

Minutes of the 142nd Annual General Meeting – 05 December 2020 Held Online Zoom Meeting at 2pm - Hosted by Guildford Division

Welcome from Jonathan Brookhouse, Chair of Guildford BKA and Tim Lovett, President of Surrey BKA.

Jim Wynn – Reigate provided short brief to online attendees about Zoom Meeting protocols - in particular a request to use the hand up sign to raise questions, propose or second actions.

The meeting was declared open by Tim Lovett, SBKA President at 14.02

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Keith McMahon.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7 December 2019 – accepted and proposed nem com. Minutes signed off by Tim Lovett.

3. Matters Arising

Reminder from Tim Lovett – discussion in 2019 to separate the date of election of the President and Chairman to ensure they are not held in the same year.

4. Chairman's Report

Reported from the Chair – Bob Maurer, provided a full report in advance of the meeting and is available on the SBKA website.

BM confirmed that over the last year everyone had done an amazing job, especially Jim Wynn who provided support for online meetings.

Marilynne Bainbridge (Chair) stood down at Guildford and welcome to Jonathan Brookhouse as new Chair.

Geoff Redwood – Farnham stood down as Council Representative, welcome to Chris Rushton who has taken over the role.

Marion Cooper (Trustee) Weybridge and Jane Hunter (Council Representative) Weybridge have switched their respective roles.

Martin Major (Weybridge) Surrey BKA Webmaster stood down, the role has been taken over by Colin Marshall (Guildford).

Jonathan Brookhouse stood down as Surrey BKA Asian Hornet Action Team Group Leader – Jim Wynn has taken over the role of Group Leader.

05 December 2020



Archivist role remains open, please contact JH or BM if you or another member is interested in the role.

The loss of Mark Stott so tragic, he will be sorely missed by all.

Limited progress made with Gift Aid in the main due to delays caused by Covid 19. For a number of reasons, Andy Skilton (Brewers Chartered Accountants) who was assisting with the project was unable to access his office and his essential paperwork. In the meantime the Surrey BKA are to take up this matter with the BBKA and will report back to the Council in the future.

A very big thank you to Mike Hill (Reigate) along with all 8 divisional Membership Secretaries for their work on eR2 – a monster job that has been completed.

BeeCraft was 100 years old in 2019, Surrey was a founder member and remains the second largest Shareholder. Andrew Gibb, Chair of BeeCraft for 33 years retired this year – he has changed BeeCraft from a small publication to a multi-page full colour publication of today.

Surrey BKA wanted to give to others in difficulties - £5k donated to Bees for Development and Bees Abroad – both organisations have thanked Surrey BKA.

A big thank you to Julie Hogarth and Penny McMahan for their respective roles looking after BM and monitoring and reporting on the finances. A huge thank you to everyone for all their hard work to continue to support members over the last year and care for our bees.

TL underlined how well things have gone this year despite circumstances and at national level there has been a growth in beekeeping during the pandemic.

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

5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts

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.

The Central Fund provides funding to better aid and promote beekeeping, advance education of the public about the importance of bees.

Capitation to BBKA £19,559 – 30/09/20

Two donations made: Bees for Development and Bees Abroad.

Total funds carried forward £33,749 assets held to fund future projects.

Consolidated accounts income and expenditure – surplus of £31,161

Any questions. No hands raised

Acceptance of Report & Accounts

Proposed by: Penny McMahan

Seconded by: Marilynne Bainbridge.

TL thanked PMcM who is always well-informed at Council meetings and keeps her finger on the pulse throughout the year.

05 December 2020



6. Committee Reports

a) County Show Committee

Summarised by Bob Maurer. BM (Chairman) and Mike Axford (Chief Steward) of the County Show spent time with Surrey County Agricultural Society (SCAS) – the contact has now left and as yet the new contact is unconfirmed.

No questions raised.

b) Membership Secretary

Mike Hill confirmed at 01 December Surrey BKA have 222 more members than January 2020.

MH thanked all Membership Secretaries who over the year have attended Zoom meetings to discuss problems, as needed.

No questions raised.

7. Delegates' Reports

a) BBKA ADM Delegate

Bob Maurer attended ADM January 2020 – recap on key points (full report available online Surrey BKA website)

- BBKA no increase in capitation. Confirmed capitation had been at £19 since 2015.
- Laddingford made a second application to join as a division of BBKA, previous application in 2019 unaccepted. Application accepted. However a membership vote called by Yorkshire resulted in the Laddingford application failing.
- Huge concern amongst smaller Associations – discussion around how many members needed – 50 or 100 to become a new Association.
- Proposed change to the voting system – whilst Surrey BKA have over 1,000 members other Associations have 30 members, the current system is one member one vote. Seeking greater parity for smaller Associations seeking to adopt Penrose Square Root System - allocating the voting weights of delegates (possibly a single representative) in decision-making bodies proportional to the square root of the population represented by this delegation.

Change to voting discussed by Surrey BKA Council over the Summer, viewed on the whole as a good idea, the majority view of Surrey BKA divisions to adopt the Penrose System, however they wish to ensure no change is made to the voting system until robust rules in place to control Area Association members being accepted by the ADM.

The BBKA Response: Remove the ability of delegates to vote on new admissions of delegates and place this decision making into the hands of the BBKA. This is considered unconstitutional by Surrey BKA.

