

**Minutes of the 146th Annual General Meeting  
07 December 2024 at 2.30pm  
Held at Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club Ltd  
Hosted by Wimbledon Beekeepers Association**

Welcome from Paul Kearney, Chair of Wimbledon BKA and Tim Lovett, President of Surrey BKA.

The meeting was declared open by Tim Lovett, SBKA President.

Tim thanked Paul Kearney and Wimbledon for hosting the event.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Debbie Burney, Steve Derry, Jane Satchwell, Malcolm Clarke, Jonathan Brookhouse, Rosalind Clague, Keith McMahon, Bob Barnes, Martyn Milner.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2 December 2023 to be accepted.

Proposed by: Richard Snelling (Croydon)

Seconded by: Richard Bradfield (Reigate)

Accepted non com. Minutes signed off by Tim Lovett.

**3. Matters Arising**

Tim presented the BBKA Apiculturae Maxime Se Dedit Certificate to Avis Marshall (Kingston). A service certificate given by the BBKA to recognise her work as Workshop Convenor at the Spring Convention over 10 years. On an annual basis Avis organised 30-40 speakers, workshops and lectures, it started with a conversation at a Tiffin School Fair when Tim asked Avis to support with the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show (both Kingston members), this was followed with a request to join the Spring Convention team.

**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:**

- Avis Marshall receiving the award of Apiculturae Maxime Se Dedit Certificate, translates to 'she gave her best for beekeeping'. Avis was unable to be present at the 2024 BBKA ADM in January when the award was announced, delighted our President Tim Lovett was able to present the award at this year's AGM.
- Surrey BKA Council met four times during the year by Zoom. One of the main topics of discussion this year was how best to support our Asian hornet team. Commended Helen Worwood and her team for all their hard work. Also discussed capitation, our voting instructions to our delegate at the BBKA AGM (subject of a separate report) and many other topics.

- Thank you to all our Surrey BKA trustees and divisional representatives for your constructive contributions and my special thanks to Hon Secretary Julie Hogarth, Treasurer Penny McMahon and our Membership Secretary Kathy O’Toole for all the hard work.
- Sadly, saying goodbye to Penny who has been a wonderful treasurer of Surrey BKA for the past decade. Organised, unflappable and always cheerful and a joy to work with. On behalf of all council members thank Penny for all she has done and wishing her well in the future. Confirmed and welcomed new treasurer, Dr Vince Gallo, currently treasurer of Reigate BKA.
- Changes at divisional level: Jonathan Brookhouse, Guildford Chair, thank you for your long service on the SBKA Council. Gill Simpson, the representative for Reigate BKA standing down, thank you for all you have done. In Gill’s place, welcome Sue Scates as the new Reigate representative. The divisional representatives are a vital part of the flow of information from ground roots to national level and back.
- Alex de Salis has done a great job as SBKA webmaster. If you need any website help or want to add anything to the Surrey website please contact Alex, thank you Alex. The county website is a ‘portal’ with the main aim of driving enquiries to the appropriate division. It is in no way intended to compete with the excellent divisional websites
- Referenced annually - 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.
- Surrey BKA members again produced some impressive results in the BBKA exams and assessments in 2024. 34 members passed their Basic Assessment in 2024. Thank you to Exam Secretary, Celia Perry for her meticulous management of the exam system and of course well done to all our successful candidates.
- For the 4th year running we held a successful Surrey Honey Show for members. It is the subject of another report but congratulations to Chief Steward Mike Axford. Grateful thanks to Daphne Thomas, our show bench secretary and Michael Main, show committee member and a past Chief Steward who are standing down from the show committee. Well done to all concerned – entrants and organisers.
- In 2024, BBKA celebrated their 150th Anniversary. In 2028 Surrey Beekeepers’ Association will do the same. John Mayne (Croydon division) is looking at how we could make this a very special year. If you have any thoughts do please contact him.
- Andrew Gibb to stand down as BDI representative in 2025 – we are seeking another volunteer for this role. A Job Description is available with full details of the role.

No questions.

TL vote to accept the report  
 Proposed by: Stuart Gendall (Epsom)  
 Seconded by: Gill Futcher (Epsom)  
 Accepted nem con

## 5. Treasurer’s Report & Accounts

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Penny McMahon's (PMcM) final year as Treasurer, under the constitution there is a limit of 10 years in the role. From 2025 new Treasurer, Vince Gallo.

The Accounts for the SBKA Central Fund and the SBKA Consolidated Accounts have been uploaded to the SBKA website.

Central Fund's main purposes are twofold:

- To collect capitation fees for the eight divisions and pay these fees to BBKA. During year ending 30 September 2024 SBKA collected and paid a total of £21,001 in capitation fees to BBKA. Capitation fees were: £21 for Registered members, £13.50 for Partner members, £9.50 for Junior members and £10 for Country members.

Year ending 30 September 2025 the capitation fees will remain at the same rates. In addition, members pay an additional fee to the Central Fund which for the coming year is £2 Registered members and 50p for Partner, Junior and Country members.

- Second purpose of the Central Fund is to provide funding to further aims of the Association which are to promote and further the craft of beekeeping in Surrey. In 2023 the SBKA Central Fund provided funds for educational activities and the sponsorship of a lecture at the National Honey Show. Gift Aid was £17,603. Full details of the ARA available on the SBKA website.

At 30 September 2024 the Central Fund totalled £35,759 these assets are held to provide financial underwriting for divisions and to fund future projects within Surrey and beyond.

The Consolidated Accounts for SBKA for year ending 30 September 2023 can also be found on the SBKA website and these accounts summarise the total income and expenditure and total assets of all eight divisions and the Central Fund. At 30 September 2023 totalled £516,040. As SBKA is a registered charity these accounts can also be found on the Charity Commission website.

No questions.

Acceptance of Central Funds & Consolidated Accounts

Proposed by: Nick O'Toole (Croydon)

Seconded by: Marion Cooper (Weybridge)

Accepted nem con

TL thanked PMcM for her important and continued contribution throughout the year, the reports are perfect and clear. Her support over several years to resolve a number of Gift Aid concerns proved invaluable.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **a) Surrey Show Committee – Mike Axford (Chief Steward)**

Full report available on SBKA website. Key highlights:

- The show this year was held at new venue - Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking on Sunday 1st September. 43 entrants into the show, entering 196 entries, a Blue-Ribbon show.
- Overall winning division, Reigate and for the second year, claimed the Vincent Challenge Cup with 118 points. Kingston came second overall with 62 points, Croydon and Weybridge 60 points each.
- Adela Brnakova, Kingston, won the Ken Reed Trophy with her beeswax entry and came fourth with 21 points in the Composite Cup, this award is for an individual Surrey member with the most points, it was won by John Mayne from Croydon with 49 points.



- Three new junior classes this year, Max Bavington from Reigate, with two matching jars of honey won the new Hederow Cup for most points in the Junior classes.
- Special thanks for all volunteers who helped during the day, very much appreciated.
- Several committee members have moved on due to family commitments and other beekeeping duties; very special thanks goes to Daphne Thomas who ran the show bench so well, Elizabeth Knight who oversaw the straw draw and Michael Main who has served on the committee as Chief Steward for a number of years.
- More support is requested from all Surrey members - both entries and volunteers.

TL thanked MA for preparing the report.

**b) Membership Secretary – Kathy O’Toole (Croydon) (source eR2)**

KoT confirmed verbally 1,013 active members within the Association. A detailed report is available on the website. Screenshot provided below:

**Surrey Membership Report for AGM 2024**  
(as at 14th November)

2024	SBKA	Croydon	Epsom	Farnham	Guildford	Kingston	Reigate	Weybridge	Wimbledon
<b>Total Active Members</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>77</b>
Registered Members	800	82	86	120	144	61	139	97	71
Partner Members	67	6	4	11	9	12	15	7	3
School Members	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Country Members	16	0	12	0	0	0	2	0	2
Junior Members	11	3	0	1	0	5	1	0	1
Honorary Members	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Local Members	117	17	17	21	10	27	13	17	0
2023	SBKA	Croydon	Epsom	Farnham	Guildford	Kingston	Reigate	Weybridge	Wimbledon
(for comparison)									
<b>Total Active Members</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>85</b>
Registered Members	780	76	87	119	115	65	148	104	66
Partner Members	74	4	7	11	8	13	13	10	8
School Members	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Country Members	15	0	5	0	0	2	1	0	7
Junior Members	10	0	0	1	0	5	1	0	3
Honorary Members	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Local Members	104	19	8	18	13	16	13	16	1

No questions.

TL thanked Kathy for all her hard work.

