

Minutes of the 143rd Annual General Meeting – 04 December 2021 Held at Richard Mayo Centre, Eden Walk, Kingston Online Zoom Meeting at 2pm - Hosted by Kingston Division

Welcome from Martyn Milner, Chair of Kingston BKA and Tim Lovett, President of Surrey BKA.

The meeting was declared open by Tim Lovett, SBKA President at 14.15 He requested a few moments silence In Memoriam for those we lost during the year. John Hamer, a legend in his own time and a stalwart of beekeeping. As many others, Tim trained at Black Horse Apiary with John. Also Audrey Gill of Reigate and Dennis Scott of Croydon who moved to Cornwall in 1989 who has been remembered. All loyal and knowledgeable beekeepers – our Association thrives on the volunteers.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Keith McMahon, Barry Wood, Bob Barnes, Mike Hill, Chris Rushton, Diane Middlecoat, Gareth Morgan, Steve Derry, Jim Wynn.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online on Saturday 5 December 2020 – accepted and proposed nem com. Minutes signed off by Tim Lovett.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Reported from the Chair – Bob Maurer, provided a full report in advance of the meeting, due to an administrative hitch the report is not online as yet. A hardcopy available on the table at the back of the Hall with copies of all other reports.

Key Points:

The recent sad loss of John Hamer and Dennis Scott.

The continued resilience of associations and enterprising divisions liaising with international speakers to provide online events for members.

The ongoing work of the Surrey BKA to ensure the administrative matters are dealt with on behalf of the divisions including capitation, Gift Aid and its application, voting instructions for BBKA ADM.

BM thanked those who had helped SBKA over the year, including Council Trustees and Divisional Delegates, Penny McMahon, Mike Hill especially with eR2 and Julie Hogarth. Also thanks to Celia Perry, Andrew Gibb and Michael Main for their continued support.

04 December 2021



Mollie Bonard retired from her role as National Honey Show representative, Julie Hogarth has taken over the role. The National Council has an advisory purpose at the National Honey Show. Quick update on the purpose of the county classes. The original purpose was to provide a stage for county associations who didn't have their own county show and to encourage others to participate. This has changed over the years, there is nothing preventing Surrey from removing / adding or re-purposing a Surrey class, these options are always available.

The purpose of SBKA – a registered charity, each division is asked to provide a Trustee – in addition, the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary are also Trustees. Each division also elects a Representative whose role is to put forward the views of their Division and report back on the activities of each Council meeting. Representatives are elected at Divisional AGM's. The SBKA Council sends a Representative to the BBKA Annual Delegate meeting to vote as decided in discussion at SBKA meetings. A pyramid system for members opinions passed to county and then national level – conclusions are passed back down the line. Every member has the opportunity to make his or her opinion known.

A return to BBKA exams and assessments during the year including virtual modules, followed by practical assessments later in the year. BM encouraged all beekeepers to work toward taking a module.

Post meeting note: Geoff Redwood (Chair) stood down at Farnham and welcome to John Fail as new Chair.

Archivist role remains open, please contact Julie Hogarth if you or another member is interested in the role.

BM presented a number of Award Certificates (re-introduced for Surrey members) won at the National Honey Show, included: David Parker, Steve Kearney (collected by Paul Kearney), Tracey Carter (collected by Derek Read).

Recognition of the many creative ways divisions found to keep our beekeeping going during the first half of the season and when possible providing a Covid safe environment for members to meet in person.

BM asked if there were any questions. No hands raised.

5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts

The Treasurer, Penny McMahan (PMcM) confirmed the Report and Accounts of the Central Fund and Consolidated Accounts made available in advance of the meeting on the SBKA website.

The Central Fund's main purposes are to collect capitation fees from the 8 divisions and pay the fees to the BBKA. Year ending 30 September 2021 SBKA collected and paid a total of £20,208 in capitation fees to BBKA. Breakdown of fees - £19 for registered members, £12.50 for partner members and £9.50 for junior members. Year ending 30 September 2022 the capitation fees will increase to £21 for registered members, £13.50 for Partner members, £9.50 for junior members and £10 for county members.

The second purpose of the Central Fund is to provide funding to further the aims of the Association which are to promote and further the craft of beekeeping in Surrey. In 2021 SBKA provided funds of £360 for educational activities and also made a donation of £250 to Wild Survivors.

At 30 September 2021 the Central Fund assets totalled £35,175, these assets are held to provide financial underwriting for divisions and to fund future projects within Surrey and beyond.

04 December 2021



The Consolidated Accounts for year ending 30 September 2021 summarise the total income and expenditure and total assets for all divisions within Surrey. During the year the Association made a surplus of £8,343 and at 30 September 2020 totalled £410,605. As SBKA is a registered charity these accounts can also be found on the Charity Commission website.

