

Ryedale Bee Keepers Association – Annual General Meeting 2024

Tuesday November 12th , Wombleton Village Hall 7pm

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Present & apologies for absence

Number of members present :- 16

Apologies :- Karen Eastwood, Shirley-Ann Collier, Robin & Janette Hurd, Giles Jeffs, John & Irene Scarth

2. Minutes of previous AGM

Agreed as an accurate record of 2023 AGM.

Proposed by John Sutherland, Seconded by Gina Bull

3. Chair's report

Please see attached.

4. Treasurer's report

Full report previously circulated with Agenda. Summary slides were presented to those in attendance.

Reminder to all members that the Association has capital available that can be used for purchasing any equipment or assets that would be useful for the Association and shared members use. Please do contact any of the committee if you have any suggestions. We have been offered a Heather press at a very competitive rate, other suggestions include an oxalic acid fumigator and an Observation Hive.

In Summary:-

- Encourage completion of Gift Aid form – monies reclaimed from HMRC can really help the Association
- Request for ideas from Members on Asset/Equipment purchase
- Please insure (via the BDI element of your subscription) to maximum number of colonies you think you will have at any point in the forthcoming year. Include this sum in your membership renewal.
- Proposal to increase the RBKA part of Subs to £6 with a view to balance operating income against costs.

5. Proposals Arising

The proposal to raise the RBKA part of the subscription to £6 per year as detailed within the Treasurers report was voted on by members in attendance. There were no comments or votes against the proposal received from absent members. The vote was unanimously accepted.

Proposed by Philip Closier, Seconded by John Sutherland

6. Education Secretary Update

Rhona gave an update on the Beekeeping for Beginners Course planned for 2025. This will start on March 5th and run on Wednesdays, with the last session on Thursday April 3rd. This is the last such course Rhona will be running, as she feels the time is right to hand over the

baton. It's always good for beginners to meet Association members so if anyone would like to come along to any of the sessions, you'd be very welcome.

Simon has taken over from Rhona as Exams Officer. If anyone is thinking of studying to take any theory modules or practical assessments then please contact Simon. We encourage members to take the Basic Assessment & any of the modules, as it offers a much broader perspective of techniques and theory beyond those you may experience, or see practiced within our small Association.

7. Election of Officers & Committee

All current committee members have indicated they are happy to remain in post. We've had 1 additional volunteer, Gina Bull, offering to join the committee. No comments or objections from members in attendance.

Proposed to accept the committee en bloc :- John Sutherland, Seconded by Rick Colman

8. AOB

- Reminder to pick up Fondant any time after delivery on Friday 15th November.
- Christmas Meal will be on Wednesday 4th December at the Moors Inn, Appleton-le-Moors at 6.30pm for 7pm.
- Shirley-Ann wanted to let the Association know that she will be stopping beekeeping due to a downsizing house move, where it will not be possible to keep her current 7 hives. She is very keen not to have to put the bees into Auction, so please contact Shirley-Ann or any member of the committee if you would like to increase your bees or know of anyone that would like to.
- Thoughts are with RBKA member Bill Harrison and his family at this time of poor health.

Keith Hall expressed his delight in seeing people running the Association that he has known throughout their beekeeping careers, and asked people to give a vote of Thanks to Louise and the rest of the committee.

Meeting closed at 7.37pm

Chair's Report

This year has been a full one with many new initiatives being explored. My heartfelt thanks to the other committee members who have taken a lead in many of these and for all their input to the running of the association.

Meetings:

We extended the pattern of monthly meetings into the summer months to run alongside the apiary visits, and these were well attended so we will be continuing that in the forthcoming year. We did manage to squeeze in two apiary visits, to Simon and Stephen, before the EFB outbreak made it prudent to cancel the remainder. The committee is keen to encourage newer beekeepers to host apiary visits, as they can be a great way of getting helpful and supportive input and advice, so if you feel you could accommodate a visit please do let Julie know. Our indoor meetings have included a live zoom with David Evans, The Apiarist, from bonny Scotland, made easier by the new WiFi in Wombledon Village Hall, but all our meetings are immeasurably enhanced by Stuart's amazing biscuits and his willingness to set up the hall with chairs, screen, tables etc. So thank you Stuart.

