

THE NEW FOREST AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Articles of Constitution

Name

1. The name of the Association shall be "The New Forest and District Beekeepers' Association" commonly known as **NFDBKA**.

Objects

2. To promote and encourage education in and advancement of Beekeeping and to stimulate co-operation amongst beekeepers by any reasonably practical method.

Affiliation

3. The Association shall be a Corporate Member of the Hampshire Beekeepers' Association and subject to the constitution of that Association, in so far as the articles of that constitution are compatible with those of this Association.

Membership

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- a. Registered and Partner Members - Any person concerned to further the objects of the Association who applies to join the Association and agrees to abide by the rules of the Association in force for the time being, may become a Registered member or a Partner member.
 - b. Honorary Members - Any person upon whom the Association wishes to confer the honour of membership without subscription, may be elected as Honorary Member at the Annual General Meeting upon recommendation of the Committee of Management.
 - c. Associate Members
 - i) All full members of other Beekeepers' Associations currently paying capitation to the Hampshire Beekeepers' Association or another county associations but paying New Forest and District Beekeepers' Association membership fee.
 - ii) Non-Beekeeping members of the New Forest and District Beekeepers' Association paying the appropriate association membership fee.
 - d. Country Members – Any person of the Hampshire Beekeepers' Association and British Beekeepers' Association who are non beekeepers paying the appropriate membership fee.
 - e. Life Members - Any person, upon whom the Association wishes to confer the honour of Life Membership without subscription, may be elected at the Annual General Meeting upon the recommendation of the Committee of Management.
 - f. Family Members - Any person who belongs to the family of a Member may become a non-voting "Family Member."
 - g. Junior Members - Any person under 16 years of age.

All members shall have full voting rights excluding Family members and Junior members.

Management

5. The management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee of Management elected at each Annual General Meeting, which shall be composed of a maximum of 12 excluding the ex-officio elected officers.

The President and Vice-President shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Membership Secretary and the Honorary Show Secretary shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

Members of the retiring committee shall be eligible for re-election.

The committee of Management shall have power to elect two-thirds of their number as co-opted members with power to vote.

Meetings

6. a. Annual General Meeting. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in ***NOVEMBER*** of every year and at least seven days notice shall be given. ***The Annual Honey Show will also be held on this date.***

b. Meetings of Management Committee. The committee of Management shall meet as frequently as they deem necessary for the proper management of the affairs of the Association and at least seven days notice of every such meeting shall be given to each member of the Committee.

c. Other Meetings. Meetings, conventions, demonstrations of beekeeping and other functions calculated to attain the objects of the Association shall be arranged by the Committee of Management from time to time and every member shall be entitled to be advised thereof in advance.

d. Special General Meetings. A Special General Meeting may be convened for the purpose of altering the articles of constitution and shall be convened in the event of a proposal to wind up or dissolve the Association. A special meeting to consider either of the foregoing matters shall be convened by the Committee of Management if so requested in writing by ten or more members. The notice to members shall be seven days for a proposal to alter the articles of constitution and twenty-one days for a proposal to wind up or dissolve the Association.

Quorum

7. In the case of an Annual General Meeting and of a Special General Meeting eight members of the Association personally present shall constitute a Quorum. In the case of meetings of the Management Committee three members of the Committee personally present shall constitute a quorum, excluding the ex-officio members.

Voting

8. Voting on any resolution before any meeting of the Association or the Committee shall be by a show of hands, and, except where these articles otherwise provide, a resolution shall be carried by a simple majority of those present at the Meeting. The Chairman shall have one vote only. ***All existing Officers, except the Vice Chairman, must be elected at the AGM having first informed the Committee and the membership that they wish to be nominated. In the event of more than one candidate for any position there will be a ballot. All members of the Association may apply to serve on the Committee.***

Officers

9. a. President. The President shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Normally he/she shall be the person "who has acted as Vice- President the previous year.
- b. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Both the President and the Vice-President shall hold office from their appointment until the next Annual General Meeting.
- c. Chairman. The Chairman shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and serve a maximum of three consecutive years and may then be eligible for re-election after two years.
- d. Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall be elected annually at the first committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting.
- e. Honorary Secretary. The Honorary Secretary shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- f. Honorary Treasurer.
- i) The Honorary Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- ii) The Honorary Treasurer shall receive and give valid receipts for all monies paid to the Association and shall account for the same to the Committee of Management and any General or Special Meeting of the Association. The accounts shall be independently examined annually.
- g. Honorary Show Secretary. The Honorary Show Secretary shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- h. Honorary Membership Secretary. The Honorary Membership Secretary shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Financial Year

10. The financial year shall end on **30th September** in each year until otherwise decided by the Annual General Meeting.

Banking

11. a) *The Association bankers shall be appointed by the Committee.*
- b) *All cheques shall bear two (2) signatures. The bank is to be given the names of four (4) Officers to act as signatories. These will normally be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.*
- c) *If the Association uses electronic banking a full bank statement will be presented to the Committee at each Committee meeting or to the Chairman if no meeting is planned within three (3) months.*

Subscriptions

12. An annual subscription shall be payable by each member of an amount to be determined annually by the Officers and Committee of Management at their Autumn meeting. Life Members and Junior Members shall not be required to pay an annual subscription. In the case of members who do not keep bees the amount to be paid may be fixed at a sum less than normal annual subscription determined in the manner set out above. Family Members shall pay a subscription to be determined annually by the Officers and Committee of Management at their Autumn meeting.

Bee Disease Insurance and Official Organ

13. The Association shall arrange insurance to cover Loss due to foul brood or other disease, the cost of which will be borne by the members concerned.

The Association may arrange to distribute to members copies of the Official Organs of the British Beekeepers' Association and the Hampshire Beekeepers' Association.

Alteration of Articles of Constitution

14. Any article of this constitution may be abrogated or amended by an Annual or Special General Meeting of which proper notice has been given including notice of intention to vary the constitution of the Association.

Conflict of Interest.

15. "Committee members should identify and promptly declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts affecting them. They must absent themselves from any discussion where there is any such conflict. All Committee Members, or candidates for an NFDBKA Office, should make a full declaration of any commercial beekeeping activities in the New Forest area (selling products from hives which belong to them excepted) Any such disclosure, discussion and decision shall be fully documented in the minutes of the Association".

Working with Children and Vulnerable People.

16. A "Policy and Guidelines" document giving guidance and policies on the above subject is held by NFDBKA and is available from the Association Secretary. All members, including Committee members, should make themselves aware of this document and it's policies.

Winding Up

17. Any proposal for winding up or dissolution of the Association shall be considered at a Special General Meeting and to be effective must be carried by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting.

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after settlement of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, it shall not be distributed among members of the Association but shall be transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to those of this Association.