

Minutes of the 138th Annual General Meeting Held in Tooting & Mitcham Football Club, Morden and hosted by Wimbledon Division on Saturday 26 November 2016 at 2pm

**Gareth Morgan Wimbledon Division welcomed the attendees.
The meeting was chaired by Tim Lovett, SBKA President.**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Andrew Gibb, Jane Hall, Andrew Halstead, Celia Perry, Richard Snelling, Andrew Buchanan, Deborah Ware.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2015 – matters of accuracy item raised by Stephen Secker item 5, paragraph 8 – Richard Boynton not known to the Epsom Division, name deleted from minutes. Item 6, section d) revision to wording to read ‘that in the near future a spray alerting system will be introduced so that farmers may inform beekeepers when they are going to spray certain crops.’

3. Matters Arising

The President, Tim Lovett (TL), asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes – no matters arising from the minutes. TL put forward a request to Bob Maurer (BM) to provide an update on International Meeting of Young Beekeeper 2017.

BM reminded those present that BBKA is to host the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers 2017 – to fund this BBKA proposed a levy of £1 on each member to raise funds toward the full cost of hosting the event estimated at £80,000. At the October SBKA Council Meeting 2015 attendees did not support the £1 levy. An alternative solution proposed – SBKA would put up £5,000 toward funding on condition the BBKA would put up £30,000 from sponsorship funding. BM presented this proposal at the 2016 ADM.

BM reported that to date BBKA has not raised the £30,000. However, unaware of the exact amount raised. The event is to be held in early July 2017 at Marlborough College – 80 beehives will be required as part of the event – Celia Rudland from East Surrey Bees to assist with this.

4. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman, Bob Maurer thanked all those present for attending. He noted the following:

Mark Stott – Chairman of Croydon was to stand down but would remain involved in Education. He was thanked for all his efforts. Bob Barnes to take over the role of Chairman and Derek Read to take on the role of Treasurer.

Weybridge Division plan to develop a Training & Community Centre – BM wished them well.

26 November 2016



Reigate Division – Henfold Copse the new building is up and running with the next stage of development to commence in the near future.

Gift Aid – there is a suggestion that BeeCraft subscription does not qualify for Gift Aid – HMRC and SBKA in consultation.

There are a great many people to thank including – Sandra Rickwood, Secretary SBKA standing down having been a star for 12 years plus 25 years with the Surrey Council – more on this later.

Penny McMahon, Treasurer – for the great job she does to ensure all finances are in excellent order.

Celia Perry, Examinations Secretary – for the excellent job she does.

Education Sub-Committee, Chaired by Mark Stott as Jane Hall and Alistair Welch stood down – an enormous thank you.

Michelle Ernout, Membership Secretary for her hard work.

Martin Major – SBKA webmaster and the excellent diplomatic job of balance he achieves on the website.

Deborah Ware, Archivist – very pleased to know that she is able to assist as our Archivist once again – very good news.

A huge thank you for the enormous amount of help given by all those involved in the National Honey Show.

Dates confirmed for the South of England Show to be held on 8 \ 9 \ 10 June 2017 – Bob Barnes, Chairman. Future information will be shared with the membership.

Tim Lovett took the opportunity to thank Bob Maurer for all his work that has helped to make Surrey a very successful Association.

Acceptance of the Chairman’s Report was proposed by Bob Barnes (Croydon) and seconded by Peter Dawson (Guildford) – the meeting voted to accept nem con.

Bob Maurer announced slight change in the Agenda to introduce another item: Sandra Rickwood to be made an Honorary Member of Surrey Beekeepers Association. Proposed by Bob Maurer (Reigate) and seconded by Tim Lovett (Kingston) – 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 was available in advance of the meeting on the SBKA website and hard copies placed on seats in the audience.

The Association’s net surplus on operations is £940 – this consisted of £213 made by Surrey County Show and admin charges made to Surrey divisions and surplus made on courses organised by the Education Committee. The value of the Charifund investment held by SBKA increased in value by £789 resulted in a final surplus of £1,729.

One of the major decisions made during the year was that divisions within Surrey should pay Beecraft direct instead of through the Central Fund.

