

BEDFORDSHIRE BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1184466

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-07-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 30 High Street
Haversham
Milton Keynes
MK19 7DX

Phone 01908312389

Email secretary@bedsbka.org.uk

Website <https://www.bedsbka.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO PRESERVE THE HONEYBEE BY FURTHERING THE CRAFT OF BEEKEEPING AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC OF THE BENEFIT OF BEES IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

Activities: Beekeeping is a craft which is learned through both knowledge and practical experience, informed by evolving good practice and ever-growing scientific research. Beds BKA aims to provide a high standard of training for members, and potential new beekeepers of all ages, and a range of services to support them. We hope to enhance public appreciation of the role of bees in the world.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Bedford
- Luton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£44,601	£40,791	-	-
2023-12-31	£42,980	£42,332	-	-
2022-12-31	£41,077	£42,492	-	-
2021-12-31	£36,332	£32,920	-	-
2020-12-31	£36,372	£37,528	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Andrew Rubens	Chair	2025-03-01
Abigail Emma Hope		2026-03-07
Caroline Anne Jordan		2024-02-24
Colin Neil Hall		2025-03-01
Graham Keith Canfield		2024-02-24
Helen Frances Vaughan		2026-03-07
Jennifer Mary Tysom		2024-02-24
John Rankin Macdougall		2026-03-07
Karen Jane Glasse		2024-02-24
Mark Dominic Bolan		2025-03-31
Matthew Walter Alabaster		2026-03-07
Michael Paul Niemann		2025-03-01
Neil James Blakemore		2025-03-01
Phillip Howes		2024-02-24
Richard Brecknell Dowsett		2026-03-07
Rosemary Ann Long		2026-03-07
Simon Geoffrey Cockle MSc CEng		2025-03-01
Stuart Philip Davison		2026-05-11
Walter Julien Thrale		2026-03-07

BEDFORDSHIRE BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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Accounts



Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association Trustees' Report for the 2025 AGM

In this report, the trustees provide a critical review of the work of the Association over the last year in relation to its objectives (objects), which are:

“To preserve the honey bee by furthering the craft of beekeeping and educating the public of the benefit of bees in the environment.”

These objectives translate to services to bees, beekeepers (members and beginners) and the public.



Summary

The highlights

What do members want? At the end of 2023, trustees were puzzling over the best way to serve the needs of our members. So, in 2024, the spring pulse survey asked questions about this. Members most value talks, seminars and meetings. And yet it is these events that the trustees are worrying are poorly attended!

Bees and beekeeping. A jolly wet spring worried beekeepers that their winter loss rate would escalate - however with feeding going later into the year than many can ever remember, the winter loss rate remained the same as the year before at 20%. Without the diligence of beekeepers, the bees would have experienced the same trauma of the weather that wasps had. The year saw very few wasps, creating a peaceful autumn for the bees. The resulting honey harvest was a bumper year for many beekeepers, with an average of 312 lbs per beekeeper.

Education. In-person training and online training continued strongly, with 6 talks from external speakers, an in-person improvers training day, an in person Asian hornet monitoring training day, two beginners courses and 6 zoom 'ask the expert' open chat sessions with Wally Thrale, Colin Hall, John Macdougall and Richard Smith. In addition, there were 15 talks given to a variety of schools during 2024.

For the public. Another well attended Honey Show and Honey Festival, for the first time at Marston Moretaine Forest Centre. We were pleased to welcome the MP Blake Stephenson who showed interest in the issues relating to beekeepers during his visit and enjoyed purchasing honey. In addition, we were also pleased to welcome the MP Mohammed Yasin to the AGM who showed interest in beekeeping and being photographed with beekeepers to promote the craft.

Finances and Assets. The Association's assets and finances remain in good order, with a £3,810 surplus. This is largely due to the budgeted expenditure of £2,000 to EARS not being collected. With the intention to increase the reserves as discussed at the 2024 AGM, the membership fee increased to £18 at the end of 2024 for the 2025 year.

Membership. The numbers of members remain high at 524 (down 3% from 2023).



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Insurance. We have remained with the ANSVAR insurance policy again this year, renewing on 31st January 2025. The terms of the policy remained the same as last year, but due to a general rate increase across the market our policy went up by 5.5% to £2,913.47.

Yearbook. This is the proudest production of the year and treasured by many. In 2023, the autumn survey showed that 49.2% members would be happy with an electronically accessible yearbook only. The trustees considered this in 2024, and decided to continue with the publication until they could make it fully accessible online. Once this has happened members will be given an option to select receiving the yearbook online only. A paper copy will continue to be produced for those that want it.

Asian Hornets. Phil Howes and his team of assistants began their monitoring in earnest in 2024 following the shocking increase of nests found in 2023. Possibly due to the wet spring that killed so many wasps, the anticipated spike in reported Asian hornet nests did not occur, with a total of 24 nests found in 2024, mostly in Kent and East Sussex. Two of the nests have been DNA verified to have originated from queens that overwintered in the UK from nests found and destroyed in 2023.

Website. Paul Lawrence, our longstanding website manager, decided to step down from his role at the end of 2024. We are extremely indebted and grateful to Paul for his contributions and efforts over many years. He has been the custodian of the website and YouTube channel for a significant period of time, giving his energy, expertise and guidance willingly. He made the members-only area on the website possible and has assisted every year with the honey show application process. Thank you Paul! You will be missed!

And now in more detail...

Services for Bees and Beekeeping

Preserving the honey bee. The Beds BKA Annual Beekeeping Survey each Autumn provides a very helpful guide to how well the bees are doing.

Year	Number of responses	Losses over previous winter	Colonies within Beds	Colonies outside Beds	Swarms dealt with	Honey harvest in lbs	Nucs going into winter
2024	51	59	294		102	15,929	52
2023	70	164**	673**		125	11,840.8	81
2022	71	111	322	278	169	20,709*	68
2021	75	91	282	224	213	14,300	50
2020	132	166	780	489	286	39,759	188
2019	127	84	586	319	348	38,630	108
2018	111	174	448	240	154	29,982	?

*this total is less the impressive 1,200lbs in USA

** figures taken from Spring pulse survey with 81 respondents

Key points from the 2024 Survey include:

- Our response rate is down. We are not sure why.
- Overall, a year with spring weather challenges keeping beekeepers on their toes - feeding continued late into spring.
- Winter colony losses remained consistent to the year before at 20%.
- The average number of hives going into 2025 is 5.4
- Wasp presence was low.
- An average of 312.34 pounds of honey per beekeeper showed that many had a very good harvest, but not all.
- The pulse survey asked beekeepers what they most valued about BedsBKA. The top five are:
 - Talks, seminars and meetings - 67%



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- Insurance - 54%
- Meeting other beekeepers - 52%
- Bulk purchase scheme - 50%
- Training 46%
- In addition, members also specifically mentioned that they value Wally's newsletters, John and Wally's online webinars, the training received from our apiarists and the loan of association equipment.

Nucs. From the Survey, the average is unchanged at one nuc for every beekeeper. There continues to be two schools of thought on overwintering nucs. The first is to strongly encourage nucs as insurance against winter losses and early queen failure. The second is to overwinter strong fully sized hives to increase the overwintering success, and to use nucs during the year for queen rearing.

Services to Members and Beginners

Yearbooks. Our 2024 Yearbook was yet again beautifully produced. Thank you to Andrew Ulyett and Rosemary Long who both worked tirelessly to create an informative and fun yearbook.

Talks. Six excellent talks (open to members and the public) were hosted by BedsBKA during 2024:

- "Swarm control" by Sean Stephenson
- "All about foulbrood" by Prof Giles Budge
- "Spring Management" by Margaret Murdin
- "Asian hornet management" by Marc Maissonette
- "Practical Beekeeping" by Prof Robert Pickard
- "Rational Varroa Control" by Prof David Evans

Events. There were some memorable events in 2024 with many commenting on how informative or helpful they were. Events included an Improvers Day at Flitwick village hall and the Honey Show and Festival at Marston Moretaine Forest Centre.

Beginners Course. Two in-person courses took place, one led by Mike Niemann (and team) ran successfully at Stockwood, attracting 11 participants; with the second run by Matt Alabaster (and team) at Bedford with 22 participants. 5 people attended the online course.

For Improvers and more established beekeepers. Trustees recognise that they are unsure as to whether they are meeting members' needs. Carly Jordan kindly offered to run training for one of the BBKA modules. However, she received a very low response from members as to which module they wanted with almost none committing to attend.

Wally Thrale organised an expert panel to be present for six intermediate improver sessions held monthly by zoom during the active beekeeping season. They were relatively well attended with between 20 to 40 attending on each occasion. Practical topics that beekeepers were encountering were discussed.

Honey Show and Festival. The 2024 Honey Show and Festival was held on Sunday 22nd September 2024 at Marston Moretaine Forest Centre. Well done to Sue Lang and Dawn Talats for their herculean efforts to make this yet again another wonderful event for the Association. The weather and earlier timing of the event in the year meant that an observation hive was present which wasn't possible the year beforehand.

There was torrential rain on the day - with photographs of flooded and abandoned cars on the A421 nearby reaching national news. Despite this, the Show and Festival were well attended by the public and the local MP Blake Stephenson.



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The Show had 266 entries - the highest number in living memory....and therefore requiring a phenomenal effort from Sue Lang to organise.

