



## WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

*“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other’s life.” Richard Bach.*

### **Introduction**

Welcome to Durban Free Chapter, a group of people who have a mutual love of riding, socialising, and having fun as friends!

This document has been prepared to orientate you on how we do things around here, especially if you are new to biking.

### **Background and Origins**

Durban Free Chapter is an association of Harley enthusiasts who have a shared love and passion for Harley Davidson Motorcycles and who have come together to enjoy these motorcycles and have fun. It is in no way linked to or affiliated with any Harley Davidson dealership.

The Chapter is bound to Free Chapter Bordeaux and is subject to the by-laws of the Free Chapter Federation in Europe. Durban Free Chapter was founded in March 2018 under the control of 1<sup>st</sup> Gauteng Free Chapter who in turn is affiliated and answerable to the Free Chapter Federation in Europe.

### **Membership of Free Chapter Durban**

Membership of Durban Free Chapter is at the sole discretion of the Director and his appointed Functionaries.

Basic prerequisites for membership are as follows:-

- Every member must own a Harley Davidson motorcycle or be the partner / spouse of an owner of a Harley Davidson.
- Every member must pay their annual chapter fees.
- Every member must be a fully paid up member of HOG® International
- Members may not belong to another chapter or motorcycle association (except free HOG membership)

## **Conduct of members**

Durban Free Chapter is founded on an unequivocal principle of LOVE and RESPECT for fellow members. It is therefore an absolute requirement that all members treat one another as such. We have come together because we love Harleys and we want to have fun together while riding them. This cannot be achieved if members do not respect one another.

The following points are requirements of all members:-

1. After completion of Prospect status and approval by the Director, Chapter "colours" will be issued to the member. "Colours" remain the property of Durban Free Chapter and should a member leave for whatever reason, these patches are to be returned and the member will receive a refund.
2. Positioning of patches is to be uniform – refer to the "colours" of any Founder Member.
3. Members wearing Free Chapter colours are essentially acting as ambassadors for Durban Free Chapter and this should be borne in mind as far as conduct is concerned, particularly in public places. The chapter will not tolerate unruly and unlawful behaviour while a member wears our "colours".
4. Members are expected to treat their "colours" with respect.
5. Finally members are to demonstrate some level of commitment by attending at least one breakfast run per month.
6. Members are encouraged to voice their concerns, air their views and ask questions at all open Chapter meetings held monthly. This should be done with respect and consideration to all members.

## **Compulsory requirements of members**

There are very few rules and regulations but we do expect our members to comply with the following compulsory events and conditions:-

- Chapter meetings are compulsory.
- Our Chapter Birthday Bash is compulsory.
- Members are required to wear their colours at all official functions such as breakfast runs, rallies, dine and dosses, when visiting Harley dealerships, etc.

## **Process to become a member**

1. Prospective members are required to complete our application form and pay the applicable registration fee.
2. Upon review of the application by the Director and/or his designated functionaries, the prospective member may be issued a "Prospect" patch. Usually at a Chapter meeting.

3. Prospect status has a 3 month minimum and a 12 month maximum period and during this time the prospective member's conduct will be assessed to determine whether he/she holds the same ethos and values as Free Chapter Durban.

### **Safety**

Durban Free Chapter prides itself on its safe riding style and discourages the abuse of alcohol while riding. The Director has appointed a Head Road Captain who is responsible for all official rides. It is imperative that the direction given by the him or his selected Road Captains is adhered to at all times, for the safety of all members in the "pack".

Any member in doubt of how to ride in the pack should address their concerns with the Head Road Captain or the Safety & Training Officer.

### **Founder Members & Portfolios**

The Founder Members and their portfolios are:-

Director – Len Barnett (the Boss)

Assistant Director – Johan Erasmus

Head Road Captain – Richard Purchase

Treasurer – Gordon Collins

Membership Officer – Ben Hawkins

Safety & Training Officer – Kevin Atkinson

Free Angels – Elin Hagemann

Activities and Events – Venishree Naidoo

Webmaster & Communication – Kirstyn Wanless

Admin & Secretarial – Debbie Collins

### **Finally**

When in doubt – ask the Boss