

Ryedale Beekeepers Association
Annual General Meeting

13th November 2018

Wombleton Village Hall

Present: Bruce Nelson, Rhona Sutherland, Miles Richardson, Janet Richardson, Guy Richardson, Rick Colman, Les Peckitt, Mick Waterbottom, Janette Hurd, Kay Stevens, Jonathan Payne, Claire Doughney, Barry Wilton-Middlemass, Philip Closier, Adrian Wilford, Stuart Davison, Keith McKee, Lot Deucet, Brian Holmes, Les Bloomfield, Stephen Hudson, G Teasdale, Simon Lathlean, John Sutherland [24]

The Meeting opened at 1905

1. Apologies: David Blore, Anne Nelson, Simon Hunter, David Crystal, Robin Hurd, Bill Harrison, Peter Kirby

2. Minutes of 2017

2.1 The draft Minutes of the 2017 AGM were passed unanimously as a true record of events, with two typographical corrections in paragraph 5.1 *Proposed* Bruce Nelson, *Seconded* Philip Closier

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairperson's Report

4.1 The Chair presented a comprehensive report which covered:

- His year with his apiary, including experimentation with Snelgrove Boards and an incident with someone else's queen.
- RBKA's programme of activities during 2017/18. This included joint meetings with *Ryenats* and *Malton BKA*. Only one apiary visit had been cancelled because of poor weather, and those that hosted the events were thanked.
- 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 and announced the payment of a £100 *honorarium* for her services.
- Involvement of RBKA members with the observation hive renovated by Philip Closier and set up by Adrian Wilford at the *Ryedale Show*
- The Christmas meal in 2017 at The Plough in Wombleton had been a great success and the Association would return there in 2018.
- The Committee was thanked for their inputs into various activities and members for their contributions and support.

4.2 The Full Report may be seen at **Annex 1**

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 The Treasurer reported that the Accounts for 2017/18 showed an increase in Association funds of just over £75. This did not include outstanding payments for bulk order items, which amount to approximately an additional £200.
- 5.2 Expenditure was in support of the Course and indoor meetings, with small levels associated with administration.
- 5.3 Current membership stood at 70 members up on 2016/17 numbers of 63.
- 5.4 The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously by the meeting. Proposed Philip Closier and Seconded Rhona Sutherland.
- 5.5 The full Report may be seen at Annex 2 below.
- 5.6 Following discussion of **Agenda Item 6** Membership fees for 2019 were proposed as:
 - £28.00 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.
- 5.7 The fees were agreed unanimously. Proposed Adrian Wilford, Seconded Rhona Sutherland.

6. Bee Disease Insurance [BDI]

- 6.1 The Treasurer explained that for an additional £2.00, registered members would benefit from BDI covering three hives. Additional hives could be covered if individuals paid additional premiums to BDI, through the Treasurer.
- 6.2 The insurance covers notifiable diseases. Full details may be found on the BDI website.
- 6.3 Only the Registered member would be able to claim for hives or equipment lost due to notifiable diseases.
- 6.4 The scale for premiums covering a maximum of hives is shown in Table 1. The maximum number in the table includes the three hives covered by the basic £2.00.
- 6.5 The insured period runs from January 1st to December 31st. Increases to the number of hives covered may be made without penalty up to the 31st March. After this period there is a 40 day waiting period before the insurance is activated.

- 6.6 The proposal to accept BDI membership for Registered members was accepted unanimously by the meeting. Proposed Philip Closier, seconded Rhona Sutherland

Table 1 Schedule of premiums for increased numbers of hives under BDI [Source BDI website]

Maximum Number of Colonies	Additional Premium [£]
5	2.00
10	5.25
15	7.75
20	9.50
25	11.10
30	13.60
35	16.10
30	18.10

