

THE HEXHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 pm Tuesday 6 January 2026

Village Hall, Wall, Northumberland NE46 4DX

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 14 January 2025 (Enc 1)
4. Chair's Report 2025 (Enc 2)
5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts 2024/25 (Enc 3)
6. Setting of Subscription Rates (Enc 4)
7. Membership Report 2025 (Enc 5)
8. Teaching Apiary Report 2025 (Enc 6)
9. Bee Mart Report 2025 (Enc 7)
10. Examinations and Training Report 2025 (Enc 8)
 - Presentation of Certificates
11. Election of Officers for 2026
 - List of Nominations (Enc 9)
12. Appointment of Auditor for 2026
 - Re-appointment of Brian English as Auditor
13. BBKA Annual Delegate Meeting (Enc 10)
 - Propositions for Consideration
14. Any Other Business
15. Close

Meeting to be followed by a 'Bring & Share' Supper

THE HEXHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 pm Tuesday 14 January 2025

Village Hall, Wall, Northumberland NE46 4DX

Minutes

Present: Martyn Farrer, Jonathan Storey, Jane Hughes, Judith Stewart, Sue Robinson, Mike Higgins, Ian Robinson, Dorian Pritchard, Helen Hill, Majbritt Mann, Bill Hunter, Jola Weaver, Sheilaugh Matheson, Neill Wylie, Paul Edwards, Hazel Edwards, David Graham, Sam Burnish, Gillian Tiplady, MaryJo l'Anson.

Apologies: Graham Gill, Sue Smith, Mike Lewis, Jane Lewis, Sarah Ziolkowski, Wendy Gregory, Terry Hanson, Elizabeth Hanson, Andrew Shepherd, Gundi Shepherd, Ollie Morton, Ros Evans, Micky Macgregor, Michelle Pow, Peter Dodman, David Wilson, John Dickinson, Julie McGrane, Cora Cloughley, Roger Massey, Barry Bailes, Claire Dickinson, Andy Bennett, Karen Bennett, Darrell Jackson, Dot Coe, Victoria Nicholson, Barbara Storey, Matt Ford, Karen Cumberledge.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Martyn Farrer welcomed twenty members to the 2025 AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

- 2.1. Thirty apologies had been received as noted above.

3. Minutes of AGM held 9 January 2024

- 3.1. No material matters were raised regarding the draft Minutes of the 2024 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 noted the adverse weather experienced in 2024 and the detrimental impact on bee colonies in general and on his own in particular.
- 4.3. Hexham Beekeepers had been represented at all the customary county/village/agricultural shows in 2024 as well as delivering a full programme of meetings and events – albeit without the Rachel Lowther Lecture or the Christmas Meal this year. Martyn urged more members to participate in the various Honey Shows to save him the embarrassment of winning prizes unopposed. He also reminded everyone to continue to be vigilant for the 'Yellow legged Asian Hornet'
- 4.4. The teaching apiary continued to be well used. In addition to the usual Beginners Sessions, arranged by Mike Higgins and Wendy Gregory, Martyn delivered a Queen Rearing course

(supported by Thorsten Rettig) and Judith Stewart arranged a variety of Skills Workshops for the more experienced beekeepers.

- 4.5. Martyn concluded by thanking the rest of the Committee for their support during the year.

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1. Jane Hughes presented the Association Accounts for 2023/24 which had resulted in a healthy surplus of £1,269 for the year.
- 5.2. Jane highlighted a record contribution from Gift Aid funding of £1,019 which is restoring the Association's reserves to meet future commitments. She also acknowledged donations totalling £569 arising principally from members' honey sales at the various shows. Helen Hill suggested that the price of bee-feed could be increased in future to provide additional income.
- 5.3. The Association ended the year with total resources of £9,612 and the Accounts were approved unanimously.

6. Subscriptions 2026

- 6.1. Jane Hughes reminded members that a modest increase of £1.50 in full member subs had been approved at the 2024 AGM which is currently taking effect in 2025.
- 6.2. Jane explained that the latest Annual Delegates Meeting had just agreed to increase the BBKA Capitation fees by £2.00 with effect from 2026. This would take the HBKA Full Membership to £30.50 from next January. The other membership categories were also being increased with the exception of Junior Members where the BBKA is reducing the capitation charge to £5.00.
- 6.3. The proposed subscriptions for 2026 reflected the increase in BBKA Capitation fees and these were agreed unanimously.

7. Membership Report

- 7.1. David Wilson was unable to attend due to work commitments so Jonathan Storey presented his report.
- 7.2. At the turn of the year the Association membership stood at 187 reflecting 30 leavers and 29 new recruits joining during 2024. Renewal notices have been sent out to all members and so far about half had paid in advance of the deadline of 31 January 2025.
- 7.3. Jonathan thanked those members who had already renewed their subscription and he urged others to review any standing orders they might have set up in order to avoid duplicate or inaccurate payments.

8. Apiary Report

- 8.1. Sue Robinson reiterated the Chair's comments regarding the prolonged wet weather which had been experienced in 2024. This had resulted in the need to feed some colonies followed by poor queen matings which resulted in widespread queen failures and immediate supersedures.
- 8.2. Nonetheless, we took 13 colonies into the winter – each set up with a full super of honey. All the hives have been treated with Apibioxal.
- 8.3. Judith Stewart described the Skills Workshops which had been held in 2024 and she invited members to suggest additional topics for 2025 where they would be useful.
- 8.4. Judith also reminded everyone of the Bee Mart which she coordinates on behalf of the association to encourage members to rely upon locally reared bees.

9. Education and Training Report

- 9.1. Jonathan Storey presented David Wilson's report on Education and Training for 2024.

- 9.2. No-one had attempted the Basic Assessment last year although three members had passed the Bee Health Assessment – Martyn Farrer, Judith Stewart and Jola Weaver. Jonathan presented them with their BBKA certificates.
- 9.3. Four members had sat and passed various modules of the BBKA written exam syllabus in March 2024. Certificates were presented to Martyn Farrer, Jola Weaver, Neill Wylie and Jonathan Storey.
- 9.4. Once again, Wendy Gregory and Mike Higgins will be coordinating the 2025 Beginners Sessions working in close collaboration with Sue Robinson as Apiary Manager.
- 9.5. Anyone wishing to sit any of the BBKA practical or written examinations in 2025 should contact David Wilson.

10. Election of officers

- 10.1. Jonathan Storey explained the proposed Committee Members for 2024 and confirmed that no other nominations had been received.
- 10.2. The HBKA Constitution requires the Chair's term to be limited to a maximum of three years. In the absence of a new candidate coming forward, Martyn Farrer has agreed to serve one further year until a replacement can be found. The meeting was asked to approve this exceptional variation to the Association's Rules. This motion was carried unanimously.
- 10.3. The list of proposed Officers as set out was then agreed unanimously.

11. Appointment of Auditor

- 11.1. Brian English was unanimously re-appointed as Auditor for 2025.

12. BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting 2025

- 12.1. Jonathan Storey represented Hexham BKA at the BBKA Annual Delegates' Meeting which was held on 11 January 2025.
- 12.2. Jonathan reported that 66 Associations had been represented at the meeting – mostly attending via Zoom. The BBKA finances are sound with net assets of £1.35m including £555k of investments and £494k in cash. Notwithstanding its accumulated resources the BBKA is projecting a deficit budget of (£47k) for 2025 – hence the proposed increase to the capitation fees which is expected to generate about £50k additional income from 2026.
- 12.3. Unusually, all the resolutions were agreed unanimously by the Delegates. Most notably these included:
 - The Increase in capitation charges with effect from October 2025
 - Further investigation in 2025 into the implications of seeking exam accreditation
 - Further work in 2025 to develop a campaign against honey adulteration with a budget of £25k

