

HBKA minutes of AGM, 16th October 2024, 7.30 pm

Church of the Good Shepherd. Mytholmroyd

1. Apologies for absence

Liz Bolton
Sarah Lamb
Phil Gee
Tim Plant
Steve Woodhead
Steve Freeman

There were 21 members present.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM – agreed as a correct record (proposed by Paddy Walker, seconded by Chris Dale).

3. There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

4. Correspondence. None relating to AGM.

5. Chairman's report Roger's report summarised much of the AGM matters:

Surprises - Asian hornet not yet with us in Halifax
High Incidence of locally detected Foulbrood

Success of Bee Health Day in June, many thanks to Paddy

Association Apiary

Roger has renewed the lease for the site with Marshalls.
New Apiary managers Sarah and Matthew Baldry have taken on role.
They have re-organised, developed and cleaned up the site, and updated the rules relating to the Apiary.
Spoilt Tesco sugar is still made available to the Association, he thanked Tim Plant for collecting the sugar and requested members to leave jars of honey as a thank you to the Tesco staff.

Beginner's Course

There were 17 attendees, some are already keeping bees and managed to get a crop of honey this year.
He expressed thanks to Chris, John Haigh, Ian 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 Season meeting which is to be an informal meeting for mentors and mentees.

Member's Education

As well as a varied and successful set of presentations by the Association, he stressed other resources were available.

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.

The Association library is now organised and managed by Chris.

Basic Exams

Roger spoke of the successes of HBKA members and thanked Chris and Liz for the revision sessions they led.

Thanks expressed to Alan who provided suitable hives in his apiary at short notice, to facilitate the exams.

Last Year's program

Mixture of sessions delivered by experts and also by members.

Successful experiment with local audience and speaker on Zoom (Professor Martin)

Skills sessions were held on skep making and queen rearing.

BBQ: thanks to Barbara for hosting at Brickhill Farm.

Auction in May

This event, also held at Brickhill Farm, was a success, thanks to all the helpers, particularly Rowena and Phil.

Equipment for loan

Extensive list, detailed on the website, but currently underused.

Halifax Show was successful

Roger thanked the 20+ helpers, Peter, Elaine and Jacky.

3000 honey tasting sticks were used.

Excellent shop window for the public.

Dip in the number of entries this year.

Committee Retirees

Sarah Lamb

David Bean

Roger thanked all committee members and ad hoc helpers for their hard work during the year.

6. Secretary's report

Alan described how all communication is now digital.

The BBKA system of ER2, although dated and clunky, has now been embraced, and is being used for emails.

ER2 is also used for the renewals process which has hopefully reduced Rowena's workload.

Alan limits the number of emails sent out to Association members, and warned against unsubscribing from ER2 emails.

Alan stressed the number of hives insured should be sufficient to ensure that even as the number of hives often increases in the summer, the number is not exceeded, as this will invalidate all BDI insurance.

The Facebook page is not very active at present.

There is a WhatsApp group for Association Apiary users.

7. Treasurer's report and membership

Rowena presented the report having completed her first year in this role.

She stressed the importance of confirming Gift Aid if appropriate (check box on membership renewal form).

The Halifax Show had been a success, making more money this year than the previous one.

HBKA has 164 members.

Rowena was thanked for her hard work this year.

8. Apiary Manager's report

Matthew detailed the changes that have occurred since he and Sarah took over the role of Association Apiary Managers in May 2024.

The Apiary has been organised, tidied and cleaned and is now monitored. Updated rules for the Apiary are now on the website and to be followed.

Members using the Apiary have a specific area for their hives and space for equipment storage in the container.

More members will be putting hives in the Apiary next year.

A Bee Inspector visit in September was satisfactory, and showed no signs of Foulbrood.

Matthew and Sarah were congratulated for having made such a difference to the Apiary especially considering they took on the role in their first year of beekeeping!

9. Education and Exam officer's report

Chris stressed the focus of education was on the learning that ensued, not solely on the passing of exams. He did say that the Basic is very important however and cements beekeeping knowledge, improving safety and competence of (especially new) beekeepers.

Exam successes this year were BBKA Basic, 4 members took the exam, all passed, one with distinction and 2 with credit.

Chris and Liz held some revision sessions for the basic, theoretical and practical and some places were open to individuals not taking the exam at this stage. The hope is that they will take the exam in 2025.

Elaine was congratulated on having taken and passed all the UK beekeeping exams available to her and has now become a Master Beekeeper. In recognition of her achievements she was awarded a mounted Hive Tool, engraved with her name and status, from her HBKA colleagues.

Chris spoke about the excellent Bee Health Day and thanked Paddy for his work in organising it.

Chris encouraged members to use the website to see the available books in the library and to use them.

10. Election of Chair

Ian congratulated and thanked Roger for yet another successful year as Chairman of HBKA, and asked if any others were keen to take over the role, but none were forthcoming.

Roger Pool, proposed by Ian and seconded by Alan, was re-elected.

11. Election of officers and other posts

Ian Bairstow	Vice Chair and Program Secretary
Alan Brook	Secretary
Rowena Bairstow	Treasurer
Sarah and Matthew Baldry	Apiary Managers
Paddy Walker	Halifax Show Liaison
Peter Nicholls	Honey Show Secretary
Jacky Brook	Minutes Secretary
Richard Searle	Asian Hornet Action Team lead and Association Apiary lead
Chris Dale	Education and Exam secretary, Safeguarding Officer, and catering lead
Liz Bolton	

No other members put themselves forward for committee roles, and the above members were re-elected to serve for another year. Proposed by Kay and seconded by Jerry.

12. Election of Committee

It was stressed that HBKA members who wish to serve on the committee can apply.

13. Award of BBKA Certificates

Jerry - now the President-Elect of the National Honey Show - presented the certificates and badges, after expressing his view that HBKA is a wonderful Association.

14. Award of trophies from the Halifax show

Peter announced the winners and Jerry presented the trophies.

15. Update on EFB and AFB cases in West Yorks

Kay (Seasonal Bee Inspector) shared Foulbrood statistics for Yorkshire and Nationally, and detailed how incidence rates of detected European and American Foulbrood cases have changed over the last ten years.

West Yorkshire has had the greatest number EFB outbreaks in the UK, 20 cases, involving 58 colonies in 2024.

West Yorkshire has had 6 cases of EFB, involving 7 colonies in 2024. Only North Yorkshire had more in 2024.

Kay provided copies of the new updated NBU Advisory Leaflet: **Foulbrood Disease of Honey Bees** for members to take.

16. Program for 2024

Ian detailed the forthcoming program, as structured so far. Details will be available on the website when all the sessions have been confirmed.

17. AOB

Josh suggested a Honey swap (similar to a secret Santa) and it was agreed he could organise this, to coincide with the December evening meeting.

Josh suggested a members vote for the best tasting honey at the show next year. This may be done on the honey tasting table at the show.

The meeting closed at 29.10