

# St Albans and District Beekeepers Association

## 78<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

The United Reformed Church Hall, Chiswell Green, St Albans, AL2 3HG

### Minutes

Members present: 33

#### 1 Apologies for absence

Kevin Adams	Peter Buckley	Maggie Cartmell	Polly Cockburn
Andrew Copley	Sue Davies	Alison Fraser	Skovjst Garcia-Stewart
Allen Goodship	Dawn Goodship	Andie Hill	Patrick Maxwell
Jo Rawal	Kyle Riley	Min Seaton	Liz Sherriff
Fred Vanston	David Wingate	Stuart White	

#### 2 Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes

- Spelling of Tom Keaveny's surname corrected
- Minutes approved with a show of hands

#### 3 Reports from the Chair and Secretary

##### Chair: Anne Wingate

What a busy year with so many activities going on. I would like to thank Members for their help and support over the past year. I have tried to encourage more Member participation by sending out 'open e-mails' to encourage members to become involved, as was suggested by a previous Committee Member, but have had little response. I am most grateful to the very few who have come forward. Perhaps more of you will make the commitment to become involved in 2020.

The Season was one of mixed fortunes with some good honey crops and some poor. Of course, the weather played a part, particularly as there was a 3 week May/June gap, which led to colonies going hungry and queens going of lay. Consequently, the colonies went into Winter with decreased numbers of young bees.

The Main event of the year was the Grand opening of the new Prae Wood shed by Eric Margrave and David Wingate. The finishing touches were organised by Richard Peterson and his team of helpers. The fitting of the inside with a mini kitchen and storage cupboards was made and donated by Peter Legault. Thank you to all those involved. Oaklands Apiary were granted permission to extend the apiary area. A team of post hole diggers and fencers was led by Adrian Small, Apiary manager.

The Beginners Course was organised by Andrew Crossley and his team of presenters. The Course was appreciated, but fewer attendees than in the past purchased hives and bees. They heeded advice of just taking a season to watch, handle and learn about bees.

Members Meetings through the year have offered different aspects of the craft of beekeeping. The Honey Tasting was well attended. It was wonderful for Eileen Remnant to win the St. Albans Cup as she has retired from keeping bees, but remains an Honorary Life Member. The Wingate Cup was won by Alison Holloway, congratulations. Members have also attended Courses provided by Mike Goodhew for the HBKA Membership. Other HertsBKA County events were the Spring Show, successfully organised by Andrea Goodall. Nosema Testing and Healthy Bee Days were reasonable supported.

Public Events were as numerous as ever, but it was difficult for Ben Sutton-Jones (ably supported by Gill Ray) to find individual organisers for each event. At the same time it was strain to find helpers to talk to the public and sell honey. As part of our Charity status we have to fulfil our obligation to educate the public about the importance of bees. These events give us that ideal opportunity.

The biggest public event was the Herts. County Show in May. In conjunction with Welwyn BKA and a great display provided by Stuart White with plants provided by Aylett's Nurseries. The prize of Best Main Trade Stand Competition was awarded to HertsBKA. Congratulations to all of you who took part.

A few other individuals need a word of praise and thanks. David Miveld enable St Albans BKA to secured £390 from Waitrose Community Matters, voted for by the public with the little green discs put into the Perspex bins. The money was used to supply bee friendly shrubs and trees at Hixberry Community Garden. These were planted by Steve Foulds and his son, Ned, who is taking beekeeping as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Patrick Maxwell had the mammoth task of putting all the Members of Herts. BKA on to the BBKA e-Return site.

Andie Hill and Les Riley have looked after the website allowing us to pay our subscriptions, purchase jars and allow the public to make contact with us. Luke Adams has retired from collating the scores at our Honey Tasting, but is still bulk buying jars and arranging collection by Members at his house. Chris Baker has continued to supply Members with Ambrosia and fondant, which Members appreciate.

Richard Grimwade has done a great job finding new apiary sites on local farms. He still has some available.

Sadly due to personal issues Collette Haynes has not been able to fulfil her position as Honorary President of HertsBKA. in the way she wished. I wish her well for the future.

At last year's AGM you may remember that 6 Members volunteered to join the Committee for the first time, which at times has been hard work for them. I am very proud in the way that they have pulled together to keep St Albans BKA functioning. My special 'Thanks' go to Jane and Les for the time and effort they have put into St A BKA and supporting me and patiently coping with my limited computer skills!

Your Club can only survive with input and action from its Members. If we all volunteered with one activity a year what a difference it would make to the running of St. Albans BKA.

I wish you all a successful and happy beekeeping year. Anne Wingate

#### **Secretary: Jane Pendlebury-Green**

The Committee have met six times throughout the year (the agreed minutes are available on the website, in the documents page). They have organised open meetings at the apiaries, public events and following the completion of the beginner's course provided the Hive for All scheme to 4 members.

