 8.1.3 They are not a member of any other form of Motorcycle club with questionable associations.

8.2 Responsibilities of the Officers within a Widows Sons Chapter for New Members

To ensure that the Brother applying for membership meets the required criteria, the following checks must be made:

- 8.2.1 A visual check of their Grand Lodge certificate

- 8.2.2 A letter of confirmation from their regular lodge confirming that they are in financial good standing with said lodge.
- 8.2.3 That the applicant for membership attends a variety of social events masonic and non-masonic and arranged ride outs to satisfy the members of their prospective Chapter that they are of suitable character and behaviour to become a member of the WSMBA. This may be shortened if the applicant has been in an Associate for a period of time.
- 8.2.4 That any concerns relating to the applicant for membership are suitably addressed and adjusted prior to a ballot of members being taken.
- 8.2.5 That the details of the applicant are provided to all Chapter members, in private, 7 days prior to a ballot being taken, providing time for any member to raise any issue relating to the applicant in confidence prior to the ballot being completed.
- 8.2.6 The ballot, once taken, will be considered successful if no objections are raised.
- 8.2.7 The new member, once successfully balloted for, is provided with the appropriate regalia of the Association, a copy of the by-laws of their chapter, and the constitutions of the WSMBA. Chapters may issue patches in stages, in accordance with their own by-laws.

9.3. Maintaining Membership of the WSMBA.

Membership of the WSMBA can only be maintained by a Brother if:

- 9.3.1 He remains a full and active member of his chapter, and his regular Masonic Lodge, unless his vocation, incapacity or family commitments prevent attendance.
- 9.3.2 His financial responsibilities to his chapter and his regular Masonic Lodge are maintained.
- 9.3.3 He remains a fully licensed rider and owner of a road legal Motorcycle.
- 9.3.4 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.
- 9.3.5 That he does not under any circumstances bring the WSMBA or Freemasonry into disrepute.
- 9.3.6 If a Brother resigns from his lodge, or his lodge folds, he must join an alternative lodge within a 12 month period.
- 9.3.7 He does not join any alternative motorcycle organisation with questionable associations.

9.4. Honorary Memberships

A Chapter may confer Honorary Memberships on any member of the Chapter after a majority vote of the Members.

WSMBA Honorary Memberships run in the same spirit as a Craft Lodge, that is to say:

- 9.4.1 They are not expected to pay subs
- 9.4.2 They forfeit voting rights
- 9.4.3 They cannot hold an office within the Chapter
- 9.4.4 They retain the right to wear their regalia
- 9.4.5 There is no mandatory requirement for an Honorary Member to ride a motorcycle

9.5. Resigning Membership of the WSMBA

If a Brother wishes to resign, it should be provided, in writing, to the Secretary of the Chapter stating the reasons for his resignation, together with his Widows Sons regalia.

- 9.5.1 If the reasons for his resignation can be addressed confidentially, then the officers of the Chapter should make every effort to do so.
- 9.5.2 He will be entitled to a 28 day "cooling off" period, after which his resignation will be accepted and circulated to his Chapter members. If a past, or current President, the PGB exec must also be informed.

- 9.5.3 His letter of resignation is stored for future reference, so if the Brother wishes to return to the Chapter or any other chapter at any future point, the reasons for his resignation can be reviewed and discussed with the Brother prior to being admitted back into the association.

9.6. A Brother Wishing to Join, or re-join, an Alternative Chapter from his Home Province or Lodge Area

Any Chapter who receives an application from a Brother for membership, or applying to re-join the WSMBA in a different area/Province to his home address, or having just moved to the chapter area, must first:

- 9.6.1 Make enquiries with the President from the area/location that the brother resides, or was a former member of, to ensure he is of suitable character to join or re-join the WSMBA
- 9.6.2 That any issues relating to the brother for joining or re-joining are fully investigated and presented to the Officers of the Chapter prior to ballot.
- 9.6.3 That any issues relating to the character of the applicant are fully resolved to everyone's satisfaction before his membership process commences. If a resolution cannot be made to everyone's satisfaction it is up to the receiving Chapter Officers to determine acceptance, or not.
- 9.6.4 That the applicant attends a number of rides and events to meet the Chapter members prior to a ballot for admission.
- 9.6.5 That the details of the applicant are provided to all Chapter members in private 7 days prior to a ballot being taken, providing time for any member to raise any issue relating to the applicant in confidence prior to the ballot being completed.
- 9.6.5 The ballot once taken will be considered successful if no objections are raised.
- 9.6.6 The new member once successfully balloted for, is provided with the regalia of the Association, a copy of the by-laws of their Chapter, and the Constitutions of the WSMBA.

