

# Minutes 2020 AGM – remote because of Covid 19

All members were emailed or posted the agenda. No issues of concern were raised. There was some showing of support. Admittedly being a rather different AGM, this format I believe would be acceptable in exceptional circumstances to the Charity Commission.

**Previous Minutes: Matters arising:** None raised

## Ryedale Beekeepers Association: Chairman's report

It has been a very different year for us but I don't think our bees will have been aware of it. However I expect they did notice the somewhat unseasonal weather so honey production seems to be down for some. Certainly those relying on the moors have missed out on the heather so for the first time I have had to feed my bees in preparation for the winter.

Mine was not an auspicious start to the year falling from 4 to 2 hives over the winter (one was a bit aggressive so I didn't really miss them that much) but falling from 2 to 1 when I considered I had a failing Queen which I dispatched (possibly over eagerly) meant I was down to 1!

Having only one hive is an uncomfortable feeling for a beekeeper but better in March than August. Fearing losing half my remaining bees in a swarm I did checks every five days and at the first sight of a charged swarm cell split the Queen into a separate Nuc and a few days later set up 2 other Nucs with queen cells. In time I had the old Queen and three mated and laying queens of varying strengths all transferred into hives. The old Queen and the original hive did the best, the two queens in the Nucs were moderate and weak so I combined them in August, so down to 3 hives for the winter.

The only honey I took off was for Spring/Summer Comb Honey, the uncapped frames I fed back to the hives supplemented by syrup. So I go into winter with two double brood hives and one brood and a half.

**The Association's activities** have been severely disrupted this year with no indoor meetings or Apiary visits after March. The Beginners Course run by **Rhona** had to be shortened with the intention of being supplemented this coming year. Covid 19 allowing **Rhona** already has nine signed up for next year's Course. I thank her for continuing to run these as they are very valuable in bringing in new blood into the Association and beekeeping in general. They are much appreciated some travelling a good distance to attend. Whilst having stepped down from the Committee **Rhona** still acts as Education co-ordinator and is to be contacted [rhona.sutherland@btinternet.com](mailto:rhona.sutherland@btinternet.com), for those seeking information about the various education modules run by YBKA. YBKA do try hard to help beekeepers expand their knowledge and interested parties can catch up on training modules on their website <http://www.ybka.org.uk/>. I also thank **John** Sutherland for maintaining our website.

## **The Committee** has been beavering away

I wish to thank **Philip Closier** for producing his videos on bee management throughout the year; they are not exhaustive but show and give ideas. I think we all develop our own ways of doing things and I am sure there are many other clips on YouTube etc but it is nice to hear Philip's commentaries. Philip intends to do the same next year.

**Simon, the Treasurer** has kept an eye on the finances and his report is below. Throughout the summer he has been helping a small charity from York that has a few hives at Ampleforth. He has got to grips with the new electronic eR2 and set up a BACS payment facility which makes it easier for some. The electronic facilities I appreciate are not much help to those without Internet who may feel they get a raw deal but by far the biggest slice of the subscription goes to the BBKA and supports the monthly magazine and Insurance. We keep £4 as does YBKA. We have not felt the need to increase membership fees this year (1 Oct 2020 - 30 Sept 2021) as neither BBKA nor BDI or YBKA have increased their fees and we have enough funds in the bank for our needs.

Our 3 other Committee members; **Adrian, Claire and Louise** have been helpful, knowledgeable and supportive and I appreciate their involvement. Claire is looking forward to grand parenting duties in the near future and has decided to stand down as her daughter lives some way away. Louise is always keen to help when can and is our zoom expert! Adrian is a source of valuable advice should anyone need it. **The Committee is looking for new members with a view to taking the Association forward.** The work load is not high but if the Association is to fulfil its purpose it needs its members to maintain a Committee to coordinate and organise activities. So please put your name forward if you would like to help.

## Election of members

<b>Chairperson</b> -	Simon Lathlean
<b>Treasurer</b> -	Louise Hampson
<b>Secretary</b> -	Rick Colman
<b>Committee Members</b> -	Adrian Wilford
	Philip Closier

## Treasurer's report

### Treasurers report 2019/20

The accounts for the association continue to show a healthy balance in the bank of £4896 with some petty cash. There are some items outstanding which I will mention below.

Again the biggest source of income for the Association is the Beginners Course which covers the running costs of meetings etc such as they are in the current climate. Our membership stands at a total of 64 members which is a little lower than previous years but this will be due to the beginners not completing all their sessions and going on to joining the association.

The largest transactions are around the bulk syrup and fondant purchases. Some of the income and outgoings for this were outstanding at year end but I have no concerns on being able to settle this shortly hence my comment before.

It should be noted because of our healthy financial position the committee felt there was no need to make any money from these bulk purchases, so they are supplied at cost to us and as a benefit of membership. I see no reason why we might change this.

Remember it's that time of year again when requests for subscriptions will start appearing. There will be no change to BBKA , Yorkshire Beekeepers and so we will keep the Ryedale Beekeepers part (£4) the same and there will be no increase this year.

Please note we are asking subs are paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Simon Lathlean

### Subscription fees 20/21

<b>Member</b>	£28 includes 3 hives Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)
<b>Partner</b>	£19.5
<b>Associate</b>	£4

Partners are not covered by BDI as it is the members' responsibility to cover their and their partner's hives. Cover is from 1st Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec hence subs should be in by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec for the coming year.

The additional premiums for more than 3 hives are:

Up to 5 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £2.00

Up to 10 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £5.25

Up to 15 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £7.75

Up to 20 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £9.50

Up to 25 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £11.10

Up to 30 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £13.60

Up to 35 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £16.10

Up to 39 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £18.10

If you go into winter with 3 hives it is possible that you will have 6 by the summer. To be covered you should best guess the maximum number of hives you expect during the year and count that as your number of hives.

Monies payable to RBKA by cheque to:

Louise Hampson (Dr) 6 Back Lane, Leavening, Malton YO17 9SZ.

By BACS to (RBKA bank Account) Sort code 05-05-43. Acc No 33952227 ref Surname Sub

## Next year

Some degree of uncertainty hangs over next year's proceedings. We may ask speakers to reach us via Zoom if necessary but it is too soon to say with any confidence what will happen. A rough outline of activities in the form of a Programme 20/21 will be available from the website when the dust settles. In the mean time please pay your subscriptions for the season 20/21.

**AOB - None raised**

**Rick Colman : Secretary**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2020