In addition to organising the newbees, our training coordinator, Andrew Crossley has organised two courses:

- i. The SABKA Bee Awareness was held at St Michael's Church on 24 October 2019. 33 people attended the session and it received excellent feedback
- ii. The New Beekeepers training course which was spread over 4 Thursdays back in March 2019 was attended by 38 people and the results from the feedback indicated a 90% satisfaction rate. Preparations are well underway for the 2020 course. The main change being that the venue has changed to the more spacious Christ Church Hall, New Greens, St Albans. Currently there are 26 people enrolled though we expect an influx in the next few weeks as spring beckons. Andrew Crossley has coordinated the curriculum and will be supported by other beekeepers who are delivering sessions.

The "new season" course and "basic assessment" course are still being run in conjunction with both the North Herts and Welwyn branch (now known as Central and South Herts Beekeepers) and Anne Wingate continues to work the other associations in the delivery of these. All these training courses rely on participation of members and our thanks go to all of you who have supported these.

Luke Adams has passed on the baton of overseeing the public events to Ben Sutton-Jones. We are always looking for co-ordinators and volunteers to assist at these events and to ensure we fulfil our requirement as a charity to "educate the public about beekeeping". Please keep an eye out on the events page on the website and for messages via the Yahoo Group

Richard Grimwade has taken the lead in seeking out-apiaries for SABKA members and at least 7 members now have new homes for their bees thanks to Richard's considerable efforts

Our addresses and hashtags for social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) have been standardised and we are grateful to Ben Sutton-Jones and Gill Ray for their efforts in keeping these sites up to date

This year the Herts AGM will be held on Saturday 28 March 2020 at the Peartree Hall, Welwyn, with two excellent speakers: Celia Davis (who some of you may remember from last year) will be speaking at 12.45 and Mark Patterson at 2.30. Celia's talk is Nuc it! on the production and use of nucleus hives. Mark's talk is Gardening for Pollinators. SABKA have volunteered to register those attending and so anyone wishing to volunteer for this or for helping to set up/packing away, please could you let me know. There will be Trade stands and Honey Show, so it is well worth a visit. Full details will be shared imminently.

ER2 an online membership system went live in 2019. A considerable amount of work was required by Les Riley to ensure the SABKA data was accurate and our thanks go to him for that. One of the main benefits is members can renew their membership easily and ensure their details are correct at that time. Members can pay for the extractor hire also. Details of extractors for hire for the forthcoming season will be posted onto SABKA website and emailed out once they are confirmed.



iv. **Committee Member – Michael Abbot**

*Proposer – Les Riley*

*Secunder – Gill Ray*

v. Confirmation of currently serving Committee Members/Officers en bloc (2019 committee roles are shown):

- a) Luke Adams – CIO research
- b) Andrew Crossley - Training and Education coordinator
- c) Richard Grimwade - New apiaries
- d) Patrick Maxwell - HBKA Member Representative
- e) Richard Peterson - Prae Wood Representative
- f) Gill Ray - SABKA Representative at HBKA
- g) Adrian Small - Oaklands Representative
- h) Ben Sutton-Jones - Public Events Coordinator

*Proposer - Julian Hatley*

*Secunder - Les Riley*

All committee members elected by a show of hands

**7**

**AOB**

a. Registering SABKA as a CIO

- Les Riley and Luke Adams explained what a CIO is, the need to convert SABKA to a CIO and the implications of the conversion. They also answered questions from the floor.
- SABKA are unable to join BBKA independently and can only belong to BBKA through being an affiliated association to Herts BKA.
- SABKA will be more independent than currently as regards to finance though training courses would be unchanged
- We will need 3 founding trustees that would stand down at the 2021 AGM and new trustees would be appointed
- The workload of the trustees would be minimal, mainly to ensure that the committee fulfil its role

Proposer: Eric Margrave

Secunder: Eileen Remnant

The proposal to convert to a CIO was accepted unanimously by a show of hands

b. Herts Beekeeping Courses:

- Everyone is still learning so please sign up for Herts BKA courses via their website.
- The Basic Assessment is the equivalent of the car driving licence

c. Herts County Show:

- Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May, Herts Show Ground
- SABKA in conjunction with South and Central Herts BKA are responsible for the display whose theme is habitat and flowers for pollinators
- Clash with the St Albans Sustainable Market Takeover on the Saturday. 20,000 people are expected to attend the event in St Peters Street. NB: The date of the Market Takeover has subsequently been changed to Sunday 19 May
- Members are needed to run the stall, please sign up with Anne Wingate

d. Healthy Bee Day:

- Saturday 16 May 2020, University of Hertfordshire Bayfordbury Campus
- Anne Wingate reminded members that she had emailed out information about the Healthy Bee Day and encouraged people to sign up. Those that had previously attended would be put on the reserve list as SABKA had only been allocated 11 places

e. Qualifications achieved last season:

Congratulations go to the following members who passed their BBKA qualifications:

- Basic Assessment: Adrian Small (merit)
- Module 1 (Honey Bee Management): Andrea Goodall (credit)

Meeting closed 20:45