



Bucks County Beekeepers' Association

Registered Charity No. 297335

Minutes of the County Annual General Meeting, held at The Rye Centre, High Wycombe at 7.30pm on Friday 22nd October 2010.

1. **Present** There were about 50 members present; Chalfonts, High Wycombe, Mid Bucks and North Bucks BKAs were all represented.
2. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Derek Atkinson and Phil Wiggins.
3. **President's Address** Our retiring president, Bob Hunter welcomed everyone to the meeting. He felt that beekeeping in the county was flourishing, and the County Seminar was going from strength to strength, for which we had to thank John Catton.
4. **Minutes of the 2009 AGM** These minutes had been circulated previously and there was nothing arising from them. They were signed by John Catton and will be on the Bucks web site.
5. **Secretary's report** This had been circulated previously and no discussion ensued. This will also be put on the web.
6. **Treasurer's Report** This report had been circulated previously. The Treasurer, Mike Leon, said that membership of all Bucks BKAs had increased. Gift Aid recovery was increased, partly because some adjustment of dates meant that two years worth of Gift Aid appeared in the same year; also Mike had been able to collect Gift Aid from the North Bucks subscriptions this year. There was a surplus of £1,100 so again, there was no need for a subscription to the County this year. No further report was needed to the Charity Commissioners because the income was below £10,000.
7. **Education Secretary's report and Module Certificate presentation.** The full report had been circulated previously and will appear on the web site. Sheila Borwick expressed her gratitude to Norman Savigar who had very kindly undertaken the task of

invigilation. She urged prospective candidates to make sure that their application forms were completely and legibly filled in. Sheila congratulated the successful candidates and the Module certificates were presented. Paul Hurley was congratulated on being the winner of the Robert Hammond Award, for achieving the highest marks overall in the Intermediate Certificate Modules.

- 8. Reports from the four Local Associations.** These had all been circulated and were accepted without comment. They will be posted on the web site.
- 9. Chairman's remarks** John Catton, our retiring chairman, thought that honey yields had been good this year and winter losses better than the previous winter, (Mid Bucks 27%, Chalfonts 19% and North Bucks 16%); these figure were considerably lower than the 36% loss, which was recorded for Bucks in the October BBKA News. John reminded us of some of the county's achievements, besides the very successful County Seminar. These included the successful "Smokers in Whitehall" campaign, our winning of the "Surrey Shield" last year for the highest number of "Basic" successes in the country, in proportion to our membership, and successes in Modules. He thanked Derek Atkinson for the setting up of the County Web Site and asked members to send suggestions to Derek. As previously recorded, all County Reports and Minutes can be posted on the site. The County had also contributed to the BBKA Forum, where Sue Carter introduced the debate on behalf of Bucks on "encouraging local authorities to incorporate more bee friendly trees in their planting schemes".
- 10. Election of Officers and Executive members.** The following were elected "en bloc", proposed by Will Steynor and seconded by Sylvia Chamberlin
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|-----------|---------------|
| President | John Catton |
| Chairman | Frank Rickett |
| Secretary | Beulah Cullen |
| Treasurer | Steve Adkins |
| Auditor | T.B.A. |

Delegates elected from the floor

Julian Parker and Derek Atkinson

Two delegates elected by each Local Association

Chalfonts Mary Chris Stanton, Sue Carter

High Wycombe Sheila Borwick, Scott Rutland

Mid Bucks Jean Savigar

North Bucks

Frank Rickett reminded us that the position of chairman was to rotate annually round the local associations.

Ron White wanted to know how the subsequent chairman would be appointed; Will Steynor said it should be left to the Exec. committee.

11. Programme for 2011

The County Seminar on March 5th

Speakers:-

Nigel Raine "Insect sensory system".

Stuart Roberts " The decline of wild honey bees, insects and pollinators".

Dominic Dyer "Farmers' perspective on use of pesticides in agriculture".

12. A.O.B.

Web site

Derek Atkinson is web master but needs input from membership. John Dadswell suggested that as all the local associations have their own web sites, the county site should only have information pertaining to county matters e.g. information on swarms, bumble bees and labelling regulations.

Report on the BBKA forum

John Catton and Sue Carter were the Bucks delegates; Sheila Borwick went as an independent participant. John had circulated a brief report on the meeting.

BBKA Regional Training Co-ordinator

Sheila Borwick reported that Bill Cadmore is the appointed training Co-ordinator and he proposed to have the first meeting for the delegates from our region in Peterborough. Sheila is trying to arrange for the venue to be a little nearer home! Sheila was enthusiastic about the "Course in a Case" (CIC) for Beginners and said the next CIC would be on show at the National Honey Show.

The formal meeting closed at about 8.15 pm and was followed by an excellent supper laid on by HWBKA, after which we were treated to an informative and entertaining talk by Bob Hunter.

Scott Rutland thanked Bob and the other retiring officers for their hard work over the years.

13. Date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be hosted by Chalfonts, probably during November 2011. The date and venue will be announced later.

Beulah M. Cullen

Hon. Sec.