

# Ulysses Club



## Handbook for Members



## **PREFACE**

There is no greater realisation of the need for the Ulysses Club to have a guidebook than to perform the duties of the National Secretary.

In this role one is regularly asked the same or similar questions on club procedures and policies from branches and individual members.

As well as the frequently repeated questions there was also the awareness that a number of branches and particularly new members knew little of the history of the club and its inherited traditions and changes developed over many years by successive National Committees.

In filling the role of National Secretary for five years I developed and relied on a number of information sheet attachments to answer many of the email enquiries supplemented by additional individual explanations.

What better way is there to disseminate this important information for the members than to compile it all into one readily available Ulysses Club Guidebook ?

To produce the guidebook the National Committee needed to identify a member with the knowledge, time, skills and the expertise to research, compile and create such a document.

Rick Bedford, the immediate past National President volunteered to create the guide. As is evidenced in the book Rick has produced an invaluable asset for the club.

I commend Rick for a first class quality product and on behalf of the club wish to express our heartfelt thanks.

Kim Kennerson,  
National President,  
Ulysses Club Inc.



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## INTRODUCTION.

This guidebook has been a long time in the making. Its production was first suggested by then National President, Gary Vandersluis in 1998, who voiced a desire to compile such a volume on his retirement from the National Committee. Business pressures and other commitments though precluded Gary from finding the time to embark on this venture, and the idea lapsed.

Successive committees discussed production of the Guidebook, again without anyone knuckling down and commencing the task of research and compilation, until in 2003 I allocated the task to committee member Bob Rollo. Bob then set about researching the National Committee, AGM and Extended Natcom minutes and commenced compilation of a list of resolutions and motions. Bob retired from the National Committee at the Geelong AGM in 2004, and the research task was passed onto new committee member Pete Williams to complete. In 2005 Pete presented a folder to the National Committee containing the fruits of his and Bob's labours. Their tasks were not made any easier by the fact that the clubs earlier minutes, right up until the late 90's contained little detail of policies or issues under discussion.

In my time as National Vice President, and then as National President, I became a "bush lawyer" authority on the Club's constitution. My background as a law instructor with both the South Australian Police and Queensland Police services gave me the ability to read, dissect and understand the various components of the Constitution. In 2004 I represented the National Committee on a Constitution Review Sub-committee, which resulted in a full review of the constitution and the presentation of 15 Special Resolutions to amend the Constitution to the AGM at Canberra in March 2005.

When my tenure as National President was drawing to a close, I was advised by previous National Committee members that after so long on the Natcom, I was likely to feel that there was a void in my life when I was no longer involved in the day to day running of the club, so I volunteered to finally bring Gary Vandersluis' dream to fruition and compile this guidebook.

This book is a guide for members and branch officials, and whilst its contents are as accurate as possible, any questions arising from the guidelines in the book should be directed to the National Secretary.

My heartfelt thanks go out to Bob Rollo and Pete Williams, for the painstaking and time consuming research on the minutes, as well as to Stephen Dearnley and Tom Dudley for their help in matters historical, and Kim Kennerson for proof reading and corrections. Special thanks to Ian Rawlings for his support, advice and friendship over the years.

Rick Bedford  
Member No. 7481.  
Past National President,  
Ulysses Club Inc.



## **THE CLUB.**

The Ulysses Club Inc. was formed in December 1983, when the five founding members first met at the Elizabeth Hotel in Sydney. From that meeting a draft constitution was adopted, and the three basic principles or purposes of the club were formulated. These three principles are:- <sup>1</sup>

- (a) To provide ways in which older motorcyclists can get together for companionship and mutual support;
- (b) To show by example that motor cycling can be an enjoyable and practical activity for riders of all ages;
- (c) To draw the attention of public and private institutions to the needs and views of older riders.

These original purposes are entrenched in the club's constitution and have stood the test of time unchanged.

At that initial meeting, the five founding members became an interim management committee, until 2 months later, on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1984, 11 of the clubs total membership by that stage of 25 members, attended at the club's first annual general meeting, formally electing the very first National Committee, and adopting the club's constitution.<sup>2</sup>

Since that time, the club has grown to its present strength of membership numbering in the mid twenty thousands, with over 130 branches spread throughout Australia. Additionally, developments in recent years have seen Ulysses Clubs form in South Africa, Norway, Canada and Germany to join Australia and New Zealand Ulysses Clubs in an international fraternity.<sup>3</sup> The Ulysses Club of New Zealand was formed in 1988 when the New Zealand branch of the Australian club became a club in its own right.

## **THE CONSTITUTION.**

Over the years the club's constitution has undergone changes and amendments, the most significant change being the adoption of the present constitution at a Special General Meeting held in October 1987.<sup>4</sup> Since that time there have been further amendments to the constitution to ensure that it remains a workable set of rules and information to govern the club effectively.

The rules of the constitution may only be altered, rescinded or added to by a special resolution<sup>5</sup> of the members of the club in General Meeting, normally the Annual

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<sup>1</sup> Ulysses Club Constitution, Section 2.

<sup>2</sup> The Ulysses Story by Stephen Dearnley. Pp 12 – 14.

<sup>3</sup> National Committee Minutes, 29/6/96, item 11.3

<sup>4</sup> The Ulysses Story by Stephen Dearnley. Pp 31.

<sup>5</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. – Section 83.



General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting<sup>6</sup> called for such a purpose. There are strict requirements for such meetings, requiring notices of the meeting to be sent out to all members stating the business of the meeting and any special resolutions.

The Constitution covers topics such as the powers of the club, membership criteria, committees – elections and duties, meetings, life membership and discipline. It is interesting to note that whilst the constitution tries to cover everything for the running of the club, it is not without some grey areas, and will in the future need further amendment.

This guidebook will not try to dissect the constitution. The constitution is a document which must be read carefully, and there are very few sections contained within it that can be read in isolation, without reference to other parts of the document. Some members quite often make the mistake of reading a particular section of the constitution without reading and understanding other parts of the document which might also refer to the particular issue that they are seeking an explanation of or answer to.

One very important section of the Constitution is Section 89<sup>7</sup>. This section enables the National Committee to interpret the meaning of the rules in the Constitution, and to reduce that interpretation or decision to writing in the National Committee minutes. Once done, the interpretation or decision is final and conclusive.

The Constitution sets out at the very beginning by defining various parts of the structure of the club.

**“Club”** means the total body of members wherever resident constituted by their rules as the Ulysses Club Incorporated.<sup>8</sup>

There is but one Ulysses Club, a club which we all joined. Many members will refer in conversation or publication to their particular branch as their club, e.g. “The Outer Western Oodnadatta Ulysses Club”, which is erroneous. Branches are branches of the one club defined in the constitution, and should always be referred to as a branch, e.g. “The Outer Western Oodnadatta Branch of the Ulysses Club”.

**“Member”** means a person who has been granted Life Membership or, has been approved for membership by the National committee and has paid all monies due.<sup>9</sup> Membership is also covered by Sections 5 through to 9 of the Constitution. When a person applies to join the club and pays the appropriate fees, the membership application is not actually approved until the next meeting of National Committee.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005, Section 62

<sup>7</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 89,

<sup>8</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 1,

<sup>9</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 1.

<sup>10</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 5(c).



Even though the National Administration office will quite often process the application and send out the person's welcome package and membership card, that person is not a member until the application has gone before the National Committee meeting. Whilst approvals are generally rubber stamped, there have been occasions where membership has been rejected and fees returned to the applicant because they have failed to meet membership criteria or have been assessed as un-desirable.



## NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION.

### THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

*“National Committee” means the Committee elected as provided by the rules for the management and control of the Club and its funds.*

The National Committee (often referred to as Natcom) is elected each year at the club’s Annual General Meeting<sup>11</sup>. All committee members are elected for one term<sup>12</sup>, and provided that they have complied with the nomination requirements<sup>13</sup> may stand for re-election. The committee consists of the National President, National Vice-President, National Secretary, National Treasurer and three ordinary committee members. The National Committee is charged by the Constitution with the management of the club, controlling and managing the affairs of the club and its funds, exercising all such functions as required, and has the power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the Committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the club and its affairs.<sup>14</sup>

The National Committee is given full management duties by the Constitution to run the club.<sup>15</sup> Some of these duties and responsibilities include carrying on or engaging in any business or undertaking or project to further the purposes for which the club was established. It may communicate, affiliate or enter into other relations, formal or informal with other clubs, associations or bodies. Purchase, take on lease, hire etc. all real or personal property or rights or privileges. It may sell, improve, develop, lease or hire out, dispose of etc. or otherwise deal with all or any part of the real and personal property and the rights and privileges of the club, and do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the purposes of the club.<sup>16</sup>

The National Committee is required to meet at least 6 times in each period of 12 months. One of those meetings can be the Extended National Committee held in conjunction with the club AGM.<sup>17</sup> Reasonable travel costs are paid to the elected members of the committee. Additionally, the national committee may approve the reimbursement of travel expenses for ex-officio members of the committee, such as the National AGM Coordinator to attend such meetings.

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<sup>11</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 61(d).

<sup>12</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Sections 24, 26 & 33(a).

<sup>13</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 34.

<sup>14</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 23.

<sup>15</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 23.

<sup>16</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 2.1

<sup>17</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 47 .



## **NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.**

The club through the National Committee has established a national office staffed by paid employees of the club to administer the day to day operations of the club. The office can be contacted by telephone on 1300 134 123 (cost of a local call), or (02) 4647 7772, fax (02) 4647 7740, or by email at [administration@ulysses.org.au](mailto:administration@ulysses.org.au) . The postal address of the office is PO Box 3242, Narellan D.C, N.S.W. 2567. The office is manned between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Because of the nature of the Club's tenancy and the amount of work generated by such a large membership, members are not encouraged to go to the office. However if members feel it necessary to do so could they first phone ahead on 1300 134 123

## **EX-OFFICIO POSITIONS.**

The term "ex-officio" is one that is used in legal procedures, and when relating to a person means quite simply "by virtue of his position." The National Committee may from time to time appoint members as "ex-officio" members of the committee, and such appointments have included the editor of the club magazine Riding On, and the National AGM Coordinator. By virtue of Section 89 of the constitution, the National Committee many years ago decided that an "ex-officio" appointment to the Natcom meant a "non-voting position"<sup>18</sup>. In other words, whilst the Riding On Editor and the National AGM Coordinator are appointed members of the committee, they are not empowered to propose or vote on any business of the committee which would normally require the elected members to vote upon.

## **CLUB LOGO.**

The club logo was originally designed by Peter Thoeming, then editor of Bike magazine,<sup>19</sup> and it was adopted by the founding committee as the club logo, in it's original hand drawn form. The logo is a registered trademark, as is the term "grow old disgracefully" when used in conjunction with the trademark.

Some members in the past have attempted to "clean up" the logo by converting the printing to typewritten style, or have coloured in portions of the logo. Such alterations are not permitted.<sup>20</sup> The logo is registered as two coloured,<sup>21</sup> either black on white or white on black, although the national committee has the discretion to allow variations of this two colour theme, such as white on navy blue, white on denim blue etc.

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<sup>18</sup> Source Tom Dudley, Member 21, National President 1987 – 1994.

<sup>19</sup> The Ulysses Story by Stephen Dearnley, pp 11.

<sup>20</sup> National Committee Minutes, 11/10/92.

<sup>21</sup> National Committee Minutes, 26/4/92.



The logo is able to be used by branches as part of a branch logo,<sup>22</sup> and is also able to be used on licence by persons in a commercial enterprise of producing club regalia, on licence from the National Committee.<sup>23</sup>

### **Rockers Or Other Inappropriate Badges.**

Members should not wear inappropriate badges on a garment near the logo, e.g. such as a swastika.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, when the large club logo is worn on the back of a jacket, shirt, vest or other garment, it must not be displayed with any other patch or badge or rockers.<sup>25</sup> This rule was introduced in March 2005 in response to serious threats to the safety and well being of club members by motor cycle gangs, often referred to as “patch clubs”, “1%’ers”, “Outlaws” or “bikie” gangs. The wearing of other such items in conjunction with the club logo on the back of a vest or jacket etc. may subject the offending member to expulsion from the club.

This rule does not apply to patches or badges worn on the front of a vest or jacket.

### **RIDING ON MAGAZINE.**

The Riding On magazine is an official publication of the club, and is published 4 times per year, in February, May, August and November. The name “Riding On” is a registered trademark of the club.<sup>26</sup> Every member of the club receives a copy of the magazine. The magazine is produced by a publishing company which recovers much of the costs of production from advertising in the magazine, subsidised by payment from the club from membership funds.

Magazine content is controlled by the Editor, who maintains all editorial control subject to National Committee scrutiny. Generally, much of the content is sourced by the editor, and anything deemed to be contentious is submitted to Natcom for approval to publish.

Because of the costs involved in conducting a mail out of notices to all members, the Riding On magazine is also used for official notices, as cost of sending the magazine to all members is already budgeted for. Some members from time to time question the need for each member in a household to receive a magazine, but as it contains official notices, this procedure is a considerable cost saving over mailing out such notices to all members.

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<sup>22</sup> National Committee Minutes, 16/1/99 item 5.5, 20/10/00 item 6.4, 13/11/04 item 21.5

<sup>23</sup> National Committee Minutes, 11/10/92,

<sup>24</sup> National Committee Minutes, 31/3/01 item 6.5.

<sup>25</sup> National Committee Minutes, 31/3/00 item 9, 11/3/05 item 20.1

<sup>26</sup> National Committee Minutes 7/10/05, item 7.10



## **MEMBERSHIP.**

### **Criteria.**

Membership of the club is open to any person, subject to Natcom approval, who has attained the age of 40 years and who holds a current motorcycle licence.<sup>27</sup>

Additionally, the spouse or regular companion of a member, who has also attained the age of 40 years may also be admitted as a member on application.<sup>28</sup> Spouse in this section is generally held to mean husband or wife, putative spouse or de-facto husband or wife, or full time partner (not business partner).

As well as the above criteria, a person who used to once have a motorcycle licence and is over 40 years, but who no longer holds that motor cycle licence because of age, physical infirmity or other acceptable cause may also be admitted as a member of the club. The application to join under these criteria though, must satisfy the National Committee that he or she has held a prior longstanding interest and involvement in motor cycling.<sup>29</sup>

A membership application to join the club must be completed in full, and must be accompanied by a photocopy of the applicant's licence to show that the person holds a motor cycle licence and also verifies the person's age. Additionally, a person joining the club as a spouse or companion of a member must provide proof of age documentation with the application.<sup>30</sup>

An application for membership must be accompanied by the joining fee and membership dues as set by the National Committee from time to time. Membership dues are paid tri-annually, that is every three years.

Branches are advised that where a prospective member applies to join the club through a branch, and submits the membership application along with the joining fee and tri-annual subscription amount, the branch official responsible is required to submit the application form, along with a photocopy of the applicant's driver's licence, or proof of age document in the case of a spouse of a member, and the complete amount of money received. Branches are not to retain the joining fee, but are to submit it to the National Office with the subscription amount.<sup>31</sup>

The National Office will reimburse the joining fee to the branch at a later date.

### **Life Membership.**

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<sup>27</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005, Section 5.

<sup>28</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005, Section 5

<sup>29</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005, Section 8

<sup>30</sup> National Committee Minutes, 3/2/01 item 12.6.

<sup>31</sup> National Committee Minutes 23/06/02, item 6.5.



Life membership of the club is a prestigious award granted in recognition of a member's meritorious service. The criteria set down by the National Committee, and added to by amendments to the Constitution,<sup>32</sup> require that a nominee for life membership has:-

- (a) Been a member of the club for a period of at least 10 years;
- (b) Has rendered outstanding service to the club over a significant period;<sup>33</sup>
- (c) Has been nominated and seconded by two members. This nomination must be posted to the National Secretary not later than 30<sup>th</sup> December, and must contain full details in support of the nomination.
- (d) If the National Committee agrees with the nomination, it shall then be presented to the Extended National Committee Meeting held during the course of the upcoming AGM, for consideration and approval.
- (e) Appropriate exceptional circumstances may be accepted by the National Committee as valid criteria even if points (a) or (b) are not fully met.

### **Register of Members.**

The club maintains a club database for the benefit of streamlined administration and financial management of the club. Additionally, this database meets the requirements of the constitution for keeping a Register of Members.<sup>34</sup>

Each year the club publishes a printed Register, incorporating member names, membership number, suburb of residence, State, postcode and telephone number, as well as branch contact information and State maps showing branch locations. This register is sent to all branch secretaries and is available to purchase from the National Gear Shop or through branch regalia officers. If a member so wishes, he or she can choose not to have their name published in this book, by either checking the appropriate check box on the membership application, or by contacting the National Administration Office and requesting same. Publication of a member's name in the printed register is automatic unless that member has requested that their name not be published.<sup>35</sup>

### **Purging of Members.**

Each year, members who have not renewed their membership when due, will have their details marked as un-financial on the club database, and will no longer be eligible for any privileges or services as a member of the club.

### **Re-issue of Old Membership Number.**

<sup>32</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005, Section 85.

<sup>33</sup> National Committee Minutes 19/7/92.

<sup>34</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005, Section 10 & 11.

<sup>35</sup> National Committee Minutes, 8/8/99, item 6.3



Any former member of the club who has let his or her membership lapse and has been expunged from the membership register as of April 30<sup>th</sup> after the membership expired, can apply to have their old membership number re-issued upon re-joining the club. A former member re-joining the club and requiring their old membership number to be re-issued must pay the membership fee current at the time of application, plus all subscriptions owed back to the date the original membership expired, subject to the discretion of the National Committee.<sup>36</sup>

### **Senior and Junior Membership.**

Until a member attains the age of 50 years, he or she shall be deemed to be a Junior Member, but nevertheless has full membership rights and privileges.<sup>37</sup>

### **REGALIA.**

The club has sourced and obtained a range of products bearing the club logo or otherwise for sale to members. A member of the national committee fills the portfolio of Purchasing Officer as the need be, and it is that person's role to oversee the running of the national Gear Shop, source new items, approve purchase orders and re-stocking of the shop, and recommend the discontinuance of items not selling in sufficient numbers.

It is imperative that the Gear Shop does not run at a loss, but also that sufficient stock is held to enable quick despatch to members who purchase same. Whilst the Gear Shop is established to not run at a loss, it may be said that it is run as a service to members. The small profit from the Gear Shop sales is intended only for covering costs of running the shop, eg. the payment of wages for the despatch clerk, cost of packaging materials etc.

Any inquiries in relation to regalia or items in the club catalogue can be made to the National Administration Office, or to the Purchasing Officer as advised in the Riding On from time to time.

### **Purchase by Branches.**

Branches are able to purchase club regalia at a significantly reduced price for resale to their members, at the retail price set by the National Committee. This enables branches to on-sell regalia to branch members at a profit to enable the branch to fund their own activities as they see fit. Branches are required to comply with the conditions set down by Natcom for the sale of regalia. These conditions are:-<sup>38</sup>

- (a) Regalia is for sale only to club members.

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<sup>36</sup> National Committee Minutes, 27/10/01, item 16.9

<sup>37</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005, Section 5.1

<sup>38</sup> National Committee Minutes, 9/10/99, item 14.4



- (b) Retail price will be set and published by the National Purchasing Officer.
- (c) Branches wishing to participate must nominate a person who will be responsible for regalia sales.
- (d) Branch payments for regalia can be made by any legal form of tender excepting cash<sup>39</sup>.

Branches wishing to produce their own regalia, e.g. a branch shirt bearing the branch logo, are advised that the branch is fully responsible for sourcing and all payments due for such products. Furthermore, any branch logo must be approved by the National Committee, as well as any merchandise that bears the club logo.<sup>40</sup>

Some non members have obtained and wear club regalia. There is no entitlement at law for the club to recover club regalia from former members who legally purchased such items. It is also a custom for non member spouses or companions of member to wear club regalia, and the following decision was inserted in the National Committee minutes in 1997. “Only club members and their spouses/partners/regular companions over 40 years of age are eligible to wear club regalia.” Natcom felt that this rule complied with the spirit intended by the club founders.<sup>41</sup>

### **PUBLIC LIAISON.**

The National Committee nominates a person or persons to fill the role of Public Liaison or Motorcycle Safety Representatives on various bodies, such as the Australian Motorcycle Council, NSWGCC, VMAC, SAMAC, and the ATSB Motorcycle Consultative Committee. Over recent years major advances have been made in these areas with responsible members able to make the Ulysses Club’s voice heard on a number of issues involving motorcycle safety and motor cycling in general. Any member wishing to become involved in this type of activity or wishing to represent the club in an official capacity on any such body must contact the National Public Liaison officer as advised in *Riding On*, or the National Secretary.

### **CLUB WEBSITE.**

The club provides a website for the benefit of members. This website is a sophisticated interactive website, with many sections available to members only. Login details are controlled through interaction with the national club database.

As the website is an official publication of the club, with full viewing access to all members, and limited access to the general public, it has become necessary to

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<sup>39</sup> National Committee Minutes, 29/7/2006, item 19.7

<sup>40</sup> National Committee Minutes, 20/10/00, item 6.4

<sup>41</sup> National Committee Minutes, 25/1/97.



appoint moderators to monitor areas such as the Club Notice Board and Discussion Forums, to safeguard the clubs liabilities.

The website is linked to the National Gear Shop, and allows purchases of regalia with secure payment by credit card, and also the application for and renewal of membership, again with secure credit card payment. The website can also be used to register for AGM's.

## **INSURANCE.**

As with any entity, the club is required to hold insurance policies to cover various contingencies.

### **Public Liability Insurance.**

The club holds a public liability insurance to cover any Ulysses Club organised event, where other insurance does not cover the activities. This includes events organised and conducted by branches of the club, whether alone or in concert with any other persons or organisations. Whilst another body may hold public liability insurance on a particular venue, the club may be named as an interested party as well in any claim arising from the conduct of the event.

Any branch organising an event where members of the public are to be admitted, whether freely or by payment of an admission, should seek advice from the National Secretary pertaining to approval to run the event, and also obtain a copy of the appropriate Public Liability Insurance certificate.

One clause in the Public Liability Insurance policy that has significance to Branches is: ***Participation Exclusion*** – *this policy does not cover liability in respect of personal injury or property damage or of any person caused by or arising out of the participation of such person or his/her property in any game, match, race, practice or trial*

### **Association Insurance**

The Club also holds a policy which covers all office holders, committee members and employees, past, present and future, for loss arising from a wrongful act or alleged wrongful act, when those persons are acting on behalf of the Club and acting in good faith.



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The club's Annual General Meeting is held each year between January 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>42</sup> The purpose of the AGM is to affirm minutes of the previous meeting, receive reports, consider the financial statements for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup> previous, and to elect office bearers.<sup>43</sup>

Each year the AGM is held at a different location. The AGM locations are chosen by the National Committee and ratified by the Extended Natcom meeting, usually 3 years prior to the event being held. The AGM event has formal fixtures running for three days of the event, namely the Extended Natcom meeting held on the Friday, the Friday night "Meet and Greet" social and meal, the Grand Parade and Opening Ceremony on the Saturday morning, and the Annual General Meeting itself on the Saturday afternoon. These are followed by the Saturday night dinner, and the Sunday morning church service and finally the closing ceremony after the church service.

Additional to these fixtures, trade displays, bike test rides, organised rides, social gatherings and karaoke concerts have been included in past events by the host committee starting as early as the Monday preceding the actual meeting weekend, for the benefit and entertainment of visiting members.

Club members travel from all over the country, as well as members of our sister clubs in New Zealand, Canada, Norway, South Africa and USA to attend the week long gathering. The organisation of such a huge event, with numbers now exceeding 5000 attendees takes up a lot of time and effort by the host committee and the National Committee, hence the three year lead up to each particular AGM.

Members not planning on camping "on site" at an AGM, are advised to contact the host committee to ascertain hard bed accommodation booking services, and to check the information published in the Riding On and on the national website.

Members are encouraged to attend the AGM event and experience the whole atmosphere, environment and ambience of gathering together with several thousand like minded individuals, all intent on having a great time. Members are also encouraged to attend the actual Annual General Meeting itself and involve themselves in the business of the club and election of the national committee.

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<sup>42</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 58.

<sup>43</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 58

**AGM Coordinator.**

The AGM Coordinator is an “ex-officio” appointment to the National Committee. His/her role is to assist the National Committee and the AGM host committee with advice and guidance in relation to the conduct of AGM’s, to devise policy and make recommendations to the National Committee on proposed policies. The coordinator also visits and assesses the suitability of venues and host committee members for proposed future AGM’s, and prepares documentation to assist in these matters.

Additionally, the AGM Coordinator will establish and maintain on going relations and liaison with various contractors for the provision of services to the club relating to AGM’s. He or she will also maintain liaisons with manufacturers and distributors of motor cycling related products and other products or services as the need may be, for the benefit of the club and its members.

All costs incurred by the AGM Coordinator whilst acting in that capacity, subject to scrutiny by Natcom, are reimbursed to him or her.

Contact details for the AGM Coordinator are published in each edition of Riding On.

**Hosting an AGM.**

Any branch considering applying to host an AGM should initially contact the National Secretary or the AGM Coordinator to seek advice on such an endeavour. An AGM Kit which outlines the minimum requirements for venues, locations and various other matters is available from the AGM Coordinator. The AGM Coordinator will also assess the branch’s proposal for suitability to conduct the event, and provide feedback on all matters involved in the proposal, as well as advice on areas that need improving, updating or are not suitable for the proposed event.



## **BRANCHES.**

When the club was first formed in 1983, there was only one club, centred in Sydney, but before long there was seen a need to have branches of the club to serve the needs of members in their local geographical area. By September 1984,<sup>44</sup> a branch had been formed in Melbourne, followed not long after by Darling Downs in Queensland, and then Brisbane Branch. Since those shaky beginnings, the club has grown to a strength of over 130 branches.

Branch is defined in the club constitution as meaning “*a branch of the club established at any place in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia or such other place or places as the National Committee may determine*”<sup>45</sup> Branches of the club can only be formed with the approval of the National Committee,<sup>46</sup> who may also withdraw such approval and charter.

Up until 2001, there existed in the club both branches, sometimes referred to as formal branches, and Groups. Groups were a gathering of members who had the approval of Natcom to be formed and conducted themselves as a branch, but strictly had no recognition in the Constitution. The National Committee in 2001 decided that all Groups would from then on be recognised as branches, in order that their office holders be covered by insurance, and the branch given full recognition as defined in the constitution.

### **Forming a new branch.**

Members considering forming a branch of the club should first request from the National Secretary an information document, and seek advice regarding the location of the proposed branch, proximity to other branches etc.

Additionally, before a new branch can be formed or operate, it must be approved by the National Committee at a Natcom meeting.<sup>47</sup>

Branch names must be approved by the National Committee, and will be allowed the use of the State name in it to indicate a geographical location that aptly describes the location of the branch.<sup>48</sup> An example would be “Kingston South Australia Ulysses Branch” in order to distinguish it from Kingston Queensland.

<sup>44</sup> The Ulysses Story by Stephen Dearnley, pp 15.

<sup>45</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 1

<sup>46</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 28

<sup>47</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 28. National Committee Minutes, 20/10/00, Item 6.3. National Committee Minutes, 31/3/01, section 5.3

<sup>48</sup> National Committee Minutes, 26/10/02, items 16.2 & 16.3.



Branches are given a charter to operate in the area approved by the National Committee. Should a branch move its location from where it was first sanctioned to operate, into an area where another branch exists, the National Committee will consider amalgamation of both branches to form a new branch<sup>49</sup>.

Where a branch becomes very large, or covers a very large geographical area, the National Committee will favourably look on the formation of a new branch in that large geographical area to better serve the needs of members in that area. For example, the area once covered by Brisbane and Darling Downs branches, now contains 11 branches, stretching from the Queensland – New South Wales border to the Sunshine Coast.

### **Branch Logo.**

Many branches design their own logo, for wearing on shirts, or displaying on a branch flag. There is also a banner produced containing many branch logos, which is displayed at the Annual General Meeting each year. Logos must be approved by the National Committee before being produced for wearing or display. A draft of the logo should be forwarded to the National Secretary to be tabled at a national committee meeting.

### **Branch Committee.**

Every branch is required to have a committee, either formally elected or informal by consensus, which subject to the rules of the constitution, and to the direction of the National Committee, shall conduct the affairs of the club at the place at which the branch is established.<sup>50</sup>

Branch committee's can take either of two forms, either a formally elected committee or an informal branch committee. Both are defined in the constitution.

**Branch Committee** *means the committee of a branch of the club, formally elected as provided by the rules for the conduct of the affairs of the branch.*

**Informal Branch Committee** *means where the members of a branch decide for any reason by consensus that the affairs of the branch are to be conducted on an informal Committee basis, those of their number chosen by them from time to time to so conduct the affairs of the branch, and the description "Branch Committee" shall be read as meaning "Informal Branch Committee" in every rule where the context of the rule requires.*

<sup>49</sup> National Committee Minutes, 23/7/05, item 19.15.4.

<sup>50</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 29



Sometimes, members confuse the meanings of branch committee and informal branch committee. A Branch committee as per the interpretation section means where a branch has an AGM as required by the constitution,<sup>51</sup> and has taken nominations for committee positions<sup>52</sup> and holds an election to elect the committee. Nominations are required to have been received by the branch secretary not less than 28 days before the branch AGM.

**Nominations** for branch committees<sup>53</sup> must be made in writing, signed by two members of the club and accompanied by the written consent of the nominated member.

An Informal Branch Committee is where the members at a meeting nominate a person or persons to run the branch affairs up until the next meeting, and then repeat the procedure at the next meeting. This type of nomination and committee does not need the formal nomination procedure as outlined in section 34 of the constitution.

Most branches of the club use the formally elected committee process, as they find that more suited to their needs.

### **Make-up of a branch committee.**

The branch committee shall consist of the following office bearers.

President.

Secretary,

Treasurer

(or Secretary/Treasurer)

A minimum of three ordinary members.

Many branches choose to elect a Vice President, although that position is not permitted by the Constitution. Where a branch has elected a Vice President, that position is in reality an ordinary committee position that the branch members have decided shall fill the role of Vice President.

Members must remember that when they volunteer to serve on a branch committee, they are taking a position of servitude, not one of power. Serving on the committee is just that, conducting the affairs of the branch for the benefit of their fellow members.

The constitution also covers the duties of branch secretaries and treasurers, casual vacancies and the procedures for handling same, as well as removal from office of

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<sup>51</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 59.

<sup>52</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 34(c)

<sup>53</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 34



committees. Advice should be sought from the National President or Secretary before implementing any action regarding removal from office.

### **Bank Accounts.**

Where a branch handles any financial transactions to do with the conduct of the affairs of the club or branch, then the branch is required to have a bank account in the branch name. The account must require at least two signatories to make payments or withdrawals from the account. Financial transactions to do with the conduct of the affairs of the club or branch for the branch must not be processed through a personal bank account.<sup>54</sup>

The National Committee will from time to time issue instructions to branches on the conduct of the financial affairs of the branch or branches, such as requirements to submit a statement of financial affairs of the branch as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, to the National Treasurer.

The Australian Taxation Laws are quite complex, and it is the National Committee's responsibility as the overall management body of the club to ensure that the club complies with all applicable laws. Accordingly, the National Treasurer will request information from branch committees, to enable the National Committee to ensure that the club remains operating within the law.

Branch Treasurers are required to ensure that all money due to the branch is collected and received, and that all payments authorised by the branch committee are made, and that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the branch, including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the branch.<sup>55</sup>

Branch committees should always contact the National Treasurer for guidance or answers to any questions regarding keeping of branch accounts, reporting, GST or any issues concerning branch finances.

### **Branch Meetings. Committees.**

A branch committee, like the national committee is required to meet at least 6 times in each period of 12 months.<sup>56</sup>

A member of a branch committee is entitled to re-imburement for any money expended in the normal course of the running of the affairs of the branch, such as

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<sup>54</sup> National Committee Minutes – 9/10/99.

<sup>55</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 42.

<sup>56</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 47(a)



purchase of stamps, postage, paper for the branch newsletter, etc. Cash floats are not permitted. No member is allowed to make any profit or gain from such payments. Details must be shown in the branch accounts.

