

# BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## **'Lite' version covering the basic points.**

9.30am Meeting opened by BBKA President Stephen Barnes

15 delegates present at BBKA headquarters.

49 AAM delegates needed for the meeting to be quorate. 60+ delegates in total.

Acceptance of minutes of 2024 ADM

63 For Against 0

## **Matters arising**

None

## **Actions taken on resolutions from 2024 ADM.**

Noted in papers – no comments.

(ADM papers are available for you to see in the members area on the BBKA News website. You need your 6 digit membership number and postcode to log in. Don't forget the dots between each pair of numbers)

## **Annual Reports:**

See page 31 onwards in ADM papers for the complete reports.

No questions on:

Asian Hornet Report

Communications Committee

E&H

Research

Shows committee

Website

Standing Orders and Governance

Spring Convention

eR2

Shows – comment that BBKA should attend more shows.

John Lauwerys Hampshire BBKA – Shows should rotate across the whole of England.

International Meeting of Young Beekeepers – no report available yet.

Vote to accept reports – For 65 Against 0

## **Exam Board**

No questions

Stephen Barnes thanked Marin Anastasov as he is retiring from the Exam Board having been chair for many years.

## **Examination Results**

Robert Hammond Award for the best intermediate candidate – Louisa Simpson-Brown Lancashire BKA

Wax Chandlers Award for best Master Beekeeper – Elaine Robinson, Yorkshire BKA.

George Knights Award - announced at meeting - Yorkshire BKA

Surrey Shield – announced at meeting – Surrey BKA

David Charles Award - announced at meeting - Tyneside BKA

Bee Health Assessment Award – announced at meeting - Nottinghamshire BKA

Written exams – 526 taken in 2024. 88% on line 12% written

43 intermediate theory certificates.

21 Advanced theory certificates.

9 new Master Beekeepers.

Post meeting note. There is no description of the criteria for these awards in the ADM papers and I can't find it anywhere else. I have no idea what the Bee Health Assessment Award is!! This is why there is so much confusion. I have asked for clarification.

Vote to accept report For 65 Against 0

## **Finance Report**

Mark Hunter chair of finance

To 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Surplus of £22K. (In 2023 loss of £18K.) Better than £67K predicted loss in the budget.

£500K invested – BBKA received £43K dividend re the investments surplus which is why the accounts show a surplus.

Expenditure

£21K spent on Asian Hornet preparations.

BBKA has £1,300,000 in investments and cash at bank. A lot in cash as reserve for YLAH as it may be needed urgently.

Will spend money to make on-line exams more efficient.

No auditors issues.

Mark is happy BBKA is in a strong financial position.

Vote to accept finance report – For 62 Against 0 Abstain 2

Reappoint auditors Harrison Beale and Owen

Vote For 63 Against 0 Abstain 1

Acceptance of budget for 2024-25

Vote For 65 Against 0 Abstain 1

## **Proposition 2025/1- BBKA Board of Trustees**

That with effect from 1st October 2025 the capitation fees be changed to:

Registered member and school member	£23
Partner member	£15
Country member	£11
Junior member	£ 5
Direct member	£40
Specialist member	£130

Vote For 65 Against 0 Abstain 1 Passed

## **Awards and Elections**

Honorary Membership for Anne Rowberry – immediate past president.

Vote For 62. Against 0 Abstain 4

## **Nominations for Trustees**

There are four vacancies for a 3 year term and 4 candidates – all elected.

Diane Drinkwater

Jane Medwell

Gary Clueit

Alan Rowse

**Nominations for Exam Board** Three 3 year vacancies one 1 year vacancy.

Jane Brook - three year term

Gary Brook - 1 year term

Keith Bartlem - 3 year term

Anne Rowberry - 3 year term

## **Proposition 2025/2 - Hampshire (seconded by Surrey)**

This was amended to:

That the BBKA Trustees prepare a single document bringing together all of the Association's current policies as determined by the Annual Delegate Meetings

In successive years with a searchable index to facilitate easy reference to extant BBKA policy in different subject areas.

Vote to accept the amended proposition:

For 65 Against 0 Abstain 0 Passed

## **Proposition 2025/3 – Avon (seconded by Gloucestershire)**

That the General Husbandry Certificate move to a partial modular format, whereby holding the Honey Bee Health Certificate and Honey Bee Breeding Certificate will exempt the candidate from those sections of the General Husbandry Certificate. In the course of time, this should become the route to achieve the General Husbandry Certificate.

