

BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION 1999

NAME

1. The name of the Association shall be THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (hereinafter referred to by the recognised abbreviation "BBKA").

OBJECT

2. To promote and further the craft of beekeeping.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership of the BBKA shall, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, be open to the following:-

- (a) AREA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS; area associations of beekeepers in any part of Great Britain, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (hereinafter called "Area MemberAssociations").
- (b) SPECIALIST MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS; associations engaged in organising special sections of the craft of beekeeping or special matters ancillary thereto (hereinafter called "Specialist Member Associations")
- (c) INDIRECT MEMBERS; individuals who are themselves members of AreaAssociations
- (d) INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS; any persons in any part of the world whether or not members of any Area Member Association or other beekeeping organisation
- (e) HONORARY MEMBERS; any persons upon whom the BBKA shall desire to confer the honour of Membership without subscription
- (f) *HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS; those on whom the BBKA wish to confer the title of Honorary Vice President of the BBKA in recognition of the outstanding service they have performed for BBKA and the craft of beekeeping.*
- (g) *CORPORATE MEMBERS; Non-beekeeping associations or corporate bodies who wish to be associated with and support the work of BBKA*
- (h) *COUNTRY MEMBERS; Non-beekeepers who are keen to support the craft and be associated with environmental issues.*

4. It shall be a condition of membership that each applicant shall, except in the case of existing members of the BBKA, become a member in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) AREA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS - Each applicant must satisfy Article 3(a) above and each application shall be made in writing and sent together with a copy of the Rules or Constitution of the Applicant to the General Secretary of the BBKA at least three months before an Annual Delegates Meeting (*hereinafter referred to as the 'ADM'*). Such an application shall be accompanied by all relevant information relating to the constitution and activities of the applicant as the ADM shall from time to time prescribe. In order to qualify for membership applicants must be associations of the beekeepers whose written constitution, rules or regulations and conduct are in all respects acceptable to the ADM. Each application shall be considered by the Executive Committee, which shall add its recommendations, the application then being placed before the ADM who may:-

- (i) elect the applicant to be an Area Member Association

or

- (ii) defer consideration of the application until the next ADM

- (iii) reject the application

Provided that the ADM shall not be bound to assign any reason for deferring or rejecting any application.

- (b) SPECIALIST MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS - Each applicant must satisfy Article 3(b) above and clause (a) of this Article except that the applicant need not be an area association of beekeepers. The Executive Committee and the ADM shall carry out the same procedure and have the same powers mutatis mutandis as provided by clause (a) hereof.

(c) **INDIRECT MEMBERS** - Persons who are members of Area Member Associations shall be Indirect Members of the BBKA. They shall cease to be Indirect Members upon ceasing to be members of an Area Member Association. No person (except in his first year of membership of any Area Member Association) shall be regarded as an Indirect Member unless a capitation fee shall have been paid for the current year to the BBKA in respect of such person.

(d) **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** - Application for Individual Membership may be made to the General Secretary of the BBKA at any time in such form as the ADM shall from time to time prescribe and the Executive Committee shall consider each such application which may:-

(i) elect the applicant to Individual Membership

or

(ii) defer consideration of the application for such period as the Executive Committee thinks fit

or

(iii) reject the application

Provided that the Executive Committee shall not be bound to assign any reason for deferring or rejecting any application.

(e) **HONORARY MEMBERS AND HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS** - The Executive Committee may from time to time recommend the appointment of any person as an Honorary Member or Honorary Vice President and such recommendation may be acted upon by the ADM as it shall think fit.

(f) *CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP* - Application for Corporate Membership may be made at any time to the General Secretary. Each application shall be considered by the Executive and either rejected or accepted.

(g) *COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP* - Application for Country Membership may be made at any time to the General Secretary. Each application shall be considered by the Executive and either rejected or accepted.

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

5. Any person or association that is a member may terminate his or its membership of the BBKA by giving three months notices in writing to the General Secretary of the BBKA.
6. Any Meeting of Delegates, after three months notice in writing has been given to the Area or Specialist Member Association concerned by the Executive Committee, may, by a resolution carried by a majority of three quarters, forthwith terminate the membership of such Member Association that is six months or more in arrears with the payment of fees to the BBKA.
7. The membership of any Individual Member terminates if his subscription is six months in arrears.

