

VALE AND DOWNLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

16 October 1992
(revised July 2007)
(revised October 2009)

1. **The name** of The Association shall be Vale and Downland Beekeepers Association
2. **The objects** of the Association shall be to improve the practice and the science of apiculture for the public benefit. In furtherance of the above objects but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the following powers.
 - a. To encourage beekeeping on efficient and up-to-date principles.
 - b. To control and eradicate bee discases.
 - c. To advise beekeepers on the management of their apiaries.
 - d. To organise and hold exhibitions of bees, honey and beekeeping-related appliances, and to acquire books and appliances for the use of members and to impose a charge for their use where appropriate.
 - e. To arrange meetings of members and other interested people for practical instruction and education by means of lectures and demonstrations to encourage them in the craft of beekeeping.
 - f. To cause to be written and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise, such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documents films or recorded tapes (whether audio, visual or both) as shall further the said objects.
 - g. To raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscriptions and otherwise provide that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said objects.
 - h. To take such steps as may advance the objects of the Association.
3. **The Management of the Association** shall be vested in an Executive Committee which shall consist of the following members:
Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Honorary Secretary; Honorary Treasurer; and not more than 8 elected members. A President and Vice-President may also be appointed. The Chairman shall be elected at the AGM though the previous Chairman shall preside during the AGM. The Executive Committee may co-opt members for special purposes or to fill any casual vacancies which may occur. Co-opted membership of the committee will terminate at the next AGM. Though co-opted members of the committee may be given the right to vote, the numbers of such voting co-opted members shall not at any time exceed one third of the number of elected members.

A quorum shall be 3 or one third of the membership of the Committee.

The committee will meet at least three times a year and on as many other occasions as necessary to carry out the efficient administration of the affairs of the Association. The Secretary will give at least seven days notice of meetings to committee members. All members of the committee shall have one vote on any proposition made during the meeting except that in the event of a tie the Chairman will have a casting vote in addition to the normal entitlement. The committee members will have a further duty to assist the Secretary in arranging such meetings, lectures, demonstrations and other functions as may be necessary to fulfil the constitutional aims of the Association.

Sub-committees may be appointed by the executive committee as may be deemed necessary and shall prescribe their functions provided that all acts and proceedings of any sub-committee shall be reported to the executive committee as soon as possible and provided further that no such sub-committee shall expend funds of the Association otherwise than in accordance with a budget agreed by the executive committee.

A Chairman shall control all meetings of the Association except that of sub-committees, appointed to report back to the Executive Committee on some aspect of Association's affairs, may meet

without a chairman. Where representation is required on external bodies the Chairman and Secretary (or their nominees who would be members of the Executive Committee), shall attend.

4. **Categories of Membership** Family and Ordinary, Membership shall be open to anyone interested in apiculture.

5. **An Annual General Meeting** will be held in October each year for the adoption and passing of reports and accounts, the election of officers and executive committee members and the arrangement of the programme for the coming season. At least fourteen days notice shall be given to every member. Notices of resolutions, proposals for changes in this constitution and nominations for executive committee membership including the names of proposers and seconders must reach the Secretary before the AGM.

A Quorum shall be 10 or one-tenth of the membership as is necessary to validate a vote at the AGM (or EGM) on any proposition. (This constitution may only be changed at an AGM or EGM) and then only by a majority vote in favour by two thirds of the members attending and voting. The limitations imposed by Charitable status in this respect are outlined in rule 9).

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by the executive committee or by one third of the total membership of the Association who must provide a disposition in writing, signed by the said third of the membership, to be received by the Secretary 21 days before the date proposed for the meeting.

6. **The Annual Subscription** shall be decided by a majority vote at the AGM and be payable on 1st November following the AGM. Membership of the Association will lapse for those members failing to renew their subscription by 1st December. Annual subscription entitles members to:

- a. Receive notice of all meetings and functions organised for the Association members.
- b. Advice on all matters connected with beekeeping.
- c. Mutual assistance in dealing with disease or any other problems associated with their beekeeping.
- d. Insurance for two colonies (now three) including limited third-party cover.
- e. A monthly copy of The Newbury and Vale and Downland Beekeepers News.

7. **Finances** The Association's financial year will run from 1st October to 30th September of the ensuing year. The executive committee shall be empowered to open and hold bank, Building Society or other savings accounts in the name of the Association into which all monies will be paid. Two signatures from the Treasurer, Chairman or Secretary will be required for cheque validation. The Association's funds will be controlled by the Executive Committee and administered by the Treasurer who will ensure that the accounts are properly audited annually.

8. **Dissolution** The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall be given to members. Such resolution shall give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association, provided that if any property remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the association but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all the objects of the Association, if in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

9. **Constitution: - (alterations to)** Alterations to this constitution shall receive the assent of two thirds of the members present and voting at an AGM or EGM. A proposition for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Association at least 21 days before the meeting at which the proposition is to be considered. At least 14 days notice must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. **Providing that no alteration shall be made to clause 2 (Objects), clause 8 (Dissolution, or this clause 9, and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease or be a charity in law.**