

Furness & District Beekeepers Association

Constitution and Rules

October 2018

1 Name

The Association shall be known as the Furness & District Beekeepers Association

2. Objects

The objects of the Association are:

- (a) To promote and further the art of beekeeping for the public benefit
- (b) To advance the education of the public by raising awareness to the importance of bees and beekeeping to the environment

3. Membership

The Association shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Life Members and an unlimited number of Full Association Members and Associate Members

Full Association Members

- i. Full Association membership is open to any adult paying the prescribed Association membership fee and subscribing to the objects and constitution of the Association.
Full Association Members are entitled to all the benefits and privileges of the Association and to all services provided through its membership or affiliation to other organisation.

Associate Members

- ii Associate membership is open to any adult paying the prescribed Association membership fee and subscribing to the objects and constitution of the Association.
Associate Members are entitled to all the benefits and privileges of the Association. They are not entitled as individuals to any of the benefits or services that may be provided through membership or affiliation of the Association to other organisations

Family Membership

- iii Members of the immediate family of a member who have paid the prescribed membership fee are entitled to insurance cover for family members and all the benefits and privileges of the Association.
They are not entitled as individuals to any of the benefits or services that may be provided through membership or affiliation of the Association to other organisations
- . They are entitled to attend, but not to vote at any meeting

4 Officers and Committee

- i The Officers of the Association shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer Librarian, Apiary Manager, Honey Show Secretary and Education Officer.
- ii The Committee shall be formed from the Officers in (a) above and five other members, one of whom shall be a novice member.
- iii The appointed Committee Members shall act as the charity trustees
- iv A quorum shall be five Committee Members
- v All Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) after having been proposed and seconded by paid-up members of the Association, for a period of one year and shall stand down at the next AGM
- vi Any Officer or Committee Member may offer himself (or herself) for re-election
- vii Committee meetings shall be held at three monthly intervals.
- viii Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Committee present and voting on the question, but in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- x In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise, the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- i) Power to raise funds and invite and receive contributions providing that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to the relevant requirements of the law.
- ii) Power to cooperate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them
- iii) Power to appoint and constitute such advisory sub committees as the Committee may think fit.
- iv) Power to do such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects
- vi) No member of the Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Charity (otherwise than as trustee for the Charity) or receive remuneration or be interested (otherwise than as a member of the Executive Committee) in any contract entered into by the Executive Committee.

5 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October each year for the following purposes:

- i) To receive the reports of the Officers of the Association
- ii) To receive and approve the balance sheet which shall have been duly audited prior to the meetings
- iii) To elect the Officers and Members of the Committee of the Association provided always that nominations for those positions have been given in writing to the Secretary not less than 21 days before the meetings
- iv) To discuss any resolutions placed on the Agenda by any member provided always that not less than 21 days notice of resolutions has been given in writing to the Secretary
- v) To alter or amend the rules or constitution of the Association which shall not be altered or amended except by such a meeting, provided that no amendment is made to the objects clause, or any other clause which would cause the Association to cease to be charitable, and that no amendment is made to this power of amendment or to the dissolution clause without prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- vi) A quorum at the AGM shall be one quarter of the fully paid-up members of the Association save that in default of a quorum, the existing officers and committee members will continue in office for a further year.
- vii) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting on the question, but in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second casting vote.

6 Subscriptions

- i) All Officers and Members of the Association save those specified in Clauses 9 a, b, c and 10 below shall pay a yearly subscription to the Association. The period covered by the subscription shall be from 1st January in any year until 31st December in that year.
- ii) The amount of the subscription for the next year shall be recommended by the Committee to the AGM and endorsed at that meeting.
- iii) No member shall be entitled to the privileges of membership of the Association until such time as the subscription for the current year has been paid.
- iv) Any members not paying the subscription by 30th September shall be struck from the register of Members.

7 The Financial Year

- i) The Financial Year shall be from October 1st in any year until September 31st in the following year.

8 Association Accounts

- i) The Treasurer shall open Banking Accounts as necessary in the name of the Association
- ii) The Accounts shall be operated by the Treasurer or authorised Officers
- iii) The Treasurer shall prepare accounts at the end of each Financial Year, which shall accurately reflect the financial affairs of the Association in that Financial Year.
- iv) The accounts shall be audited and presented to the AGM

9 Presidents and Vice-Presidents

- i The Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Association shall be conferred as lifetime honours on persons who have rendered lifetime service to the Association.
- ii Nominations shall be made by the Committee and be approved by an AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Association
- iii Presidents may attend and vote at Committee meetings
- iv Vice-Presidents may attend but not vote at Committee meetings unless they are elected members of the Committee.

10 Life Members

- i Life Membership of the Association as lifetime honours on persons who have rendered lifetime services to the Association
- ii Nominations shall be made by the Committee and approved by an AGM or EGM
- iii Life Members shall not be required to pay any annual subscription to the Association
- iv Life Members may vote at AGM and EGM.
- v The maximum number of Life Members of the Association at any one time shall be limited to five.

11 Extraordinary Meetings (EGM)

- i An EGM of the Association shall be called at any time by the Chairman or Secretary provided always that twelve members of the Association send a written and signed request to the Secretary for such a meeting.
- ii The request shall state the nature of the matter to be discussed and the reason for the request
- iii At least twenty eight days notice of any EGM shall be given by the Secretary to the Members of the Association. The meeting will be called within six weeks of the notice having been received.
- iv A quorum at the EGM shall be one quarter of the fully paid up Members of the Association.
- v The matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting on the question, but in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second casting vote.

12 Alterations to the Constitution

- i Subject to the following provisions of this clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alterations proposed.
- ii No amendment may be made to clause 1, 2, 4j and 13 without the prior consent in writing of the Commissioners
- iii No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law.
- iv The Executive Committee should promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

Dissolution

If the Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Charity, it shall call a meeting of all members of the Charity, of which not less than twenty one days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting, the Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held on behalf of the Charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Charity as the members of the Charity may determine or failing that shall be applied to some other Charitable purpose. A copy of the statement of the Accounts or account and statement for the final accounting period of the Charity must be sent to the Commission.