

Chapter Bylaws 2020

Article I – General

Chapter Definition

The Geordie Chapter, No: 9721, is an officially recognised H.O.G. Chapter affiliated with H.O.G. UK.

The Chapter Bylaws have been developed to aid in resolving situations that might arise in association with maintaining the Chapter's intent to provide for the good of the Chapter and its individual members. The purpose of the Bylaws is to promote a relaxed, pleasant, fun and safe environment for all, consistent with the Annual H.O.G.® Charter. The Chapter strongly discourages its members from engaging in any dangerous or adverse activity. Any member engaging in a dangerous or adverse activity may be subject to suspension or expulsion in accordance with these Bylaws.

The purpose of the local chapter shall be to promote responsible motorcycling activities for Harley Owners Group members by conducting chapter activities and encouraging participation in other H.O.G events.

Chapter activities are the sole responsibility of the Chapter and include any wholesome, legal and safe activity that appeals to the Chapter members.

The activities or events may include, but are not limited to, organised rides, social or charitable functions, rallies and other public events.

Article II - Chapter Membership

Chapter Membership

The Geordie Chapter is a member's only chapter. Every member of the chapter shall, subject to the terms and principles of the H.O.G® Charter, the standards required by the sponsoring dealer (when one is available) and the Chapter by-laws, be entitled to enjoy in common with other members of the Chapter, Chapter activities and events and shall not by his membership be under any financial liability except for payment of his/ her annual subscriptions.

All members must abide by the Annual Chapter Charter and sign the annual membership application form, which contains the membership disclaimer, chapter bylaws and code of conduct. By not signing the yearly membership application form and/or not having a current H.O.G. membership you waive the right to being chapter member.

The annual subscription for members shall be decided by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. All annual subscriptions shall be due and payable on the 1st March of each calendar year.

Membership Definitions

Single

• The member is the registered owner of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle in the UK • is a confirmed member of H.O.G.

Rights

Have access to all events, open and closed.

Joint

• The registered owner of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and spouse/partner. • The spouse/partner has a confirmed membership of H.O.G.

Rights Have access to all events, open and closed.

Guests

• **Members may introduce guests to the Chapter and must accompany him/her and will be responsible for the guest observing the Chapter By-Laws. No member can introduce more than two guests on any one day and no guest may attend more than twice in any one year.**

• Non riding guests - Only applicants who have their own HOG number will be eligible to join as Full Chapter Members, The Chapter is keen to promote a family friendly environment; therefore Non-riding guests are very welcome to attend Chapter meetings, social or ride events if accompanied by a Full Chapter member. Please note however that guests are not eligible to vote at meetings or to any of the benefits of full chapter membership including the wearing of any Geordie Chapter rockers, pins, patches or clothing.

• Riding guests - If you are a Harley Davidson rider and are interested in knowing more about the club prior to joining, you are welcome to attend up to a maximum of two riding events before making a decision. Riding guests are advised to contact a member of the Committee who will be happy to support them to attend any meetings/events **if you are not a Harley Davidson rider / owner you can only attend once in any one year.**

• **Health and Safety - All guests attending ride events will be required to sign the attendance, safety and waiver sheet circulated before each ride. If you have not read and signed the event sheet you may not take part in the event.**

Multiple H.O.G. memberships

Members may join as many chapters as they like, however, membership of another chapter other than The Geordie Chapter, No: 9721, will render them ineligible to apply for a chapter officer position within The Geordie Chapter, No: 9721, as a conflict of interest could occur.

Privileges

• All Chapter members will receive proof of membership, and have access to these Bylaws. • All Chapter members will have access to at least one subsidised Chapter activity per year, a summer BBQ or Christmas Party. • All Chapter members will have voting rights. • All Chapter members will have open access to all Chapter meetings, social and riding events. • All Chapter members can get through our website regular copies of the Chapters electronic newsletter containing details of Chapter activities, news and promotions. • All Chapter members will receive access to the Chapter closed Facebook group, giving access to Chapter news, events and other Chapter-specific information. • All Chapter members may participate in any and all Chapter activities, subject to prior booking and availability of space, if applicable. • All Chapter members may volunteer to assist in the organisation of Chapter activities. • All Chapter members may wear or display the Chapter patches, and any H.O.G.® logos or insignia made available to the Chapter by H.O.G.®.

Code of Conduct

The Chapter requires all of its members to treat everyone with value and respect, regardless of their race, nationality, ethnic origin, disability or sex.

The Chapter expects all members to show tolerance, and to respect the beliefs and views of others, even if they are not in line with their own

Honour the Chapter Charter and By-laws.

