North Shropshire Beekeepers’ Association AGM

21st October 2025

Annual Reports 2024/25

**Chairs Report October 2024 – September 2025**

To be presented at AGM.

**Secretarial report**

The main secretarial work continued as normal with the distribution of correspondence and NSBKA newsletters.

**Treasurer's report: Accounts to 30th September 2025**

Income

While subscription income saw a slight decline this year compared to last, I am pleased to report that our overall budgeted income was surpassed, thanks mainly to sales of our association honey, which brought in £820. This was achieved thanks to those members who extracted, jarred, and sold the honey, and indeed to all those who looked after the bees. In addition to this financial income, our honey also won first prize at the National Honey Show in October 2025, so well done to all involved!

Our taster course remained a steady source of income at £995, and together with donations and

interest of £170, our total income from all sources this year was £3,050.

Expenditure

Historically, our largest area of expenditure has been the association apiary at Pimhill, where we normally spend over £1,000 each year. Following several years of investing in new hives and other equipment, our expenditure this year was £582, primarily for gloves, treatments and six new smokers.

Room hire and speakers’ fees totalled £1,083, reflecting the varied programme which included talks from a range of knowledgeable speakers, including David Evans, Lesley Jacques, and Northumberland Honey (enjoyably accompanied by mead tasting!).

Other costs included feed of £400, insurance of £129, jars of £166, show costs of £65, and other

costs of £131, bringing the total expenditure to £2,556.

Summary

The association’s financial year ended with a surplus of £494, which is an improvement on our budgeted deficit of £1,230.

As of 30 th September 2025 the association’s bank balances totalled £9,604. This will enable us to continue our ongoing improvements at the apiary and to ensure we can deliver a programme of educational and interesting talks and events to members. As always, the committee welcomes suggestions from members for activities they would like to see organised.

**Events report**

Having completed my second year as Events Co-ordinator I still feel I am finding my feet with regard to filling in the calendar with speakers, however, I have managed to find a few!.

After the official business of the AGM in October, Pete gave us a demonstration on making honey fudge and “honeycomb” (cinder toffee) where we had samples to taste from “here’s one I made earlier”

In November, Bergitte McGovern gave us a fascinating talk on enhancing the health of our bees and ourselves by growing more bee friendly herbs.

Our December meeting was brought forward by a week and we welcomed Northumberland Honey Via zoom. They talked about their company and gave us a virtual tour and how they produced their mead. All the members who were present were able to taste the mead at the same time as the Association had pre-ordered some samples.

January was our usual Annual Dinner where approximately 20 members and partners attended The Olde Jack in Calverhall for a lovely three course dinner. It was also an opportunity for members to socialise and chat about bees.

Dave Bonner came to our meeting in February and gave us a really interesting talk entitled “NUC Boxes - nice things come in small boxes”.

Our final speaker of the year before beekeeping activities began was “The Apiarist” aka David Evans who gave us a talk via zoom on “Preparing for the Season Ahead”. I am sure even the experienced beekeepers learned a lot from David. April saw about 10 people attend the Taster Course and a few of those have been seen regularly at Pimhill or at our monthly meetings and other events.

**Education Secretary report**

We had 11 candidates for the taster course and 4 on the basic course. The weekend was enjoyed by all, thank you to the committee members who gave up their weekend to make the course a success. A few from the taster course have come along to the apiary through the summer. They attended the extraction session at Tilstock and bucket to jar presentation.

Joyce delivered her expert judgement at the honey show, it was really educational. The taster and basic course for 2026 is planned for 28/29th March.

**Exam Secretary’s report**

We have had some more exam successes over the past year.

Over last winter, we ran a Module 2 Study Group which was attended by four members. Two subsequently sat the Module examination in March and both gained Credits, with marks in the 70-79% bracket.

Following the Basic Course held in April, two candidates were successful in the basic Assessment with both gaining Credits. The Pass mark for the Basic is 50% and a mark of 75% or more is needed for a Credit.

Over this coming winter we will be running a Module 3 Study Group on Honey Bee Diseases, Pests and Poisoning.

Anyone wishing to study for a BBKA Assessment and/or Module should contact

exam@nsbka.org for advice and help.

**Membership report**

We have welcomed some new members this year and currently have a membership of 110 across all categories, but over all our membership is down 9 on the previous year.

At the beginning of this year I asked all those that did not renew if they would share their reasons and most did. Most left the association because they were no longer keeping bees, whether due to the cost / cost of living, time and other commitments or some had lost their colonies over the winter and not looking to replace. A couple had moved or were due to move out of the area and one member had not been able to attend any of the meetings or workshops so declined to rejoin.

This year the BBKA element of the subs has increased by £2.00 for a full Registered member, £1.50 for Partner members and £1.00 for Country members and Junior membership has almost halved to just £5.00. We agreed as a committee to not increase the NSBKA element again this year so this will remain at £15.00 but remember there is a £5.00 early renewal discount if you renew and pay before 30thNovember 2025.

The BDI also remains unchanged at £2.00 for the 1st 3 colonies for a Registered member We have tried to promote ourselves through advertising in the Gossip Magazine which covers Whitchurch, Audlem and Market Drayton and the Wem Local News Magazine but although this covered most of our area it did not generate any extra interest.

We recently invested in some business cards which were shared with the committee members to hand out when talking to any interested parties or to leave on local notice boards, again as an additional way of promoting our presence.

We continue to use Facebook and have an updated website.

If any members are involved in any local community groups who might be interested in what we do could you please pass the details on to the Membership Secretary who will contact them.

**Yellow Legged (Asian ) Hornet coordinators report**

This has been a quiet year for us, the lull before the storm perhaps! One YLAH was found in a box of imported shallots in Oswestry and a nest has been discovered in Runcorn, Cheshire.  But it has not been quiet for others, there has been more sightings this year than we have had in total so far! It is clear that the YLAH is taking a hold, surviving our mild winters and thriving in our warm Summers.

 We are all guilty, even I, of getting complacent and forgetting to check our monitoring traps or perhaps thinking that we are not affected! We may not know until it is too late if we do not monitor.  There is plenty of information available, particularly in the BBKA news and links on Bee Lines, please check it out and do your bit to help.  We also need you to register on er2.  All you need to do is contact me with the postcode ofthe area in which you are monitoring.  I will then log it on the map, so that we know where monitoring is taking place and probably more importantly where it is not, so that gaps can be filled; difficult to do in our relatively sparsely populated area.  So it is also important to keep the public on side, informed and willing to help by down loading and using the YLAH App.

**Webmaster report**

It has been my pleasure to maintain and develop the association website nsbka.org over the last twelve months and to administer the associations email setup. Updated website – A work in progress.

The association website has been updated to a newer version of the website’s content management system as at the start of September. The new website has a slightly different look and feel and it is still being added to at this point.

The main change from the old site is the decision to only have one association wide username and password rather than requiring individual ones, as these were found to be unnecessary and of limited value. The username and password can be found in our beelines newsletter.

Current Website Features

 Beelines, the NSBKA newsletter – copies of the current and previous issues are

available online (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

 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

 Interactive Honey Aroma and Flavour Wheel

**Beelines report**

With thanks to all contributors, and especially to Marcus Hughes for sharing the editing of Beelines for the first six months of the year, an edition of Beelines has been sent to every member on a regular monthly basis.  Following Marcus resignation from the NSBKA Committee, a call for a replacement co-editor in late Spring didn't produce any interest, so another editor is needed to share the role - or to take it on completely, if the present format of newsletter is to continue in the coming year.

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