

COUNTY LOUTH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

1. The Association shall be known as the County Louth Beekeepers' Association (LBKA).

AIMS OF THE LBKA

2. The aims of the LBKA shall be the promotion and advancement of the science and craft of Apiculture.
3. Having declared Co Louth to be a conservation area for the native Irish honeybee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*, the LBKA shall work toward the promotion and conservation of this bee.

AFFILIATIONS

4. The Association shall be affiliated to the Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (FIBKA).

MEMBERSHIP & MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

5. Membership of the Association will be open to such persons whose application the committee has accepted and who have paid the agreed annual subscription. Application for membership of the LBKA should be made to the Secretary. The committee shall have the full authority to refuse any application for membership and shall not be under any obligation to furnish reasons for such refusal.
6. Juvenile Members (persons under 18 years old) may attend an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) but are not eligible to vote or serve on the committee. Honorary Life Members have full voting rights and are eligible to serve on the committee.
7. Fully paid up members of other beekeepers' associations are welcome to join the LBKA as Associate Members. Associate Members are not entitled to vote at Association meetings, to serve on the committee or to act as an officer.

8. The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by a committee elected by the members at the AGM. The committee shall consist of the executive officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer and up to ten elected members.
9. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of LBKA shall be held yearly within two months of the end of the financial year. Twenty-eight days notice, in writing or by similar electronic means, shall be given to each member. Members may submit motions for discussion at the AGM, such submissions to be made in writing to the secretary, at least twenty-one days before the date of the AGM. The committee will publish an agenda at least seven days before the annual meeting.
10. For voting rights and eligibility to serve on the committee the appropriate membership fee must be paid 120 days before an AGM or EGM.
11. The quorum necessary for an Annual (or Extraordinary) General Meeting shall be one quarter of the number of full members.
12. The financial year of the LBKA shall end on September 30th each year and the Treasurer shall present a financial report at the AGM.
13. The executive officers and committee shall be elected at the AGM. Should there be more than one candidate for an office; a vote by secret ballot of the eligible members present shall be held.
14. Holders of the executive offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer may not be elected to the same position for more than five years in a ten year period.
15. The committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may arise in their number during their year in office. Members appointed in such a manner will serve until the next AGM, when they may put themselves forward for election in the normal fashion.
16. The committee shall have the power to appoint non-executive officers and sub-committees. Term limits will not apply to non-executive positions.
17. Committee members who do not make themselves available to attend meetings for a period of three consecutive months may be deemed by the committee to have resigned their position. Having given notice in writing, the committee shall then have the ability to replace such members in accordance with rule 15.
18. Five committee members shall form a quorum for committee meetings.

19. Should any member conduct themselves in such a manner as to bring the LBKA into disrepute or held to be in breach of any of the Association rules, the committee, after calling for an explanation from such member, may:
- a. Caution such member in writing
 - Or
 - b. Do either one or both of the things set out under (c) or (d)
 - c. Suspend such member from membership of the Association for the current year.
 - d. Declare such member to be ineligible for applying for membership renewal of the Association.
20. Any member suspended or declared to be ineligible to apply for membership under the provisions of rule 19 shall not be entitled to a refund of any monies paid to the Association.
21. The committee shall propose a scheme of annual membership fees for approval at the AGM.
22. All minute books and treasurers books shall remain the property of the LBKA.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

23. The committee shall have the power to summon an Extraordinary General Meeting, giving at least twenty eight days' notice to members, including details of the subject(s) to be discussed. Fifteen members may also call an EGM by giving notice to the committee; this will be subject to the same conditions. Discussion at such meetings shall be confined to the matters in the notice calling the meeting.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

24. No new rule and no alteration to an existing rule shall be made except at an AGM or at an EGM called for that purpose. Notice of intention to propose the making of or altering such rule or rules shall be delivered to the Secretary in writing. Such notice shall contain the terms of the new rule(s) or alteration sought to be made and shall be forwarded to each member of the Association at least seven days before the holding of the AGM/EGM. No rule shall be made or altered at any of the said meetings without two thirds majority of those present and voting.