13. Any other business

- 13.1. None raised

14. Conclusion

- 14.1. Martyn Farrer thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

2025 has also been memorable but for different reasons than 2024. The winter of 2024/25 was gentler but the excellent sunny days of 2025 were accompanied by a real shortage of rain. When it came to the heather season I looked out on brown heather moors with fringes of flower, mainly on the north facing slopes. For the first time my colonies returned from the heather lighter than they set out. Wasps were also a major factor and I found four nests in the attic of my home with two of them more than 12" by 18"! Removing them did not stop the onslaught on my weaker colonies with new queens and I observed for the first time co-ordinated attempts by wasps to chew through the sides of poly nucs when I had set the doorways to a defendable two-bee width.

I am not sure I would recommend others to go 'cold-turkey' on their varroa treatment as I have since 2023 but I am pleased that the colonies I now have are all new or 1 season queens and all show some evidence of hygienic behaviour with low (but not zero) varroa drop. If I hold my nerve for another season (or two) I may be able to give up on varroa monitoring altogether.

The Association is in rude health with over 190 members now and sound finances (thankyou to Jane Hughes for overseeing those). We had such a good crop of honey from the teaching apiary this year that we now have been able to supply an HBKA line of honey at some recent shows and this has bolstered the finances of the association.

I am pleased that we have seen increased interest in the teaching and learning offerings in the Association. More BBKA modules are being attempted, a range of learning opportunities being used (including BBKA correspondence courses) and practical assessments being undertaken at the teaching apiary. For beginners, the offer of hands-on sessions has been taken up this year. For more experienced bee-keepers, we have provided Skills Workshops and another Queen Rearing Course weekend which, this year, attracted mainly beekeepers from other North-east beekeeping associations. It has been great to see some younger beekeepers at our events and we hope to continue to offer schools and scout groups access where we can.

We went to the usual local shows in 2025 and some cups will have some different names engraved on them as a result. The shows are a great opportunity to talk to the public about our craft and more member participation is welcome. Honey judging and showing has been in decline in the North East. I am struck by the enthusiasm shown by the public scrutinising the comments of judges next to honey in the competition tents and I think we need to encourage the curiosity of the public for the art and health of beekeeping by whatever means we are able. Honey shows should be kept alive for this purpose and agreeable competition.

We need to educate beekeepers and the public on the risk of forthcoming pests. We have been collaborating with BBKA on Asian Hornet which has had a season of rapid spread in the south-east. Small hive beetle is probably manageable if it arrives in UK but Tropilaelaps may, in my opinion, be the death nell of commercial beekeeping since it is like Varroa 'on steroids'! The Honey Bees in its native range create brood breaks (or self-shook swarming) by abandoning their nests and brood and relocating. It is likely that Tropilaelaps will enter the UK via the trade of queens (probably through the Irish route) which is driven by the behaviour of yearly requeening rather than local queen rearing. We have powerful reasons to keep our bees local and must be on the lookout for the arrival of exotic pests. Tropilaelaps, for example, is now in Turkey and Ukraine - close to where many queen imports into the UK originate.

This year, after a year's break, the Rachel Lowther Memorial Lecture was reinstated in its original format. We found a novel speaker, Paul Honigmann, who had recently published an excellently illustrated hand-book on beekeeping, 'The Observant Beekeeper' extolling the virtue of a less

interventional style of beekeeping. Paul is also part of a 'Varroa Treatment-free' community and it was good to exchange views during the weekend he spent with us. The RL lecture audience was the largest attendance at any meeting during my time as Chair and taught me a useful lesson. The HBKA is a large group of craft beekeepers with a wide range of interests and opinions. We, as the Committee serve the association best by offering a variety of opinions and approaches. We provide a safe and friendly place to agree and disagree 'agreeably' and I think it is that characteristic which makes HBKA such a popular association.