TL confirmed it was inadequate to express views over Zoom as technically a very complex matter to deal with. Democracy within the BBKA will be changed for all time if this view goes ahead. Difficult to achieve interventions online – steam rolled through. TL requested all members to write to Mrs Margaret Wilson (President – BBKA) to express views.

SBKA are unanimous in their decision to request a robust voting system is in place.

05 December 2020



Surrey BKA seeking a workable agreement with BBKA to address qualification for membership and how this is regulated. TL requested a special delegate meeting on the issue later in the year.

John Bainbridge comment: BBKA Charity is subject to Charity Commission regulations – if they intend to deny proper democracy the Charity Commission could write to the BBKA.

BM commented: he would like to resolve this matter without being adversarial.

No further questions raised.

b) BDI Representative

Report by Andrew Gibb (AG) is available on Surrey BKA website. AG was unable to join the AGM.

Key points: In the last two years, particularly the trends for both AFB and EFB have been increasing particularly in Eastern and South-east England as reported by the National Bee Unit (NBU).

A two-year pilot trial to encourage the use of whole apiary shook swarm as a means of reducing re-occurrences of EFB is being trialled as a joint initiative by Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd (BDI) and the NBU during 2021 and 2022 – the start has been delayed 12 months due to Covid-19.

No questions raised.

TL thanked AG for preparing the report.

c) BeeCraft Representative

Report by Michael Main (MM) is available on Surrey BKA website.

Key Points: 2019/20 as a year of change at BeeCraft. Andrew Gibb retired as CEO, replaced by Alex Ellis, David Cockburn appointed as the Kent representative to the board in January. Mike Forster resigned from the board.

Consultant, Claire Waring retired after 22 years as Editor, replaced by Co-Editors Stephen Fleming and Richard Reckitt.

To focus on future growth, BeeCraft has invested in a new database system and design of the new website.

No questions raised.

TL thanked MM for preparing the report.

d) Membership Secretary

Report by Mike Hill (MH) is available on Surrey BKA website.

Key Points:

Electronic data via eR2 has not been possible, however locally held record of all members available and used for reporting.

Continued workload for Membership Secretaries with new eR2 database system.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic Surrey membership numbers have increased.

No questions raised.

05 December 2020



TL thanked MH for preparing the report.

e) Examinations Secretary

Report by Celia Perry (CP) is available on Surrey BKA website.

Key Points:

Covid 19 has meant cancellation of exams in March and November. Plan to run modules online and online examinations.

Uncertainty on whether practical assessments can be held in 2021.

No questions raised.

TL thanked CP for preparing the report.

f) Asian Hornet Action Team

Report by Jim Wynn (JW) is available on Surrey BKA website.

Just one sighting of AH this year – 8 September in Gosport.

Key Points:

Thank you to Jonathan Brookhouse founder of the group for all his hard work.

We all know that the queens emerge after hibernation in the Spring so divisions should plan to reiterate information about identification and action during March meetings, these are:

- The 'Asian Hornet Watch' app, available free for both Apple and Android
- Via a web form [Bit.ly/report hornet](https://bit.ly/report_hornet)
- Emailing alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
- Phoning your nearest action team member found here bit.ly/AH-action-team

More information here www.ahat.org.uk

No questions raised.

TL thanked JW for preparing the report.

8. Election of Officers

a) President – Tim Lovett

Amendment to Constitution: 7.1.3 and addition of 7.1.4

Q: Richard Bradfield – what happens if the President or Chair stands down within the 3 years of office.

A: TL secondment to role and vote at next AGM. Two-thirds majority required.

Q: Clive Mence – is there a maximum period of office.

A: TL no

Vote:

29 - For

0 - Against

(total 39 members online)

Effective from end of meeting for 3 year period. Next vote for President to be 2023.

b) Chairman – Bob Maurer

Proposed by: Jim Wynn

Seconded by: Andrew Gibb

28 – For

05 December 2020



0 – Against

Election of Chairman for 3 year period commencing 2021 and again in 2024.

TL proposed that election of Officers c) to g) be elected 'en bloc'.

Treasurer: Penny McMahon

Secretary: Julie Hogarth

Membership Secretary: Michael Hill

Examinations Secretary: Celia Perry

Independent Examiner: Chris Tomaszewski

Webmaster: Colin Marshall

Proposed by: Bob Maurer (Reigate)

Seconded by: Andrew Halstead (Weybridge)

26 – For

0 – Against

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	Jane Hunter
Wimbledon	Steve Derry

Proposed by: Gareth Morgan (Wimbledon)

Seconded by: Jonathan Brookhouse (Guildford)

23 – For

0 - Against

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: Steve Derry (Wimbledon)

Seconded by: Gill Fatcher (Epsom)

27 – For

0 - Against

11. Any Other Business

No.

05 December 2020



Tim Lovett thanked Jonathan Brookhouse and other members of Guildford for hosting the online meeting and presentation. He also thanked all Officers and Representatives and added a note that we must never forget we are members of a Bee Club.

It was confirmed 2021 Surrey BKA will be hosted by Kingston.

The meeting was closed at 3.10pm followed by a presentation by Francesca Mahoney of the charity – Wild Survivors ‘Bees and Elephants’.

The meeting closed at 16.05.

Approved by:

Signature:

Date:

05 December 2020

