



Minutes of the 139th Annual General Meeting Held at Trinity School, Croydon on Saturday 2 December 2017 at 2pm Hosted by Croydon Division

Bob Barnes Croydon Division welcomed the attendees and confirmed divisional Chairs reports displayed around the venue.

The meeting was chaired by Tim Lovett, SBKA President.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received on behalf of the following: Michelle Ernoult.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2016 – confirmed accurate by Max Gladwyn.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Published in advance of the meeting by Chairman, Bob Maurer (BM) and attached to the minutes. Confirmed the SBKA is a great organisation compared to many. Council representatives and Trustees meet quarterly through the year.

Notable personnel changes – Richard Snelling to stand down as SBKA Independent Examiner, Chris Tomaszewski, a chartered accountant to take this position. A huge thank you to Richard for his contribution. David Dennington, Trustee Farnham stepped down and Rosalind Clague to take over. Thank you to John Legate, Trustee who retired from Kingston division.

The issues with Gift Aid remain ongoing.

Thank you to Penny McMahon Julie Hogarth, Celia Perry and to Martin Major for the SBKA website improvements. Richard Bradfield who does so much for Reigate and the National Honey Show Surrey stand.

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

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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 hard copies placed on seats in the audience and attached to the minutes.

Main financial events covered on page 5. 2017 Central Fund made a deficit on ordinary activities of £3,202 a decrease of £4,142 from the previous year's surplus of £940. Loss due to a donation of £5,000 to the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers organised by BBKA.

Balance Sheet on page 6 – cash at bank decreased by £4,629 to £27,463. Total assets held by the Central Fund at 30 September 2017 totalled £41,987 and are held by SBKA to safeguard the individual divisions and Trustees against any possible future financial problems.

Capitation fees 2018 set at the same rate as 2017. Registered Members £41.00 for BeeCraft hard copy and £35.00 for the digital BeeCraft of which £1.00 is the Surrey Central Fund donation. Rate for Partner £13.00 and country and junior rate £10.00. The 2018 Central Fund donation for these categories of members is 50pence. Total membership at 30 September 2017 for the county standing is 1047.

Thanks to Richard Snelling retiring as SBKA's auditor after more than 25 years in the position.

Question from Max Gladwyn (Wimbledon) – Has SBKA considered Limited Liability?

Answer from Penny McMahon – A Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) would limit liability of all Trustees – if sued current Trustees would be liable for debt. Recommended SBKA review CIO status over the next 12 months.

Tim Lovett – confirmed BBKA to take the lead on CIO as there is a financial cost. Tim explained large reserves in the SBKA account as insurance against the activities we undertake. Status of CIO and BBKA to be reviewed as part of BBKA activity. Should SBKA take steps toward CIO the constitution will need to be changed.

Question from David Shepherd (Croydon) – is there a SBKA Risk Assessment to safe guard SBKA financially?

Answer from Tim Lovett – SBKA large reserves – Tim asked what are the risks? Penny confirmed there are quarterly reports through the year that are collated and audited to provide regular financial monitoring. All divisions produce quarterly reports on finance. Divisions do not incur large costs without consultation and approval from the SBKA council. Each division seeks approval for central funds in the event of ongoing liabilities. There is no written Risk Assessment on finances.

Question from David Parker (Weybridge) – 2019 Tax digitisation, electronic quarterly reporting at small retail outlets where honey is sold – there is a cumulative total. UK has highest VAT rate in Europe.

Answer from Tim Lovett – If there is a change in the VAT threshold, there will be a period in which there is time to change.

David and Penny agreed this needs to be monitored.

Question from Clive Mence (Kingston) – Do sales have to be consolidated, we are all separate divisions.

Answer from Penny McMahon – she will investigate further.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report was proposed by Sandra Rickwood (Weybridge) and seconded by Jane Hall (Guildford) – the meeting voted to accept nem con.

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6. Committee Reports

a) Show Committee

Summarised by Bob Maurer. The show provided 40 stewards and a two course lunch, the show is always a great success. Huge thanks to John Hamer (Blackhorse Apiaries) for his many years of service. A big thank you to Jane Hall and Jonathan Hall for organising the flying bees and observation hives. The show cost £1,150 to run – funds came from Straw Draw, Candle Rolling, Taste of Honey, percentage of honey sales. A huge thank you to Jenny Gittins for her contribution, many prizes are required for this stand including wax blocks and honey. The show was profitable – made £750 to be used to improve future shows.

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

b) Membership Secretary

Michelle Ernout, (Membership Secretary) submitted a written report and apologised for her absence. Michelle reported Capitation Check was much smoother in 2017. Capitation completed within timescale thanks to the hard work of all division membership secretaries.

c) Education Committee

No report submitted. Taking a sabbatical.

d) Technical, Health & Spray Liaison

Situation vacant, however, Bee Connected is fully operational and provides the link between beekeepers and agricultural activities.

e) Archivist

Position vacant. The Surrey Archive is held at Woking.