Acceptance of Membership Report

Proposed by: Clare Rawling (Wimbledon)

Seconded by: John Mayne (Croydon)

Accepted nem con

**7. Delegates’ Reports**

**a) BBKA ADM Delegate – Bob Maurer (Reigate)**

Bob Maurer attended ADM 13 January 2024. Report available on the website.

Key highlights:

- Surrey requested a point of order to re-order the propositions. Request to re-order proposition 13, submitted by Hampshire and seconded by Surrey, to re-introduce face to face meetings - it was positioned as the final proposition of the meeting when a number of delegates may have left the online session. Vote for point of order. For 22. Against 37 Abstain 5. Point of order failed and the proposition remained at the end of the meeting.
- Exam Results of Note - Surrey Shield & David Charles Awards
  - 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



Tim Lovett asked for an explanation on the difference between the Surrey Shield and the David Charles Award. Marin Anastasov (Exam Board chair) said the Surrey Shield is for the highest number of passes and the David Charles Award will be for highest percentage of passes. Yorkshire has 2000 members so will always win. A problem that requires further discussion it undermines the spirit of the Surrey Shield.

- Finance Report - Mark Hunter

£18,672 loss in 2023 - predicted loss was £72,887 so he is not disappointed with this result. It excluded the £16,000 predicted cost if delegates attended a face-to-face meetings. Concern with regard to opposition to face-to-face meetings. Reserves at 30.9.23 £1,322,399.

Change of investment manager to Evelyn Partners Investment Managers Ltd. £520,000 invested. 2024 budget - Mark budgets for a £67,259 deficit.

Wants to support members by not increasing capitation. 2015 and 2021 last time subs were increased. Subs have dropped behind. Signal that capitation raise in 2025.

Confirmed budget for Asian hornet strategies. Mark is happy with strength of finances. The Auditor is happy.

- Changes to Exam Board – further details available in the report on the website.
- Adulterated Honey – concerns raised if BBKA will be able to make a difference.

No questions.

TL thanked BM for preparing the report.

## **b) BDI Representative – Andrew Gibb**

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

Key points:

- AFB – no problem.
- EFB – remains a problem.
- The varroa mite, Varroa destructor, is a parasitic mite of adult bees and brood and is notifiable to the NBU via Bee Base (the Animal and Plant Health's National Bee Unit website to help beekeepers) so that its spread can be monitored. Varroa is now considered to be indigenous in the UK.
- Asian Hornet Asian hornet, Vespa velutina, notifiable to the Non-Native Species Secretariat. Monitoring for arrival of this insect is strongly encouraged throughout the UK, but especially in areas where likelihood of arrival is considered to be highest (S & SE England) and this includes the area of Surrey BKA. In the UK, Jersey has the greatest incursion of this insect which destroys and consumes honey bee colonies. No known predator. Up until 2023, the number of Asian hornets found in England relatively small, 2024 significant increase 64 incursions have been reported, predominately in south-east England, gradually spreading further north. Surrey BKA monitoring any incursions carefully and reporting them.
- Small hive beetle or Tropilaelaps - if any member thinks they have seen Tropilaelaps (Tropilaelaps clareae, Tropilaelaps koenigeru) or small hive beetle (Aethina tumida), they need report the sighting immediately to their local bee inspector.

Q: TL - is the BDI considering involvement with YLAH?

A: AG - not as far as he's aware.

No further questions raised.

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TL thanked AG for preparing the report.

**c) BeeCraft Representative – Michael Main (Weybridge)**

Report by Michal Main (MM) available on Surrey website. MM unable to attend, BM provided report highlights.

Key Points:

- Continued restructuring of BeeCraft.
- Subscriptions outsourced to Warner, now back in-house.
- Website development.
- BM has worked on BeeCraft for 15 years. At the AGM in 2025 he will step down.

No questions.

TL thanked BM for his support of BeeCraft and MM for preparing the report.

