

EPSOM DIVISION SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Upper Mill Apiary
Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 7.30pm

Present	
Liz Knee (Chair)	David Jones
Helen Worwood (Secretary)	Hilary Livesey (membership secretary)
Alan Berridge	Neil Manley
Lesley Cartwright- Taylor	John Ollard (Treasurer)
David Chartres	Haidar Sallah
Derek Dowle	Stephen Secker
Fiona Dowle	Philip Shepherd
Geoff Dowse	Ray Shepherd
Gill Futcher	Peter Smith
Mark Gale	Stephanie Smith
Kim Gimenes	Grant Sturman
Paul Gray	Bill Thurston
Michael Hill	Anthony Waylett
Graham Hunt	
Apologies	
Flip Bakker	Mike Hanly
Mollie Bonnard	Robert Holah
Jill Futcher	

1. Welcome

The Chair, Liz Knee, warmly welcomed all attendees to the AGM.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Minutes of AGM on 18 November 2014

Minutes from previous AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting
No comments or questions were raised so were signed by Liz.

4. Reports from Chairman and Committee

Liz had compiled an overall report and circulated in advance of the meeting
Reproduced in appendix 1 for reference:

- A typo was spotted and adjusted above in a date on buildings and maintenance section.

- A question was raised about whether teaching could be further improved by introducing more elements of practical beekeeping practice for intermediate members, i.e. not just focus on practical skills for beginners.
IT was agreed that this was a desirable development for the committee to look into for next summer.
- A question was raised about how many members had not renewed membership.
On the night of the AGM this was approximately 20.

5. Financial Reports and Approval of Accounts

Reports reproduced in Appendix 2 for reference:

John Ollard walked us verbally through the account for the year.

Key points to note:

Last year, i.e. 2014 was tremendous from a financial perspective, we had a large surplus which had enabled us to build the cabin to provide extra storage for shop supplies and apiary equipment.

The Shop, Honey sales, Queen rearing project, Course fees and membership all continue to be important sources of income.

Our financial position remains strong; we have a good bank balance.

Our main financial worry is keeping the classroom building sound through regular repair and maintenance.

A question was raised about who owned the classroom, EBKA or SBKA. David Jones clarified it was an asset of SBKA which is the charity of which EBKA is a division.

Ray Shepherd proposed acceptance of accounts

Hilary Livesey seconded.

All voted accepted

6. Election of Committee Officers

All four of the following posts

- Chair – Liz Knee
- Secretary – Helen Worwood
- Treasurer – John Ollard
- Membership Secretary – Jill Fatcher

Were proposed by Ray Shepherd

Seconded by Hilary Livesey

They were elected as a block with no objections or abstentions

8. Election of Committee Members

In addition to the officers, the following people were nominated to serve on the Main Committee

- Kimberley Gimenes
- Neil Manley
- Steve Secker
- Peter Smith
- Jenny Breese
- Graham Hunt

Proposed by Jill Fatcher
Seconded by Ray Shepherd
They were elected as a block with no objections or abstentions

9. Election of Divisional Trustee

No one has been nominated to stand as trustee and no one stepped forward in the meeting
Liz undertook to be available to anyone curious to know more about the role and available to anyone who wanted to know more.

10. Presentation of Awards

Liz presented our candidates for the BBKA exams and modules with their certificates:

Graham Hunt – achieved basic exam with credit
Bill Thurston – passed modules 6 and 7 with credit
Helen Worwood – passed module 1 with distinction

Liz thanked the committee for volunteering their free time to ensure the club continued to be well run.
Particular thanks to David Jones, Phil Shepherd and Hilary Livesey who are now stepping down.
Also thanks to the members who regularly help mentoring the Saturday beginners (listed above in body of chair's report)
All given a bottle of wine as thanks

11. AOB

There was no AOB
The meeting closed at 7:52pm
And was followed by wine and nibbles

Signed.....*Clare*.....

Date.....*22/11/2016*.....

Appendix1: Report from Chair & Committee:

I would like to start this report by saying a very big thank you again to every member of the EBKA for your support during 2015 and to extend a warm welcome to all those new to the association and hope you enjoy your time with us.

The members of the committee have been active again this year to ensure that the association provides a stimulating environment for members. Having our own buildings and grounds is a real bonus but this results in added work to make sure that these are kept in good condition and that we generate enough revenue to maintain them. Through courses, shop trading, honey sales, membership and the generosity of members we are managing to do this and again I would like to say a huge thank you to all for enabling this to continue.