So, to the end of this year and the start of next. The Committee continues to work on your behalf. We are always looking for new members and our tireless secretary, Jonathan Storey, keeps us and the website effective. We have some new committee members and I wish them happiness and success. We are honouring our constitution and, after four years in the role, it is time for me to step aside and give my energy as one of the committee to those things I think need to be promoted. Judith Stewart has kindly offered to return to the chairing role and I and the rest of the committee will support her.

I wish everyone well for a prosperous year of beekeeping in 2026.

Martyn Farrer
chair@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

The Association continues to be in a strong financial position with a surplus of receipts over expenditure of £2,018.71

Receipts were boosted by Gift Aid of £933.10 which remains a major source of funding for the association since we are able to claim Gift Aid, not only on our own membership fees, but also on the BBKA element as well. Thank you to everyone who has opted for Gift Aid. It really helps to maintain our own fees at a modest level.

As in previous years, this money has been transferred to the deposit account to be held in reserve to fund any future relocation of the association's teaching apiary

This year, we had a good honey harvest at the association apiary and, for the first time in a number of years, we had surplus honey to sell. We gave our landlord 20 jars of honey as a thank you for the apiary site and we raised £557 on sales at the various shows we attended.

In addition, members have donated £238.72 following sales of their own honey at the country shows. Thank you to all who donated.

This summer, we were nominated by customers of the Skipton Building Society to be included as one of three local charities to share in their annual Community Giving Scheme. Following a vote, over September, we have been awarded £600. This money will be reflected in next year's accounts

In summary, total receipts for the year were £11,267.28 and expenditure was £9,248.57.

The Association finished the fiscal year with a current account balance of £5,076.65 and with a deposit balance of £6,554.00.

Jane Hughes
treasurer@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

Hexham Beekeepers Association

Receipts and Payments Account For Year Ending 31st October 2025

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£		£	£
Subscriptions	5,427.95	4,956.65	BBKA Capitation	3,608.50	3,480.50
Donations received	313.82	250.86	BDI	600.45	601.90
Donations from honey sales	238.72	318.33	Lecture Expenses	27.10	40.00
Sale of apiary honey	557.00	0.00	Hall hire & Zoom	457.95	525.00
Interest	52.87	53.03	Shows	230.00	127.00
Memorial Lecture	685.36	0.00	Memorial Lecture	666.35	0.00
Gift Aid	933.10	1,019.10	Auditor	25.00	25.00
Extractor hire	60.00	50.00	Equipment	50.00	37.97
Fondant Sales	2,740.00	3,006.40	Apiary	464.09	379.54
Xmas 2023	0.00	718.72	Fondant Purchases	2,607.00	3,042.00
Sale of Tee Shirts	94.00	200.00	Website	112.71	64.91
Queen rearing course	164.46	0.00	Refund of subscriptions	79.00	118.00
			Apiary Insurance	250.92	205.37
			Xmas 2023	0.00	586.90
			Purchase of Tee shirts	69.50	69.50
	<hr/> 11,267.28	<hr/> 10,573.09		<hr/> 9,248.57	<hr/> 9,303.59

Jane Hughes Hon Treasurer, HBKA	Total resources as at 31st October 2024	9,611.94
	Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,018.71
Brian English Auditor	Total resources as at 31st October 2025	<hr/> 11,630.65
	Comprising:	
	Deposit Account	6,554.00
	Bank Account	5,076.65

Membership Category	2025	2026	2027
REGISTERED MEMBER	£28.50 ¹	£30.50	£31.50 ²
BBKA Capitation Fee	£21.00	£23.00 ³	£24.00 ⁴
PARTNER MEMBER (same address)	£15.00	£16.50	£17.50 ²
BBKA Capitation Fee	£13.50	£15.00 ³	£16.00 ⁴
JUNIOR MEMBER	£10.00	£5.50	£5.50 ²
BBKA Capitation Fee	£9.50	£5.00 ³	£5.00 ⁴
COUNTRY MEMBER (no bees)	£15.50	£16.50	£17.50 ²
BBKA Capitation Fee	£10.00	£11.00 ³	£12.00 ⁴
ASSOCIATE (already BBKA member)	£8.50	£8.50	£8.50
BBKA Capitation Fee	£Nil	£Nil	£Nil

