



# **BLACKPOOL ACCOMMODATION FOR GAYS** **Incorporating** **BLACKPOOL ACCOMMODATION GROUP**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **1. NAME**

The formal name of the Association shall be Blackpool Accommodation for Gays (BAGs) incorporating the name Blackpool Accommodation Group (BAGs)  
Revised (d)

### **2. AIMS**

The aims of the Association are:-

- a. to promote gay accommodation for the benefit of all, or the majority of its members.
- b. to treat all members fairly and without prejudice.
- c. to spend monies for the benefit of all members equally
- d. to support the social networking of members within the Association.
- e. to establish links with other organisations to gain financial benefits for all full members.
- f. to work with local LGBT organisations to support our aims for the purposes of developing gay tourism in Blackpool.
- g. to take actions, as appropriate, to raise the prestige and status of the members of the Association.
- h. to discourage unfair competition between members whilst acknowledging the need for initiative and enterprise.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Association shall consist of:-

#### **Full Membership**

Any fully gay-owned and run freehold or long-term leasehold (minimum of 12 months) business, which provides guest accommodation, may apply to join the Association. The

business property itself will become the full member once the application has been approved and upon payment of any fees. The committee will need to be satisfied that the business is gay-owned and that the property demonstrates good standards of accommodation. If the accommodation is run by a manager, he/she must be gay. Where an owner has more than one business property, applications for membership must be made separately and all properties must join, if bookings are transferable between businesses.

### **Associate Membership**

Any venue, business or person, other than accommodation providers, may apply to join the Association as associate members. Associate members will usually offer discounts or concessions to all members and must be approved by the committee. They shall not attend meetings, will not have voting rights and may not stand for office. Should an associate member cease to meet the discount terms agreed, their membership will terminate immediately.

### **Honorary Membership**

The committee may at its discretion recommend to the Association any retired member as an honorary member, this to be ratified at the following AGM. They have voting rights, but may not stand for office.

### **Change of Ownership**

When a member business is sold, it immediately ceases to be a member of BAGs. The new owners may apply for membership if they meet the full membership criteria above. Owners of a member business who sell and move to a new business or location, cannot transfer the membership, but must apply for membership again, with the membership being approved by the committee and full subscription fees being paid, as below.

## **4. VOTING**

Only full and honorary members of the Association shall be entitled to vote at meetings. Each business will have only one vote. If a member is unable to attend an AGM, or an SGM, they may vote in writing. Proxy votes are not allowed. Where owners have multiple businesses, they cannot have combined voting rights that exceed 10% of the total voting membership at a meeting.

## **5. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions will be set by the committee and are renewable annually. Members joining part way through a year will pay a pro-rata proportion of the full fee, ensuring that all memberships expire at the financial year end. The Treasurer will decide the correct amount.

All membership subscriptions become payable at the commencement of the financial year. This may include an additional subscription for the Social Fund. A discount is offered if payment is made by standing order. The committee has the right to waive all or part of the subscriptions in return for professional services, or retrospectively for members standing on the committee for a minimum of 12 months.

## **6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The general management of the affairs of the Association shall be directed by a committee, which shall meet not less than six times each year. Ideally, the committee should reflect a

fair representation of all BAGs' members by location, gender and disability. Only full members may apply for committee membership and the committee shall consist of up to 9 members, as follows:-

Executive: Chair  
Vice Chair  
Treasurer  
Secretary, as required  
Members: Up to five other members

A member shall be eligible to apply for committee membership after being a member of BAGs for 12 calendar months. Only 1 representative from each establishment may apply for committee membership. The period of office for members other than those holding executive office is one year. A member shall only be eligible to hold an executive position after being a committee member for 12 calendar months. The period of office for executive members is three years. After an AGM, the full committee will elect eligible people to fill any executive vacancies at their next meeting. Should a member of the executive resign prior to an AGM, the committee will elect another eligible committee member.

