



Dykes on Bikes® London Chapter

By-Laws

Dykes On Bikes® London Chapter, hereafter called (DOBL) is a Chapter of the San Francisco Dykes on Bikes® Womens Motorcycle Contingent established in San Francisco California in 1976 and is subject to the Rules and Procedures as laid down by the Mother Club, hereinafter called SFDOBWMC.

In light of the criteria as set within the SFDOBWMC guidelines, the DOBL By-Laws are as follows:

Mission Statement

Dykes on Bikes® Women's Motorcycle Contingent is an organization committed to creating a local, national and international community of women motorcyclists and friends of women motorcyclists. Our mission is to support philanthropic endeavors in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and women's communities and beyond, and reach out to empower a community of diverse women through rides, charity events, Pride events and education.

1. Membership

Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to be offered membership:

- Identify as female
- Identify as a Dyke
- Hold a UK Motorcycle License either Full or Provisional with the intent to attain a full license, or an equivalent license recognised in the UK
- Own or have access to a motorcycle - no matter what size or style.

There are 4 tiers of involvement with the club:

1.1. Hangaround

Any self-identified Dyke, who is interested in motorcycles as a rider, passenger, or enthusiast can be involved in the club, they are welcome to join in OPEN club events and ride outs. Hangarounds are not members and do not have any voting rights.

Hangarounds are expected to follow the rules of the organisation at every DOBL event.

1.2. Supporter

Any self-identified Dyke, who is interested in motorcycles as a rider, passenger, or enthusiast can be involved in the club, they are welcome to join in OPEN club events and ride outs. Supporters are not members and do not have any voting rights.

Supporters are expected to:

- Follow the rules of the Organisation at every DOBL event
- Assist the DOBL in support of the mission statement.

Supporters who provide additional and valuable service to the club may be offered to purchase an official DOBL Supporter patch.

1.3. Prospect

Supporters who meet the membership criteria and have been actively involved continually with the club for a period of not less than 6 months may, at the unanimous decision of the Patched members, be approached and offered the opportunity to prospect to become a Patched member.

They are to complete the DOBL online membership application form at the earliest opportunity, which will be submitted to the Board. The Board shall review their application at the next available business meeting for approval.

In a twelve month qualifying period, Prospects:

1. must attend a minimum of 10 official London DoB rides or other events. Attendance at events held by other DOB Chapters must be verified by a Patched member of that Chapter and may also count towards the attainment of a full patch, but only DOBL events are compulsory.
2. must attend all monthly meetings, they must not be more than 30 minutes late, (if late they must have informed the chair by text or phone call of their expected arrival time), and must ask permission for absence, which is to be submitted to the Secretary in writing, (text or email). Only sanctioned absences will be permitted. Any two **unsanctioned** absences in a year will automatically result in withdrawal of the prospect patch and opportunity for full patch status.
3. expect to assist with non-riding events run by the club, which may include marshalling at Pride events, the setting up and running of a DOBL merchandise stall, etc.
4. shall pay a monthly membership subscription as defined in the current schedule of fees (see Appendix A). Failure to pay membership fees when due may result in withdrawal of the patch and opportunity for full patch status.
5. must interact well with all Patch Holders, other Prospects, the Board and other participants.

Prospective status is neither continual nor retroactive. The Prospect's hours of service, meetings attended, and sanctioned rides do not roll over each year. The 'year' of a Prospect is based upon a rolling calendar starting from initial Prospect offer.

Prospects will be given a DOBL patch to wear that says 'Prospect' so that others may recognise their status within the DOBL. If the Prospect receives their full patch, then the 'Prospect' and Supporter patches must be returned to DOBL.

Prospects must attach their Prospect patch to the front right upper section of their jacket or waistcoat and the Supporter to the front left upper section. They must wear them at all official DOB events, including other DOB Chapter events, failure to wear their patches may result in a fine and/or withdrawal of the patches and opportunity for full patch status.

Prospects are encouraged to provide additional community service as requested by the Board and Patched members.

