

Warwickshire Beekeepers Association Solihull and District Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Methodist Hall,
Blossomfield Road, Solihull on the 10th February 2020.

Present: There were 34 members present including the Chairman, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

1.Apologies: Val Parry, Lynn Foord, Phil Webb, Tre Simkin, Chris Watts, Gill Bloxwich, Roger Taylor

2.Minutes of the AGM held on the 11th February 2019 were previously posted on the WBKA website and were taken as read. The minutes were proposed by Becky Hall, seconded by Jim Hamilton and were accepted unanimously by the meeting attendees and signed later by the Chairman as a true record.

3.Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4.Chairman's Report:

Sarah reported that we had had a busy and eventful year, starting with a successful beginner's course. 3 members had completed a study module (and passed) and a second study group has been started. Some Branch members had attended county training events. The meetings throughout the year had been successful and Sarah thanked all those who had organised and/or taken part. Finally, she thanked Mandy and Denise for all the cakes and she made a presentation of flowers and gift tokens to them both.

5a.Treasurer's Report:

- **Accounts**

The Treasurer gave a walk through of the Account highlights for the year to November 30th 2019.

		2019	2018	2017
Membership	Full	88	81	88
	Partner	13	12	12
	Junior	0	1	1
	Associate	13	10	10

Financial Extract		2019	2018	2017
Received on behalf of BBKA and WBKA		£2,855	£3,246	£3,040
Total Receipts		£6,891	£8,858	£7,649
Including:	Branch Subscriptions	£846	£513	£803
	Donations & Grants	£218	£780	£663
	Gift Aid (to be received 2019)	£818	£0	£537
	Honey Sales	£810	£636	£667
	Nuc Sales (& Talks to 2018)	£320	£480	£180
	Training income (& Talks 2019)	£1,015	£1,045	£1,370
	Insurance claim		£2,155	
Total Payments		£6,318	£6,255	£6,882
Including:	Apiary expenses	£477	£648	£575
	Room hire	£206	£171	£193
	Training equipment purchases	£625	£0	£521
	Training course expenses	£311	£461	£574
	Insurance	£383	£356	£354
	National Honey Show trip			£298
	Insurance replacements	£598	£683	
	Other - Newsletters, Speakers, Honey Show, Bank and Accounting fees			
Receipts less payments		£573	£2,603	£766
Cash Funds at Year End		£9,718	£9,145	£6,541
Including:	Reserves- Contingencies and Replacements	£6,325	£6,325	£6,000

Commentary

Money coming in for memberships and insurance and then paid over to the BBKA and the WBKA make up a large part of the funds going through our accounts.

The receipts we have available for our activities are from branch subscriptions, donations, grants and sales of goods and services.

Following last year's apiary break-in the committee has replaced the marquee, which now has the branch's name on it. The insurance this year has been reviewed and amendments made to ensure that all assets are covered appropriately.

Training equipment purchased this year was a new laptop and audio equipment for winter meetings.

Contingency reserve remains the same as the replacement assets will last for longer than the old ones would have.

Thank you to all our members who help generate income for our continued operation and the promotion of beekeeping.

Nicola Content proposed that we accept the accounts and this was seconded by Denise Grove. The accounts were accepted unanimously.

5b. Capitation 2020:

Becky reported that the committee did not see any reason to increase the capitation fee for the year 2021 and therefore proposed that it remain unchanged. This was seconded by Maggie Tavilla and accepted unanimously.

6.Election of Officers:

Ian Davidson is willing to continue in his role as Hon Secretary – he was proposed by Richard Collins and seconded by Desy Hall and accepted unanimously.

Andrew Heath is Chair Elect, so Sarah proposed that he be Chairman – this was seconded by Celia Davis and accepted unanimously.

Louise Cameron-Ward has volunteered to take over as Hon Treasurer and this was proposed by Sarah Heath and seconded by Andrew Heath and accepted unanimously.

7.Election of the Committee: Sarah Heath, John Mellor, Jim Hamilton and Denise Grove are all prepared to continue on the committee and were proposed by Ian Davidson, seconded by Celia Davis and accepted unanimously.

Andrew Heath proposed that Maggie Tavilla join the committee. This was seconded by Myles Ensor and accepted unanimously.

Sarah thanked Channy and Mark, who had resigned from the committee, for their service. Sarah also thanked Becky for her work as Treasurer.

Andrew then took over chairing the meeting and thanked Sarah for her 2 years as Chairman.

8.Appointment of the Independent Examiner: Andrew Heath proposed that Ruth Galvin, who had been approached and had agreed to continue as our independent examiner, be nominated by the meeting to continue. This was seconded by Louise Cameron-Ward and as there were no objections it was agreed unanimously.

9. Proposition: On behalf of the committee, John Mellor made the proposition 'That we undertake funded improvement works to improve the facilities at the apiary by providing toilet facilities, dependent on receiving a development grant to cover the cost.' This was seconded by Maggie Tavilla and was carried unanimously.

10. The Date of Next Meeting: The next Solihull and District Branch AGM meeting will be held on the 8th February 2021 at the Methodist Hall, Solihull at 7:30 pm and the meeting then closed.

Chairman's Report

It is the end of my two-year stint as Chairman and it has been a very enjoyable two years that have just whizzed by. I'd like to start with a thank you to the committee and the many members who help out with various activities as you all help to make the Chairman's task very easy and also to make the branch the success it is. Thank you.

2019 has been another busy year. From an educational perspective we ran the beginners' course from January to March; one module study group has resulted in Sheila, Andrew and myself passing more modules and a second module study group has been started; and another four members Louise Cameron-Ward, Sean Flower, Dawn Philpott and Andrew Pike successfully completed their Basic Assessment. Additionally, branch members have attended Warwickshire training days. Thank you to our Education Co-ordinator, Celia Davis for organising us all and providing knowledge and support along the way.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed a range of indoor meetings plus our apiary evenings throughout the summer. Thanks to Ian for sorting the winter programme out and a huge thanks to all the apiary trainers for ensuring the apiary meetings are successful and the bees inspected.

Jim, John and Chris have again put in many hours keeping the apiary running so well and ensuring we always have what we need whatever the weather and also collect a good crop of honey. Thank you. I'd also like to thank all the people who nominate themselves for the mowing rota, this can be a thankless task, but it is appreciated and we do receive comments from various people throughout the season saying how good the apiary is both in appearance and the training provided. It is a credit to all involved. Finally on the apiary, thanks to Brian and Mandy for not only extracting the honey for us but also teaching others how to extract at the same time.

In August the branch attended the Lowsonford and Rowington fair which was an enjoyable afternoon as usual. Thanks to all who helped set this up and man the stand for the afternoon.

The branch honey show was excellently run by Rachel and Roger Taylor with 63 entries. Carys Edwards judged and Mandy Cadge, Roger and Rachel Taylor, Desy Hall and Eve Jenner all won the trophies. There were further successes for the branch at the County honey Show with Roger and Rachel Taylor winning awards and Maggie Tavilla winning best in show with her 6 jars of honey for extraction. Well done to all.

I'd like to remind you all that the branch does have a library which may be useful to those looking at doing the modules. If you want to know what books are available or want to borrow anything then please talk to Sheila Vanhouse. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Graham Youdan for posting the WB magazine each month.

Last, but by no means least, I want to thank our industrious bakers. They are becoming renowned throughout the land and the envy of many branches, but luckily for us they are ours and we really do appreciate all the goodies they provide throughout the year, so a huge thank you from everyone to Denise and Mandy.

Sarah Heath Chairman,
Feb 2020