SECTION "ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP"

9. Widows Sons Associate Membership

WSMBA Chapters may provide an Associate Membership Scheme within their Chapter. The Associate program is not mandatory and is intended to be used in a similar way to the UGLE Pathways program for new candidates.

This section of our Constitutions outlines the agreed process for Associate membership.

Who can become an Associate Member?

Potential Associates may be welcomed to Chapters after a Chapter vote for Associate Membership, the same way a member would be voted in. Membership generally stems from:

- ✓ Friends or family,
- ✓ Members of lodges

From whichever route they are introduced, a considered decision should ensure that they will represent the chapter with those Masonic values attributed to the Widows Sons and Freemasonry.

The Proposer agrees to accept responsibility for their actions if disharmony is observed.

The Chapter has the right to take away an Associate Membership if a majority vote of the Chapter Members considers it necessary for the harmony of the Chapter.

It is recommended that a potential Associate Member attends several events before being proposed for membership.

It is not mandatory for an Associate to ride a motorcycle.

Associate Group Names

The naming convention for Associates of a Chapter should be considered with the same caution as laid out in Section 3 subsection 9.

It needs to be made clear that Associates of Chapters are not members of the WSMBA but of the individual Chapter.

Associate Member Involvement

Associate members are partnered to a Chapter and not to the WSMBA, as such:

- ✓ They may not hold office in a Widows Sons Chapter
- ✓ They are not permitted to vote in Officer Elections.
- ✓ They are not permitted to vote on Chapter business.

Chapters may decide on their own fees relevant to their individual Chapters for application to become an Associate which will be collected annually in line with the rest of the subs due from full membership Widows Sons.

SECTION "PATCHES"

10. Patch Overview

As with all motorcycle clubs and associations, the Widows Sons wear identifying clothing in the form of patches to identify Chapter, membership type, position within the Chapter etc.

General Rules:

- 10.1.1 All patches worn by WSMBA Members or Associates are to be approved and categorised prior to production. A design is to be emailed to the WSMBA Secretary who will seek the required approval.
- 10.1.2 Any item of merchandise, donning a patch design worn on WSMBA regalia, should only be sold to someone 'qualified' to wear that patch design.

10.1.3 No WSMBA Member or Associate is to wear support patches for another motorcycle club on their regalia.

10.1.4 No WSMBA Patch design should replicate or mimic an existing motorcycle club design.

11. Patch Categories

In a bid to provide some clarity around who can wear which patches/regalia, a Category system has been put in place, as follows:

- Cat 1 - Members Only - These will be patches that may only be worn by members of the WSMBA and will be things like the front patch (with or without 'The G'), The Level, Rear Oval etc.
- Cat 2 - Associates Only - As Cat 1 but patches that may only be worn by Associates. Associate Patch - should not say Widows Sons or display the S&C.
- Cat 3 - Charity or Event Support Patches - May be worn by anyone. These would include Rally Patches, LifeLites patches etc.

An exception to these categories was granted at the President's AGM in February 2022 for patches designed and approved prior to that date. Existing stock was authorised to be used but no more patches of that design were to be produced.

Patch Examples:

- Cat 1 Patches:

Front breast patch



Back Badge



Branding Patch



- Cat 2 Patches:



- Cat 3 Patches:

Rally Patch example 	Charity Patch example 
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SECTION “CHAPTER STRUCTURE”

12. Offices of the Chapter

Introduction

To ensure the efficient running of a Widows Sons Chapter, officers are required to fill certain positions to ensure financial stability, consistent communication and arrangement of events and membership processing.

Officers of a Widows Sons Chapter

Each chapter committee as a minimum must have the following four mandatory officers:

President: The President must be:

- Proposed and seconded and elected annually, at the Chapter Annual General Meeting.
- He may hold post for a maximum period of three years.
- He must have served as a Vice President for at least one year prior to being elected as President.
- He will chair all committee meetings of the Chapter and ensure the Constitutions of the WSMBA and the Bylaws of his chapter are being adhered to at all times.
- The President, on election, will be appointed to the PGB and have the authority to vote on behalf of his Chapter. Attendance at PGB meetings must be given a high priority.

The Presidents Duties include:

- Proposed, seconded and elected, annually, at the Chapter’s AGM.
- Overseeing the Chapter members welfare and coordinating activities
- Ensuring compliance with the WSMBA Constitutions and Bylaws of his chapter
- Providing an annual report on his chapter for the PGB AGM
- Return membership numbers and data as requested by the National Treasurer and National Secretary for accounting purposes.
- Contribute to the success of the Widows Sons Nationally

Vice President: The Vice President's duties include:

- Assisting the President in the running of the chapter
- Deputising for the President in his absence.
- A chapter may only appoint one Vice President, if the chapter covers multiple Provinces, "Area Reps" may be appointed to assist, until the chapter is split into dedicated Provincial Chapters.
- The Vice President may attend the President Governing Board meetings, with no voting rights, unless deputising for the President.

Secretary: The Secretary's role is to:

- Will be proposed, seconded and elected annually.
- Ensure the smooth running and communication of the chapter and its membership.
- The secretary must also work in partnership with the Chapter Treasurer to ensure memberships are kept up to date, and with officers of the PGB in supplying and distributing information.
- The Secretary will be added to the PGB Facebook page for the purposes of communication, but will have no voting rights.
- Managing Data in accordance with current legislation and not to distribute members contact details to external agencies and to destroy all data and contact details on cessation of any membership of the Chapter.

Treasurer: The Treasurer

- Will be proposed, seconded and elected annually.
- His role is to ensure the financial stability of the Chapter, and ensure that subscriptions of members remain current, and fees required for the running of the association are paid promptly.
- He must also provide an audited Treasurers report annually at the AGM. A copy of which is to be sent to the National Secretary.

Past Presidents: Past Presidents have earned the right to remain on their chapter's committee. They bring valuable knowledge and experience, gained through their tenure as President and years of membership as well as continuity of decision making.

Additional Officers

In addition to the four mandatory officers detailed above, a Chapter, at the discretion and agreement of the membership, may also appoint additional assistant officers to assist in the running of the Chapter, these can include, but are not limited to:

Almoner: To ensure the welfare of the membership, contact members who are not attending, and liaising with the Lodge Almoner, Provincial and/or National Almoner if required to provide support for a needy Brother

Road Captain(s): To plan and lead ride outs taking into account the ability of the riders attending, and the distance to be travelled etc. To be aware of any issues on riding with regalia on the open road and across to other Provinces

Other offices may include social media/web officer and merchandise officer, all of which are to be appointed at the discretion of the Chapter.

Chapter Bylaws

In addition to the WSMBA Constitutions, Chapters shall draft, for approval, their own bylaws to detail arrangements within the chapter for the benefit of the members.

The Bylaws must:

- Not conflict or materially alter the purpose of the WSMBA Constitutions.
- Be sent to the Secretary of the PGB for review and approval. (New or updated.)
- Be balloted for and accepted by the membership of the Chapter.
- Made available to all members and associates (where applicable) on joining or re- joining.

Standing Instructions for all Chapter Committees and Chapter Administration

The purpose of a Chapter committee is to serve the Chapter and its membership:

- All decisions made relating to the operation or any expenditure/donations from Chapter funds, must be proposed and seconded, and balloted for by the Chapter membership, and requires a 51% majority vote for the motion to be carried.
 - A Chapter may, within it's bylaws, provide a pre-authorised 'spend limit' for certain Officers, should their role require it for expediency purposes (i.e. President or Almoner in the discharge of their respective duties). This amount should not exceed £50.
- In the event of a tie the President will have the casting vote.
- Details of any proposal must be sent to all members 7 days in advance of a meeting, or online ballot.
- Honorary Members and Associates are not eligible to vote.
- A Brother may only hold one office in a Chapter and on a Chapter committee.
- Offices can only be held by WSMBA Members.
- All Chapter committee members are to be made admins for all Chapter social media for the purposes of monitoring and management.

13. Management of Chapter Funds

At individual Chapter level funds may only be released after a vote by the membership of the chapter. 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 Chapter AGM by the Chapter Treasurer for approval and adoption by the members of the Chapter.

14. Chapter Meetings

Chapters will have the right to schedule their own meetings to fit their purposes but are required to have a minimum of six 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.

15. Widows Sons Chapter Property

The WSMBA, has the authority to suspend or revoke the Charter of any Chapter issued by the PGB, 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 WSMBA 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 WSMBA PGB.

