



Minutes of the 141st Annual General Meeting – 07 December 2019 Held at South Farnham School, Menin Way, Farnham GU9 8DY Hosted by Farnham Division

Welcome from Geoff Redwood, Chair of Farnham BKA to South Farnham School.
Tim Lovett, President of Surrey BKA stated it was good to see so many people and confirmed Rosalind Clague would take the minutes as Julie Hogarth was running late.

The sad loss of John von Gerard (Epsom member), funeral to take place at Randalls Park Crematorium on Thursday 12 December, Tim Lovett to represent SBKA.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Liz Knee, Andrew Halstead, Marilynne Bainbridge, Gareth Morgan, Celia Perry.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 1 December 2018 – minor amendments
Item 3 – amended total honey sales. No re-election of the President, the next date to renew is 2020.
Minutes signed off and proposed nem com.

3. Matters Arising

None. JH arrived and took over the minutes. Thank you to Rosalind Clague for stepping in at late notice.

4. Chairman's Report

Reported from the Chair, provided in advance of the meeting and available on the SBKA website.

BM confirmed that both Derek Jones (Chair) and Anne Jones (Treasurer) will be standing down at Kingston. *Post meeting note: Anne Jones remains in post until a replacement can be found.*

Of note three items:

- Gift Aid - ongoing
- GDPR – policy in place (to be reviewed annually)
- ER2 – new platform for BBKA membership / ongoing challenges for Mike Hill and divisional membership secretaries. Additional meetings hosted by BBKA representative to resolve issues.

Archivist – this role remains vacant, this is an important role for Surrey Beekeepers, with over 141 years plus of history records. SBKA archive is housed at the Surrey History Centre, Woking. If you are interested in the position please contact BM or JH.

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Webmaster – Martin Major to stand down, a huge thank you to Martin Major for maintaining content balance on the SBKA website, we are now seeking new webmaster:
Post meeting note: Colin Marshall to take over the role during 2020.

Surrey stand at the National Honey Show set up by Richard Bradfield focused on Asian Hornet. Banners for divisional AHAT teams are available.

National Honey Show – vacant role, Workshop Convenor required. Contact BM for further information.

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

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Penny McMahan (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.

Pages 1-4 cover Administration of SBKA / Trustees Report / Independent Examiner's Statement. Page 5 – details of Financial activities of note a small loss of £1,004 (Surrey Show and Gift Aid Advise). Page 6 Assets total on 30 September - £41,356.00, held to safeguard against future financial problems.. Page 9-10 details all Surrey accounts to end of 30.09.19.

PMcM thanked all the Membership Secretaries for their assistance with ER2.

Any questions: Q1 Richard Whitehead (Farnham) – requested update on courses organised at county level.

A1 BM confirmed no courses at county level over last 12 months.

Q2 Richard Whitehead noted £140 on education.

A2 PMcM confirmed this related to 2017 expenses paid in 2018.

Q3 Neil Difford drop in SBKA membership between 2018 and 2019?

A3 PMcM confirmed there was an increase between 2018 and 2019. TL commented that SBKA has relatively little influence on membership as recruitment is with the divisions. However there has been a substantial growth at national and county level. BM confirmed at the SBKA quarterly council meetings items discussed include divisional membership and finances.

Comment from David Parker – Surrey Beekeepers website may take away potential divisional members.

Comment from Keith McMahan – There are beekeepers in the Surrey area who are independent BBKA members and both Surrey BKA and divisional SBKA websites can help to bring these independents into the divisions.

Comment from David Whitehead – not all beekeepers are digital. BM confirmed information is circulated as hard copy as well as soft copy.

Comment from David Parker on cyber security and GDPR – removal of personal information from websites. TL confirmed that centrally the branch do their best to look after the membership.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report was proposed by Gill Fatcher (Epsom) and seconded by Anne Jones (Kingston) – the meeting voted to accept nem con.

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6. Committee Reports

a) Show Committee

Summarised by Bob Maurer. Very successful year, Mike Axford in his first year as Chief Steward. BM/MA organised several meetings with the Chair of the Surrey County Show to build a good relationship.

Julie Hogarth and Mike Axford organised free goodie bags (for 2nd year), very popular.

First year for Keith McMahon as Treasurer – very successful day. Huge thank you to Rosalind and David Clague for providing bees for the show. Added a sphere hive to the show as a new attraction.

Peter Dawson (Guildford) – won the Blue Ribbon for the 3rd year running. Guildford won the Vincent Challenge Cup.

The Straw Draw stand requires donations from divisions and individuals to keep up with demand. Donations are honey potlets / moulded candles / biscuits / fudge – every year approx. 1,530 presents are needed for the stand – if you can help to supply these items please contact Elizabeth Knight (Farnham) direct. Hugh Coakley stepped down from the Candle Rolling stand, and Sue Keystone picked up this role. Very big thank you to Hugh. The marquee won 3rd prize in the Best Marque category.

TL thanked the team for their great efforts to deliver another successful year.

b) Membership Secretary

Mike Hill outlined the challenges faced by the divisions to transition to new BBKA platform ER2. All Membership Secretaries and Treasurers reported the system to be incredibly hard work. The system was not clearly explained prior to implementation and not trialled sufficiently in advance of a full launch. The SBKA Membership Secretaries and Treasurers organise workshop sessions to discuss issues and find solutions. ER2 is the BBKA Membership platform and is here for the long term.

