

Wye Valley Beekeepers' Association

Constitution and Rules

1) Title

The name of the Association shall be the 'Wye Valley Beekeepers' Association (hereafter called the Association).

2) Objects

The objects of the Association shall be the encouragement, improvement and advancement of beekeeping in the Wye Valley and district.

In furtherance of these objects the Association shall encourage the detection and eradication of bee diseases, provide an exchange of information between beekeepers, and do all such lawful things as shall further the objects of the Association.

3) Constitution

The Association shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer (the Officers), Membership Secretary and five other members of the Executive Committee elected from amongst the members, and the members.

4) Membership

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in actively furthering the objects of the Association upon payment of the appropriate annual subscription, subject to clause 3, paragraph 5.

Membership Comprises:-

Full Membership – gives full voting membership of the WVBKA which allows access to all our meetings, on-going training, apiary facilities, newsletter and website. This also includes membership of the BBKA and includes all the BBKA benefits and resources plus their monthly newsletter and also included is BDI insurance for 3 hives (or more for an additional fee).

Partner Membership – provides the same benefits as the Full Membership but without the newsletters from BBKA and WVBKA.

Junior Membership – gives non-voting membership of the WVBKA and allows access to all our meetings, on-going training, apiary facilities, newsletter and website, BBKA Junior membership but not BDI insurance.

Newsletter Membership - gives non-voting membership of the WVBKA and allows access to all our meetings, on-going training, apiary facilities, newsletter and website, but not BBKA membership or BDI insurance.

5) Finance

The financial year will end on 31st December.

The Hon. Treasurer shall be responsible for such sums of money as may be paid into his/her hands on behalf of the Association. The Hon. Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping an up to date record of all assets of the Association such as books, records, office equipment, cups, trophies and all display equipment.

Subscriptions shall be decided at the AGM or at an EGM to take effect from the beginning of the next financial year. Subscriptions shall be due on the 1st January plus any extra Bee Disease Insurance premiums required. If subscription is not paid by 31st March, membership shall be deemed lapsed.

6) Annual General Meeting

An AGM of all paid up members of the Association shall be held within three months of the end of the financial year.

The AGM shall have the power to:

- 1) Elect the executive committee, including the officers.
- 2) Receive the annual report and a financial statement.
- 3) Set the level of subscriptions.
- 4) Determine honoraria.

5) Debate policy motions.

6) Do or cause to be done all things consistent with the objects of the Association.

7) Extraordinary General Meetings

EGMs may be called by the executive committee at any time or must be called within 14 days or, in the case of proposed rule changes, within 4 weeks of a requisition being received by the Hon.

Secretary signed by 12 members of the Association, stating the business to be transacted at the EGM. Only matters of which notice has been so given may be dealt with by the meeting.

8) Management

The management of the Association shall be vested in an executive committee consisting of the officers together with 5 other members.

Members of the executive committee shall retire at the AGM and, with the exception of the chairman who is limited to three consecutive years in office, shall be eligible for re-election, further excepting that EC members who have attended less than half of all EC meetings without sufficient excuse shall not be eligible for re-election.

Duties of Executive Committee:-

1) To administer the funds of the Association which shall be deposited in the name of the Association in a Bank or Building Society as determined only by the EC.

2) To appoint an Auditor.

3) To appoint Technical Officers. Their out of pocket expenses shall be paid by the Association.

4) To arrange meetings, shows etc.

5) To appoint any sub committee for any purpose. All sub committee to be elected anew at the first meeting of the executive committee after the annual general meeting.

6) To co-opt any member of the Association for special purposes subject to annual confirmation to fill any vacancy which occurs in any office during the year.

7) To arrange for members of the Association to receive the annual report, financial statement and list of members. This, together with a notice of the annual general meeting, to be sent to each member at least 14 days before the date of the meeting.

8) To refuse membership to any person without giving any reason if it so thinks fit.

9) The Hon secretary shall take minutes of the EC meetings, annual general meetings and extraordinary general meetings.

10) Five members shall form a quorum. The executive committee shall hold at least four committee meetings a year.

11) Reasonable travelling expenses of the executive committee members attending committee meetings may be reimbursed by the treasurer annually.

9) Rules

1) If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association, there remains after the settling of all liabilities any property whatsoever, this shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to such charity or charities established for similar purposes as the Association shall decide.

2) Any additions or alterations to the rules of the Association may only be made by a majority vote of the members present at any General meeting of the Association provided that no amendment shall be made that will cause the Association to cease to be a Charity at law or to affect Rule 2 or Rule 8 (1). Any proposed additions or alterations must be in the Secretary's hands (in the case of the AGM) before 31st January or (in the case of an EGM) one month in advance.

3) The EC shall be the final arbiter in the interpretation of the above rules.