Additional committee meetings may be convened by the branch president, or by any two other members of the committee, and advice from the branch committee secretary, either oral or written, must be given to each member of the committee at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting. A minimum of three members present is required at any such committee meeting to constitute a quorum.<sup>57</sup>

At a committee meeting, minutes must be kept of the business of the meeting, and any questions arising shall be determined by a majority of votes. Each member of the committee (or sub-committee so appointed) has one vote, with the exception of the chairperson, who shall have a second (casting vote) if the issue is tied on votes.<sup>58</sup> In that case, the accepted rule for meetings is that the casting vote should always be to maintain the status quo. This quite often means that the chairperson might have to vote against a motion with the casting vote, even though he or she voted for the motion in the initial count.

Anything done or decided at a committee meeting is valid and effectual,<sup>59</sup> and remains so until overturned by resolution or decision at a legally constituted meeting of the committee or the National Committee.

### **Special General Meetings.**

A branch committee may convene a Special General Meeting of the members of the Branch as it thinks fit, and when on the requisition in writing of not less than 30 members of the branch must convene such special general meeting.

Any business to be conducted at the Special General Meeting must be listed in the Notice of Meeting sent to all branch members not less than 14 days from the date of the meeting by registered post. No other business must be conducted at the meeting.

It is important to note the branch special general meetings, or branch general meetings can not introduce any rules, or change the meaning of any rule in the Constitution, or any rule interpreted by the National Committee by virtue of Section 89 of the Constitution. Furthermore, a branch meeting can not change any policy or administration matter that is a policy or administration matter or procedure of the National Committee, as it is the National Committee that is charged with managing the affairs of the club generally.

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<sup>57</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Sections 48 – 50.

<sup>58</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Sections 54 – 56.

<sup>59</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 57.



Special General Meetings, General Meetings, Notices of motions or business are covered in rules 62 to 81. Advice should always be sought from the National Executive of the club before calling a Special General Meeting or General Meeting of the branch.

**General Procedures at a meeting are:-**

- a. No business to be conducted unless in the notice of meeting.
- b. Five members required to form a quorum;
- c. The meeting to be chaired by President or if he/she is absent or unwilling to act in that capacity, any other member appointed by those present.
- d. Matters will be decided by a show of hands, unless a secret ballot is demanded by at least 3 members present.
- e. Members present have one vote only, and must be financial members of the club to vote.

**Monthly Meetings – Social Meetings.**

Many branches conduct monthly meetings or social gatherings, and during those meetings transact business which should be the business of the elected committee, or seek to validate decisions made in a committee meeting. This type of business is in fact un-constitutional. Rule 84 of the Constitution states that whilst the committee of a branch may at its discretion convene such meetings, no business shall be conducted at such meeting if it is properly the business of the committee, or the business of a General Meeting of the Branch, duly called with notice of business as required by Sections 62 to 68.

**Membership of Branches.**

Various sections of the Constitution refer to “members of a branch” or similar words, but the document itself does not define member of a branch, except for the purposes of rule 14 relating to disciplining a member.<sup>60</sup>

Accordingly, the National Committee inserted the following interpretation into the National Committee minutes in order to clarify the situation concerning membership of branches.

**19.1 a) Constitutional Interpretation - Rules for Branch Committee Membership**

**Rule:**

Financial members only can be involved in the running of a branch.

Confusion exists in relation to where the constitution refers to a member of a branch or members of a branch. In order to clear up that confusion, the following interpretation is included in the minutes by virtue of Section 89 of the Constitution. This interpretation

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<sup>60</sup> Ulysses Club Incorporated Constitution – Amended March 2005. Section 7



shall now be the official interpretation of a member of a branch or members of a branch until such time that the National Committee deems otherwise, or the Constitution is amended by Special Resolution."

We are interpreting where in the constitution it says member of the branch reads as member of the club.

### **19.1.b) Membership**

Where the constitution refers to "a member of a branch" or "members of a branch" that means a member of the club as defined in rule 1 of the constitution, who has chosen to attend, align themselves with, or considers themselves as a member of a particular branch or branches.

A person who is not a member of the club may not be considered to be a "member of a branch" for the purpose of those sections of the constitution that refer to a member or members of a branch..

Where non member spouses, partners or regular companions of a member of the club, attend club functions or involve themselves in the affairs of the branch, they do so at all times as a guest of the financial member of the club.

Non member spouses, partners or regular companions are encouraged to become members by virtue of rule 5 (a) ii of the constitution

### **Rides.**

One of the principle purposes of the club is to enable older motorcyclists to get together for companionship and mutual support, and one of the best ways to do this is on an organised branch ride. Members love to ride their bikes and to socialise with other members, talk about their bikes and rides they have been on. An organised ride enables them to achieve these ends.

Most branches have organised rides at least once a month, with many branches having rides one day every weekend or second weekend, as well as mid week rides, of various length and duration.

There is no specific format for rides, length or appropriate destinations, as each branch differs in its needs and environment, and these issues dictate the type of rides most suitable to the members of the particular branch.

### **Ride Practices. – Ride Rules.**

Member safety is always the prime consideration whenever planning, leading or taking part in an organised ride. Leaders and organisers of rides should always take into account the age of participants, riding abilities, road and weather conditions and any other issue which may affect the ride when leading or planning a ride, and plan accordingly.



All persons taking part in a ride should be licensed to ride their mount of choice, and such motorcycle should be registered. Any ride leader, or committee member who becomes aware that a person intending to take part in the ride or taking part in the ride is unlicensed or riding an unregistered bike should ask that person to leave the ride forthwith. The presence of an unlicensed person or an unregistered machine places the safety of other persons on the ride at risk.

Members on a ride should be reminded that they are to adopt safe riding practices and to ride within their limits at all times. They should be reminded that as they are riding on public roads or anywhere defined as a road under the various State acts, or Private Parking Area acts, they are required to comply with the relevant State laws at all times.

The National Committee has advised and directed that branches are to abolish any Branch Ride Rules, either written or otherwise.<sup>61</sup> The club does not carry insurance for members on rides, as members are required to comply with State laws in relation to registration and insurance of their vehicles, and to comply with the requirements of the various laws and also the conditions of their insurance policies.

The club policy is that “the club does not endorse any ride procedure, rather a meeting place for rides to leave from, and individuals choice as to where and how they ride, subject to road and traffic conditions and regulations.”<sup>62</sup>

### **Branch Newsletters.**

Many branches produce newsletters for the benefit of members of the branch to advise them of social events, upcoming rides, reports of events and rides completed and other items which may be of interest to the branch members. It is up to the branch committee to decide whether the newsletter is provided to members free of charge, or by payment of a fee, or by annual subscription.

Where an annual subscription is charged for provision of the newsletter, branch members are advised that that subscription is for that purpose alone. Branches are not entitled to charge subscription fees for membership of the branch. Membership of a branch is entirely the choice of the particular member who chooses to align himself or herself with that branch. Membership of branches is not subject to any payment of fee or subscription.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> National Committee Minutes, - 16/1/99, item 11.1; 27/3/99; 17/8/02 item 16.10

<sup>62</sup> National Committee Minutes, - 17/8/02 item 16.10

<sup>63</sup> See Membership of Branches, this guidebook.

**Branch Websites.**

Quite a number of branches produce websites to supplement their newsletters and to provide information to all members of the club as to the happenings in their particular branch. The National Committee, through its internet host for the club website, provides space on the national server for branches to host their branch website free of charge. Information on how to set up a branch website utilising this free service can be obtained from the National Secretary or the National Committee member handling the Website Manager portfolio, as listed in the Riding On.

Where a branch chooses to publish a website utilising a web hosting company other than the club's web host, all charges and costs associated with that branch website are the responsibility of the branch.



## MISCELLANEOUS.

### **Rider Training Rebates.**

All members are encouraged to enrol in a rider training course to update their riding knowledge and improve their riding skills. The National Committee feels that as a responsible organisation, the club should encourage its members to ride safely and set the example for other road users. Accordingly, the club will subsidise a rider training course up to 50% of the cost of the course, to a maximum of \$60.00 for every member who undertakes such a course, once every three year membership.<sup>64</sup>

To receive the subsidy, the member will need to provide to the National Treasurer evidence of participation in the course, such as a copy of the payment receipt for the course and a certificate or letter of participation in the course. Members must first submit these to the National Office to be recorded.