SECTION "GENERAL CONDITIONS"

16. General Conditions

- These Constitutions may be amended by Notice of Motion circulated to the members of the PGB to vote on. Amendments must be approved by a majority of the ruling Presidents. In the event of a tied vote, The Chairman will have the casting vote.
- In accordance with Data Protection Legislation The WSMBA is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office, membership number A1116038. In order to comply with legislation and to ensure that no legal action can be taken against the WSMBA, no membership details are to be passed outside of the WSMBA. Any data held on a Member or Associate Member is to be destroyed immediately should they resign their membership. The designated Data Protection Officer of the WSMBA is the current National Treasurer.
- The Chairman of the WSMBA will refer to the Book Of Constitutions in any scenarios not covered by these Constitutions.
- Everyone who enters Freemasonry is, at the outset, strictly forbidden to countenance any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society; he must pay due obedience to the law of any state in which he resides or which may afford him protection, and he must never be remiss in the allegiance due to the Sovereign of his native land.
- In the event that the President is unavoidably detained he may appoint an Officer of the Chapter to represent him at the AGM, National Rally and quarterly PGB Zoom in order to ensure the Chapter is represented. This is usually expected to be his Vice President but he may, if the situation dictates it, appoint another suitable Officer to represent the Chapter.

17. Cross Chapter Protocol

Chapters are encouraged to support their neighbouring Chapters in rides and events to heighten activity and promote the WSMBA. "Meet The Neighbours" being a perfect example. Promoting longer rides are also encouraged as an opportunity to meet up at final destinations. Regional Rallies will rely on future co-operation amongst the Chapters within the Region on

hosting Rallies.

If a Chapter is arranging a ride or event, within a Province other than their own, it is common courtesy for an invitation to be extended to the Chapter covering that Province.

18. Financial Year End's, and WSMBA National Return.

The WSMBA Financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

In order to ensure that the WSMBA can place cover with the BMF, each Chapter will return membership numbers to the WSMBA Treasurer, this is an important deadline as it's based on per capita numbers.

19. Contact Info:

Chairman	-	chairman@wsmba.uk
Vice Chairman (North)	-	vcnorth@wsmba.uk
Vice Chairman (South)	-	vcsouth@wsmba.uk
Secretary	-	secretary@wsmba.uk
Treasurer	-	treasurer@wsmba.uk
Almoner	-	almoner@wsmba.uk
The Son	-	news@wsmba.uk

20. Useful Links

Below is a list of links to useful websites and documents covering areas of interest and for the well ruling and governance of our Chapters:

- Widows Sons Website - www.wsmba.uk/
- UGLE Website - www.ugle.org.uk
- UGLE Policies - www.ugle.org.uk/search/content?keys=policies



Acknowledgements

The authors of this document would like to thank representatives from the following Masonic groups for sharing their own thoughts on and work with social media. Without their insights and assistance, it would have taken considerably longer to compile the above document. Links to their social media presences have been included where relevant.

- The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution
<https://www.facebook.com/thermbi>
<https://twitter.com/thermbi>
- Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London
<https://www.facebook.com/met.grandlodg>
[e https://twitter.com/MetGrandLodge](https://twitter.com/MetGrandLodge)
- Provincial Grand Lodges:
 - Devonshire
<https://www.facebook.com/PGLDevonshire>
<https://twitter.com/PGLDevonshire>
 - Durham
<https://www.facebook.com/durhamfreemasons>
<https://twitter.com/PGLDurham>
 - East Kent
<https://www.facebook.com/FreemasonryProvinceOfEastKent>
<https://twitter.com/EastkentProv>
 - Essex <https://twitter.com/EssexFreemasons>
 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight
<https://www.facebook.com/HampshireMasons>
<https://twitter.com/HantsMason>
 - Leicestershire and Rutland
<https://www.facebook.com/LeicestershireRutlandFreemasons>
<https://twitter.com/LeicsFreemasons>
 - Shropshire <https://twitter.com/ShropshireMason>
 - Surrey <https://twitter.com/PGLSurrey>
 - Wiltshire <https://twitter.com/wiltspgl>
- District Grand Lodges:
 - East Africa
 - Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
<https://www.facebook.com/dgljamaica>
[a https://twitter.com/dgljamaica](https://twitter.com/dgljamaica)
 - South America, Southern Division