Acceptance of Reports (excluding items c), d), e) by show of hands. Accepted on show of hands nem con.

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.

b) BBKA ADM Delegate

Bob Maurer reported ADM held January 2017. Report provided and attached to the minutes. Papers are available on the BBKA website – approximately 150 pages for review. It was noted that a number of new smaller divisions requested status at the ADM, this was approved and will increase the overall expense of the ADM.

A proposal in 2018 – smaller associations think block voting is undemocratic – however there is a procedures error within the proposal so it may be thrown out.

Question from David Parker (Weybridge) – election of Trustees and Officers – not given option of block voting. Real issue as new associations are recognised could impact on the voting. What does Bob Maurer know about this?

Answer from Bob Maurer – He does not yet know how this will be dealt with and he shares the same concern as David.

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Response from David Parker – Are there any conversations between SBKA and other large divisions to find out if it is one division, one vote – this is a procedures error that David is concerned about.

Answer from Tim Lovett – Vote for Trustees only – there are 4 vacancies and 4 volunteers, so all can get in. In previous years' there have not been enough people standing as Trustees.

International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB)– great event and very successful. Ian Homer (Trustee) and other Trustees felt there was no control over spending. Ian Homer felt he was not provided with enough support, he was suspended as a Trustee. Ian Homer to contest this suspension at the ADM 2018 meeting, which will cause further problems. SBKA gifted £5k to IMYB to help the function – a profit of approximately £10k was made on the event. Bob Maurer has requested BBKA for their opinion on this. SBKA would like confirmation the money will be ring-fenced for future IMYB events. BBKA want to ring-fence for education of young beekeepers – this is to be considered during 2018.

Question from David Parker (Weybridge) – two disciplinary hearings on Ian Homer, independent investigator used, differing views stated. Budget of £80k, however other costs £53k – concern about the difference.

Answer from Tim Lovett – If people are interested go to BBKA website and read the documents, provide feedback to Council Representative, Bob Maurer before the January ADM. Bob is sent to the ADM to represent Surrey's views – so please pass your views to your representative. Tim confirmed Ian Homer ran the IMYB event to make it a success. A letter of criticism of the event from Margaret Murdin was sent to all Associations. Ian Homer responded to the letter. BBKA want 200 words from each side to settle this as a proposition – this item should not be part of an annual delegate meeting. A block vote has to take place if one delegate asks for it.

c) **BDI Representative Report**

Andrew Gibb provided SBKA – Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) Report 2017.

Every beekeeper should be familiar with the provisions of The Bee Diseases and Pests Control Orders 2006 for England and Wales (as amended).

The Order empowers Defra (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to take measures to control American foulbrood and European foulbrood, which are very serious bacterial infections of brood. The Orders also empower Defra to take appropriate measures against small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*, and *Tropilaelaps spp.* mites. Both are currently exotic threats to UK apiculture. Although Varroosis (a parasitic mite infestation caused by the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*) is no longer notifiable, the National Bee unit (NBU) provides comprehensive advice and training for beekeepers on how to manage this serious hive pest.

European Foul Brood (EFB) – of the 366 colonies in England inspected by NBU, 35% (128) were in the South-East (East Sussex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey, West Sussex). Of those colonies inspected, 260 had EFB confirmed and 38% (100) were destroyed, none were treated with antibiotic and 6% (1 colony) was treated with shook swarm

American Foul Brood (AFB) – of the colonies in England inspected by NBU, there were nil colonies found with this disease

There have been no reports within SE England of any other notifiable diseases (Small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*, *Tropilaelaps* mites and Asian Hornet) being identified

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There are a number of adult bee diseases that affect adult bees, for example, **Nosemosis**, (two species currently known to affect honey bees *Nosema apis*, *Nosema ceranae*), **Amoeba** (*Malpighamoeba mellificae*) and **Acarapisosis**, caused by tracheal mites (also known as **Acarine** causative organism *Acarapis woodi*).

Honey bees are also subject to infection from a range of different viruses which vary in the severity of symptoms and incidence. All viruses have the potential to cause harm, but many viruses associated with Varroa can be controlled if mite populations in a colony are also controlled.

Attendant worker bees that have been imported with queens from designated third countries, are also routinely checked for the presence of exotic pests

Imports of honey bees are controlled by a limited third country system, to prevent the introduction of exotic bee diseases. Under present policy only queen bees and attendant worker bees may be imported from third countries, except for New Zealand from where package bees (a queen plus 15,000 worker bees) are permitted.

