

NSBKA CONSTITUTION (Ratified 2 November 1994)

RULE 1

The association shall be called the North Staffordshire Beekeepers' Association and shall have the following categories of membership:

Full membership. This is open to all and entitles the member to all membership privileges. Any immediate family of the member (spouse and children) shall be entitled to the same privileges, apart from affiliation to the British Beekeepers' Association, Bee Disease Insurance, voting rights and association communications.

Affiliated membership. This is restricted to (a) beekeepers not resident in North Staffordshire who are members of other beekeeping county associations, and (b) non-beekeepers resident in North Staffordshire. It entitles the member to all membership privileges, apart from affiliation to the British Beekeepers' Association, Bee Disease Insurance and voting rights.

Honorary life membership. This is awarded by the North Staffordshire Beekeepers' Association for services to the association and entitles the member to all membership privileges.

All membership is subject to rule 4.

RULE 2

The Association shall be in affiliation to the British Beekeepers' Association.

RULE 3

The objects of the Association shall be to promote and further the craft of beekeeping.

RULE 4

The management of the Association shall be in the hands of a Committee who shall be responsible for the finances and election of members.

RULE 5

- (a) The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Assistant Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Show Manager, Apiary Manager, Editor of Combings, Examinations Secretary and Social Committee Representative.
- (b) They are to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, and the President and Chairman shall not hold one particular office for more than three consecutive years. A member may not hold more than one of the posts of President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, or Hon. Treasurer at the same time, except as provided for by Rule 9.
- (c) The Committee shall consist of at least five and not more than nine elected members together with the President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Assistant Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Show Manager, Apiary Manager, Editor of Combings, Examinations Secretary and Social Committee Representative. The Committee members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) There shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting a Social Sub-Committee and an Apiary Sub-Committee of up to five members each. The Apiary Sub-Committee shall conduct the Apiary business in accordance with the wishes of the Committee of the Association. The Social Sub-Committee shall aid the social activities and general well being of the Association and make recommendations as necessary concerning the Annual Show Schedule. The Sub-Committees shall make full and regular reports back to the Committee.

RULE 6

An Annual General Meeting of the Association, of which at least seven days notice in writing is to be given to all members, shall be held each year as early after October 1st as the Committee may decide. At the Annual General Meeting the following business shall be included:

- (a) President's welcome.
- (b) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting / matters arising.
- (c) Hon. Secretary, Delegate/Representative's reports.
- (d) Presentation of accounts.
- (e) Election of Officers for the ensuing year.
- (f) Election of members of the Committee for the ensuing year.
- (g) Election of two Auditors for the ensuing year.
- (h) Election of BBKA Delegate.
- (i) Members' resolutions.
- (j) Any other business.

RULE 7

The Committee shall hold meetings at least four times a year to transact the business of the Association. Five members shall form a quorum. Seven days' notice in writing with an agenda of each meeting shall be given to every member of the Committee.

RULE 8

- ◆ It shall be the duty of the Hon. Treasurer to receive and pay all monies on behalf of the Association, and to prepare an annual balance sheet, duly audited for presentation to the Annual General Meeting. The financial year for the Association shall start on the 1st October and end on the 30th September of the following year.
- ◆ It shall be the duty of the Hon. or Hon. Assistant Secretary to make and keep proper minutes of the transactions and relevant documents of the Association and Committee and to send out all notices required by these rules.
- ◆ The reports of the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall be approved by the Committee before presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

RULE 9

In the event of a vacancy occurring in any of the offices or on the Committee, any member of the Association may be appointed by the Committee to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting. In the event of the temporary absence of the Hon. Secretaries, the Committee shall appoint one of its members to perform their duties for the time being.

RULE 10

Each member of the Association shall inform the Hon. Treasurer of any change of address and/or telephone number.

RULE II

- ◆ The annual subscription of each type of membership shall be as determined from time to time by the Association at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose as in Rule 17.
- ◆ The Committee shall have the authority to grant Honorary Life Membership to deserving long-serving members. Institutions will be allowed membership and to send their members to general meetings, but they will only be allowed to show under the name of the Institution.
- ◆ All subscriptions shall become due on October 1st each year. Subscriptions paid by new members in July, August and September will be valid up to the end of the following financial year, but will receive no insurance benefits before the 1st October of the year of payment.
- ◆ A member whose subscription is in arrears shall be removed from the list of members at the discretion of the Committee.
- ◆ Accepted members shall receive a copy of these rules from the Hon. Treasurer.

RULE 12

All monies belonging to the Association and not invested shall be in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer. He/she shall keep an account in the name of the Association at such bank as the Committee may appoint. Investments shall be made at the discretion of the Committee. The monies collected by the Association are for the objects of Rule 3.

RULE 13

The President or Committee, on written requisition of any ten members, shall summon a Special General Meeting of the Association and shall send to all members seven days' notice in writing thereof. The notice shall specify the particular business of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted. Fifteen members or half the members of the Association, whichever is fewer, shall form a quorum at a Special General Meeting.

RULE 14

If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious to the Association he/she shall be requested to resign and the privileges of membership other than insurance shall automatically cease 21 days after such a request. Any member so requested shall have the opportunity to state his/her case before the Committee, who may reconsider their request.

RULE 15

At meetings the chair shall be taken by the Chairman, or at his/her wish, or in his/her absence, the President or a Chairman elected for the occasion by those present. The President shall take the chair at the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting, or in his/her absence the Chairman or a Chairman elected for the occasion by those present.

RULE 16

The Annual Show shall be held each year at a date to be decided by the Committee. It shall be managed by the Show Manager assisted by the Special Show Committee, one each for the Honey Section and Arts and Crafts Section, to be appointed each year by the Committee.

RULE 17

These rules may be altered by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that the notice calling the Meeting has specified the proposed alteration. Members' resolutions to change these rules must be in the hands of the Hon. and/or Hon. Assistant Secretary at least 21 days before any Annual or Special General Meeting for prior consideration by the Committee. A copy of the rules is to be available at every general meeting. No alteration shall be made to this Constitution that would cause the Association to cease to be a charity at law.

RULE 18

The Association may be dissolved as a result of a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those persons present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Association. If, upon the dissolution of the Association, there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and 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 other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to those of the Association as the members of the Association shall decide.

(These rules were last modified at the AGM on 2.11.1994)