Any questions. No hands raised

Acceptance of Report & Accounts

Proposed by: Clive Mence

Seconded by: Gill Futcher

TL thanked PMcM for her important and continued contribution throughout the year.

6. Committee Reports

a) County Show Committee

Report on SBKA website. Summarised by Bob Maurer. No Surrey County Show and no update on whether the Show will be held in 2022. The SBKA Surrey County Show committee organised a Surrey Honey Show – hosted by Reigate. For the first time in 43 years Reigate won the Vincent Cup (most points won), with Weybridge and Kingston close behind.

The event made a loss as no Straw Draw and Honey sales to support the event.

No questions raised.

b) Membership Secretary

Report to be uploaded to Surrey BKA website. Mike Hill unable to attend the meeting. TL summarised the growing number of members across all divisions. An additional 124 new members compared to previous year.

Surrey is looking very healthy and reflects the growing national interest in beekeeping.

No questions raised.

7. Delegates' Reports

a) BBKA ADM Delegate

Bob Maurer attended ADM January 2021 – (full report available online Surrey BKA website).

The online meeting lasted 6.5 hours.

Capitation increase from £19.50 to £21 commencing 2022.

BBKA now a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation).

Key issue – Voting. From an organisation with 45 area Associations, there are now 70+ area Associations – smaller Associations would like the same voting rights as the larger Associations. The current system enables larger Associations to request a members vote. Alternative proposed, adoption of the Penrose Voting System – this was not accepted. It will be another 3 years before a proposition on this subject can be put forward again. The members voting system retained.

2022 will be a hybrid meeting. SBKA delegates (BM and TL) have concerns about this, 15 delegates will attend in-person. In person delegates at Stoneleigh who wished to speak were required to leave their seating area and move to a table set up with a microphone – poor technical arrangement. At the next SBKA Council meeting BM will be instructed by Trustees and Representatives on the various propositions.

04 December 2021



No further questions raised.

b) BDI Representative

Report by Andrew Gibb (AG) is available on Surrey BKA website.

Key points - current BDI funding research projects are:

- A four-year research project funded by BDI into Varroa resistance, carried out by Professor Stephen Martin and PhD student Isobel Grindrod at the University of Salford, describes how bees are evolving to remove the mite. The paper, published in August 2021, is in the Royal Society journal Proceedings B, <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.1375>
- In conjunction with the National Bee Unit (NBU), funding a two-year trial of Whole Apiary Shook Swarming 2021-22. The new Whole Apiary Shook Swarm trial is offered for all colonies and equipment (eg frames, comb etc) stored in the infected apiary when at least one colony has been confirmed as having European foulbrood (EFB) by an Authorised Bee Inspector (ABI). The Whole Apiary Shook Swarm must be completed within two weeks of confirmation of disease. Queenless colonies or those with a virgin queen must be united with colonies headed by a queen in full lay.

The National Bee Unit states: *“Trials have shown that shaking bees onto new foundation and then destroying the old combs can be beneficial when controlling EFB. This procedure is known as Shook Swarming and it may also be beneficial in controlling Nosema spp., chalk brood and Varroa mite populations. Colonies treated in this way often become the strongest and most productive in an apiary. Some beekeepers are now using this system to replace all the old brood combs in a beehive within a single procedure.”*

- Since the arrival of the Varroa mite from Asia, millions of honey bee colonies have died. For decades, beekeepers have continued to control Varroa populations by the use of chemicals and other invasive methods. However, throughout Africa and most of South and Central America mite-infested colonies survive without any form of mite-control. This has been linked with poor mite reproduction, although what causes this has remained unknown. Throughout Europe, the USA and Wales an increasing number of naturally evolved, mite-tolerant colonies are being discovered.

Professor Stephen Martin and his team of researchers at the University of Salford - supported by BDI and the BBKA - aims to understand why some honey bee colonies have become naturally tolerant to Varroa and to see if this information can provide beekeepers with a long-term solution to the problem.

- Supporting Deformed Wing Virus Research - at BDI's AGM on June 4, 2021, Dr Kirsty Stainton from The Pirbright Institute talked about honey bee viruses. She introduced the scope of a PhD studentship starting in October 2021, jointly sponsored by BDI and the BBKA, which will use cell lines for comparative analysis of DWV strains.

No questions raised.

TL thanked AG for preparing the report.

04 December 2021



c) BeeCraft Representative

Report by Bob Maurer as representative Michael Main (MM) unable to attend the AGM. Report available on Surrey BKA website.

Key Points: Surrey is the second largest shareholder of BeeCraft. The magazine is doing very well printing 4,500 pm plus digital. Seeking to increase distribution – brainstorming session held on how to achieve this. Work is ongoing.

