

VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB

RULES & CONSTITUTION

1 – GENERAL

1.1 The club shall be called the 'Virago Star Owners Club' (VSOC) 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 VSOC by 31 March each year.

1.3.a Any member who has allowed their membership to lapse (and not paid the renewal fee within ONE calendar month of the renewal date) will be subject to a late renewal fee of £5.00. Any member having not renewed their membership by the 30 April will "no longer" be considered a member of the VSOC. Any applications after 30 April each year will be treated as a new application. Any member allowing their membership to lapse and does not have a "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not renewing their membership by the 30 April will automatically, and with immediate effect have his/her position withdrawn.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 the decision of the National Committee is 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 is affected, then the local Centre Representative 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 should not wear MC (1%) regalia at VSOC events. This could bring the member/s and/or club into direct conflict with "Other" motorcycle clubs. Failure to adhere to this could 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 monies shall be referred to as "National Club Funds". The National Committee shall authorise expenditure if above 5% (per transaction) of total Club funds.

1.8a **Dissolution.** *In the event of a Dissolution of the Virago Star Owners Club.* This can only be achieved by the resolution of at least seventy five percent of the members present at a meeting called solely for that purpose. The National Secretary shall give one month notice of such a meeting to all members. This dissolution to become effective after all debts and liabilities incurred in the Virago Star Owners Club name have been discharged. Any remaining National Club funds shall be disposed of in favour of the current members, each member receiving an equal share of the total funds available for distribution, such members must have paid the annual membership fee for the year then current.

Each centre will discharge any debts and liabilities that they have incurred. Each centre will then distribute any funds that they hold by each member receiving an equal share of the total funds available for distribution.

1.9 There shall be three types 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.
- Full Members must pay the annual membership fee (see rule 1.3)
- Full members have a right to vote at Centre meetings and Centre AGMs.
- Can serve on the National Committee.
- 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.

The VSOC has always been considered a family club. Many members, spouses and partners contribute to the social and business activities of the club. Therefore, membership may be transferred to the spouse or partner upon the death of the member without loss of continuity of membership. This can only happen at the request of the relevant 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 Representative, 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 Representative.
- 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.
- May 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 or national voting rights.
- 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 Representative for re-qualification.

- Associate members can be nominated by their Centre Representative as a National Associate Member. This will be awarded annually and endorsed at the National AGM each year. Annual requalification is not automatic.

1.9.3 NATIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

- Centre Representatives may recommend the status of National Associate Member be awarded 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).
- NAMs have a right to vote at Centre meetings and Centre AGMs.
- Cannot serve on the National Committee.
- 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 National 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/she has the right to approach the National Committee for a suitable resolution. He/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 18 areas known as Centre's (15 in England, 1 in Scotland, 1 in Wales and 1 Overseas).

2.2 Each Centre will hold an Annual General Meeting if practicable, the structure of which to be determined by the Centre Representative. 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 Representative, he/she should own a “qualifying” bike (should no member with a qualifying bike apply for the post, the appointment must be submitted for approval by the National Committee).

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

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

2.5 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.

2.6 Attendance at VSOC rallies is restricted to VSOC members as defined in Paragraphs 1.9.1, 1.9.2 and 1.9.3 and immediate family residing at the members’ address. Additionally, where the member is single, they may bring with them their current partner.

2.6a. “Guests” are defined as non-members. The attendance of “Guests” at VSOC rallies 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:

2.6b. 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.

2.6c. 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.

2.6d. Full members can purchase tickets for trusted friends (guests), numbers of which must be approved of by the hosting centre representative.

2.6e. For members “guests,” tickets **must** be purchased in advance. “Guests” must not arrive and attempt to “pay on the gate” on the day of the event.

2.6f. If a member does bring a guest along to a VSOC rally without gaining approval in advance, the Host Centre Representative 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 rallies without the sanctioning of the Centre Representative seriously puts their own membership at risk).

3.0 – CONSTITUTION

3.1 The club shall be governed by a National Committee consisting of representatives from each Centre¹ and members of an Executive Committee (eight to form a quorum). The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Merchandise Officer, Events Officer and Webmaster. The Executive Committee shall be elected for a four-year term with annual confirmatory votes at each National Annual General Meeting. Terms of office will be staggered to ensure that there is continuity in the Executive team. If there is no applicant to take over at the end of an Executive member’s term of office, the National 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 the discretionary powers to make operational decisions (with the exception of constitutional issues) and to spend up to 5% of club 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 on behalf of the National Committee. Expenditure of over 5% of

¹ Centre 1 Scotland, Centre 3 Wirral & North Wales, Centre 4 North East, Centre 5 Yorkshire, Centre 6 North West, Centre 7 Wales, Centre 8 West Midlands, Centre 9 East Midlands, Centre 10 East Anglia, Centre 12 Thames Valley, Centre 13 North London, Centre 14 South London & Surrey, Centre 15 Kent & East Sussex, Centre 16 Solent, Centre 17 South West, Centre 18 Devon & Cornwall, Centre 19 Essex, Centre 20 Overseas.

national funds requires prior approval of the National Committee.

3.3 Members wishing to serve as officers on the National Committee as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Merchandise Officer, Editor or Webmaster 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.

3.4 Executive Committee appointments for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer 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.

3.4a Executive Committee appointments for the positions of Editor, Merchandise Officer, Events Officer & Webmaster will be decided primarily by the outgoing post holder. However, if there are several candidates, a paper sift in conjunction with other members of the Executive Committee may be required to assist in the decision.

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

4.0 - NATIONAL COMMITTEE

4.1 If any member desires any matter considered at a National Committee meeting, the text of such matter shall be presented to the Chairman up to ten clear days before the date of the meeting, in order 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 and balance sheet, which must gain the approval of the meeting (a full financial report will be published annually in the minutes of the AGM. The full minutes of the AGM will be published in the 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 Honorary 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.

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) its national and international Rallies acts independently of (but is sanctioned by) Yamaha Motor UK, the BMF and. MAG.

The VSOC organisation, 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.



Michael Shakespeare
VSOC Chairman
05 November 2025