

# Minutes 2021 AGM – 9<sup>th</sup> November Wombleton Village Hall 7pm.

**Apologies:** John Payne, Susan Hall, Mick Winterbottom, Bill Harrison, Robin Hurd, Mike England.

12 members attended.

**Previous Minutes for 2020 attached:** email any matters arising.

## Ryedale Beekeepers Association: Chairman's report

2021 & 2020 , two years like no others but I think we can agree we are now emerging out the other side into some version of normality.

Late 2020 and 2021 have been strange times that started with meetings cancelled , the village hall remaining closed. Most of the usual activities were cancelled or postponed , the BBKA Spring conference went virtual , the Great Yorkshire Show honey show was cancelled with only a limited beekeeping related display in its place and of course no Ryedale show.

Still beekeeping had to continue by order of the ministry and for me particularly it was one activity I probably did more of than in a usual year.

There was a notable first – our first RBKA Zoom meeting in the spring this year on flowers for bee's which was well received and a great success. We also saw many Zoom training and presentation sessions coming through from Yorkshire Beekeepers , maybe not the first but certainly and significant increase – no more travelling to Harrogate for these.

As restrictions lifted in July we had the first face to face meetings outdoors and these continued throughout the summer.

In September the village hall re-opened and we had our first meeting since Spring2020. The presentation on honey processing and preparation was well attended – clearly everyone was keen to attend meetings! We rounded the year off with our join meeting with Malton Beekeepers at Wombleton with a visit from Keith Bartlem one of Adrians fellow bee inspectors and a presentation on Thermoregulation of Honeybee's which wasn't as dry as it sounded being entertaining and informative and full of bee inspector anecdotes.

So to the new RBKA year:

In early December we are looking to the possibility having a Christmas meal – more information to follow shortly .

Throughout November there is a series of zoom talks arranged by Yorkshire Beekeepers. You should have the details come directly too you with links to register. These talks are also available as a recording available for a number weeks after.

Speaking of education & training I would like to thank Rhone for agreeing to continue for another year as our education manager, notice I've promoted Rhone from Education Secretary. Rhona plans to restart the beginners course in the spring as there is a long list of enthusiastic participants waiting!

I would like to take the opportunity to encourage anyone interested to consider the BBKA Bee Basic assessment and possibly to study for the subsequent modules. The Bee Basic is a practical assessment held in the Spring/summer. Contact Rhona if you would like more information or to take the assessment, some of our members have taken this and can let you know what to expect. BBKA modules follow on from this and there are 7 covering all aspects of beekeeping. Again contact Rhona for these.

Unfortunately as is likely with beekeepers generally being more advanced in years , I don't include myself naturally, we have had a few members pass away this year, Mick Haste and Peter Kirby.

Finally I would like to thank all those that made a contribution or supported us during the year by hosting an apiary visit or running a meeting. Also I would like to thank the committee for all they do – Louise, Rick, Adrian and Philip.

## Election of members

The Officers of the Committee were re-elected as were Philip and Adrian. Julia Thompson volunteered to become a new member. Members were proposed 'en bloc' by Keith Hall and seconded by John Sutherland. The decision in favour was unanimous!.

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

## Treasurer's report

The year has been a good one with five new members, including two juniors, and good take-up of bulk purchasing. We are showing as being currently £723.24 down on last year because there are payments outstanding for both Apivar and fondant in this financial year, so if you have had either of those and haven't paid, please pay as soon as possible, and please make it a separate payment from your subs!

We have 59 members, following the sad passing of Mick Haste: 47 full, 6 partners, 3 associates, 2 junior.

Subs for 2021/22 are now due. BBKA has increased their subscription by £2 so full members are now £30 including insurance for 3 hives, partners are £21.50. Other rates (association, junior, etc) remain unchanged at £4 and £9.50 respectively. You should all have received an email setting out subs and insurance rates, please let me know if not. Please pay asap by BACS where possible, quoting your name and 'subs' as the ref.

Looking ahead, we will have meeting hall costs and occasional speaker fees to budget for, and we are currently in discussion with VirginMoney over bank charges on the account since they took over from YorkshireBank, but our funds are sufficient to deal with expected expenses and bulk purchase cash flow, so the RBKA element of the subs remains unchanged.

**Revised 20/21 Accounts** attached. These were accepted by the members after a slight revision.

## Subscription fees 21/22

<b>Member</b>	£30 includes 3 hives Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)
<b>Partner</b>	£21.5
<b>Associate</b>	£4
<b>Junior</b>	£9.50

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

## AOB

### Gift Aid

There was some discussion re the claiming of Gift Aid refunds on members' fees. The treasurer was to ask individuals to sign the appropriate declaration form (available on the website) to claim the Aid. YBKA undertakes the paperwork we just need clarification of individual income tax status.

### Association Equipment

The list of the Association's equipment available for use by members was to be resent to members. The 3 observation hives at Nawton Towers was to be added to the list as they could be used by members wanting to isolate a collected swarm. Philip Closier offered to store bulky Association equipment in a barn he has the use of.

There was some discussion as to how we can equip new beekeepers, preferably attending the Beginners Course, with second hand hives and equipment etc.

### Fees for Beginners Course

It was generally felt that £40 was too little for all the work Rhona and John put into the Course. £60 was suggested as more reasonable. The committee will decide on this shortly. Some suggestion of a taster day in the summer for those thinking of taking up beekeeping was made. There was no firm consensus. Beginners already have access to the full range of

RBKA activities for a year after starting the Course. This is at Associate level and does not include BBKA Insurance which can be applied for if wanted.

### Bulk Orders

A suggestion was made that Jars might be a possibility. Some practical difficulties were raised.

### The Committee

Keith Hall proposed and John Sutherland seconded a vote of thanks for the Committee.

Meeting Closed 8.05pm

Rick Colman : Secretary

10<sup>th</sup> November 2021