8. Any Meeting of Delegates may by a resolution carried by a majority of three quarters, terminate the membership of any member who commits any serious breach of these Articles or whose conduct is in the opinion of the Delegates unbefitting a member of the BBKA provided that (a) not less than three months notice in writing shall be given by the Executive Committee to the member concerned of the intention to terminate membership under this Article; and (b) the member concerned shall be furnished with the reason for the proposed termination of membership and shall be given the opportunity of attending the meeting and of stating his case if he so desires.

MEETING OF DELEGATES

9. The Meeting of Delegates appointed as hereinafter provided shall determine the policy of the BBKA in accordance with the provisions of these Articles and shall be convened at least once a year. The Executive Committee has the responsibility of drawing up the Agenda for each Meeting. The quorum at all Meeting of Delegates shall be two thirds of the number of Area Member Associations immediately before the Meeting in question. All Indirect and Individual Members are entitled to attend all Meetings of Delegates but only officers, members of the Executive Committee and Delegates shall be entitled to speak. The Chairman of the Meeting may however give permission for any other person attending the Meeting to speak, or the person concerned requesting permission and stating the subject on which he wishes to speak.

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES

10. (a) Each Area and Specialist Member Association shall be entitled to appoint and send one Delegate to every Meeting of Delegates and shall provide that Delegate with the written authority to represent it at the Meeting.

(b) A Delegate may be appointed to represent only one Area or Specialist Member Association except with the authority on the day

CONVENING OF THE ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING

11. The ADM shall be held not later than six months after the end of the financial year of the BBKA. Propositions and subjects for discussion which Area Member Associations and Specialist Member Associations would like considered for inclusion in the Agenda shall be sent to the General Secretary of the BBKA at least fourteen weeks before the date of the Meeting. Notice of the Meeting shall be sent to the Secretaries of Area Member Associations not later than six months and the Agenda and copies of propositions and other papers not less than eight weeks before the Meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADM

12. The business at each ADM shall be:-

- (a) to appoint tellers and adopt standing orders;
- (b) to receive the report of the Executive Committee on the previous year's work;
- (c) to receive the audited accounts and balance sheets of the various funds belonging to

and administered by the BBKA;

(d) to receive the Report of the Examinations Board and to approve its budget and proposals as necessary;

- (e) to elect the President, Honorary Members, Honorary Vice-Presidents and Officers

and Members of the Executive Committee and of the Examination Board who fall due for election and which elections shall take effect from the end of the meeting at which they are made;

- (f) to receive a statement from the Executive Committee regarding policy

recommendations, programme and budget for the ensuing year; and

(g) to transact any other proper business

SPECIAL MEETING OF DELEGATES

13. A Special Meeting of Delegates may be called by the Executive Committee and must be called within 10 weeks of the receipt by the General Secretary of the BBKA of a written request

to this effect (giving the business to be discussed) by four Area Member Associations. Notices giving time, place, date and agenda, including copies of all propositions to be put to the meeting, shall be sent to Area Member Associations not less than six weeks before the date of the Meeting. The business to be transacted shall be confined to that for which the meeting was called.

VOTING AT MEETINGS OF DELEGATES

14. Only Delegates of Area Member Associations may vote on any matter before the Meeting.

Voting at any ADM shall be by the display of an official voting card. A membership vote may be demanded by the delegate of any Area Member Association immediately after any vote taken.

A membership vote entitles each delegate to record one vote for each Indirect Member in his Area

Member Association provided a capitation fee has been paid on behalf of that member.

SUSPENSION OF DELEGATES

15. Any Meeting of Delegates, without previous notice, may by a resolution carried by a majority of three quarters, suspend any person present guilty of disorderly conduct, from taking further part in the proceedings of that meeting.

16. The Delegate of any Area Member Association which is in arrears with the whole or any part of the Membership Fee or other money payable by the Area Member Association to the BBKA shall not be entitled to vote on any matter before any Meeting of Delegates. Such Delegate not entitled to vote shall be entitled to speak on any matter if the Chairman of the Meeting gives his consent which may be limited to a particular matter or be for the whole of the Meeting.

REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE

17. If a motion of 'no confidence' in the Executive Committee is carried by a Meeting of Delegates the whole Executive Committee and officers with the exception of the President, General Secretary and Treasurer shall resign at the end of the Meeting and a new Executive Committee shall be elected as provided in Article 19 hereunder. Nothing in the foregoing sentence shall prevent the election of members of the old Executive Committee to the new Executive Committee.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. MANAGEMENT. The management of the BBKA shall be vested in an Executive Committee comprising the President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as the ADM shall from time to time decide, who shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee and twelve members (hereinafter called 'the Elected Members') all of whom must be Indirect or Individual Members of the BBKA elected by the ADM.

19. (a) NOMINATION. Area Member Associations shall be entitled to nominate candidates for election as officers of the BBKA and to the Executive Committee and to the Education and Examinations Board. Nominations of candidates for election must be sent to the General Secretary of the BBKA at least fourteen weeks before the election is due to take place. Delegates to the ADM and Area Member Associations in the case of a postal vote shall be provided with personal particulars, especially of the qualifications, attainments and work done for beekeeping by candidates for election, such particulars to be supplied to the General Secretary of the BBKA on a nominations form, which must be countersigned by the candidate.

(b) ELECTION. Election shall be by ballot, either by post if an ADM so decides, or at a Meeting of Delegates. Voting will be with the Delegate of each Area Member Association having a single vote but a Meeting of Delegates can decide to have voting in any future year on

membership vote.

Similarly if a postal ballot is used the ADM can decide from time to time whether this will be on a membership vote basis of one vote for each Indirect Member in respect of whom a capitation fee has been paid for the then current year.

(c) Members of the Executive Committee shall be persons elected on grounds of personal merit and shall be deemed not to represent any specific body of beekeepers, but shall act in the general interest of the BBKA.

20. TENURE OF OFFICE, (a) The Elected Members shall be divided into three groups of four persons each. One group will retire at each Annual Meeting of Delegates.

(b) Elected members shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election except as hereinafter mentioned.

(c) If his period of service includes service as President or service through election under Section (d) of this Article, an Elected Member may serve for up to eight years consecutively; otherwise, for up to six years consecutively. Immediately thereafter he shall not be eligible for re-election for two years.

(d) Vacancies in any group not retiring by rotation at the ADM (including a vacancy caused by an elected member becoming President) shall be filled by a separate vote taken immediately following the group election. A member filling any such vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of office of the member whose place he fills and shall then be eligible for re-election subject to Article 20(c). Vacancies carrying the longer unexpired term shall be voted for in priority to those carrying a shorter term.

(e) The Executive Committee may also invite any persons to attend specific meetings to advise on particular matters under consideration. Persons invited in this way shall have no voting rights.

21. CALLING AND CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall meet five times each year or as circumstances require. Notice calling each meeting shall be sent to each member of the Executive Committee at least two weeks before the date of the Meeting. The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be seven of the Thirteen Executive Members (excluding the General Secretary and Treasurer). Only the President and the Elected Members may vote. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have a further casting vote.

22. CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be elected at its first meeting after each ADM. Only the twelve elected members shall be eligible for election. The election shall be by ballot and a simple majority will decide the result. No person shall serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman for more than three years consecutively. In the event of a tie the President shall have a casting vote.

23. STANDING-COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE. The Executive Committee may appoint standing-committees to consider and deal with special subjects. The Executive Committee will decide on the number and membership of such committees and their powers at its first meeting after each ADM. A minimum of three members of those committees shall be members of the Executive and one of those Executive members shall be the Chairman of the standing-committee. The total standing-committee membership shall be four, in addition, the Executive Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members. Expert advisers may be asked to attend specific meetings.

OFFICERS OF THE BBKA

24. PRESIDENT. The President shall be elected biennially by the ADM. The President will preside at all Meetings of Delegates but may be permitted to nominate a substitute if he/she so wishes. In the absence of the President or his substitute the Executive shall elect a Chairman for the ADM.

25. GENERAL SECRETARY AND TREASURER. The General Secretary and the Treasurer and such other officers as the Executive Committee may recommend, shall, if the ADM so decides, be appointed by that Meeting for a period not exceeding five years at a time and shall then be eligible for re-appointment. They shall not hold executive office in any other beekeeping association.

