

RBKA 2023 AGM - Minutes

Tuesday 14th November at 7pm in the Village Hall, Wombleton.

18 members were present

Keira Sirr-Hovendon from Ryedale Show also attended to make contact with RBKA beekeepers.

Meeting commenced 7.10pm

1. Apologies

Kay Stevens, Keith & Susan Hall, Tony Teasdale, Ian Bell

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM – Circulated & accepted.

Proposed John Sutherland, Seconded Louise Hampson.

No matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report – See full report attached.

Thanks to all this year's Apiary hosts, Tim, Philip Simon & Rick. Also thanks to committee members and to Adrian Wilford for all his help & advice over the years. Special thank you to Rick for his 9 years continual committee service, latterly as Secretary.

Thanks given to Simon for his service as Chair (LH)

4. Treasurer's Report – See full report attached.

Q's – What is main expenditure (RH)

Hire of halls at Wombleton for monthly meetings (increased this year as added in Summer indoor meeting) & Oswaldkirk for beginners course. Both halls are very good value for money. Expenditure also on external speaker.

Accounts accepted. Thanks given to Louise for her service as Treasurer (PC)

Members had brief discussion on Treasurers comments that we do have a healthy bank balance, and whether we should consider using some of it for the benefit of all members. Consensus from members was positive, particular enthusiasm for potentially some Asian Hornet trap/kit. Committee to investigate further.

5. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The Officers of the Committee have all served 3 years so all posts up for re-election.

Chairperson -	Louise Hampson	Proposed John S, Seconded Philip C
Treasurer -	Tim Phillips	Proposed Simon L, Seconded Louise H
Secretary -	Julie Thompson	Proposed Louise H, Seconded Rhona S
Committee Members -	Simon Lathlean, Philip Crosier, Stephen Hudson, Kay Stevens	

Committee members proposed en bloc by Julie T and seconded by Philip C

6. Any other business

- No bulk purchase of fondant this year due to lack of demand. Agreed to resend email in order to capture any missed requirements
- Summer indoor meetings considered a success this year, plan to repeat in 2024
- Volunteers for 2024 Apiary Visits please ! We had kind offers from John & Rhona, Stephen H, Simon L and Phillip. It's great to be able to visit as many different apiaries as possible so if you would be able to host at any point please let the committee know.
- Asian Hornet Group – Encouragingly there are a lot of members wanting to increase their knowledge of the Asian Hornet. We will be setting up an Asian Hornet group to look at how we tackle this challenge within RBKA. Tim, Stephen & Kay have volunteered to set up – more information will follow.
- Confirmed programme for 2024 will follow shortly.
- Christmas Meal planned for Tuesday 5th December at The Moors Inn, Appleton-le-Moors.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Chairman's report

Another interesting year for the RBKA.

Back to a full programme of meetings and apiary visits with a very busy swarming season and the rise of the Asian hornet. Only those not taking notice of news items, information from BBKA and YBKA and even Facebook posts wouldn't have seen the large number of sightings and nest reported and the uncomfortably close events at Yarm with an Asian Hornet next being found and destroyed. We should, if not already, be making efforts to put out monitoring traps next spring and see what happens. You won't be surprised to hear we are considering Asian Hornet related activities next year.

Swarm season

I know many of you experienced many swarm calls in the spring/early summer. The weather seems to have been favourable and the availability, certainly in my area, of spring forage meant many swarms. In the years I have been beekeeping I have only been asked a few times about swarms but this year I collected three and had as many again already in Chimneys, walls etc. RBKA doesn't as an association doesn't sign members up for the swarm collectors list on the BBKA website. If any one would like to be included let me know. In light of this and the fact that a number of members aren't able to collect swarms we will be preparing a guidance document for members to use when contacted. Its hoped this might spread the load a little. The intention is to include members willing to attend and a list of commercial pest controllers/specialist bee removal firms who can handle swarms in the fabric of buildings. It will also contain some basic advice intended to help members of the public on swarms.

Apiary visits

Apiary visits were again a success this year and I thoroughly recommend them. They are a good way to learn more about beekeeping and methods from others. From the visit to my apiary it made me think about some of my beekeeping methods and practice. Thanks go to Philip Closier, Tim Philips, and Rick Colman for hosting this year, if anyone would be prepared to host in the future please let someone on the committee know.

Beginners Course

Another very successful year with our ever popular beginners course fully subscribed. WE have a number of new enthusiastic beekeepers joining us who attended the course and increased the attendance of association meetings later in the year. I would like to thank Rhona and John who continue to do a great job of running the course. The 2024 course already has enough attendees to say it will run so preparations are underway. There is one significant change from the associations point of view this year. The committee has asked Rhona to increase the cost of the course and in return attendees will become full BBKA, YBKA, RBKA members with all the BBKA membership benefits. This will cover the gap if beginners start beekeeping the same season as the course and they will have all the support and benefits available immediately.

