**NORTH SHROPSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

**Founded 1945**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 19 October 2021 at 19:30hrs

At Tilstock Village Hall

**Present**

Brian Allaker, John Ankers, Karen Broomhall, Sarah Burnett, Wendy Cooper, Martyn Cox, Alex Ellis, Peter Fox, Nicky Fox, Nigel Hine, Alison Hine, Marcus Hughes, Carol Jones, Chris Lightburn, Alison Mackenzie, Wilf McSherry, Ann Moore, Joyce Nisbet, Bob Profitt, Guy Preece, Pete Rawlinson, Alan Riley, Gawain Smith, Craig Summers, Helen Trevelyan, Jan Wakefield, Lisa Waterson, Gron Williams, Alan Wilson

**1 Apologies for absence:**

Andy and Carol Bates, John Taylor, Alison Clare, Andrew Waterhouse, Ann Johnson, Hannah Jones, Mike Horton, Mike Cranshaw, Brian Rouse.

**2 Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the previous AGM on 20 October 2020 held by Zoom were agreed as a true record by all present. Ann Moore proposed the minutes be adopted. They were seconded by Marcus Hughes and signed by Peter Rawlinson.

**3 Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**4 Annual Reports:**

Peter Rawlinson thanked Alison Hine for her work coordinating the Committee members’ reports and those who had made contributions to these. Peter read out the Chair’s report thanking all the committee members for their contributions and continued efforts on behalf of the Association over a difficult year with Covid. In particular Sarah Hodnett, Brian Roberts, Ann Moore and Guy Preece who had continued to manage the apiary every week. Communications had been maintained through the excellent Beelines publication which had received high praise from other beekeeping associations.

Peter Rawlinson acknowledged the resignations of Apiary Manager (Sarah Hodnett) and Assistant Apiary Manager (Brian Roberts), the Secretary (Angie Kirk) and Chair (Alison Hine). He thanked them on the behalf of the Association for all their hard work.

There were no matters arising from the Annual Reports which had been previously circulated with the AGM Agenda. The Reports are attached to these Minutes.

**5 Asian Hornet Action Team**

Not discussed.

**6 Swarm Collectors List**

Not discussed.

**7 Election of Officers**

Nomination forms had been circulated with the AGM Agenda and Officials’ Reports. The only nominations that had been received were those shown below. Peter Rawlinson had invited members to stand for the vacant positions. There were no further nominations during the meeting. Consequently, the following candidates were duly elected:

Chair – Peter Rawlinson, proposed by Ann Moore and seconded by Alison Hine.

Treasurer – Ann Moore, proposed by Ann Moore and seconded by Guy Preece.

General Secretary – Carol Jones, proposed by Joyce Nisbet, seconded by Alison Hine.

Education Officer – Alison Hine, proposed by Ann Moore, seconded by Guy Preece.

Events Co-ordinator – Hannah Jones, proposed by Guy Preece, seconded by Alison Hine.

Librarian/Publicity – Ann Moore, proposed by Ann Moore and seconded by Guy Preece.

Membership Secretary – Alison Mackenzie, proposed by Ann Moore, seconded by Alison Hine.

Newsletter Editors – Joyce Nisbet, proposed by Joyce Nisbet, seconded by Marcus Hughes.

Marcus Hughes, proposed by Marcus Hughes, seconded by Joyce Nisbet.

Webmaster – Guy Preece, proposed by Guy Preece, seconded by Ann Moore.

Craig Summers asked who the current apiary manager was. Peter Rawlinson explained that this will be discussed at the next Committee meeting as it is planned to be a joint role for several members to reduce the workload on just two members.

Craig Summers asked if there was an explanation as to why Sarah Hodnett and Brian Roberts had resigned. Peter Rawlinson explained that he understood that it had been a difficult year with lots of work falling to very few people. Reasons had not been given by the members regarding their resignations. These resignations had been discussed at the following Committee Meeting and he had written to all four members asking them to contact him if he could help in any way and had received no responses. He had also expressed the hope that those resigning from the Committee would continue to contribute to the Association in future. Craig Summers and Alan Wilson left the meeting.

**After note - correction**. Reasons had in fact been received from those who had resigned but these had not all been received at the original time of resignation, with some of them being received some time later.