26. AUDITOR/INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS. The auditor or independent accountants shall be appointed by the ADM to hold office until the next ADM. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill a casual vacancy in the office of auditor until the next ADM.

27. OTHER OFFICERS. The Executive Committee shall appoint any other officers in addition to those appointed by the ADM.

FINANCIAL YEAR

28. The financial year shall end on the 30th September in each year until otherwise decided by a Meeting of Delegates.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

29. (a) AREA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS. Each Area Member Association shall pay to the BBKA annually on the 1st October a capitation fee based on its membership at the end of its financial year immediately preceding. The per capita rate shall be fixed by the ADM in accordance with Article 30. The capitation fee payable shall be based on the actual membership, except for those associations that joined after 1st January 1980, in which case the capitation fee shall be a minimum of 100 times the per capita rate. The expression 'membership' herein shall include all beekeeping members, ordinary, life and honorary members by whatever name they may be known but need not include junior, associate, or family members if such persons have no vote in the proceedings of the Area Member Association concerned.

(b) SPECIALIST MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS. Each Specialist Member Association shall pay to the BBKA annually in advance on the 1st October such fee as may be fixed by the ADM.

(c) INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. Individual Members shall pay an annual subscription to be fixed by the ADM.

(d) CORPORATE MEMBERS. Each Corporate Member shall pay a fee agreed by the Executive Committee.

(e) COUNTRY MEMBERS. Non-beekeepers who are keen to support the craft will pay a fee agreed by the Executive.

30. ALTERATION OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

(a) Any proposed resolution to any alter fees payable to the BBKA shall, in addition to the normal requirements in connection with the notification of propositions and other matters under these articles, be notified by the Executive Committee to all members of the class of member concerned other than Indirect Members and if it affects Area Member Association a copy of the proposition shall be sent to the Secretary of each Area Member Association not less than four months before the end of the financial year preceding the date of the Meeting of Delegates which is to consider the proposed resolution.

(b) If a Special Meeting of Delegates is called to consider a resolution to alter fees payable by Area Member Associations not less than six months notice of such a meeting shall be given to the Secretary of each Area Member Association.

(c) If such a resolution is passed by an Annual Delegates Meeting or a Special Delegates Meeting, the agreed alteration of membership fees shall take effect from the beginning of the ensuing financial year of the BBKA.

(d) The Annual Delegates Meeting or a Special Delegates Meeting called for the purpose set out in (a) and (b) above may, if it considers that the dire financial position of the BBKA at the time warrants it, on passing such a resolution, provide that it shall take effect from the beginning of the financial year of the BBKA in which the resolution is passed.

TRUSTEES ACCOUNTS

31. The Executive Committee shall cause to be prepared an Annual Report to include Accounts, and Balance Sheet made up to the end of each financial year containing a Report by a Registered Auditor or suitably qualified Accountant whichever is appropriate to the level of income of the Association as defined by the Chanties Act. This shall be sent to all members as described in Article 3 paragraphs (a) and (b) before the Annual Meeting of Delegates

USE OF RESOURCES

32. The income and property of the BBKA shall be applied solely towards the realisation of the

EXAMINATIONS BOARD

EXAMINATIONS BOARD

35. APPOINTMENT The ADM shall appoint an Examinations Board (hereinafter called "the Board") consisting of not fewer than three nor more than nine persons in addition to the Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer appointed under Article 37. Nominations for the election of Members of the Board shall be put forward as hereinafter provided. The Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer of the BBKA shall be ex-officio members of the Board.

(a) NOMINATION Area Member Associations and the Board shall be entitled to nominate candidates for election to the Board. Nominations of candidates for election must be sent to the General Secretary of the BBKA at least fourteen weeks before the election is due to take place. Delegates to the ADM and Area Member Associations in the case of a postal vote shall be provided with personal particulars, especially of the qualifications, attainments and work done for beekeeping by candidates for election. Such particulars to be supplied to the General Secretary of the BBKA on a nomination form, which must be countersigned by the candidate.

(b) ELECTION Election shall be by ballot, either by post if an ADM so decides, or at a Meeting of Delegates. Voting will be with the Delegate of each Area Member Association having a single vote but a Meeting of Delegates can decide to have voting in any future year on a card vote. Similarly if a postal ballot is used the ADM can decide from time to time whether this will be on a card vote basis of one vote for each Indirect Member in respect of whom a capitation fee has been paid for the then current year.

