Bucks County Beekeepers' Association

Registered Charity No. 297335

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the Year October 1st 2023 – September 30th 2024

held on Wednesday 4th December 2024, 7pm
by recorded zoom videoconference and show of hands for voting

1. Twenty-one people attended the meeting

   Apologies for absence: Sue Carter, Bill Fisher, Kate Sawyer, Dorothie Jones

2. Minutes of the previous AGM - Agreed

   The minutes of the last AGM were available to all before the meeting in the gdrive and were reviewed at the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes - None

4. Secretary's Report

   The secretary's report was available to all before the meeting in the gdrive and was reviewed at the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

   The Treasurer's report and final accounts were available to all before the meeting in the gdrive and were reviewed at the meeting. The association is on a sound financial footing and a going concern.

   The accounts were accepted by the majority of the attendees.

6. Election of the Inspector of accounts – Neville Morton

   All agreed that Neville would be asked again to independently examine the next year's accounts.

7. County membership fees as recommended by the Executive Committee

   £2 per adult full BBKA member, based on April capitation figures and payable in June 2024.

   The proposed fee of £2 was accepted by the majority of the attendees.

8. Local Association Reports

   a. High Wycombe and District Beekeepers' Association
   b. North Bucks Beekeepers' Association
   c. Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association
   d. Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

   The Association reports were available to all before the meeting in the gdrive and were reviewed at the meeting

9. Election of Chairman: Nomination received for Jonathan Jones

All agreed.

10. Election of Secretary: Nomination received for Dorothie Jones

    All agreed.

11. Re-Election of Officers and Executive members

    a. President – Bill Fisher

    b. Treasurer - John Pearson

    c. Education – Helen Cave

    All agreed.

12. Re-election of General members

    a. Jonathan Matthews

    b. Rachael Hulme

    All agreed.

    As there have been changes in local Committee memberships following the associations' AGMs, please will all associations let Russ Sherman, webmaster@buckscountybeekeepers.co.uk know the names of the two committee representatives from each association. He will update the committee email address, so that everyone gets the communications.

13. AOB

    John will liaise with the new committee members for hand-over of bank details. Fiona will continue as a co-signatory in the interim.

    John will be standing down as Treasurer at the next AGM, so a replacement will be needed.

    Russ will liaise with the new committee members for hand-over of email and access to google workspace

14. Date and Venue for next AGM
    Wednesday 3rd December 2025, 7pm

Bucks County Secretary's Report
1st October 2023– 30th September 2024
Registered Charity No. 297335

The County held a very successful face to face seminar on Feb 18th at the Wendover Memorial Hall. The speakers were Robin Dartington, showing us his bespoke hive with all its advantages; Gerry Brierely, talking about honey bee warfare her personal story surviving Lyme disease; and Sean stepped in, as Stewart Spinks was unable to attend, with a talk on the history of swarming and control. This was an in-person meeting and about 70 people attended in person.

The advent of videoconferencing has meant that we held all the committee meetings this year by videoconferencing. This is a cost effective and efficient way of meeting. The committee has converted to google email addresses and we are now using google drive to store documents and we will use the google meet facility going forward for committee meetings.

The two-year programme for Honey Bee Health and General Husbandry assessments continued this year; Sean hosted a couple of zoom theory sessions and a practical session at his apiary to practice manipulations. Two people took and passed the General Husbandry assessment this year. The two-year programme will restart with focus on preparation for Honey Bee Health in 2025.

We attended the Bucks County Show, held on the last Thursday of August again this year, with all four associations playing their part. The BCBKA won Third Prize for **"**the best non-agricultural stand" at the Show.

We supported the National Honey Show, with sponsorship of a lecture, sponsorship of two classes and paying the prize money for the Bucks County section of the Show. Bucks County again retained the Smallholders' Shield for the County with the most points in Classes 15-150 but the runners up were very close!

