

Minutes of Ryedale Beekeepers' Association Annual General Meeting

Held in Wombleton Village Hall 8th November 2016 at 7pm

Meeting started at 7.05pm.

Opened by Keith Hall, Chairman.

Present:

C Mortimer, K Hall, M Richardson, M Richardson, L Peckitt, P Kirby, R Colman, S Hunter, A Nelson, B Nelson, , S Davison, B Holmes, A Wilford, , P Closier, , B Harrison, J Gubbins, R Welford, J Sutherland, S Lathlean.

Apologies:

R Sutherland, P Widlinski, S Gray, Sylvia Wood, S Hall, J Payne

1. Minutes of last AGM: (taken as read)

Approval of minutes.

Proposed by P Closier. Seconded by B Nelson.

All agreed.

2. Chairman's Report

Keith Hall reported as follows:

"In 2016 I started with six colonies but in March, one suspect colony turned out to have a drone laying queen; I discovered the eggs on the varroa tray because the workers were kicking them out. Drone laying queens in winter seem to be getting more common.

The bees developed well in spring, gathering a good crop of honey. The swarming season was late starting, coming at the back end of May. I was getting concerned because new queens must be mated and laying by mid summer's day for the colonies to get a good crop of heather honey.

Then everything went pear shaped when I ended up in hospital. My thanks to Bruce, Rick and Harriette for their help during that time – I did not do any beekeeping for 6 weeks.

When I started again, I realised I hadn't extracted the spring honey – to my amazement it was still liquid and I was able to spin it all out.

At the end of July I was able to put together five colonies, two of which were rather weak, to take to the heather. 2016 was a very good year for the heather and I had a better crop of honey than expected .

I have again got six hives going into winter. But for health reasons, I might not be able to continue beekeeping at this level next year.

Turning to the Association, my main focus as chairman has been to encourage new beekeepers and build their skills. In my three years as chair, RBKA membership has grown – from 46 in 2014 to 57 this year. This is a good number for Ryedale and it can increase further as there is still a healthy interest in beekeeping.

Since the last AGM, we have had 10 meetings; six indoor meetings (one with Ryenats and 2 with Malton BKA) and 3 outdoor apiary meetings, as well as our Christmas social. This year's Christmas social is being held at The Crown in Hutton le Hole on Wednesday 14th December. It would be lovely to see plenty of you there – social meetings are as important as beekeeping meetings.

Attendance at these meetings has been variable, some were better supported than others.

It is the committee's role, I feel, to organise meetings that their members want to attend. This year we introduced some workshop style meetings led by Adrian Welford and myself. These workshops considered practical beekeeping matters in a semi structured format, designed to advance newer beekeepers skills.

Other meetings were of general interest, for example my talk about beekeeping in Vietnam, with some more topical, including Ivor Flatman discussing the Animal and Plant Health Agency's plans for dealing with Asian hornets. This joint meeting with Ryenats was well attended.

I would like to thank John Sutherland for his continuing work on RBKA's website. This is valuable to us as a way of encouraging new members but it also produces a lot of queries, especially around swarms. I have tried this year to improve our response to swarm queries from the public. We have established an isolation site for swarms collected and have received donations of three serviceable hives for use at the site. Thank you to David Bloore for the donation. The biggest thank you, though, must go to Philip Closier, who did sterling work as swarm co-ordinator.

I would like to thank Rhona Sutherland for running the very successful beginner's course again this year, and Adrian Wilford for help with the practical sessions during the summer. We had thirteen and a half attendees, the half being a 10 year old. I am delighted that Rhona has agreed to run the course again next year. I again ran 6 weekly improvers' sessions from my home in the spring.

Other options we, as beekeepers, have for learning include the courses run by YBKA. YBKA's Spring Conference is also open to all members, with some interesting speakers. We also have YBKA to thank for giving us access to Gift Aid; this results in significant funds.

Our programme for 2017 is ready. Some highlights include a workshop on how to make hornet traps and a summer apiary visit to Tony Jefferson's apiary in Staithes. The programme will be circulated by email shortly.

Lastly I would like to thank Claire Mortimer for her work as secretary, Rick Colman for his work as treasurer and all the members of the committee for their support during my time as Chair – I am very grateful to them all."

4. Treasurer's Report – Rick Colman

Please see Appendix 1.

Proposed by J Sutherland, Seconded by P Closier
All agreed

5. Fees for 2016/17

The treasurer proposed that fees remain the same as last year -

Full members - £26.00

Partner members - £19.50

Associate members - £4.00

Questions - J Sutherland queried whether BBKA had put up their fees; they haven't as the proposal to do that was rejected.

P Closier asked for clarification on what he is actually a member of when paying the full fee to RBKA. YBKA has affiliated associations including RBKA but any full or partner member of an affiliated association is automatically a member of YBKA and BBKA and can attend and vote as an individual at the YBKA AGM.