Whats App group

As part of the support for the beginners a Whats app group was set up this year and has proved popular with all who participate. It's a general beekeeping questions/answers/ discussion. Personally I rather like the opportunity to discuss what we do and why so I think beekeepers at all levels get

benefit from the discussions. Philip has extended the invite to join to any RBKA member so if your not already part of the group and would like to join contact Philip.

Programme

Next year the committee are going to make some changes to the approach with the meetings programme. The idea is to arrange meetings around topics that are relevant to that time of the year. For example in late summer talking about autumn feeding. As a result this year we introduced a summer meeting around feeding and next year we intend to have speakers/meeting topics relevant to the time of year. The summer meeting was a bit of an experiment and well attended so we intend to do other summer meetings next year. Its also hoped we can try and encourage apiary visits to be focused on a topic rather than just a general visit. I will be interested to see what the feedback at the AGM next year.

As a group we supported Earth day by having a stall at the museum in Pickering . Attendance at the Farndale show didn't happen this year as we intended to have an observation hive and needed a level of support we couldn't muster.

For those that missed it we had a very interesting talk from our headline speaker Gerry Collins in October on the subject of Queens and things!

Thank You's

I would like to take the opportunity to thank a number of people this year.

Rick Colman as you will see a bit later is standing down from the committee this year . Rick has served us as treasurer, chairman and secretary and as a committee member and feels it is now a good time to let someone else have a go. If memory serves me Rick did a little more than three years as chairman as he took over from Bruce when he had to stand down as chairman before the AGM. Thank you Rick for all you have done.

Adrian Wilford gave many years of support and assistance to the RBKA and was also on the committee. Adrian moved away early in the year. Adrians vast experience and advice will be missed.

All the committee Julie, Louise and Philip who work in the back ground supporting and arranging particularly Julie and Louise supporting the beginners course and Philip with bulk orders and supporting beginners.

Simon Lathlean

Chair RBKA

November 2023

Treasurer's Report 2023

Financial summary of Ryedale Beekeepers Accounts 22/23			
12-Nov-23			
Balance at 21/10/22	5,931.04		
Current Balance	6,237.18		
Balance on period	306.14	5.2	% increase/decrease in funds
Summary of Bank Accounts and Cash Box – 2022/23			
Natwest Bank [a/c 501551908]			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/11/22</i>	5,891.04		
Expenditure	5,390.29		
Income	5,716.43		
Transfer from Cash Box	0.00		
Current Balance	6,217.18		
INCOME/EXPENDITURE - Cash Box			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/11/22</i>	20.00		
Expenditure	0.00		
Transfer to Natwest Bank a/c	0.00		
Income	0.00		
Current Balance	20.00		

Treasurer's Report AGM 2023

The account balance stands at £6,217.18 with £20 in the cash box. Since transferring our account to a Natwest club and society account we have avoided paying any bank charges: as a result there is a small increase again on last year, so we now have over £6k in the bank. This is quite a large balance to be carrying for a relatively small association with minimal financial commitments, so I would like to suggest we think about how we might use this money to benefit existing members and encourage new ones. Are there collective items of equipment it would be helpful for us to purchase to save individuals having to buy items they may only use occasionally? Should we consider an association apiary where training could take place, or members could house some hives? Should we pay for one or members to attend national events? These are just ideas; it would be great to hear what you think we should do.

Membership stands at 50 regular (including 3 lifetime) members, 5 partners and 3 associate members. We lost three members this year but gained new members from the introductory course run so ably by Rhona, so our numbers are stable.

Bulk purchase orders were down this year, with only £3523.38 being spent on syrup and fondant. I would urge members to use this service so ably managed by Philip as it is real member benefit,

offering a significant saving per unit on increasingly expensive feed as well as saving on delivery and transport costs.

We spent £350.00 on **meetings**, including speaker fees where applicable, and experimented this year with running some summer meetings alongside apiary visits, which proved popular, so we plan to continue this model.

Membership includes your BDI insurance, membership of BBKA and YBKA, as well as the monthly magazine and access to BBKA and YBKA meetings and training. I am delighted to say rates *remain* unchanged again this year, so please renew your membership asap so I can update the online system and your insurance etc can be continued unchanged.

My three years as Treasurer is now up, so I am delighted to be handing over to Tim who will be your contact for membership and finance matters.

Louise Hampson

RBKA Treasurer

12.11.2023