26 November 2016



The cash at the bank increased by £5,708 to £32,092. The cash and investments are held by SBKA to safeguard the individual divisions and Trustees against any possible future financial problems.

SBKA Capitation fee set at same rate as 2016. Rates to be charged: Registered Members £41.00 for BeeCraft hard copy and £35.00 for digital BeeCraft of which £1.00 is the Surrey Central Fund charge. Rate for Partner Members £13.00 and Country and Junior rate £10.00. 2017 Central Fund charge for these categories of members is 50 pence.

The Association total membership remains strong at 30 September 2016 for the County was 1014, a small decrease of 33 on previous year's total of 1047.

Question from David Parker (Weybridge) - At what point will the Association be required to register for VAT?

Answer: PMcM confirmed VAT only applies to sales not subscriptions (subscriptions non-VAT as SBKA is not a business). Sales need to be £85,000 to register for VAT.

Question from Clive Mence (Kingston) - Enquired about potential loss of Gift Aid – a payment of £3,000 may be payable to HMRC. Is SBKA making a contingency for this?

Answer: BM confirmed there is a SBKA reserve fund however, a positive approach is being taken on this matter and efforts in hand to find the right people to talk to. If a press campaign is required it will be actioned as this is not only a central fund matter it is a divisional issue.

Comment: Martin Major (Weybridge) – confirmed this matter discussed at the SBKA Council meeting and he thought it appropriate for all divisions to prepare for worst scenario.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report was proposed by David Humphreys (Weybridge) and seconded by Clive Mence (Kingston) – the meeting voted to accept nem con.

6. Committee Reports

a) Show Committee – summarised by Bob Maurer. The show is always brilliant and huge thanks to Michael Main – Chief Steward. Surrey Show Agricultural staff change regularly which is a challenge. John Hamer (Blackhorse Apiaries) has provided the bees for many years and we hope he will continue to do so. The Show Bench Secretary – Hazel Sharples does a brilliant job ensuring a Blue Ribbon Show with between 140\160 entries. The Judge, Tom Salter did complain – there are a great many entries for one Judge. The Vincent Challenge Cup each year goes to the division with the most points – this is a contest between Guildford and Farnham more entries from more divisions needed to compete for this cup please.

Every year more gifts required for the straw draw: wax blocks, candles, biscuits, fudge and honey potlets – members help is always needed to provide enough gifts to keep the stall going until the end of the event. Dave Charnley (Wimbledon) has made 100 wax blocks. Steve Secker (Epsom) will distribute potlets to all divisions at the end of the meeting. We would welcome more help from all divisions.

Post meeting note, with enough gifts on the Straw Draw we know we can raise £650 on this stall alone – in recent years sales have dipped to £440 due to lack of gifts.

Steve Secker (Epsom) stood down as Treasurer in 2016, a huge thank you for his support and hard work over the many years in this role. We welcome and thank Jeremy Andrews (Kingston) who has stepped into the post.

A very big thank you to all who support the show.

26 November 2016



b) Membership Secretary

Michelle Ernault, (Membership Secretary) submitted a written report. She took on the role in 2016. There was glitch with Autumn Capitation Check when email correspondence had not been received. This was resolved. To assist with future admin it was agreed division Membership Secretaries are to be asked to provide a current list of all members that will be forwarded to BBKA and cross referenced.

A huge thank you to all divisions Membership Secretaries who have been helpful, understanding and fast acting.

c) Education Committee

Mark Stott, reported that things are ticking over well. Surrey Bee Day has been taken over by the Education Committee – forthcoming event 12th Surrey Bee Day Saturday 18 February – Cobham Village Hall Registration 09.30 one day programme with 8 Speakers. Tickets £24 pp including lunch.

d) Technical, Health & Spray Liaison

Paul Cleaver, did not attend the meeting.

Tim Lovett reported Bee Connected is fully operational – he asked that all beekeepers register on the site.

e) Archivist

Deborah Ware has taken up this role since the last AGM. The Surrey Archive is held at Woking.