**8 Any Other Business**

* Ann Moore raised the matter, which was mentioned in the Chair’s report, as to whether any members would be willing to help out generally at the apiary or with admin (not in any specific role, but as general assistants). Peter Rawlinson agreed that this would be especially helpful with regard to the apiary tidy-up in January, etc.
* Jan Wakefield confirmed that she was happy to continue as Catering Assistant now that we are returning to face-to-face meetings and events.
* Alison Hine reminded the meeting that we had not formally accepted the 2020/21 accounts. She proposed their adoption, which was seconded by Peter Rawlinson.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Date and place of next AGM – 18th October 2022 Tilstock Village Hall

Peter Rawlinson

NSBKA Chair

Helen Trevelyan

Acting Secretary

Annual Reports 2020/21

**Chair’s report**

As you will all be only too well aware, COVID 19 meant that we started the first half of the year unable to hold face-to-face meetings or activities. Fortunately, restrictions began to ease by the middle of the year and we were able to open the apiary on a restricted basis and hold both Taster and Basic courses.

Through it all, the NSBKA Committee has continued to do its best to keep the Association running. I would like to thank all Committee members for their continued efforts on behalf of the Association. In particular we should thank Sarah and her dedicated ‘bubble’ of Brian, Ann and Guy who continued to manage the apiary every week. They have put in an enormous amount of work during their time in office and we are very grateful to them.

Communications throughout the year have been maintained in large part by the Association’s excellent newsletter, Beelines. It has also received high praise from other BKAs.

Four members of the Committee have stood down: Angie Kirk as Secretary, Sarah Hodnett as Apiary Manager, Brian Roberts as Assistant Apiary Manager and Alison Hine as Chairman. We are grateful to them for all their hard work on behalf of the Association.

We can only continue to be a successful Association with the help and support of committee members and other volunteers giving their time. Please would anyone who is able to help, in any capacity, consider standing for a Committee position at the AGM or offering help in other ways.

**Secretarial report**

The main secretarial work continued as normal with the distribution of correspondence and NSBKA newsletters. The distribution of the bulk food order had again to be ‘socially distanced’.

**Treasurer's report: Accounts to 30th September 2021**

Our finances for the past year have again been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic; however this year we were able to hold Taster courses in Spring, the income from which has enabled us to finish the year with a surplus of £547, which made up in part for the large deficit experienced last year.

Income

Our primary sources of income were membership fees of £1,515 and course fees of £1,380, together with sales of honey totalling £740. Total income from all sources was £3,816.

Expenditure

This year our expenditure was at similar levels to last year; the largest element was Apiary costs where we carried out further work on the apiary paths (£560) and replaced old equipment (£600), with the balance being spent on frames, wax, gloves and treatments.

The other main areas of expenditure were Hall hire for Taster/Basic courses, which were held in separate locations this year to ensure social distancing (£334), speaker and Zoom fees for remote talks (£522), and bulk feed for the apiary (£364). Total expenditure was £3,269.

Summary

The association’s financial year ended with a surplus of £547, which has partly offset the large deficit of £1,658 incurred in the previous year.

As at 30th September 2021 the association’s bank balances totalled £9,899, which should enable us to continue to fund future association activities, including at those times when our fund-raising activities are curtailed by circumstances beyond our control.



**Events report**

Due to Covid 19, the majority of events over the past year have been held online via Zoom. This has proved successful in many ways as it has enabled us to get speakers from further afield, and enabled events to be recorded and put on the website.

The virtual zoom events have been well attended, but it has meant that people with poor internet connections are unable to attend. A summary of the events up until the AGM, the format used and the number of attendees is provided in the table below.

Unfortunately, a number of regular annual events that would normally have been held in person and were not possible to move onto zoom were not held in 2021. This included the Christmas Social in January and an out-apiary visit.

