



## THE IPSWICH & EAST SUFFOLK BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

First Founded 1880, Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1183025  
Via the Suffolk Beekeepers' Association, an area association of the British Beekeepers' Association

# The Trustees' Annual Report

for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**This is the report of all ten Trustees, not just of the three who have signed it.**

*The Charity Commissioners call for this report and specify its format.*

---

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

This Association was first founded in 1880; in 2014, it became a registered charity. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

**Correspondence address:** c/o The Old Rectory, Dallinghoo, Woodbridge IP13 0LA.

**Bank account details:** Barclays Bank plc, in the name of The Ipswich & East Suffolk Beekeepers' Association, sort code: 20-44-51, account number: 10570028.

### **SECTION A - REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS**

Trustees Listed in alphabetical order	Responsibility (If any)	Date of birth	Contact details
Richard <b>Allen</b> From 10/10/2016	Hon Secretary	09/09/1962	11 Jupiter Road, Ipswich IP4 4NT 01473 719207 <a href="mailto:secretary.iesbka@suffolkebeekers.co.uk">secretary.iesbka@suffolkebeekers.co.uk</a>
Barry <b>Crabtree</b> From 15/06/2017	Newsletter	16/10/1958	3 Old Cottages, Tattingstone, Ipswich IP9 2NN 01473 327240 <a href="mailto:barry.crabtree@gmail.com">barry.crabtree@gmail.com</a>
Mark Anthony <b>Dua</b> From 7/2/2024		24/9/1964	The Thatch, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall IP14 2HZ 07733 363442 <a href="mailto:markdua674@gmail.com">markdua674@gmail.com</a>
Jackie <b>McQueen</b> From 22/02/2012	Hon Treasurer	04/05/1944	643 Foxhall Road, Ipswich IP3 8NE 01473 420187 <a href="mailto:jackie.mcqueen@ntlworld.com">jackie.mcqueen@ntlworld.com</a>
Barrie <b>Powell</b> From 14/10/2015	President	03/01/1935	Bristol House, Bristol Hill, Shotley Gate, Ipswich IP9 1PU 01473 787199 <a href="mailto:beepowell.powell@gmail.com">beepowell.powell@gmail.com</a>

Jeremy <b>Quinlan</b> From 22/02/2012	Chairman	16/08/1937	The Old Rectory, Dallinghoo, Woodbridge IP13 0LA 01473 737700 <a href="mailto:jeremyq@tiscali.co.uk">jeremyq@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Philip Roy <b>Ramsey</b> From 12/10/2024	Apiary Manager	21/04/1964	47 Colchester Road, Ipswich IP4 3BT 07879 667867 <a href="mailto:phil_ramsey1@hotmail.co.uk">phil_ramsey1@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Helen Catherine <b>Thorne</b> From 03/02/2021	Schools Liaison	13/10/1953	Offton Place, Offton, Ipswich IP8 4SF 07814 506988 <a href="mailto:hthorne57@gmail.com">hthorne57@gmail.com</a>
Sally <b>Thurlow</b> From 7/2/2024	Mentors for new beekeepers	18/3/1958	Old Post Office, Hadleigh Road, Holton St Mary CO7 6NP 01473 312080 <a href="mailto:salthurlow@gmail.com">salthurlow@gmail.com</a>
Jonathan James <b>Tuppen</b> From 03/02/2021	Safeguarding Lead	07/07/1961	Hallfield Cottage, Lower Street, Sproughton IP8 3AD 01473 742862 <a href="mailto:jonituppen@gmail.com">jonituppen@gmail.com</a>
Steve <b>Willingham</b> From 10/10/2018 to 7/2/24		20/12/1955	380 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IPI 4EJ 07521 467247 <a href="mailto:steve@tktptr.co.uk">steve@tktptr.co.uk</a>

We have two other committee members who prefer not to be Trustees.

**Independent examiner of accounts:** Paul White

## **SECTION B - STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document.** The association is governed by its constitution; this was accepted by the Association's members at our annual general meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**How the charity is constituted.** The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), N<sup>o</sup> 1183025.

**Organisational Management.** The Trustees of the Association are responsible for its management and control; they aim to meet at least three times a year, usually more often. Our constitution requires us to have at least three trustees and at most twelve. At each annual general meeting (AGM), one third of the Trustees must retire in turn but may offer themselves for re-election. Trustees are elected by the ordinary members of the Association at our AGM. Should there be a vacancy for a trustee, either the members or the trustees may at any time appoint a new one - see our constitution article 13.

