The Association is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO: Charity number 1200002). The Association is affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA: Charity number 1185343). The CIO's Members and Trustees are protected from any financial liabilities the Association might incur.

The objects of the CIO are to:

- promote and further the craft of beekeeping within the borough of Wokingham and the surrounding districts, and
- advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment.

Conditions of Membership

Terms and conditions of membership are summarised below. Where relevant they mirror those set out in our full constitution.

Admission of New Members

Membership of the CIO is open to anyone who is interested in beekeeping and aligns himself or herself with furthering the CIO's purposes.

Admission Procedure: The charity trustees:

- shall, if they approve an application for membership, notify the applicant of their decision within 21 days;
- may refuse an application for membership if they believe that it is in the best interests of the CIO for them to do so;
- shall, if they decide to refuse an application for membership, give the applicant their reasons for doing so, within 21 days of the decision being taken, and give the applicant the opportunity to appeal against the refusal; and
- shall give fair consideration to any such appeal, and shall inform the applicant of their decision, but any decision to confirm refusal of the application for membership shall be final.

Transfer of Membership: Membership of the CIO cannot be transferred to anyone else (except in the case of an individual or corporate body representing an organisation as detailed in the Constitution).

Termination: Membership of the CIO comes to an end if:

- the member dies, or, in the case of an organisation (or the representative of an organisation) that organisation ceases to exist; or
- the member sends a notice of resignation to the charity trustees; or
- any sum of money owed by the member to the CIO is not paid in full within 12 weeks of its falling due; or
- the charity trustees decide that it is in the best interests of the CIO that the member in question should be removed from membership, and pass a resolution to that effect

Fees:

 The Financial Year runs from the 1st September to 31st August. The CIO annual subscription shall not become payable until the rates have been approved at the AGM. No member shall be entitled to participate in the privileges of the CIO until such subscriptions have been paid in full.

- W&DBKA fees are not pro-rata (i.e. they always expire 31st August) but we can offer a one-off, reduced rate (set by the Treasurer) to those joining from March onwards
- The Trustees shall determine, prior to the AGM and subject to ratification at the AGM, the subscription for the ensuing year. In determining the subscription, the Trustees shall take into account, in particular, any increase notification to the CIO in the fees payable by the CIO to other Associations or Organisations and which shall become payable by the CIO during the year for which the annual membership fee is being determined.
- Membership of the Association, membership of the BBKA and Brood Disease Insurance (BDI) all run from 1st September till 31st August
- The BBKA and BDI elements of the membership fee are not pro-rata (i.e. they are paid in full and expire 31st August).
- If paid after 31st March, BDI cover will not commence until 40 days after receipt of subscription

Gift Aid:

As a registered charity the Association can arrange for members to Gift Aid their subscription and other donations. **We ask you do this**, as it is of considerable financial advantage to the Association. **To qualify** you have to be a UK taxpayer (to cover the tax we can reclaim). To join, you confirm you are a UK taxpayer and you want your fees and donations to be treated as Gift Aid. Please tell us if later you cease to be a taxpayer.

Classes of membership

- **Full membership** is available to any person paying a full subscription. A person representing a school, club or organisation may apply for full membership.
- **Family membership*** is open to the family of a full member living in the same household at no additional cost.
- **Junior membership**. Persons up to the age of their 18th birthday may become junior members on the payment of a discounted subscription, the rate of which will be set annually by the Treasurer.
- **Friends*** are members who do not keep bees or are full members of other Associations. Their membership subscription is at a reduced rate.

* Note: Family members and Friends do not become members of the BBKA and do not therefore have the benefits that this would bring.

BENEFITS:

Full members and Friends shall receive all club communications and the Audited Annual Financial Statement.

Full members will also become members of the BBKA and will have **insurance through BDI Ltd. for compensation in the case of losses from Foulbrood Disease and insurance in respect of their legal liability for Third Party Claims and shall be entitled to vote.

All members shall have the right to attend all lectures, film shows, demonstrations or other meetings arranged by the committee.

** Currently three (3) colonies are covered by the standard subscription. Further colonies may be insured on payment of an additional premium.

OFFICERS (TRUSTEES):

The Officers shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary and a Learning & Development Officer.

The positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, a Membership Secretary and Learning & Development Officer shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Persons wishing to stand for these offices must notify the Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. These Officers will be required to pay Member Subscriptions.

A person whose services to the Association are considered worthy of special recognition will hold the position of Honorary President of the Association. The position is non-executive, held for life (unless resignation is received) and will not require payment of Member Subscriptions (other than any BDI premiums due). The Honorary President will be appointed at an Annual General Meeting having been elected by the Membership. The Committee will propose eligible Members for election to the position of Honorary President, with details circulated to the Members for voting, at least 21 days before the AGM.

COMMITTEE:

The management of the Association shall be in the hands of a Committee, which shall consist of the Officers (Trustees), and up to six other members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman. The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members if it thinks fit. The quorum is two charity trustees, or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the charity trustees may decide from time to time. Only Trustees are able to make decisions unless other committee members have delegated powers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October and fourteen days' notice shall be given.