Proposed R Colman

Seconded C Mortimer

Carried unanimously

6. Election of Officers

Keith Hall (Chair) and Claire Mortimer (secretary) have both come to the end of their three years in office. Bruce Nelson agreed to stand as Chair and Rhona Sutherland agreed to stand as Secretary. No other nominations were put forward. Rick Colman indicated that he was willing to continue as Treasurer for a third and final year.

Chairman – Bruce Nelson

Proposed by J Sutherland, Seconded by S Davison

Secretary – Rhona Sutherland

Proposed by J Sutherland, Seconded by S Hunter

Treasurer – Rick Colman.

Proposed by A Nelson, Seconded by L Peckitt

All three officers were elected unanimously

7. Election of Committee

John Sutherland, Adrian Wilford and Barry Wilton-Middlemas agreed to stand again for a further year as Committee members. In addition Simon Lathlean and Ross Welford have agreed to be nominated to the committee.

No other proposals were made for committee members. The 5 members were proposed en bloc.

Proposed by B Nelson

Seconded by R Colman

Carried unanimously

8. A.O.B

S Davison urged more members to support the honey stand at the Ryedale Show by showing their honey.

P Closier enquired who would be the new swarm co-ordinator. This would be discussed by the new committee in due course.

J Sutherland proposed a vote of thanks to K Hall for his hard work and dedication during the last three years. A Wilford proposed a vote of thanks to C Mortimer for her hard work as secretary.

B Holmes expressed his gratification in how positive and healthy the association was now looking. He is no longer concerned about the future of RBKA.

Meeting closed 7.50pm

C Mortimer

Appendix 1 – Treasurers Report

RBKA Treasurer's Report 2015/16

1. At the start of the Financial Year [FY], which runs 1st October-30th September, the balance of funds stood at **£3,273.51p**. This was distributed as:
 - £2,762.60p in the Yorkshire Bank
 - £501.24p in the CAF Bank Saving account held by the YBKA
 - £9.67p in the Cash Box
2. The balance at the end of the FY was **£4,079.77p** is an increase of **24.6%** [£806.26p] over the year. This was distributed as:
 - £4,070.77p in the Yorkshire Bank
 - £9.00p in the Cash Box
3. The funds with YBKA in their CAF Bank Savings account have been transferred to our own Yorkshire Bank Account. This was to give us direct control over all of our funds and to simplify accounting.
4. The large overall increase in funds is due to income generated by training courses [c£500], raffles [£123] and a payment from YBKA for Gift Aid [c£220].
5. Under **Expenditure:**
 - *Equipment* covers portable display boards and hive supports for the isolation hives.
 - *Administration* is for postage and stationery.
 - *Meeting Costs* cover the hire of venues for courses and refreshments for meetings.
6. A total membership of 57 people for 2015/16 comprising:
 - Registered Members [including 2 *Life Members*] = 48
 - Partner Members = 7
 - Junior Member = 0
 - Associate Members = 2
7. The accounts for 2015/16 have been audited by Mary Thomas of Oswaldkirk, and certified as a true and complete statement.
8. A Summary of the Audited Accounts for 2015/16 is attached.

Richard Colman
RBKA Treasurer
8th November 2016

Financial summary of Ryedale Beekeepers Accounts 2015/16

25-Oct-16

Balance at 01/10/15	3,273.51	
Current Balance	4,079.77	
Balance on period	806.26	[24.6 %increase in funds]

Summary of Bank Accounts and Cash Box - 2015/16

Yorkshire Bank [a/c 33952227]	
<i>Starting Balance - 01/10/15</i>	2,762.60
Expenditure	2,091.33
Income	2,355.38
Transfer from Cash Box	515.50
Transfer from YBKA [CAF]	528.62
Current Balance	4,070.77
CAF Bank [YBKA account]	
<i>Starting Balance - 01/10/14</i>	501.24
Expenditure	0.00
Income	27.38
Transfer to Bank	528.62
Current Balance	0.00
INCOME/EXPENDITURE - Cash Box	
<i>Starting Balance - 01/10/15</i>	9.67
Expenditure	23.27
Transfer to Yorkshire Bank	515.50
Income	538.10
Current Balance	9.00

Summary of Expenditure/Income - 2015/16

Expenditure	
Equipment	98.33
Bulk order	535.41
Administration	36.92
Meeting costs	246.44
Capitation YBKA	1,164.50
Sundries [refund]	33.00
Sub-total expenditure	2,114.60

Income	
Subscriptions	1,366.50
Raffles	123.00
YBKA Bulk order	539.10
Training courses	600.00
Interest	27.38
Gift Aid	221.88
Miscellaneous	43.00
Sub-total income	2,920.86