Upper Mill Apiary

The colonies in the teaching apiary all over wintered well with minimal feeding and intervention. The bees were treated against varroa using sublimation of oxalic acid in January (this will be repeated again this winter) and levels remained low during the season. A new group of 18 'Beginners' led by a team of regular tutors looked after the colonies and numbers of hives increased through artificial swarming techniques. Three of the colonies had 'attitude problems' this year and were re queened (from QRP stocks) to bring the rebel workers back in line! Interestingly this was not an isolated occurrence with several divisions reporting similar behavioural issues - the weather, food shortages and genetics being cited as possible causes. Whatever the reason, a large crop of honey was harvested - approximately 400lbs! - before colonies were treated against varroa and united to reduce hive numbers down. This year, Autumn feeding has been required to top up the stores.

Thanks go to the Apiary Manger Pete Smith, the team of regular tutors: Mike Hanly, Steve Secker, Bob Holah, Helen Worwood, Ken Coello, Paul Gray, Roz Lewis, Alan Berridge, Graham Hunt, Carol O'Brien, Bill Thurston, and the Beginner Group for their excellent beekeeping!

Out Apiaries

The EBKA is fortunate to have the use of several out-apiaries which provide space for members colonies and the Queen Rearing Project. These are located at Hatch Furlong and Vernon's Nurseries, Plough Road and Belmont Allotments. These continue to be productive sites.

Education

Education, teaching, support and mentoring form an important part of the EBKA and the association has continued to provide courses, weekly meetings, attend local events, provide talks, and promote via its website and facebook page.

The Beginners 10 week theory course commenced in January with 10 candidates and followed on in April with the practical course which attracted 20 Beginners - two of these candidates were taught at an alternative apiary site as one of them had a physical disability and required one to one tutoring. The fee for these courses remained at £80.

We held the 'Taster Day' in May and spent a busy day with 15 members of the public providing an overview of the theory and practical aspects of beekeeping. Once again the bees played to the audience issuing a swarm which was watched with huge excitement and attendees were able to participate in the subsequent collection and hiving!

To date, we have 8 people booked onto the Theory Course, 7 onto the Practical Course and 1 on the Taster Day (to be held in 2016).

The Apiary Open Day was held in July and due to the slightly unruly behaviour of the bees a net was put up to force the bees up and away from 'hanging around' the entrance door which worked well. We set up the observation hive, displays and information for the public to browse. This year, again supplies of honey from different beekeepers were available for the public to taste before buying.

The weekly Tuesday club meetings have continued to attract good numbers from our own association and from neighboring divisions. Again we ended the season with a blind honey tasting event which proved very popular with one new and two returning winners! Congratulations go to Mike Hill (1st place), Grant Sturman (2nd place) and Neil Manley (3rd place).

Congratulations go to our 2 candidates who passed their Basic Assessment in Beekeeping held at the Upper Mill Apiary in June: Graham Hunt (credit) and Keith Murrell.

Three members also took and passed written modules and congratulations go to Helen Worwood (passing module 1 with a distinction!), Bill Thurston and Alan Berridge.

Following on from the success of the 2014 study group, we have started a Module 2 Study Group which is running every third Tuesday of the month.

Tony Waylett took over the running of the library from Marysia Owsianka and has done a brilliant job sorting and cataloguing the books. Please note we are still missing some that have been borrowed and not returned so do please bring them back if you find one hiding on your book shelf!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who regularly help with our educational programme - it is not easy to organise interesting topics that appeal to the various levels of beekeeper and feedback is always useful so please do let us know how we can improve and if you can help!

EVENTS

We have attended a large number of events in the local area this year and these are a great opportunity to promote the association, beekeeping and sell apiary and members honey. If you would like to sell your honey at an event all we ask is that you attend in person for some of the time and that you supply a 'taster' jar for the public to try before they buy.

When	What	Honey sold
March 2015	Herald of Spring Bourne hall	Approx £500
April 2015	Ewell Court duck race	£204 = 34
July 2015	Apiary open day	£192 = 32 jars
September 2015	Nonsuch awareness day	£96 = 16 jars
	Epsom Family fun Hook arena	£114 = 19 jars
October 2015	Ewell Horticultural show	£60 = 10 jars

We've been asked to take a regular table at the Ewell Horticultural Association show - so an opportunity to be visible 4 times a year.

And are forging links with Banstead horticultural association, having already given a talk and attended their Christmas show.

We have given talks on aspects of beekeeping to a number of local groups which are also a great honey selling opportunity!

When	What	Honey sold
March 2015	Probus Club	£66- jars
October 2015	Banstead Horticultural	£66 - 11 jars
Nov 2015	Towns' Womens Guild	tbc
Nov 2015	Croydon Beekeepers	

FACEBOOK

Our facebook page has grown significantly - we now have 218 friends compared to last year's 67. From what we can see of their profiles most are non beekeepers in the Epsom area (except Norman Carreck) Most posts we share are seen by 50+ people and some of our most liked and shared posts can be seen by 200.

It is definitely a way of showing interested people that we are an active association so we welcome any members who are facebook users to like our page and posts and re share on your own timeline whenever you can.

Bee Health and Swarms

The bees went into 'swarm mode' early this year and the swarm collectors were kept busy! We received a generous donation from a very thankful family who had a long standing colony removed their garden wall by Pete

and Helen and I would like to say thank you to them, Phil and Steve for their continued time to help members and the public.

Calls for bumble bee nests seemed to be lower, but concerns about wasps nest increased.
General bee health remained good with no particular problems reported.

Buildings and Maintenance

A planning application was submitted to the Council in January 2015 for the erection of a wooden 'garage style' storage shed and photovoltaic panels to be sited on the roof of the classroom.

Both of the above projects were approved - with the storage shed being taken forward to completion.

The new storage shed is now up and full of stock. This has freed up the workshop in the main building which can now be sorted and cleaned ready for use.

Our thanks go to Flip Bakker who has been carrying out maintenance work to replace and install guttering around the classroom and new shed and to renew the roofing felt on the two old wooden sheds.

A cleaner has now been employed to regularly Hoover, clean the kitchen, bathroom and all the floors.

In January we will meet to plan a maintenance programme for 2016 to ensure that the buildings are kept in good condition.

Apiary Trading

Our thanks again go to Steve Secker, Kimberley Gimenes, Helen Worwood and Jenny Breese for their commitment and time running the shop. Once again, 2015 was a highly successful trading year and the promotional offer held to members of all divisions in March attracted a huge number of orders. We will continue to open the shop on a Tuesday evening and a Saturday and would like to say thank you for your support with your purchases.

The sales of honey continue to provide a valuable source of income for the association and we sell jars through the shop, at events and locally through a cafe.

The Queen Rearing Project

We are greatly indebted to The Queen Rearing Project which has gone from strength to strength under the guidance of Phil Shepherd and David Jones. They now have regular help from Alan Berridge and Kelvin Cope and the team have been working tirelessly to continue the project.

Demand for nucs was down on last year due to good winter survival and early swarming with 13 being sold and 3 in reserve for next spring.

The project used grafting for the first time to generate queen cells from the Buckfast stock that were bought last year and Phil treated us to a very interesting presentation on the methodology, success rate and next steps.

Two apiary stocks were re-queened with QRP stocks (those bad bees mentioned earlier!) and 10 nucs are being taken into the winter at Ewell.

Looking forward, the QRP plan to produce fewer nucs next year, as they should be able to generate queen cells/nucs more or less to order during June and July by grafting. This will avoid carrying more stock than needed into winter and so reduce expenditure on unnecessary equipment, feed and treatment

Membership

By the close of the 2014/15 membership year on 30th September 2015, EBKA had 112 members. The following table shows how this compares to previous years.

Type of member	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Registered	91	100	92	99
Partner	11	12	14	11
Country	5	4	4	9
Junior	0	0	3	2
Friend	1	2	3	3
Honorary	4	4	3	2
Total	112	122	119	126

Members are currently in the process of renewing their membership for the 2015/16 membership year. To date (27th Oct), 84 members have renewed their membership and 9 new members have joined for the first time. These are very similar numbers to the same time last year. Two of last year's members have resigned this year, and 22 have not responded to reminders to renew.

Subscriptions for some categories of membership have had to be raised slightly this year because of increases in the capitation due to the BBKA and in the cost of Bee Craft magazine. The registered member subscription with paper Bee Craft was raised from £49.50 to £51.00, and the subscription with digital Bee Craft only was raised from £43.65 to £45.00. The partner member and country member subscriptions remained unchanged at £16.00 and £17.00 respectively. Junior membership is still £7.00 and friend membership is still £10.00.

Newsletter and Website

Being able to promote the activities of the EBKA to the general public and other beekeepers of local divisions is an important part of its success. We are very lucky to have members who are willing to assist with this. The newsletter is currently circulated to all members and all those who are signed up on courses and to each of the Surrey Divisional Newsletter Editors. The newsletter is sent monthly as an email message and a PDF document on the last day of the month. It includes items of general interest, a full list of committee members and their contact details, a calendar of upcoming events and details about the shop.

Finances

John Ollard has done a brilliant job as Treasurer again this year and has continued to improve and update our system. Please see attached for details of final accounts. I would like to thank Julie Freshwater for auditing the accounts this year.

The Committee

The committee meet 4 times a year to discuss and action everything required to run the EBKA, provide a pleasing environment and an interesting range of events to educate, inspire and retain its members as well as raising awareness of beekeeping within the local community and it is only through individuals continuing to donate time and effort that we can do this successfully. We are extremely lucky to have an active committee and membership who are always willing to help and I would like to encourage you all, particularly new members to join in and help to maintain this active association.

Appendix 2: Treasurers report:

SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EPSOM DIVISION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER

Charity Num

2015
£

2014
£

STATEMENT OF FUNDING ACTIVITIES

1 Voluntary Income		
Subscriptions	4,400	4,685
Gift aid	1,009	932
BDI Premiums	283	293
Course fees	3,120	2,080
Donations/miscellaneous	181	286
	<u>8,994</u>	<u>8,276</u>
2 Activities for generating funds		
Equipment and sundry sales	24,480	24,828
Rental and hire income	340	426
	<u>24,820</u>	<u>25,254</u>
3 Costs of generating voluntary income		
Capitations to SBKA	3,697	3,908
BDI premiums	307	317
Other costs	660	528
	<u>4,664</u>	<u>4,753</u>
4 Fund raising costs		
Equipment purchases	17,689	18,681
Other payments	160	169
	<u>17,849</u>	<u>18,850</u>
5 Charitable activities		
Apiary & Club expenses	5,341	2,629
	<u>5,341</u>	<u>2,629</u>

BALANCE SHEET

6 Fixed Assets

	Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 October 2014	22,819	5,648	28,467
Additions	9,804		9,804
At 30 September 2015	<u>32,623</u>	<u>5,648</u>	<u>38,271</u>
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 October 2014	22,469	5,185	27,654
Depreciation charge for the year	1,331	155	1,486
At 30 September 2015	<u>23,800</u>	<u>5,340</u>	<u>29,140</u>
Net book value			
At 1 October 2014	<u>350</u>	<u>463</u>	<u>813</u>
At 30 September 2015	<u>8,823</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>9,131</u>

7 Debtors

Amount falling due within one year:

	2015 £	2014 £
Debtors	24	61
	<u>24</u>	<u>61</u>

8 Cash at bank

Charities Aid Foundation	3,209	3,204
HSBC	15,183	20,714
	<u>18,392</u>	<u>23,918</u>

9 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors	137	533
Amounts received in advance		
Membership subscriptions	1,018	1,261
	<u>1,155</u>	<u>1,794</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNDING ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER

		2015	2014
		£	£
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income	1	8,994	8,276
Activities for generating funds	2	24,820	25,254
Investment income - bank interest		5	4
Total incoming resources		33,819	33,534
Resources expended			
Costs of generating funds			
Costs of generating voluntary income	3	(4,664)	(4,753)
Fund raising costs	4	(17,849)	(18,850)
Charitable activities	5	(5,341)	(2,629)
		(27,854)	(26,232)
Net movement in funds before depreciation		5,965	7,302
Depreciation	6	(1,486)	(505)
Net movement in funds after depreciation		4,479	6,797
Total funds brought forward (unrestricted)		28,225	21,428
Total funds carried forward (unrestricted)		32,704	28,225

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER

	Notes	2015	2014
		£	£
Fixed assets	6	9,131	813
Current assets			
Stock		6,355	5,227
Debtors	7	26	61
Cash at bank	8	18,392	23,918
Total current assets		24,773	29,206
Current liabilities			
Creditors	9	(1,200)	(1,794)
Net current assets		23,573	27,412
Net assets of the Division		32,704	28,225

John Ollard
Treasurer

10.01.15

Liz Knee
Chairman

Elizabeth Knee

Auditor's Certificate

I have examined the above Statement of Funding Activities and Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2015 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books and records of the Division as presented to me.

Stuart Hon Auditor

Date *6th November* 2015