



The Cobblestone Chapter (Prospective)

Widows Sons Bikers Association

Bylaws

1) Chapter Foundation

- a. The Cobblestones Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA) is a non-commercial and non-profit making Chapter subscribing to the National WSMBA and as such conforms to the constitutions of the National Chapter (Copies of the Constitutions are available for every Member via the Cobblestones website).
- b. 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.
- c. The chapter is also open to Non-Master Masons and non-Freemasons and their respective partners as associate members. These members will be referred to as Clickers.

2) Chapter Purpose

- a. 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.

3) Chapter Position on Back Patches

- a. The Cobblestones Chapter is a strictly Non-Back Patch chapter. Both riding and non-riding members are entitled to wear cuts only with approved patches.
- b. No Cobblestones member attending a Cobblestones 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.
- c. 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 Cobblestones Chapter patches.

4) Chapter Position on Motorbike and Trike Ownership

- a. Members can ride either motorbikes or trikes, and any further references to motorbikes in these bylaws can be inferred to also include trikes for the avoidance of doubt.
- b. For a member to operate a trike, the rider must have previously held the appropriate license to ride a motorbike either officially through the DVLA or unofficially through military/police service even if that license is no longer applicable.
- c. To ensure that all members can make sufficient progress and pace during rides outs motorbikes or trikes must have an engine size of 500cc and above. Exceptions to this

can be authorized by the Ride Captain for classic motorcycles, but the members wishing to utilize a classic motorbike and the Road Captain must consider the circumstances of the ride and if the classic motorcycle will be able to maintain the pace of the ride. Some ride circumstances may allow it, others might impact safety and progress.

- d. 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 valid Insurance.
- e. Riders must also hold a valid license for the vehicle they are riding and be capable of riding in a safe and considerate manner.
- f. All riders must comply with all rules and regulations of traffic laws applicable to the UK roads and any other country being visited.

5) Chapter Membership

- a. Master Masons in good standing order whom own's a roadworthy legal motorcycle, qualify for Full membership of Widows Sons and wear WS patches as agreed by the national chapter.
- b. On application for membership a clearance certificate must be obtained by the Cobblestones Secretary from the Brother applicants Lodge.
- c. Freemasons below the rank of Master Mason, non-masons and those without a Full license are eligible to join as associate members, hereafter known as Clickers.
- d. Membership is subject to approval by The Cobblestones members after joining criteria has been met. The method of approval will be;
 - i. Prospective member to complete 3 rides with at least 3 social elements. This is to fully consider the prospective members riding style and if they will fit in to the social group.
 - ii. A full member proposes full membership and the Chapter votes over a 7 day period. The vote must be unanimous.
- e. 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 Clicker (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 Clickers regalia.
- f. 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 Cobblestones Widow Sons members and continue to wear Widows Sons regalia.
- g. Any vote put to the Masonic Membership will run for a minimum of 7 days. Majority rule will apply to any result (with exception to member votes which must be unanimous). In the event of a tie The President will have the casting vote.
- h. Members will adopt the patch layout as follows;



- i.
- ii. Where an existing patched member joins it is accepted that they can keep patches where they are sewn and it's not expected they will move them unless there is a breach to WSBMA rules or Cobblestones bylaws.

6) **Members Conduct**

- a. The Cobblestones 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 felt necessary.
- b. The Cobblestones 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 The Cobblestones chapter. Strike will be reviewed from the first strike date by the Officer Committee. A strike can be issued for the following:
 - i. Riding styles that bring the chapter into disrepute.
 - ii. Bringing the chapter into disrepute, e.g., misuse social media, unbecoming behaviors.
 - iii. Breaking of a Cobblestones bylaw or WS constitution.
- c. The Cobblestones Members – Widows Sons, Clickers 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.
- d. 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 Cobblestones Secretary immediately by email to [\(TBC once domain purchased\)](#) including advising the reasons. The Cobblestones Secretary will advise The Cobblestones Officers who will discuss the position, to which the person can make written disposition via The Cobblestones Secretary to the Officers. After hearing all evidence and views a vote on whether the person can remain within The Cobblestones Chapter as a Clicker or whether they will have to leave The Cobblestones Chapter entirely. The decision of the vote of The Cobblestones Officers will be final. In any case on leaving the Craft the person must remove all Widows Sons regalia and can replace it with Clickers regalia if it is agreed they can stay within the Chapter. If the decision is that they must leave The Cobblestones Chapter, they are no longer entitled to wear any regalia relating to WSMBA.
- e. All members of The Cobblestones Chapter WSMBA, Widows Sons, Clickers 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 The Cobblestones Chapter of WSMBA. Any serious infringement must be advised to The Cobblestones Secretary by the person or anyone who reports it for the good of The Cobblestones Chapter and WSMBA. The Cobblestones Secretary will advise The Cobblestones Officers who will discuss the position, to which the person can make written disposition via The Cobblestones Secretary to the Officers. After hearing all evidence and views a vote on whether the person can remain within The Cobblestones Chapter as a Widows Son or Clicker or whether they will have to leave The Cobblestones Chapter entirely. The decision of the vote of The Cobblestones Officers will be final. ‘

- f. 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 The Cobblestones records by the Cobblestones Secretary.

7) The Cobblestones Committee

- a. The Cobblestones 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.
- b. The Officer Committee will consist of actively voted on officers at the Annual General Meeting and named on The Cobblestones 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.
- c. The Officers of The Cobblestones 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 Cobblestones Chapter efficiently.
- d. Whilst each will be considered a 1-year appointment there is nothing to preclude reappointing officers.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. All appointments will be made annually at the AGM unless circumstances otherwise dictate in which case all members will be notified.
- i. 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.

- j. No, The Cobblestones 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 Cobblestones 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
- k. 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.
- l. 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 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.
- m. 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.

8) Finances

- a. The Cobblestones Chapter Account to be held with (yet to be confirmed) 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 Cobblestones 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 Of Officers of The Cobblestones and having been agreed by majority.
 - i. President
 - ii. Treasurer
- c. The President or the Treasurer can authorize payments up to £149. Any sum more than £150 will need the agreement of The Cobblestones 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 Cobblestones 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 Cobblestones Finances. To accommodate and operate the system the following roles and privileges apply to the following Officers.

- i. Treasurer – Primary User – Make payments in accordance with rules; Manage user profiles.
 - ii. President – Secondary User – Make payments in accordance with rules; Manage user profiles
- f. Should any Officer of The Cobblestones wish to view the Banking Account, they can request viewing of accounts at an Officers Meeting, and this must be made available to them.
- g. 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.

9) Accounts

- a. The Accounting period of The Cobblestones Chapter is from 1st April to 30th March 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 The Cobblestones the accounts will not need auditing unless the Officers decide otherwise. The Cobblestones 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 Cobblestones Financial position will be supplied prior to each Officers Meeting and posted on the WhatsApp page consisting of 1. The Cobblestones Money 2. The Cobblestones Charity Money available and Relief Chest position.

10) General

- a. The Annual General Meeting when all members of The Cobblestones 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). The location will be advised to members accordingly.
- b. 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.
- c. Annual membership fee is due on 1st March annually. Any membership payment not made by 1st April will result in the membership suspension. If payment is not further resolved by 1 May, the member's membership will be cancelled and there will be no entitlement to wear the regalia of Cobblestones
- d. 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 The Cobblestones Chapter if felt appropriate to a member of good standing within Cobblestones Chapter.
- e. Any amendments to The Cobblestones Chapter Bylaw's will be discussed and

submitted to the officers committee then circulated to all Masonic members for comments and approval. Adoption of any changes will be by majority of the officers.