

RBKA 2022 AGM - Minutes

Tuesday 8th November at 7pm in the Village Hall, Wombleton.

17 members were present

1. **Apologies**

Philip Closier, Kay Stevens, Janette & Robin Hurd

2. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM** – Circulated & accepted. No matters arising.

3. **Chairman's Report** – See attached

4. **Treasurer's Report** – See Attached

Q's

- Gift Aid, if eligible members could consider using Gift Aid, forms are available on website
- Account showing increased balance mainly due to reduced bookings on village halls as a result of COVID therefore less expenditure. There were also fewer purchases of bulk feed which meant the initial order was lower in value than last year.

Accounts accepted – John Sutherland proposed, Tim Phillips seconded.

5. **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The Officers and members of the Committee all indicated they were happy to stay in post. Committee & members were proposed 'en bloc' by Keith Hall and seconded by John Sutherland.

Chairperson - Simon Lathlean

Treasurer - Louise Hampson

Secretary - Rick Colman

Committee Members - Adrian Wilford, Philip Closier, Julie Thompson

Lifetime Membership awarded to Keith Hall

Committee unanimously agreed to award Keith Hall with lifetime membership of RBKA for his dedication to the support of the association and Ryedale beekeepers new & old. A short citation was read & Keith was presented with a framed certificate to put somewhere appropriate! Keith gave thanks in a short speech and reflected on how the Association & meetings had changed over the years. It is hoped that Keith's remaining colonies will be passed on to new beekeepers following the 2023 Beginners course

6. AOB

- Beginners Course continues to be oversubscribed each year, a reserve waiting list is currently being filled. Potential to run more than one course at once. Discussion followed on what percentage of people chose to join RBKA after the year of beginners course and whether we should be trying to increase the conversion rate. Keith raised the discussions the association previously had regarding practical beekeeping course and a 'teaching' apiary, and the complexity & commitment this would entail.
Equipment owned by the Association that is available for loan – Simon will circulate list in New Year. There is no charge for loan.
- EMAILS – If you think you are not receiving emails please let Simon know. If you unsubscribe for any reason from the YBKA mails it will impact on all association based emails.
- REMINDER SUBS ARE NOW DUE – Please pay by the end of the month latest. Late payment causes not only Louise inconvenience but also creates extra workload for the YBKA Treasurer.

Meeting closed at 19.45

Chairmans report

The return to a new normal

2022 brought us a return to what is a new normal following COVID lockdowns – vaccination boosters needed and face masks still with us on occasion. The good news was we had a return to business as normal for RBKA activities with a full programme of meetings at Wombledon and elsewhere with our joint meetings and a full season of apiary visits.

The beekeeping season seemed to have been quite mixed with beekeepers telling me of strange behaviour, poor honey harvest but some of success. The spring warm weather seemed to have encouraged colonies to start building early and, of course, to start swarm preparations. Early honey flow was reported by some as poor and the drought conditions in the summer also had an effect. The heather, all seemed to agree, seemed to be better this year and not affected by the heather beetle. Personally, and there is an element of my specific situation, I had one of my best years for wildflower honey ever with approximately 100lbs. As some of you know I'm still looking after hives in my apiary for a local charity Autism + and I was pleased to be able to give them 45lbs (of the 100) honey 'profit'. If you see 'Park House Barns' honey in Helmsley or around, you know where it came from!

One interesting or maybe concerning aspect was unusual activity by queens including try to swarm multiple times in a season. Let us hope we don't see this becoming the norm.

Farndale show – RBKA again had a stand at the returning Farndale show which was set up and staffed by Rhona and John Sutherland supported by other members of the committee. It was a very informative, well received, and great publicity for the association and beekeeping in general. The badge making activities were a hit with children and adults alike!

Asian Hornet training – Asian hornets are again making the headlines with new hornets confirmed in Essex and elsewhere this year. As part of the response to this our own Asian Hornet Team were invited to a training day at Harrogate in September which a number attended. Anyone doing the Asian Hornet training online via Beebase is invited to be added to our Asian Hornet Team.

I now want to do some 'Thankyou's'.