The 2025 Honey Show and Honey Festival will be held on Sunday 21st September at Redborne Upper School on the Flitwick / Ampthill border. The venue is large, parking free and Sue and Dawn intend this to be an extra special occasion. Please put this in your diaries now!

District Advisors (DAs) services. We had the benefit of DAs in post for every area of the county. They are so important for members in terms of advice and support as need arises.

Stockists for our Bulk Purchase Scheme (BPS). Our BPS Manager, Simon Cockle, continues to organise this large-scale operation on behalf of members in terms of containing high costs and thus making beekeeping more affordable. Our stockists, as ever, continued to provide an excellent service, storing goods and supplying members with basic equipment at much reduced prices. The wax exchange ran very successfully again thanks to a small, hardworking team of members, in concert with Maisemore, our new supplier.

Facebook Chat Page. The Facebook chat forum continues to host lively debates and opportunities for beekeepers to ask questions and provide advice on a daily basis.

Teaching apiaries. Our two teaching apiaries continue to thrive under the guidance of our apiarists and their teams who give so much of their time and expertise (one apiary is at Stockwood Park in Luton managed by Mike Niemann and team, the other at Priory country Park in Bedford run by Matt Alabaster, Graham Canfield and helpers). Honey sales from both teaching apiaries continue to provide the Association with additional funds – our thanks to both Matt and Mike and their teams for their continuous efforts and sharing their knowledge with beginners.

Services to the Public

Swarm-collection. Our swarm-collection service to the public remained operational. Many queries from the public about bees (not only honeybees) and beekeeping were addressed. This is a vital service to our bees as many swarms would die if left to their own devices. The annual survey showed that from the 51 who responded, 102 swarms were collected.

Asian Hornet Advice and Monitoring. Phill Howes, supported by John Macdougall and Karen Glasse, set up an Asian hornet monitoring team consisting of 28 people. This includes nominated contacts from our neighbouring beekeeping associations. A training session on identifying, tracking and tracing Asian hornets was run for the BedsBKA volunteers. Each volunteer was given a small kit including the bait 'Trappit', a monitoring trap, and an Asian hornet specimen in aspic. Several calls from the public were received with each being followed up by the team. No Asian hornets were identified in Bedfordshire. Creditably, many members have been implementing their own monitoring activities.

Talks and Visits. Fifteen requests for visits to schools were received and also satisfied during 2024. Members may have given talks to schools or other groups that we do not know about. Do please contact the Education Liaison Officer (Stephen Edwards) to keep Trustees informed about this important work that is a fundamental part of our mission as a charity. Also, please let Stephen know if you would be willing to do a talk for the many requests we receive (there is an already available presentation that can be shared).

Attendance at outside events. We have been busy representing the Association at several external events:

- Phil Howes and Mike Neiman attended the Keech Farewell Weekend at Stockwood in September. A popular weekend long event with lots of visitors.
- Colin Hall and Rosemary Lang supported the Bee Awareness Day in Luton. A team of staff from the management of Luton Point (the huge shopping mall in Luton) ran a very successful Bee Awareness Day on Monday 28 October. The team included two of our Beds BKA members, Tracey Bateman and Tina Hall. Its success owed much to the display materials loaned by Beds BKA, especially the pop-up banners and the art-work activities for children. The event attracted lots of attention and interest. It was during half term, and many children participated creatively. Honey-tasting was hugely popular with young and older alike. The honey all came from the apiary on top of the shopping centre. 71 jars of honey were sold at £10 each, with all of the **£710 being donated to Luton Foodbank**. One outcome was



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contact with a local primary school requesting a visit and talk. Further projects and events may result.

- Steve Gale attended Party on Potton Arts, Craft and Small Businesses day then the following weekend the Potton Show. Lots of chatting with the public about the Association and beekeeping.
- Bromham Mill Apple Day and Marston Vale Christmas Fayre were both attended. supported by Dawn Talats, Helen Vaughan, Phil Howes, Neil Blakemore, Graham Canfield and John MacDougall.

Attending a variety of events enables us to inform the public about the Association, training available and talk about our favourite subject - honey bees! Raising awareness about the Yellow Legged Asian Hornet has also been an important part of these events too. And of course, the public enjoy sampling locally produced honey and the opportunity to buy it.

Honey Festival. The Honey Festival, excellently organised by Dawn Talats, proved yet again to be popular with the public. Please see above for more information.

Beds BKA Operation

Trustees and Officers. Trustees continued to meet throughout the year to monitor the state of the Association and to guide its activities. The Secretarial Team continued to work "behind the scenes" on the detailed management of the Association.

The committee of Trustees has had one change over 2024, with Mary Marriott stepping down. She continues to organise the Improvers Day in January for which we are very grateful.

Membership numbers. 2024 membership totalled 524. In 2024 there were 472 Full Members, 39 Associate Members, 13 Student Members and 2 Honorary.

IT and Communications. Officers and secretarial team members continue to manage the Association's newsletter, website, membership database, YouTube channel and Facebook presence as well as responding to requests for information from the public and members.

Insurance. The Insurance policy renewed on 31st January 2025. The cost of the policy increased again by 5.5%, reflecting the general increases across the market. Our brokers, Towergate Insurance, managed to negotiate this down from an initial proposed 10% increase. The previous policy with Howdens/BC Underwriting policies back in 2022 were £4,136 per year, compared to today at £2,913.47, so we are still making a worthwhile saving.

And Finally

Overall it has felt like a very busy year. Many have contributed and given their time, effort and expertise for which we are deeply thankful.

We truly would welcome any suggestions for improvement or new ideas, please do reach out to your District Advisor or any of the trustees or officers. We would genuinely love to hear from you.

Addendum to Beds BKA Trustees Report for 2024

This addendum provides the additional information for the Trustees Annual Return as required by the Charity Commission in the Charity SORP (FRSSE) - Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities). ([Link to SORP.](#))

SORP 1.9

- The reporting period (financial year) is 1st January to 31st December 2024

SORP 1.19

- Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.


SORP 1.26

- The governing document for Beds BKA is the Constitution (see <https://www.bedsbka.org.uk/membership/constitution/>)
- The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- The methods used to recruit and appoint trustees are included in the Constitution

SORP 1.28

- The CIO name is Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association
- Charity registration number is 1184466
- Address of principal office is 30 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, MK19 7DX
- Names of all trustees holding office at any time in 2024 – see table below.

	Trustee	Note
1	Matthew Alabaster	Whole of year
2	Nicolas Arter	Whole of year
3	Neil Blakemore	Whole of year
4	Graham Canfield	Whole of year
5	Simon Cockle	Whole of year
6	Anne Cross	Whole of year
7	Richard Dowsett	Whole of year
8	Karen Glasse	Whole of year
9	David Goodridge	Whole of year
10	Colin Hall	Whole of year
11	Phillip Howes	Whole of year
12	Christopher Jenkins	Whole of year
13	Caroline Jordan	Whole of year
14	Rosemary Long	Whole of year
15	John Macdougall	Whole of year
16	Mary Mariott	Resigned 24/07/2024
17	Michael Niemann	Whole of year
18	Paul Rubens	Whole of year
19	Dawn Talats	Whole of year
20	Walter Thrale	Whole of year
21	Jennifer Tysom	Whole of year
22	Helen Vaughan	Whole of year

Signature	
Name and position	John Macdougall, Trustee and Assistant Secretary
Date	21 st October 2025

Treasurer's Report to the members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association

As your Treasurer, it is my pleasure to present the financial report for the year. I extend my thanks to this year's Independent Auditor, Andrew Young. Andrew brings huge experience, having been a Chartered Accountant since 1985, most of which has been served in Industry with National Freight and Leica. I thank him for his time and diligence in examining the accounts and records and confirming they comply with the requirements of the Charity Commissioners. We have once again successfully allocated funds towards the education of the public about bees and beekeeping. We have trained new members of our beekeeping community and given existing members the opportunity to refresh their beekeeping knowledge, and the ability to source wax, frames and jars at extremely competitive prices. All this to ensure the sustainability and relevance of our Association for now and in years to come. I would also like to thank all the Stockists and Simon for their efforts this year, in particular their willingness to maintain "live" stock quantities using tech available to us.

Income

- Total Income: 2024 £44,601 vs 2023 £42,980
- Bulk purchases: 2024 £31,100 vs 2023 £29,923
- Subscriptions: 2024 £7,274 vs 2023 £5,673

The majority of annual income for this year has been generated through membership subscriptions, training and honey sales from the apiaries and, of course, the bulk purchase scheme. Our total income increased by 3.8%. Bulk purchases rose by 3.9%, due to increased jar sales in 2nd half of 2024 as a result of the excellent honey crop this year. Subscriptions income rose due to the increase from £12 to £15 in 2024, with membership numbers remaining at similar levels.

To give an example of the value for money of the subscription, assuming a membership rounded to 500, the "average" member buys around £63 from the bulk purchase scheme, let's say a box of jars and some wax. A single box of jars from our jar supplier would cost £58 delivered, compared to buying and collecting from the Association for £35. Four (x10) packs of wax, say 2 wired national brood and 2 wired supers costs £28 from the Association, from Thorne's the equivalent would be £46.80 (without carriage). A saving to the "average" member for wax and jars of £41.80.