This Code of Conduct applies to members, not only whilst attending Geordie Chapter events, but also in their out-of-Chapter activities, in so far as these relate to H.O.G.®, Harley-Davidson Dealers, other chapters, or any other situation directly related to the Geordie Chapter and H.O.G.®

Action taken against any member exhibiting antisocial behaviour, which is in direct opposition to the ethos of the Chapter, H.O.G or basic human rights, will range from a formal warning to expulsion from the chapter.

In the event that a decision is made to suspend or revoke a membership in the Chapter, the person in question will receive a letter from the Director confirming the cancellation. This letter will give the reason for the cancellation in clear concise terms. The member's Chapter dues will be refunded for the year and a copy of the cancellation letter will be sent to the appropriate Regional HOG Manager.

Article III - Chapter Officer

Chapter Structure

- The Dealer Principal (if applicable) oversees the Chapter as a whole.
- The Chapter Director if appointed acts on the Dealer Principals behalf

Primary Positions

Director

- The Director will remain in office until they stand down and appoint a successor
- After his/her term in office, upon stepping down the Director will be available as a mentor/consultant for the new director for a period of one year. This is a non-committee position.

Assistant Director

- The Director may appoint up to three Assistant Directors from the committee whom he/she feels will support him/her during his/her term of office.
- These positions will be for a minimum period of 1 year and in conjunction with the term of office of the current director whom chose them.

Chapter Secretary/Membership Officer & Treasurer

- The positions of Secretary/Membership Officer and Treasurer will be appointed by the Dealer Principal (when one is available), as these roles require specialised knowledge and an understanding of the Chapter and H.O.G.® articles. These posts will be held until they either stand down or are asked to do so by the Dealer Principal

All primary post holders may remain in their posts for the duration of the Directors Term in office. Should a Primary post holder resign from his/her position then a replacement will be appointed by the Current Director and will serve for the remainder of that Directors term in office.

Secondary Positions

The following Committee positions will be filled by nomination. Nominations will be invited from the Chapter membership 8 weeks prior to the AGM.

The primary officers along with the Director are to ensure that all applicants have the best interests of the Chapter at heart, will then review all nominations, interview candidates and make the final selection in preparation for the AGM announcement. This will ensure that anyone who has been excluded from the Chapter previously or who has a conflict of interest will not be invited to pursue their nomination at the AGM.

The Director will provide any nominee who is not invited to go through to the election process at the AGM with a letter explaining the grounds upon which their nomination has been declined. The decision of the Committee is final and there is no process of appeal.

Secondary positions elected on an annual basis are:

- Activities Officer(s)
- Ladies of Harley Officer(s)
- Head Road Captain
- Safety Officer
- Photographer(s)
- Webmaster
- Merchandise Officer

A specific term has been given to each of these roles to ensure that members wishing to take on such responsibilities recognise that it is a long-term commitment and that this period in office provides continuity in the running of the Chapter. Should a secondary post holder resign from his/her position mid-term then a replacement will be appointed by the Current Director and will serve for the remainder of the Chapter Year until the AGM at which point they can submit their nomination should they wish to do so.

All members of the Chapter are eligible to apply for a position on the Committee provided they are fully paid member of both H.O.G.® UK and The Geordie Chapter, No: 9721. Nominations should be made in writing 8 weeks prior to the AGM for any of the secondary committee positions providing that:

- The member has no conflict of business interest towards the Sponsoring Dealer.
- The member holds no committee position within any other motorcycle club

Event Planning Groups

At times a planning group of Chapter volunteers may be put together to complete a specific task. i.e. Event planning, European tour etc.

Road Crew

All Road Captains shall be appointed by the Director and Head Road Captain and will be based on a general criteria of proven ability, personal disposition and commitment to the Chapter's ride-out programme.

- They must have attended and passed a H.O.G road captains training course.
- They must have completed a first aid training course.
- They are elected on an annual basis.
- They must organise at least one ride out per season and help on other rides when asked to do so.
- They should wear high-vis tabards when undertaking their role.

In addition Road Marshalls shall be appointed by the Director and Head Road Captain and will be based on a general criteria of proven ability, personal disposition and commitment to the Chapter's ride-out programme.

Within 2 years they must attend a H.O.G. road captains training course • They must undertake first aid training • They are elected on an annual basis and may apply to be a Road Captain • They will act as a support capacity to the Road Captains but cannot lead a ride • They must assist in the organisation of at least one ride out per season and help on other rides when asked to do so. • They should wear high-vis tabards when undertaking their role.

