

North Shropshire Beekeepers' Association

Members' Information – Constitution

1) Name

The name of the Association will be

The North Shropshire Beekeepers' Association

Hereinafter referred to as 'the Association' or 'NSBKA'.

2) Aims and Activities

- 2.1 The Association is established to:
 - 2.1.1 Advance the science of apiculture and to promote and foster the education of the public therein.
 - 2.1.2 Assist members in all matters relating to the craft of beekeeping.
 - 2.1.3 Assist in the control and eradication of bee diseases.
 - 2.1.4 Initiate and help formulate National policy on matters relating to the craft of beekeeping.
- 2.2 The Association may:
 - 2.2.1 Hold exhibitions of Bees, Hives and Produce.
 - 2.2.2 Arrange lectures and demonstrations at times and in places most suitable to the Association or the General Public.
 - 2.2.3 Adopt any method to improve and extend the influence of the Association and the members' knowledge of beekeeping.
 - 2.2.4 Maintain an efficient and effective liaison with farmers and spray contractors by agreeing mutually acceptable practices, if appropriate.
 - 2.2.5 Operate a spray warning system in order that pesticide poisoning is prevented, if appropriate.

3) Management

- 3.1 The management of the Association shall be conducted by a 'Committee' of its officers and representatives elected at the AGM. Hereinafter referred to as the 'Committee' which shall be composed of the following 'Officers':
 - 3.1.1 Chairperson and BBKA Delegate
 - 3.1.2 Vice-Chairperson
 - 3.1.3 Treasurer
 - 3.1.4 Secretaryand 'Other Committee Members' as deemed necessary for the efficient running of the Association by the Officers.
- 3.2 All Officers and Other Committee Members shall hold office from election until the AGM.
- 3.3 The Committee will have the power to co-opt members as required.
- 3.4 The Committee will meet when deemed necessary.
- 3.5 The Committee quorum will be not less than 4 Committee members which must include at least 2 Officers.
- 3.6 A minimum of 7 days notice shall be given of Committee meetings.
- 3.7 The Committee will meet at the request of the Secretary, stating the reason, within 6 days of a request by 3 members of the Committee by notice in writing and giving the reason.
- 3.8 The Committee shall have the power to alter by-laws provided no Association rule is contravened.
- 3.9 The Association will be strictly non-political.
- 3.10 All profits, if any, will be used to further the craft of beekeeping.
- 3.11 The Committee may at any time request that the Secretary and Treasurer arrange for an independent audit of the Association's accounts to be completed.
- 3.12 The Committee shall have the power to approve the formation of sub-Committees.
 - 3.12.1 Sub-Committees will consist of at least one Committee member with co-option from ordinary members or non-members.
- 3.13 The Committee shall have the power to cancel the membership of any member who:
 - 3.13.1 Has failed to pay the annual subscription within 3 months of the due date.
 - 3.13.2 Whose conduct brings the Association into disrepute.

4) Membership

- 4.1 Membership shall be open to beekeepers and others interested in apiculture.
- 4.2 Membership shall be renewable annually.
- 4.3 Classes of membership shall be defined as follows:
 - 4.3.1 NSBKA Ordinary Member – A person who has paid NSBKA subscription and BBKA and BDI capitation.

4.3.2 NSBKA Associate Membership – A person who has paid NSBKA subscription only and shall be open to anyone who does not keep bees, or to a person who already pays BBKA and BDI capitation through another Beekeeping Association.

4.3.3 NSBKA Honorary Life Members will be elected by the Association in general meeting following recommendation by the Committee. No NSBKA subscription fee is payable by an Honorary Life Member.

- 4.4 The NSBKA annual subscription shall be a sum recommended by the Committee and ratified by the AGM and will be due on the 1st November.
- 4.5 NSBKA subscription covers all members of one household but only entitles the members to one copy of correspondence per subscription. This does not apply to BBKA or BDI capitation fees.
- 4.6 Only one vote per NSBKA Ordinary Member or NSBKA Associate Member subscription is permitted at meetings of the Association and the subscription must be fully paid up at the time of the meeting.
- 4.7 NSBKA Ordinary Members will be indirect members of the BBKA, benefiting from the public and product liability insurance schemes arranged by the BBKA. NSBKA Ordinary Members will also be required to pay a contribution for Bee Disease Insurance ('BDI') covering the rate for the minimum number of colonies. Additional contributions must be paid to cover all colonies operated by the member to secure BDI compensation. BDI cover will lapse if not paid by that scheme's cut off date each year.

5) AGM

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October at which:

- 5.1 The Secretary's annual report shall be presented.
- 5.2 The Treasurer's statement of the Association's accounts shall be presented.
- 5.3 All questions relating to the governance of the Association shall be discussed and voted upon.
- 5.4 The Officers for the following year shall be elected.
- 5.5 The members may elect additional members to the Committee to manage the affairs of the Association to those named in 3 above.
- 5.6 A minimum of 14 days notice must be given of the AGM.
- 5.7 An AGM quorum shall consist of not less than 10 NSBKA members.

6) SGM

- 6.1 A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary at the written request of not less than 5 members.
- 6.2 The reason for this meeting must be given.
- 6.3 Within 6 days of receiving such a request the Secretary shall give all members at least 21 days' notice of the SGM enclosing at the same time the Agenda.
- 6.4 A SGM quorum shall consist of not less than 10 NSBKA members.
- 6.5 All agenda issue(s) shall be discussed and voted upon.
- 6.6 No other business will be discussed.

7) Alterations to Rules

- 7.1 No alterations in the Association's rules shall be made except at the AGM and a two thirds' majority of paid up members present and voting will be required.
- 7.2 Proposed alterations shall be circulated to all members at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

8) Dissolution

- 8.1 The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds' majority of paid up members present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose.
- 8.2 Twenty one days' notice shall be given of such a meeting.
- 8.3 The resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association.
- 8.4 If any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid or distributed among the members but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to those of the Association.
- 8.5 If the provisions set out in 8.4 above can not be effected then the property shall be given to some other charitable purpose.