Expenditure

- Total Expenditure: 2024 £11,537 vs 2023 £14,868
- Year book & Postage: 2024 £3,143 vs 2023 £2,875
- Honey Show/Other Events: 2024 £2,448 vs 2023 £2,385
- East Anglian Research Student/ Other: 2024 £0 vs 2023 £2,120
- Training costs: 2024 £331 vs 2023 £1002
- Asian Hornet Expenses: 2024 £317 vs 2023 £0
- Insurance: 2024 £2,761 2023 £2,183

Treasurer's Report to the members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association

Total expenditure dropped by £3,331, the principal reason was that there was no EARS project in 2024, so we were not asked for our regular donation. Year book costs and postage increased by 9% but considering a Centenary booklet was also supplied in the previous year this was actually higher, like for like. Honey show costs only increased by 2.6%. Training costs reduced as no anaphylaxis course was run in 2024. In 2024 we created a new cost category for the costs related to dealing with the Asian Hornet. We budgeted £800, but costs were less as fortunately the early cold, damp summer slowed the progress of the Hornet northwards towards us. Insurance costs increased by 26.5% partly due to increasing the turnover value of the Association and members to £425,000 for 2024 from £385,000 in 2023 and general rate increases in the market. However, still about £1,700 less than the 2022 Howdens policy.

Balance Sheet

- Cash balances: 2024 £32,770 vs 2023 £26,693
- Stock: 2024 £8,653 vs 2023 £6,759
- Debtors: 2024 £1,340 vs £4,193
- Creditors/Deferred Income: 2024 £4,198 vs 2023 £3,217

Our cash balances increased in the year by £6,077 compared to 2023; £3,834 was due to the movements on debtors and creditors when compared to 2023. Stock increased by £1,894 at the year end with £1,493 in wax and frames, £4,228 for jars & accessories, £1,684 for food, £913 for buckets, traps and bait. Fixed asset purchase were restricted to the purchase of a point of sales unit to allow a Stockist to take card payments.

Future Financial Plans

Looking ahead:

- We need to replace much of the equipment we use at outside events including banners, gazebos.
- We have been notified that the EARS research project will be starting again in 2025.

In conclusion, our financial position remains quite strong, and we are able to continue with our activities to support our members in the coming year. Thank you for your continued support of the Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association.

**BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PROFIT/LOSS 2024**

	Actual	Budget	Actual
	Full Year 2024 GBP	Full Year 2024 GBP	Full Year 2023 GBP
REVENUE			
Subscriptions	7,274	7,091	5,673
Bulk purchase scheme	31,100	30,000	29,923
Training	3,005	3,000	3,039
Events	103	500	665
Apiary sales	2,318	2,600	3,028
Donations	71	140	145
Interest earned	731	650	507
Other revenue	0	0	0
Total revenue	44,601	43,981	42,980
COSTS			
Bulk purchase scheme margin %	29,254 5.9%	28,050 6.5%	28,287 5.5%
EXPENSES			
Subscriptions	576	780	992
Print & Post	3,143	2,875	3,382
Committee	270	550	495
Events	2,448	2,100	2,385
Training	331	500	1,002
Apiary	516	1,150	251
Insurance	2,761	2,795	2,183
Donations	0	2,000	2,120
AHT Expenses	317	800	0
Bank charges	668	550	466
Depreciation	506	768	768
Total expenses	11,537	14,868	14,045
Surplus	3,810	1,063	648

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/12/2024

	2024 GBP	2023 GBP
ASSETS/LIABILITIES		
Fixed Assets	978	1,306
Cash	32,770	26,693
Stock	8,653	6,759
Debtors	1,340	4,193
Creditors/Deferred Income	-4,198	-3,217
Total	39,543	35,733
REPRESENTED BY		
Surplus b/f	35,733	35,085
Profit for period	3,810	648
Total	39,543	35,733

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association on accounts for the twelve months to December 2024 as set out on page 2 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under sections 43 of the Act).
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from us as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

7/2/2025

Name:

Andrew Yount

Professional qualification or body:

ICAEW

Address:

58 PARK ROAD, STEVINGTON, MK43 7QG

Disclosures:

None to report

**BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PROFIT/LOSS 2024**

	Actual	Budget	Actual
	Full Year 2024 GBP	Full Year 2024 GBP	Full Year 2023 GBP
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Subscriptions	7,274	7,091	5,673
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Total expenses	11,537	14,868	14,045
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“To preserve the honey bee by furthering the craft of beekeeping and educating the public of the benefit of bees in the environment.”

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Summary

Some great highlights - how best to go forward? The centenary AGM went with a bang - with cake, balloons and decorations to celebrate. The intermediate training day, first aid training, the healthy bee day, Bedfordshire activating against the Asian hornet threat, honey show and festival and many other events demonstrating some of the best of what the Association offers members for a very low subscription.

What do members want? The end of 2023 found the committee perplexed. The trustees are puzzling over the best way to serve the needs of our members. Many events were not well attended despite those attending stating that they were excellent. The trustees would very much like to understand this better so that precious effort and time spent is aligned to what members want.

Bees and beekeeping. After the sunshine of 2022, 2023 proved to be very wet during the late summer which impacted the beekeeping season. It may have been one of the hottest years on record worldwide, but in the UK we experienced a lot of rain when we least wanted it. Notably, the reported honey harvest was 41% lower than in 2022.

Education. In-person training and online training continued strongly, totalling 18 events.

For the public. Our contacts with the public continued including a well attended Honey Show and Honey Festival at Stockwood Park, with a reported footfall of just under 1,000.

Finances and Assets. The Association's assets and finances remain in good order, although finely balanced with £648 surplus. There were increased costs in the year with the Centenary publication in addition to our ever popular yearbook.

Membership. The numbers of members remain high at 540 (which is one more than 2022).

Insurance. Our new cover now renews at the end of January for administrative ease. The cost of the insurance increased by c8.3%. This is due to us increasing the overall turnover for our beekeepers from £385,000 to £425,000 in line with inflation of 10%.

Yearbook. This is one of the proudest productions of the year and treasured by many. However, the autumn survey showed that 49.2% members would be happy with an electronically accessible yearbook only. The trustees will consider how to take this forward during 2024.

And now in more detail...



Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association Trustees' Report for the 2024 AGM

Services for Bees and Beekeeping

Preserving the honey bee. The Beds BKA Annual Beekeeping Survey each Autumn provides a very helpful guide to how well the bees are doing.

Year	Number of responses	Losses over previous winter	Colonies within Beds	Colonies outside Beds	Swarms dealt with	Honey harvest in lbs	Nucs going into winter
2023	70	164**	673**		125	11,840.8	81
2022	71	111	322	278	169	20,709*	68
2021	75	91	282	224	213	14,300	50
2020	132	166	780	489	286	39,759	188
2019	127	84	586	319	348	38,630	108
2018	111	174	448	240	154	29,982	?

*this total is less the impressive 1,200lbs in USA

** figures taken from Spring pulse survey with 81 respondents

Key points from the Survey include:

- Overall, a year with challenges and many reporting lower honey crops than usual.
- However, winter colony losses (2022 into Spring 2023) occurred at around 19.6%, slightly better than the previous year.
- The average number of hives is 8.3
- Some reported the swarmiest year ever - yet the overall figures from the survey show swarms collected were down.
- 65 respondents (of the 70...some left this question blank) reported a total of 11,840.8 pounds of honey which is an average of 182.17 pounds of honey per beekeeper that responded. In 2022 there was an average of 309 pounds - **2023 harvest was on average therefore 41% worse than 2022.**
- Questions around the yearbook showed that 49.3% would be content with the yearbook being accessible electronically only. As this is a significant cost, the trustees will consider this during 2024.

Weather and its effects. Very interestingly, despite a few weeks before Christmas 2022, there being an extremely cold week with temperatures at minus fifteen sustained for nearly a week, winter losses reported were slightly BETTER than that reported the year previously. After the sunshine of 2022, 2023 proved to be very wet during the late summer which impacted the beekeeping season. It may have been one of the hottest years on record worldwide, but in the UK we experienced a lot of rain when we least wanted it. Notably, the reported honey harvest was 41% lower than in 2022.

Nucs. From the Survey, the average is one nuc for every beekeeper, but this is misleading. Half of the respondents did not have any nucs going into winter. There are two schools of thought on overwintering nucs. The first is to strongly encourage nucs as insurance against winter losses and early queen failure. The second is to overwinter strong fully sized hives to increase the overwintering success, and to use nucs during the year for queen rearing.

Wasps. Many beekeepers have reported more wasps than usual, with wasps plaguing the bees at the end of season.

Health. The incidence of varroa seems to have been generally low, though we were still encouraged to treat in line with NBU policy. 92.6% beekeepers treat for varroa, with 42.6% treating both in summer and winter.

Other Pests. The yellow legged Asian Hornet may be in Bedfordshire in 2024, with the nearest nest destroyed a mere 2 days flight from the county border- in Hackney.

Support for beekeeping research. Our support for the Eastern Associations Research Studentship (EARS) continues with £2,000 donated to work related to CBPV.



Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association Trustees' Report for the 2024 AGM

Services to Members and Beginners

Yearbooks. Our 2023 Yearbook was beautifully produced - an outstanding achievement as this was completed alongside the production of the very special one off centenary booklet. Thank you to Andrew Ulyett and Chris Jenkins - both worked tirelessly on these outstanding productions. As you can imagine, it was a huge workload and trying to produce two at the same time was complicated. We are very grateful to them for their contribution.