Members of the Board shall be persons elected on grounds of personal merit and shall be deemed not to represent any specific body of beekeepers, but shall act in the general interest of the BBKA.

36. TENURE OF OFFICE (a) The Elected Members shall be divided into three groups of three persons each. One group will retire at each ADM.

(b) Elected Members shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election except as hereinafter mentioned.

(c) An Elected Member may serve for up to six years consecutively together with one period under Section (d) hereof. Immediately thereafter he shall not be eligible for re-election for two years.

(d) Vacancies in any group not retiring by rotation at the ADM shall be filled by a (separate vote taken immediately following the group election. A member filling any such vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of office of the member whose place he fills and shall then be eligible for re-election subject to Article 36 (c). Vacancies carrying the longer unexpired term shall be voted for in priority to those carrying a shorter term.

(e) The Board shall have power to co-opt up to three persons having special knowledge or qualifications to assist in the work of the Board. Such persons may be appointed until the next ADM but no one may be co-opted for a period exceeding three years consecutively.

(f) The Board may also invite any persons to attend specific meetings to advise on particular matters under consideration. Persons invited in this way shall have no voting rights.

37. OFFICERS The Board shall annually at its first meeting after each Annual Delegates Meeting elect its own Chairman, Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer. One person may combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer do not necessarily have to be appointed from the then existing membership of the Board but the Chairman does.

38. MEETINGS The quorum at meetings of the Board is four including the officers.

39. The Board shall report after each of its meetings to the Executive Committee giving a

summary of its work since the previous report and annually to the ADM as provided in Article 12 giving a report of the work done by it during the past year, the results of examinations in summary form and produce a statement of its intended work and a budget of its estimated expenditure in the forthcoming year for the approval of the Annual Delegates Meeting. Copies of such report and budget and the accounts of the Board must be in the hands of the BBKA General Secretary by the 1st November in each year for incorporation in the papers for the proceedings of the Annual Delegates Meeting.

40. FUNCTION AND POWERS. The Examinations of the BBKA and the necessary education therefore shall be administered by the Board, which shall have full authority independently of the

Executive Committee, but subject to any direction or instruction given by the Meeting of Delegates by any minute thereof to:-

- (a) arrange all syllabuses and examinations;
- (b) award all except honorary awards;
- (c) fix the amount of and receive examination fees and other dues so that the expenses of the Board shall be covered if reasonably practicable;
- (d) arrange and pay all expenses incidental to the setting and distribution of papers, honoraria of examiners and invigilators and other work;
- (e) appoint such persons as it may deem fit to a panel of examiners and to remove names from such panel;
- (f) define the duties and supervise the work of such panel;
- (g) carry out all work approved by the Annual Delegates Meeting and evidenced by a minute thereof;
- (h) arrange instruction of all kinds, courses, meetings and all other methods it thinks appropriate to provide education of all kinds in beekeeping;
- (i) appoint committees on the same terms as the Executive Committee can appoint committees; but these shall only apply if any particular matter is included or covered by the budget approved by the Annual Delegates Meeting or the proposal or matter is approved by the Executive Committee.

41. POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Board shall be independent of the Executive Committee except in the following respects:-

- (a) the expenditure of money required by the Board beyond the amounts set out in the budget approved by the ADM;
- (b) the approval of any new work of a major nature that would materially affect the general policy or activities of the BBKA;
- (c) any dereliction of duty by the Board or any officer or member thereof which in the opinion of the Executive Committee requires action to be taken that is not being carried out by the Board;
- (d) the determining of the amount of the Honorarium of the Secretary and other officers of the Board and their terms of service;
- (e) the right of recommending to the Annual Delegates Meeting what Honorary awards of any kind shall be granted and to whom.

In all these cases the Executive Committee will have authority (subject to any direction or instruction given by the Meeting of Delegates by any minute thereof) to act, approve or deal with the matter as it thinks fit but the Board shall be entitled to appeal to the President of the BBKA to intervene and he will have authority to call a Special Delegates Meeting if he thinks it appropriate.