Summary of 2020/1 NSBKA Events.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event Format | Speaker | Topic | Attendees |
| 17/11/20 | Zoom Talk | Clare Densley and Martin Hann from Buckfast Abbey | Preparing for Spring | 32 |
| 15/12/20 | Zoom Talk – including tasting element | Northumberland Honey Co | From Bees to Bottle | 24 |
| 19/01/21 | Zoom Talk | Celia Davies | Plants and Honeybee Nutrition | 28 |
| 16/02/21 | Zoom Talk | Jim Vivian-Griffiths | Spring Management | 31 |
| 16/03/21 | Zoom Talk | Julian Routh | Swarm Control | 40 |
| 20/04/21 | Zoom Talk | Colin Pavey and Ben Bowen | Pictorial disease quiz | 23 |
| 01/08/21 | In person - outside | N/A | Bring and Buy / picnic at Whixall Village Hall | Approx. 50 |
| 21/09/21 | Zoom Talk | David Evans | Preparing for Winter | 32 |

**Education report**

We made full use of Zoom over the winter, running two remote Taster courses and one Module 1 group. Once we were able to run ‘live’ courses we ran a further Taster course and also a Basic course. These were run at Tilstock and Whixall respectively to ensure ‘social distancing’.

Following the Basic course, six candidates sat and passed their Basic Assessments. Three candidates also gained passes in the written Modules 1, 2 and 8. Congratulations to all!

Hopefully, we will be able to meet face-to-face in 2022 and plans are already being made for training events.

We would be grateful for suggestions of anything that members would like us to put on.

**Membership report**

This year we have 138 members, of these, 28 are new. It is a shame that we couldn’t offer our normal level of support for these new members but hopefully next year we will be back to our normal weekly apiary meetings. We invited all new members from both this and last year to the apiary during the summer, it was good to meet so many of you.

For the coming year there is a small increase in the BBKA part of our annual membership. There will again be a £5 discount for NSBKA membership for those who pay by the 1st December. Membership renewals will be sent via an email link to eR2.

I look forward to meeting you all at our meetings this year for interesting talks and cake!

**Apiary report**

The Association Apiary at Pimhill remained closed to the wider membership for the first part of the season, due to Covid19 restrictions. During this time the apiary was ably managed by Sarah, Brian, Ann and Guy, and time was also found to replace the path and do other maintenance work.

Once the Covid restrictions were eased it became possible to re-start apiary evenings but only on a limited basis so that social distancing regulations could be maintained. All new members from 2020/21 were invited on an individual basis. The three Hands On Training (HOT) 8 participants restarted their course in June and have now been able to take their colonies home.

Management of the apiary for the winter is in hand and plans are being developed for next season when hopefully we will be back to normal meetings.

**Librarian/Publicity report**

One of the consequences of the Covid restrictions is that the association library has not been out and about at NSBKA meetings; however it is still alive and well and the books are available for borrowing by members, and it will make its next appearance at the AGM.

The library has 130+ plus books (and a few dvds), ranging from general interest books, which are a great introduction for newer members, to more technical reference books for those members that way inclined. All the books can be viewed on the NSBKA website, and members can request books via the website or directly from [librarian@nsbka.org](mailto:librarian@nsbka.org)

Suggestions from members for books they would like to see in the library are always very welcome, so do let the Librarian know if you have any ideas.

**Webmaster report**

It has been a pleasure to maintain and develop the association website nsbka.org over the last twelve months and to look after the associations email setup.

If you have not already done so, I would urge you to register on the website for a username and password; this gives you a personal login so that you can access the NSBKA members’ areas which cannot be reached by the public, such as current and back copies of the Beelines newsletters, recent recorded Zoom presentations and many other items. The website content is also updated regularly.

Website Features

* Zoom presentations (Members’ area)
* Beelines, the NSBKA newsletter - current and previous issues (Members’ area)
* Latest Bee News – bee-related news articles in the press and media are outlined with a link to view them online.
* A focal point for information for anyone interested in beekeeping in Shropshire
* A source of information for the general public – e.g. swarm collection, Asian Hornet identification/contact
* Interactive swarm collectors’ map
* All the NSBKA library book details appear in an interactive section of the website so that books details can be viewed, and books requested and reserved online.
* NSBKA Events calendar
* Bee related Word puzzles
* Pollen colour identification chart
* Pollen and Nectar-rich plants for bees

**Beelines report**

Thanks to all contributors, over the past year 12 regular monthly editions of Beelines have been sent to all members. We understand that the NSBKA newsletter is the envy of surrounding associations!

The editors always welcome suggestions and articles from members.  Please don't be shy.  The newsletter is only as interesting as the material submitted!