

## **Pioneer Motorcycle Club – Review of Constitution (Revision B)**

The Pioneer committee have completed a review of the current Constitution which, apart from changes associated with the new Club logo, was last reviewed and updated 22 years ago. This review has identified some areas where changes are proposed which relate to Membership clauses.

As described in the constitution, the amendments require formal approval by the Pioneer Committee in February 2022, then final approval by members at the March 2022 AGM. If the AGM vote accepts these changes they will become part of the constitution. Club members are invited to both the February committee meeting and the AGM to discuss these changes.

The current rules and proposed new wording (shown underlined) are outlined below:

### **Clause 5A Election to Membership**

#### **Current Wording:**

Any person may apply to become a Member of the Club by paying to the Secretary the subscription for its current financial year as determined by the Club. The Secretary will place the application for Membership before the next meeting of the Club or the Committee and, on the approval by the majority of those present at that meeting, the applicant will become a Full Member of the Club

#### **Proposed Addition:**

Any person may apply to become a Member of the Club by paying to the Secretary the subscription for its current financial year as determined by the Club. The Secretary will place the application for Membership before the next meeting of the Club or the Committee and, on the approval by the majority of those present at that meeting, the applicant will become a Full Member of the Club

Membership shall consist of the following categories:

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Voting Rights</u>	<u>Subscriptions Paid</u>
<u>Individual</u>	<u>One person</u>	<u>1 Vote</u>	<u>1 Subscription</u>
<u>Family</u>	<u>Up to 2 adults and dependent children living at the same address as an Individual</u>	<u>1 Vote</u>	<u>1 Subscription</u>

#### **Reason for Addition:**

At present the Club has informal Individual and Family Memberships, but these are not defined. This addition addresses this and gives clarity regarding Membership numbers for Life Member calculations and for voting at the AGM or Special meetings. If Family Members or a couple with Family Membership want 2 votes at an AGM or Special meeting they will need to have paid 2 Individual Memberships. Dependent children are children at school or tertiary study, and not in full time employment.

### **Clause 5B Life Membership**

#### **Current Wording:**

- (1) A Member may be elected to Life Membership by a three fifths majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting.
- (2) Life Membership may also be conferred on any Member for outstanding service to the Club or to the interests of motorcycling.
- (3) Honorary Life Membership may also be conferred on any person for outstanding services to the Club or the interests of motorcycling.

- (4) When considering applicants for Life Membership in future years the Club recognises that such conferral is an honour and it works towards an ultimate Life Membership ratio of 1% of the Club Membership.

#### **Proposed Wording:**

1. A Member may be elected to Life Membership by a three fifths majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting.
2. There is no limit on the number of Life Members allowed, though all nominees must meet both the following criteria:
  - (a) The nominee will have demonstrated an exceptional contribution of service to the Club over an extended period of time which has had a demonstrated and measurable benefit to the Club and Membership. This recognises the valuable contribution of an individual to the current and future existence of the Club
  - (b) The nominee may have represented the Club with distinction in the broader motorcycling or Trials community and MNZ governing body.
3. All Life Members have voting rights at the AGM and Special Meetings.
4. The benefit of Life Membership is exemption from annual fees associated with being a Pioneer Member for those Life Members who do not hold an MNZ competition licence. Life Members who do hold an MNZ competition licence will pay the same annual fee as Individual Members to cover maintenance and purchase of assets to run competition events, and cover annual MNZ levies including insurance and conference costs

#### **Reason for Change:**

Note 4 in the existing Constitution indicates the ratio of Life Members to Club Membership should not exceed 1%. The 1% rule was established when Pioneer was a larger Club with several hundred Members catering for other motorcycle disciplines including Enduros and Road Trials. It is unlikely as a specialist Trials Club that the Club will get back to previous Membership numbers. In November 2021 the Club has 14 Life Members, and 70 Subs paid so the number of Life Members is currently 16% of the total membership.

There is no intention to remove Life Member status from any existing Life Members, but the current Constitution needs to be revised as it will not allow the Club to offer additional Life Membership to any individual Members over the next 15 to 20 years (until all existing Life Members pass away or resign). Even then the Club would need to achieve one hundred Club Members to allow us to have only one Life Member under the current Constitution. An option is needed to be able to recognise any future significant contribution made to the Club by an Individual.

The Club also wants to ensure the exemption from annual subscriptions that Life Members enjoy does not impact on the future financial well being of the Club. All Members, including Life Members, pay their own way at events such as Trials or a Club dinner. Presently all Members receive newsletters via email so there are no printing and postage costs. The only other Member costs paid from the annual subscription are maintenance and purchase of assets and equipment to run events, and the MNZ levy covering insurances, Club affiliation, and the annual MNZ conference.

The majority of Life Members are retired from competition and they no longer hold MNZ licences, so the Club does not pay MNZ levies for them, and they do not represent a cost to the Club. Active Life Members who still hold an MNZ licence do represent a cost to the Club as levies are paid for these Members.

The remaining Club Members subscriptions will increase if the number of Life Members active in competition increases. To cover this, the Constitution amendments propose that Life Members who hold current MNZ competition licences continue to pay the annual Club subscription, so they contribute toward the MNZ levies which the Club has to pay.

## **Clause 5C Cessation of Membership**

### **Current Wording:**

Membership shall cease

- (1) On the Members subscription remaining unpaid three months after the due date
- (2) If being a Life Member that Member fails to complete the appropriate annual renewal form within three months of the due date.
- (3) If that Member resigns by notice in writing to the Secretary
- (4) If a resolution terminating that person's Membership is passed by a three-fifths majority at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. The notice for any such meeting must include details of the proposed resolution and the reason for that resolution. The person whose Membership it is proposed to terminate must be allowed to address the meeting and to present such evidence or contrary opinion as he or she may wish to submit.

### **Proposed Deletion:**

Membership shall cease

- (1) On the Members subscription remaining unpaid three months after the due date
- (2) Deleted.
- (3) If that Member resigns by notice in writing to the Secretary
- (4) If a resolution terminating that person's Membership is passed by a three-fifths majority at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. The notice for any such meeting must include details of the proposed resolution and the reason for that resolution. The person whose Membership it is proposed to terminate must be allowed to address the meeting and to present such evidence or contrary opinion as he or she may wish to submit.

### **Reason for Change:**

Note 2 in this existing clause notes that a Life Member that fails to complete and return the appropriate annual renewal form within three months of the due date will cease to remain a Member.

As the Club no longer sends renewal notices to Members there is no longer a need for this clause. A person remains a Life Member until their death, they resign from the Club, or their Membership is terminated.