Fiona Matheson
Secretary, Bucks County Beekeepers Association

Bucks County Beekeepers' Association

Treasurer's report for year ended 30th September 2024

Income and expenditure

Our main item of income, apart from local assosciation contributions, was the seminar. In addition to administration, expenditure in the year covered Bucks County Show (£676), the National Honey Show (£338).

We did not hold our Honey Show in the financial year, but we need to budget £600 for two shows in the current financial year.

Reserves

With the contributions from local associations (£1,068) we ended the year in a reasonable position, with accumulated reserves of £8,082, of which £5,199 was invested with CCLA in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund. The remainder of the funds were held in a treasurer's charity account at Lloyds Bank.

Contributions from local associations

I recommend that contributions from local associations for the year from 1st October 2024 remain at £2.00 per member.

Independent examiner

Many thanks to our independent examiner, Neville Morton, for his sterling work on the accounts. He has agreed to continue next year.

John Pearson

Treasurer

12th November 2024

Bucks County Beekeepers' Association

Income and Expenditure for year ended 30 September 2024

Previous Yr. £		£
	Income - see note overleaf	
1,254.00	Branch Contributions	1,068.00
186.65	Interest	195.68
2.66	BCBKA Seminar	647.79
1,443.31		1,911.47
	Expenditure - see note overleaf	
(435.44)	Administration costs	(280.19)
(109.50)	Exam costs	-
-	Dart Abbey Zoom Talk	(65.00)
445.00	Training	(130.69)
(558.86)	Bucks. County Show	(676.00)
(300.00)	BCBKA County Honey Show	-
(860.00)	National Honey Show	(338.00)
(1,818.80)		(1,489.88)
(375.49)	**Surplus (Deficit) for year**	**421.59**
8,035.93	Surplus at start of year	**7,660.44**
7,660.44	**Accumulated Surplus at end of year**	**8,082.03**

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2024

Previous Yr. £		£
£	**Current Assets**	
3,037.35	Cash at bank	2,883.26
5,003.09	Savings	5,198.77
8,040.44		8,082.03
	Current Liabilities	
(380.00)	Creditors	-
7,660.44	**Net Assets**	**8,082.03**
	Reserves	
7,660.44	Accumulated Surplus at end of year	**8,082.03**

Sean Stephenson Date _____

Chairman

John Pearson Date _____

Treasurer

In connection with my examination of the above accounts, no matter has come to my attention: i) Which gives me any cause to believe that they do not comply with the accounting records; or ii) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Neville Morton Date _____

Independent Examiner

Bucks County Beekeepers' Association

Analysis of net income/expenditure for 2023-24

Previous Yr.		
	Training	
865.00	Microscopy receipts	319.31
(420.00)	Microscopy payments	(450.00)
445.00	**(Cost)/Surplus**	**(130.69)**
	Seminar	
653.92	Receipts	897.79
	Payments	
(328.76)	Speakers	
(300.00)	Hall Hire	(250.00)
(22.50)	Catering	
(651.26)	Total Payments	(250.00)
2.66	**Surplus**	**647.79**
	National Honey Show	
(80.00)	National Council Membership	(70.00)
(550.00)	Lecture/talk sponsorship	-
(230.00)	Class sponsorship	(268.00)
(860.00)	**(Cost)**	**(338.00)**
	Bucks. County Show	
71.14	Commission on honey sales	-
(630.00)	Show expenses	(676.00)
(558.86)	**(Cost)**	**(676.00)**

12/11/2024

High Wycombe & District Beekeepers' Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association
Registered Charity No. 299638 www.hwbka.co.uk

Annual report to the Bucks County BKA to the AGM, to be held 4th December 2024

Membership

Current membership numbers are around 160, however we are in the middle of our renewal period.

Finances

Our finances remain on a firm footing.

Training

The association ran a successful beginners' course with 24 attendees. Practical sessions took place in our training apiary in Saunderton. All beginners were given the opportunity to use their full quota of practical sessions and could attend more if they wished.