Two new Directors elected, Dale Gibson, co-owner of Bermondsey Street Bees and Julian Barlow, marketing expert.

No questions raised.

TL thanked BM for preparing the report.

d) Exam Secretary

Report by Celia Perry (CP) is available on Surrey BKA website.

Key Points:

Modules normally held in March delayed until April 2021 to allow the Examinations Board time to get the online system up and running. For the first time candidates were able to complete the examinations online. 25 candidates passed a total of 28 modules in April.

40 candidates passed the Basic Assessment, 16 passed the Bee Health Assessment, 3 candidates passed the General Husbandry Assessment and 1 candidate passed the Advanced Husbandry Assessment. 7 of the 8 divisions entered candidates for the Basic Assessment and 4 divisions had candidates taking the Bee Health Assessment.

Thank you to the assessors who carry out the practical assessments, from within Surrey and further afield and the divisions who host candidates who for various reasons are unable to take assessments with their own divisions.

Question raised by TL – how many beekeepers in Surrey have now passed the Basic Assessment. CP confirmed the information is held on eR2 – however, some of the candidates named, may have died.

TL thanked CP for preparing the report.

e) Asian (Yellow Legged) Hornet Report

Report by Jim Wynn (JW) available on Surrey BKA website. Unable to attend the meeting.

Key Points: 2 confirmed sightings in 2021 – with only 3 confirmed sightings in the last 2 years. Will be interesting, once analysed, to find out where the Ascot yellow legged hornets originated from.

All member to be encouraged to download the Asian Hornet Watch app to their smart phones and post identification charts where possible.

Request for all divisions to promote the AHAT website <https://www.ahat.org.uk/get-involved> which has all of the information needed to identify and report and suggestions about how to raise awareness.

No questions raised.

04 December 2021



TL thanked JW for preparing the report.

8. Election of Officers

a) President – No vote required

b-g) TL proposed that election of Officers b) to g) be elected 'en bloc'.

Treasurer: Penny McMahon

Secretary: Julie Hogarth

Membership Secretary: Michael Hill

Exam Secretary: Celia Perry

Independent Examiner: Chris Tomaszewski

Webmaster: Colin Marshall

Proposed by: Gill Futchter (Epsom)

Seconded by: Marion Cooper (Weybridge)

Accepted nem con

9. Election of Trustees

Tim Lovett asked that election of the Trustees a) to h) be elected 'en bloc'. The candidates for the role of Trustee and nominated by their divisions were:

Croydon	Derek Read
Epsom	Diane Middlecoat
Farnham	Rosalind Clague
Guildford	Malcolm Clarke
Kingston	Martyn Milner
Reigate	Richard Bradfield
Weybridge	Jane Hunter
Wimbledon	Steve Derry

Proposed by: Nick O'Toole (Croydon)

Seconded by: Gill Futchter (Epsom)

Accepted nem con

10. Election of Representatives

Tim Lovett asked that election of the Representatives a) to d) be elected 'en bloc'.

The candidates for the Surrey BKA Representatives proposed were:

BBKA ADM	Bob Maurer
BDI	Andrew Gibb
BeeCraft	Michael Main
National Honey Show	Andrew Gibb, Julie Hogarth

Proposed by: Derek Read (Croydon)

Seconded by: Jonathan Brookhouse (Guildford)

Accepted nem con

04 December 2021



11. Any Other Business

Penny McMahon and Tim Lovett apologised for leaving the meeting at the close of the formalities due to other commitments. Wished all present a happy and healthy New Year.

1. Malcolm Clarke (Guildford) requested a Gift Aid update.

BM answered: slow progress, however a solution to overcome the issue has been proposed to HMRC. BeeCraft to be removed from the Gift Aid claim. To do this all divisions membership application forms to be updated to ensure it is very clear what Gift Aid includes.

David Parker (Weybridge) requested Surrey BKA provide the appropriate statement in writing to all divisions. BM confirmed he will consult with PMcM on this matter.

Post meeting note – statement to be discussed at next quarterly council meeting – 13 January 2022.

2. Clive Mence (Kingston) – BDI request an estimated number of colonies to be insured 12 months in advance. This is not always possible so is there an alternative?

David Parker (Weybridge) confirmed like all insurance companies they require an in advance estimate based on expected needs. A best guess is required.

BM confirmed this matter will be added to the next quarterly council meeting – 13 January 2022.

Post meeting note 2022 Surrey BKA to be hosted by Reigate.

The meeting was closed at 3.10pm for afternoon tea, followed by a presentation by Jack Silberrad - Rural & Urban Beekeeper on Hygienic Bees – Varroa resistance in your hives.

The meeting closed at 16.45.

Approved by:

Signature:

Date:

