

BELFAST AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION & RULES

MISSION STATEMENT – Belfast & District Beekeepers' Association is an organisation open to all on payment of the annual membership fee set by the Members.

The Association endeavours to include in its membership all those with an interest in honey bees irrespective of race, gender, religion, political affiliation, age, disability or social status. The purpose of the Association is the improvement and advancement of beekeeping through:

- a) education and support for beekeepers at all levels
- b) bee disease diagnosis and coordination of treatment
- c) the showing of bee products
- d) creating an awareness of bees through meetings, demonstrations and publications
- e) provision of a forum for beekeepers designed to encourage friendship and mutual support

1. NAME The name of the Association shall be Belfast & District Beekeepers' Association.

2. FEDERATION The Association shall be federated with the Ulster Beekeepers' Association. It shall accept the Constitution and Rules of the Ulster Association and agree to pay the prescribed fees.

3. OFFICERS The Officers shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers will each hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election in the same office for a maximum of three consecutive years. On completion of three consecutive years in the same office a member cannot be elected to that office for a further two years.

4. AUDITOR An auditor shall be appointed each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

5. COMMITTEE The management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee, which shall consist of the officers listed under rule 3, together with the Membership Secretary. The Membership Secretary may serve in the role for more than three years. Additional Committee Members may be elected at the AGM. The Committee may co-opt additional members as considered necessary. Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

The Committee should meet a minimum of three times each year to manage and oversee all aspects of the Association. The Secretary, after consultation with the Chairperson shall call meetings of the Committee, as they consider appropriate. The Secretary shall also call a meeting within 14 days of receipt of a request signed by at least three members of Committee stating the nature of the business to be discussed. In the event of the Secretary being unable to call such a meeting the Chair shall act in their place.

6. SUBSCRIPTION The Subscription for Members shall be determined each year at the AGM and shall be implemented from the following year. The Committee will study the previous year's accounts and bring recommendations to the AGM. If the annual subscription is unpaid by the 31st of December the next year's membership will automatically lapse.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS The AGM will be held in April, normally the second Monday, at which point the audited accounts and reports shall be submitted for approval by Members. All Officers and Committee Members must automatically stand down from office and the new Officers and Committee Members for the coming year shall be elected by the Association Members present. Any items relating to the management of the Association will be discussed and resolved at the AGM or passed to the new Committee for consideration.

The Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting within 21 days of the receipt of a requisition signed by at least 30% of members of the Association, stating the nature of the business for which the Special General Meeting is to be called. In the event of the Secretary being unable to call such a meeting the Chair shall act in their place. Any resolution proposed at such a Special General Meeting shall require approval by 75% of members present.

8. ALTERATION OF MISSION STATEMENT, CONSTITUTION OR RULES No alteration shall be made to any of the above except at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting. Notice of any proposed alteration shall be lodged with the Secretary not later than 28 days before the AGM. In the case of an AGM or Special General Meeting the proposed changes must be quoted in full on the notice summoning the meeting.

9. DISSOLUTION The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by 80% majority of members present and voting at Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall have been given to the Members. Such resolution may give instruction for the disposal of any assets held in the name of the Association, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid or distributed among the Members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to the Ulster Beekeepers' Association.

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