

# **Constitution of the Isle of Man Beekeepers' Federation**

1. The Title of the Federation shall be THE ISLE OF MAN BEEKEEPERS' FEDERATION (the "Federation")
2. The objects ("Objects") of the Federation shall be: -
  - (a) To encourage and advance the practice of good beekeeping in the Isle of Man through the education of beekeepers, prospective beekeepers and the public about apiculture;
  - (b) to promote sustainable beekeeping and science-based management practices;
  - (c) to protect honeybees,
  - (d) to promote synergistic relations with other beekeeper, horticultural, agricultural organisations;
  - (e) to advance good relations between beekeepers and the public.
  - (f) To unite the efforts of all member Associations to this end.
  - (g) To deal with those matters which concern Manx Beekeepers as a body.
  - (h) To maintain membership of the British Beekeepers' Association ("BBKA") and to ensure that all Associations are included in membership of BBKA, provided that their Objects are substantially similar to those of the Federation and the BBKA and with constitutions and/or rules acceptable to the BBKA and which lodges with the Federation an up-to-date copy of its constitution and/rules and any subsequent amendments thereto which are then lodged with the BBKA.
3. The Federation has the power to do anything which is calculated to further its Objects. The Federation has the power:
  - (a) to set criteria for beekeeping associations who wish to affiliate themselves with or disaffiliate themselves from the Federation.
  - (b) to raise funds provided that any such activity shall comply with statutory regulations.
  - (c) to acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use.
  - (d) to sell or otherwise dispose of any or all or any part of the property belonging to the Federation.
  - (e) to co-operate with other beekeeping and related associations, charities, voluntary bodies or statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them.
  - (f) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure, but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves.
  - (g) to deposit or invest funds.
  - (h) to obtain indemnity and property insurance.
  - (i) to pay out of funds of the Federation the costs of operating the Federation.
4. The income and property of the Federation shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects of the Federation.

5. The Federation shall consist of members of Isle of Man beekeeping associations (the “Associations”) which elect to affiliate with the Federation, are accepted by the Federation and who pay the Federation prescribed membership fees. In order to meet quorum requirements as described herein, an Association must have a minimum of five members in order to affiliate.
6. The Management of the Federation shall be vested in a Council, consisting of the elected body of representatives (“Delegates”) of the Associations as set out hereinafter: -
  - (a) Each Association shall elect members over the age of 18 to the Council to serve as Delegates. Each Association shall have the same number of Delegates, the number being stated in the Bylaws.
  - (b) A President shall be nominated annually by each Association in rotation, and to hold office until a successor has been appointed. The President will also be the Chairperson at Council meetings as well as any meeting of the members. In all cases, the Chairperson shall only have a casting vote where a vote is tied. In the case of membership meetings, the Chairperson shall retain their member vote.
  - (c) A Vice President shall be appointed to stand in when the President is unavailable. The Vice President is ordinarily the immediate past-President. Where the immediate past-President is not able to take the role, Council may appoint a suitable alternative.
  - (d) The Council shall appoint its officers for the following year namely, Secretary, Treasurer, Education Officer, Apiary Supervisor and Webmaster prior to the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”), who shall all be without the power to vote at Council meetings.
  - (e) The Isle of Man Government appointed Bee Disease/Advisory Officer, or equivalent, may attend Council meetings in a non-voting capacity.
  - (f) A quorum for all meetings of the Council shall consist of two-thirds of the Delegates provided that each Association is represented by at least one Delegate. If a Council meeting has to be rescheduled due to no Delegates attending from an Association and no Delegate from the same Association attends the rescheduled Council meeting but that two-thirds of all Delegates are present, it shall be deemed quorate, and the meeting shall continue.
  - (g) Associations should nominate a deputy to stand in for any Delegate unable to attend in the event of unavoidable absence.
  - (h) The Delegates or their deputies are the only voting members of the Council, subject to Clause 6(b) where the Chairperson has a casting vote.
  - (i) Neither the President, Vice President nor any officer can simultaneously serve as a Delegate.
7. Delegates shall continue to represent their respective Associations until the names of their successors have been notified to the Secretary of the Federation. Such notification will normally be made in April of each year or after the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of each Association when the names of respective Delegates have been communicated to the Federation Secretary.