Outreach – Stalls, Shows and Talks:

In our quest to widen awareness of the Yellow-Legged Hornet threat we staffed a stall at Malton food market in March. Many thanks to Kay and Julie for doing the heavy lifting on that and on organizing it. Many thanks also to Kay for being the Asian Hornet coordinator and doing such a fantastic job on information sharing. We had good take-up of leaflets and were heartened to see that many people were already aware of the problem and on the look-out. We also had stalls at Ryedale Show and Farndale Show, promoting the association and support for pollinators, and offering honey tasting (but not selling, too complicated!) as well as badge-making for children. Again we had good interest, with enquiries about the beginners course, the association generally, and further distribution of YLH information. The success of such events relies on members being willing to do a stint so that it does not fall to the same few people all the time, so if you have other shows you think we should do which you would be able to help staff please let the committee know – or better still, join the committee, we are keen to draw in new and additional members.

Kay did a talk at Pickering Care Home, and Philip gamely took on Helmsley WI with Mrs Closier speaking about the trials of being a beekeeper's wife.... Thanks are also due to Philip for many things but I'd like to highlight in this bit the setting up the WhatsApp group which I know so many members have found a to be a great way of sharing ideas, advice, problems and sometimes a bit of a laugh. If you're not a member and would like to find out more please ask! Special mentions are also due to John and Rhona for their incredible service in delivering the Beginners course and managing the website (which is how many people find us), but also being the mainstay of our presence at Farndale Show as well as helping beginners collect swarms, especially the Incredible Disappearing Bees formerly of a top bar hive!

RBKA was also represented at the Great Yorkshire Show by having Kay Stevens and Alistair Lamond doing a volunteer stint on the YBKA stand, but also by our own Simon Lathlean winning an award for his mead! The rules around entering shows can seem daunting, but it can bring glory and the chance to put 'award winning' on your labels, which has got to be worth another quid on the price if you're selling!

Schools:

Rhona passed the education mantle on to Simon, and both of them will be reporting shortly, but we also dipped our toes into school contacts. We were contacted by Ryedale School with a request to speak to their ecology group, initially because they were considering starting beekeeping. Rhona & Julie went to the school for an initial visit to the Eco Club, and the students & two of their teachers then came to visit Stephen's Apiary, with Gina assisting & being chief Photographer! 2 This was very well-received by the school and we hope to continue this relationship. Julie also took the lead on taking part in another initiative 'Let's Learn Moor', with Gina, Finley, Karen, Rhona & Juliane all giving up their time to help out in an unseasonably freezing cold & blustery July. This is a three-day event organised by North York Moors MO and was a big commitment, so huge thanks for taking this on. Engaging with schoolchildren is great for the future of beekeeping, so let's hope we can resource doing things like this with a broader pool of volunteers.

Member benefits:

Thanks to Philip for continuing to coordinate the bulk purchase of syrup, fondant and varroa treatment. This is one of the many benefits of membership, saving a considerable sum on individual purchasing from suppliers, so you are encouraged to take up these benefits when offered. One of the areas we as a committee are keen to understand is why only about 1/3 of our members attend meetings, so we are planning to ask everyone: is it the day of the week, the time, the topics? What if anything can we do to encourage more people to attend more regularly so that we can use meetings more easily as an effective way of disseminating information and keeping in touch with any problems people are experiencing.

At the risk of this turning into one of those Oscar speeches, I'll sum up by expressing many thanks to everyone for all your input and support this year, let us hope for a better spring next year!

Louise Hampson
Chair RBKA

November 2024

Treasurer's Report

The **RBKA balance** as of 1st November 2024 stands at £6347.63. The cash box has been closed and a 35 day notice savings account opened with Nat West. Additionally £3000 of the balance has been deposited, via YBKA, into a 12 month fixed rate savings account with the Charities Aid Foundation Bank. These savings accounts have been opened with a view to earning a little interest whilst savings rates are favourable whilst introducing no risk to the Association's capital.

A **Gift Aid claim** is underway via YBKA and is expected to be worth £65. It is strongly encouraged that all eligible members opt in to this HMRC mechanism by completing the Gift Aid form on the website and sending to the Treasurer at renewal of membership.

