

Ryedale Beekeepers Association
Annual General Meeting

14th November 2017

Wombleton Village Hall

Present: Bruce Nelson, Anne Nelson, Rhona Sutherland, Susan Hall, Keith Hall, Miles Richardson, Janet Richardson, Ross Welford, Les Peckitt, Gloria Teasdale, Stephen Harrison, Robin Hurd, Janette Hurd, Kay Stevens, Claire Doughney, Barry Wilton-Middlemass, Philip Closier, Adrian Wilford, Stuart Davison, Simon Hunter, George Hodgson, Simon Lathlean, John Sutherland [23]

The Meeting opened at 1905

1. Apologies: Joe Scott

2. Minutes of 2016

2.1 The draft Minutes of the 2016 AGM were passed unanimously as a true record of events, without modification. *Proposed* Philip Closier, *Seconded* Barry Wilton-Middlemass.

3. Chairperson's Report

3.1 The Chair presented a comprehensive report which covered:

- His year with his apiary, including odd behaviour with a polygamous hive supporting two queens.
- RBKA's programme of activities during 2016/17 and the poor attendance at some activities, notably the apiary visit to Tony Jefferson's apiary in Staithes and the indoor meeting on DIY creations, although he commended Stuart Davison's DIY foundation process.
- The success of the website [www.ryedalebees.co.uk] and its usefulness as a resource. He thanked John Sutherland for his work on this.
- The success of the training course and the potential for expanding the role of training. He thanked Rhona Sutherland for her continuing good work with the course.
- Involvement of RBKA members with the observation hive set up by David Mead at the *Ryedale Show*. He stressed the importance of institutionalising RBKA support to manning an observation hive to make it sustainable and to continue promoting beekeeping.
- Swarm collection and coordination by Philip Closier and the need for volunteers to support Philip and help with collection.
- The *RBKA Members' Survey* and some of the key findings [available on the website];

- The organisation of a wax exchange and bulk ordering for fondant, syrup and Varroa treatment by Philip Closier.
- The *draft* Calendar for 2018.

3.2 The full Report can be seen attached at Annex 1 below.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 The Treasurer reported that the Accounts for 2016/17 had been audited and showed an increase in Association funds of just over £700. This was due principally to the *Beginners' Bee Keeping Course*.

4.2 Expenditure was in support of the Course and indoor meetings, with small levels associated with administration.

4.3 Current membership stood at 63 members slightly up on 2015/16.

4.4 The *Treasurer's Report* was accepted unanimously by the meeting. Proposed Philip Closier and Seconded Simon Hunter.

4.5 The full Report may be seen at Annex 2 below.

4.6 Following discussion of Agenda Item 5 Membership fees for 2018 were proposed as:

- £26.00 for Registered Members;
- £19.50 for Partner Members;
- £4.00 for Associate Members;
- Junior Members would be free of charges but RBKA would pay any monies due to BBKA/YBKA.

4.7 The fees were agreed unanimously. Proposed Adrian Wilford, Seconded Rhona Sutherland.

5. Amendments to the RBKA Constitution

5.1 Two amendments to the Constitution had been tabled by the Chair:

- **Amendment 1:** *The Management of RBKA shall be vested in the Committee, comprising the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Education Member, Equipment Member and up to 3 other members.*
- **Amendment 2:** *The Officers shall be Registered Members, Partner Members or Associate Members of RBKA.*

5.2 Amendment 1 created three new committee positions, without increasing the membership of the Committee.

- A *Vice Chair* to support the Chair and act in their absence. The position does not imply any automatic progression to Chair.
- An *Education Member* responsible for training, and coordinating training, including the beginners' Course and any additional training requested or thought desirable by members.

- An *Equipment Member* to manage and maintain the range of Association equipment including, but not limited to, the isolation apiary, centrifuge and grading equipment.
- 5.3 Amendment 1 was accepted unanimously by the Meeting. Proposed Keith Hall, Seconded Simon Hunter.
- 5.4 Amendment 2 aimed at increasing the numbers of RBKA members eligible to hold Office [Chair, Treasurer, Secretary] by including *Associate Members*.
- 5.5 A discussion was held on this amendment, which reflected both concern and support.
- 5.6 Concern focussed on the view that Associate members were not necessarily committed or motivated beekeepers. The view was that this category of membership was for social members with minimal interest in beekeeping, making them potentially unsuitable to hold office.
- 5.7 The supporting view pointed out that all members paid the same amount to RBKA [£4.00] and the opportunity to hold office should be open to all. That it was wrong to discriminate against members who either did not want the benefits of BBKA/YBKA or who otherwise enjoyed them through membership of other Associations. It was also mentioned that being a good beekeeper was not in itself a necessary or sufficient condition to hold office and that anyone who was prepared to support the Association, through working on the Committee, should be allowed to do so.
- 5.8 The Amendment was proposed by Rick Colman, Seconded by Ross Welford and passed with one member dissenting.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members 2017/18

- 6.1 **Chair: Rick Colman**, proposed Judith Gubbins, seconded Barry Wilton-Middlemass
- 6.2 **Secretary: Ross Welford**, proposed Simon Hunter, seconded Philip Closier
- 6.3 **Treasurer: Simon Lathlean**, proposed Rick Colman, seconded Anne Nelson
- 6.4 All officers were elected unanimously and unopposed.
- 6.5 **Vice Chair: John Sutherland**, proposed Rick Colman, seconded Stewart Davison
- 6.6 **Education Officer: Rhona Sutherland**, proposed Barry Wilton-Middlemass, seconded Anne Nelson
- 6.7 **Equipment Officer: Philip Closier**, proposed Simon Hunter, seconded Judith Gubbins

- 6.8 **Regional Bee Inspector: Adrian Wilford**, proposed Philip Closier, seconded Rhona Sutherland
- 6.9 All Committee Members were elected unanimously and unopposed.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 Bruce Nelson thanked outgoing committee member Barry Wilton-Middlemass for his several years of work and inputs to RBKA through his membership of the Committee. He also warmly thanked Stuart Davison for his continuous, under-stated and often unobserved, support to the RBKA meetings held in Wombleton where he is often the first to arrive, the last to leave and the organiser of chairs, tables and all things to do with the Hall. Both members were warmly applauded.
- 7.2 A vote of thanks was given to the outgoing Chair, Bruce Nelson, who was resigning from his position as a life-threatening reaction to bee stings meant no longer able to keep bees. The vote was warmly and loudly supported by the Meeting. Proposed Rick Colman, seconded John Sutherland
- 7.3 The Meeting closed at 2015.

Annex 1 – Chair’s Report

Annex 2 - Treasurer's Report