7. Delegates' Reports

a) Divisional Chairmen's Reports

It was requested at the 2015 AGM that highlights of divisional reports be summarised and uploaded onto the SBKA website. It was confirmed this had been achieved.

b) BBKA ADM Delegate

Bob Maurer reported an acrimonious situation had existed for a number of years, however, with a new President, John Hendrie and new Chair, Margaret Murdin they are working together to do a good job. Finances reported are £23,000 in the black and plans are in hand for the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers 2017. Surrey Proposition 2014 regarding review and change to the key dates in the BBKA year not passed. BM to request this be reviewed again as detailed in the Minutes of the last meeting. All Propositions for the 57th Annual Delegates Meeting of the BBKA are available on the BBKA website.

Question from David Parker (Weybridge) – where does SBKA share the feedback on the Propositions. Answer: BM confirmed the information is distributed to all divisions through the Chair \ Secretaries. Feedback is discussed at the October SBKA Council Meeting. To provide greater transparency BM is able to provide feedback on how SBKA voted.

Comment from David Parker (Weybridge) – He has made attempts to attend the ADM, in his opinion the difficulties he experienced seeking an invitation are a breach of the constitution. He made a written application to attend and received a response from Ian Homer stating that 65 delegates attend the ADM currently no desire to increase the number, in order to run efficiently additional numbers impractical.

c) BDI Representative Report

Andrew Gibb provided a Surrey BKA AGM – Disease Report.

Summary of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) – main task to protect the health and welfare of animals as well as the general public from disease. Works across Great Britain on behalf of DEFRA,

26 November 2016



the Scottish Government and Welsh Government. The National Bee Unit (NBU) based in York is part of APHA regarding reportable diseases.

American Foul Brood (AFB) - This year NBU inspected a total of 22929 colonies in England – 0.2% were found to have the disease. The disease has not been widespread in Surrey, in 2016 only one reported case, June located in the Epsom and Sutton area these were destroyed.

European Foul Brood (EFB) – much more widespread particularly in SE England. Of the same 22929 colonies inspected by NBU, overall in England 1.45% had the disease rising to 2.4% in SE England (Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Greater London). This represented 8 colonies diagnosed in Surrey – all destroyed.

Asian Hornets – an outbreak in Gloucestershire, identified, tracked and destroyed in their nest. Asian hornets first discovered in Tetbury in September, NBU quickly located the nest and removed it. No further live Asian hornets seen since early October. Two dead Asian hornets found in separate location close by in Somerset, no nests or live hornets seen.

During winter Asian hornets die, they cannot survive in the cold weather. DEFRA remains vigilant, working closely with NBU and nationwide network of bee inspectors. Success in locating Asian hornets nests is thanks to the close collaboration with DEFRA and the NBU and executing the department's well-established plan. This is a 3 mile surveillance zone with bee inspectors scouring the area using infra-red cameras and traps to track the hornets and the nest. A local control centre set up to co-ordinate the response between the various agencies.

Exotic Pests – no reports of small hive beetle or *Tropilaelaps* by NBU.

Question from Steve Secker (Epsom) – BDI, does it cover other diseases?

Answer: No only brood diseases.

d) BeeCraft Representative

Penny McMahon provided written report on BeeCraft activity. She attended BeeCraft AGM in May 2016 with Sandra Rickwood. The Accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2015 presented. During the year the company made a loss of £15,160 on a turnover of £207,471 and total funds stood at £94,053 at 31 December 2015. The loss was due to mis-allocation of subscription income in 2014 which reduced the subscription income in 2015. To prevent this happening again BeeCraft to invest in a database management system for subscriptions and accountancy.

2017 subscription price for hard copies will remain at the same price as 2016 - £21.00. This price is after a 25% discount which Surrey receives on the basis that all Registered members take the magazine. 2017 subscription price for digital copies will remain at same price as 2016 - £15.00.

BeeCraft is proud of its wide range of practical, informative and interesting articles, they are also very keen to receive comments on the content and format by letter, email, Facebook or Twitter.

e) Examinations Secretary

Celia Perry provided a written report. During 2016 fewer people took assessments and module exams. 34 candidates took and passed the basic assessment. 6 juniors passed the Junior assessment. There were candidates from 7 of the 8 Surrey divisions. 2 people, one from Croydon and one from Reigate passed the General Husbandry practical assessment.