NOTES

¹ HBKA 2024 AGM agreed to increase the annual subscription for a Full Member by £1.50 from 2025

² The HBKA Subscription rates resulting from the proposed increase in the BBKA Capitation Fees

³ The current BBKA Capitation Fees applicable from 1st October 2025 (effectively 2026)

⁴ The proposed BBKA Capitation Fees applicable from 1st October 2026 (effectively 2027)

Membership

The total number of members increased this year by eight to 195. The yearly leavers totalled 36 which is a reduction on prior years.

Membership Rates

The membership rates for Registered Members, Partner Members and Country Members have increased this year, whilst the Junior Member fees have been reduced. The increases are solely down to increased BBKA capitation fees. A breakdown of the fees is provided in the previous Enclosure 4. Please note that, despite the increase over the last two years, our membership rates are well below those of Newcastle Beekeepers (£35 registered fee) and Alnwick Beekeepers (£33 registered fee).

Renewal of Membership

The renewal of membership is due in January 2026 and will follow the following process –

1. Only one fee renewal email notification will be sent out to members in January 2026 immediately after the AGM when the fees fall due. Please ensure you activate the link contained in the mail you receive and then arrange to pay the fees.
2. It is the responsibility of the members to take the appropriate action. Those members wishing to renew their membership of HBKA are encouraged to do so promptly and no later than 31 January 2026.
3. Those members who do not renew their membership by 31 March 2026 will be removed from the BBKA eR2 database and will lose the benefits of attendance at local HBKA events, receipt of the monthly BBKA News and Bee Disease Insurance.

Thank you all so much for being members, the funding from which, allows your volunteer committee members to develop the training apiary and outreach work that various members do.

David Wilson
membership@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

After two terrible years weather-wise we had hopes (although not high hopes) of a better year and I have to say 2025 delivered in style for the bees at the Apiary. Despite the fact that there was very little oil seed rape around the Wylam/Ovingham area the bees had the weather and the right conditions to be bringing in pollen and nectar from early season right through to the end. This also meant an early start to the swarm season. For the first time in quite a few years we have not had to feed any of the colonies and they actually produced some honey for sale! This is in marked contrast to last year when we were actually feeding several colonies right up until the beginning of July!

We started the year with 12 colonies, some of which were quite small, but with the right conditions they built up quickly and strongly. The good weather also contributed to many successful matings with new queens being produced that have gone on to build their own strong colonies. We had two colonies showing signs of Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus in June. They were moved to the bottom stand and left to see if they could deal with it without interference. A strict hands-off policy with no other colonies put near them and good biosecurity paid off and fortunately the virus didn't spread. By the end of August both colonies were flying strongly and on examination neither were showing any signs of the virus. Both colonies had re-queened themselves and I have every expectation that they will go on to survive the winter. As a result, we have finished the year with 19 colonies, all of which have one or two supers of honey to see them through the winter. Hopefully the weather won't be too bad and most of them will come through ok. If we have a surplus of colonies in the spring then we will sell a few to make space for new queens in 2026.

Our bees, along with several volunteers, visited a number of agricultural shows throughout the year starting with the County Show. It's often a long day for the bees in an observation hive, but part of our remit is to educate the public on honey bees and also the role of all bees and other pollinators in our environment and there is no doubt that having live bees attracts many more people than we would otherwise reach. Our stands at the County Show and also at Bellingham Show won first prize for the best stand in their respective marquees with particularly good comments from the judges at Bellingham Show saying they loved how interactive our display was and how we really engaged with the public. A big thank you to all our volunteers who give up their time to share our passion with the public.

We have had a busy season and we have lots of help at the Teaching Apiary, with Mike Higgins running the Beginners Sessions ably assisted by Wendy Gregory and all our great demonstrators. Judith Stewart has also delivered Skills Sessions for the past two years. Their respective reports follow below. We are still in the process of evolving both sets of teaching in order both to support new beekeepers but also to provide suitable learning for those members 'beyond beginners'. If you have any ideas on what topics you would like us to cover then please feel free to make some suggestions.

In between teaching sessions we have also arranged a number of 'ad hoc' sessions to catch up with various 'housekeeping' jobs needed in the apiary. These are not teaching sessions 'per se' but you would be allocated jobs to do usually with another volunteer and there will be someone available to advise so you are not on your own. It's a good way for beginners to expand their knowledge and experience. These are usually arranged at short notice but if you would like join in, please let me know and we'll add you to our list.

The bees are now all tucked up for the winter with mouse guards in place and plenty of stores. Winter Oxalic Acid trickle will happen before the end of the year. At the end of November we had a good clean and sort out of everything in the equipment shed. It was a lovely cold, sunny day and the team-work made everything go quickly. A tidy of the front shed will take place early Spring so that we are all ready for the new season. My thanks to all those who volunteered and put in a good shift.

Let's hope for an easy Winter and a good season in 2026.

Sue Robinson

apiarymanager@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

Beginners Sessions

We delivered eight Sunday afternoon Beginners Sessions in 2025 with the support of ten different demonstrators. By the end of the season, 31 beginners had experienced at least one session with an average of 11 attending per session - arranged in groups of no more than three per demonstrator. All the sessions went well with the vast majority of 'newbies' attending as planned and a minimal level 'no shows'. We did have an issue when one colony became temporarily aggressive but this was overcome by suiting up by the bottom gate and re-queening the offending colony in due course.

We received lots of positive feedback from the class of '25 who applauded the small working groups, the friendly and informative demonstrators and the generally high level of organisation and communication.

Our thanks go to all those who helped to make this year's teaching such a success.

Mike Higgins & Wendy Gregory

beginners@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

Skills Workshops

We repeated our skills workshops again this year with two workshops on a Disease Inspection and on Queen Clipping and Marking. The Swarm Control workshop did not go ahead as intended due to bad weather. We were unable to rearrange for another day because the colonies had already either swarmed or had already been swarm-managed.

The Disease workshop demonstrated a standard disease inspection that everyone should be doing at least once a year, ideally twice. It involves examining the brood and bees and looking for problems. We were shaking bees from a brood frame and examining every cell. We were looking for common problems like Chalk Brood, maybe Sac Brood or Dysentery and also on the look-out for notifiable diseases such as European Foul Brood or American Foul Brood. We were also looking at the adult bees for signs of viruses such as Chronic Paralysis Virus or Deformed Wing Virus. This was followed by a discussion on what to do if you found any of those in your colony.

The Queen Clipping demonstrated marking queens by picking up a queen by hand to mark rather than use a cage. A simple technique if you know how to do it. We also clipped a queen. If you haven't seen this done before, it is interesting to see and a useful skill to acquire.

Some of the topics that we would like to demonstrate are very time-dependent. Some techniques have to be performed at a certain stage of the colony development and we cannot easily arrange a workshop to demonstrate it. This is a shame because there is a lot of experience in the Association to share with newer beekeepers. For many people, a demonstration is so much more valuable than a lecture or reading in a book.

Judith Stewart

skillsworkshops@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

Bee Mart is HBKA's market place for buying and selling bees.

I am pleased to report that several members have benefitted from Bee Mart during the course of 2025.

For those not familiar with Bee Mart, any member can list their bees to sell or buy bees from other members.

The details can be found on our website www.hexhambeekeepers.co.uk or by contacting me directly at beemart@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk.

