

## AGM 2022 Minutes

Held 4th March 2022  
at The Links Academy,  
Hixberry Lane,  
AL4 0TZ

1. Apologies for absence from; Patrice Ross, Iain Ross, Jane Pendlebury-Green, Polly Cockburn, Alison Fraser, Adrian Small, Andy Chittenden, Tome Keaveny, Richard Grimwade, Collette Hayes, Ken Buckingham, Paul Craig, Tony Betteridge, Andy price, Liz Sheriff, Tom Meadows.
2. The minutes of the AGM for 2021 after a change of the reported date were approved, Proposer Luke Adams and Seconded by Anne Wingate
3. Report from chair

Well rather like two thirds of 2020, 2021 was not the most enjoyable year.

One of the benefits of being a beekeeper has been the ability to still go out and look after our hives during the lockdowns which we pray are now behind us. However, the Association is a living breathing thing and is diminished when we can't meet as a group (large or small) or even stop for a cup of tea in the shed after closing up.

Hertfordshire seems to have had a relatively poor honey year in 2021 while areas like Wales and Yorkshire did better. It was a very odd season with the weather swinging wildly from dry to wet and cold to hot. Our colonies didn't like it and we can only hope this is not an indication of what's to come with climate change.

As an Association we have done a wonderful job of keeping calm and carrying on while treading the fine line between those of you who have not been out of the house in the last two years and those of you who are desperate to be anywhere but home! We simply don't know if Omicron is the last gasp of the pandemic or just breathing space before the next variant. I am going to ask everybody to remain vigilant and to be aware of other members needs when we meet. Please look after each other. Keep opening the windows and sanitising your hands until we are certain this is over.

With one crisis fading we are faced with a new one -the war in Ukraine. Beekeeping is a major industry in the country and it seems likely that some of the 700,000 Ukrainians involved in bees will find their way to the UK. If they land in the St Albans district, I would like to ask the members to offer any spare equipment and space in our apiaries. It is not going to stop the war or rebuild homes but every small kindness will help.

Looking forward, the committee plans to update our publicity materials for public events. Many of you will have tried to keep the old display stand upright on a windy day and had a rueful smile at the cost of a beehive poster that Christine Aitkin kindly produced some years ago. Sadly, prices have increased a tad since then. If we are going to get out and about to public events, we need a bit of an update to promote the Association and bring more people to beekeeping.

Richard Grimwade has already been in touch with several schools this year with bees firmly in the curriculum. One or two of you may remember my plan 2 years ago to attract a younger generation of beekeepers to the Association – although primary is possibly a bit early. Perhaps this year we will finally make a start – a couple of years later!

As you will know Andy Crossley has decided to step down as our Training Officer and we are looking for a replacement while we still have Andy's brain around to pick. Andy, on behalf of the Association, I would like to thank you for all the work that you have done on our behalf. I have asked that Andy says a few words this evening about what is involved in his role to see if we can tempt any of you to take up the reins -and on that basis he is going to leave out all the nasty bits. Please remember that you are the Association and the more you are willing to put in the more you are likely to get out.

If we are to run a honey competition at the end of the year, we will also need someone who is willing to coordinate and collate the scores. Again, please come forward if you are able to help or such events will simply not occur.

As part of the AGM, we need to re-elect the Committee including the Chair and once the election is complete, I am going to ask each member of the Committee, be they old or new to stand up for a moment to introduce themselves and tell you what they do for the Association. Some of the faces will be awfully familiar and one or two of them may be new. It is important that the membership knows who their Committee are and what they are doing for you as members.

2022 has been very mild (if just a little windy) so far and I took a quick look under the crown boards last weekend checking stores and sizes. One colony is already on 8/9 frames and is sporting the first super of the year. It seems we are in for an early spring so we will need to be on our toes. I hope that we can have a summer with the hum of busy colonies and the chatter of many beekeepers.

#### Report from Secretary;

- This year we managed to hold 4 meetings 3 virtually and the last one in September in person. Apologies but minutes are still not signed off for June or September meetings yet.
  - Committee meeting dates going forward for this year are: 12th May, 28th July, 29th Sept, and a date in November TBA.
  - New venues have been found to accommodate our meetings - this venue, The Links Academy, has hosted 3 meetings on Friday's and Christ Church New Greens can accommodate our Thursday committee meetings - meeting spaces is getting extremely well sort after, post lock down. The URC in Chiswell green has building safety issues at this moment and can't be used.
  - We managed a social evening Friday 12th November and Honey tasting competition Friday 3rd December both held at The Links Academy.
  - Much email traffic from Stoneleigh is being asked to pass on to our members. I'm trying to filter this to limit email fatigue.

A suggestion that the subject line of the email details that it was to be forwarded on behalf of Stoneleigh will be adopted.

#### 4. Report from Treasurer

##### Treasurers Report 2022 AGM (04/3/2022)

1, We moved into 2021 with very healthy balance of £12,448.41 & left with £11,167.86 not including the outstanding lodgement totalling £84 (£82.42 after Stripe fees). Our income for the year was £11,193.05 & expenditure was £15,323.02

There are 2 sets of accounts, the first from 1/1/21 to 7/2/21, the second from 8/2/21 to 31/12/21. This being at the date we transitioned to a CIO registered charity as voted for at the 2020 AGM, when all assets etc were transferred to the new St Albans & District Beekeepers Association (CIO)

2, Membership fees up to 7/2/21 totalled £3,416, & from 8/2/21 to 31/12/21 totalled £1,732.50 from which we paid capitation fees to HBKA & BBKA totalling £3,044. Our BDI premium totalled £423.20 for our bee disease insurance.

Gift aid will be claimed this year, but only from the date when we became a cio registered charity.

3, Our membership at the end of the year was 159 active members, made up of 137 full members, 21 country members & 1 junior member. An increase of 18 full members, 9 country members & a loss of 1 junior member

4, Other significant income was generated by the beginners course, the sale of honey jars & the sale of bee health products (food & treatments). Course fees £2,290, the sale of honey jars £2,943 (for the whole year) & bee health products £3,803.90. Once again i would like to thank Luke for his continued dedication of this valued service to the membership.

5, Our Apiary costs (which includes general maintenance costs, rent to the land owners etc) were up this year to £1,208.90, due to the shed roof being replaced at Oaklands.

6, The varroa treatments this year was once again MAQ's, a good number of people took up the opportunity to purchase just the correct amount of treatments they needed, saving them a lot of money on wasted treatments. We shall again this year be offering the sale of varroa treatments.

7, We spent £2,060.57 on the kit for the Hives for All scheme, which if the beekeepers who took up the scheme will reimburse the association in 2022 should they wish to continue.

8, I would like to thank Tom Meadows who once again audited our accounts, a copy which was sent out to all members on 02/3/2022.

5. Accounts were approved by Eric Margrave seconded by Richard Petersen

6. From the Trustees

for AGM 4/3/2022

The founding trustees met twice since we became a CIO charity.

The first time was to discuss how to proceed forward regarding the running of the association, It was decided that the association should run as before with no change to the committee & the Charter of the Executive Committee of St Albans & District Beekeepers Association (cio) V0\_1 was formed to enable delegation of power as set out in section 18 of our constitution.

(This document is available to view in the members area of the website)

The document should be reviewed annually after the AGM by the Trustees to make any changes they feel necessary.

The second meeting was to discuss how the committee had run the association & the AGM.

The trustees were happy with the work the committee had done considering the current climate at the time, they also decided that the AGM should be moved to the end of Feb time to allow for the latest wave of the pandemic to decline allowing restrictions to be lifted, & also to allow more time to organise the AGM so it's not so rushed after the Christmas period with the need to recruit new Trustees/Committee members etc. Also with heading into spring from winter, hopefully this will be more encouraging for members to attend.

As set out in the constitution, the 3 founding trustees will all step down at this, being the 1st AGM after becoming a registered CIO Charity. Trustees for the coming year are; Les Riley, Alison Ashworth, Alison Fraser, Andy Price, Kyle Riley and David Allen. Voted 15 for and None against

Committee members; Les Riley as Treasurer, Julian Griffiths as chair and Stuart White as Secretary  
Adrian Small, Richard Petersen, Patrick Maxwell, Kyle Riley, Alison Holloway, Caroline Williams,  
Richard Tavener Vote to approve : 18 for and none against.

7. Andy Crossley outlined what is required of a Training Officer in order to help his replacement.

8. Some of you sell your honey to the public either at the door, through Association events or via third parties in health food shops, cafés, farm shops, museums, market traders, pharmacies and even the Cathedral.

When you start a food business you are required by law to register with the local authority within 28 days.

Some of you may recall discussion in the BBKA magazine as to what constitutes being a food producer business and to what extent the definition of 'small quantities' where you may not need to register, assists.

So, two questions:

How many jars a month or year do you think St Albans Regulatory Services will accept as a 'small quantity'? -Ten per month or 100 per year.

How many Beekeepers are registered as food producers with St Albans District Council? ONE!

Registration is free and cannot be refused. It is largely done by questionnaire and no the Council are not going to turn up and insist on you changing your kitchen unless of course it is a health hazard at which point you will not get this but might get this....!

What they are going to do is make sure that you are aware of some pretty basic food hygiene and allergen legislation – remember the death of Natasha on a holiday flight after eating a Pret sandwich which led to Natasha's Law in November last year.

Yes, honey is a single ingredient product that should not contain any of the 14 allergens. But your kitchen certainly does and the cloth you are wiping the work surface or spilled honey with, may

well do so. Most of you will have at least gluten, eggs, fish, milk, mustard, nuts, sesame and with any luck you may be in line for some sulphur dioxide later in a glass of beer or wine.

So, if you sell your honey (more than a few jars a month or via third parties), be aware that the Council have us as beekeepers in their sights. It is not a terribly onerous process, you can apply online <https://register.food.gov.uk/new/st-albans> or using the form you can download from the council website: <https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/food/FOOD%20REGISTRATION%20FORM.pdf>

Apologies to those of you who are outside the St Albans district but for the .Gov website just switch to Dacorum etc

## 9. AOB

SustFest - are we going this year?

The Herts show? is this taking place this year? Yes and Welwyn and Hatfield are organising this.

Bee trades is happening next weekend and free passes to enter were available to those in the hall who wanted to attend.

The meeting closed at 21:19