

Northern Ireland Rat Motorcycle Club

Constitution

Constituted 16th February 2012

Affiliated to British Motorcyclists Federation 5th March 2012 – No. NIR0312

Amended 25th October 2012

Amended 31st October 2013

Amended 30th October 2014

Amended 25th February 2016

Amended 2nd November 2017

Amended 5 November 2018

Amended 27th November 2024

Amended 19th November 2025

Amended 21st October 2026

1 Name

The name of club shall be the Northern Ireland RaT Motorcycle Club (NI RaT MCC), herein after referred to as the "The RaT Club" or "the Club".

2 Address

The registered address of The RaT Club shall be that of the current or acting Membership Secretary or Assistant Membership Secretary.

3 Objectives

The objectives of The Rat Club are:

- To constitute and maintain a motorcycle club formed from the disbanded Phillip McCallen Ltd. Riders' Association of Triumph club that is independent of Phillip McCallen Motorcycles Ltd. and Triumph Motorcycles Ltd.
- To be affiliated to the British Motorcyclists Federation (BMF).
- To foster a friendly relationship with Phillip McCallen Motorcycles Ltd. and its customers as the basis for encouraging new members.
- To promote motorcycling and encourage social interaction between the Members in a safe and non-threatening environment.
- To provide a programme of ride outs and events that is varied and interesting to fulfil the requirements of the Membership.
- To maintain an agreement and guidelines for ride outs and events that exhibits a duty of care to Members and guests attending Club events.

4 Rules

These Rules, the Rules for Non-Coach-Led Ride-Out Events and Guidance for Riders (refer to the Chairperson or Events Secretary for details) and any part thereof may be amended or deleted from time to time in consultation with and as agreed by the Committee of The RaT Club and informed to Members at subsequent Club meetings. Members should approach the Chairperson if he/she wishes to raise a matter concerning The RaT Club, Constitution and/or Rules. The Chairperson will raise the issue with the Committee for discussion and report at the subsequent club meeting. Any proposed changes to the Constitution must be agreed by the Committee and endorsed by Members at a club meeting by a majority decision. Where there is no majority decision the Chairperson will have the final casting vote.

A copy of The RaT Club Rules and Guidance for Riders will be included in Membership packs and are available on request.

5 Membership

The Membership shall consist of Ordinary Members and Honorary Members. Membership shall not exceed 200 Members. Ordinary Members have voting rights on Constitutional and Financial matters and are permitted to organise or lead ride out events. The Membership Secretary records all Members as being protected by Public Liability Insurance via the BMF and the indemnity of all Members is that of The RaT Club.

For Ordinary Members it is a condition of participating in a ride out event to have applied to join The RaT Club and paid any fees due. In addition, all Ordinary Members must complete and sign an annual Ride-Out Agreement form. By completing and signing the Agreement all Ordinary Members are agreeing to accept and abide by this Constitution.

6 Responsibility of all Membership

All Members, and their guests attending Club events, have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner which upholds the good reputation of The RaT Club and promotes the goodwill of The RaT Club, and motorcycling in general, at all times.

The RaT Club is committed to ensuring that any personal data, which it processes on behalf of Members, is carried out in compliance with data protection law. All Members must be mindful of the need to protect the personal data of other Members. See Appendices for the RaT Club Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice.

It is the responsibility of individual members to ensure that the personal information held by the RaT Club is accurate and up to date. It is the responsibility of Members to ensure that they have the permission of their Emergency Contact to share this data with the RaT Club and that they have informed the Emergency Contact of its purpose.

All riders attending Club ride outs must ensure their motorcycles are taxed, insured and in a roadworthy condition, having a current Vehicle Test Certificate where required.

All riders must have a valid motorcycle licence to ride in the United Kingdom, or any other country to be visited on that ride.

Any Member may be deemed to have left The RaT Club for any of the following reasons:

1. They have informed the Chairperson or other Committee Member they have the left The RaT Club;
2. They fail to renew their membership;
3. They have brought, or through their behaviour are likely to bring The RaT Club into disrepute, verbally or via social networks;
4. They use foul language or exhibit anti-social, insulting verbal and/or physically aggressive behaviour, or sexual harassment towards Members or the public when attending The RaT Club events;
5. They have endangered the life or property of another Member, guest or other road user whilst on a RaT Club event;

6. In cases of 3, 4 and 5 above, the Member, or Members, shall be expelled from The RaT Club following agreement by the Club Committee and be informed by the Chairman. The Chairman shall inform the Membership at a subsequent meeting.

Where any Member has been reported to a member of the Committee for any of the above behaviours short of physical aggression the Committee may decide by consensus that a warning is appropriate and that expulsion will occur if further unacceptable behaviour is subsequently reported. The Chairman shall inform the Membership at the next Club meeting. Personal details of the Member(s) involved shall not be made generally available.

In cases where a Member has been expelled for reasons other than physical aggression, reapplication for membership shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.