We know that our yearbooks are a marvellous record of the Association and a mine of information. However it is also a significant cost. So the trustees will consider the following feedback from the annual survey

- I am fine with the yearbook only being accessible electronically = 49.3%
- I don't mind having the yearbook only accessible electronically, but I'd prefer a full printed copy = 26.1%
- I don't like the idea of an electronic yearbook, I definitely only want a full printed copy = 21.7%
- I would like a slimline printed yearbook with some of the information accessible online = 2.9%

Talks. Six excellent talks (open to members and the public) were hosted by BedsBKA during 2023:

- "DIY For Beekeepers" by Prof David Evans
- "Communication in honeybee colonies" by Margaret Murdin
- "Wonders of Wax" by Sue Lang
- "Queen right queen rearing" by Prof David Evans
- "Learning from beekeepers Abroad" by Bees Abroad
- "Asian Hornets" by Phill Howes

Events. There were some excellent events in 2023 with many commenting on how informative or helpful they were. Events included an Improvers day at Flitwick village hall; a Healthy Bee Day at Bedford University; the Honey Show and Festival at Stockwood Park and a First Aid and Anaphylaxis course run at Maulden Church Hall. Sadly, the summer picnic was cancelled due to poor weather.

Beginners Course. Two in-person courses took place, one led by Mike Niemann (and team) ran successfully at Stockwood, attracting around 13 participants; with the second run by Matt Alabaster (and team) at Bedford with 19 participants. Around 9 people attended the online course.

For Improvers and more established beekeepers. Trustees recognise that they are unsure as to whether they are meeting members' needs. Carly Jordan kindly offered to run training for one of the BBKA modules. However she received a very low response from members as to which module they wanted with almost none committing to attend.

Wally Thrale organised an expert panel to be present for six intermediate improver sessions held monthly by zoom during the active beekeeping season. They were relatively well attended with between 20 to 40 attending on each occasion. Practical topics that beekeepers were encountering were discussed.

The Healthy Bee Day was incredible. We heard from bee inspectors who had been tracking, tracing and destroying Asian hornet nests. They brought along diseased combs so beekeepers could see exactly what AFB and EFB looks like. It was a pleasure watching and listening to the inspectors as they opened and examined the hives at our Association apiary.

Honey Show. The 2023 Honey Show and Festival was held on Saturday 7th October 2023 at Stockwood Park Discovery Centre. Well done to Sue Lang for her herculean efforts to make this a wonderful event for the Association. We were grateful to Stockwood Park for allowing us to use the venue again for free. Overall, just under 1,000 public attended - double that of the previous year - so a great success. However, numbers of entries to the honey show were slightly down versus previous years. Disappointingly, there were no entries in the dipped candles; wax models or Junior / Schools categories. The entry quality was good though, and the judges (Fiona Dickson from Norfolk and Mike Duffin from Hampshire) were very complimentary. Large numbers of entries in the Honey Cake and Limerick Classes made judging difficult! Congratulations to all the Trophy winners, and to Colin Hall who won 'Best in Show' for his entry in the Medium Honey class. Some of the winning entries were then put forward to the inter-county Federation Cup which is hosted by the National Honey Show. Bedfordshire came a very credible 2nd place, thank you to all the members who allowed their entries to represent Bedfordshire. Thank you to Karen Glasse and Mark Bolan who acted as Stewards, and



Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association Trustees' Report for the 2024 AGM

all the volunteers who helped set the show up the day before, and to clear the room (in record time!) at the end of the event. Thanks also to Andre Cardona and Roger Trudgehill for storing the Show staging which is quite bulky. The 2024 Honey Show and Honey Festival will be held on Sunday 22nd September at Marston Vale Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine, MK43 0PR. Please put this in your diaries now!

District Advisors (DAs) services. We had the benefit of DAs in post for every area of the county. They are so important for members in terms of advice and support as need arises.

Stockists for our Bulk Purchase Scheme (BPS). Our BPS Manager, Simon Cockle, continues to organise this large-scale operation on behalf of members in terms of containing high costs and thus making beekeeping more affordable. Our stockists as ever continued to provide an excellent service, storing goods and supplying members with basic equipment at much reduced prices. The wax exchange ran very successfully again thanks to a small, hardworking team of members, in concert with Maisemore, our new supplier.

Facebook Chat Page. The Facebook chat forum continues to host lively debates and opportunities for beekeepers to ask questions and provide advice on a daily basis.

Teaching apiaries. Our two teaching apiaries continue to thrive under the guidance of our apiarists and their teams who give so much of their time and expertise (one apiary is at Stockwood Park in Luton managed by Mike Niemann and team, the other at Priory country Park in Bedford run by Matt Alabaster and helpers). Honey sales from both teaching apiaries continue to provide the Association with additional funds – our thanks to both Matt and Mike and their teams for their continuous efforts and sharing their knowledge with beginners.

Services to the Public

Swarm-collection. Our free swarm-collection service to the public remained operational. Reports from Sandy District and nearby were that it was the swarmiest year they had ever seen. However this was not mirrored through the whole county. Although it seemed a quieter year for the scheme, many queries from the public about bees (not only honeybees) and beekeeping were addressed. This is a vital service to our bees as many swarms would die if left to their own devices.

Talks and Visits. Several visits to classes in primary schools took place in 2023. Members may have given talks to schools or other groups that we do not know about. Do please contact the Education Liaison Officer (Stephen Edwards) to keep Trustees informed about this important work that is a fundamental part of our mission as a charity.

Attendance at outside events. Attendance at outside events continued, with stalls at Bromham Apple Day and the Bedfordshire Young Farmers Rally.

Honey Festival. The Honey Festival, excellently organised by Dawn Talats, that accompanied the Honey Show at Stockwood Park was well received with approximately 1,000 members of the public visiting. Activities included honey tasting and sales, face painting, yellow legged Asian hornet stand, virtual hive and beekeeping equipment display, trying on bee suits, candle rolling, children's colouring in activities, and apple pressing. We were honoured to have a demonstration table of wax flowers this year by Elizabeth Duffin as well as stalls of books, trying on bee suits, hive and equipment demonstrations. A big thank you to all involved in making the day such a special highlight of the beekeeping year.

Beds BKA Operation

Trustees and Officers. Trustees continued to meet throughout the year to monitor the state of the Association and to guide its activities. The Secretarial Team continued to work "behind the scenes" on the detailed management of the Association.

The committee of Trustees has had some changes over 2023, with four new trustees joining through the year. Nick Arter joined as NE Beds District Advisor; Graham Canford joined as Assistant Apiarist (Bedford); Mary Marriott joined to assist with training and Phill Howes as Asian hornet coordinator. In addition, Gemma Keys kindly runs the photograph of the month competition, Stephen Edwards assists the Association as Education liaison officer and Sue Lang as honey show coordinator.



Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association Trustees' Report for the 2024 AGM

So much is done by our various officers to provide key services for which we are grateful.

Membership numbers. 2023 membership totalled 540, 1 more than last year. In 2023 there were 488 Full Members, 37 Associate Members, 13 Student Members and 2 Honorary.

Insurance. Thanks to the sterling effort of our Treasurer, we have changed our insurance to one renewal at the end of January. The cost of the insurance increased by c8.3%. This was due to us increasing the overall turnover for our beekeepers from £385,000 to £425,000 in line with inflation of 10%. Whilst the overall price is still good value, this meant that the premium increased by 8.3% compared to the previous year. With underlying rates having increased by 4.5% the further increase is due to increasing the turnover limit. We will be investigating over the year any additional cover that may be required by Asian hornet action teams which currently is not covered.

Policies. Last year the Safeguarding Policy, Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety policies were reviewed.

And Finally

Overall it has felt like a very busy year. Many have contributed and given their time, effort and expertise for which we are deeply thankful.

Sadly the yellow legged Asian hornet has come close to Bedfordshire - with the nearest nest destroyed in Hackney which is two days flight from Bedfordshire. Seven members of parliament have been contacted to highlight the urgent need for action. Four of these have tabled parliamentary questions to the "Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Environment" Secretary. Whilst responses have largely confirmed what we already know, the mere act of asking the question raises the profile of this urgent matter.

Finally, we would welcome any suggestions for improvement or new ideas, please do reach out to your District Advisor or any of the trustees or officers. We would genuinely love to hear from you.

Addendum to Beds BKA Trustees Report for 2023

This addendum provides the additional information for the Trustees Annual Return as required by the Charity Commission in the Charity SORP (FRSSE) - Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities). ([Link to SORP.](#))

SORP 1.9

- The reporting period (financial year) is 1st January to 31st December 2023

SORP 1.19

- Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.


SORP 1.26

- The governing document for Beds BKA is the Constitution (see <https://www.bedsbka.org.uk/membership/constitution/>)
- The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- The methods used to recruit and appoint trustees are included in the Constitution

SORP 1.28

- The CIO name is Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association
- Charity registration number is 1184466
- Address of principal office is 30 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, MK19 7DX
- Names of all trustees holding office at any time in 2023 – see table below.

