



# **BM Riders Club**

## **Rules & Constitution (2009)**

[www.bmridersclub.com](http://www.bmridersclub.com)

**Adopted December 23rd 200**

Items marked \* and in green will be deleted as no longer relevant at the start of May 2010

### **1) Name**

The name of the Club shall be '**BM Riders Club**'.

### **2) Club Address**

The address of the club shall be the address of the Club Secretary. If at any time the post of Secretary is not filled the address will be that of the Chairman.

### **3) The Aims of the Club**

The aims of the Club shall be as follows:

- a) To be independent and maintain the Club in a friendly and open fashion with regard to the members' wishes.
- b) To freely work for the benefit of BMW motorcycle owners and enthusiasts within the national and international motorcycling scene.
- c) To meet in a spirit of friendship and bring together all of those who have an interest in BMW motorcycles.
- d) To encourage social, touring, sporting events and meetings that are relevant to BMW motorcycle enthusiasts. To encourage and assist the free exchange of technical information regarding BMW motorcycles.
- e) To maintain good channels of communication with fellow club members and other interested parties both in the UK and abroad.

### **4) Membership**

Full membership of the Club is open to all above the age of 16 years who have an interest in BMW motorcycles and all members shall have the right to participate in all club activities. There shall be no requirement to own or have previously owned a BMW motorcycle.

Junior membership is available, at a greatly reduced fee, to those under 16 years of age who have a sponsoring adult member. Junior members have the same rights as full members except that they shall have no voting rights and may not hold any Officer position. The Junior Membership fee shall be determined by the Club Officers.

Application for membership must be made on the appropriate membership form which will be available on the Club website or in a printed format from the Club Membership Secretary. The Officers shall have the power to refuse a membership request should they have reason to believe that it may be prejudicial to the Club. Such refusal will require the agreement of a majority of the Club Officers and the reason for refusal shall be made clear to the refused applicant.

Trial membership of seven days duration may, at the discretion of the Club Officers, be offered to a potential member, free of charge, to permit them to attend one Club rally and experience the Club for themselves. Such members must complete the appropriate application form on request.

Any change to Membership fees must be agreed by a majority vote of the Membership taken in a manner that is deemed suitable.

Should a member contravene the rules of the Club or, in the judgement of the Officers, be considered to have acted in a way to bring the Club into disrepute, that member may have membership suspended or revoked by a majority vote of the Officers. The reasons for such suspension or revocation shall be made clear to the member concerned.

## **5) Club Officers**

The Club shall be governed by its Officers listed on the website, and new Officer posts may be created as deemed appropriate. These Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership.

The Officers shall consist of: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Membership Secretary and National Events Co-ordinator and the term of office for each post shall be 2 years. Thereafter an election shall take place annually during October for those posts due for re-election. Assistants to any post may be appointed at the discretion of the Club Officers for any period deemed necessary.

A webmaster will be appointed, by the officers, to take care of Internet facilities. Such appointment shall be re-confirmed or otherwise, each year, immediately after each election.

A job description of each elected Officer post will be listed within the Club website and shall show the expected duties of each Officer.

Nominees for Officer or Co-ordinator posts must have been club members for a minimum of one year *\*(valid after the club reaches five years of age)\** and membership must be maintained during any term of office. Application for any Officer post shall require both the nomination and seconding of that application by two individual full club members other than the nominee.

The Club Officers shall have the right to suspend any of the Officers for a period of one month by a 75% majority vote of all of the committee, with the exception of the Officer(s) concerned, should they feel that it is necessary. The reasons for this action shall be made clear to the Officer(s) concerned. Removal or re-instatement must take place within that period after appropriate discussions. If Officers are removed from their post, the membership will be informed of the reasons and interim Officers will be appointed by the remaining Officers until such time as elections are due, when the post will be vacated prior to nomination and voting in the normal manner.

Any Officer deemed by the other Officers to not be fulfilling the duties required by the position held, without good reason, may be given 28 days notice to correct the situation and failure to do so may result in that Officer being removed from the post.

The Club's Officers shall be responsible for the general operation of the Club and may pay, from Club funds, reasonable fees for equipment, materials and services as is deemed necessary. Major costs and payments will be reported to the members, at which time discussions may be undertaken in order to decide if such expenditure is acceptable. At no time shall the Officers place the Club in debt by purchasing or agreeing to purchase equipment, materials or services for which the Club does not have adequate funds in hand.

Club Officers will not receive payment for their services, but legitimate expenses for consumables, equipment and travel may be paid.

## **6) Area & Country Co-ordinators**

Area and Country Co-ordinators must be full Club Members and shall be appointed by the Club Officers. These appointments will be for two years at which time the Officers must either re-affirm the appointment for a further period, appoint a new Co-ordinator, or offer a members' vote if there is more than one candidate who wishes to be appointed. The Club's Officers shall have the power to remove any Co-ordinator from that position should they feel it is necessary but they must acquaint the Co-ordinator of the reasons for so doing. The appointment of Country Co-ordinators will be subject to the viability of obtaining cost effective Club insurance within the country concerned.