7 Annual Subscriptions

The RaT Club membership year runs from the 1st December to the 31st November each year. Annual membership subscriptions are due after the AGM to be held by the last Thursday in November each year. Any Ordinary Member who fails to renew their subscription will be deemed to have let their membership lapse. Re-joining as a Member is subject to the quota agreed at paragraph 5 above for BMF affiliation and paying the agreed annual subscription.

Any Member giving notice to leave before the end of the subscription year will not be refunded any portion of their membership fees.

Changes to annual membership subscriptions will be agreed by majority vote of the Members present at the Annual General Meeting of The RaT Club.

8 Honorary Membership

Elected Honorary Members of The RaT Club may attend Club events with a guest and without making application or payment of the membership fee. By accepting Honorary Membership all Honorary Members accept to abide by this Constitution. At the date of Constitution, the Honorary Members are:

Mr Phillip McCallen

Mr Alastair Seeley

Mrs Jacqueline Hammerton

Mr William McAleese

Any Member may propose that another Member is appointed to Honorary Membership in recognition of meritorious service to The RaT Club or to motorcycling. This will be then be discussed and voted upon during a Committee meeting and agreed by a majority vote at the AGM.

9 Affiliations

The RaT Club shall be affiliated to the BMF. When planning a club event organiser should refer to and be familiar with the BMF guidelines which will be held by the Events Secretary.

10 Club Officers

- Will consist of the Chairperson & Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Events Secretary; as recorded with the BMF.
- Club Officers must be current Members.
- The Chairperson & Secretary may be supported by a nominated Committee Member.
- The Events Secretary shall be supported by two Assistant Events Secretaries.
- The RaT Club Committee may appoint other Members to hold additional posts and form temporary or permanent Sub-Committees.

11 Appointments and Function of Club Officers

All Club Officers will be expected to serve for a minimum period of two consecutive years.

Chairperson & Club Secretary

The Chairperson role is adherence and maintenance of the Constitution and Rules of The RaT Club. The Chairperson is also responsible for agreeing dates of Club meetings, Committee meetings, setting the Club and Committee Meeting Agendas and calling the Annual General Meeting.

The Club Secretary role is to record minutes for the annual AGM and be the first point of contact for Membership in relation to GDPR & data protection subject access requests.

A Committee Member nominated by the Chairperson & Club Secretary may deputise for the in his/her absence, or at his/her request.

Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary will conduct the running of The RaT Club memberships, payments and maintaining a list of all Members. The Secretary is also responsible for maintaining affiliation to the British Motorcyclists Federation and its Public Liability Insurance cover by the 30th November each year. The Secretary is further responsible for maintaining The RaT Club

contacts email database for use by the Events Secretary and for issuing Membership letters, forms and associated Guidelines and Constitution.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the collection of all membership subscriptions and other monies and for operating The RaT Club funds through a Northern Ireland Rat Motorcycle Club bank account. The Treasurer is also responsible for reporting the Club finances at Club meetings and for presenting the annual statement of accounts at the Annual General Meeting.

Events Secretary

The Events Secretary is responsible for drafting and agreeing the annual listing of events and ride outs and for running the events according to the Club Rules. This includes issuing details to Members via e-mail, social media, web site and other means as deemed necessary.

Assistant Events Secretaries

Assistants Events Secretaries will support the Events Secretary in his/her role.

Website Manager

The Website Systems Manager advises The RaT Club on the provision of a secure and cost-effective website and related blog site and advises on evolving the site to meet the longer-term needs of the Club.

Members

(1) Committee Members

Decisions regarding Club activities and Club finance will be carried out through Club Committee meetings. The Committee will interact outside of The RaT Club meetings to discuss the running of the Club and make changes as necessary to maintain the aims and future development of The RaT Club.

All Club activities and expenditure must be agreed at Committee meetings before that activity/event progresses further. Committee Members have a responsibility to attend Committee and Club meetings and to make decisions in the best interest of the Club. A quorum representation of at least 5 persons is required before a decision can be agreed democratically by majority consensus. The matter may be adjourned until the quorum can be achieved. Where a majority is not achieved the Chairperson will have casting vote. The Membership will be informed of the decisions made by the Committee.

Sub-Committee(s) formed from the Membership shall action and report on particular tasks**.**

The Committee shall be formed from the current Officers of the Club and Members and shall consist of no more than 11 persons:

1. Chairperson & Secretary
2. Membership Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Events Secretary
5. Assistant Events Secretary
6. Assistant Events Secretary
7. Website Manager
8. Member
9. Member
10. Member
11. Member

(2) All Members

The Committee's decisions will be presented at Club meetings. In instances where the decision involves Financial or Constitutional matters Members will be given the opportunity to vote at the Club meeting. A majority vote is sought but where there is no majority the Chairperson will have a casting vote.

All Members are encouraged to give their opinions and make suggestions for the future development of The RaT Club. Members' opinions shall be respected.

12 Donations to Charities

The Committee shall discuss and agree on all matters relating to charity and charitable donations. Agreement of the Membership shall be sought at the next Club meeting before payment is made.

13 Events requiring Ferry Travel

The RaT Club will be responsible for the cost of ferry travel and standard accommodation rates for the Event organiser and their associated bike and rider/pillion.