BUCKS COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 297335

CONSTITUTION

Adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 11th February 2017

1. Name.

   The name of the organisation shall be 'Bucks County Beekeepers' Association' ("The County Association").

2. Objects.

   The objects of the County Association shall be:

   2.1. to promote and further the craft of beekeeping;

   2.2. to advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment.

3. Membership.

   3.1. Membership of the County Association shall consist of ordinary and honorary members.

   3.2. Ordinary members shall be those who are paid-up members of any class of a branch, district association or society (each being referred to below as a "District Association") for whom the requirements of clause 4.1 have been met.

   3.3. Honorary membership shall be created by resolution at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

4. District Associations affiliated to the County Association.

   4.1. Any District Association whose objects are compatible with those of the County Association may be affiliated to the County Association and that may be effected by the Executive Committee subject to approval at an AGM or EGM. In case of incompatibility affiliation may be accepted on a provisional basis, subject to such objects being made compatible within a period of twelve months following such affiliation.

   4.2. A District Association which makes changes to its constitution must inform the County Association of the changes within 6 months of the changes taking effect.

   4.3. District Associations may or may not be affiliated to The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA).

5. Termination of affiliation.

   5.1. A District Association wishing to terminate its affiliation to the County Association shall give the County Association Secretary 12 weeks notice in writing by letter or email. Termination by District Associations affiliated to BBKA will also be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures of BBKA in force at the time.

5.2. Any District Association whose activities, affiliations or changes to their constitution are deemed by the Executive Committee to be incompatible with the objects of the County Association shall be asked by the Executive Committee to cease such activities or affiliations or rescind the changes to their constitution within a period of six months following notice by the Executive Committee.

5.3. In the event that the District Association fails to comply with this request, their affiliation to the County Association will be suspended until the next AGM or EGM when the termination may be confirmed by a two thirds majority vote.

5.4. A District Association which fails to pay their required membership fees within 3 months of the due date may be suspended by the Executive Committee from membership of the County Association. Suspension will remain in force until such time as the arrears are paid or until the affiliation of the District Association is terminated by a two thirds majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

5.5. Termination of affiliation by a District Association which is also affiliated to BBKA will require the District Association also to terminate their membership of BBKA in accordance with the rules of BBKA in force at the time unless prior arrangements have been made between the District Association and BBKA.

6. Corporate Affiliations and Shareholdings of the County Association.

6.1. The County Association

6.1.1. shall remain affiliated to BBKA for so long as at least one District Association remains affiliated through the agency of the County Association;

6.1.2. may be a member of National Honey Show and have shareholdings in Bee Diseases Insurance Limited and Bee Craft Limited; and

6.1.3. may have such other affiliations, memberships and shareholdings as may be agreed from time to time by the Executive Committee, an AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM").

6.2. Delegates to attend and vote at any meeting of any affiliated organisation or organisation in respect of which the County Association has any shareholding shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from time to time.

7. Affiliation of members of District Associations to BBKA.

7.1. Each District Association which is affiliated to BBKA shall, in respect of each of its members eligible for any class of membership of BBKA, no later than date(s) specified for the time being by the County Association:

7.1.1. provide his or her name and address and state the BBKA class to which he or she is entitled to membership; all persons who have ceased membership of their District Association since the last return must be recorded as deleted from BBKA membership.

7.1.2. pay the relevant BBKA capitation fees for the time being for such membership.

7.2. District Associations shall be liable for the capitation fees of all members including former members whose names have not been recorded as deleted.

7.3. If a District Association fails to provide the information specified in clause 7.1.1 by the due date the Executive Committee is empowered to delete all members of that District Association from the return submitted to BBKA.

8. Management.

8.1. Management of the County Association shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Education Secretary ("the Officers") together with two member delegates from the committees of each affiliated District Association and two members elected by the AGM, who all shall be recognised as the Trustees.

8.2. The Officers and the two members elected by the AGM shall resign annually. Officers may be re-elected to the same position for up to five consecutive years, with a break of two years before they may stand to be re-elected to that same post.

