

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Constitution as amended 24th February, 1990

1. The name of the association shall be 'The Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association.'
2. The objects of the association shall be the encouragement and advancement of beekeeping in the county.
3. The association shall be affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA).
4. The association shall consist of a president, vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, appointed officers, council and members. The president, or in his absence a vice-president, shall preside at all meetings of the association.
5. Membership of the association shall be open to all persons interested in supporting the objects of the association.
6. There shall be five classes of membership, namely full, family, junior, associate and honorary. All classes shall have equal rights to attend and vote at all meetings of the association except that junior members under 18 may not vote. Full, junior and honorary members shall be indirect members of the BBKA.
7. The affairs of the association shall be managed by a council which shall elect its own chairman. One third shall form a quorum. The council shall take no action contrary to any vote of the annual general meeting (AGM) or which would cause the association to cease to be a charity at law.
8. The council shall comprise ex-officio and elected members. The ex-officio members shall be the president, immediate past president, vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, librarian, spray liaison officer, editor of 'Beemaster', education secretary, show secretary, two representatives from each region, and the Ministry of Agriculture Bees Officer for the county. The term of office of the president shall be three years, at the end of which he shall serve ex-officio on the council for a further year. The term of office of the other ex-officio members shall be three years. There shall be six elected members whose term of office shall be three years, two to retire annually. Retiring elected members may not immediately be re-elected in the same capacity. If an elected member does not attend 50% of council meetings held in either of the first two years, his office shall be declared vacant. The chairman shall conduct all meetings of the council, at which he shall have a casting vote. The council may appoint delegates to outside bodies from among its members. The council may co-opt members, provided that the number of co-opted members, shall not exceed one third of the total membership of the council. Co-opted members shall not remain in office beyond the next AGM.
9. The council shall meet at least quarterly. At each meeting the minutes of the previous meeting shall be presented and a statement of the accounts submitted. The secretary shall call a meeting of the council whenever business may require it, or any three members may, by notice in writing, require him to call a meeting within ten days of receipt of notice.
10. The county may be divided into regions in which members may elect a committee to organise local affairs. Regions may be established at the request of a group of members, subject to the approval of the council. The secretary for each region and one other member shall represent it on the council. Regional committees shall be empowered to raise funds to support local activities but shall not, without prior permission, incur expense to the association beyond a limit set annually by the council.
11. An annual general meeting shall be held early in each year, and not later than 31st March. The secretary shall send a notice of the meeting and an agenda to each member of the association, including any proposed alteration to the constitution and rules, at least seven days before the meeting, provided that no amendment shall be made that would cause the association to cease to be a charity at law.
12. The AGM shall receive and adopt the reports and accounts of the association, elect the officers and members of council, set the rates of subscription for the following year, appoint an auditor and transact the general business of the association.
13. All subscriptions shall be payable in advance, and due on the first of January each year. Family, junior and associate subscriptions shall be approximately one quarter, one third and one half of the full subscription respectively. If any member's subscription is outstanding after the 31st of March he or she shall cease to be a member.
14. The council may, without further reference to the AGM, increase or decrease the subscriptions payable on the following first of January by no more than the amount of any change of the capitation fee agreed at the annual delegate meeting of the BBKA.
15. A special general meeting of the members shall be called by the secretary on receipt of a written request, stating reasons, from at least ten members. The secretary shall give each member at least ten day's notice of and the reason for the meeting. Any such meeting shall consider only the business for which it has been called.
16. All motions at all meetings shall be voted on by a show of hands by members, but a ballot may be demanded by any five members present.
17. If on winding up or dissolution of the association there remains, after payment of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the association but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution having objects similar to those of the association. Any resolution to wind up or dissolve the association must be passed by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present and voting at a meeting of the association called for that purpose.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

(Registered Charity No. 508171)

INTRODUCTION

The Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association was founded in 1884 at a time when the spread of new ideas was sweeping away inefficient beekeeping practices. The first President was Viscount Newark, sometime MP for Newark and subsequently 4th Earl Manvers. He was succeeded in office by Viscount St. Vincent and then by the Duchess of Portland, all generous benefactors. The association became affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA), formed ten years earlier. It was and remains a body whose members may benefit by sharing a common interest. Advantages include representation, access to expert advice, up to date information, improvement of personal skills, special insurance, social contacts and the opportunity to compete on the show bench.

MEMBERSHIP

As stated in the association's constitution overleaf, there are five classes of membership. These are:—

Full Membership	for beekeeping members. The full membership subscription includes a capitation fee paid to the BBKA and a premium to Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd. (BDI). The capitation fee makes a full member an indirect member of the BBKA. Indirect members are entitled to services and benefits as listed in the BBKA Year Book. Copies are held by regional secretaries. 'BBKA News' and 'Beemaster' are sent to full members.
Family Membership	for close relatives of full, junior or associate members living at the same address.
Junior Membership	for beekeepers under the age of sixteen or in full time education. They receive the same benefits as a full member.
Associate Membership	for those who are no longer active beekeepers but wish to maintain links of friendship and interest within the craft, or for anyone interested in bees and beekeeping. They receive 'Beemaster' only.
Honorary Membership	for any person upon whom the association may wish to confer the honour of full membership without subscription.

MEETINGS. The association's council organises three main meetings each year. These are the Annual General Meeting, usually in February; the spring meeting and the autumn show. Each is held in a selected venue in the county. A film or lecture is normally part of the proceedings, which also usually include fundraising activities.

REGIONS. The county is divided into a number of regions where smaller scale meetings may conveniently be organised. New members are normally put in touch with the secretary of the appropriate region. Activities include participation in local shows, field days in summer and talks and discussion groups in winter. All regional meetings are open to all association members, wherever they live, and visitors are always welcome. Members may be elected to represent their regions on the council.

'BEE MASTER'. The association publishes a newsletter, 'Beemaster', every other month. It contains reports of local events, beekeeping articles and news of national conventions and shows. A copy is sent to each member, except when two or more live at the same address.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION. Beginners' and other courses are organised as required. There are informal arrangements whereby experienced members offer advice or practical help. The association maintains a small apiary for field days and training during the active season. For theoretical studies members have access to the George Hayes Memorial Library, a fine collection of old and new bee books. Members are encouraged to seek qualifications ranging from the BBKA basic examination to the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

SPRAY LIAISON. A spray liaison scheme is operated to encourage co-operation between farmers, spray contractors and beekeepers. Through it incidents of careless use of insecticides may be reported and investigated.

SHOWS AND TROPHIES. The main honey and bee produce competition is the autumn show, traditionally held on the first Saturday in October. Points scored count towards the award of various cups and trophies. Points may also be gained at other designated shows within the county. Shows are an excellent means of fostering friendly rivalry.

INSURANCE. The capitation fee paid to the BBKA includes a premium for insurance against third party claims. Comprehensive cover may be obtained individually. The premium paid to BDI secures a degree of compensation for loss of up to two colonies through foul brood disease. Those with more than two colonies pay a small extra premium for each, up to a maximum of twenty. Owners of more than twenty colonies have a separate scheme.

HOW TO JOIN: For further information and to apply for membership please write to the membership secretary:

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Full	Family	Junior	Associate
£	£	£	£