	Trustee	Note
1	Matthew Alabaster	All year
2	Nicolas Arter	From 25/2/23
3	Neil Blakemore	All year
4	Graham Canfield	From 25/2/23
5	David Chapman	Resigned 25/2/23
6	Simon Cockle	From 25/2/23
7	Fiona Cook	Resigned 25/2/23
8	Anne Cross	All year
9	Richard Dowsett	All year
10	Karen Glasse	All year
11	David Goodridge	All year
12	Colin Hall	All year
13	Phillip Howes	All year
14	Christopher Jenkins	All year
15	Caroline Jordan	All year
16	Rosemary Long	All year
17	John Macdougall	All year
18	Mary Mariott	From 25/2/23
19	Michael Niemann	All year
20	Paul Rubens	All year
21	Dawn Talats	All year
22	Walter Thrale	All year
23	Jennifer Tysom	All year
24	Helen Vaughan	From 25/2/23

Signature	
Name and position	John Macdougall, Trustee and Assistant Secretary
Date	21 st October 2024



Treasurer's Report (2024 AGM)

The annual accounts for the Association were prepared by myself, for the second time and have been reviewed and examined in accordance with the Charity Commission's regulations. The review was carried out by Caroline Rainbow, also for the second time, Caroline is an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales. She trained with KPMG as an auditor, and worked in local government as an auditor and has many years' of experience in this field. Once again, a big thank you to Caroline for agreeing to do this review.

Overall revenue increased by £1,904 to £42,980. Membership subscriptions were £5,673, £800 lower than 2022. This was principally due to the Gift Aid receipt of £1,002 from HMRC in 2022, not received in 2023. A Return for 2023 will be sent in 2024.

Revenue from the bulk purchase scheme increased by £2,640 to £29,923 a 10% increase on last year. The margin increased very slightly to 5.5% compared to last year at 5.4%. Whilst wax costs have stayed reasonably constant, the price of jars has increased again by approximately 10% in 2023 (2022 by 30%) , accounting for much of this increased revenue again. My thanks to all the stockists, and Simon Cockle to for all their effort, in continuing to supply members with very good value products.

Training revenue was higher in 2023 by £377, principally due to the Anaphylaxis Awareness Course that was run in November 2023.

Apiary sales were £3,028, slightly down on the record year of 2022 £3,393, although 2022 included selling bees to Brewpoint for £300, not repeated in 2023, which accounts for most of this difference.

Magazine sales ceased in 2022, so there was no revenue in 2023. Events revenue was also much lower than expected, as the Centenary Dinner at the Rufus Centre was cancelled due to insufficient support. Please also note that Event costs were also significant down against budget.

Overall expenditure for the year was £14,045, a decrease of £2,640. There 4 main areas of decreased expenditure. Firstly, moving our insurance from Howden to ANSVAR saved £1,953 compared to 2022. Secondly, following a higher year in 2022, Apiary costs were £1,458 lower in 2023. Donations were £780 lower in 2023 following the £900 donation in 2022 for the 100 trees at Marston Vale to mark our Centenary. Finally, no magazines were purchased in 2023 saving £740.

Other cost changes were:

- Print and post at £3,382 an increase of £600, which is almost entirely due to the additional costs in printing and distributing the Centenary Booklet with the Yearbook. The cost of this equates to around £6.75 per member.
- Committee costs were £137 more than 2022, due to some increases in costs of hiring venues for meetings.
- Training costs were £1,002 an increase of £737, which was due to the costs of running the Healthy Bee Day at Bedfordshire University and the Anaphylaxis Course.
- Subscriptions which are the costs of hosting the Webcollect site, our Website and the Zoom subscription were up by £575 in the year. This was primarily because Paul Lawrence had paid for 2022 and 2023 himself, before submitting a request for payment. Also we had to pay a subscription for Zoom for 2023, that we hadn't done in 2022.
- Events costs, which comprise the cost of speakers and the Honey Show were £414 higher than in 2022. The cost of Speakers and Judges for the Honey Show were the main reasons for these increased costs.

The net result was a surplus of £648, turning around a loss of £878 last year.



Treasurer's Report (2024 AGM)

BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION			
PROFIT/LOSS 2023			
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	Full Year	Full Year	Full Year
	2023	2023	2022
	GBP	GBP	GBP
REVENUE			
Subscriptions	5,673	6,500	6,473
Bulk purchase scheme	29,923	24,500	27,283
Training	3,039	2,600	2,662
Events	665	5,600	338
Apiary sales	3,028	2,600	3,393
Donations	145	100	184
Interest earned	507	80	108
Magazines	0	600	635
Other revenue	0	0	0
Total revenue	42,980	42,580	41,077
COSTS			
Bulk purchase scheme	28,287	23,153	25,808
margin %	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%
EXPENSES			
Subscriptions	992	430	418
Print & Post	3,382	2,450	2,782
Committee	495	550	358
Events	2,385	7,400	1,971
Training	1,002	300	266
Apiary	251	1,150	1,710
Insurance	2,183	4,350	4,136
Donations	2,120	1,500	2,900
Bank charges	466	550	475
Depreciation	768	925	930
Magazines	0	700	740
Total expenses	14,045	20,305	16,684
Surplus/(deficit)	648	-878	-1,415



Treasurer's Report (2024 AGM)

The key figures to point out on the balance sheet are:

Fixed assets: No purchases in the year, the book value of the assets decline to £1,306 after depreciation.

Stock finished the year slightly down at £6,759 compared to £7,063 last year. Stocks of fondant and Ambrosia were significantly less than last year.

Debtors at £4,193 versus £689 were higher. £3,180 was held by stockists at the end of December, and has since be paid into our account. £413 for honey due from Stockwood Discovery Centre has now also been paid. £299 were prepaid expenses for the venues for January 2024 Training Day and Bedford Beginners' Training and £300 was for prepaid Wax Credits.

Creditors of £3,217 versus £4,568 in 2022 were lower. Our donation to EARS of £2,000, our ANSVAR Insurance for December was not taken until January by Direct Debit. A Speaker was owed for a Talk. The balance results from Cash taken in advance for Subs and The Improvers Day and Beginners Course.

Our cash balance is £26,693, slightly down on 2022, which was £29,828.

Our Reserves at £27,669, are just above the lower band of £26,370, and significantly below the £29,300, set at the end of 2021.

BALANCE SHEET		
	2023	2022
	GBP	GBP
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	1,306	2,073
Cash	26,693	29,828
Stock	6,759	7,063
Debtors	4,193	689
Creditors	-3,217	-4,568
Total	35,733	35,085
REPRESENTED BY		
Surplus b/f	35,085	36,500
Profit/(loss) for period	648	-1,415
Total	35,733	35,085

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association on accounts for the twelve months to December 2023 as set out on page 2 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under sections 43 of the Act).
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from us as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: CTRainbow

Date: 7/2/24

Name: CAROLINE RAINBOW

Professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: 45 PARK AVENUE, BEDFORD, MK40 2NF

Disclosures: None to report

**BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PROFIT/LOSS 2023**

	Actual Full Year 2023 GBP	Budget Full Year 2023 GBP	Actual Full Year 2022 GBP
REVENUE			
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Depreciation	768	925	930
Magazines	0	700	740
Total expenses	14,045	20,305	16,684
surplus/(deficit)	648	-878	-1,415

BALANCE SHEET

	2023 GBP	2022 GBP
ASSETS		
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Cash	26,693	29,828
Stock	6,759	7,063
Debtors	4,193	689
Creditors	-3,217	-4,568
Total	35,733	35,085
REPRESENTED BY		
Surplus b/f	35,085	36,500
Profit/(loss) for period	648	-1,415
Total	35,733	35,085

BEDFORDSHIRE BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1184466

Accounts

Trustees' Report (AGM 25th February, 2023)

In this report, the trustees provide a critical review of the work of the Association over the last year in relation to its objectives (objects), which are:

“To preserve the honey bee by furthering the craft of beekeeping and educating the public of the benefit of bees in the environment.”

These objectives translate to services to bees, beekeepers (members and beginners) and the public.



Summary

A positive year. After the difficulties of the year before, 2022 proved to be the year of sunshine – in several senses. Literally for the bees, who just loved it; for the Association, as increasingly we emerged from the isolation of COVID – and moved towards the celebration of the Centenary of Beds BKA.

Bees and beekeeping. Many beekeepers wilted as temperatures soared, while the bees prospered, they perhaps reminding us of their African origins.

Education. In-person training resumed as far as possible, also with continued activities online.

For the public. Our contacts with the public regained momentum as the year unfolded. The Centenary Honey Show and Honey Festival at Stockwood Park was a notable highlight.

Finances and Assets. The Association's assets and finances remain in good order, though now stretched with the increased cost of insurance, printing of the yearbook and with a planned measure of possible deficit through one-off spending on the Centenary celebrations.

Membership. The numbers of members remain high at 539, if with a small decline from the previous year.

Insurance. An improved situation for some members.

Commitment. We are in good heart. We can believe in the importance of our role in the future.

Trustees' Report (AGM 25th February, 2023)

And in more detail...

Services for Bees and Beekeeping

Preserving the honey bee. The Beds BKA Annual Beekeeping Survey each Autumn provides a very helpful guide to how well the bees are doing. Interestingly, one of our members lives in Georgia USA, and commented, "Greatly appreciate the tools & insights your organisation offers beekeepers. Thank you!"

Year	Number of responses	Losses over previous winter	Colonies within Beds	Colonies outside Beds	Swarms dealt with	Honey harvest in lbs	Nucs going into winter of 2022
2022	71	111	322	278	169	20,709*	68
2021	75	91	282	224	213	14,300	50
2020	132	166	780	489	286	39,759	188
2019	127	84	586	319	348	38,630	108
2018	111	174	448	240	154	29,982	?