42. ACCOUNTS. The accounts of the Board shall be submitted to the Treasurer of the BBKA by the 1st November in every year and shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and be audited by the BBKA Auditor or independent accountants with the other accounts of the BBKA and published in the BBKA Annual Report with the Report of the Board.

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TRUSTEES

43. The ADM may appoint persons, not less than three in number, or any bank or other corporation legally authorised to act as trustee (hereinafter called "the Custodian Trustees") to hold real and personal property, stocks, shares, securities and monies of the BBKA and of any trust managed in connection therewith and to sell and convert the same into money and to invest and change the investments of all or any of the property, stocks, shares and other securities and monies held by them and at the direction of the Executive Committee to apply the capital and income thereof for the purposes of the BBKA or of such trust as is appropriate. A copy of a resolution of the Executive Committee purporting to be signed by the Chairman or like official presiding over the meeting at which such resolution is passed or confirmed shall be sufficient authority and discharge of the Trustees as to any such application as may be mentioned in the same resolution. The Trustees so appointed or the survivors of them shall hold office until retirement or until such appointment shall be revoked by a resolution duly passed by a Meeting of Delegates.

INDEMNITY

44. Members of the Executive Committee and of standing committees of the Executive Committee, auditors, independent accountants, secretaries and other officers for the time being of the BBKA and any trustees for the time being acting in relation to any affairs of the BBKA and their executors, administrators, estates and effects shall be indemnified out of the assets of the BBKA from and against all actions, proceedings, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses, that they or any of them shall or may incur or sustain by reason of any act done or omitted to be done in or about the execution of their duty in their respective office or trust, except such, if any, as they shall incur or sustain by reason of their own wilful neglect, dishonesty, or default and no such officer or trustee shall be answerable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other officer or trustee, or for joining in any receipt for the sake of conformity or for the solvency or honesty of any bankers or other persons with whom any monies or effects belonging to the BBKA or managed by it may be lodged or deposited for safe custody, or for any insufficiency or deficiency of any security upon which any monies of the BBKA shall be invested, or for any loss or damage due to any such cause as aforesaid or which may happen in or about the execution of his office or trust unless the same shall happen through the wilful neglect, dishonesty, or default of such officer or trustee.

WINDING UP

45. A proposal for the winding up of the BBKA may be put to a Special Meeting of Delegates in the usual manner provided by these Articles as to propositions. To be effective such a proposition must be carried by a majority of three-quarters of those present and voting. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the BBKA there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the BBKA but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the BBKA.

ALTERATION OF ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION

46. As well as being subject to the provisions of all relevant Articles hereof, a proposition for the alteration of the Constitution to be effective must receive the assent of two thirds of the Delegates present and voting at a Meeting of Delegates or the majority of votes on a card vote and notice of the Meeting and a copy of the proposition must have been sent to Area Member Associations three months before the date of the Meeting PROVIDED that no alternation made to Articles 2, 32 45 or this Article shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the BBKA to cease to be a charity in law.

AFFILIATION

47. The BBKA shall have power to accept affiliation by or to affiliate to any independent self-governing organisation as the ADM may think fit.

NOTICES

48. Any notice may be served by the BBKA on any Member by delivering it personally or by sending it through the post in pre-paid letter addressed to such member at its or his last known address or the last known address of any Secretary or other proper officer thereof and any letter so sent shall be deemed to have been received by the appropriate member within five days of posting and notices may be served on the BBKA by sending them to the office of the BBKA in a similar manner.

DEFECTS IN PROCEDURE

49. No act or proceeding of a Delegates Meeting, the Executive Committee or any committee or sub-committee shall be questioned on account of any vacancy or vacancies in the membership of such respective body or bodies.

No defect in the qualification, election or appointment of any person or persons acting as a member or members of the Delegates Meeting, the Executive Committee or of any committee or sub-committee shall be deemed to vitiate any proceedings of such meeting committee or sub-committee in which he or they has or have taken part in cases where the majority of members to such proceedings are duly entitled to act.

The accidental omission to send any notice giving notice of a meeting to any person shall not invalidate such meeting provided that the BBKA and the committee concerned thereof have not been materially prejudiced.

DEFINITIONS

50. In these Articles, unless inconsistent with the subject or context, words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number and vice versa, words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender and words importing persons shall include unincorporated or incorporated bodies.