

Constitution of the Thames Vale Vultures Motorcycle Owners Group

Amended on the 13th of March 2024

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

1.1 The organisation shall be known as the Thames Vale Vultures Motorcycle Owners Group, (Also known as 'The Vultures', 'Vultures', 'TVV'), is hereafter referred to as "the Group."

Section 2: Purpose

1.2 The primary purpose of the Group is to promote the positive image of biking to the public, arrange and engage in charitable events and fundraising activities, foster camaraderie among like-minded motorcycle enthusiasts, and uphold a standard of conduct that reflects positively on the Group and Motorcycling in general.

Section 3: Name and Purpose

1.3 The Name and Purpose of the Vultures, as described in sections 1.1 & 1.2, are defined as 'permanent'. The name and purpose of the Group, as described, are set in stone. The aims of Article 1 constitute the Group's founding principles and, therefore, cannot be amended.

1.3.2 The purpose of the Group, as outlined in sections 1.1 and 1.2, shall serve as the guiding mission for all activities undertaken by the Group.

1.3.3 The aims defined in Article 1 represent the fundamental values and objectives upon which the Group was founded. These aims are immutable and shall not be subject to amendment or alteration.

1.3.4 Any attempt to modify the name, purpose, or founding principles of the Group shall be deemed invalid and shall not be recognized as legitimate under this constitution.

1.3.5 The permanence of the name, purpose, and founding principles of the Vultures is intended to maintain continuity, stability, and integrity within the Group's operations and identity.

Article II: Aims and Objectives

Section 1: Positive Representation

2.1 The Group aims to portray the positive aspects of biking to the public, promoting a greater understanding and appreciation for the biking community.

Section 2: Charitable Events and Fundraising

2.2 The Group shall actively support and initiate events, benefitting the local community and beyond.

Section 3: Camaraderie

2.3 Members shall actively seek to enjoy and contribute to the camaraderie within the Group, creating an atmosphere of friendship, through mutual respect, and support.

Section 4: Conduct

2.4 Members pledge to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the reputation of the Thames Vale Vultures, both within the Group and in the broader community.

Section 5: Respect for the Motorcycling Community

2.5 The Group acknowledges the importance of maintaining positive relations with the wider motorcycling community and pledges to show respect for fellow bikers and their organisations.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

3.1 Membership is open to all motorcycle riders/enthusiasts who share a passion for the aims and objectives outlined in this constitution.

Section 2: Application

3.2 Prospective members shall submit a formal application, and approval shall be granted by a consensus of the existing Committee.

Section 3: Responsibilities

3.3 Members are expected to actively contribute and support group events and adhere to the principles outlined in this constitution.

Article IV: Governance

Section 1: Leadership

4.1 The Group shall be led by a committee elected by the membership, consisting of a Representative, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and additional roles as deemed appropriate.

Section 2: Elections

4.2 Leadership positions shall be elected by a democratic vote of the membership, with terms lasting 12 Months.

Article V: Voting Procedures

Section 1: General Voting

1.1 All group members have the right to vote.

Section 2: Voting Process

1.2 Voting shall take place during designated meetings or through an agreed online platform. Each full member is entitled to one vote. Joint Memberships will be classed as one vote.

Section 3: Majority Rule

1.3 Decisions on routine matters shall be determined by a simple majority vote.

Section 4: Quorum

1.4 A quorum, defined as a minimum number of members required to conduct official business, must be present for a vote to be valid. The quorum will be determined by the committee and communicated to the members.

Article VI: Committee Decision-Making

Section 1: Committee Authority

2.1 The committee, comprised of elected leaders, holds the authority to make decisions in the best interests of the group between formal votes without consulting members.

Section 2: Routine Matters

2.2 The committee may make decisions on routine matters that do not significantly impact the group without requiring a formal vote.

Section 3: Emergency Situations

2.3 In emergency situations where immediate action is necessary, the committee has the authority to make decisions without waiting for a general vote. Members shall be informed of such decisions promptly.

Section 4: Founder Members

2.4 Founder Members of the group, Sean Stanbridge, Michael Weal, Gerrald Tomes, Colin Hawkins, Helena Hawkins, Kevin Buchanan, Gerry Merritt, are and will always be members of the committee.

Section 5: President

2.5 The President shall be voted in by the Committee after discussion with the membership.

The president can, in times of emergency, make decisions without reference to the membership, which are in the best interests of the Group and in line with the constitution.

2.6 In times of crisis, the President is able to make unilateral decisions in the best interests of the Group and in line with the constitution.

Article VII: Decision Review

Section 1: Member Appeals

3.1 Any member may appeal a committee decision if they believe it goes against the best interests of the group. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the committee.

Section 2: Committee Review

3.2 The committee shall review appeals promptly and provide a response outlining the reasons for the decision.

Article VIII: Code of Conduct

Section 1: Respectful Discourse

4.1 Members must engage in respectful and constructive discourse during discussions, whether in person or online.

Section 2: Dispute Resolution

4.2 Disputes between members shall be addressed diplomatically and, if necessary, escalated to the committee for resolution.

Article IX: Amendments

Section 1: Proposed Changes

5.1 Proposed changes to these rules may be suggested by any member and shall be subject to a vote by the Committee.

Section 2: Committee Authority

5.2 The committee has the authority to make minor amendments to the rules to ensure clarity and compliance, with changes communicated to the members.

Article X: Amendments

Section 1: Proposal

5.1 Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the Founding Group.

Section 2: Approval

5.2 Proposed amendments shall be subject to a vote by the Committee, with a two-thirds majority required for approval.

Article XI Dissolution

Section 1: Procedure

6.1 In the event of the Group's dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed to charitable organisations as decided by the committee.

This constitution is hereby adopted by the Thames Vale Vultures Motorcycle Owners Group on [15th April 2005].

Document amended changing references/wording from 'Club' to 'Group' 19th March 2011

Founder Members Added and Constitution Amendments Accepted 13th March 2024