The Rider Training subsidy does not apply to any course required to be taken by law or regulations in order for a member to gain a motorcycle licence.

### **First Aid Training Rebate.**

Members are also encouraged to undertake a First Aid Course such as the St. Johns First Aid Course or equivalent to enable members to be able to assess and administer first aid in the case of an accident or other emergency.

The National Committee will subsidise First Aid training to the amount of up to 50% of the cost of the course to a maximum of \$60.00 for every member who undertakes such a course.<sup>65</sup> That subsidy is available to members once every three year membership<sup>66</sup>, to enable members to maintain their First Aid certificate currency.

The continuation or changes to the rebate scheme are at the discretion of the National Committee.

### **Dearnley Medal.**

There is an award for outstanding service to a branch of the club, named after the club's principal founder Stephen Dearnley, member #1. The medal was introduced in February 1998 and announced to members at the Annual General Meeting held in Bunbury that year. The criteria for the award are designed to ensure that the award of the medal is a significant event that it is never trivialised.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> National Committee Minutes, 5/2/00, item 13.12.

<sup>65</sup> National Committee Minutes, 4/12/99, item 13.3.

<sup>66</sup> National Committee Minutes, 5/2/00, item 5.1.

<sup>67</sup> National Committee Minutes, 7/2/98.

**Purpose of Medal.**

The purpose of the Dearnley Medal is to recognise outstanding service by a member to a branch of the Ulysses Club. It is intended to recognize service which whilst meritorious either does not warrant the grant of Honorary life membership or where the recipient does *not meet all* of the criteria set down by NATCOM for Hon. Life Membership.

**Criteria for the Award.**

*The criteria are designed to ensure that the award of the medal is a significant event and that it is never trivialized*

- 1. Nomination for the Award must be by the Committee of a Branch and the nomination must be unanimous;*
- 2. The member nominated must have been a member of the Branch for a minimum of 5 years;*
- 3. In general, the service to the club warranting the nomination must have been for a minimum of 2 years and must in the opinion of the branch committee be outstanding, that is to say outside the usual service that a member might be expected to give to a branch or the club. It is acknowledged however that there may be circumstances where the service may have been for less than two years but still be outstanding.*
- 4. In making a nomination the Branch Committee shall be expected to satisfy the Natcom that the service warranting the award is outstanding. Whilst the opinion of the Branch Committee shall be persuasive the Natcom reserves the right of rejection of a nomination if in its view the award is not justified and in order to preserve the integrity and value of the medal and what it signifies.*
- 5. Any branch of the club may make a nomination for the award of the Dearnley Medal but no branch shall be permitted to make more than one nomination in any two year period.*

**Jo Dearnley Shield.**

The Jo Dearnley Shield was introduced in 1997 as a perpetual trophy to be awarded to the branch which raises the most money for the club's preferred charity each year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> National Committee Minutes, 9/10/97, item 11.9, and 7/12/97, teim 11.5



The shield is presented to the winning branch by representatives from the preferred charity and the club's charity liaison officer during the formalities at the end of the Grand Parade on the Saturday morning of the AGM.

### **Member Benefits.**

The National Committee has sought out various businesses, organisations and establishments who have offered discounts on purchases and services to members of the club. Members are required to show their current membership card when seeking such discounts, and must advise of their club membership when first seeking prices or quotes.

A full list of businesses that have offered member discounts are listed on the club website, and supplementary lists of new businesses are published in the Riding On each quarter.

Any member becoming aware of a business, organisation or establishment that might wish to offer discounts to members is asked to contact the club Purchasing Officer, whose details are listed in the club contacts in Riding On.

### **Age Badges.**

Badges signifying a member has attained the age of 60 years, 70 years, 80 years or 90 years are available for purchase by contacting the National Office. There may be occasions when the club database does not hold information on a member's date of birth, and in that circumstance, proof of age may be required to be supplied before a particular age badge is sold to the member.<sup>69</sup>

### **Length of Membership Badges.**

Subject to confirmation of records, badges indicating continuous membership of the club for a period of 10 years, and then in increments of 5 years, are available for members to purchase.

A member wishing to purchase a length of membership badge should contact the National Office.

### **Motorcycle Apprentice of the Year.**

Acting on a proposal of Stephen Dearnley, who was concerned that not enough young people were entering the trade of becoming motorcycle apprentices, the club introduced a national award and 8 State awards for Motorcycle Apprentice of the Year.

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<sup>69</sup> National Committee Minutes, 23/4/05, item 23.5.4.



A member of the Natcom liaises each year with the various State T.A.F.E.'s and or training authorities with information for apprentices to nominate for this prestigious award. After a slow start in 2004, competition for these awards is now quite fierce between the nominees.

Judging of the State awards is performed by the various T.A.F.E. or training authorities in each State or Territory, with the national winner being chosen from the State winners by a representative of the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industry.

The club has been fortunate in seeking and gaining sponsorship from the motorcycle industry, in particular John Sample Group, importers of Aprilia and Moto Guzzi motorcycles who provided an Aprilia motorcycle for the first two national award winners. State winners have been presented with certificates and a voucher to purchase tools, provided from club funds.

### **The Ulysses Story.**

First published in 2000, the Ulysses Story is a book written by principal club founder Stephen Dearnley. The book is an entertaining read, informing the reader of the club's shaky beginnings through to its current strength, containing both historical and anecdotal facts and stories.

The National Committee funded the publication of the book, donating all proceeds to Arthritis Research as Natcom's donation to the preferred charity.

In 2003 Stephen Dearnley submitted a revised and updated edition of the book for publication, including chapters on his marathon ride around Australia in 2002 on a 600cc Honda scooter. Again Natcom funded the publication of the book, donating proceeds again to Arthritis Research.<sup>70</sup>

Members may purchase a copy of the Ulysses Story through the National Gear Shop or through their branch Regalia Officer.

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<sup>70</sup> National Committee Minutes, 3/5/03, Item 18.12.



## Ulysses Club Honour Roll.

Honourary Life Members	Member Number
Stephen Dearnley	1
Jack Lewin	3
Tom Dudley	21
Tiger Bath	562
Geoff Mayfield	281
Cam McDonald	581
Alf Bridle	1196
Gary Vandersluis	186
Ian Rawlings	5203

President	Membership Number	Year Elected.
Stephen Hearnley	1	1983 - 1986
Tom Dudley	21	1987 - 1993
Geoff Mayfield	281	1994 - 1995
Gary Vandersluis	186	1996 - 1998
Ian Rawlings	5203	1999 - 2001
Rick Bedford	7481	2002 - 2005
Kim Kennerson	6929	2006 - current
Vice President		
Brian Nicholls	127	1988 - 1989
Geoff Akers	101	1990 - 1991
Geoff Mayfield	281	1992 - 1993
Gary Vandersluis	186	1994 - 1995
Bill Dritchett	4584	1996
Robyn Martin (Major)	6253	1997 - 1998
Rick Bedford	7481	1999 - 2001
Neville Gray	3394	2002 - current
Secretary		
Jack Lewin	3	1983 - 1985
Peter Reynolds	Deceased	1986 - 1991
Cam McDonald	581	Appointed 1991, elected 1992 - 1994
Ted Richards	381	1995 - 1997
Brian Hopkins	1502	Appointed 1997, elected 1998 - 2000
Kim Kennerson	6929	2001 - 2005
Helena Britton	14027	2006 - current
Treasurer		
Bill Damm	2	1983 - 1985



