

VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB

RULES & CONSTITUTION

1 – GENERAL

1.1 The club shall be called the ‘Virago Star Owners Club’ and shall have for its objectives, the promotion and protection of YAMAHA XV Custom Motorcycle owners and riders, and that the committee shall reserve the right to refuse membership.

1.2 The club shall essentially be an “Owners Club” and shall be conducted independently of any personal or corporate financial interests.

1.3 All members pay an annual subscription, the rate of which is decided by the National Committee. All membership fees are to be paid to the Membership Secretary by 31st March each year.

1.3.a All new members will pay a one-off joining fee to cover administration charges. The National Committee decides the rate of such fee.

1.3.b Any member who has let their membership lapse (and not paid the renewal fee by the renewal date) will be subject to a re-joining fee. The re-joining fee shall be the same charge as the one-off joining fee (as 1.3.a). Furthermore, any member having not renewed their membership by the 30th April will “no longer” be considered to be a member of the VSOC. Any applications after the 30th April each year will be treated as “new” applications. Any member allowing their membership to lapse and does not have the “qualifying bike” will not be allowed to rejoin the VSOC as a full member. Any member of the National Committee not renewing their membership by the 30th April will automatically, and with immediate effect have his/her position withdrawn.

1.4 Members hold themselves bound in honour, in all cases of dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation of the Rules of the club and to accept the decision of the National Committee as final and binding.

1.5 In the event of a member conducting himself/herself in a manner likely to bring discredit to the club, he/she shall be invited to attend a National Committee meeting to determine whether a cause for expulsion exists. Failing a satisfactory explanation, he/she will be cautioned or expelled. No member shall be cautioned or expelled except by a resolution, supported by at least two thirds of the members present at the National Committee meeting.

1.5.a Where a person or persons create any ill feelings within any Centre whereby the local membership are effected, then the local Centre Rep has the authority to ban those persons from that and any further local Centre meetings. If this person, persons or their partners persists in being disruptive, then at the request of the local Centre Committee, to the National Committee,

their future membership within the VSOC shall be reconsidered.

1.5.b Members are encouraged not to wear such regalia which depicts either a “Back Patch” and/or “Rockers” on their jackets or waistcoats at VSOC events. This could bring the member/s and/or club into direct conflict with “Other” m/cycle clubs. Failure to adhere to this will result in the cancellation of your membership.

1.6 Every club member shall be furnished with a copy of the club Rules (free on joining), and subsequently after changes or modifications have been made by publication in Clatter.

1.7 Any member writing to the Secretary or any other National Committee member and wanting a written reply must send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

1.8 Club moneys shall be referred to as “National Club Funds” and the National Committee shall authorise all expenditure relating to the club.

1.9 There shall be three classes of membership:-

1.9.1 FULL MEMBERSHIP:

- To qualify as a “full member”, candidates must own a qualifying YAMAHA “XV” designated motorcycle, for a period extending into their second year of membership to retain full membership. Failure to do so, will no longer allow you to retain your membership with the VSOC. This only applies to new members joining after the 1st June 2016.
- Full Members must pay the annual membership fee (see rule 1.3)
- Full members have a right to vote at Centre meetings and Centre AGM’s.
- Can serve on the National Committee.
- Will receive (free of charge) newsletters produced by their associated Centre (either electronic or paper format).
- Will receive (free of charge) Clatter (the magazine of the Virago Star Owners Club).
- May attend VSOC national and international Rallies.
- May purchase VSOC regalia and merchandise.
- Qualification for Full Membership is at the discretion of the Honourable Secretary. Annual re-qualification is automatic.

The club has a policy of one card number covering all family members (resident at the same address). This entitles the cardholder to one vote (at national meetings and AGM’s). Voting rights on Centre related issues (at Centre meetings and Centre AGM’s) are to be determined by the Centre Representative.

1.9.2 LOCAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

- Any motorcycle owner/rider (other than those eligible under rule 1.9.1) may apply for Associate Membership.

- Each Centre Representative will hold themselves responsible for the conduct and behaviour of their Associate Members at all times.
- Associate members are to agree to abide to the Rules & Constitution of the VSOC.
- Are not permitted to vote on issues of national VSOC interest, including the voting of a Centre Rep, and will not receive the protection and benefits of the national club.
- Will pay an annual subscription, the rate of which is to be decided by the Centre Representative (revenue from Associate Membership is to be retained for use by host Centre).
- Has a right to vote at Centre meetings and Centre AGM's (on Centre issues only).
- May not become a Centre Rep.
- Will receive (free of charge) newsletters produced by their associated Centre (either electronic or paper format), if the Centre produce one.
- May attend VSOC Rallies only with the consent of the organisers.
- Will be expected to pay extra for entrance to VSOC Rallies and for VSOC regalia.
- Are formally attached to the Centre, and not the national club.
- Are not to consider themselves members of the 'Virago Star Owners Club' and will not receive Clatter, national voting rights, the automatic right to attend VSOC Rallies or other nationally organised events outside their own Centre.
- Qualification for Associate Membership is at the discretion of the Centre Representative and is to be awarded annually. Annual re-qualification is not automatic.
- Associate Members must attend a minimum of at least 2 Centre Meetings, at least 2 Centre Ride-Outs plus the Centre AGM within a 12 month period, for consideration by the Centre Rep for re-qualification.

1.9.3 NATIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

- Centre Representatives may award the status of National Associate Member to anyone he/she feels has benefited the local Centre, but who may not qualify as a Full Member (see rule 1.9.1.).
- NAMs will be afforded the same benefits and conditions as a Full Member with the following caveats...
- NAMs must pay the annual membership fee (see rule 1.3) and one-off joining fee (see rule 1.3.a).
- NAMs have a right to vote at Centre meetings and Centre AGM's.
- Cannot serve on the National Committee.
- Will receive (free of charge) newsletters produced by their associated Centre (either electronic or paper format).
- Will receive (free of charge) Clatter (the magazine of the Virago Star Owners Club).
- May attend VSOC national and international Rallies, at a cost as if a "full member".
- May purchase VSOC regalia and merchandise.
- May consider themselves members of the 'Virago Star Owners Club' and will receive Clatter, national

voting rights, the automatic right to attend VSOC Rallies or other nationally organised events outside their own Centre.

- Qualification for National Associate Membership is at the discretion of the Centre Representative and is to be awarded annually and endorsed at the Nat.AGM each year. Annual re-qualification is not automatic.

1.10 If a club member is found guilty of stealing or helping to steal a motorcycle (or motorcycle parts), their membership will be immediately revoked.

1.11 In the event of a disagreement between two members (or a member and his/her Centre Representative), he or she has the right to approach the National Committee for a suitable resolution. He or she must inform the Centre Representative of any ongoing approach. The National Committee's decision will be final in dealing with any dispute.

2.0 - LOCAL CENTRES

2.1 The National UK club is divided into 17 areas known as Centre's (15 in England, 1 in Scotland and 1 in Wales plus 1 Overseas) each of which shall organise tours, excursions, Rallies, social events and competitions for its members.

2.2 Each Centre will hold an Annual General Meeting, the structure of which to be determined by the Centre Rep. The AGM will be held primarily to elect a Centre Representative and Committee. Notice of the AGM shall be given to all Centre members (at least 6 weeks in advance). Visiting VSOC members may vote on National and Centre issues at the discretion of the Centre Representative. (Please note that when electing a "new" Centre Rep, he/she should own the "qualifying" bike for our club. e.g.: Virago/Star etc. (In the unlikely event that no member with a qualifying bike applies for the post, the appointment must be submitted for approval by the National Committee)

2.3 Within one calendar month following its AGM, each Centre will present its annual statement of accounts to the VSOC National Treasurer for audit and inspection.

2.4 Centre Representatives will be expected to serve on the National Committee and attend its AGM (see rule 4.6).

2.5 Centre Representatives are to control the number of Associate members in their Centre by limiting membership to a ratio of 1:5 (20%).

2.6 Centre Representatives wishing to promote their Centre with an individual identity are to submit the proposed name and logo to the Vice-Chairman for approval. The criterion for approval is that the VSOC logo is included in the Centre artwork and should cover no less than 20% of its surface area.