The Gift Aid scheme allows recovery of tax from HM Customs & Revenue that has been paid on a gift. An application to HMRC is made and they pay the refund. RBKA hope that all those who are eligible will sign up to the scheme.

The Committee successfully applied for a **grant from the Allison Willis Trust** and received a generous donation of £250. This was a substantial contribution towards the cost of six small adult / teen size bee suits to support our educational work with Ryedale School and the Let's Learn Moor upland classroom activity. Other purchases from capital include: two Yellow Legged Asian Hornet banners used at Ryedale and Farndale shows and Malton food market; and 10 Gard' Apis YLAH traps. The latter are available on loan to RBKA members willing to be YLAH identifiers.

The RBKA balance for the year is broadly the same as at the end of the last financial year. An increase of £110.45 or 1.8% with the financial summary set out in Annex 1 to this report.

A proposal is set out below to increase RBKA membership fees to £6 per member (all classes except Junior and Honorary which continue to be at no charge) to ensure predictable revenue balances our annual **operating** costs.

The capital balance continues to be available for use to encourage new, and to benefit existing members. A list of **current assets** is given in Annex 2 to this report.

The Beekeeper Beginner's course is the main source of funds to grow the capital balance and this year resulted in a net contribution of £442.83. Thank you Rhona and John!

Suggestions for new assets and equipment that could be purchased include: an Observation Hive to take to local shows and to be used for educational purposes; and/or a heather press to loan out to members (perhaps for a nominal fee?) or simply a couple of manual honey creamers. Please let any member of the Committee know if there are other items of equipment that it would be helpful for RBKA to purchase to loan or rent out, so as to save individuals having to buy items they may use only occasionally.

Bulk purchase orders for sugar syrup and Apivar this year cost £3085.00. These costs are paid by RBKA and then invoiced to individual members prior to collection. All cans of Syrup and all packs of Apivar purchased were sold. Fondant is being secured from a new supplier at a favourable price.

The committee would urge members to use this service for syrup, fondant and Apivar. It is well managed by Philip and is a tangible member benefit, offering a significant saving per unit on

increasingly expensive feed as well as savings on delivery and transport costs. The savings on one can of syrup more than offset the RBKA element of the membership fee.

Membership numbers have increased this year to 57 Registered Full Members (including 2 Lifetime), 8 partner, 5 associate and 1 junior member. RBKA gained new members: directly via the website; from existing member recommendations; and via the Beekeeping Beginner's Course.

RBKA spent £430.00 on our association **meetings**, including hall rental and speaker fees where applicable, and £200.70 on **administration**, including web hosting, domain name renewal and insurance.

It is proposed that these anticipated operating costs of ~£600 should be (approximately) matched by the Ryedale association fees plus earned interest on the capital balance.

i.e. $\sim 70 * £6.00$ (association subs.) + £130 (CAF interest in 2025) + £50 (Nat West interest) = £600

It is anticipated that interest earned will reduce in line with bank rates offered but this will be offset by the Gift Aid claim and potentially a small margin of bulk purchases.

Membership runs annually November to November in line with the RBKA AGM.

Full Registered Membership provides a range of benefits including membership of BBKA and YBKA, entitlement to vote, insured for 3rd party liability; as well as the monthly BBKA magazine and access to RBKA, BBKA and YBKA meetings, webinars and training and our Apiary visits.

A Partner Member must live at the same address as the Registered Member and receives the same benefits albeit without duplicate copies of BBKA magazine and direct communications.

Associate members are registered for RBKA only.

Junior membership is a category for anyone under 18 years of age with the same benefits as a Registered Member but at a reduced subscription rate.

BDI rates, YBKA and BBKA membership subscription are unchanged for the coming year.

Membership cost = RBKA + YBKA + BBKA + BDI basic (+ any additional BDI for >3 colonies)

If the proposal to increase Ryedale Beekeeper's Association subscription element to £6 is accepted then total membership costs for 2025 will be:

Full Member = £6 + £3 + £21 + £2 = **£32.00**

Partner Member = £6 + £3 + £13.50 + £0 = **£22.50** (colonies kept are as for the associate Full Member)

Associate Member = £6 + £0 + £0 + £0 = **£6.00**

Junior Member = £0 + £0 + £9.50 + £0¹ = **£9.50** (colonies kept are as for the parent / guardian)

¹ Bees kept by Junior Members whose parents do not keep bees, or who have not insured the Junior's bees on their behalf, can have insurance taken out on their behalf with BDI. Beekeepers under the age of 16 years are unable to take out insurance policies and any policy has to be arranged by a parent or guardian.