There has been a slight change to the way practical assessments can be taken – once a beekeeper has passed the General Husbandry Assessment he or she has to wait 2 years before the Advanced Husbandry can be attempted.

26 November 2016



Written examinations – combining the results of November 2015 and March 2016 modules, 10 candidates passed 17 modules.

Congratulations to all the successful candidates and those at the local branches who provided the training, students and trainers put in a great deal of hard work.

A big thank you to Epsom division for use of their facilities in March and November for the written modules and the many assessors who take the practical exams – it would not be possible without you.

Proposed Reports including in items 6 & 7 accepted. Proposed by Max Gladwyn (Wimbledon) and seconded by Peter Dawson (Guildford) – the meeting voted to accept nem con.

8. Election of Officers

a) President – Tim Lovett and b) Chairman – Bob Maurer elected in 2015 positions that must be voted on every 3 years.

Tim Lovett asked that election of the other SBKA officers c) to J) be elected ‘en bloc’. The candidates were:

Treasurer	Penny McMahon
Secretary	Julie Hogarth
Minutes Secretary	Julie Hogarth
Membership Secretary	Michelle Ernoult
Examinations Secretary	Celia Perry
Independent Examiner	Richard Snelling
Archivist	Deborah Ware
Web Master	Martin Major

Proposed ‘en bloc’ by John Legate (Kingston) and seconded by Marion Cooper (Weybridge) and elected 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	David Read
Epsom	tba
Farnham	David Dennington
Guildford	Peter Dawson
Kingston	John Legate
Reigate	Andrew Buchanan
Weybridge	Marion Cooper
Wimbledon	Max Gladwyn

Proposed ‘en bloc’ by Derek Jones (Kingston) and seconded by Alison Pelikan (Wimbledon) and elected nem con.

10. Election of Representatives

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

26 November 2016



The candidates for the SBKA Representatives proposed were:

BBKA ADM	Bob Maurer
BDI	Andrew Gibb
BeeCraft	Liz Knee
National Honey Show	Andrew Gibb, Mollie Bonard

Proposed 'en bloc' by Peter Dawson (Guildford) and seconded by Steve Secker (Epsom) and elected nem con.

11. 12th Surrey Bee Day 18th February 2017

To be held at Cobham Village Hall – Registration 09.30am Start 10am \ Close 5pm

Tickets £24 per person including lunch.

Reservations: Sandra Rickwood rickwoodsaka@gmail.com or telephone Joan Johnson 01932 873275.

12. Any Other Business

a) Question: Anne Jones (Kingston) – To assist division Treasurer's with financial information and reporting is it worth SBKA providing an Accounts package that would provide templates and uniformity across all divisions?

Answer: PMcM – it is a good idea and worth investigation, she will look into this. Suggest further conversation with Anne Jones.

TL suggested an Away Day workshop with the Treasurers' once the ideas have been agreed.

b) TL confirmed a Spray Convention to be held on 7 \ 8 \ 9 April 2017.

c) TL confirmed there would be a loose insert in the next edition of BBKA News in response to the court case – Dan Basterfield sued the BBKA for unpaid monies in August 2016 at the small claims court in Exeter. Mr Basterfield lost the case in which he tried to claim three times the normal BBKA rate. The President and Chair of the BBKA wish to draw a line under this matter.

d) TL thanked Gareth Morgan, Dave Charnley, Alison Pelikan and Charlotte Bulman and other members of Wimbledon for hosting the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 3.30pm followed by a surprise Prosecco and Cake Party for Sandra Rickwood who retired as SBKA Secretary after 12 years. Speeches and toasts were held to thank Sandra for her enormous contribution to SBKA.

This was followed by a presentation by James C Makinson – Post-Doctoral Research Assistant at the Bee Sensory Behaviour Ecology Lab at Queen Mary University of London gave an interesting talk on Bee Sensory Behaviour – unravelling the mystery of drone congregation areas ...

Finally, sandwiches and more cake with refreshments were provided by our hosts.

Approved by:

Signature:

Date:

26 November 2016

