



## **Minutes of the 140<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Held at Stamford Green Primary School, Epsom KT19 8LU Hosted by Epsom Division**

**Gill Fatcher Epsom Division welcomed the attendees and confirmed divisional Chairs' reports displayed around the venue.**

**The meeting was declared open by Tim Lovett, SBKA President.**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Marilynne Bainbridge, John Bainbridge, Sue Hickson, Jane Satchwell, Keith McMahon, Bob Barnes, Sandra Rickwood, Michael Main, Steve Derry, Martin Major, Chris Tomaszewski.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2 December 2017 – no comments on accuracy – accepted and proposed nem com.

### **3. Matters Arising**

B Maurer responded to page 2 – Section 5, paragraph 11 question raised by Clive Mence on honey sales and VAT. Total honey sales - £34,111.00, although a substantial sum there are no concerns about VAT.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

Reported provided by Chairman, Bob Maurer (BM), available on SBKA website in advance of the meeting and displayed at the AGM venue. A brief summary of the report, Council representatives and Trustees meet quarterly through the year. Confirmed GDPR – Version 1 agreed by SBKA Council, BM thanked Sue Hickson (Reigate) for her assistance and support in delivering the policy and procedures to meet GDPR requirements.

Notable personnel changes – Trustees: Keith Woodward (Epsom) stood down, new Trustee, Diane Middlecoat, Peter Dawson (Guildford) stood down, new Trustee, Michael Clarke, Max Gladwyn (Wimbledon) stood down, new Trustee Steve Derry.

Thanks given to Julie Hogarth (Secretary) and Penny McMahon (Treasurer) for their work to support SBKA.

Thank you to Celia Perry as Examinations Secretary. SBKA Membership Secretary, Michelle Ernout (Croydon) stood down – BM confirmed we are seeking a replacement for the role.

*NB Post Meeting Note: Following closure of the meeting, Michael Hill (Reigate), confirmed he would assist and take on the role of SBKA Membership Secretary. A huge thank you from BM.*

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Deborah Ware stood down as Archivist – the SBKA archive is housed at the Surrey History Centre, Woking. A new Archivist is required, please contact BM or JH if you can assist with this interesting and important role.

A huge thank you to Martin Major for maintaining and retaining content balance on the SBKA website.

Issues with Gift Aid remain ongoing.

Thank you to everyone within SBKA who assists to deliver the National Honey Show.

The SBKA Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) – Jonathan Brookhouse (JB) has taken the lead to set this up and will be attending the AGM.

*NB Post Meeting Note: JB attended the AGM and set up a stand with information on the Asian Hornet.*

BM asked if there were any questions. No questions raised.

Acceptance of the Chairman's Report proposed by David Humphreys (Weybridge) and seconded by Steve Secker (Epsom) – the meeting voted to accept nem con.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Penny McMahon (PMcM) confirmed the Report and Accounts of the Central Fund made available in advance of the meeting on the SBKA website and as hard copies before the start of the meeting. PMcM read out the report and confirmed taking an overall view of the Association's finances they remain sound. 2018 net surplus on operations is £518 (2017: loss £3,202) which together with a decrease in the value of the Charifund Investment of £145 (2017 increase of £565) resulted in a final surplus of £373 (2017 loss: £2,637). Main financial events covered on pages 6 and 7 – it was noted there were no page numbers, this would be rectified on future reports.

Total assets held by the Central Fund at 30 September 2018 totalled £42,360.

Thanks to Chris Tomaszewski – Independent Examiner of Alexanders Chartered Accountants indicated his willingness to continue as SBKA's auditor for 2018.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report was proposed by Richard Snelling (Croydon) and seconded by Gill Futcher (Epsom) – the meeting voted to accept nem con.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **a) Show Committee**

Summarised by Bob Maurer. A special year – the bee tent was awarded 'Best Major Marquee' by the Surrey County Agricultural Society. We have a splendid trophy to prove it. A well-deserved accolade. Well done all concerned.

The show provided over 40 stewards and a two course lunch, the show is always a great success. Treasurer, Jeremy Andrews (Kingston) stepped down and Keith McMahon (Kingston) took over the role. Daphne Thomas worked alongside Hazel Sharples with the intention of taking over the Show Bench in 2019. Thank you to Mike Axford and Julie Hogarth for introducing the new initiative – goodie bags for the first 100 family visitors to the marquee.

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A huge thank you to Michael Main, Chris and Rob Chisholm, Rosalind and David Clague, Elizabeth Knight, Hugh Coakley, Jill Tyndale, Jane Hall and Simon Wellicome for their contributions and all the Stewards. Michael Main decided to step down and Mike Axford has stepped into the role of Chief Steward. Every year Elizabeth Knight who runs our straw draw needs hundreds of small honey potlets and very small candles as straw draw prizes for the divisions. Thank you to all who stepped up and produced a fantastic variety this year.

Kathy O'Toole – Croydon assisted as Judges Steward. Peter Dawson won the Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit in the show for the second year running. Yet again the Vincent Challenge Cup for the division with most points in show was won by Farnham.