**d) Exam Secretary – Celia Perry (Reigate)**

Report by Celia Perry (CP) is available on Surrey BKA website. CP unable to attend, BM provided report highlights:

Key Points:

- Croydon division fielded 5 candidates for the junior assessment and all 5 candidates passed.
- Candidates for the Basic Assessment from 7 of the eight of Surrey divisions. In total 33 candidates took and passed the basic assessment, which is 5 fewer candidates than in 2023. 11 of those candidates achieved a distinction and 18 achieved a credit. A credit is awarded when a candidate achieves a pass mark of 75% or more and a distinction is awarded when a candidate achieves a pass mark of 90% or more.
- 14 candidates took and passed the Honey Bee Health practical assessment, which is almost three times the number who passed this assessment in 2023.
- 1 candidate passed the General Husbandry Assessment.
- When combining results for the November 2023 and March 2024 written modules, candidates achieved a total of 20 module passes, which is 7 fewer than last year. Over half the candidates who took a module in March 2024 were awarded a distinction, which means they achieved a mark of 80% or above. When candidates have passed modules 1, 2 and 3 and 1 other, they are awarded an Intermediate theory certificate. As a result of successes in 2023/2024, 4 candidates were awarded the Intermediate theory.
- A change occurred very recently, which should be of interest to anyone thinking about taking the BBKA written module exams, from 19th November 2024, past module question papers are available for download free of charge through BBKA Online Learning platform.
- Thank you to Epsom division for use of their facilities in November and March for the written modules and for providing the responsible person for the November modules.
- Thank you to assessors from Surrey and beyond, for their time taken in assessing candidates in all the practical exams.

No questions.

TL thanked CP for preparing the report.

**e) Asian (Yellow Legged) Hornet Report – Helen Worwood (Epsom) County Co-ordinator**

Full report available on Surrey BKA website. BM praised the YLAH team for a fabulous job, they have full support of the SBKA Committee. TL confirmed the team are working hard. A change in status - a YLAH sub-committee of SBKA. TL has a role on the sub-committee and reports back to the SBKA council.

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Key Activities:

1. Ensuring beekeepers are well informed about Yellow Legged Hornet
2. Informing the public of the risks to the wider ecosystem presented by Yellow Legged Hornet
3. Monitoring for and attending potential sightings to confirm (or not) the presence of Yellow Legged Hornet.

In 2025 developing plans for more bigger and better “Asian Hornet Roadshows” to further inform and educate the wider public about the nuisance and ecological impact this predator will have if it becomes established. Continue to encourage all divisions to share the monthly AHAT newsletter, so we are all kept regularly informed and we encourage all members to read the newsletter and stay aware of the very fluid situation keeping this invasive insect out of Surrey for as long as we possibly can.

No questions.

Acceptance of all reports:

Proposed by: Gill Futcher (Epsom)

Seconded by: Jane Hunter (Weybridge)

Accepted nem con

**8. Election of Officers**

Chairman – Bob Maurer 3-year term (next election Dec 2027)

Accepted nem con

**b-g)** TL proposed that election of Officers elected ‘en bloc’.

Treasurer: Vince Gallo

Secretary: Julie Hogarth

Membership Secretary: Kathy O’Toole

Exam Secretary: Celia Perry

Independent Examiner: Michael Lewin

Webmaster: Alex de Salis

Archivist: Penny McMahan

Accepted nem con

**9. Election of Trustees**

Tim Lovett asked that election of the Trustees a) to h) be elected ‘en bloc’.

Croydon John Mayne

Epsom Gill Futcher

Farnham Rosalind Clague

Guildford Malcolm Clarke

Kingston Martyn Milner

Reigate Richard Bradfield

Weybridge Jane Hunter

Wimbledon Steve Derry

Proposed by: Stuart Gendall (Epsom)

Seconded by: Penny McMahan (Kingston)

Accepted nem con

*TL confirmed his intention to stand down as President at the next AGM.*

**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:

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BBKA ADM                      Bob Maurer  
BDI                                Andrew Gibb (*confirmed his intention to stand down at the next AGM*)  
BeeCraft                        Michael Main  
National Honey Show    Andrew Gibb, Julie Hogarth (*post meeting JH confirmed her intention to stand down at the next AGM*)

Proposed by: Andrew Halstead (Weybridge)  
Seconded by: John Mayne (Croydon)  
Accepted nem con

**11. Any Other Business**

John Mayne requested a representative from each division to assist with plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SBKA and make contact with him.

Alex de Salis – a reminder that he is able to upload information to the SBKA website.

TL thanked everyone for joining the AGM and wished all a very Happy Christmas.

A presentation followed with a gift of thanks to Penny McMahon for her time as Treasurer.

The formal meeting closed at approximately 3.40pm followed by afternoon tea, and a presentation by Dr Jamie Ellis on “The bird and the bees: well, just the bees”

***Post Meeting Note: SBKA AGM 2pm on 06.12.2025 to be hosted by Croydon.***

**Approved by:** .....

**Signature:** .....

**Date:** .....