Apiary Visits

It struck me this year how diverse and interesting the apiary visits have been, and I can thoroughly recommend them. I'm not necessarily saying this is any different from previous years but personally this year I learned quite a few things, saw other ways beekeepers do things and this has given me food for thought with my own beekeeping. **Thank you then to those hosting apiary visits in 2022: Stuart Davison, Janie Bell, Philip Closier, and the Richardsons. If anyone feels they can host an apiary visit in 2023 or in the future, please let us know – we can provide expertise if necessary.**

Beginners course

One of the functions of a local beekeeping association is to educate and promote responsible beekeeping. One of the ways we do this is via the popular beginner's course which has returned following it's COVID pause and is professionally presented, run and administered by Rhona and John Sutherland. The COVID 'cohort' had their last meetings & practical demonstrations and the 'class of 22' had their full course including demonstrations. The course remains fully subscribed each year

and is the major source of income for RBKA. **Thank you then to Rhona and John for all your hard work and for those others who support as needed.**

You might be aware Rhona is our Education officer and I've made aware some of our members are working through the BBKA modules and exams. I can recommend the assessments and the modules as I personally have learned much by working through them.

Bulk purchases

As in past years we have had several bulk purchases in 2022: syrup, fondant, wax exchange and Amitraz. Some haven't been as well supported as they have been in the past but they always turn out to be very competitively priced so I would recommend you bear them in mind and look out for these throughout the year. **Thank you to Philip Closier for continuing to arrange these.**

Keith Hall – honorary life membership – the committee have decided to award Keith Hall an honorary life membership of RBKA/BBKA/YBKA for all his contribution to RBKA and beekeeping in general. See separate document.

Committee

Other than myself as Chair, the RBKA committee is made up as follows:

Rick Colman– Secretary

Louise Hampson – Treasurer

Philip Closier, Adrian Wilford, Julie Thompson

I would like to thanks all the committee members for their hard work and contribution to the smooth running and success of RBKA.

The committee have indicated they are all prepared to serve for another year but we are always looking for anyone who would like to join the committee to help with programme planning and other activities.

Finally I hope you all have a good Christmas, remember annual subs are now due and wish you all success for your beekeeping in 2023.

Simon Lathlean

Chair RBKA

November 2022

Treasurer's Report for AGM 8th November 2022

The year has been a steady one with two new members, although we have lost others due to life moves or sadly passing away. We need to encourage a greater conversion rate from those on the course to full membership, perhaps by advocating the many benefits of membership such as the magazine, insurance, ready access to expert advice and of course the chance to chat informally with other beekeepers! On that 'benefits of membership' topic, there has inexplicably (given the cost of living crisis) been a significant drop in the take-up of bulk purchasing. This is quite a significant undertaking for Philip and for me and is offered as a very tangible benefit of membership - the saving this year on a can of syrup was close to 50%! We have therefore decided to make it available ONLY to paid-up members of RBKA so if you don't get the emails alerting you to the offer it'll be because you haven't paid your subs!

We have now moved our bank account to Natwest as they can offer fee-free banking, **so account details have changed.**

We have 54 members, following the sad passing of Mick Haste: 44 full, 6 partners, 3 associates, 1 junior.

Subs for 2022/23 are now due, rates unchanged. Full members are £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 (**please note new payment details**) where possible, **quoting your name and 'subs' as the ref.**

Financial summary of Ryedale Beekeepers Accounts 21/22			
21-Oct-22			
Balance at 30/09/20	4,601.16		
Current Balance	5,911.03		
Balance on period	1,309.87	28.5	% increase/decrease in funds
Summary of Bank Accounts and Cash Box – 2021/22			
Yorkshire Bank [a/c 33952227]			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/10/21</i>	4,601.61		
Expenditure	3,071.80		
Income	4,286.02		
Transfer from Cash Box	75.20		
Current Balance	5,891.03		
INCOME/EXPENDITURE - Cash Box			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/10/21</i>	20.00		
Expenditure	0.00		
Transfer to Yorkshire Bank a/c	75.20		
Income	75.20		
Current Balance	20.00		
Summary of Expenditure/Income – 2021/22			
Expenditure		Income	
Equipment	30.00	Subscriptions	1,484.00
Bulk order	915.50	Raffles	0.00
Administration	372.72	Bulk orders	1,913.22
Meeting costs	393.48	Training courses	960.00
Capitation YBKA	1,360.10	Interest	0.00
Sundries	0.00	Gift Aid	0.00
		Miscellaneous	4.00
Sub-total expenditure	3,071.80	Sub-total income	4,361.22