

1. Apologies for absence
Veronica Williams
John Haigh
David Bean
Kay Phillips
Andy and Deb Garnett
Tim Plant
Mark Millard
Sue and Kieth Woodhouse
Christine Balshaw
Graham Ashworth

There were 25 members present.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM – agreed as a correct record (proposed by Paddy Walker).
3. There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.
4. Correspondence. None

5. Chairman's report

Roger spoke of the success of the Beginners course. Of the 16 attendees, 13 were already keeping bees. He expressed thanks to Chris Dale, John Haigh and Elaine Robinson for teaching on the course; and also to the mentors who have provided support to these beginners. He spoke of the coming End of Session meeting which is to be an informal meeting for mentors and mentees.

Roger spoke of the updated apiary rules and of the new teaching hives at the apiary site.

There had been a successful program of winter talks and summer apiary visits, including a very interesting afternoon meeting at Bradford beekeepers.

He thanked Elaine for facilitating access to the YBKA Zoom sessions. A list of other relevant zoom sessions is posted regularly by Christine on the website, and she is happy to continue to collate this.

Roger spoke of success in exams.

On equipment, he mentioned the new Hydropress for extracting heather honey. No equipment is kept at the apiary, but is located with individual

members of HBKA, and a list of these locations is on the website. No charge is taken for the items.

He also detailed the success of the Halifax Show, and thanked the volunteers.

He thanked the committee members and those retiring from the committee.

6. Secretary's report

Alan described how all communication is now digital. He sends out messages and announcements by email using the Mailchimp mailing list, as well as maintaining the website. Although he is very happy to hear members suggestions for other uses of the website, he stressed that the website software, currently free of charge and supported by Matthew Beardsworth, would be very expensive to upgrade for more professional features.

The website is now successfully used for events RSVPs, ticket sales, membership renewals, and access to some downloadable documents.

The Facebook page is not very active at present. There is a WhatsApp group for Association Apiary users.

7. Treasurer's report and membership

The report by Phil Gee as presented is attached.

The Association finances are sound, and in credit, he detailed the income and out-goings of the association. He stressed the importance of Gift Aid.

HBKA remains the third largest Beekeeping association in Yorkshire with 164 members.

Having been the treasurer for 20 years Phil is stepping down from this role and handing over to Rowena, who has been working with him this year. In appreciation of his great contribution to the Association, he was given a commemorative bowl.

8. Apiary Manager's report presented by Roger on behalf of David

There has been zero expenditure this year for the apiary. Repairs to the hut were carried out and funded by Richard.

Tesco continues to offer regular spoilt sugar donations (around a ton this year), and to limit the build up of this, members are encouraged to collect

sugar from the apiary throughout the year if they anticipate needing some. Honey donations to Tesco staff are much appreciated.

The association hives used for training are now in a fenced-off section.

There are 12 colonies going into winter, although there have been up to 20 colonies during the summer.

All apiary members have been asked to confirm that their hives have been treated for Varroa. A spreadsheet is kept with contact details, number and location of hives and is available to the bee inspector if required.

9. Education officer's report

Paddy stressed the focus of education was on the learning that ensued, not solely on the passing of exams.

Exam successes this year were BBKA Basic, 4 members took the exam, all passed, one with distinction. Six members did the training on Bee Health, and four sat the exam, all of whom passed.

Paddy talked about the development of the association apiary, using it much more for educational purposes, with two colonies maintained for education and hands-on training.

On 22nd June next year there will be a one day training session on bee health hosted by the National Bee Unit (NBU). This will be held at Greenhead College and will be a joint meeting with Huddersfield Beekeepers Association.

Paddy noted the threat of the Asian Hornet, which is now very likely to become a significant practical problem to HBKA beekeepers, and of which members will need to be very aware.

Paddy thanked Chris for taking over the role of Exam secretary, and all members who have been active in providing educational support to the novice beekeepers.

10. YBKA Area representative's report

Phil had no update on this, stating there had little activity or emails, and the YBKA convention had been cancelled.

11. Election of Chair

Roger Pool, proposed by Ian Bairstow and seconded by Paddy Walker, was re-elected.

12/13. Election of officers and other posts

Ian Bairstow	Vice Chair and Program Secretary
Alan Brook	Secretary
Rowena Bairstow	Treasurer
David Bean	Apiary Manager
Paddy Walker	Education Secretary
Peter Nicholls	Honey Show Secretary
Jacky Brook	Minutes Secretary
Richard Searle (Asian Hornet Action Team lead and Association Apiary lead)	
Chris Dale (Safeguarding Officer, Exam secretary, librarian and catering lead)	
Sarah Lamb	
Liz Bolton	New appointment

Roger thanked Phil, Barbara, Elaine and Sarah Lloyd for their contributions as committee members; noting that Barbara has kindly agreed to continue hosting the Auction and the summer barbecue; and Sarah has agreed to continue being the Association link with the Halifax Show.

14. Award of BBKA certificates

These were presented by Jerry Burbridge after he shared some of his early memories of HBKA.

15. Award of trophies from the Halifax Show

Presented by Jerry.

16. Program for 2024

Ian detailed the forthcoming program, including the biennial auction. Details were available on the website.

The AGM will be on 16th October 2024.

17. AOB

Library - Chris talked about the extensive collection of books relating to beekeeping available for members to borrow free of charge. These are now to be housed with Chris and a list of all these will be available on the website.

Richard Searle spoke about the increasing threat from the Asian Hornet. All members will be encouraged to start monitoring in the Spring. Part of our January meeting will be devoted to discussion of suitable locations and traps.

Auction - Mike Joyce will be conducting the auction with Roger

The meeting closed at 20:45