If your application to become a Road Captain is successful you will need to plan and lead 2 rides as a Marshall if your rides have proved to have reached the required standard by the Director and Head Road Captain you will become a Geordie Chapter Road Captain.

Article IV - Chapter Meetings

Committee

Meetings will be held throughout the year to discuss and plan the day to day running of the chapter. Committee meetings will run on a monthly basis.

The Chapter Director with the Primary and/or Secondary Officers will attend the meeting. Minutes of committee meetings will be made available to chapter members upon request.

Chapter

The Chapter shall meet monthly on the 1st Thursday of each month at such times and places as may be determined by the Director and Primary Officers.

The meeting locations may be alternated throughout the year to ensure involvement of all Chapter members.

Times and locations will be announced in on the Chapter Facebook page, at the previous meeting and on the website.

Article V - Financial Provisions

Financial Year

The financial year of the Chapter will be 1 Jan to 31 Dec, or as fixed by Committee resolution.

Compensation

The Committee will not compensate Officers for their services as such but may provide for the payment of any and all expenses incurred by Officers attending H.O.G.® Officer Training or other meetings for the purpose of conducting Chapter business, or in pursuit of agreed Chapter activities for the benefit of the Chapter membership. In all cases, the Officer(s) must seek and obtain approval from the Director and Treasurer before incurring the expense.

Payments

Two different Primary Officers of the Chapter shall sign all cheques, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, issued in the name of the Chapter.

Loans

No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Chapter, and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name.

Deposits

All funds of the Chapter not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Chapter in such depositories as the Committee may select.

Accounts

The Chapter accounts will be made available in summary form to all members on request within 3 months of the preceding year-end date.

Article VI - Other Provisions

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed, and new Bylaws may be suggested by the majority vote of the Committee, provided that notice of the proposed adoption has been included in the notice of the meeting. All amendments must be agreed and authorised by the sponsoring dealer.

Limited Liability of Volunteers

Each Chapter member who provides service to or on behalf of the Chapter without compensation ("Volunteer") will be immune from liability to any person for damages,

settlements, fees, fines, penalties or other monetary liabilities arising from any act or omission as a Volunteer, to the fullest extent provided by statutory or common law.

For clarity, these Bylaws conclusively presume that any Volunteer who is licensed, certified, permitted or registered under law or by professional charter, and who is performing service to or on behalf of the Chapter without compensation is not acting within the scope of his or her professional practice under such license, certificate, permit, or registration unless otherwise expressly stated to the Chapter Secretary/Membership Officer in writing.

Dissolution of Chapter

Should events dictate the dissolution of the Chapter, all debts will be paid from the Chapter account(s). Excess funds will be donated to a Charity or Charities to be decided by majority vote of the Committee.

Article VII – Complaints

Complaints Procedure

As a family oriented motorcycle club, it important that members feel that they are safe to attend events and activities without fear for their own personal wellbeing or that of their families. From time to time it may be that

a small minority of members choose not to respect the diversity of culture or viewpoint of the membership, which may result in behaviour, which is either intimidating or upsetting.

Such behaviour could result in members feeling obliged not to attend events or to leave the Chapter altogether. In order to prevent this, a complaints procedure has been devised to deal fairly with any such incidents. In the event that any member of the Chapter should exhibit behaviour which is anti-social, disruptive, disrespectful or in contravention of the ethos of the Chapter and / or H.O.G.® then the following process will be followed:

- Any such complaint(s) must be put in writing to the Chapter Director
- The Director will write to the member about whom the complaint has been made and make that person aware of the accusations brought against him/her.
- This member will then have 14 days in which to make a written reply. (There will be no discussion on a one to one basis)
- If the member chooses not to reply, a decision will be made based on the information already received.
- The Director, in consultation with the Primary Officers will then make a decision based on the information received.
- A letter giving details of the decision will be forwarded to the member against whom the allegations were made.
- This decision is final and there is no appeal process.
- Action taken against any member exhibiting antisocial behaviour which is in direct opposition to the ethos of the Chapter, H.O.G.® or basic human rights will range from a formal warning to expulsion from the Chapter.

- In the event that a decision is made to suspend or revoke a membership in the Chapter, the person in question will receive a letter from the Director confirming the cancellation. This letter will give the reason for the cancellation in clear concise terms. The member's Chapter dues will be refunded for the year and a copy of the cancellation letter will be sent to the appropriate Regional HOG Manager.

THESE BY-LAWS REFER SPECIFICALLY TO THE GEORDIE CHAPTER, No: 9721, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND OR AMENDMENT BY THE SPONSORING DEALER FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH H.O.G. UK