2.7 Attendance at VSOC rallies/events is restricted to VSOC members as defined in Paragraphs 1.91, 1.92 and 1.93 and immediate family residing at the members address. Additionally where the member is single they may bring with them their current partner.

a. "Guests" are defined as non-members. The attendance of "Guests" at VSOC rallies/parties/events is subject to the following rules and should ONLY be sanctioned by the Centre Representative of the host Centre and permitted under the following circumstances:

b. A prospective "new member" recently coerced into the fold whereby he or she would not have had enough time to evaluate the club or to have joined in their own right.

c. Additional "Family Member" not residing with full member, at "home" event ONLY. The "Guest" facility is primarily in place to act as a one-off only.

d. If a member does bring a guest along to a VSOC event without gaining approval in advance, the Host Centre Rep should and has the authority to refuse entry to the guest and member and retain the ticket money.

(Any member found allowing guests to attend without the sanctioning of the Centre Rep seriously puts their own membership on the line)

3.0 – CONSTITUTION

3.1 The club shall be governed by a National Committee consisting of representatives from each Centre¹ plus the VSOC Heritage Officer and members of an Executive Committee (eight to form a quorum). The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Deputy Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Merchandise Officer, Events Officer, Webmaster and Editor. Executive Committee members will be elected by the National Committee for a four year term, with an annual confirmatory votes at each AGM. Terms of office will be staggered to ensure that there is continuity in the Executive team. In the event that there is no applicant to take over at the end of an Executive members term of office, the National

¹ Centres are: Centre 1 Scotland, Centre 3 Wirral & North Wales (The Vikings), Centre 4 North East (Northern Raiders), Centre 5 Yorkshire (The Yorkies), Centre 6 North West (North Stars), Centre 7 Wales (Celtic Dragons), Centre 8 West Midlands, Centre 9 East Midlands (The Lost Riders), Centre 10 East Anglia (Saxon Warriors), Centre 12 Thames Valley (Vultures), Centre 13 North London (Roadrunners), Centre 14 South London & Surrey (The Cockney Rejects), Centre 15 Kent and East Sussex (The Smugglers), Centre 16 Solent (The Mad Axemen), Centre 17 South West (The Scrumpies), Centre 18 Devon & Cornwall, Centre 19 Essex (Crusaders), Centre 20 Offshore (Hornblowers)

Committee may elect the current incumbent for one second term. No officer may serve more than two four year terms.

In the event of a vacancy occurring amongst the Officers or Committee, or the suspension of any Officer or member of the Committee, the Committee shall immediately appoint others to fill the vacancy or vacancies. Please note: When appointing a replacement onto the "National Committee", the incoming member should own the correct "qualifying" bike for our club. e.g.: Virago/Star etc

3.2 The Executive Committee shall carry out the day to day management of the club, within the constraints of the VSOC Rules and Constitution. The Executive Committee has discretionary powers to make operational decisions (with the exception of constitutional issues) and to spend club monies up to 10% of national funds on behalf of the National Committee without prior notification to the National Committee. The Executive Committee and its individual members are answerable to the National Committee for all operational decisions and expenditure, reporting back to the National Committee at the AGM.

3.2.a The Executive Committee will undertake to inform Centre Representatives and members of the National Committee (by e-mail or letter) in the event of major decisions or expenditure being made on behalf of the National Committee. Expenditure of over 10% of national funds requires prior approval of the National Committee.

3.3 Members wishing to serve as officers on the Executive Committee as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Deputy Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Merchandise Officer, Webmaster or Editor shall have (for at least two years) been a member of the club or served as a Centre Representative and own the correct "qualifying" bike for our club. e.g.: Virago/Star etc.

3.4 Executive Committee appointments will be conducted and decided in the following manner: "CV" or Resumé from the applicant, interview by Executive Committee before overall selection by the National Committee. Any equal/split vote will be decided by the club Chairman.

3.5 Every duly elected Committee member binds himself or herself to abide by the rules of the club.

3.6 President, this is an honorary title with no voting rights. However, the incumbent will be a long-standing member who may offer advice to the National Committee on club matters. When the position becomes vacant the selection of a replacement will be decided by the Full Club Committee (National Committee and Executive Committee).

