

Minutes of the 144th Annual General Meeting – 03 December 2022
Held at 2pm Henfold Apiary, Reigate
Hosted by Reigate Division

Welcome from Richard Bradfield, Chair of Reigate BKA and Tim Lovett, President of Surrey BKA.

The meeting was declared open by Tim Lovett, SBKA President. He confirmed that a noun for beekeepers is – ‘An Argument’ and thanked Richard Bradfield and Reigate for hosting the event. He commented that the facilities provided by Reigate were a massive achievement and congratulated them on their accomplishment and hard work to raise the funds for their apiary – which show what can be achieved.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Bob Barnes, John Fail, Michael Main, Sally Bishop, Rosalind Clague, Mike Hill.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online on Saturday 4 December 2021 – 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 and confirmed all reports are available on the SBKA website.

Key Points:

- After 15 years positive outcome with Gift Aid.
- The sad news received of the loss of Wimbledon member, Mr Norman Chapman, at the age of 98.
- Pleased to welcome Kathy O’Toole as new membership secretary and a huge thank you to Mike Hill standing down as SBKA membership secretary and particularly so for his perseverance with eR2.
- Thank you to Jim Wynn who supported the SBKA through Covid and ensured our meetings continued and who has supported the challenge faced by Asian Hornet.
- Thank you to Alex de Salis – his invaluable assistance to resolve website issues and his plans for the SBKA to improve the website without upstaging divisional websites. Thank you to Colin Marshall who provided support for SBKA website but was unable to continue.

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- Thank you to Diane Middleton, stepping down as Epsom Trustee, and the role taken up by Gill Futcher. Stuart Gendall is the new Chair of Epsom.
- Big thank you to Penny McMahon our Treasurer and Julie Hogarth Honorary Secretary.
- Sadly the Surrey County Show at Stoke Park is unlikely to be held again. However, SBKA continue to run their own very successful Blue Ribbon Honey Show for members.

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.

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

Vote to accept the report:

Proposed by: Celia Perry (Reigate)
 Seconded by: Gill Futcher (Epsom)
 Accepted nem con

Tim Lovett comments – welcome to Alex and complimentary remarks on the new look of the SBKA website.

5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts

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

Thank you to all divisional Treasurer's for all their hard work.

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 2022 SBKA collected and paid a total of £22,466 in capitation fees to BBKA.

At 30 September 2022 the Central Fund assets totalled £35,515 these assets are held to provide financial underwriting for divisions and to fund future projects within Surrey and beyond.

The Consolidated Accounts for year ending 30 September 2021 summarise the total income and expenditure and total assets for all divisions within Surrey. The Association funds totalled £439,96.00 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: Kathy O'Toole (Croydon)
 Seconded by: Richard Snelling (Croydon)
 Accepted nem con

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

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6. Committee Reports

a) County Show Committee

Report on SBKA website. Summarised by Bob Maurer. In May 2022 the last employee of Surrey County Agricultural Show left. There are funds remaining in the account but insufficient to run a show.

Equipment stored at Stoke Park has now been re-located to Reigate. Thank you to all involved in the relocation and storage of the equipment.

At this year's Surrey Honey Show there were over 200 entries, more than Stoke Park. Resources to run the show are significant, venue, judges, catering, volunteers – the funding raised at Stoke Park to support the resourcing cannot be repeated at Reigate. In 2021 the show had a loss of approximately £1,000 even though Honey Show committee members attended Claygate Village to raise funds – a huge ask of the committee.

Consideration request for each division to pay £100 each to cover show expenses – there are some reserves of approximately £5k insufficient to ensure a longer term legacy. Discussion to use South East of England as a alternative show, however few divisions in Surrey support the show. The show is held in June – a difficult time to encourage honey and associated products for show entries.

Open to questions:

General comments - £100 from each division appears to be a good idea.

Jane Hunter (Weybridge) suggested alternative venue, Wisley RHS.
Commentary from group - Surrey Bees associated with this venue previously.

Open to further comments from others. Confirmed SBKA Council Meeting in January 2022 and Honey Show 'Wash Up' meeting in February 2022 to follow up on options.

b) Membership Secretary

Mike Hill provided latest membership spreadsheet – available on the SBKA website. Kathy O'Toole commented that she's waiting for Job Description.

No questions raised.

7. Delegates' Reports

a) BBKA ADM Delegate

Bob Maurer attended ADM January 2022 – (full report available online Surrey BKA website). Key highlights:

- Hybrid meeting with 60 participants online
- 10 participants present at the venue – held at Stoneleigh with the Executive committee
- President expressed wish for face-to-face meetings – however cost of almost £7k to host in person.
- George Knights Award won by SBKA for best performance in exams above 'basic' - £200 cheque awarded.
- SBKA had 45 Basic Assessment candidates. Yorkshire had 60 which has a larger membership group.
- Laddington recognised as a new area Association with 130 members.
- Adulteration of Honey concerns to be taken forward

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- BBKA to support awareness and education events of Asian Hornet and promote events.
- Trustees to serve a 3 year term – all in parallel, removal of staggering term dates.