7. Delegates' Reports

a) Branch Highlights

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

Croydon: to expand with a second apiary

Epsom: success of shop, sales increased by 71% on previous year

Farnham: new website

Guildford: new apiary wc

Kingston: doubled membership over 10 years

Reigate: All weather car park

Weybridge: Grant from Elmbridge to improve teaching materials

Wimbledon: 7 apiaries where all colonies doing well

No questions raised.

b) BBKA ADM Delegate

Bob Maurer provided a full report. Highlights of the ADM held January 2019 - £50k surplus. Update on weighted voting options to replace existing voting system – further work to be undertaken by BBKA.

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Concern raised on criteria of new membership submissions, increased membership will fragment the BBKA. Costs to host annual ADM now increased to £8k to provide venue for larger numbers. A new disciplinary procedure proposed in 2018, however presented very early and required additional work. Input now complete to be available January 2020.

CIO for BBKA complete. Gareth Morgan to stand again as BBKA Trustee. Proxy voting approved – several delegates do not like this. It was noted that Apimondia does not recognise GB. Further details available in BM's report.

No questions raised.

c) BDI Representative Report

Andrew Gibb (AG) provided update on Bee Disease Insurance (BDI). The organisation compensates insured beekeepers for equipment losses where their bees are destroyed or treated under the BEES Act 1980, The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006 for notifiable diseases, currently EFB and AFB by a Bee Inspector appointed by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA). AFB not found in Surrey areas in 2019.

EFB was found in 2019 in Wimbledon (4 cases), Godalming (15 cases), Weybridge (1 case). Between 2014 and 2018 the trend of colonies with this disease in SE England has been gradually rising.

Full report provided and available on SBKA website.

Any questions? Q1 Richard Whitehead – can EFB numbers be confirmed.
A1 AG confirmed all this type of information is held on the Bee Base website.

No further questions. TL thanked AG for the report.

d) BeeCraft Representative

Andrew Gibb (AG) provided report. The magazine celebrated the centenary year February 2019. Claire Waring retired as Editor.

Full report available on the SBKA website.

TL confirmed a message of thanks sent to Claire Waring after 23 years at the magazine and commented that BeeCraft has served SBKA very well.

Comment from Anne Jones – Katy Butcher of BeeCraft to set up a similar system to ER2.

No questions raised.

e) Examinations Secretary

Celia Perry (CP) provided a written report. The report was read out by BM.

This year there were candidates for the basic assessment from all eight of Surrey's divisions. There were slightly fewer candidates than last year, 38 in all (43 last year). Four candidates took and passed the Honey Bee Health practical assessment.

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The Honey Bee Health assessment requires a lot of spare equipment to enable candidates to carry out the tasks they may be required to perform during the assessment and it is important that if a division has candidates for the assessment it ensures plans are made in plenty of time to ensure sufficient clean equipment is available for the candidates to use.

This year no candidates took the General Husbandry practical assessment or for the microscopy.

Full report available on the website. No questions raised.

8. Election of Officers

a) President – Tim Lovett

b) Chairman – Bob Maurer

Agreed in 2018 the election of President and Chairman should be staggered to avoid a possible change in both these positions in the same year. TL suggested that to decouple the elections the next Election of President would take place in 2020 and subsequently return to every 3 years after that date. Election of Chairman – also every 3 years, the next vote to take place in 2021.

TL proposed that election of Officers a) to h) be elected 'en bloc'.

Treasurer: Penny McMahon

Secretary: Julie Hogarth

Membership Secretary: Michael Hill

Examinations Secretary: Celia Perry

Independent Examiner: Chris Tomaszewski

Webmaster: Martin Major to stay in role until new person appointed

Proposed by: Andrew Buchanan (Reigate)

Seconded by: Derek Jones (Kingston)

All in favour. Accepted nem con.

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	Martyn Milner
Reigate	Richard Bradfield
Weybridge	Marion Cooper
Wimbledon	Steve Derry

Proposed by: Derek Jones (Kingston)

Seconded by: Gill Futcher (Epsom)

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'.

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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: Geoff Cooper (Weybridge)
 Seconded by: Max Gladwyn (Wimbledon)
 Acceptance 'en bloc' and elected nem con.

11. Any Other Business

Q1 David Whitehead (Farnham) – Raised concern about density of bees and beekeepers and disease and requested that SBKA ask beekeepers to provide their post codes.

A1 TL commented that Bee Base only publish updates to beekeepers who are within a 10 mile radius. This could be discussed at divisional level.

Gill Fatcher (Epsom) commented that she would not publish details of where her bees are located, Epsom division also support this.

Upcoming Events:

Stoneleigh Spring Convention – 03, 04, 05 April at Harper Adams. Bookings open from January 2020.

Tim Lovett thanked Geoff Redwood and other members of Farnham for hosting the meeting and refreshments.

The meeting was closed at approximately 3.00pm followed by refreshments and a presentation by Simon Cavill 'Bee Good from obsession to profession'

Approved by:

Signature:

Date:

