

THE HEXHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 pm Tuesday 10 January 2023

Village Hall, Wall, Northumberland NE46 4DX

Minutes

Present: Martyn Farrer, Jonathan Storey, Jane Hughes, David Wilson, Judith Stewart, Mike Higgins, Wendy Gregory, Karen Cumberledge, Ian Robinson, Dorian Pritchard, Tom Jamieson, Sam Burnish, Claire Dickinson, Neil Dawson, Michael McGregor, Helen Hill, Rory Fields, Billie Fields, MaryJo l'Anson, Tom Whitfield, Mike Lewis, Frank Mann, Majbritt Mann, Matt Ford.

Apologies: Sue Robinson, Victoria Nicholson, Barbara Storey, John Dickinson, Nick Athey, Eddie Barwick, Michelle Pow, Kim Bartlett, Paul Edwards, Hazel Edwards, Harriet Adams, Iain Huzzard, Niki Black, Christopher Dorman O'Gowan, Cora Cloughley, Lisa Ormston, Pauline Thompson, Stacey Hall, Terry Hanson, Ros Evans, Pam Peart, Val Butcher, Roger Massey, Carol Moffit, Colin Armstrong.

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1. Martyn Farrer welcomed twenty-four members to the 2023 AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1. Twenty-five apologies had been received as noted above.

3. Minutes of AGM held 4 January 2022

3.1. Dorian Pritchard reported that he had been unable to locate the back issues of the Honey Press he had promised to donate (Minute 10.5) but he was able to furnish the name of a former student who might be able to help with documenting the history of HBKA. (Minute 10.6).

3.2. There were no further matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM and they were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. Martyn Farrer summarised the key messages from his written report.

4.2. He acknowledged the support of the Committee and other members over the last year. In particular, he thanked Judith Stewart, Neill Wylie, Paul Mingard and Dave Cowings for their respective contributions over recent years.

4.3. The 'normal' activities of the Association were resumed in 2022 - with the establishment of our new and improved teaching apiary being the main highlight. Bill Hunter presided over the official opening at the start of May.

- 4.4. Hexham Beekeepers attended all of the customary village/agricultural shows in 2022 and organised the full programme of meetings and events culminating with the Rachel Lowther Lecture delivered by Prof Giles Budge. The year ended with a very convivial Christmas Dinner at the Beaumont Hotel, Hexham.
- 4.5. Martyn emphasized that the Association exists to serve the needs of its members and would welcome thoughts and feedback on the programme of activities that we deliver.
- 4.6. He concluded by remembering two of our previous Chairs – Robert Furniss and Philip Latham (who died in 2022) and their respective contributions to the Association.

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1. Jane Hughes reported that the Association finances for 2021/22 reflect a return to 'normal' operating activities dominated by exceptional expenditure of £6,990 incurred in relocating the teaching apiary. This resulted in a planned shortfall of £6,585 for the year.
- 5.2. Jane explained her intention to use the annual Gift Aid funding to re-build the Association's reserves to meet any future commitments of a similar nature.
- 5.3. The Accounts were agreed unanimously.

6. Subscriptions 2024

- 6.1. Jane Hughes confirmed no further increases in BBKA capitation rates are anticipated for 2023. She therefore proposed to fix the subs for 2024 at current levels - subject to any additional sums that BBKA might impose at the forthcoming ADM.
- 6.2. This proposal was agreed unanimously.

7. Membership Report

- 7.1. David Wilson reported that the Association membership remains 'healthy' at 182 with several new members waiting to join the Association in 2023.
- 7.2. David will be following a similar renewal process to that introduced in 2022 and the relevant e-mails would be going out shortly.
- 7.3. David thanked those members who had already renewed and he urged others to review any standing orders they might have set up in order to avoid paying twice.

8. Apiary Report

- 8.1. Jonathan Storey presented Sue Robinson's report in her absence.
- 8.2. Highlights included recognition of the considerable team effort needed to set up the new apiary and move the bees across without any 'dramas'. Sue expressed a huge 'thank you' to everyone who had contributed.
- 8.3. As a result, a full programme of Beginners Sessions had been delivered in 2022 - thanks to the continuing support from the Sunday demonstrators. Sue also acknowledged the contribution made by the Thursday working parties which are also intended to provide an opportunity for novice beekeepers to widen their experience.
- 8.4. Sue reported on the visit of the Seasonal Bee Inspector Brian Murphy in July which had been very positive and helpful in addressing one colony suffering from Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus (CBPV)
- 8.5. We are taking 15 colonies into the winter set up with a full super of honey and all will have been treated with Apibioxal for varroa. Commenting on the indiscriminate use of varroicides, Dorian Pritchard suggested that we consider not treating a couple of hives in 2023 and comparing the resulting varroa levels.

9. Education and Training Report

- 9.1. David Wilson gave his report on Education and Training for 2022.
- 9.2. Claire Dickinson and Tom Jamieson were presented with their Certificates for passing their Basic Assessment. Tom paid tribute to the support that they had received from Sue and Ian Robinson while preparing for the assessment.
- 9.3. A small study group has been established to tackle Module 1 of the BBKA written exam syllabus.
- 9.4. Wendy Gregory and Mike Higgins will be coordinating the 2023 Beginners Sessions working in close collaboration with Sue Robinson as Apiary Manager.

10. Election of officers

- 10.1. Jonathan Storey explained the proposed Committee Members for 2023 and confirmed that no other nominations had been received.
- 10.2. Wendy Gregory and Mike Higgins will become full members of the Committee and Karen Cumberledge and Victoria Nicholson have also agreed to join the Committee as co-opted members.
- 10.3. The list of Officers as proposed was agreed unanimously.

11. Appointment of Auditor

- 11.1. Brian English was re-appointed as Auditor for 2023.

12. BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting 2023

- 12.1. Jonathan Storey is Hexham BKA's representative at the BBKA Annual Delegates' Meeting to be held via Zoom on Saturday 14 January 2023.
- 12.2. Jonathan highlighted the more important propositions on this year's ADM agenda –
 - **Propositions 2 & 3** – Cornwall BKA & Essex BKA – Local Modular Exams
 - **Proposition 4** – Worcestershire BKA – Permission to use Adrenaline auto-injectors
 - **Proposition 5** – Hampshire BKA – BBKA to promote local honey with the public
 - **Proposition 6** – Stratford BKA – Not contributing to global warming
 - **Proposition 1,7-9** – BBKA – amendments to constitution.
- 12.3. Jonathan noted the resulting comments to inform the voting at the forthcoming ADM

13. Any other business

- 13.1. **Hexham Cemetery Apiary** – Jonathan and Martyn gave a verbal update on recent progress with Hexham Council to establish an out apiary at St Mary's Cemetery. Thanks to the efforts of Suzanne Fairless-Aitken, six double hive stands have been purchased by the Council and permission given to HBKA to install up to six colonies during 2023.
- 13.2. It is proposed for two beekeepers to bring two colonies each with the remaining allocation being taken up by Suzanne Fairless-Aitken (1 colony) and Judith Stewart (1 colony) who will also provide advice and guidance throughout the 2023 season.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1. Martyn thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 9:05pm