A Patched member will be allocated to each Prospect as a Mentor, they shall support and advise the Prospect, including, for those who hold a Provisional License, supporting them to attain a Full motorcycle License. Mentors are expected to keep in regular contact with their Prospect, arrange riding

opportunities with them and other club members in addition to the official club Ride Outs. The Mentors views will be given precedence on making the decision whether to Patch their Prospect or not.

Prospects who are considered ready by their Mentor and are eligible for full patch status shall be included in a closed session of the club monthly meeting i.e. full Patch members only, Patch members shall vote on whether that Prospect is to be given a full patch, the vote must be unanimous of all the Patch members present. If the vote is not unanimous they shall then decide whether the Prospect is to continue for a specific length of time in that category or is to be reduced to a Supporter.

1.4. Active Patch Members.

An Active Patch member must, in addition to the aforementioned membership criteria, hold a **full** motorcycle license recognised under UK law.

Patched members must pay the membership fee as detailed in Annex A. Failure to pay membership fees when due may result in sanctions and ultimately ejection from the club.

Patched members of other DOB Chapters who wish to patch over to DOB London should make their request in writing to the President of DOB London who shall raise it in a closed session at the next club meeting for consideration and enquiries may be made of their existing Chapter. If approved, they shall be immediately inducted as a full patch member of DOBL, they shall remove and replace their existing colours and return them to their previous DOB Chapter in a good re-useable state.

The DOBL colours and other official badges e.g. President, Life Member, etc. shall be included in the Patched member membership fee and must be attached to the members jacket or waistcoat as per SFDOBWMC guidelines as shown below, (See Annex B). Failure to wear their patches may result in a fine or withdrawal, for persistent failures, of the patches and ejection from the club.

The colours and all club patches shall remain the property of the DOBL club and shall be immediately surrendered upon retirement, resignation or ejection from the DOBL.

Patched members are to be fully active in the club and, in order to maintain Active Patch Holder status, they must:

1. Attend 6 meetings out of approximately 11 monthly member meetings per year of which 3 must be consecutive. The number(s) can vary depending on the number of scheduled meetings per year. Attendance at the DOBL AGM and monthly members meetings is compulsory, any request to be absent from these meetings shall be made in writing to the President, (via text or email), **unauthorised** absences of more than 2 consecutive meetings shall result in sanctions and may ultimately result in ejection from the club. Members are expected to arrive on time, if a member is going to arrive late they must inform the Chair of the meeting as soon as is practicable their expected time of arrival.
2. Attend at least 3 of the planned, scheduled, and sanctioned DOBL group rides per year, as a rider. This may be waived in extenuating circumstances whereby should the Active Patch member be unable to ride they may have their attendance counted as a passenger, or in a support vehicle
3. Attendance at events held by other DOB Chapters may also count towards the retainment of a full patch, but only DOBL events are compulsory.
4. Volunteer at least 6 hours of service or contribute significantly in activities that directly support the DOBL and the SFDOBWMC mission statement. Hours are tracked and recorded by the Membership Officer. Hours are not retroactive, and do not roll over each year. Service may include, but not be limited to, leading at least one official DOBL Ride Out or acting as Sweeper or Outrider in other official rides.

The Membership Officer shall keep a record of attendees at each official event, meeting or Ride Out to ensure Prospects and Patches are meeting their membership responsibilities.

Patched members are to be available and willing to mentor Prospects if required to do so.

1.4.a. Non-Active Patch Member

A Non-Active patch member is one who, by virtue of their personal circumstances, is not able to undertake the requirements to maintain Active Patch status. Application is to be made in writing to the President to be allowed a leave of absence from DOBL with an explanation of the relevant circumstances and expected duration of non-active status. The President will raise this request with the Board at the next available opportunity.

Non-Active Patch members are still required to pay their membership fees as detailed in the current schedule (see Appendix A).