## **7) Elections & Voting**

- a) All full members shall have voting rights and one vote per issue only, with the exception of the Chairman who shall have an additional casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
- b) Junior members shall have no voting rights.
- c) Nominations, in writing, must be received by the Secretary 28 days prior to the announced election date. Members shall be informed of posts due for election and the date of elections by means of a post in the Member Only sections of the Forum and website and by a mail shot to the Club email list. It is the responsibility of the Members to ensure that their email addresses are current so that such

information is received. In the event that an Officer post receives no nominations for election, then nominations for that post will be permitted up until the day prior to the opening of voting. Should no nomination be received by that time then the remaining Club Officers may, at their discretion, appoint an interim Officer to hold that post until it is next due for election.

- d) Voting will be conducted via electronic means and submitted votes shall go directly to the Returning Officers. A printed version of the voting form will be sent, on request, to non-internet enabled Members only. Discussions prior to voting shall be permitted within the Member Only section of the Forum.
- e) Any issues arising mid year that, in the opinion of the Club Officers, warrants a vote of the membership, may be conducted via a Poll within the Members Only section of the Forum or other means as deemed appropriate.
- f) Voting, conducted via electronic means will be available for a period of four days prior to the closing date for voting. An email shall be sent to the current Club email list informing Members that voting is open and of the location and exact method of voting. A reminder of voting dates will be included in the last e-Zine or other current publication prior to elections along with a notice that printed versions are available for non-internet enabled Members. Late votes, incomplete or incorrectly completed voting submissions will be disregarded. The placement of this information within the Forum, the website and the e-Zine or other current publication shall be considered as full distribution to the membership.
- g) Where a post has more than one nominee, there will be an option to vote 'For' any one of the nominees or select the 'Abstain' option. The successful nominee will be the one who receives the most votes.
- h) Where a position is not contested (i.e. only one nominee) the voting options will be 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain'. The nominee will be considered elected only if the number of 'For' votes exceeds the number of 'Against' votes.
- i) Voting for changes to the Club Rules & Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of those votes received.
- j) Any proposal that could result in changing the status of the Club into a business or Ltd Company shall require a 75% majority of the total membership.
- k) Two independent persons shall be appointed as returning Officers to receive and count any votes for elections or other issues. The Club Officers shall appoint these Members and the names of such officers shall be announced on the Member Only section of the Forum thirty days prior to voting to allow any objections to those appointees. Any objections must be received in writing by the Secretary fifteen days prior to voting.
- l) Results of the elections shall be announced as soon as is practical via the Member Only sections of the Forum, website and in the next e-Zine or other current publication.

## **8) Accounts**

Club accounts shall be an accurate record of all Club financial transactions and the appointed Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping these records as up-to-date and transparent as is practical.

There will, at all possible times, be a minimum of three signatories for the Club bank accounts, one of which should be the current Treasurer with the others being elected Officers, and two signatures will be required on each cheque.

The accounts shall be reviewed annually by an appointed independent person and members shall have free access to these accounts within a reasonable period should they so require.

### **9) Committee Meetings**

Meetings of the Club Officers will only occur when it is felt to be required and essential discussions will be maintained continuously via telephone, Internet or other means deemed appropriate. Officers not available to participate in discussions, without good reason, for a period greater than two months may be deemed to have resigned, in which case an interim replacement will be appointed by the other Officers until such time as elections are due. At such meetings, a quorum must be present prior to the taking of decisions. A quorum shall consist of two thirds of the elected Officers.

### **10) Club Rules**

Copies of the Club Rules & Constitution shall, at all times, be freely available for download from the Club website by members.

### **11) Privacy**

The Club membership list shall not be circulated or made available outside of the Club Officers except for any required legal reasons. It may be used to promote Club Events and for other Club purposes but for no other commercial purposes in any way whatsoever.

### **12) Dissolution of the Club**

Only fully paid-up members may propose a motion for the dissolution of the Club. In addition, such a proposal shall require a statement of the reasons to accompany it and shall require a minimum of ten signatories (unless current Club Membership is less in which case the requirement shall be 50%). In the event of such an occurrence, the Club Officers shall ensure that a meeting is called and ballot forms are sent to all full members along with statements of the facts. Completed ballot forms must be received 48 hours before the meeting. Such postal votes shall be confidential and shall be added to the votes of the meeting in order to arrive at the total. Dissolution of the club shall require a 75% majority vote of the **total** Club Membership.

Should the Club be dissolved, all assets shall be sold and any funds remaining after liabilities have been cleared shall be donated to NABD (National Association for Bikers

with Disabilities), a UK-based motorcycle charity or a similar charity if NABD is no longer in existence.