Question from Keith McMahon (Kingston) – how much compensation paid out for equipment?

Answer from Andrew Gibb – Cost of frames and a certain amount for honey. Specified in BDI contract they have with each beekeeper.

d) BeeCraft Representative

Liz Knee (Epsom) attended BeeCraft AGM on 17 May 2017.

Finance Director's report - Total revenue for the year saw an increase of 18% resulting from higher subscription fees, despite a decline in circulation figures of 5%, with hard copy subscriptions having suffered at the expense of digital sales. 40% rise in the sale of book stock also contributed to the overall higher turnover, although there was a reduction in advertising revenue. Total gross profit was in line with budget at 58% with a 5% increase over the prior year. The margin on shop sales was favourably impacted by the sale of previously purchased stock. Overhead costs - £132,000 were 6% above the previous year. The transition to a new editorial team resulted in additional fees as the Directors focused on the future growth of the Company. Provisions for an upgraded database system and the centennial celebrations in 2019. Retained profit at £88,421 continued to support a healthy balance sheet with net assets at £94,421. The company remains well-placed to weather the future economic and changing social challenges.

Question from David Parker (Weybridge) – Search catalogue is poor on backlog – as a subscriber, keen to find out what's been done to improve on this?

Answer from Bob Maurer – the administrator has been replaced and this is currently under review. Andrew Gibb confirmed a new website is being written.

e) Examinations Secretary

Celia Perry (Reigate) provided a written report.

2017 – 37 candidates for the basic assessment from six of Surrey's 8 divisions – all candidates passed, many with a credit (awarded when a candidate achieves 75% or more). Numbers slightly up on 2016 when there were 34 passes. One Junior Certificate was awarded (in 2016 there were 6). Two successful candidates in the General Husbandry practical assessment (2 in 2016). No-one took the Advanced Husbandry Assessment. One candidate passed the Microscopy Assessment in November 2016.

When combining results for the November 2016 and March 2017 written modules, candidates passed a total of 20 modules.

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From 2018 BBKA offering two new practical assessments, firstly Honey Bee Health and secondly Queen Bee Breeding. Both assessments have been trialled in 2017 with members of Farnham BKA acting as guinea pig candidates for the Honey Bee Health assessment itself. All 6 candidates passed the assessment.

The Honey Bee Health assessment is intended to fill in what some people perceive as the large leap between the Basic Assessment and the General Husbandry Assessment. From comments received I believe there will be a good take up for this new assessment which will put pressure on both assessors and branch apiaries where the assessment will take place.

As always my 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.

Acceptance of Reports by show of hands. Accepted on show of hands 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. (Next vote 2018)

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	Chris Tomaszewski
Archivist	Vacant
Web Master	Martin Major

Proposed 'en bloc' by Tamar Cavett (Croydon) and seconded by Gareth Morgan (Wimbledon) 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	Derek Read
Epsom	Kevin Woodward
Farnham	Rosalind Clague
Guildford	Peter Dawson
Kingston	Derek Jones
Reigate	Andrew Buchanan
Weybridge	Marion Cooper
Wimbledon	Max Gladwyn

Acceptance 'en bloc' and elected nem con.

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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 Liz Knee
- National Honey Show Andrew Gibb, Mollie Bonard

Acceptance 'en bloc' and elected nem con.

11. Any Other Business

a) Question: David Parker – Brexit for ADM 2019. Suggested Surrey Proposition – Guidance for local authority authorised officers on the approval of establishments – falls under EU Regulations. 'Small quantities of honey never defined BBKA to get definition on this. Surrey to consider a proposition in 2019 for this. Simple opportunity for BBKA to lobby to define small quantities for beekeepers – once in a generation opportunity. Currently very grey regulations, BBKA could build information and lobby.

Answer from Tim Lovett – Bob and Tim to raise and discuss at next SBKA Council meeting.

Comment from Clive Mence (Kingston) – would like to know the implications of any proposed change – beekeepers with large volume of honey are regulated differently and each council has a different approach.

Post Meeting Note: Discussed at SBKA Council Meeting on 09 January 2018: Guidance for local authority authorised officers – raised at 2017 AGM by David Parker. Honey is not quantified like other small producers – all agreed this is best left and not discussed further.

Tim Lovett thanked Bob Barnes, Barbara Barnes, Derek Read and other members of Croydon for hosting the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 3.30pm followed by a surprise toast to John Legate and Richard Snelling who retired as Trustee and Independent Examiner of SBKA after many years. Speech and toasts were held to thank both for their contribution to SBKA.

This was followed by a presentation by Karin Alton Research Fellow at Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) and Director of FlowerScapes Ltd – 'How to improve our green spaces for bees and other pollinators'

Refreshments and sandwiches provided by our hosts.

Approved by:

Signature:

Date:

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