1.4.b. Life Members

Life Membership may be conferred upon any Full Patch Member who has rendered outstanding service to the Club. To be eligible for Life Membership:

- a member must be nominated by a Full Patched Member and seconded by another Full Patched Member.
- the nomination shall be forwarded to the President for inclusion in the next monthly meeting for approval by ballot in a closed session
- if the nomination is approved, the person nominated shall be a Life Member
- they will not be required to pay a membership fee
- Life Member patch is to be worn on the upper right side opposite the name patch and above any officer patch they may hold
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1.5. Transfer of Membership Entitlements

A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of the Club

- (a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person, and
- (b) terminates on cessation of the person's membership.

1.6 Revocation of Membership Status

Full Patch Members

Removal of full patch status shall be decided by the Board who shall convene a disciplinary meeting and vote on whether that Patched Member is to have their Patch revoked and be ejected from the club. The Board will review any complaint and/or evidence provided. The vote must be unanimous of all the Board members present. If the vote is not unanimous they shall then decide whether the Patch is to continue for a specific length of time, with monitoring of their involvement in the club, or is to be reduced to a Prospect. The Board reserve the following rights:

To invite other members to the disciplinary meeting to provide evidence in person or to assist the Board with their deliberations to achieve an equitable decision.

To summarily revoke a members Patch and colours, either Prospect or Full Patch for serious breaches of these By-Laws. Examples of this may be; riding while intoxicated, physical violence, overt discrimination, persistent sexual harassment, etc. This list is not exhaustive and the Board shall decide to what extent a member's behaviour is considered a serious breach.

Revocation of Patch member status shall mean, return of all club patches (colours), including back patch and club patch, officer or 'role' patches, founders patch if awarded, other patches worn by members only (e.g. Clittorati), removal from all media outlets including our Facebook pages and messenger groups, no longer able to join any club events, ride outs or tours whether open or not. Any membership fees paid in advance shall be refunded from the month following revocation.

Prospective Members

Revocation of Prospect status shall be decided by the Board. They shall vote and agree by a simple majority of Board members present whether to reduce a Prospect to Supporter status or in the case of a serious breach of these By-Laws to remove them from the club. Revocation of Prospect status shall mean, return of the Prospect patch and any 'role' patches awarded, other patches worn by members only (e.g. Clittorati), removal from all media outlets including our Facebook pages and messenger groups, no longer able to join any club events, ride outs or tours whether open or not. Any membership fees paid in advance shall be refunded from the month following revocation.

2. Governance

DOBL shall be managed by a board of appointed Officers. Officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting by a simple majority and shall serve for a specific term of office, normally 2 years. Officers may re-stand for election after their initial term, but shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms ie 4 years maximum, club circumstances permitting. Officers may continue for a further period if agreed by a majority of voting members present until such time as a replacement officer can be elected.

DOBL shall appoint the following officer positions. Official positions are open to Patched members only.

PRESIDENT (Main point of contact with SFDOBWMC and Board Chairperson)
TREASURER
SECRETARY
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

In addition there shall be opportunities for Patched members or, if agreed by the board, Prospects to fill specific roles within the Club, there may be more than one of each:

Media Officer
Photographer
Ride Leader – (Patched member only)
Mechanic
Event Co-ordinator/Planner
Webmistress

The Board Officers Roles and Responsibilities are as detailed in Appendix D.

The Board of Officers shall arrange an AGM, Annual General Meeting, which shall be held annually on or about the 15th June, all Full Patch members and Prospects are to be informed of the date, time and venue at least 2 months prior to the meeting and are required to attend. Apologies are to be submitted in writing to the club Secretary in advance with reason for absence.

The Board of Officers may call an EGM, Extraordinary General Meeting, with a minimum of 7 days notice to all members. All Full Patch members are required to attend and apologies for absence are to be submitted in writing to the club Secretary in advance with reason for absence.

