

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the Association shall be 'West Sussex Beekeepers Association', and shall be referred to as 'WSBKA'.
2. The object of WSBKA shall be to promote the interests of beekeeping generally, including beekeeping education, and foster close co-operation with agricultural and horticultural interests. Encouragement shall be given to all groups and in particular young people. WSBKA is a not-for-profit organization.
3. Groups of beekeepers may form their own area Divisions (Subject to Committee approval). Divisions may write their own rules which shall not conflict with these rules.
4. Membership shall fall into two categories:
Full Membership. For those: -
Active beekeepers who pay a capitation fee to WSBKA.
Life Vice Presidents (See Rule 13).
Full Members may vote at any meeting.
Social Membership. For those: -
Who are Full Members of another County BKA and therefore an Associate Member of a WSBKA Division.
Who are exempt from paying a Capitation Fee (See Rule 15).
Who are not eligible to be Full Members and are classed as 'Social Members' of a WSBKA Division.
Partners of Full Members.
Dependents of Full Members (Under the age of 18).
Social Members may not vote at a General Meeting.
5. The management of WSBKA shall be vested in a Committee composed of a President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and not more than two representatives from each Division. All Officers shall be elected annually at a General Meeting. The Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer's terms to be unlimited with the President limited to two years and the Chairman to three years. Both may be elected again after a one-year break.
6. The Committee has the power to co-opt. All members have the right to vote (Including Social Members) except the meeting Chairman who has a casting vote.
7. Representatives to outside bodies where they are not Divisional Representatives shall be co-opted.
8. The Committee shall appoint replacement Officers and Representatives.
9. WSBKA shall be an Area Association Member (AAM) of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and join or be affiliated to any other organisations the Committee feels beneficial.
10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within four calendar months of the end of the financial year.
11. A Special General Meeting may be called (within 30 days of notification) at any time by the Committee, or following a request to the Secretary signed by at least seven full members stating the item for discussion. No other business shall be discussed.
12. All Full Members to be given at least fourteen days notice of a General Meeting. The notice to include time and venue and if an Annual General Meeting a statement of accounts.
13. A person who has given valuable service to WSBKA over a long time may be elected a Life Vice President at an Annual General Meeting, and shall enjoy the same rights as a Full Member.
14. The financial year shall end on 31st December.
15. WSBKA shall be partly funded by a capitation fee that shall be set at a General Meeting. No Capitation fee shall be charged to those under the age of 18 on or before the end of the financial year.
16. WSBKA and BBKA levies to be collected by Divisions and forwarded to WSBKA Treasurer. The amount and payment date to be notified by the WSBKA Treasurer.
17. WSBKA accounts shall be examined by a 'Scrutineer' who is appointed at a General Meeting. They may be a member but must not have served on the Committee in the previous financial year. In an emergency a replacement may be appointed by the Committee.
18. No member shall gain any pecuniary advantage from WSBKA.
19. WSBKA shall only be wound up at a General Meeting called for that purpose. Any funds and assets shall be dealt with at that meeting taking into account the objects of the Association and beekeeping in West Sussex.
20. Any circumstances not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Committee.
21. These rules can only be changed at a General Meeting. Any proposed rule changes shall be circulated to members at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. The changed rules are not to come into effect (apart from legal reasons) until the start of the next Financial Year (1st January).

These rules passed at 2002 AGM 09/04/02 to come into effect 01/01/03. Amendment to Rule 16 passed at 2010 AGM 24/03/10.
Title changed to include 'Constitution' and Rule 9 wording changed to include AAM and full BBKA title. Passed at 2023 AGM 08/03/23 to come into effect immediately.