

## Club Guidelines and Values

**GoldWings North West** was formed to be, above all, a friendly club, free from the bickering or “politics” to which clubs can be prone, so we can get on with enjoying our shared interest of GoldWings with the minimum of rules, (preferably no rules at all!), and with the maximum of enjoyment.

This can only be achieved if:

- Members accept the obligation always to behave in a friendly and considerate way towards each other, even when they have a difference of view – even if the issues of difference seem to them to be pressing or important.
- Discussion of ideas is always to be encouraged, but always in a friendly and respectful way; everyone is entitled to have their own view and not to be bullied into changing it. They must also be free to express it, as long as they are not imposing unreasonably on others by doing so.
- We elect Officers to run the Club for us and we expect all Members to support them and to help out whenever they can. Any decisions which they may make are **always** made with the best interest of the Club and its Members in mind. That doesn't mean blind or automatic acceptance, but it does mean not making their job more difficult or taking a challenging approach without very good and pressing reason. If unhappy about any aspect of Club life, have a quiet and private word about your concerns, as there could be information or circumstances of which you may be unaware.
- None of us are saints, so we must be tolerant of each other too and we may need reminding of obligations sometimes; so we must accept any such reminder, from wherever it comes, with good grace.

If we can all manage to do these things at least most of the time, the Club won't need any specific rules. And if any Member persistently or repeatedly behaves in an unfriendly or disruptive way, they may find themselves being asked and, if necessary, being told by the membership to leave.

The Club expects all Applicants to understand and accept the need always to take a friendly and respectful approach and to stick to it, even when the outcome may not be favourable.

## The Application Procedure

Applications will rarely be rejected, but the Club is entitled to reserve the right to Membership and does so. Whenever anyone applies to join the Club, existing Members are notified of the application in case they have any objections. If there **are** objections, the Club's Officers consider them (privately) and decide whether to refuse, defer or grant the application. It is the Officers' firm belief that input from members is of critical importance in this process, as the Officers are not elected to dictate, but to **listen** to members, some of whom may have knowledge or information additional to that of the Officers. Also, in respect of confidentiality for both the applicant and objector, applications, (or indeed, objections) are never discussed in open meeting.

This process inevitably imposes some delay, during which Applicants are normally welcome to attend meetings and take part in Club activities as a guest unless the Club's Officers decide otherwise. If an application is deferred or rejected, the Applicant will be notified as soon as is possible. **It will not be possible, however, to release specific details of objections or individuals involved.** Some applicants may consider this unfair, but it is not the Club's intention to create personal animosity between individuals, whether members or not.