*this total is less the impressive 1,200lbs in USA

Key points from the Survey include:

- Overall, a very good year.
- However, winter colony losses (2021 into Spring 2022) occurred at around 21%, worse than the previous year and somewhat above the three-year average.
- Nevertheless, total hive numbers appear to be stable both in and out of county, compared with other recent years.
- The average number of hives is about 7 (Note the average number of hives across all Full Members is probably about four or five).
- Much swarming occurred very early, especially in April, but overall seems to have been a little less this year, with each member collecting on average 2.4. Some members commented on use of bait hives.
- The average honey crop was nearly 42 lbs per hive, way above the national average over recent years. Strong colonies achieved up to 80 or 100 lbs, with plenty still left on as winter stores.
- Sadly as always, some members were unfortunate, with little or no honey crop, attributing it to the very hot weather or the nectar flow drying up very early in some cases.

Weather and its effects. After a very mild winter, all through Spring and Summer the bees revelled in the prolonged drought and heat - the hottest on record in the UK. Imperfect mating still resulted in cases of queen failure, however. Foraging continued into the mild autumn, by now with plenty of moisture in the ground, and some hives at least ended up with a fair supplement of ivy honey.

Crops. What the farmers are growing is so important for beekeeping. As many plants flowered earlier than usual, it was often difficult to be sure where the bees were gaining most of their nectar, unless oilseed rape or beans were an obvious target for them in the Spring.

Nucs. From the Survey, the average would seem to be one nuc for every beekeeper, but this is misleading. Half of the respondents did not have any nucs going into winter. Overwintering nucs is strongly encouraged as insurance against winter losses and early queen failure.

Temper. In the hot weather, our bees seemed generally very good-tempered, and we are not aware of any problems.

Health. The incidence of varroa seems to have been generally low or very low, though we were still encouraged to treat, in line with NBU policy. Mercifully, the outbreak of European Foulbrood (EFB) in 2021 seems to have been effectively contained. *Nosema ceranae* was a possible suspect for some

Trustees' Report (AGM 25th February, 2023)

mysterious colony losses in later winter, especially when a hive would be seemingly well populated in January, only for the bees to have disappeared without trace a month or so later, with no other obvious symptoms. A sample from a "sentinel apiary" just to the south of Luton, again tested negative for Small Hive Beetle.

Other Pests. Wasps appeared overall to pose no great threat to beehives, unless you were unlucky. Wax moths loved the heat. They were much present and quick to take over stored equipment, given a chance (the sharp cold spell in December will have reduced them). Asian Hornet may be coming closer – reported near Chelmsford and Rayleigh in nearby Essex.

Support for beekeeping research. Our support for the Eastern Associations Research Studentship (EARS) continues with £2,000 donated to work related to CBPV.

Services to Members and Beginners

Yearbook. Our 2022 Yearbook was even better than the previous one, in a high-quality new format. It stands as a marvellous record of the Association and a mine of information.

Talks. Four excellent talks were hosted by BedsBKA during 2022:

- "Queen Rearing made Simple" by Sean Stephenson
- "Preparing for the Season ahead" by Robert Smith
- "Wonderful Things about Bees" by Prof Robert Pickard
- "Plants and Pollinators" by Sean Stephenson

Beginners Course. An in-person course led by Mike Niemann and team ran successfully at Stockwood, attracting around 15 participants. Around 18 people attended the online course or used the recordings for self-paced learning. Whilst the course was well received, disappointingly the opportunity to gain practical experience in the Bedford teaching apiary was not taken advantage of.

For Improvers and more established beekeepers. This year, a deliberate attempt was made to cater for this category of members, who had missed out during the pandemic. Wally Thrale organised a lively daytime in-person event on March 2022 rooted in practical beekeeping was very well attended by roughly 70 beekeepers. A follow-up series of evening sessions on Zoom consisting of panel discussion and Q & A proved very popular.

Honey Show. The 2022 Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association honey show was held on Saturday 1st October 2022 at The Discovery Centre, Stockwood Park, Luton. This was a special event as it marked the start of a year of Centenary celebrations for the Association. The date of the show was the nearest Saturday to the first meeting of the Association in its current form that had been held at the end of September in 1922. Entrants had a chance to win special rosettes produced using the centenary logo. The event attracted 41 entrants who submitted a total of 209 entries and represented 10 of the Beds BKA districts. There was a good mix of people winning awards. Best exhibit in show was awarded to Beverley Underwood's outstanding photomicrograph of a honeybee larvae, which captured a lot of detail. It was particularly good to see so many new or inexperienced beekeepers entering, with 8 entries in the novice honey class, which was won by Arnold Talats. There were two classes for schools or home-schooled children and the standard of these entries was very high.

As the 2022 Honey Show was the first event of the Centenary celebrations a lot of work had been put in to restoring some of the older trophies that had either been damaged, replaced or simply run out of room, so that all awards now have a full history of winners. There was also a new Centenary cup (actually a silver cup dating from 1922) engraved with the Centenary logo donated by Fiona and Peter Cook that was awarded to the best instructive exhibit, which was won by Wally Thrale.

We would like to thank Sue Lang for all her help on the day, and particularly for working through all the results, Karen Glasse and Matt Alabaster for acting as Stewards and Claire O'Brien and Stephen Guest for judging, plus all the exhibitors for taking part and making the day a success.

District Advisors (DAs) services. We had the benefit of DAs in post for every area of the county. They are so important for members in terms of advice and support as need arises.

Stockists for our Bulk Purchase Scheme (BPS). Our BPS Manager, Simon Cockle, continues to organise this large-scale operation on behalf of members in terms of containing high costs and thus making beekeeping more affordable. Our stockists as ever continued to provide an excellent service,

Trustees' Report (AGM 25th February, 2023)

storing goods and supplying members with basic equipment at much reduced prices. The wax exchange ran very successfully again thanks to a small, hardworking team of members, in concert with Maisemore, our new supplier.

Facebook Chat Page. The Facebook chat forum continues to host lively debates and opportunities for beekeepers to ask questions and provide advice on a daily basis.

Teaching apiaries. Our two teaching apiaries progressively returned to normal (one at Stockwood Park in Luton managed by Mike Niemann and team, the other at Priory country Park in Bedford run by Matt Alabaster and helpers). Honey sales from both teaching apiaries were strong – our thanks to both Matt and Mike and their teams for their continuous efforts and sharing their expertise with beginners.

Services to the Public

Swarm-collection. Our free swarm-collection service to the public remained operational. Although it seemed a quieter year for the scheme, perhaps still due to Covid, many queries from the public about bees (not only honeybees) and beekeeping were addressed. This is a vital service to our bees as many swarms would die if left to their own devices.

Talks and Visits. Five visits to classes in primary schools in the south of the county took place in 2022, two as entirely “live events”, three by Zoom using a pre-recorded talks as well as Q&A with the children. Members may have given talks to schools or other groups that we do not know about. Do please contact the Education Liaison Officer (Colin Hall) to keep Trustees informed about this important work that is a fundamental part of our mission as a charity.

Bee Gallery at Stockwood. We have been able to advise Luton Culture Trust about the restoration of the Bee Gallery at Stockwood Discovery Centre, including the installation of a new observation hive. There is a possibility of further links with local schools in terms of learning about bees and beekeeping.

Attendance at outside events. Attendance at outside events recommenced, with stalls at Taste Bedford in early September and Bromham Xmas Fayre (Bromham Mill) in December.

Honey Donations. Our thanks go to members who generously donated 100 pots of honey to mark our centenary. These were distributed to the Luton Foodbank, Bedford Foodbank and the Trussell Trust. The honey was added to food hampers for those in need.

Honey Festival. The Honey Festival that accompanied the Honey Show at Stockwood Park was well received with approximately 500 members of the public visiting. Activities included honey tasting, T-shirt designing, face painting and apple pressing. Various stalls included flowers, jewellery, books, trying on bee suits, hive and equipment demonstrations plus several talks by Wally Thrale and Gill Brewer.

Beds BKA Operation

Trustees and Officers. Trustees continued to meet throughout the year to monitor the state of the Association and to guide its activities. The Secretarial Team continued to work “behind the scenes” on the detailed management of the Association.

We mourn the loss of Ray Smith as a trustee and DA for NW Beds. Ray was devoted to the Association. See the separate article about Ray. Helen Vaughan will take on the position of DA for NW Beds for this coming year.

The committee of Trustees has remained generally stable. Fiona Cook is ending her long contribution as our excellent Honey Show Secretary, also David Chapman is stepping down.. Colin Hall has stepped down as Chair of Trustees after ten successful and dedicated years in the post. Happily, Paul Rubens has taken on the role – for the start of our new century.

So much is done by our various officers and postholders to provide key services. Richard Dowsett has acted as our new H&S Officer.

Trustees' Report (AGM 25th February, 2023)

Centenary Celebrations. An energetic group, led by our Secretary Karen Glasse, has worked imaginatively on a range of ways to commemorate our Centenary. As previously noted, the Honey Show and Honey Festival was timed to coincide as closely as possible with the inaugural meeting of Beds BKA on 28th September 1922. Other projects include planting a hundred mainly pollinator-friendly trees (Liz Anderson), themed Christmas cards and notelets (Jennie Tysom), a Centenary tamper-proof label (designed by Pasquale Lafiosca). The Centenary Booklet (Chris Jenkins and Andrew Ulyett) draws on wide research to vividly record the history of the Association and those who have contributed in so many ways. 100 pots of honey were distributed to food banks at Christmas. 100 packets of seeds will be distributed to schools across Bedfordshire, with an offer for schools to bring their children to visit a new bee garden and bee gallery at Stockwood Park, experience both live bees and a talk on bees. Schools will also be encouraged to enter our 2023 Honey Show and Festival that will be held at Stockwood Park.