Final thank you to Esther Woods who filmed a short documentary of the activities in the Bee & Honey Tent accompanied with interviews organised with our members. The film is available on the SBKA website.

The show funds came from Straw Draw, Candle Rolling, Taste of Honey, percentage of honey sales. A very big thank you to all who support the show. The show is to be held next year on 27 May.

TL added a big thank you to BM for all his hard work to make the County Show such a great success.

**b) Membership Secretary**

A new Membership Secretary is required to take up the role. No report submitted. A huge thank you to all division membership secretaries for their hard work this year.

**c) Archivist**

No report submitted – a new Archivist is required. Please make contact if this role is of interest.

**7. Delegates' Reports**

**a) Divisional Chairmen's Reports**

All divisional reports uploaded onto the SBKA website in advance of the AGM and displayed around the meeting room during the AGM. Highlights:

Croydon: Eco-loo

Epsom: Refurbishing facility

Farnham: Education

Guildford: Re-negotiation of lease

Kingston: Anaphylaxis positive response

Reigate: All weather surface car park

Weybridge: Unforeseen planning issue, continue to work with local authority

Wimbledon: Clear of EFB

**b) BBKA ADM Delegate**

Bob Maurer reported ADM held January 2018. Dominated by Ian Homer \ IMYB. SBKA voted against expelling Ian Homer, the whole matter has been very badly handled. Margaret Wilson accused delegates of bullying. However, some positives relating to research fund, Finances – noted £83,700 surplus year ending 2017\18. Confirmed capitulation rates will stay the same for 2018/19 Notable – applications of area association memberships, most with very small membership numbers. Concerns around diluting what happens at meetings and the associated extra expenses.

In 2019 two Associations applying for membership. Isle of Man – 20 people and Kent similar issue – BBKA are neutral about this.

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Election of President – there is no ‘No’ vote

CIO put into motion.

Funds IMYB – SBKA gave £5k donation – even though there was a £10k profit. Executive Committee SBKA decided to leave monies for education of young people. BBKA want it to be allocated for young people, this was amended to fund IMYB British teams in the future.

There were many propositions that were not covered as the meeting ran out of time – covered 10am to 5pm. All propositions are on BBKA website – with guidance.

BM asked if there were any questions:

Q1 – David Parker: Small divisions have a vote, voting for Trustees becomes an issue, same vote as larger organisations. Should votes on trusteeship be changed to membership basis? CIO does not change this. Is there an opportunity for larger divisions to ‘put their foot down’?

Answer TL Response – it’s an issue that has not been dealt with. There is a reluctance on the part of the BBKA Executive to regulate applications from small groups of individuals to become Area Association Members of BBKA. All AAM delegates have the right to request a ‘member’ vote which is weighted according to the number of registered members. ~~(Tim may wish to add more)~~. A show of hands supported the Delegate’s approach.

Report provided and attached to the minutes. Papers are available on the BBKA website – approximately 150 pages for review.

**c) BDI Representative Report**

Andrew Gibb provided update.

The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006 is still the current piece of legislation that controls the statutory diseases in honeybees in England which are AFB, EFB, small hive beetle and Tropilaelaps.

The NBU is investigating the finding of a dead Asian hornet in a car grill at a car dealership in Guildford. Further information will become available as and when the situation develops. The NBU strongly advise beekeepers to monitor for this insect using appropriate traps. These are shown on the NBU BeeBase website and are also available from beekeeping suppliers.

AFB in SE England - trend has been roughly the same over the last 5 years and at 5 colonies in 2018. With EFB the trend is more of a switchback over the last 5 years with 75 reported incidents in 2018.

Full report provided and available on SBKA website. Any questions? None raised.

**d) BeeCraft Representative**

Andrew Gibb (AG) provided report. The magazine excelled again in 2017 and was awarded the silver medal for journals at the 45<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress held in September in Istanbul.

This is the fourth congress that the company has received an award for the magazine.

Although sales of hard copies falling, digital in on the increase.

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Full report available on the SBKA website.

Q1 – David Shepherd (Epsom) asked if BeeCraft is available overseas.  
Response AG – confirmed sales are mainly within the American market.

TL personal comment on BeeCraft – centenary year in 2019.

Q2 – Anne Jones (Kingston) asked if prices will be held for the long term?

Response BM - reminded everyone SBKA have significant shares in BeeCraft.  
Response AG – confirmed BeeCraft introducing Direct Debit, which is long overdue, to gain discount.  
However there will be price rise due to postage increase.

Q3 – David Parker (Guildford) what is being done about the BeeCraft plastic cover?

Response AG – review undertaken, the cover is now recyclable.

Q4 – David Parker (Guildford) what activities are SBKA taking to expand subscription of BeeCraft?

Response BM – there is a 25% discount for Surrey and Kent.

Response AG – When resources are available activities are planned with other associations to promote the publication.

Response – TL – BBKA News previously used to help promote BeeCraft. Many associations unaware of the publication.

#### **e) Examinations Secretary**

Celia Perry (Reigate) provided a written report.

Candidates for the basic assessment from all eight divisions. All 43 candidates passed, many gaining a credit which is awarded when a candidate achieves 75% or more. This was the largest number of basic successes for any Association throughout England, despite that only 4% of Surrey members have passed the basic assessment.

Numbers slightly up on the previous year when there were 37 passes. Four Junior Certificates awarded (in 2017 there was 1).

Farnham was the only division to present candidates for the new Honey Bee Health practical assessment, all 5 candidates passed. More candidates in 2019? Future candidates need to be aware there is an earlier closing date for receipt of applications - 28 February.

No candidates took the General Husbandry practical assessment (2 in 2017) or for the microscopy (1 in the previous year).

One person took the Advanced Husbandry Assessment (none in 2017) and passed, with this plus module passes, there is now another Master Beekeeper in Surrey.

When combining results for the November 2017 and March 2018 written modules, 11 candidates passed a total of 16 modules (20 previous year). As always, thanks to Epsom division for use of their facilities in March and November for the written modules and to the many Assessors not only from Surrey but beyond who give up their time and experience to assess candidates for the practical exams.

From 2019 members will be able to take modules without having passed the Basic Assessment (it was noted by CP this was not provided in her report).

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CP asked if any questions. There were none.

TL asked for the acceptance of reports from 7 a) to e) be elected 'en bloc'

Proposed by Marion Cooper (Weybridge) seconded by Mark Gale (Epsom). Accepted nem con.

## **8. Election of Officers**

**a) President – Tim Lovett**

**b) Chairman – Bob Maurer**

Positions to be voted every 3 years (last vote 2015).

TL suggested the election of President and Chairman should be staggered.

Election of President – every 3 years (to be voted 2020)

Election of Chairman – every 3 years (to be voted 2021)

Proposed by Andrew Buchanan. All in favour. Accepted nem con.

Election of President: Tim Lovett

(to be voted again in 2020)

Proposed by: Gill Futchter (Epsom)

Seconded by: Derek Jones (Kingston)

All in favour. Accepted nem con.

Election of Chairman: Bob Maurer

(to be voted again in 3 years – 2021)

Proposed by: David Humphreys (Weybridge)

Seconded by: Derek Reid (Croydon)

All in favour. Accepted nem con.

Election of:

Treasurer: Penny McMahon

Secretary & Minute Secretary: Julie Hogarth

Proposed by: Max Gladwyn (Wimbledon)

Seconded by: Steve Secker (Epsom)

All in favour. Accepted nem con.

Membership Secretary – omitted.

Election of:

Examinations Secretary: Celia Perry

Independent Examiner: Chris Tomaszewski

Webmaster: Martin Major

Proposed by: Richard Snelling (Croydon)

Seconded by: Derek Read (Croydon)

All in favour. Accepted nem con.

Archivist – omitted.

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## 9. Election of Trustees

Tim Lovett asked that election of the Trustees a) to h) be elected 'en bloc'. The candidates for the role of Trustee and nominated by their divisions were:

Croydon	Derek Read
Epsom	Diane Middlecoat
Farnham	Rosalind Clague
Guildford	Malcolm Clarke
Kingston	Derek Jones
Reigate	Richard Bradfield
Weybridge	Marion Cooper
Wimbledon	Steve Derry

Proposed by: Gill Futchter (Epsom)  
Seconded by: Max Gladwyn (Wimbledon)  
Acceptance 'en bloc' and elected nem con.

## 10. Election of Representatives

Tim Lovett asked that election of the Representatives a) to d) be elected 'en bloc'.

The candidates for the SBKA Representatives proposed were:

BBKA ADM	Bob Maurer
BDI	Andrew Gibb
BeeCraft	Michael Main
National Honey Show	Andrew Gibb, Mollie Bonard

Proposed by: Andrew Buchanan (Weybridge)  
Seconded by: Penny McMahan (Kingston)  
Acceptance 'en bloc' and elected nem con.

## 11. Any Other Business

None.

Upcoming Events:

Stoneleigh Convention – 12, 13, 14 April, Avis Marshall (Kingston) contact for leaflets and more information.

Talk on Asian Hornet – 19 March, Reigate. Bob Hogg from Jersey to share his experiences with Asian Hornet.

Epsom Shop – Steve Secker (Epsom) for opening hours. The shop has been refurbished and worth a visit.

Richard Snelling (Croydon), thanked the committee for their contribution.

TL endorsed by thanking BM, PMcM and everyone who contributes to the success of SBKA.

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Tim Lovett thanked Gill Fitcher and other members of Epsom for hosting the meeting.

The meeting was closed at approximately 3.30pm followed by a surprise toast to celebrate Tim Lovett - Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE).

This was followed by a presentation by George Clouston – ‘Better Knowledge for Bee Health’  
Refreshments and sandwiches provided by our hosts.

**Approved by:** .....

**Signature:** .....

**Date:** .....

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