Several members bought bees to replace winter losses. A few members beginning with bees bought nucleus colonies during the summer. We also had a supply of 2025 queens.

Bee Mart was able to supply every enquiry with bees. We aim to help everyone at HBKA to avoid importing bees or queens from outside the area. Locally sourced bees are much better for so many reasons, not just the threat of bringing in diseases.

Bee Mart also lists equipment to sell. Larger items such as extractors sold well in 2025 but smaller items did not do so well.

Judith Stewart
beemart@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

Basic Training and Honey Bee Health Assessments

Two Basic Assessments and one Honey Bee Health Assessment were successfully completed by our members this year.

Basic assessments will be available for all members at our teaching Apiary from July time and it provides a great refresher training so why not give it a go?

Full details can be found at <https://www.bbka.org.uk/exams-and-assessments-of-the-bbka>

A 10-week programme of Beginner's Sessions will be held at our training apiary and organised by the Mike Higgins and Wendy Gregory. Also, Basic Assessment revision classes will be held for those who plan to take the basic assessment in Jun-Aug 2026.

Written Module Examinations taken November 2024 and March 2025

Seven BBKA module examinations were taken and passed at the two sittings. The certificates for all who passed will be handed out at the AGM. Looking forward to next year, now is time to think about researching/training for the March 2026 module examinations. Revision material is available for several modules. Please contact me for further details.

Full details of the modules can be found at <https://www.bbka.org.uk/modules> .

If you wish to enter any BBKA exams, please email me at examinations@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk and I will send you an application link.

Other

Please check the website for the latest news on this and other course dates during 2026. If you have any specific training requests, please get in contact with me.

David Wilson
examinations@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members

Enclosure 9

Position	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Judith Stewart	Jonathan Storey	Jane Hughes
Honorary Secretary	Jonathan Storey	Sue Robinson	Jane Hughes
Honorary Treasurer	Jane Hughes	Sue Robinson	Jonathan Storey
Committee #1 – Membership Sec	David Wilson	Jane Hughes	Jonathan Storey
– Exam Sec			
Committee #2 – Apiary Manager	Sue Robinson	Jane Hughes	Jonathan Storey
Committee #3 – Bee Mart	Judith Stewart	Jane Hughes	Jonathan Storey
Committee #4 – Beginners	Wendy Gregory	Jane Hughes	Jonathan Storey
Committee #5 – Beginners	Mike Higgins	Jane Hughes	Jonathan Storey
Committee #6 – Research	Martyn Farrer	Jane Hughes	Jonathan Storey
Co-opted Members	Thomas Carrott	-	-

Notes

Chair - At last year's AGM, Martyn Farrer agreed to continue as Chair for a further year. He has now served four years and is required to step down. Judith Stewart has agreed to resume the role of Chair for a second term. Martyn will continue to support the Committee with a focus on Research and maintaining links with our local Universities.

Committee - The other Committee Members have agreed to continue in their present roles for a further year. Thomas Carrott has been co-opted onto the Committee.

The ADM will be held on 10 January 2026 – Jonathan Storey will be representing Hexham & District Beekeepers' Association.

Propositions for Consideration

	Nominating Association	Seconding Association	Brief Summary of Proposition
1	BBKA Board of Trustees		Increase to capitation fees
2	Lincolnshire	Nottinghamshire	Share best practices, resources & training materials for key volunteer roles within associations
3	Kendal & S. Westmorland	Cumbria	Standardised operating practices for YLAH coordinators
4	Kendal & S. Westmorland	Cumbria	Monthly online meeting for YLAH coordinators
5	Lancashire & NW	Harrogate & Ripon	The BBKA remains an Association of Associations

The full ADM 2025 Delegate Pack is available to download from the bbkanews.com website. The username is your BBKA membership number (eg 73.0.1234) and the password is your postcode.

Jonathan Storey
secretary@hexhambeekeepers.co.uk