2.1 Procedures for Business Meetings

6.30pm - Board arrives for pre-meeting
7.30pm – Members arrive for monthly meeting
8.30pm – Closed session if required
9pm – Close

2.2 Agenda

Board Meeting

Attendance Log
Minutes of last meeting
President's update
Financial Report
Membership update
AOUB

Full Monthly meeting

Attendance Log
Phones OFF or on silent (in an emergency members may be excused to take a call, but must leave the meeting room and return immediately afterwards)
Minutes of last meeting
Update from Board
Events this month
Future Event planning
AOUB

AGM

Attendance Log
Welcome from the President
President's Address
Annual Financial Report
Annual Secretary's Report
Annual Membership Report
Events and Ongoing Projects
Elections
Thanks
Close

All Club business, whether Board or Member meetings is confidential and must not be shared with anyone outside of the Club. Minutes of all meetings, once agreed, shall be uploaded onto the members section of the website for viewing. Any notes taken during closed sessions shall not be uploaded onto the website.

2.3 Dissolution

At the convening of an EGM, and with the agreement of the majority of **voting** members in attendance, the club may be dissolved. All monies remaining within DOBL accounts after settlement of outstanding invoices shall be donated in totality to the identified charity for that year.

All patches and officer badges are to be returned to the club President who shall arrange for immediate disposal.

These By-Laws are designed to engender pride in our club, support each other and keep us safe.

Pride

- We ride with pride and without prejudice; any Dyke is welcome no matter what size or style of bike they ride.
- We promote our lifestyle (biking and women) in a positive manner.
- We support London Pride in any way we can.
- The Club & Dykes on Bikes® reputation must be respected and preserved at all times.

Respect

- We respect and support each other at all times and will offer assistance to each other whenever it is possible to do so.
- Bullying in any form will not be tolerated, we do not accept language or behaviours that may offend, be it unintentional, e.g. banter, or not. Comments, whether verbal or written, including offensive imagery, referring to personal characteristics shall not be permitted; this may include but not be limited to race, ethnicity, culture, origins, disability, age, body image, mental health, religion, class, financial status.
- We do not accept imagery objectifying women on our website, Facebook, chat groups or other media.
- As a lesbian club there are opportunities for intimate relationships to develop, however, unwanted sexual attention is not acceptable and rejected advances are to be respected; sexual harassment is a form of bullying and will not be tolerated.
- Any member who feels offended by such language or actions shall raise it with the perpetrator in the first instance. Repeat offenders shall be brought to the attention of the board and may ultimately be expelled from the club.

Belong

- Prospects must meet all requirements to reach full patch.
- Full Patched members must meet all requirements to retain their patch.
- Only those who've achieved full patch status are eligible to wear the DOBL Chapter club colours, (patches).
- Club colours will be worn at all meetings, events, runs and rallies attended as a club.
- Club colours will be worn as per the positions outlined in the mother club guidelines and DOBL By-Laws at Appendix B.
- Members are not allowed to promote/use the Dykes on Bikes® logo and/or the DOBL logo without clearance from Chapter officers.
- Only full patched members are allowed to run for Officer roles, Lead ride-outs, act as a formal representative of the Club

- Only the President and Treasurer are to handle/manage Club funds.

Be Safe

- **All** riders involved in DOBL official ride outs **must** comply with the DOBL Ride rules, complete a ride waiver form, if they have not already done so, and attend the pre-ride briefing.
- All motorcycles must be in a roadworthy condition and have sufficient insurance cover.
- DOBL has a **Zero** tolerance policy on drink riding or riding under the influence of drugs. Any evidence of, or conviction for, drink riding or DUI will result in immediate removal of Club colours or Prospect patch.
- All UK or, when riding abroad, foreign country road laws will be adhered to.
- The Club will not be held accountable for the misconduct of its members. Each individual is responsible for her own actions and safety.

Rules are Rules

The wearing of a Dykes on Bikes® patch is an honour and a privilege, it brings with it over 40 years of dyke pride and tradition and is a visible emblem of the activism and courage of those who have gone before us. Wear your patch with pride, respect it, honour it and ensure your behaviour, when wearing it, is always exemplary and lives up to the Dykes on Bikes® values.

Officers reserve the right to expel members from the Club if these By-Laws are not adhered to.