## 8. Membership

- (a) The membership year is defined as the 12 calendar months from the 1st of April, or any other such starting date as may be introduced by the BBKA.
- (b) Each Association is required to complete their membership returns biannually by the primary (1st April) and secondary (1st September) dates, thereby generating remittances for combined membership payments which are due for payment to the BBKA by 30th April and 30th September.
- (c) Any new member joining after April will be included in a catch-up membership payment each September.
- (d) The Federation shall not refund any membership fees in respect of the remainder of the membership year.
- (e) The combined membership fees (for Federation and BBKA membership) shall be set by Council and any changes must be advised six months in advance of their becoming effective.
- (f) Associations may not charge a Federation membership fee without also a BBKA membership fee.
- (g) No member may be subscribed to the Federation more than once.

9. The Financial Year of the Federation shall be stated in the Bylaws.

10. The AGM will be held within 12 weeks of the end of the Financial Year at a time and place determined by the Council and detailed in a notice circulated to all members, to be received at least 14 days before the AGM. The failure to hold an annual meeting at the time stated does not affect the validity of any Federation action.

11. All paid-up members may attend and vote on any resolutions placed before the AGM or any EGM.

12. The Council may from time to time make reasonable and proper Bylaws, rules, regulations and policies as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct of the Federation.

The Bylaws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:

- (a) the admission of members of the Federation and the rights and privileges of such members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions or other fees or payments to be made by members;
- (b) the conduct of members of the Federation in relation to one another and to the Federation's volunteers;
- (c) the procedures at general meetings and the meetings of Council in so far as such procedures are not regulated by this Constitution or by law;

(d) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of organisational governance.

The Council has the power to alter, add to or repeal Bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.

The Council must adopt such means as it thinks sufficient to bring the Bylaws, rules, regulations and procedures to the notice of the members.

The Bylaws, rules, regulations and policies shall be binding on all members of the Federation. No Bylaw, rule, regulation or policy shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, this Constitution.

13. No Delegate, officer or connected person may:

- (a) buy any goods or services from the Federation on terms preferential to those applicable to members.
- (b) sell goods or services to the Federation without prior written approval from the Council.
- (c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the Federation.
- (d) receive any other financial benefit from the Federation. Financial benefit means a benefit direct or indirect which is either money or has monetary value. Honoraria approved by Council and paid to individuals for services rendered are excluded from this definition of financial benefit.

14. If a dispute arises between members of the Federation concerning the validity or propriety of anything done by members of the Federation under this Constitution, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement in Council, the dispute shall be placed before the membership at a specially convened Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") for resolution.

15. The Constitution may be amended at either an AGM or EGM specifically called for this purpose, provided that the Secretary receives 30 calendar days' notice of the proposed amendment(s) from any Association. Any proposed amendment(s) shall be communicated to each Association within 14 days of the AGM or EGM.

16. Approval of any amendments to this Constitution shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the those present at an AGM or EGM, provided that each Association is represented by no fewer than five members.

17. Modifications to the Bylaws by Council shall be subject to member ratification at a subsequent AGM or EGM specifically called for this purpose. If multiple amendments are presented, each amendment may be voted on separately. Ratification requires a simple majority vote of the members present at such meeting. Refusal to ratify an amendment shall reverse that amendment but shall not serve to undo any decisions taken by Council in

the intervening period between Council adoption and member rejection. If rejected, Council may not adopt the same amendment for a minimum of 12 months unless such amendment is subsequently adopted at an AGM or EGM in the intervening period.

18. The Council may organise an annual Convention of Beekeepers, to be held at such time and place as it may decide.
19. Should Council recommend dissolution of the Federation, an EGM shall be called of all paid-up members to vote on dissolution. Approval to dissolve shall require 75% affirmative vote of the those present, provided that each Association is represented by no fewer than five members.
20. A quorum for an AGM or EGM shall consist of at least five members from each Association.
21. If an AGM or EGM has to be rescheduled due to the lack of a quorum any subsequent rescheduled meeting shall be considered quorate if at least five members from two Associations are present.
22. Upon dissolution, the assets of the Federation remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of the Federation shall be distributed to an Isle of Man charity whose purpose is compatible with the purposes of the Federation as determined by the Council.
23. In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Federation be paid to or distributed among the members of the Federation or its affiliated Associations.
24. The Federation shall not discriminate based on age, colour, creed, disability, national origin, political ideology, race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or any other legally protected characteristic in its acceptance of members.

The foregoing Constitution was adopted at an AGM/EGM on 19 May 2023



Secretary



President/Chair