Stuart. Allen	280	1986
Kathy Dudley	155	Appointed 1986, elected 1987 - 1990
Bruce Edwards	843	1991 - 1993
Russ McCauley	1892	1994
Don Morgan	2806	1995 - 1997
Jan Rawlings	5203	1998
Sam Reich	6804	1999 - 2003
Vic Lesslie	7410	2004 - current
Committee		
Peter Fountain	5	1984 - 1986
Huey Lewis	6	1984 - 1986
Peter Reynolds	Deceased	1984 - 1985
Tom Dudley	21	1984 - 1986
Brian Nicholls	127	1987
Geoff Akers	101	1987 - 1989
Eric Whalan	Deceased	1988 - 1989
John Perry	127	1987 - 1989
Bruce Edwards	843	1990
Geoff Mayfield	281	1990 - 1991
Cam McDonald	581	1990
June Beaton	1476	1991 - 1994
Mike Beverley	308	1991 - 1992
Gary Vandersluis	186	1992 - 1993
Russell McCauley	1892	1993
Ken Taylor	427	1994 - 1999
Bryce Morley	1241	1994
Bill Pritchett	4584	1995
Bruce Graham	4215	1995 - 1997
Robyn Martin	6253	1996
Jan Rawlings	5203	1997
Rick Bedford	7481	1998
Sam Reich	6804	1998
Neville Gray	3394	1999
Nigel Jays	12845	1999 - 2002
Kim Kennerson	6929	2000
Bob Kollo	8862	2001 - 2004
Doug Winckle	12479	2002 - 2005
Helena Gritton	14027	2003 - 2005
Peter Williams	19423	2004 - current
Jan Hobson	24217	2006 - current
Jan Bedola	32266	2006 - current



**Dearnley Medal Recipients.**

<b>Dearnley Medal Recipients.</b>			
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Member Number</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Member Number</b>
1. Margaret French	157	2. Betty Redfern	538
3. Noreen Miles	38	4. Lionel Miles	37
5. Mary Jacobson	4564	6. Helena Cole	2454
7. Robert Cole	2453	8. Alf Bridle	1196
9. Bill Sears	2070	10. David Howard	283
11. John Colightly	1133	12. Duncan Walker	7064
13. Ron Blomley	1543	14. Grant Budgeon	16023
15. Roz McKellar	5090	16. Ailsa Colightly	11333
17. Charlie Hughes	5113	18. Ellen Hughes	5112
19. Barbara Maggs	205	20. Tony Jenner	204.
21. Geoff Paterson	5615	22. Allan Pratt	9186
23. Ian Mathers	3262	24. Averil Hingley	17644
25. Reg Loe	3256	26. Ann Coffison	11847
27. June Beaton	1476	28. Ken Taylor	427



**Appendix 1. Branch Election Procedure – Minuted National Committee Meeting April 7, 2007.**

**ULYSSES CLUB Inc.  
BRANCH A.G.M. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

**1. General**

- 1.1 Branch AGMs and the election of office bearers are to be conducted no later than 30 June in each calendar year and held immediately following the conclusion of business at the last general meeting for the term of the current Committee.
- 1.2 It is recommended that written nominations for Branch Committee positions be called for at a meeting two months prior to the date of the Branch AGM. The written nominations must be received by the Branch Secretary no later than 28 days prior to the date of the Branch AGM. (Please ensure the 28 day deadline coincides with the monthly branch meeting.)
- 1.3 All nomination forms are to show the name and membership number of the nominee, the member nominating the candidate and the member seconding the nomination. The nominee is required to sign the form as evidence of acceptance of the nomination.
- 1.4 All nominees, proposers and seconders must be financial members of Ulysses Club Inc and be active in the Branch to participate in the voting.
- 1.5 The Branch Secretary must advise members who the candidates are for all positions at the monthly meeting 28 days prior to the date of the Branch AGM.
- 1.6 Where possible, a short resume together with a photograph should be displayed on the Branch website or included in the Branch Newsletter
- 1.7 Ulysses is a social club and blatant electioneering by the candidate or by another member on behalf of the candidate is not welcome at branch elections.
- 1.8 Postal Voting is not allowed at a branch AGM.
- 1.9 Ensure that a copy of the constitution is at hand.



## Procedure

- 1.10 All business of a normal monthly general meeting is to be dealt with by the incumbent Committee. That meeting should then be closed and the AGM opened for the reading of the minutes of the previous AGM and presentation of reports by the President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- 1.11 Nomination forms are to be checked prior to the election for validity of the membership financial status.
- 1.12 The retiring President invite the Presiding Officer to take the chair.
- 1.13 The Presiding Officer will assume the chair, introduce himself/herself by way of a short opening speech, advise everyone that only financial members are eligible to vote, then declare all positions vacant, and then proceed to conduct the election. The Presiding Officer should advise the members that it is minuted club policy that where a secret ballot is conducted, if a majority of the members wishes to know the actual vote tally, then the Presiding Officer will read out the vote tally for each candidate. Otherwise, the vote tally will not be read out, but that the ballot papers will be retained by the branch secretary for a period of 3 months and then destroyed.
- 1.14 The Presiding Officer might determine from the members present if they want a secret ballot or show of hands. Both options are valid, however to avoid contention a secret ballot is recommended and can always be at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. A secret ballot can also be demanded by no less than three persons present at the meeting. If however it is decided to vote by a show of hands, the candidates should leave the room until after the vote is taken.
- 1.15 The Presiding Officer should state the position title, the nominee, the nominator and the seconder including their respective membership numbers, and ask the candidate if they still wish to contest the election or whether they still accept the nomination in the case of an uncontested position.
- 1.16 If positions are uncontested the Presiding Officer declares that member as the new officer for that position with his congratulations.
- 1.17 Currently the cascading system still applies. Unsuccessful candidates can cascade down and contest another position. Once a



ballot for a position is closed, and the winner declared, the Presiding Officer when inquire of the unsuccessful candidate(s) if he/she/they wish to contest the next position down the order, ie. Unsuccessful candidates for President are asked if they wish to contest the Secretary position. Unsuccessful candidates for Secretary are asked if they wish to contest the Treasurer position, and so on. An unsuccessful candidate for President may contest each successive position in order, and must be asked after each ballot if he/she wishes to continue.

- 1.18 If there is more than one nomination, the Presiding Officer will appoint a Returning Officer and a nominal number of scrutineers for the purpose of vote counting and each member present, upon production of a current financial membership card, will be given a ballot paper.
- 1.19 Scrutineers will collect all ballot papers, retire to a private area and proceed to count the votes.
- 1.20 Once the votes are counted, the Returning Officer shall confidentially advise the Presiding Officer of the vote tally. The Presiding Officer will then declare the result of the ballot
- 1.21 If there are any unfilled positions, they will be declared casual vacancies and be left to the discretion of the Branch Committee to fill at a later date.
- 1.22 The Presiding Officer will then invite the President to resume the chair and thank all members for the privilege of being asked to officiate at the Branch AGM before retiring.
- 1.23 The President should then introduce the new Committee so that the members can see the people that will be handling Branch matters for the following 12 months.



## ULYSSES CLUB INC. – COMMUNICATION STRATEGY and POLICIES DOCUMENT

Communication is the key to any organisation's success. With specific policies and guidelines for communication, members of the organisation can utilise communication channels available or recommended to them to communicate both within the organisation and external to the organisation. Without effective communication the organisation could flounder.

A Communication Strategy was first suggested to the club at the 2000 Annual General Meeting, and has at least on two other occasions been raised at Extended Natcom meetings or other meetings of the club.

Accordingly, with the assistance of Past President Rick Bedford, please find below the Communication Strategy document which has been accepted as Ulysses club policy.

I acknowledge and appreciate Rick's vast knowledge, his time and assistance and encouragement with creating this document.

**Helena Gritton**  
**National Secretary**  
**Ulysses Club Inc.**



## ULYSSES CLUB INC.

### COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES AND POLICIES DOCUMENT

(November 2006)

#### INTERNAL COMMUNICATION:

##### National Committee (NatCom)

It is imperative that the NatCom utilise effective methods to communicate within the committee, in between scheduled meetings, in order to effectively administer the running of the club.

Electronic communication such as, e-mail and telephone, are currently the most effective means. Technologies such as VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) should be investigated to enable members to communicate through broadband computer connections at much cheaper rates than existing telephone services. With the addition of a webcam, VOIP also allows video calls and video conferencing and could be utilised for off meeting conferences when urgent matters need to be dealt with by the committee.

Within the NatCom, members have specific roles and portfolios.

The **Internal Communication** responsibilities of those roles are:-

**National President:** Primary Communicator with all club members regarding club policy, announcements, news, developments, or any other matter deemed necessary. The Club National President should always be the first choice for implementing member wide communication.

**Means:** “Riding On”, Ulysses Club Website, e-mail, normal postal service, telephone calls, facsimile machine personal attendance or public address.

**National Vice President:** Assumes the duties of the National President, in the absence of the National President.

**National Secretary:** The National Secretary should be the avenue by which all correspondence comes to the Club and the National Committee, and through which all outgoing correspondence should originate, except in the circumstance where the National Committee deems it necessary that another committee member instigate a specific correspondence item or response. Nevertheless, copies of such items or responses should be forwarded to the National Secretary for recording purposes.

The National Secretary should liaise with the National Office staff to put in place procedures for receipt and distribution of mail and email intended for NatCom which has been sent to the National Office.

The National Secretary should utilise all communication methods available as per the National President.

**National Treasurer:**

The National Treasurer is responsible generally to oversee all financial dealings of the Club, including management of bank accounts, funds on hand, assets, (including stock held in the gear shop which should be considered as converted funds on hand), equipment and club premises.

Accordingly, it should be the National Treasurer's responsibility to oversee the day to day management of the National Office and its staff, unless the National Committee decides otherwise.

Whilst the NatCom members are encouraged to communicate with the office staff, any communications with the office staff in relation to staff functions, duties, policies, employment, office procedures and any similar matter should be directed through the National Treasurer. This will enable the office staff to have a communication and supervisory line of command, giving them enhanced job security and job satisfaction. It will also allow specific authorised directions to be given and understood, enabling feedback and performance assessment and review.

In the normal course of events communication with the Club's accountant are to be with the National Treasurer and the National Office staff.

**Ordinary Committee Members:** The ordinary committee members of NatCom should utilise all means of communication available to them in relation to any specific portfolios, with the approval of the committee.

**Ex Officio Committee Members:****“Riding On” Editor:**

The Editor of “Riding On” is given control of all matters in relation to the content of the magazine, subject to any specific direction by the National Committee in relation to any specific issue. The Editor is authorised to receive any correspondence or communication relative to the preparation and publication of the magazine, and to respond accordingly, utilising whatever means deemed by him / her to be suitable for that need.

**National AGM Coordinator:**The National AGM Coordinator should utilise the best available means of communication to suit any specific need in relation to carrying out the duties of that portfolio. Appropriate forms of



communications should be used with specific branches or committees, suppliers of services, government authorities or similar. Copies of all such communications should be kept by the Coordinator for reference by the committee if required. General communication with Club members nationally should be cleared through the NatCom.

### **EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION:**

**National Committee:** Communications to parties external to the Club in relation to Club issues, policies, national events or any other matter deemed necessary of comment, should be as follows:-

**National President.** Any press release, media release or interview, comment on Club policy or national events should always be made by the National President, or in his / her absence the National Vice President.

Similarly, invitations to address forums, company meetings or other gatherings in relation to the Club, its functions, policies or otherwise should be attended to by the National President, or in his absence the National Vice President, or other members of the NatCom as directed by the committee.

**National Vice President:** As per the National President in the absence or unavailability of the National President.

**National Secretary:** As per the National Vice President in the absence or unavailability of the National Vice President.

**National Treasurer:** As per the National Secretary in the absence or unavailability of the National Secretary.

**Ordinary Committee Members:** As instructed or directed by the National Committee.

### **National Public Liaison / Safety Portfolio:**

Where a member of the NatCom, or other appointed member is authorised to engage in the role of public liaison and or safety, including membership of various committees, organisations or boards, that member is authorised to make public comment on issues pertinent to that portfolio. Where the National Public Liaison is invited to comment, or issues a press release or media statement, a copy of the proposed comments or statement or release should be forwarded to the National President and National Vice President and to the National Secretary for recording.

Other than the National Committee members listed above, only Club members authorised by the National Committee are approved to make any pertinent comment on any specific issue subject of that approval.



**National International Liaison:** Where a member of the NatCom is appointed to the role of National International Liaison, that member is authorised to use whatever communication means are available to communicate with other Ulysses Clubs or international members, in order to further the ideology of the Club. Copies of all communications should be kept for reference by the NatCom.

**National Purchasing Officer:** Where a member of the NatCom is appointed to the role of National Purchasing Officer, that member is authorised to communicate with any person or persons, organisation or entity in order to carry out the functions of the role of purchasing. An example of such entities would be manufacturers of products of interest, wholesalers, retailers, service providers or individuals engaging in business.

Procedures for the ordering of items, approvals, payments, stock levels and re-ordering should be set in place by consultation between the National Treasurer and the National Purchasing Officer with input from the National Office staff, in order to best serve the needs of the club and its members.

**National Member Benefits Officer:**

Similar procedures and responsibilities as per the National Purchasing Officer.

**BRANCHES:**

**Branch Officials:**

As the club is constituted by branches Australia wide, branch officials will be viewed by local media, civic organisations and sometimes State and National media as representatives of the Club. Whilst Branch officials do in fact hold office within the Club, it must be remembered that they in fact are elected to conduct the affairs of the Club, pertaining to their particular Branch in their local area, with the provision that such actions are not at odds with any section or rule of the constitution or the management of the club by the National Committee.

Where a Branch official, such as a Branch President, Vice President or Secretary is requested or invited to comment in any issue by Government entities, Local Government entities or media, then the following policy must be adhered to.

**Club Policies:**

Branch officials must not make comment or issue statements in relation to Ulysses Club Inc policies, without the approval of the National President, National Vice President or National Secretary. It is preferable that where a branch official is invited to make a statement in this type of matter, that they not make any statement



but instead refer the person or organisation making the invitation to the National President.

### **Road Safety Issues:**

Branch officials must not make comment or issue statements in relation to Road Safety issues, without the approval of the National President, National Vice President or National Secretary, or the NatCom member responsible for the portfolio of National Public Liaison / Safety.

Nevertheless, branch officials are encouraged to contact the National Public Liaison / Safety Officer to advise him / her of particular local issues and to seek approval or guidance on the handling of such issues.

Furthermore, branch officials are also encouraged to communicate with Local Government authorities and or State Road authorities to bring to their attention unsafe road conditions.

### **Specific Public Liaison / Safety Officers:**

Where a Club member, whether a branch official or not, is appointed by the NatCom to represent the Club on a specific motor cycle or road safety organisation, that member is authorised to participate in all such meetings and events of that organisation, and to make comment or issue statements pertinent to that organisations sphere of operation. All such statements or comments should be first cleared by the National Public Liaison / Safety officer, or in the case of his / her unavailability, the National President, National Vice President or National Secretary of the Club, and a copy forwarded to the National Secretary for recording purposes.

### **Local Branch Events:**

Branch officials are encouraged to communicate with their local / State media organisations, civic entities or other similar entities to publicise local events, such as fundraising events for charities and toy runs. Any comments, statements or interviews should be restricted to the concerns relative to the local event only.

### **Club Members generally,**

are not to make public comment or issue any media statement or release whilst representing themselves as authorised to speak for or on behalf of the Club. Any member making a public statement or comment on any issue, whilst being identified as a member of the Club, must stress that their comment or statement is their own opinion only, and is not in any way the opinion or policy of the Club nor is it binding to the Club.

### **National Website:**

The Club's national website is provided as a service to members. Parts of the site are available to members for communication by utilising the Notice Board, Discussion Forum or the Chat Room. Members may also utilise the Personal Message facility to communicate with each other, and the Classifieds may be used to advertise items that are for sale legally or wanted to buy.



The website is also available to the NatCom to place notices on the home page, or to publish information of interest to members through the Natcom Mutterings and National Public Liaison sections.

Members must always remember that even though much of the site is viewable only by Club members, the rules of defamation and libel still apply, and that the Club, as provider of the service is vicariously liable for any content published on the site. The NatCom reserves the right to edit or remove any content uploaded or submitted by any member to the national website, and any branch website hosted by the Club's service provider.

Any member who submits, publishes or uploads any defamatory, libellous, insulting, or offensive comment, statement or otherwise, pornographic material or anything designed or intended to, or deemed to cast the Club or any member in a detrimental light, or to bring the Club or any member into disrepute, will be deemed to have breached section 14 of the Constitution. Such behaviour will result in the National Committee reviewing the member's access to the website and / or continued membership of the Club.

**Kim Kennerson**  
**National President**  
**Ulysses Club Inc.**

**Helena Gritton**  
**National Secretary**  
**Ulysses Club Inc.**