No questions raised.

b) BDI Representative

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

Key points:

- AFB and EFB – over last 6 years an increase in both diseases from just over 30,000 in 2017 to just under 40,000 in 2022 (peak in 2021 of just under 50,000).
- Varroa resistance increasing – bees are evolving to remove the mite.

No questions raised.

TL thanked AG for preparing the report.

c) BeeCraft Representative

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

Key Points:

- Surrey shareholding of 460 shares (just over 7%).
- 2021 recognised as difficult year due to covid, however able to produce a magazine throughout the year.
- 31 December 2021 made a small profit of £2,388 (2020 £4,631).

No questions raised.

TL thanked MM for preparing the report.

d) Exam Secretary

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

Key Points:

- Candidates for the basic assessment from seven of the eight of Surrey divisions. 45 candidates (up 5 from last year) took and passed the basic assessment, with 11 of those candidates achieving a distinction and 25 a credit. Over 50% of those candidates came from just 2 divisions.
- Special mention should be made of Kingston BKA who fielded 5 candidates for the junior assessment this year and all 5 candidates passed.
- Four candidates took and passed the Honey Bee Health practical assessment. 2 candidates from Epsom, 1 from Guilford and 1 from Wimbledon BKA.
- Two beekeepers passed the General Husbandry assessment in the Summer and as a result one of those beekeepers has now achieved the BBKA status of Qualified Beekeeper.
- One beekeeper, Gareth Morgan from Wimbledon BKA, passed the Advanced Husbandry Assessment and as a result is now a Master Beekeeper.
- Decision made to continue with in person examinations.

Thank you to Espom division for continued use of their facilities and the many volunteer assessors.

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Question raised by Richard Whitehead – online exams only in future?

CP confirmed in person exams will be retained however, a minimum of x4 candidates required. Reigate will provide the venue from 2023.

Confirmed all new Guildford members will be required to complete the Basic – this will increase numbers attending exams.

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:

- Encourage all associations to ask members to take the Asian Hornet exercise and publicise the AH team map - <https://www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-action-team-map>
- 2 confirmed sightings of Asian hornet in the UK in 2022. Total of 23 confirmed sightings of Asian hornet since 2016. This figure includes a total of 13 nests, all of which were destroyed.

No questions raised.

Acceptance of all reports:

Proposed by: Stuart Gendall (Epsom)

Seconded by: Andrew Halstead (Weybridge)

Accepted nem con

8. Election of Officers

President & Chair – No vote required (next vote President – 2023)

a-f) TL proposed that election of Officers a) b) d) e) elected 'en bloc'.

Treasurer: Penny McMahon

Secretary: Julie Hogarth

Membership Secretary: Kathy O'Toole (new Officer)

Exam Secretary: Celia Perry

Independent Examiner: Chris Tomaszewski

Webmaster: Alex de Salis (new Officer)

Proposed by: Nick O'Toole (Croydon)

Seconded by: Gareth Morgan (Wimbledon)

Accepted nem con

Election of new Officer c)

Proposed by: Debbie Staines (Croydon)

Seconded by: Gill Futhcer (Epsom)

Accepted nem con

Election of new officer f)

Proposed by: Derek Read (Croydon)

Seconded by: Kathy O'Toole (Croydon)

Accepted nem con

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9. Election of Trustees

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

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

Proposed by: Marion Cooper (Weybridge)
Seconded by: Jonathan Brookhouse (Guildford)
Accepted nem con

Election of new Trustee b)
Proposed by: Nick O'Toole (Croydon)
Seconded by: Stuart Gendall (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: Andrew Halstead (Weybridge)
Seconded by: Richard Bradfield (Reigate)
Accepted nem con

11. Any Other Business

TL reminded all present of the Spring Convention at Harper Adams on 21-23 April 2023 – recommended attendance.

Alex de Salis asked members to share their information with him to upload to the SBKA website – webmaster@surreybeekeepers.co.uk

Richard Whitehead requested dates for SBKA quarterly meetings – confirmed these are subject to change to ensure maximum attendance of Representative and Trustees. Dates can be confirmed with his divisional Rep and Trustee.

Richard Snelling thanked all the SBKA committee.

2023 Surrey BKA to be hosted by Weybridge 02 December.

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The formal meeting closed at 3.15pm for afternoon tea, followed by a presentation by Dr Vince Gallo – Hexagons and the Wonder of Comb

The meeting closed at approximately 16.45.

Approved by:

Signature:

Date:

