

# MORAY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION MARCH 2018

## GENERAL

The name of the Association shall be the "Moray Beekeepers Association".

The objects of the Association shall be:

- a) To advance education by providing training in the practice of beekeeping and production and distribution of educational information in the practice of beekeeping
- b) To help conserve the natural environment by promoting the importance of bees in the environment, and
- c) To conserve the future of the honeybee in Moray and Scotland.

All fully paid-up members shall have the power to vote on any matters discussed at General Meetings.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association will be open to any person regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, faith or political or other personal beliefs.

Membership of the Association shall be obtained by forwarding the relevant details with the payment of the annual subscription to the Treasurer.

The Annual Subscriptions for members shall become due by 1<sup>st</sup> March annually, at which time they must be paid to the Treasurer.

Membership of the Association shall be withdrawn from any member whose subscriptions remain unpaid by 31<sup>st</sup> August of the same year.

No person shall be entitled to the privileges of the Association until their subscription is paid.

There will be five categories of membership by subscription: Full (Adult), Full Concession (over 65 years), Youth (12-16 years), Junior (6-12 years) and Conservation member. The qualifying date for Full Concession, Youth and Junior memberships will be 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS

The management of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to eight members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year. Five members shall form a quorum. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members with or without power to vote. Nominations for the elections of Officers and elected Members shall be sent in writing to the Secretary not later than 14 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Honorary Life Members may be elected at the Annual General Meeting, but only on the nomination of the Committee.

The Officers of the Association shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Officers will be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting, having been duly nominated and seconded by the members, and a vote taken as necessary. The duties of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be governed by

their respective terms of reference. Any of these offices may be combined at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee shall serve for a period of 12 months but shall be eligible for re-election. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and General Secretary shall serve for a term of 3 years after which they will stand down from their positions but may still serve as trustees. They will not be able to stand for their former positions for a period of 2 years.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members and shall be empowered to appoint from its members such other officers as it deems necessary for the efficient running of the Association.

The Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees as it deems necessary.

The Executive Committee will meet at times and on dates throughout the year as determined necessary by the volume of business being conducted.

Three Officers from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and one Committee member who is not an Officer shall be empowered to act in cases of emergency, and decisions arrived at shall be subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Committee.

Special meetings of the Committee may be called at any time the Chairman authorises or when any three members of the Committee give six days notice in writing of such desired meeting.

No member of the Executive Committee is permitted to vote in any debate in which s/he has a financial or commercial interest. Such an interest must be declared beforehand and at the discretion of the Chairman that person may present relevant information for discussion. Failure to observe this requirement shall result in disqualification from the Executive Committee.

Any member of the Committee who absents themselves from 3 consecutive Committee Meetings without reasonable excuse, as determined by the Committee members present, will be disqualified from the Executive Committee.

Any person or member who is considered to have acted contrary to the objects of the Association may be refused membership, or expelled from the Association by the Executive Committee. Any such decision must be ratified by the members present at a Special General Meeting held within 14 days of such a decision. The Association will make every effort to liaise with the person(s) concerned prior to such action and that person(s) shall be allowed to attend and address the Special General Meeting so called.

Every question at the meeting of the Committee shall be determined by the majority of votes of the members present and voting, every member having one vote. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held before the end of February each year. The purpose of the meeting will be for receiving reports; election of Office-Bearers, Committee members; to agree the annual subscription, joining fee and late payment surcharge and for the transaction of other business. Items for the Agenda, and any proposals requiring a vote must be forwarded to the Secretary in writing not less than fourteen days before such a meeting.

Any other business will be allowed at the conclusion of the Agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting.

A minimum of 28 days notice must be given of the date of the Annual General Meeting. A final agenda will be distributed to the membership by the Secretary no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.

Special General Meetings shall be called by the Secretary at the written request of not less than twelve members, indicating the purpose for which the meeting is called. The business will be stated on the notice calling the meeting and no other business will be discussed.

Seven days notice must be given before any Special General Meeting is called.

The quorum for a Special or Annual General Meeting shall be 12 paid up members.

Only fully paid up members of the Association will be entitled to vote at the Annual or any General Meeting. Guests, without power to vote, may be invited by the Executive Committee or ordinary members.

### **SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS and YEARBOOK**

The Association shall endeavour to hold at least one annual public exhibition of honey and hive products; such an exhibition, if held, shall include a honey show and sale of honey together with related products. Such shows and sales shall be governed by the exhibition regulations obtainable on request from the Show Organiser. The aims of such exhibitions shall not only be competitive but also educational.

### **REVISION OF CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

No alteration of, or additions to, the Rules of the Association shall be made, except by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

### **ASSETS**

For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Association's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purposes

### **DISSOLUTION**

If on the winding up of the organisation any property remains after satisfaction of all the organisation's debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the organisation; that property instead shall be transferred to some other charity or charities (whether incorporated or unincorporated) whose objects are similar (wholly or in part) to the objects of the organisation.

### **CHARITABLE PURPOSE**

The expression 'charitable purpose' shall mean a charitable purpose under section 7 of the charities and trustees Investment (Scotland) act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts