



## **BBKA ADM 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Abbreviated Report for Surrey BKA**

Here are the basic notes summarising the events of the 2024 ADM. You will get a better overview by reading the 'full fat' notes.

**Meeting Chaired by Anne Rowberry, President of the BBKA.**

### **Apologies**

Clare Waring, Ivor Davis, Avis Marshall, Martin Tovey

A moment to remember notable people who died in the last 12 months.

Ron Hoskins Ian Homer Sarah Snelson – BBKA employee

Michelle Walsh (BBKA office team) appointed teller using eR2

Vote for teller Accepted. 63 for.

Adoption of standing orders vote 65 for Against 0

Surrey requested a point of order to re-order the propositions.

We wanted to re-order proposition 13, submitted by Hampshire and seconded by Surrey, to re-introduce face to face meetings as it had been cynically placed as the final proposition of the meeting when all the delegates would be tired and disinterested.

Vote for point of order. For 22. Against 37 Abstain 5. Point of order failed and the proposition remains at the end of the meeting.

However, the President was happy to re-order another proposition to suit her purposes.

### **Approval of minutes**

For 65 Against 0 Abstain 0

Matters arising – none

Anne ran through the actions taken following the 2023 propositions.

### **Annual reports**

Trustees reports

Asian Hornet

Communications

Education and Husbandry  
Research, technical and environmental  
Shows  
Standing orders and governance  
Spring convention  
eR2  
International Meeting of Young Beekeepers

No questions on any of them

Vote to accept reports For 65 Against 0. Abstain 0

Exam board report – no questions

Vote For 65 Against 0 Abstain 0

### **Exam Results**

Robert Hammond Award for best intermediate candidate - Gwen Walton – Lancashire BKA

Wax Chandlers Award – best Master Beekeeper 2023 - Stephen Green, Gloucestershire BKA

George Knights award for best performance above basic. Association receives £200. -  
Shropshire North

Surrey Shield – best performance at basic assessments. (Most passes) Yorkshire

David Charles Award - Area association with highest percentage of membership with basic  
awards: Shropshire North (this is a new award)

Bee Health Award for the association with most Honey Bee Health awards. Jersey

Tim Lovett asked what is the difference between the Surrey Shield and the David Charles  
Award?

Marin Anastasov (Exam Board chair) said the Surrey Shield will now be for the highest  
number of passes and the David Charles Award will be for highest percentage of passes.

Slough. Yorkshire has 2000 members so will always win. It's a problem. (He's right.)

Response from Marin (Exam Board) It was a Yorkshire proposition in a previous meeting and  
the meeting accepted it! I have no recollection of this.

This is a great shame as it undermines the spirit of the Surrey Shield. It's not what we  
intended and we need to consider our position here.

During the year the following certificates were presented:

Intermediate theory 38  
Advanced theory 23  
Master Beekeepers 7

### **Mark Hunter – Finance report**

£18,672 loss in 2023 - predicted loss was £72,887 so he is not disappointed with this result. Pointedly mentioned it didn't include the £16,000 predicted cost if delegates came to a face to face meeting. The EC seems lined up to oppose a face-to-face meeting.

Reserves at 30.9.23 £1,322,399

Changed investment manager to Evelyn Partners Investment Managers Ltd.

£520,000 invested at the moment.

2024 budget - Mark budgets for a £67,259 deficit.

Income and capital returns should be better.

Wanted to support members by not increasing capitation.

2015 and 2021 were last time subs were increased. Subs have dropped behind. Sounds like a signal that capitation will go up in 2025.

There is a budget for Asian hornet strategies.

Mark is happy with strength of finances. The Auditor is happy.

Re-appoint auditors

Harrison Beale

Vote For 65 Against 0 Abstain 0

Accept BBKA budget

For 62 Against 1 Abstain 2

### **Elections**

Prof Martin Smith was elected Fellow of the BBKA

Vote For 64 Against 0 Abstain 1

Avis Marshall – Apiculturae Maxime Se Dedit

For services as workshop convenor at the Spring Convention.

Michael Badger – award for 70 years long service to BBKA

Unfortunately Michael's wife was unwell and he was not able to attend in person to receive his award.

Stephen Barnes – vote to elect him President

For 59 2 Against 4 Abstain 2.

### **Trustees**

4 vacancies for 3 years  
1 vacancy for 2 years  
1 vacancy for 1 year

Alan Rowse 43 votes 1 year  
Luke Whyatt. 46 votes 2 years  
Philip Rogers 61 votes 3 years  
Richard Oliver 60 votes 3 years  
Warwick Newsom. 59 votes 3 years  
Toby Chapman-Dawe 58 votes 3 years

### **Exam Board**

3 vacancies for a 3 year term  
3 vacancies for a 2 year term

Gareth Morgan. 61 votes 3 years  
Marin Anastasov 58 votes 1 year as that is all he is allowed to serve.  
Stephen Derry and Andrew Gibb both received 57 votes. toss of coin, heads appointed for 3 years, tails appointed for 2 years.  
Stephen Derry won and receives a 3 year term.  
Andrew Gibb 57 votes receives a 2 year term.  
Jennifer Morgan 56 votes receives 2 year term  
Shirley Bond 58 votes received 3 year term

Bees for Development - application to be a specialist member  
For 60 Against 2 Abstain 3

New Forrest BKA had applied for AAM status but withdrew their application.

Anne Rowberry announced she intends to reorder the propositions to take all exam board propositions together. Proposition 11 goes to position 3

**Proposition 2024/1-** BBKA Executive Committee That an additional clause be added to 14.4 (Appointment of Charity Trustees) after clause (a):(b)In circumstances where the number of nominees is equal to or fewer than the number of vacancies, then the nominee will need to receive 51% of the votes available. When considering the number of votes available, it will be based on the number of AAM's in attendance at the ADM.

For 37 Against 25 Abstain 3 Passed but referred to EC

**Proposition 2024/2** – Cumbria The BBKA starts to take action on the matter of adulterated honey and does not rely on the actions of central Government. Amendment added to include the word 'fake'.

For 58 Against 6 Abstain 1 Motion passed. (Surrey against)

**Proposition 2024/11** - Moved by Anne Rowberry to position 3 in the list of propositions in order to take a number of Exam Board related propositions in one block.

Gloucestershire - That the BBKA, through its Examinations Board, applies for external accreditation of its beekeeping qualifications by Ofqual, or an alternative accreditation body. In the event the cost of the accreditation exceeds £2,000 p/a, or in the event the application is rejected, the findings and recommendations to be brought back to the 2025 ADM.

Vote For 53 Against 8 Abstain 4 Proposition passed.

**Proposition 2024/3** - Lancashire - That a new clause be inserted in the constitution:13.4 Nomination and Election of Trustees (EC) and Examinations Board Members (e) An elected member, moderator or assistant moderator of the Examinations Board cannot serve as a BBKA Trustee at the same time. Additionally, clause 20.7 will need to be modified: ' Any issues of contention or dissatisfaction between the EC and the Examinations Board will be referred to the President of the BBKA for a ruling which shall be final and binding. Should the President be a member of the Examinations Board, the Chair will make a ruling. 'Estimated costs: Admin time only. Supporting Notes: This would remove any conflict of interest.

For 50 Against 12 Abstain 3. Passed. 81% (75% needed as it is a change to the constitution)

**Proposition 2024/4** - Yorkshire That the Examinations Board be brought under greater control of the Executive Committee (EC) by making it a sub-committee.

Vote for 43 Against 17 Abstain 5 72 % for so this fails on delegate vote  
Membership vote called by Isle of Man. Surrey vote against  
For 18134. 8000 ag. 995 ab. 69%. For 31% against Needs 75% so fails.

**Proposition 2024/5** - Yorkshire That the Examinations Board's budget be agreed by the Executive Committee (EC) and held by the BBKA Chair.

Vote. For 54 5 against 5 abstain. Passed as not a constitutional issue so just needs a majority.

**Proposition 2024/6** - Yorkshire - Examinations Board moderators shall be appointed by the Executive Committee (EC) on recommendation by the Examinations Board. Estimated costs: Admin time only. Supporting Notes: The role of Examinations Board moderators is critical to the smooth running of the examinations process and as such the EC should have oversight. This proposition would have been withdrawn if Yorkshire's substantive proposition (above) had passed. Executive Committee Comments: The Executive Committee supports this proposition.

Vote For 52 Against 8 Abstain 4 Passed

**Proposition 2024/7** - Lancashire That the Examinations Board remove the statement 'The Examinations Board recommends that candidates should be Master Beekeepers' from the Examinations Board Nomination Form.

For 51 Against 11 Abstain 1 Amended proposition passes.

**Proposition 2024/8** - Lancashire That the Examinations Board approves more assessors for the Basic and Bee Health Assessments. Any member who passes the General Husbandry certificate should be offered the opportunity of becoming an assessor.

Vote For 57 Against 8 abstain 0 Proposition passed.

**Proposition 2024/9** - Lancashire That the Examination Board tailor the requirements of post Basic assessments to be achievable by the wider BBKA membership that typically have 2-3 hives.

Vote for 46 Against 18 Abstain 1 Proposition passed.

Note – post meeting the chair of the Exam Board told me the Exam board has a number of new assessments under consideration and they could include a 'bye' from certain sections of the General Husbandry in the same way that a microscopy certificate gives a bye from the microscopy element of the Advanced Husbandry.

**Proposition 2024/10** - Lancashire - That the BBKA clarifies the position regarding the use of Oxalic Acid as a varroacide in the light of the availability of propriety forms being available and the wide use of generic Oxalic Acid preparations used by beekeepers.

Vote For 36 Against 26 Abstain 3

**Proposition 2024/12** - West Sussex That the EC ensures that all members of the BBKA with up to and including 39 hives are fully covered by the BBKA Third Party Public and Product Liability Insurance.

For 62 Against 2 Abstain 1 Proposition passes.

**Proposition 2024/13** - Hampshire That the BBKA resumes face-to-face Annual Delegate Meetings with immediate effect with only delegates present in person able to participate in discussions. However, provision should be made for those delegates who choose not to attend in person to observe the full proceedings together with an on-line voting system accessible to all ADM delegates regardless of their physical location.

Proposition withdrawn by Hampshire. Vote to withdraw. For 38 Against 26 Abstain 1.

Anne Rowberry presented the Presidential chain of office to Stephen Barnes who received a round of applause. She then closed the meeting at 4.28pm

Anne Rowberry wanted to continue with an informal vote on returning to face-to-face meetings (whipped up by Stephen Barnes and Leigh Sidaway). This was 'to help inform the trustees'. A number of us in the room voiced our contempt for this 'kangaroo' vote and

walked out. Their objective to discredit any further discussion of face-to-face meetings was blatant. Unsurprisingly the vote was overwhelmingly against a face-to-face meeting as those in favour had left. BBKA will now use this as evidence that there is no appetite for change. The non-binding 'vote' result was 3 in favour of face to face, 48 against and 4 abstentions. At least ten delegates (including Surrey) declined to vote.

With the meeting closed, the on-line meeting was allowed to continue for about 10 minutes with no control by a moderator. The Cumbria delegate orchestrated a discussion which included insults aimed at individuals. In my view that was totally unacceptable. We need to consider how to respond.

Bob Maurer Chairman – Surrey Beekeepers Association and ADM delegate 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

chairman@surreybeekeepers.org.uk

07740 707500