4.0 - NATIONAL COMMITTEE

4.1 If any member desires any matter to be brought forward at a National Committee meeting, the text of such matter shall be sent to the Chairman up to ten clear days before the date of the meeting, so that it may be included in the Agenda.

4.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be held at a venue and at a time decided by the committee. Special meetings may be convened by direction of the committee on request of at least one fifth of the members.

4.3 At the AGM, the Treasurer will submit a report, balance sheet and budget for the coming year, which must gain the approval of the meeting (a full financial report on the previous full year will be published annually in the minutes of the AGM. The full minutes of the AGM will be published in next issue of "Clatter").

4.4 At its AGM, the National Committee shall be empowered to make any modifications to the rules and may decide on matters, which it considers to be of interest to members of the club.

4.5 At National Committee meetings, whether ordinary or extraordinary, a majority of votes decides a resolution, the Chairman having a casting vote in the case of even voting.

4.6 Any Officer or National Committee member failing to attend three consecutive National Committee meetings (other than Rally meetings) without notifying the Secretary as to his/her reasons automatically resigns his/her post.

5.0 - AMENDMENTS

5.1 "Special Cases". Deviations from any of the above Rules may be permitted subject to ratification and agreement between Centre Representatives and the VSOC National Committee or at the discretion of the Chairman.

APPENDIX 1 – RALLY RULES

A1.1 At its Annual General Meeting each year, the National Committee shall sanction three or four National Rallies and one International Rally. The International Rally being currently held in the UK every 6th year.

A1.2 Any Centre wishing to host a National or International Rally must submit their tender to the National Committee's AGM eighteen months before the planned event.

A1.3 Any Centre may apply to host a Centre Rally or "Party". However, the date/s for such an event is to be agreed and sanctioned by the club Vice-Chairman in order to ensure that dates do not clash with any other

scheduled event. Parties within the four month summer window can ONLY be held on the 1st week-end of August.

A1.4 The venue and format of a National Rally is to be determined by the host Centre. The venue and format for an International Rally is to be presented and sanctioned by the National Committee at its Annual General Meeting for approval.

A1.5 A Centre wishing to promote their National or International Rally with an individual identity is to submit the proposed name and logo to the Vice-Chairman for approval. The "guideline" for approval is that the VSOC logo (or name) should be included in the artwork.

A1.6 It is the responsibility of the host Centre to provide adequate, segregated toilet and wash facilities for male and female members. It is also the responsibility of the host Centre to ensure that special dietary needs (vegetarian etc.,) are catered for.

A1.7 "Guests" Refer to paragraph 2.7 of the VSOC Rules and Constitution.

A1.8 **ACCOUNTS:**
Centres hosting a National Rally are to create and maintain separate accounts to support the event.

A1.8.a A cash advance in the form of a loan from the National Rally fund is available from the club Treasurer to help with deposits and initial "up front" expenses.

A1.8.b Profits from National & International Rallies are to be divided as follows: -

- First £100 to remain with the host Centre.
- Remainder to be divided equally between the host Centre and the National Rally fund.

The National Rally Fund will have an upper limit around the 10K mark. Any monies in excess of 10K will be considered for use at any forthcoming UK based International Rally. This will be decided at prior meetings at National Committee's discretion.

A1.8.c Each Centre is to submit its final accounts, loan returns and profit payments to the Treasurer within one month of the completion of the Rally.

A1.9 **HEALTH & SAFETY:**
National & International Rally organisers are to ensure that the following rules are adhered to for the duration of the event.

A1.9.a No bikes are to be parked inside tents, or alongside accommodation/sleeping areas where the bike could fall on to an occupant.

A1.9.b Bikes are to be parked a safe distance from tents, but not necessarily in a segregated area. (See A1.8.c)

- A1.9.c Members will be instructed to park their bikes either in marked, lined areas adjacent to their tents or in allocated areas as requested by the hosting Centre. The hosting Centre solely decides how they wish to control this arrangement.
- A1.9.d A hard-standing area is to be provided for alternative motorcycle parking in the event of a soft or boggy “unsafe” camping area.
- A1.9.e No cars, caravans or campervans to be parked on the site. They may be allowed onto the site for the purpose of unloading, but are then to be removed from the camping field to an alternative location.
- A1.9.f For the benefit of other club members, No motorcycle/vehicle is to be started between the hours of 9pm in the evening and 7am in the morning (unless arriving/departing from the event). Members arriving or departing between these times should keep the noise to an absolute minimum.
- A1.9.g No unlicensed, uninsured or under-age riding of bikes, trikes, cars or any other motorised vehicle is permitted on or around the site at any time during the Rally.
- A1.9h No Qualifying Bike arriving at a VSOC Rally site on the back of a Trailer will be considered for receiving a “Best Bike” award/trophy. The bike **MUST** be ridden to the event!

