

BSBKA - Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Monday 6th March 2023 at the Stansted Day Centre at 8.00pm

Present

John Palombo , Alan Gardiner, Jean Johnson, Allison Evans, Andy Crossley, Philip Smart, Rob Croft , Alison Shaw, Andy French, Margaret French, John Dockerill, Anca Pudwell,, Sue Prior, Karen Davis, Jim Jones, Fiona Strachan, Emma Pritchard (guest)

Apologies Kate Walker Pay, Simon Rice, Colin Woodward, Vicky Wing, Penny Judd, Julian Judd, Kate Farquhar, Jim Farquhar

Minutes from the last meeting (4th April 2022) – Agreed

Matters Arising – None

Welcome and Chairman's address – John Palombo (JP)

JP welcomed members to the second AGM after becoming a CIO.

2022 saw a return to more normal activities of the association as the restrictions of Covid eased during the early part of the year. A full Beginners Course was held in spring followed by twice weekly sessions at Jenkins Lane. Monthly Monday meetings were held throughout the year, possibly the most the association has ever held. There were garden apiary meetings, practical sessions on queen rearing and disease inspection at JL. The market stall was running again most months and two pizza parties were held as social events during the year.

Ongoing improvements at Jenkins Lane were presented - refurbishing of the old shed with a new floor, roof and exterior painted. Upgrading of the new shed with shelving, a sink and workbench. The solar panels have now arrived and will be installed in due course.

Plans for the year ahead are very similar to last year, Jean Johnson and Alison Shaw to give overview of social events calendar and training.

At Jenkins Lane plans for a composting toilet, an outdoor gazebo and once power is available starting up some microscopy training sessions.

Treasurers Annual Report - Alan Gardiner (AG)

AG presented the Accounts to 31st December 2022 and highlighted key points. The association accounts are in a healthy positive balance partly due to the previous large charitable donation which has not yet all been spent. Association turnover was about £10,000 with a reserve of about £5,000. In 2022 we made a small loss of £119 which is fine, as we aim to break even each year, which means that some years we will be a bit over and some a bit under.

Thanks were given to Allan Rostron for reviewing the accounts

Training summary – Alison Shaw (AS)

AS summarised a busy training year in 2022 with:

- A full Beginners' course and sessions at Jenkins Lane.
- Seven Improver training sessions including three devoted to aspects of swarming.
- Demonstrations on disease inspection and soft set honey prep by Simon Rice.
- Revision sessions for the Basic assessment and a mock assessment by SR with both candidates successfully passing the full assessment.

Plans for 2023 include more of the same:

- 25 candidates are signed up for the 2023 beginners' course.
- Improver training to continue with possible addition of practical demonstrations on varroa treatments and swarm prevention techniques plus a session on Asian hornet.
- Simon Rice has recently been running study group revision sessions for module 2 exam for Herts BKA Members and will run another one in the autumn – probably on module 3.
- Skep making day was unfortunately cancelled due to illness of the tutor.
- Plans for candle making and microscopy sessions once the power is installed at Jenkins Lane.

Events Report – Jean Johnson (JJ)

JJ spoke about some of the highlights of 2022 including the presentation by Steve Riley on treatment free beekeeping, which was followed up by a small group going to visit Steve's apiary.

There are some challenges in booking different local speakers as those coming from further afield become more expensive due to travel expenses and cost of overnight stays. Suggested that we could run some as Zoom meetings if members are happy with that. The timetable for the year not yet finalised, but Mark Patterson scheduled to give a

talk on Global Warming and forage. A session is planned with a photographer and Ted Grad scheduled to present.

There will be a BSBKA stall at the Carnival and the Manuden Open Gardens is on 25th June.

There is also a Wildlife Day at Castle Gardens on 25th June which the Association cannot support because of the clash with the Manuden Open Gardens so this is being offered to any member who would like to get involved.

Planning to run garden apiary meetings in May, July, August and September with a masterclass thrown in at each meeting if possible.

JJ made a request for help with organising the events. Also contact her with any requests for topics to cover or particular speakers.

Thanks from the Chairman to:

The Trustees for the CIO explaining that they hold the legal responsibility for the Association. (Andy Crossley (AC), John Dockerill (JD), John Palombo (JP), Simon Rice (SR) and Robert Croft (RC)

Committee members – AG, AC, JJ, AE, SR, RC, AS, PS.

Allison Evans and her swarm collection volunteers – Jim Jones, Dylan Curry, Andy French, Bryan Mason, Tim Acton, Richard Pyle, Jean Johnson, Simon Rice, Philip Smart, Simon Page, Rob Croft, Dennis Osborne, Graham Smith, Darren Williams, and Rob Trundle

Vicky Wing for supporting AE and JJ at the Quarantine Site and Madeleine and Enrico Alessandri running the Farmer's Market stall,

Helpers at Jenkins Lane

Teamakers at the meetings, Fiona Strachan and Steve Todd for offering use of their Clubroom for training sessions

Allan Rostron was thanked for his assistance in reviewing the accounts.

Election of Trustees and Officers

Candidates standing for re-election as Trustees:

- Andy Crossley
- John Palombo

Both were elected unanimously

Candidates standing for election as Officers of the Executive Committee:

- Chair - John Palombo (standing for re-election)
- Treasurer - Philip Smart (Alan Gardiner standing down)
- Secretary - Kate Walker Pay (standing for re-election)

All three were elected unanimously

Presentation of the Honey Shield, Charlie Page Cup and Honorary membership

The Honey Shield was awarded to Simon Rice for best tasting honey at the honey competition

The Charlie Page Cup was awarded to Fiona Strachan and Steve Todd for their ongoing support of the association when volunteers required and loaning of their clubroom for training.

Jane Moseley and John Dockerill (both former chairpersons) were awarded lifetime honorary membership of the Association

Any Other Business – None

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Notes taken by Alison Shaw