

Draft Minutes
AGM 18th February 2023
Christ Church
3 High Oaks
St Albans
AL3 6DJ

1. Apologies for absence: Christine Aitken, Andrew Copley, Andy Crossley, Richard Peterson, Patrice Ross, Iain Ross, Patrick Maxwell, Richard Grimwade, David Allen, Andrea Goodall.
2. The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved. Proposed by Kyle Riley Seconded by Richard Taverner
3. Chairs report

2022 was something of a year of recovery for the Association where what we do and how we do it has started to go back to whatever is now acceptable as normal.

We got out and about a good deal to meet the public and tell them about beekeeping which is one of our aims as a charity. I would like to thank all of you who volunteered and came to sell their honey. We came under scrutiny from St Alban's district council in respect of labelling and the need to register as a food producer if you are selling more than 10 jars a month or 100 jars a year. A quiet reminder to those of you who have yet to register -however, the scrutiny was driven largely by a fascination with beekeeping than anything more sinister.

And of course, few of us will forget the searing temperatures of the summer.

Looking forward to 2023 there is a lot already planned in:

The new logo'd gazebo and banner are due to arrive and the education boards are being updated.

We are reverting to quarterly training meetings and for example we have asked Anne Wingate to give up at least some of her secrets in winning the honey competition quite so many times!

We are already booked in for the Herts Show and a number of other events including over 1000 children due to attend the primary schools day in July. This year, I would like to put together a more formal schools team. We are reliant on a small number of people who do this for us and I would like that to grow if we can -especially as the virus appears to be in retreat for now. If you would be interested or would like to start by going along with someone else to start with, please catch me later I am pleased to report that we have some progress on a project to provide 'social apiaries' for those of you who have completed your initial training but do not want to go out on your own. The first site will be opening this year just outside of Wheathamstead and if that is a success we have plans for a second site between Redbourn and Hemel. Richard Grimwade has done an amazing job of finding locations and supportive land owners. I can't thank him enough. Finally for 2023, the Officers are looking further forward and have asked Richard Taverner if he would take up the position of vice chair. Some of you will recall that I volunteered to step up for one year at a time of some turmoil in the Association but that is already three years ago. Of course we are running the risk of sending Richard screaming off into the sunset -but he has already been a committee member for some time and knows us -warts and all.

If you will put up with me for another year while we get some of the things I have spoken about finished, I then plan to step down for the 2024 AGM. My main unfinished task is to try to make us younger as an Association.

Bathing in royal jelly is obviously an option but its not quite what I have in mind. Talking and showing beekeeping to a younger generation is the one thing I would like us to achieve this year and with the huge uptick in interest in everything environmental, I hope we will be pushing an already open door.

Again, if you feel you would be able to get involved with this, please come and see me later.

Last, I would like to thank all of the committee and those of you who volunteer. The Association is yours and making it bigger, better and more what you want -is up to you as our members. Thank you for your work and your help in making us what we are.

4. Secretary's report

This year we have tried to accommodate social meetings having been constrained by Government restrictions due to the pandemic.

Two socials out of three planned took place. The first was the BBQ in July, kindly hosted by Links Academy. Thanks again for David Allen offering his facilities and the second event to happen was

the Honey tasting competition in November. The cancelled event was the September social and speaker event, that was cancelled due to the Queen's lying in state and funeral arrangements. Hopefully this event can be hosted this year.

We will try these events again if it's felt that this is needed by the membership. Timing these events will always prove challenging to all member's diaries but more numbers attending would be encouraging - it's a lot of work to get up and running and the more members that benefit the better.

Five committee meetings took place and we are using Christ Church Hall for our meetings this year. The meeting dates for the forthcoming year are;

Tuesday March 14th

Thursdays; May 18th, 20th July, 21st September and 23rd November all at 7:30pm until 10pm.

5. Treasurer's Report

We entered 2022 with a balance of £11,167.86 & left with £10,374.70

Our income for the year was £24,113.31 & expenditure was £24,906.47

Membership fees totalled £5467

Capitation fees to HBKA & BBKA totalled £3493.

Bee Disease Insurance premium totalled £443.10

Membership at the end of the year was 162 active members, made up of 143 full members up from 137 in 2021, 17 country members, down from 21 in 2021 & 2 junior members, up 1 from 2021. An increase of 6 full members, a decrease of 4 country members & an increase of 1 junior member

Other significant income was generated by the beginners course, the sale of honey jars & the sale of bee health products (food & treatments). Course fees £4482, the sale of honey jars £6213.50 & bee health products £5130.91. The sale of syrup was very popular, with a total of 180 jerry cans being sold this year saving the members a significant amount from other suppliers, a service we hope to offer in 2023. Once again i would like to thank Luke for his continued dedication in maintaining the stock of jars

Our Apiary costs (which includes general maintenance costs, rent to the land owners etc) were up this year to £2399.73, (£1091.30 at Oaklands & £1308.43 at Prae Wood) new lawn mower, a full service & repairs for a donated 2nd mower at Oaklands, new belts for the mower & a new toilet shed due to the old one being rotten at Prae Wood are an example of the items paid for. The varroa treatments used in 2022 was Formic Pro, a good number of people took up the opportunity to purchase just the correct number 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.

We spent £2861.40 on the kit for the Hives for All scheme, which if the beekeepers who took up the scheme will reimburse the association in 2023 should they wish to continue.

I would like to again thank Tom Meadows who once again audited our accounts, a copy which was sent to the membership with the Trustees report & also for attending to the Tax Return requested from HMRC covering the period 8/2/21 to 31/12/21

Accounts: one member raised a query on the accounts. Les clarified the accounting methods and that the Stripe Commission was taken at source and that the line item was for transparency and was not double counted in the return.

The Accounts were approved. Proposed by Luke Adams and Seconded by Kyle Riley.

6.

Les and Kyle Riley stood down as Trustees and both were reelected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Julian was elected as Chair by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Les was elected as Treasurer by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Stuart was elected as Secretary by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Richard Taverner was elected as vice chair by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Julian will stand down at the 2024 AGM and Richard will take over the Chair from this AGM.

Simon Morris was elected to the committee to be assistant training officer to supersede Andy Crossley next year.

Kath Robinson Clarke was elected to the committee to assist with Events. She was Proposed by Anne Wingate and Seconded by David Haynes

Alison Holloway was elected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Kyle Riley was elected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Richard Peterson was elected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Adrian Small was elected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Richard Grimwade was elected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Patrick Maxwell was elected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

Caroline Williams was elected by a unanimous majority. There were 21 members in the room.

7. debated about the 2 month time lag waiting for committee meeting minutes to the approved and circulated. It was decided to circulate draft minutes in a more timely fashion given that the minutes rarely need adjusting.

8. Luke Adams is in charge of the Yahoo group. All members will receive a mail asking to accept and opt into the group if they wish to do so.

9. Queen rearing was in its very early days and to date has had limited success. Much debate about preparing over winter nucs to assist the new beekeepers the following spring.

Meeting closed at 8:52pm.