

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE HEXHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

**Amended 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

## **1. NAME**

The association shall be called the **HEXHAM AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**; often referred to as the **HBKA**

## **2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Association are the encouragement, improvement and advancement of beekeeping in Hexham and surrounding districts and in furtherance of the main objects but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the following powers:

- a) To raise funds
- b) To procure to be written, printed, published, issued and circulated gratuitously or otherwise any reports or periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or other documents.
- c) To do all such things as are necessary for the attainment of these objects.

## **3. MANAGEMENT**

- a) The management of the Association shall be vested in a committee consisting of honorary officers of the Association, the editor of the Honey press and five other members. Four members shall constitute a quorum.
- b) The Committee shall have the power to fill temporary vacancies and also to appoint sub committees whose members need not be members of the Committee.
- c) The honorary officers of the Association shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- d) All candidates for the Committee should be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting. They should be from the paid membership. A chair must stand down after 3 years' tenure with at least three years elapsing before the same person is able to put themselves forward for election to chair again.
- e) Should it be deemed necessary, then one or two members shall be elected at the AGM to serve as delegates on any such British Bee Keepers Association (BBKA) required representative delegate body, such as that of the Northumberland Beekeepers Association.

#### **4. MEETINGS**

- a) Committee meetings shall be held as and when necessary in order to maintain the running of the Association.
- b) An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held after the close of the Association's financial year and no later than 3 months after a set of audited accounts are made available. The subscription year is January to December.
- c) A report of the year's work and a statement of the Association accounts should be submitted to the Auditor on or by the 31st October for independent examination.
- d) An auditor, not a member of the Committee, shall be appointed at the AGM. Should no volunteer from the membership be forthcoming then the Committee can call upon a suitable person outside of the association to conduct the audit of the accounts.
- e) An extraordinary general meeting can be called on written demand by ten members of the association. The extraordinary general meeting must be held within twenty eight days of the written demand. Should membership numbers reduce to 10 or under an extra ordinary general meeting will be called by the Committee in order to address constitutional changes required.
- f) An extraordinary general meeting can be called from time to time by the Committee to discuss important association matters.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Members shall be admitted to the association upon application to the membership Secretary and or the Treasurer; and payment of the subscription.
- b) Honorary life members with distinguished service may be proposed prior to the Annual General Meeting by the Committee or paid up member. The proposals subsequently agreed by the membership at the AGM.
- c) It shall be understood that membership of the association implies a pledge, that each member shall manage their bees in such a manner that they are not knowingly kept or managed in such a manner that may bring the Association into disrepute and are not knowingly kept or managed to the detriment of any other members of the Association or to any member of the public. Members should keep their bees in a manner that does not give cause to any private or public nuisance.
- d) The Committee can refuse membership to anyone whose connection with the association would, in its opinion, be detrimental to the interest and good name of the Association. Any person refused membership may be given reasonable reason for any such decision made.
- e) Voting rights and any other privileges on all matters shall be given to all honorary and full members. Any "associate" member (as defined by BBKA classes of membership) shall not have the rights to vote on BBKA issues.

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

The Committee shall raise and administer the accounts on behalf of the membership. All bank accounts shall be in the name of the Association and any cheques drawn must be signed by at least two signatures, one of whom should be the Treasurer.

## **7. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- a) The subscription rates for all the categories of membership shall be decided at the AGM. The categories of membership are defined by the British Bee Keepers Association.
- b) Subscriptions shall be due following the Annual General Meeting. For a complete subscription year January to December.
- c) Any members whose subscription is overdue by more the three months will be liable to have their name removed from the list of members

## **8. BEE DISEASES**

Any member with notifiable disease or pests as defined by the government department responsible (DEFRA at this time) shall notify the Secretary at or near to the time that they notify the authorities.

## **9. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

These rules shall not be altered except by a two thirds majority of the members present at the Annual General Meeting or at an extraordinary general meeting convened for the purpose. Any proposed alteration shall be stated on the notice calling the meeting. No amendment shall be made which will cause the Association to cease to be a Charity at Law. Unless there has been a change in law governing charity status which adversely affects the Association, then at the AGM or an extraordinary meeting members shall be able to vote by a two thirds present majority to change the Association status.

## **10. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

In the event of the Association being dissolved any assets remaining after payment of outstanding debts and liabilities shall be transferred to some other charitable institutions having objects which are similar to the Association.