



East of Scotland Beekeepers Association

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in Scotland, SCIO number SC050832

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2023

Held on Monday 6th March 2023 @ 19:30, at Dundee Deaf Hub

Present: 16 members attended. Bill Hunter (BH) – Chair, Colin Sinclair (CS) - Secretary , Stan Franklin (SF) - Treasurer, Colin Smith (CSm), Avril Aitken (AA), Jenny Gavin (JG), Ronnie McNicol, Judy Wilson, John Andrew, Mohamed Hamza, Neil Lakenby (NL), Rona Nicolson (RN), Martin Brown, Alastair Harbison (AH), Alan Marr, Iain Lilly (IL)

Bill, as Chairperson, started by introducing the format of the meeting.

1. Apologies

Alistair Crozier (AC), Sandy Scott, Tony Gowland, Andrew Rogers, Rodger Brunton, Bob McKenzie (BM), Robin Grant, Gavin Ramsay (GR), Mary Gifford, Andrew Gavin

2. Minutes of Previous AGM (14 March 2022)

Proposed: AA, Seconded: CSm

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

None

4. Obituaries

None received. IL reported that Henry Simpson, a long-time active ex-member, has passed away. Henry is the only member to have received a gold medal at the Flower Show (held in the Marrayat Hall).

BH mentioned that the Association can help in the event of a bereavement of a member, by taking temporary care of any apiary.

5. Reports from Office Bearers

a. Chairperson's Report

BH presented his report. His full report follows.

I will report on a few aspects of the last year and mention a couple of issues that the Trustees are grappling with for the coming year- other issues will come up in individual office-bearer reports. I have to offer some thanks and would like to do that after we have heard from the office bearers.

Members reported excellent yields of honey during the 2022 season at each stage of spring, summer and at the heather. Two issues did appear, firstly poor weather for early mating of Qs (the consequences for which we may experience this spring) and during the summer an increase in the number of true alerts to swarms. We were able to deal with most calls one way or another, but this is an increasing problem and there are differing views about how to handle it. Some of our members chose not to collect swarms citing the hassle and possibility of bringing disease into the apiary. ESBA and, I would argue, all beekeepers have a responsibility to the public in regard of swarms and the Trustees are having some discussion about how we might think about more training for beginners and ESBA members in relation to swarm control and collection and what to do afterwards.

Coming out of Covid, we have held our Monday evening meetings as a mixture of in-person and online. Our in-person meetings are now at this new venue, The Deaf Hub. We have had some excellent evenings; I note the Members Night (January) and Mathew Richardson's excellent online presentation on mead. We, the trustees, always spend time thinking about subjects for these meetings and here I would signal that we would welcome suggestions and input from our members.

The DFFF was again postponed, and so again this year we have not held our honey show, and we therefore had limited exposure to the wider public - although a presence at the Scottish Smallholders Festival held in Forfar helped in this respect. We are discussing what we might happen this year and how or where we might organise something. Watch this space.

I would remind you that the trustees and ESBA are here to support your interests in beekeeping, and we would welcome more input from our members, any suggestions for talks, events etc. Also encourage members to think about helping the ESBA by actively participating in the organisation.

I will conclude with some good news - congratulations to our member Colin Smith who has just been awarded an Affiliate Beekeeping Association award by the SBA for his contributions over a number of years to ESBA.

b. Apiary Manager

BM sent his report by email in his absence. BH presented a verbal summary.

BM's report follows: -

- Last year we introduced two new Queens into our hives with an aim to reduce aggressiveness of the Apiary bees. New Queens were kindly donated by Bill Hunter.
- Successfully raised a couple of queens in Apideas.
- Artificial swarming undertaken successfully.
- We had a few visits by members to the hives. All went well.
- On the negative no nucs were sold.
- We also suffered badly later in the year with a few of the hives having drone laying queens or losing the queen.
- Updated Beebase with new Apiary Manager.
- No significant issues over the year.
- For the coming year there are no plans to change the location of our Apiary site at Denhead Farm.
- Five active hives coming through from winter.
- Two visits so far this year checking fondant and entrances.
- Plans for later this year is to focus on the less aggressive queens utilising the Nucs and Apideas.
- Visits to the Apiary are typically 1:30pm on Sundays. Any members wanting to visit are welcome but please call or text on mobile to check dates and times.

AH reported that he had borrowed educational material from the apiary store for use in a primary school and would hope to do the same this year.

c. Flower Show Organiser

AC was not present, but BH gave a summary of the present situation.

Dundee Flower & Food Festival is unlikely to re-appear in its previously grand format. It's last was held in 2019, as was our Honey Show. The trustees are therefore looking around for alternative ways of hosting our Honey Show. Two suggestions have been made: - Forfar Flower Show (held in July) and the Scottish Smallholders Festival (held in Forfar in October). Both possible venues are being investigated.

AH suggested the Scottish Game Fair, held at Scone Palace, as another possible venue. RN suggested local agricultural shows.

IL brought up the whereabouts of the ESBA trophies. BH had been in touch with Dundee Council, and the whereabouts of trophies are known.

d. Education Convener

GR sent his report by email in his absence. BH presented a verbal summary. GR's full report follows: -

In 2022 we ran our Beginner Beekeeping Course on Zoom for a second season. We started with 27 people registered on the course but, as we had recorded the sessions, we were able to offer recordings to people who approached us subsequently to take the total into the mid-30s.

I am grateful to all the people who give their time freely to present to the beginners, to host apiary visits and who help in other ways.

In 2023 (like for some other beekeeping associations) we have sufficient people registered to be able to run the Course but may be seeing a small dip in numbers. Our list evolves quickly but of the 17 on our list for 2023 so far, most have paid, and we may also see some people return from 2022, especially those who came late to our course in 2022.

During 2022 the trustees reviewed the feedback from our participants on the course and were pleased to see a very high level of satisfaction.

e. Secretary

CS presented his report. His full report follows.

Trustees

Trustees agreed on Bill Hunter as chair (i.e. president). Tony Gowland was appointed vice-chair. We ran throughout the AGM year mostly with a full quota of 12 trustees. Those being: -

Bill Hunter, Chair

Tony Gowland, Vice-chair

Colin Sinclair, Secretary

Stan Franklin, Treasurer

Bob McKenzie, Apiary Manager,

Gavin Ramsay, Education Convener

Alistair Crozier, Flower Shower Convener

Avril Aitken

Colin Smith

Sandy Scott

Jennie Gavin

Debbie Thain

Sandy Scott resigned as trustee on 18th December 2022. The register of trustees was updated.

Trustee Meetings

4 Board meetings were held since the last AGM.

No. 8 - 10th May

No. 9 – 9th August

No. 10 – 8th November

No. 11 – 14th February

Minutes for 8-10 are available on the web site. Minutes for 11 are awaiting approval at the next Board meeting.

OSCR

The constitution was updated with the minor typographical change, approved at the last AGM. The amended constitution was submitted to OSCR. Annual Report for 2022 (Mar 11th to 31st December) was submitted.

Meetings

Since the last AGM, there have been 7 open meetings of the Association. There was a mixture of online (3) and in-person (4) meetings. Attendances have been variable, from 6 to 30.

21 Mar 2022 (online) Prof. Giles Budge gave an excellent talk on Chronic Paralysis Bee Virus (CPBV)

14 Aug 2022 Heather Picnic took place at Rottal, Glen Clova. Thanks to David Thain for hosting.

3 Oct 2022, Ally Anderson gave a talk on “Bees at the Bank”

7 Nov 2022 Alan Riach gave a talk on “Beehive Types”

7 Dec 2022 (online) Matthew Richardson gave a talk on “Mead – Brewing with Honey”

9 Jan 2023 Members Night was held at the Deaf Hub. Thanks to Stefan o’ Connor (Hive Monitoring) and Bill Hunter (Feeding in Spring) for their talks.

6 Feb 2023 (online) Lorraine Johnston gave a talk on “Responsible Beekeeping”

Already Planned meetings to come

20 March Deaf Hub. “Products of the hive”

17 April Murton, by Forfar. “Swarm Control”

Swarm Season

Busy!

Scottish Smallholders Festival

4 members were present, with 3 selling honey.

f. Treasurer

SF presented his report. His full report follows.

As you can see from the accounts summary (see appendix 1), the funds of the ESBA have increased, though not by as much as in the previous year. This was caused by an increase in expenditure, mainly due to most speakers now asking for a fee and face to face meetings resuming on occasion with the added cost of room hire. Income was down, though last year’s income was artificially boosted by the onetime hive raffle and DFFF refund. There was also a small decrease in the number attending our beginner’s

course. All transactions continue to be done by BACS which is now I think accepted by the membership and is very welcome.

I have produced the accounts for OSCAR in their format, but for ease of understanding by the membership I have also produced the usual summary sheet for the AGM, rather than the 6 pages of the OSCAR format. Both have been successfully audited by our auditor.

With the amount of funds, we have in the bank, I propose we maintain the annual subscription at £10, though if our income/expenditure ratio becomes a fraction, we might have to increase this in the future.

My thanks once again to Patrick Gifford, our auditor, and to my wife Margaret for her assistance in preparing these accounts.

Some discussion followed about the substantial balance of the account. SF explained that it had built up over the past few years because of income from the beginner's classes and a reduced spend in the apiary. It was hoped to keep the bank balance sensible.

g. Thanks

BH thanked the various office bearers, the remaining trustees and NL for their work during the past year.

6. Election/Re-election of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, one third (4) of the existing trustees had to retire at this AGM. The 4 who volunteered were: - AC, BM, GR, CS. All were willing to stand for re-election. There being no other candidates, all four were unanimously re-elected for a maximum 3 year period.

After some discussion, NL volunteered to stand as a trustee. Proposed : JG, Seconded: SF.

7. A.O.C.B.

None

Date of Next AGM: Monday 4th March 2023

Meeting closed at 20:17

Colin Sinclair, Secretary

The meeting was followed by a Question-and-Answer session on various topics including recording the lineage of queens.

Appendix – Accounts 2022

East of Scotland Beekeepers' Association		
Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2022		
	2022	2021
Income		
Subscriptions	£1,190	£1,190
Collections and Donations		
Honey Sales - Commission		
Honey Sales - Prize		
Honey Sales DFFF less commission		
Honey Sales - ESBA Honey		
Apiary (Nucs)		
Course	£945	£1,225
DFFF Refund		£200
Raffle		£405
Sundries		
Total Income	£2,135	£3,020
Expenditure		
Hire of Rooms	£63	£0
Speakers' Expenses/Entertainment	£165	£0
DFFF expenses/payments	£0	£0
Online meetings	£144	£144
Printing & Stationery	£0	£0
Office Bearers' Expenses	£23	£0
SBA Affiliation	£35	£35
Education	£0	£0
Apiary	£83	£238
Equipment	£0	£0
Sundries - Bees for Development	£0	£100
Domain/website renewal	£251	£229
Refunds	£100	
Appreciation gift to auditor	£27	
Total Expenditure	£891	£746
Surplus/Deficit for Year	£1,244	£2,274
Balance Brought Forward	£17,328	£15,054
Current Balance	£18,572	£17,328

Assets		
Cash in Bank	£18,572	£17,328
Current Liabilities - uncashed cheques	£0	£0
Creditors	£0	£0
Cash in hand	£0	£0
Total Assets	£18,572	£17,328