BDI Insurance premiums are 'banded' by the number of colonies.

Up to 3 colonies: included in the basic £2.00 subscription above.

The Committee **STRONGLY** recommends that you insure for the **MAXIMUM** number of colonies, including splits, swarm catches etc. that your apiary may grow to at the peak of the season. **ALL colonies on a site must be covered by BDI for the insurance to be valid.** Details of the insurance and compensation rates (which are dependent on the condition of the equipment destroyed!) are available to read at <https://www.beediseasesinsurance.co.uk/join/bdi-premiums-and-cover>

Additional cover is available by paying the additional BDI premium:

Up to 5 colonies in total: £1.20; Up to 10 colonies in total: £4.70
Up to 15 colonies in total: £7.75; Up to 20 colonies in total: £9.50
Up to 25 colonies in total: £11.10; Up to 30 colonies in total: £13.60
Up to 35 colonies in total: £16.10; Up to 39 colonies in total: £18.10

Tim Phillips
RBKA Treasurer

November 2024

ANNEX 1 - Financial summary of Ryedale Beekeepers Accounts 23/24

01-Nov-24			
Balance at 1/11/23	£6,237.18		
Nat West Current Account Balance	£1,817.43		
Cash Box	£0.00		
Nat West Savings Account Balance	£1,530.20		
CAF 1 Year Savings Account	£3,000.00		
Balance on period	£110.45	1.8	% increase/decrease in funds

Summary of Bank Accounts and Cash Box – 2023/24

Natwest Bank [a/c 501551908]			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/11/23</i>	£6,217.18		
Expenditure	£6,226.20		
Income	£6,346.45		
Transfer from Cash Box	£20.00		
Transfer to Savings	£4,500.00		
Current Balance	£1,817.43		
INCOME/EXPENDITURE - Cash Box			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/11/23</i>	£20.00		
Expenditure	£0.00		
Income	£0.00		
Transfer to Natwest Bank a/c	£20.00		
Current Balance	£0.00		
Natwest Bank [a/c 50175092]			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/11/23</i>	£0.00		
Expenditure	£0.00		
Income	£30.20		
Transfer from Current Account	£1,500.00		
Current Balance	£1,530.20		
CAF 1 YR Savings Account			
<i>Starting Balance – 01/11/23</i>	£0.00		
Expenditure	£0.00		
Income	£0.00		
Transfer from Current Account	£3,000.00		
Current Balance	£3,000.00		

ANNEX 2 – Asset Register

Asset #	Description	Location	Purchase Date	Value	Notes
1	Projector	Tim P	2000's	£0.00	Written Down
2	Screen	Stuart	2000's	£0.00	Written Down
3	Refractometer	Simon	1990's	£0.00	Written Down
4	10x YLH Traps	Tim P	3/24	£180.00	
5	YLH Banner #1	Tim P	3/24	£40.00	
6	YLH Banner #2	Tim P	3/24	£40.00	
7	Pin Boards	Tim P	2000's	£0.00	
8	Child Bee Suit #1	Tim P	6/24	£40.00	
9	Child Bee Suit #2	Tim P	6/24	£40.00	
10	Child Bee Suit #3	Tim P	6/24	£40.00	
11	Child Bee Suit #4	Tim P	6/24	£40.00	
12	Child Bee Suit #5	Tim P	6/24	£40.00	
13	Child Bee Suit #6	Tim P	6/24	£40.00	
14	4 x RBKA Road Signs	Simon	-	£0.00	Written Down
15	Box of YLH Leaflets	Tim P	4/24	£0.00	
16	Set of stainless sieves	Simon	2000's	£0.00	Written Down
17	Glasses for honey showing	Simon	1990's	£0.00	Written Down
18	Spinner Thornes basic	Tim P	1990's	£50.00	