Five candidates passed the basic assessment, which was taken at our association apiary. One person passed module 4 and one person passed the BBKA General Husbandry and achieved Qualified Beekeeper.

Apiaries

Our training apiary in Saunderton has seen a bumper year of activities thanks to Graeme our Apiary Manager and Colin Turnbull, who oversaw the well-designed online application process for apiary sessions. Members booked sessions to see demonstrations on topics that included oxalic acid sublimation method and queen rearing using the Ben Harden method. We were able to offer 5 completed nucs to beginners or novices and gave 2 mated queens away. We also have two other apiary sites which can be used temporarily by members if required. Colin has since passed away.

Swarm Collection

We had 43 active members of those 41 were willing to collect a swarm. 2 members asked for a swarm if available but were unable to collect themselves. 15 members held the phone for a week or more, we had 100 calls in total.

Community

Bookings at schools, nurseries and scout groups were taken until the end of May, during this time we reached out to 478 people. We also attended a number of fetes, shows, Wycombe celebrations and Pann Mill. A beekeeping day was held at our apiary for interested members of the public. A family beekeeping experience voucher was donated as a raffle prize to a local Nursery School. The family who won this raffle prize had an amazing experience at the apiary.

Meetings

Our monthly meetings continue to be held at Trinity Church, we have had a variety of speakers. Our monthly Tuesday night 'developing your beekeeping' talks have been helpful to beekeepers new and old.

Communication

Our website and newsletter continue to be our main lines of communication to our members. The monthly newsletter comes out on the first of every month and keeps the association up to date. We also have a WhatsApp group where some of us can share information and ask questions.

Chris Barefield
Chairman
15 11 2024

North Bucks Beekeepers Association

Annual Report 2024

It is with great sadness that the NBBKA reports the very sad loss of Andrew Beer, a previous Chairman, who sadly passed away in February of this year. He spent his latter years working on "the bees and the law."

We have struggled this year with four resignations from our committee, the last being Daniel Clarke who was our secretary and owned the hosting rights to our web site. We managed to recruit two new members at our AGM in October, thus we move forward into 2025 with a rebuilding exercise.

On a lighter note we had eight members take and pass their basic assessments and a very successful honey show, where four members took their exhibits on to the NHS and did very well.

Our Beacon School goes from strength to strength encouraging at least 2 other schools in Milton Keynes to start "Bee Clubs" and we are looking into helping Stow School next year.

MBBKA Report for the Bucks County AGM – 4th December 2024.

Committee
We have had some changes on the committee this year and have welcomed some new faces. All positions are filled apart from the apiary manager. This will be covered for the time being by a division of the jobs amongst other members of the committee and its sub groups, but we hope to fill it in due course.

Membership
MBBKA membership remains fairly constant. At our last AGM in October 2024 membership stood at 239 which is a little down on last year. However we continue to attract a good number of new beekeepers each year and the beginners course is in great demand. Numbers for the 2025 course are filling well.

Finances and Apiary Development
The Association continues on a sound financial footing. We haven't heard much about the Hampden Fields development and moving of the apiary site recently but understand it is progressing. We were asked whether we might be interested in expanding the original offer on the new site, to include more hives. We responded positively, in that we were happy to consider it, but have heard nothing more so far.

Association Meetings
Our monthly Association meetings have been a mixture of at the Church of the Good Shepherd, the apiary and virtual which seems to suit. We are intending to move the face to face meetings to Western Turville village hall in 2025 owing to some booking difficulties with the CoGS. The day of the week will have to move too and we are intending to use the third Friday of the month. Exact details of days will be sent to members via an email prior to the meeting and in our monthly newsletter.

We've had a number of interesting talks over the year and have more planned. Attendance is good.