8.3. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to co-opt in order to fill vacancies occurring amongst the Officers and members elected by the AGM.

8.4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least two times per year. A quorum shall be one-third of the voting members of the Executive Committee provided that there is present at least one voting member from at least two thirds of the District Associations and any quorum must include at least two of the officers.

8.5. Delegates appointed by District Associations that are not affiliated to BBKA will not be eligible to vote on matters pertaining solely to BBKA. This restriction will not apply to officers and committee members elected by the AGM.

8.6. Documents relating to BBKA matters will not be circulated to the member delegates of District Associations which are not affiliated to BBKA.

8.7. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to open and hold bank accounts into which all monies shall be paid. The signature of any two of the Treasurer, Vice-chairman, Secretary or Chairman shall be sufficient authority for cheque or electronic payment validation.

8.8. Proper books of account shall be kept for which the financial year shall end on the 30th September; such books being subject to independent inspection.

8.9. The Executive shall be empowered to hold in trust any financial assets of a disbanded affiliated District Association. Such assets shall be made available to a fresh District Association covering essentially the same geographical area as that which was disbanded.

9. Annual General Meeting.

9.1. An AGM shall be held within six months of the end of each financial year.

9.2. Notice of the AGM shall be sent to each District Association representative at least twenty-eight days prior to the date of such AGM together with an agenda. District Association representatives shall be responsible for ensuring that notices are passed on to the members of their District Associations. Notices may be sent by electronic methods.

9.3. Proposed resolutions for inclusion in the agenda for the AGM shall be received by the Secretary at least thirty-five days prior to the date of the AGM.

9.4. A quorum at the AGM shall include at least one member of each District Association provided that at least two officers are present. District Associations that cannot be represented in person may authorise the chairman of the meeting or another member to vote as their proxy.

9.5. The Secretary shall present a report at each AGM on the actions of the Executive Committee, on its behalf.

9.6. The Treasurer shall present to the AGM a financial report and inspected balance sheet for the previous financial year.

9.7. The AGM shall receive from each affiliated District Association a report.

9.8. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, a General Meeting may elect a President who need not be a member of the County Association, and Vice-Presidents who must be members of the County Association at the time of their first election. The President and Vice-Presidents shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Executive Committee, AGMs and EGMs but without the power to vote unless otherwise qualified to do so.

9.9. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee an AGM or EGM may elect honorary members who are not Members of the County Association. They shall not be entitled to attend meetings of the Executive Committee. However, they may attend AGMs and EGMs but without the power to vote.

9.10. The AGM shall elect officers who shall be members of the County Association. The two members elected by the AGM as specified in clause 8.1 shall likewise be members of the County Association.

9.11. The AGM shall elect an inspector of accounts. The inspector elected shall not be a member of the Executive Committee and need not be a member of the County Association.

9.12. Voting at any AGM shall be the entitlement of paid-up members whose District Association remains affiliated and is not suspended. In the event of a tied vote, the chairman at the meeting shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

9.13. Only paid-up members who are affiliated to BBKA shall be eligible to vote on matters pertaining solely to BBKA.

9.14. The AGM shall approve the fee(s) for members to the County Association and the date(s) upon which they are due, based on a recommendation which must be made by the Executive Committee.

10. Extraordinary General Meeting.

10.1. An EGM shall be called by the Executive on receipt of a written request signed by not less than twelve members, specifying the purpose of the meeting. Notice of an EGM to members shall be required as for an AGM. The quorum and voting entitlements shall be the same as an AGM.

11. Dissolution.

11.1. The County Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an EGM convened for the purpose, of which twenty-eight days' notice shall have been given to District Association representatives.

11.2. Such resolution shall give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the County Association, provided that if any property remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the County Association but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the County Association. If and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

12. Alterations to the Constitution.

12.1. Alterations to this Constitution shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an AGM or an EGM.

12.2. A proposal for resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Secretary of the County Association at least thirty-five days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least twenty-eight days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the District Association representatives and must include notice of the alteration(s) proposed.

12.3. No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the County Association to cease to be a charity in law.

12.4. By agreement of an AGM or an EGM changes may have immediate effect.