The position of Chair must be confirmed at each AGM and, if not supported, the Vice Chair will automatically assume the Chair for any intervening period prior to the appointment of a new Chair by the committee.

The committee may set up separate sub-committees, as required, and determine their powers and terms of reference. The committee has the right to co-opt for a specific purpose any person, whether or not a member of BAGs, whose skill, knowledge or expertise might be beneficial to the Association.

Any committee member who fails to attend at least 3 consecutive regular meetings, without due excuse accepted by other members of the committee, shall be deemed to have vacated their office.

## **7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Once in each year within three months of the end of the financial year, the committee shall convene an AGM of the Association to which full and honorary members shall be entitled to attend for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report of the Chair and the Annual Statement of Audited Accounts and, whenever necessary, voting on proposals to amend this Constitution and other appropriate matters. Decisions made at the AGM have immediate effect.

Whenever possible, two months notice of the AGM and no less than 30 days will be given by the Secretary with the agenda being sent at least 14 days in advance.

## **8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

The committee may call a SGM at any time and the Secretary will send members the date, venue and agenda at least 14 days in advance. Members may call for a SGM by sending a written request to the Secretary signed by not less than 10 members eligible to vote and giving reasons for the request. The Secretary will inform the committee and must call the SGM within 21 days of the request and send the date, venue and agenda to members at least 14 days in advance.

## **9. RULES AND PROCEDURES AT ALL MEETINGS**

Four of the members shall form a quorum at meetings of the committee. 20% of members shall form a quorum at any AGM, or SGM. Should an AGM, or SGM quorum not be realised, no action shall be taken, but a further meeting scheduled, allowing a quorum of 10% of members.

### **General Voting**

All questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. In accordance with Section 4 (Voting), no business shall have more than one vote except the Chair who, in cases of equality of votes, shall have a second casting vote.

### **Elections**

Committee nominations must be received at least 28 days prior to the date of the AGM and a vote taken if more applications than vacancies are received. The vote will be one per business with the Chair having an additional vote if the results are equal. The AGM is also asked to confirm the position of Chair each year.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of every meeting shall be kept by the Secretary and these shall be available for inspection on request by members. Items considered to be confidential by the committee may be withheld.

## **10. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership will be terminated if subscriptions are not received by the due date. In accordance with the complaints' procedures, the committee shall have the right for good and sufficient reason to suspend or terminate the membership of an individual member, provided that a full hearing has been held with an independent Chair. The member has the right of appeal in accordance with the complaints' procedures.

## **11. FINANCE**

All monies raised by or on behalf of the Association shall be applied to further the aims of the Association and for no other purpose. The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Association and will report to the committee at each of its meetings. The accounts shall be audited at least once a year by an auditor who shall be appointed by the committee. Audited accounts will be submitted to the AGM.

All the funds of the Association shall be retained on deposit at either a bank or building society by the direction of the committee. Withdrawals shall only be made from the Association's funds by a minimum of 2 signatures provided by current committee officers with 3 being authorised so to do.

All financial records of the Association shall be open to any full or honorary member of the Association within 14 days of the request.

## **12. ASSOCIATION LOGO**

Only current, paid-up members of the Association have permission to display or show the plaque of the Association at their registered premises. Members may print the BAGs' logo only on business literature associated with promoting or advertising the registered business. Committee members may also use the logo for authorised correspondence.

### **13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This constitution is adopted by the committee and ratified at either an AGM, or SGM. Any proposal to alter this constitution must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the Association not less than 28 days before the date of the meeting at which it will be considered. Any alteration will require a majority vote.

### **14. DISSOLUTION**

If the committee, by a simple majority, decides at any time that on the grounds of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, it shall call a meeting of all members of the Association entitled to vote. At least 21 days notice shall be given, stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed. If the decision to dissolve the Association is confirmed by the meeting, the committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be applied towards any gay charities as the committee may decide.

ISSUE	a	b	c	d					
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