## **SECTION C - OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objects:** Working mainly in Ipswich and East Suffolk, our objects are to:

- Promote and further the craft of beekeeping.
- Advance the education of the public in the environmental and economic importance of bees.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:**

### ***Charitable Activities***

When planning the activities of the association, the Trustees bear in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In carrying out its charitable objects, the association undertakes a wide range of activities. These include responding to many enquiries from the public on a wide variety of bee related subjects, collecting swarms, school visits, shows, talks and demonstrations, advice and help to new and inexperienced beekeepers, classroom and apiary training courses and preparation for national beekeeping examinations and assessments.

All activities are carried out voluntarily by the members at no cost. The Trustees thank all those who give their time so freely to help the Association to function. We could not manage without their good will and ready practical assistance; we thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year.

#### ***Additional details of objectives and activities***

Together with most of the other beekeepers' associations in East Anglia, we continue to contribute to the advancement of bee sciences. In conjunction with the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Newcastle and nearly every East Anglian beekeeping association, we supported our third East Anglian Research Student (EARS3) as she worked for her PhD, a study of honey bee nutrition in the effects of Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus. This work is now complete and we look forward to reading her thesis. Disappointingly, our next student (EARS4) began work on establishing the results of not treating for Varroa but suffered ill health and had to stop. We hope to find a new beneficiary.

### **SECTION D - ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE**

#### **Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Association recognises the need to engage with the public and advance their understanding of the importance of bees and beekeeping both to them and to the environment. During the year we assisted at the Suffolk Agricultural Association's Annual Show and their School Farm Country Fayre - and at many other public events, fetes and open gardens. Eight schools were visited. We continue to provide expert advice and training to HM Prisons, Hollesley Bay and Warren Hill, and to the Ipswich charity 'ActivLives'; each has an apiary with several colonies of bees.

Many members of the public fear bees, particularly honeybees in swarms, and seek information and reassurance by telephone and email. Unfortunately, there is also widespread ignorance of the different bee species so most calls are for either bumble or solitary bees. While we have no great expertise with these, we have helped many with advice. Both the Suffolk Beekeepers' Association and the British Beekeepers' Association maintain lists of those prepared to respond to swarm calls; many of our members volunteer for both. Usually, our people make no charge for responding to such calls.

The association's commitment to education and training continues. To members of the public new to beekeeping, we offered our usual introductory course with follow up guidance for learning and practicing the craft. As always, we accept those with no beekeeping experience and offer free training to those who cannot afford the fee. In 2024, 28 people took our course.

We continue to focus on the training and development of our members. Although our offer of mentoring for those new to beekeeping continues, in 2024, only 16 new and inexperienced beekeepers asked for mentor support; 14 experienced people volunteered to be mentors. Beginners' support requirements range from guidance on hive siting and swarm collection to help with hive inspections. While all beginners are encouraged to work towards taking the BBKA's Basic Assessment and to enter the Suffolk Honey Show classes we need to do more to get them to do both.

Between May and August, we opened our Wherstead apiary for teaching every Sunday afternoon. Around 50 attended. Currently there are 4 different types of hive here but we intend to reduce this to two in 2025. Our particular thanks go to our apiary managers, Barrie Powell and Phil Ramsey, for whom this is a considerable commitment.

Module examination study groups continued their evening meetings with considerable success. Several other individuals continue to study too.

We would like to improve the level of expertise within the association and develop competent knowledgeable teachers of beekeeping, but we have difficulty getting the more experienced but less expert to engage. Liaison is maintained with DEFRA's APHA National Bee Unit Inspectorate in monitoring the health of the honey bee population and promoting good practice. The trustees want all members will take advantage of these services by registering with the NBU's "BeeBase".

Our library of some 350 books and DVDs continues to be both popular and well used by our members. On request, books are sent out by post with the borrower responsible for the cost of return. As last year, thirty are currently out on loan. Suggestions for new books are welcome and new books are added regularly. We hope to introduce a new better listing via the Web so our members can see what books we have and encourage their borrowing.

In 2017 we signed lease at, literally, a peppercorn rent with Ardencrest Limited, the legal name of the Eastern Counties' Co-operative Society, moved our apiary to Wherstead Park and installed a hut. While relationships between us are good, we have no security of tenure there, so we continue to look for a small suitable piece of land we might buy for an apiary; so far, we have not found one.

The overall membership of the association continues to be buoyant. During the year our membership reached 259, only one fewer than the previous year. The maintenance in numbers allowed us to continue to engage good speakers from a distance; this has enhanced the standards of teaching and training. The general use of Zoom has, however, meant that few are now willing to travel far.

We are very grateful to Tim Wilmshurst. one of our members, who has kindly taken on responsibility for engaging speakers and organising talks at least through to summer 2025. We need someone else to take on the job.

### **Meetings:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ten Minute Talk, etc</b>	<b>No</b>
6 Dec	Jeremy Quinlan	Wax & Candles		
<b>2024</b>				
3 Jan	Dr Jon Tuppen	Bee Sting & Anaphylaxis	Jeremy Quinlan: Soft-set honey	
7 Feb	John Days	Artificial Insemination of Honey Bees	AGM	43
6 Mar	Peter Langford	Rearing Queen Honey Bees	Barry Crabtree: Nosema	50
3 Apr	Peter Dalby	Swarm Control	Brett Baylis: The BBKA's Basic	46
12 May	Wherstead Apiary open every Sunday afternoon			
29-30 May	Suffolk Show			
7 July	Barrie Powell	'Safari': SW of Ipswich		
4 Sep	Sal Thurlow	Auction & Forum		
2 Oct	Nynke Blomer	Bumble Bees' Interaction with Honey Bees	Jeremy Quinlan: Honey Comb	
6 Nov	Michael-Thomas Ramsey	Pesticides and Bee Toxicology	Barry Crabtree: Mini nucs	42

## **SECTION E - FINANCIAL REVIEW**

As usual, some three quarters of our expenditure was paid to outside bodies, principally to our central organisation, the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA), Bee Disease Insurance Ltd and Bee Craft Magazine. In 2022, the BBKA increased subscriptions by £2 per year but we decided to absorb half that increase.

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Income	13,423	31,553	18,919
Expenditure	11,798	30,149*	18,084
Surplus/Deficit	<b>1,259</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>853</b>
Cash at bank at start of year	9,287	7,883	10,048
Total Cash Assets at Year End	<b>10,546</b>	<b>9,287</b>	<b>7,883</b>

\* In 2023 the I&ES BKA became the custodian of unspent EARS funds amounting to £12,200.

**Gift Aid - tax refund:** Our Gift Aid number is ZD09379. In 2023-24 our refund was £1,378.

**Reserves policy:** The Trustees would like to buy land for an Association apiary; we are looking for a suitable place at a price we can afford.

There were no funds in deficit.

### **TRUSTEES' DECLARATION**

The trustees declare that they have approved this report.

Signatures:

Full names:	Richard Allen	Jackie McQueen	Jeremy Quinlan
Position:	Hon Secretary	Hon Treasurer	Chairman
			January 2025

Ipswich & East Suffolk Beekeepers’ Association  
Income and Expenditure Account  
For the Year ended 30 November 2024

	2024	2023	
Income			
Subscriptions	£ 8,965.55	£ 9,173.65	
Research Donations	£ 721.90	£ 12,903.40	
Other Donations		£ 140.57	
Gift Aid	£ 1,378.02	£ 1,431.15	
Course/Training Fees	£ 1,410.00	£ 1,350.00	
Suffolk Show	£ 230.40	£ 6,302.47	
Refreshments	£ 36.35	£ 201.15	
Asian Hornet Campaign	£ 315.00		
Miscellaneous		£ 50.80	
	£ 13,057.22	£ 31,553.19	
Expenditure			
BBKA, BDI	£ 6,134.10	£ 6,213.65	
Direct Debit Costs	£ 69.80	£ 67.29	
Research - EARS			
Research		£ 300.00	
Beeecraft	£ 2,413.00	£ 2,550.26	
Meetings/ Speakers/Hall	£ 480.00	£ 987.22	
Newsletter	£ 15.40	£ 5.66	
Course Expenses	£ 745.99	£ 683.33	
Honey/Apiary Costs	£ 585.14	£ 10.79	
Suffolk Show	£ 20.00	£ 6,302.47	
Library	£ 196.42	£ 260.24	
Bee Safari	£ 57.38	£ 391.32	
General/Stationery	£ 6.00	£ 66.20	
Miscellaneous		£ 50.80	
Refund	£ 68.70	£ 60.00	
Asian Hornet Campaign	£ 1,005.90		
Deposit Account		£ 12,200.00	
	£ 11,797.83	£ 30,149.23	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	£ 1,259.39	£ 1,403.96	
Cash at Bank Start of Year	£ 9,287.35	£ 7,883.40	
Cash at Bank Year End	£ 10,546.19	£ 9,287.35	
Deposit EARS account	£ 12,200.00	£ 12,200.00	
Cash to Deposit Account			
Deposit Account			
Cash at Bank Start of Year		£ 27,347.31	EARS Account £ 12,200.00
Cash at Bank Year End (includes EARS)		£ 27,713.44	
			Deposit account 2024 £ 366.13
			Interest
Total Cash Assets at Year End		£ 26,059.63	
Paul White	Jackie McQueen		
Accounts Examined	Treasurer		