

# Ryedale Beekeepers Association Constitution

**11 November 2014 [Amended 14 November 2017]**

## 1. Name

The name of the Association shall be the 'Ryedale Beekeepers Association' (RBKA).

## 2. Affiliations

RBKA shall be affiliated to the Yorkshire Beekeeper's Association (YBKA) and through them to the British Beekeeper's Association (BBKA)

## 3. Objectives

The objectives of RBKA are:

- To promote and further the craft of beekeeping.
- To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment.

## 4. Membership

Membership of RBKA shall consist of the following categories:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Qualification</i>
Registered Member	Anyone over 18 on 1 January in any year
Registered Junior Member	Anyone under 18 on 1 January in any year
Partner member	Family member of a Registered Member over 18 on 1 January in any year and living at the same address
Associate Member	Member of another beekeeping association affiliated to BBKA <b>OR</b> not keeping bees

All Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at any meeting of RBKA except that Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote on any matter concerning BBKA or YBKA.

The rights and privileges of Registered, Registered Junior and Partner Members deriving from affiliation to BBKA and YBKA shall be as determined from time to time by those Associations. Associate Members shall have no rights or privileges from YBKA or BBKA.

## 5. Honorary members

Members who have given meritorious long service to RBKA may be appointed as Honorary Life Members at an AGM provided that the total number of honorary life members at the time of any such appointment shall not exceed 1 for every 20 members of all classes. Honorary Life Members shall have the same rights and privileges as Registered Members. Capitation fees to the Affiliated Organisations for Honorary Life members shall be paid by RBKA.

## **6. Subscriptions**

The Annual Subscription shall be due on 1st October

The rate of the Annual Subscription for all classes of Membership for the following year shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Any Member whose Subscription is not paid by the due date shall not be entitled to the rights and privileges of Membership.

## **7. Management**

The Management of RBKA shall be vested in the Committee, comprising the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Education Member, Equipment Member and up to 3 other members.

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (the Officers) and other Committee Members for the coming year shall be elected at the AGM.

Nominations will be accepted before or at the AGM but no nomination will be accepted unless the nominee gives assent in writing or at the meeting.

The Officers shall be Registered Members, Partner Members or Associate Members of RBKA.

The Officers and Committee Members shall hold office from the conclusion of the AGM until the conclusion of the AGM in the following year.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members to assist the work of the Committee. Co-opted Members shall have no voting rights. The Committee may also invite any persons to attend meetings as it deems appropriate.

The Committee shall decide on delegates or representatives to attend meetings of other groups on behalf of RBKA.

The Quorum of the Committee shall be five members.

No member shall be eligible to hold the same Office for more than 3 consecutive years.

## **8. Indemnity for Officers and Committee Members**

No Officer or Committee Member shall be liable for any loss or damage which may happen to the property or funds of RBKA from any cause whatsoever unless such loss or damage shall be caused by his/her own actual fraud or gross negligence.

## **9. Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in November each year

Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee, or at the written request of not fewer than ten Members of RBKA. The notice calling the Meeting shall state the objects of the Meeting and no other business shall be transacted. Four weeks notice shall be given of Special Meetings.

RBKA may adopt rules for the conduct of business at a general meeting but such rules shall not form part of this Constitution

## **10. Accounts**

The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of RBKA's Funds and the preparations of the Annual Statement of Accounts, which shall be presented at the AGM.

The Financial Year shall be from 1st October in any year to the 30th September in the following year.

An Auditor who shall not be a Member of RBKA shall be appointed at the AGM to audit the accounts for the following year.

## **11. Disciplinary Powers**

The Committee shall have power to suspend or expel any Member for bringing RBKA into disrepute or gross misconduct but any such action shall be confirmed as soon as reasonably practicable by a General Meeting of RBKA.

## **12. Winding Up**

A proposal for the Winding Up of RBKA shall be considered at a Special Meeting of the Members and to be effective, must be carried out by a majority of three-fourths of those present and voting.

If, upon the winding up or dissolution of RBKA, there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the Members of RBKA, but shall be given or transferred to some other Institution having objects similar to the objects of RBKA.

## **13. Amendments to the Constitution**

Any Article of the Constitution may be amended either at the AGM or by a General Meeting of RBKA provided that the Members shall have had 4 weeks notice of the proposed amendment and of the meeting at which the proposal will be considered.