Education, School Visits and Fairs
The beginner's course was fully subscribed at 41 people and was held in-person at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Stoke Mandeville and the Association apiary, with extra sessions elsewhere.
We continue to be enormously grateful to all those members who contribute to this both in organising, lecturing and in supervising the practical sessions. We are very lucky to have so many willing supporters.
We continue to have members involved in taking BBKA exams and microscopy.
Local fairs were held again last year and Mid Bucks attended 3 events over the summer months and supported the County stand at the Bucks County Show. We also sent members to 3 schools, 3 Beaver scout groups and 1 Scout group, and interest from the public remains high.

Asian Hornet Preparation
We remain vigilant about this and are pleased to say that general public awareness seems to be rising.

Jane Newman MBBKA Chairman

2024 - Year in Review – Chalfonts Beekeepers Society

We have had an extremely busy and successful year in 2024:

- We have helped run the Bucks Spring Seminar, organised the fantastic auction, had stalls at all our regular fetes and fairs and organised both the Chalfonts Honey Show and hosted the Bucks Honey Show. Thanks go to all involved , but in particular to Bill Fisher, Mike Tucker, Sue and Dave Carter in addition to our Events secretary Peter and Fiona Matheson.
- In education, we have run a Module 1 training course, the Beginner's course (32 attendees), the Developing Beekeepers Course and organised various exams and assessments – 4 achieved the Basic Asessment, 1 achieved Qualified Beekeeper and General Husbandry and 7 took and passed Module 1. Thank you in particular to Steve Troll, Deborah Campbell, Jim and Fiona.
- The Hyde Heath apiary has been very well attended throughout the season, the Chesham apiary not so well but both are open to all members and provide great opportunities to learn and help the Club. Thank you to Arnold Desandere (Chesham) and Jim Liness (Hyde Heath) for all their work.
- We have had a few changes on the committee:

  o Steve Troll has taken over trading from Mike Walters. Trading will now be more seasonal with a focus on frames, foundation, fondant and jars and will generally be based at the Hyde Heath apiary.

  o The education role previously run by Steve has been taken over by Julian Keen-lyside, a very recently retired teacher and experienced beekeeper.

  o Dorothie Jones has stepped down as Programmes Secretary after a great year of speakers – we are looking for someone to fill that role and in the meantime speakers will be organised by the Committee.
- The AHAT team has been luckily quiet – but thanks to the hard work of Jilly Ellson and her team we had a great effort on early season Queen trapping and great communication throughout the year so we are well prepared for when the threat inevitably becomes a reality.
- Financially we have had a good year - from trading, speaking at events, running courses and honey sales, the Club has actually made a surplus this year of £5,380 and as a result we are delighted to be able to invest in the Club going forward, buying more equipment for members to borrow including a honey extractor and solar wax extractor. (Main highlights of the accounts: Payments to members for honey sold through the club increased from £5,318 to £6,106. Commission from these sales, together with sales of club honey, raised £2030.

Receipts at the auction were £6,534, which after payments to sellers of £5,937 resulted in an additional net surplus to the club of £597. Gift aid reclaim receipts from HMRC amounted to £1,143 and trading turnover increased this year by 16% to £8,537).

- Outside the Club, we have been speaking at local schools and communities, sourcing out apiaries for members and Sarah Peterson in particular has run a fantastic project with the Slough Youth Group, 'Together as One' with Rob Deeks and 16 young people. They now have 2 hives overwintering and we look forward to continued involvement in their beekeeping journey.
- In addition Jilly Ellson has led an exciting project abroad, running a Beginners Course together with Jim Liness, Steve Troll and Deborah Campbell at the Almond Hotel in Northern Cyprus. Twelve locals attended the course which was held over 4 days and involved classroom and practical sessions with the hotel's 72 hives. It involved a huge amount of work from all, was very successful and hopefully will lead to new associate members for our club, and possible future teaching opportunities.
- All of the Club's activities involve a great deal of work behind the scenes and we are very lucky to have a fantastic Committee and a core group of volunteers who help at all events. Particular thanks to Chris Bromwich who was awarded the President's Salver this year in recognition of all his help.