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members 2017/18

- 7.1 **Chair:** *Rick Colman*, proposed Philip Closier, seconded Adrian Wilford
- 7.2 **Secretary:** *John Sutherland*, proposed Rick Colman, seconded Simon Lathlean
- 7.3 **Treasurer:** *Simon Lathlean*, proposed Rhona Sutherland, seconded Philip Closier
- All officers were elected unanimously and unopposed.
- 7.4 **Committee Members:**
- Rhona Sutherland
 - Philip Closier
 - Adrian Wilford
 - Clare Doughney
- Proposed Bruce Nelson, seconded Simon Lathlean
- 7.5 All Committee Members were elected unanimously and unopposed.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 *Bulk Orders* - Philip Closier explained that bulk orders of fondant and syrup offered significant savings to members. This would be offered as a non-profit service for members and Philip was prepared to continue organising it. He also explained that a *wax bank* was also operating, whereby clean wax was exchanged for foundation.

- 8.2 *Birthday* - David Mead informed the meeting that Les Bloomfield was soon to be 100 years old. Members offered their very best wishes to Les who put his longevity down to eating honey.
- 8.3 *Bee Basic* - Janette Hurd enquired about *Bee Basic* qualifications and whether the Committee would facilitate registration for interested RBKA members. The Secretary undertook to contact YBKA for details and inform members.
- 8.4 *Ryedale Show* - David Mead mentioned there would be three classes for honey and one class for honey cake in the 2019 Ryedale Show, a reduction in the number usually offered. Members were encouraged to participate but the Association was also looking at the option of having a stall of their own to promote bees and beekeeping. The approximate cost of this would be £85.00.

9. The Meeting closed at 2015.

Annex 1 – Chair’s Report

It seems customary to begin the report with an outline of the Chairman’s successes and failures for the year. I went into the Winter with 3 hives, 2 Double brood and 1, 1&1/2 which I weighed October 2017 using a luggage scale by hefting each side. March was cold with snow and I noticed an accelerated weight loss in my 3 hives weighing on 20th March, 32-42 (51-65), 33-30 (48-45), 31- 27 (43-43) lbs. (roughly 15-20 lbs down each side)

My first inspection was on the 5th April. There was not much brood but I saw and marked 2 of the Queens. I took out some of what I considered spare frames of honey for potential use later in the year in Nucs but on the 20th I gave 2 of the hives back a full frame of honey. The year before I had lost a hive in the Spring due to starvation. I realise that even when pollen and nectar are coming in, demand in early Spring can be quite high as the brood is rapidly expanding. Perhaps strapping ones hives down makes the quick (when passing by) HEFT not so convenient.

Over the winter I had constructed **2 Snelgrove** boards and split my first hive before Queen cells were apparent on the 8th May. I put the board in 3 days later to have a top box of brood, 2 supers below and a box with the queen in on the bottom. The benefit of the board is supposed to be that the bees are all on the one site and the nursery bees as they get older have access to the lower brood chamber and become foragers maintaining honey production.

After a week I did look in the lower brood box and saw and destroyed 2 Queen cells so perhaps my split was a little late. However the bees stuck after that.

During the Summer I had 2 colonies with Snelgrove splits and one with a more conventional Artificial Swarm. I won’t bore you with the intricacies of opening and closing entrances round the board but the exercise was not a total success as I had at least 2 swarms of which one ended up in my bait hive about 600 meters to the South. I also found myself using a Nuc to raise a spare good natured queen. In theory I should have had 7 Queens in the apiary but not all mated successfully. I united colonies in July back to 3 for the heather and still have the bait hive which I will bring back into the Apiary this Winter. I will probably try Snelgrove again next year.

HONEY

It was an unusually good year for Bransdale for blossom honey approx 50lbs jarred/comb when normally it is less than 10, but the heather was down from approx 110lbs to 20 but with reasonable stores left for the winter.

Before moving on I must mention an incident that might be of general interest.

When looking through a new member’s hive we spotted the elusive queen which we caught in a trap like so. However my press in cage and marker pen were some 3 meters away., so holding the trap I moved over away from the hive when I noticed the queen HAD GONE. The lightness of the spring hold the jaws together had meant the weight of my thumb resting on it had opening it and the queen has got out. We look all over the ground but eventually gave up I in despair, the member was most sympathetic. We closed the hive when I thought I saw a longer body than expected on one of the bees on the hive legs below the entrance. It was the queen. We caught and popped her in the super. Much to my relief.