Vote to refer back to trustees

For 53 Against 9 Abstain 4 Referred back to the trustees.

#### **Proposition 2025/4 – BBKA Board of Trustees**

That clause 14.4 of the BBKA Constitution which reads: ‘vacancies will be a single vote at the ADM with candidates ranked in order of the number of votes they receive. Subject to the candidates being eligible for the term the ranking indicates, this order will be used to fill the vacancies with the candidates with the highest number of votes filling the vacancies with the longest terms’.

Be amended to: In any round of voting delegates will have a number of votes equal to the number of remaining vacancies, or candidates, whichever is lower, and may cast only one vote for any one candidate. Vacancies will be filled initially by a single vote at the ADM with candidates being ranked in order of the number of votes they receive. Candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to the longest term for which they are eligible provided they have received votes from over 50% of the delegates present at the ADM.

In circumstances where all vacancies are not filled by the initial vote subsequent rounds of voting may be necessary, with the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes in each previous vote having been eliminated. In each round the candidates remaining shall again be ranked in the order of the number of votes received and the remaining vacancies filled by those with the highest number of votes, to the longest term for which they are eligible, provided they have received votes from over 50% of the delegates present. This process will continue until such time as all vacancies are filled or it is clear that any remaining candidates cannot achieve support from over 50% of the delegates present.

An amendment was proposed.

At each round of voting the option to abstain will be available to the voting delegates.

Vote for the amendment

For 60 Against 3 Abstain 2

After some technical issues the amended proposition was passed.

#### **Proposition 2025/5 – BBKA Board of Trustees**

That all references to the ‘Executive Committee’ in the BBKA constitution be replaced by ‘Board of Trustees’. The definition of Board of Trustees in Clause 31 of the constitution (Interpretation) to be: ‘is responsible for the governance of the BBKA and must run it in a way that complies with the BBKA’s governing document (the constitution) and the law’.

Vote For 66 Against 0 Abstain 0. Passed.

#### **Proposition 2025/6 – BBKA Board of Trustees**

That the Board of Trustees and the Examinations Board continue to work together to investigate the costs and benefits of external accreditation of the examinations and report back to the 2026 ADM with a recommendation as to whether to proceed or not.

For 58 Against 6 Abstain 2 Passed

#### **Proposition 2025/7 – BBKA Trustees**

That the work and actions outlined in Phase 2 of the report ‘Follow-up to Proposition 2024/2 Cumbria’ be implemented by the Board of Trustees. (Relates to combatting honey adulteration). See text of prop 2024/2 below.

Estimated Cost for phase 2: Maximum of £10,000 (£8,000 as indicated in the report plus any incidental costs)

Supporting notes: The Board of Trustees supports the continuation of the investigations outlined in the report. Here is the text of Proposition 2024/2:

The BBKA starts to take action on the matter of adulterated honey and does not rely on the actions of central Government. The BBKA should:

- a) Establish a working relationship with the Honey Authenticity Network UK (HAN UK)
- b) Consulting with commercial UK honey industry, vendors and relevant UK academic institutions to outline BBKA's intentions.
- c) Developing a protocol for anonymous purchase of honey from shops

Identifying the suppliers of honey analysis from UK university programmes and from known analytical laboratories in the EU

- d) Discussing the intentions with the central authorities for trading standards
- e) Mapping out a programme of anonymous purchases, sampling and reporting as appropriate to the analysis findings.

SBKA view – reluctantly support

Amendment 1 proposed.

That the work and actions undertaken as a result of the Cumbria proposition 2024/2 are acknowledged and a new phase is developed to progress the issue of adulterated honey. The meeting authorises a budget not to exceed £25K and report back to the next ADM.

Vote on amendment

For 62 Against 3 Abstain 1

Second amendment proposed by INIB delegate.

Seconded Kent BKA

That the work and actions undertaken as a result of the Cumbria proposition 2024/2 are acknowledged and a new phase is developed to progress the issue of adulterated honey. The meeting authorises an interim expenditure not to exceed £25K to develop a campaign urgently and report back to the membership.

Vote to accept second amendment.

For 64. Against 1 Abstain 1

Vote to accept final amended proposition.

For 66 Against 0 Abstain 0 Passed.

The President thanked BBKA General Manager Leigh Sidaway and her team for setting up and managing the meeting.

Meeting closed at 2.25pm. A record as far as I am concerned.

Bob Maurer

SBKA ADM delegate 2025

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