A1.10 **SECURITY:**

The responsibility for the protection and safety of personal property and motorcycles rests with the individual. However, the host Centre also has to ensure that every reasonable effort is made to ensure that the site is kept secure and protected from theft and vandalism.

A1.11 **RIDE-OUTS:**

Rally ride-outs are to be conducted in accordance with the VSOC Ride-out Rules so as to maintain rider integrity without compromising or breaking the law. Marshalling is to be carried out with the sole intention of maintaining individual safety and group integrity. A copy of the VSOC Ride-out Rules can be found at Appendix 2 to the R&C.

A1.12 **DISCLAIMER & INDEMNIFICATION STATEMENT:**

The VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB (hereafter known as VSOC), its national magazine, its Centres (Branches), its presence on the internet and in other various forms including (but not limited to) it’s national and international Rallies acts independently of (but is sanctioned by) Yamaha Motor UK, the BMF. MAG and NABD.

The VSOC, its representatives, office holders, officials, sponsors or any individual member(s) of the VSOC connected to it in any manner, can never be held liable for, or assume any responsibility for the following: -

- 1) Any person’s participation or attendance at any event, ride-out or meeting held under the auspice of the VSOC.
- 2) Any property lost, stolen or damaged during such events, ride-outs or meetings.
- 3) Any physical or mental injury sustained during said events, ride-outs or meetings.
- 4) Any personal injury or property damage sustained as a direct or indirect result of any alteration of or modification to any motorcycle by any person based on information obtained from the VSOC.

All individuals accept complete responsibility for his/her own self while attending or participating in any event, or in making any alterations or modifications to a motorcycle, with no recourse against the VSOC or any individual connected in any manner to the VSOC, or acting as its officer, agent, employee, consignee, vendor or sponsor.

Trevor Bridgwood - VSOC Chairman

13 November 2019

Virago Star Owners Club – Ride-Out Rules

The Drop-off system

The “Drop Off” System of group riding ensures progress whilst allowing the group to stay together even though there may be quite some distance between the Ride Leader and the Back Marker.

The whole idea behind the drop off system is to provide a series of moveable signposts for all the riders in the group to follow, irrespective of any gaps which have occurred on the ride, so that riders don't have to “keep up” with the rider in front. It acknowledges the fact that the ride can get strung out over a long distance due to a variety of reasons – e.g. road works, traffic lights, give way junctions, roundabouts etc. Also, not all riders will have access to a map case or Sat Nav on their bike and might be on unfamiliar roads. It allows the less experienced rider to ride at their own pace without worrying about keeping up, getting lost, or which way to go.

Understanding the system is important, as every rider needs to do their part to avoid anyone getting lost.

How It Works

Each group will have a designated ‘Ride Leader’ and a ‘Back Marker’. The positions of these two riders will not change throughout the run. They will be introduced to all the riders in the group at the start of the run, when the leader briefs the group on the ride.

Whenever or wherever there is a change of direction at junctions, and all roundabouts, the rider, (now referred to as “Marker”), immediately behind the leader will indicate the direction taken by the leader. He stays as a Marker for all the following bikes. To do this, the Marker should pull in at the side of the road, in a safe place where he/she will be visible to the rest of the riders, so the direction can be indicated to all the following riders. It is most important that the Marker stops in a position where:-

1. It is safe to do so.
2. They do not put themselves at any risk.
3. They do not obstruct any other road users.
4. The rest of the ride can see them clearly as they approach the direction change.
5. The Marker should clearly indicate the direction taken by the leader, using, if necessary, indicators, hands and or bike.

When the Back Marker approaches the Marker, the Marker should take up position in front of the Back Marker. The Back Marker should leave enough space for this to happen. **If it is**

not safe to pull out in front of the Back Marker then the Marker should re-join the traffic when possible and take up position in front of the Back Marker as soon as it is safe to do so. It could happen that the number two rider (The Marker) forgets to mark a direction change – in which case the next rider (Number three) should take it upon themselves to be the marker, and mark the direction change to prevent the chain from breaking.

This approach involves the entire group and the Marker gets rotated from front to back and naturally moves up to the front again.

Some points:

- If you are unsure on any aspect of the ride, always ask advice or clarification. Safety is always paramount.
- Please arrive with a full tank of petrol and an empty bladder. Inform the Leader if you are running low on petrol during the ride.
- If you are unsure as to whether you should mark a junction, and then mark it anyway. It is better to mark a junction that doesn't need marking than not to mark one that does.
- A roundabout, or crossroads where you do not have priority, should be marked by parking in a safe visible position on the exit. Should a junction or roundabout not be marked, the default action is to continue straight ahead.
- There is no need to play catch-up. With the drop off system there will be a Marker waiting for you at the next junction.
- Everyone should keep a safe distance behind the rider in front. A staggered riding formation may be adopted where appropriate to aid forward visibility and transit through traffic lights. Avoid 'follow my leader' riding / convoy style riding, which could lull you into unsafe / unaware riding – **ride your own ride.**
- When you are the Marker, wait for The Back Marker to arrive, even if this takes a long time. There may be a breakdown further back which you are unaware of. If necessary switch off your engine. If you leave your position everyone behind will suffer and the run will fall apart.
- The group may sometimes become very 'strung out', causing anxiety to some riders. The Leader may then decide to stop, in a safe place, to allow the group to re-form before continuing.
- If you want to leave the group, inform the Leader and The Back Marker at a rest stop. If unavoidable, you may pull in to the left in a safe, visible position and wave other riders past; when the Back Marker arrives he will stop and you can then inform him/her that you are leaving the group and why.
- Riders are reminded that they must obey all relevant UK road traffic laws and, if and when appropriate, those of other nations. They are to observe the Highway Code and heed the warnings displayed on roadside signs and signals (e.g. Local and national speed limits).

- And finally, be sure to listen to your Ride Leader before the start of the ride to ensure he has not made any changes to these procedures. Obeying these simple rules will ensure that our ride outs will be safe and pleasurable.

You the rider are deemed to be in control of your motorcycle at all times during this ride and during all other group activities. You are entirely responsible for your decisions and actions, and you must obey all traffic regulations at all times.

All club ride-outs and events are attended at the members own risk. If you are in any doubt, please do not attend.

The Leader's Role.

1. Plan a route for the abilities of the expected riders, with suitable stops for refreshment and refuelling.
2. Brief ALL riders before the off.
3. Ride smoothly and at a steady pace.
4. If you don't have a bike behind you to act as marker for a change of direction, stop in a safe place and wait until one arrives.
5. Unless there is a deviation from the obvious straight ahead route, you do not need to mark the junction except at roundabouts when the exit should always be marked.
6. Always leave a marker at a change of direction, even if you think all riders are in sight of each other.
7. The responsibility for the safety of the markers is their own. You can help them mark the route effectively and safely by giving them plenty of warning that you require them to stop.
8. If it becomes apparent that the group has come to a halt because a rider has had problems, retrace the route until you discover the cause of the hold up and take appropriate action. Ensure that those who have stopped beyond the hold up are kept informed of the situation.

Tail Rider/Back Marker.

1. As you approach the marker bike, slow down to enable them to pull out. If it is not safe to pull out in front, they will re-join the traffic whenever possible.
2. Watch out for any rider who feels that the pace is too quick and is signalling for other bikes to overtake, allowing themselves to stay at the rear of the group in front of you.

3. Keep an eye out for riders in front of you who are clearly riding inappropriately, or who may be out of their depth. In conjunction with the ride Leader, identify appropriate actions to address the situation.
4. Watch out for any bikes that have pulled over for any reason, and stop to find out what the problem is.
5. Be aware of other bikes who are not part of our group, as these may wish to make more progress than we are making. We should not hold them up.