LESSON Don’t hold the cage with your thumb on the lever away from the hive.

ASSOCIATION’S ACTIVITIES

Indoor meetings

In the Spring and Autumn we had our monthly indoor meetings covering a spectrum of topics from the evolutionary history of the honey bee to the practical handling of wax and candle making. We had 2 combined meetings with Malton beekeepers and 1 with Rynats.

We have a programme for next year geared to internal discussion and debate on matters related to practical beekeeping. More experienced members will be able to pass on their tips to newer beekeepers. I hope as many as possible will attend and contribute. It is not easy to please everyone with the choice of topic so suggestions and recommended speakers would be welcomed.

Apiary visits

Were well attended in new venues for the Association thanks to Philip, Steve Hudson and a combined effort from Levisham –Jannette and Robin Kay and David. Unfortunately the August meeting was eventually cancelled because of poor weather but Ian and Rachael from Old Bylands are booked for next May. Apiary visits are a good opportunity for the newer members to see situations, procedures and ask questions. We always welcome new venues and the host will benefit from the experience. An elaborate post visit spread is not necessary but a cuppa provides a space and time for discussion.

Beginners Course

We had another fully booked Beginners Course run by Rhona Sutherland supported by John and Adrian. We charge £40 for 5, 2 hour sessions and facilitate an introduction to practical hive management with an Apiary visit and offer access to the Association's activities for the rest of that year. Apart from the expenses of hiring Oswaldkirk Village Hall and some other small items this Course nets the Association about £500 a year and is at the core of the Association's purpose. By contrast only £4 of the Association's annual subscription stays with us, the rest going to the BBKA and YBKA. Thus 70 members would contribute £280 to RBKA funds.

In view of the necessary commitment to delivering the Course I suggested and the Committee agreed to give a stipend of £100 to Rhona for running the course this year. If there are any strong objections to this policy it can be raised under AOB. This is not to be seen as a precedent and the principle does not extend to any other of the Associations' Officers.

Ryedale Show

Members manned (so to speak) the Bee Produce area at Ryedale Show and were on hand to discuss and demonstrate activities in the Observation Hive. The Association acquired the hive from David Mead which required some upgrading with more appropriate glass. Adrian sourced the bees and the Hive proved as popular as ever with the punters but produce for the show was significantly down, (despite my 2 jars of Heather honey), and I have been told that there will NOT be a Bee Product stall next year. John has been considering our options, more later.

Christmas meal

We had a good turnout for the Christmas lunch organised by Rhona at The Plough Inn Wombledon. This year we have decided on the same venue but reverted to an evening meal on the 6th December. Particulars have been circulated.

The Committee

I would like to thank the Committee members for their help and support. We lost our Secretary earlier in the year so communications may not have been as efficient as expected but I have tried to keep members informed. We are still looking to cover this post so if you are vaguely interested we would welcome your input. It is not an onerous position, mainly computer based relaying information to members from various organisation and attending if possible 4 Committee meetings a year.

I thank Philip Closier for his hosting an Apiary visit and setting up a wax exchange scheme and for sourcing foundation and syrup at discount prices. He can update you as necessary later this evening.

I wish to thank Adrian for organising apiary visits for beginners and his steady reassurance and knowledge.

John for keeping the website up to date and interesting as well as stepping into the Secretaries role regards the minutes at Committee meetings.

Simon has kept the Associations finances in order and facilitated a standing Order method of payment.

I wish to thanks members for their contributions to the Associations activities especially Stuart for matters dealing with the village hall.

It was sad to hears of the sudden and unexpected death of Judith Gubbins who regularly attended our activities.

To finish I just wish to say thank you, to you the members, for your contributions and I apologise if I am a bit slow at putting names to faces.

Thank you

Annex 2 - Treasurer's Report