Membership numbers. 2022 membership totalled 539, a slight fall from the very high numbers in 2021 (565), but in line with 2020 (541). In 2022 there were 479 Full Members, 45 Associate Members, 12 Student Members and 3 Honorary.

IT Systems. The promised "Members Only" area on the Beds BKA website is now available. Two outstanding past talks can currently be accessed there with much other member related information.

Insurance. A change to our public and product liability insurance provided a pleasant surprise: Full and Honorary members with a turnover no greater than £10,000 were now to be covered (see the details in the 2022 Yearbook). The great difficulty in finding Insurance for members means that this must remain a matter of concern for trustees and all of us. In any case, Insurance also presents a much-increased cost for the Association overall.

Re-affiliation to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA). Not all members may be aware that we are not affiliated to the BBKA, unlike many but not all county or local associations. Trustees debated the question of whether to seek re-affiliation. After careful consideration, they decided against this. Deciding factors were confidence in what we are doing as an independent association, and in the insurance that we had been able to secure at this time.

Policies. The Safeguarding Policy has been updated and published on the website.

And Finally

This is our centenary year – a time to celebrate and honour those who have come before us. We remain a thriving Association with much to offer. This is only due to the enthusiasm of the various people who donate their time and expertise. We know that everyone has busy lives – but would still ask each member to consider what they could contribute, however small, to ensure that the next 100 years for the Association builds on our past.

We want our Association to learn from our bees – being truly social, giving to each other selflessly like honey bees, and serving the planet that we share with all other creatures as part of the fabric of life.

Addendum to Beds BKA Trustees Report for 2022

This addendum provides the additional information required for the Trustees Annual Return by the Charity Commission in the Charity SORP (FRSSE) - Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities). ([Link to SORP.](#))

SORP 1.9

- The reporting period (financial year) is 1st January to 31st December 2022

SORP 1.19

- Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.


SORP 1.26

- The governing document for Beds BKA is the Constitution (see <https://www.bedsbka.org.uk/membership/constitution/>)
- The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- The methods used to recruit and appoint trustees are included in the Constitution

SORP 1.28

- The CIO name is Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association
- Charity registration number is 1184466
- Address of principal office is 30 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, MK19 7DX
- Names of all trustees holding office at any time in 2022 – see table below.

	Trustee	Note
1	Matt Alabaster	
2	Neil Blakemore	from 25/4/22
3	David Chapman	
4	Fiona Cook	
5	Anne Cross	
6	Richard Dowsett	
7	Karen Glasse	
8	David Goodridge	
9	Colin Hall	
10	Chris Higham	resigned 6/6/22
11	Chris Jenkins	
12	Carly Jordan	
13	Rosemary Long	
14	John Macdougall	
15	Mike Niemann	
16	Paul Rubens	from 26/9/22
17	Ray Smith	died 5/12/22
18	Dawn Talats	from 7/11/22
19	Wally Thrale	
20	Jennie Tysom	

Signature	
Name and position	John Macdougall, Trustee and Assistant Secretary
Date	17 th October 2023

Treasurer's Report (AGM 25th February 2023)

The annual accounts for the Association were prepared by myself, for the first time and have been reviewed and examined in accordance with the Charity Commission's regulations. The review was carried out by Caroline Rainbow, an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales. Caroline trained with KPMG as an auditor, and worked in local government as an auditor and has more years' experience in this field than she would probably like to admit. A big thank you to Caroline for agreeing to do this review.

Overall revenue increased by £4,745 to £41,077. Membership subscriptions were £6,473, £901 higher than last year, and close to what was expected in the budget.

Revenue from the bulk purchase scheme increased by £4,893 to £27,283 a 24% increase. The margin stayed the same as last year at 5.4%. Whilst wax costs have stayed reasonably constant, the price of jars has increased by 30% in the year, accounting for much of this increased revenue. My thanks to all the stockists, and Simon Cockle for working hard to find suppliers with the best prices, so members get the best value possible in these inflationary times.

Training revenue was lower than last year, as the doubling up of courses cancelled in 2020 and attended in 2021 due to COVID, was not repeated. That said £2,662 was slightly above expectations.

Apiary sales were again very strong, at £3,393 an increase of £464 with both Bedford and Luton producing and selling significant quantities of honey to the Priory Café and Discovery Centre.

Overall expenditure for the year was £16,684, an increase of £4,936. There 2 main areas of increased expenditure. Firstly, the cost of events, £1,971 an increase of £1,793. This was principally the re-establishment of the Honey Show following COVID for £1,366, and a one-off significant overhaul of a number of trophies for £220. Secondly, we increased our donation to the Eastern Associations Research Studentship to £2,000 from £1,500 last year and in addition donated £900, with matched funding from Central Beds Council to plant 100 trees at Marston Vale to mark our Centenary.

Other cost changes were:

- Print and post at £2,782 an increase of £761, which is almost entirely the yearbook at £2,738, which including mailing out costs was just short of £5 per copy.
- Committee costs were £161 less at £358
- Training costs were £266 an increase of £141, reflecting mostly online delivery of the Beginners Course again in 2022.
- Apiary costs were £1,710 an increase of £527, reflecting increased jar costs and some equipment replacement/repairs.
- Insurance costs rose only slightly from £3,974 to £4,136, representing an average cost per member of approximately £7.50 each.
- Bank charges increased to £475, an increase of £211, reflecting higher bulk purchases sales and increased use of izettle for payments by members.

The net result was a deficit of £1,415, a significant change from last year's surplus of £3,412. Although some of this expenditure can be considered as one-off, it is clear that the Association is not immune to the cost of living inflationary increases being seen elsewhere.

Treasurer's Report (AGM 25th February 2023)

PROFIT/LOSS 2022			
	Actual Full Year 2022 GBP	Budget Full Year 2022 GBP	Actual Full Year 2021 GBP
REVENUE			
Subscriptions	6,473	6,687	5,572
Bulk purchase scheme	27,283	20,763	22,390
Training	2,662	2,500	4,530
Events	338	300	50
Apiary sales	3,393	2,064	2,929
Donations	184	97	97
Interest earned	108	1	3
Magazines	635	731	761
Other revenue	0	0	0
Total revenue	41,077	33,144	36,332
COSTS			
Bulk purchase scheme margin %	25,808 5.4%	19,414 6.5%	21,172 5.4%
EXPENSES			
Subscriptions	418	422	422
Print & Post	2,782	2,021	2,021
Committee	358	555	519
Events	1,971	1,710	178
Training	266	1,000	125
Apiary	1,710	446	1,183
Insurance	4,136	3,974	3,974
Donations	2,900	2,000	1,500
Bank charges	475	264	293
Depreciation	930	900	925
Magazines	740	608	608
Total expenses	16,684	13,900	11,748
surplus/(deficit)	-1,415	-170	3,412

Treasurer's Report (AGM 25th February 2023)

BALANCE SHEET		
	2022	2021
	GBP	GBP
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	2,073	3,003
Cash	29,828	30,470
Stock	7,063	2,922
Debtors	689	1,418
Creditors	-4,568	-1,313
Total	35,085	36,500
REPRESENTED BY		
Surplus b/f	36,500	33,088
Profit/(loss) for period	-1,415	3,412
Total	35,085	36,500

The key figures to point out on the balance sheet are:

Fixed assets: No purchases in the year, the book value of the assets decline to £2,073 after depreciation.

Stock finished the year significantly up at £7,063 versus £2,922 with increased quantities of stocks of wax foundation, Ambrosia, fondant and jars to sell in 2023.

Debtors at £689 versus £1,418 in 2022 were lower mostly £514 for honey due from Stockwood Discovery Centre now paid.

Creditors of £4,568 versus £1,313 in 2022 were higher as our donation to EARS of £2,000, Marston Vale of £900 and £1,235 owing to members for the cancelled Centenary Dinner, had not be paid at 31st December 2022. All these amounts have now be paid.

Our cash balance is £29,828, slightly down on 2021, which was £30,470.

Our Reserves at £25,948, are just below the lower band of £26,370, and significantly below the £29,300, set at the end of 2021.

**BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PROFIT/LOSS 2022**

	Actual	Budget	Actual
	Full Year 2022 GBP	Full Year 2022 GBP	Full Year 2021 GBP
REVENUE			
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BALANCE SHEET

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REPRESENTED BY		
Surplus b/f	36,500	33,088
Profit/(loss) for period	-1,415	3,412
Total	35,085	36,500

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association on accounts for the twelve months to December 2022 as set out on page 2 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under sections 43 of the Act).
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from us as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *CJ Rainbow*

Date: *3 February 2023*

Name: *CAROLINE RAINBOW*

Professional qualification or body: *ICAEW (ACA)*

Address: *45 PARK AVENUE, BEDFORD, MK40 2NF*

Disclosures: *None to report*

BEDFORDSHIRE BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1184466

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st January 2021 To 31st December 2021

Charity name: Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association

Charity registration number: 1184466

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objective of Beds BKA is to preserve the honeybee by furthering the craft of beekeeping and educating the public of the benefit of bees in the environment.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The association provides public benefit by training beekeepers and providing information to the public about beekeeping, honey bees, other pollinators and their importance to the environment via talks, leaflets and displays. This is achieved through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing training courses on beekeeping for members and non-members to learn or improve their knowledge of the craft. • Participating in local craft events and shows; trustees and other members attend to explain the importance of honeybees (and other pollinators) for human and wild life. • Holding an annual Honey Festival where the public can meet beekeepers, be shown hive products and beekeeping equipment and attend talks on bees and their benefits to the environment. • Giving talks to local groups. • Organising talks by expert speakers • Contact with the local media • Involving children through visits to schools <p>The association provides a free public service for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dealing with honey bee swarms • giving advice about swarms • giving advice about solitary and bumble bee nests

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The Association had a successful and active year in 2021 despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic:</p> <p>1) Membership in 2021 increased to 567 (2020: 548).</p> <p>2) Support for beekeeping research. Continued support was provided for honey bee research via the project known as 'Eastern Region Research Studentship' (EARS). This is directly sponsoring a PhD Student at Newcastle University to carry out research into why chronic bee paralysis virus is becoming more of an issue. We intend to increase financial support for a Phd student in the Eastern Associations Research Studentship (EARS) from £1500 to £2000 pa, starting in autumn 2022.</p> <p>3) Successful beginners course. An online training experience will not suit everyone but it was considered very important to meet the needs of potential new beekeepers as widely as possible, including those who had lost out the previous year when the pandemic ended their training courses halfway through. In the event, an innovative online version of the Beginners Course attracted over 50 participants.</p> <p>Presentations on key topics were enhanced by photographs, on-location videos, and artwork, all produced in-house. Sessions were recorded so that students could re-visit them in their own time or join the course late. 83% rated the course as "Excellent" with many stating that it "Exceeded Expectations". Students were assigned to mentors wherever possible for some practical introduction to beekeeping in the apiaries of experienced members who kindly volunteered their services.</p>

		<p>4) Training for Improvers and more established beekeepers. Regrettably, the ongoing pandemic curtailed this area which is best suited to practical and in-person training.</p> <p>5) Outside events. These play an important part of our out-reach to the public. In 2021, the pandemic situation resulted in no organisations able to host public events in the first half of the year and only a few in the second half. We did manage a stand at Taste Bedford in September and Bromham Mill Christmas Fayre in December. These attracted considerable public interest and enabled dissemination of information on bees to a wide cross-section of adults and children.</p> <p>6) Public Talks and School Visits Two schools in Luton received “visits”, with the beekeeper on Zoom and using a pre-recorded talk that included footage of another beekeeper opening a hive. A short presentation was given to farmers at an online Bedfordshire NFU meeting. Other members gave an outdoor talk about bees to allotment holders on-site, to Haversham Village School and via Zoom to a school in Liverpool.</p> <p>7) Autumn and winter talks on bees and beekeeping were held online via zoom. These free talks were publicised via EventBrite and were open to members and public alike.</p> <p>8) Swarm Services to the Public. Members provided a swarm capture and swarrn placement service for the public.</p> <p>10) Preserving the Honey Bee. Our District Advisors continued to support members with any beekeeping issues or problems helping to ensure appropriate management and health of members bees. Our bulk purchase scheme provides members with the opportunity to obtain beekeeping supplies locally at a reasonable price thereby helping members to care for the bees in their charge.</p> <p>Our annual Honey Show, judged by independent judges, helps to maintain and improve beekeeping standards by competition. Run as a virtual event due to the pandemic, this year the Show included 2 new categories specifically aimed at children in order to increase children’s awareness of the importance of bees. The Show results are publicly viewable on the Association website as a further interest to the public.</p> <p>The weather had a particularly big impact on our bees this year, with some hives in possible danger of starvation in the Spring, and just two periods when the nectar really came in (three if the ivy is counted). Queen rearing was especially difficult with periods of poor weather resulting in failed or imperfect mating. Sudden queenlessness remained a concern, with a whole host of issues that included delayed or poor mating, queens going drone-laying or suddenly disappearing.</p> <p>We had the first report for many years of foulbrood disease within Bedfordshire, European Foulbrood (EFB) in the countryside north of Luton. Our seasonal Bee Inspector Peter Folge will be checking the situation carefully for us in 2022. A sample from a “sentinel apiary” just to the south of Luton, sent to the National Bee Unit (NBU), tested negative for Small Hive Beetle.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	See attached accounts for 2021
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The association policy is to hold target reserves equivalent to one year's running costs plus an appropriate amount to finance the potential establishment of a beekeeping centre (subject to a 10% tolerance either way). The amounts agreed were GBP 11,300 and GBP 18,000 respectively making a total of GBP 29,300.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	GBP 30,575. This is at the reserves target
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected by members at the AGM; one third of elected trustees must retire at each AGM. At other times, the members or the charity trustees may appoint a new charity trustee as an addition or to fill a vacancy; this trustee must retire at the next AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association
Other name the charity uses	Beds BKA
Registered charity number	1184466
Charity's principal address	30 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, MK19 7DX

Names of the charity trustees who managed the charity in 2021

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Matt Alabaster	Bedford Apiarist		
2	David Chapman	NE Beds District Advisor		
3	Fiona Cook	Honey Show Secretary		
4	Anne Cross	Dunstable District Advisor		
5	Richard Dowsett	Biggleswade District Advisor		
6	Jeremy Freedman			
7	Steve Gale	Facebook Chatpage Manager	1/1/21 – 1/12/21	
8	Karen Glasse	Kempston District Advisor		
9	David Goodridge			
10	Colin Hall	Chair		
11	Chris Higham	Treasurer		
12	Christopher Jenkins	Assets Manager		
13	Caroline Jordan	Amphill District Advisor		
14	Rosemary Long	Membership Secretary		
15	Caroline Luxford	Health & Safety Officer		
16	John Macdougall	Publicity and Outdoor Events		
17	Richard Medcalf		1/1/21 – 7/7/21	
18	Mike Niemann	Stockwood Apiarist		
19	Chris Saunders			
20	Ray Smith	NW Beds District Advisor		
21	Wally Thrale	Sandy District Advisor		
22	Jennie Tysom	Safeguarding Officer		

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

<i>John R Macdougall</i>	DocuSigned by: <i>Neil Blakemore</i> <small>D733A1A57D45437...</small>
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Full name(s)

John Rankin Macdougall	Neil Blakemore
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Position
(eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Assistant Secretary	Treasurer
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Date

27 th October 2022

**BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PROFIT/LOSS 2021**

	Actual	Budget	Actual
	to 31st December 21 2021 GBP	Full Year 2021 GBP	Full Year 2020 GBP
REVENUE			
Subscriptions	5,572	5,334	5,542
Bulk purchase scheme	22,390	22,732	25,752
Training	4,530	1,950	530
Events	50	250	0
Apiary sales	2,929	1,533	1,287
Donations	97	123	138
Interest earned	3	21	21
Magazines	761	673	673
Other revenue	0	0	0
Total revenue	36,332	32,616	33,943
COSTS			
Bulk purchase scheme margin %	21,172 5.4%	20,903 8.0%	24,504 4.8%
EXPENSES			
Subscriptions	422	290	565
Print & Post	2,021	1,895	1,895
Committee	519	632	639
Events	178	1,555	170
Training	125	1,937	937
Apiary	1,183	231	575
Insurance	3,974	1,806	1,806
Donations	1,500	1,500	1,500
Bank charges	293	145	161
Depreciation	925	850	868
Magazines	608	673	541
Total expenses	11,748	11,514	9,657
surplus/(deficit)	3,412	199	(218)

BALANCE SHEET

	2021 GBP	2020 GBP
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	3,003	3,708
Cash	30,470	27,723
Stock	2,922	1,957
Debtors	1,418	2,882
Creditors	(1,313)	(3,182)
Total	36,500	33,088
REPRESENTED BY		
Surplus b/f	33,088	33,306
Profit/(loss) for period	3,412	-218
Total	36,500	33,088

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association on accounts for the twelve months to December 2021 as set out on page 2 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under sections 43 of the Act).
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from us as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 03-02-2022

Name:

Neil Blakemore

Professional qualification or body:

Associate of Institute of Chartered Accountants
England and Wales.

Address:

Moor Farm, High St, Pavenham, Bedford MK43 7NU.

Disclosures:

None to report

BEDFORDSHIRE BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1184466

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st January 2019 To 31st December 2020

Charity name: Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association

Charity registration number: 1184466

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objective of Beds BKA is to preserve the honeybee by furthering the craft of beekeeping and educating the public of the benefit of bees in the environment.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The association provides public benefit by training beekeepers and providing information to the public about beekeeping, honey bees, other pollinators and their importance to the environment via talks, leaflets and displays. This is achieved through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing training courses on beekeeping for members and non-members to learn or improve their knowledge of the craft.• Participating in local craft events and shows; trustees and other members attend to explain the importance of honeybees (and other pollinators) for human and wild life.• Holding an annual Honey Festival where the public can meet beekeepers, be shown hive products and beekeeping equipment and attend talks on bees and their benefits to the environment.• Giving talks to local groups.• Organising talks by expert speakers• Contact with the local media• Involving children through visits to schools <p>The association provides a free public service for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dealing with honey bee swarms• giving advice about swarms• giving advice about solitary and bumble bee nests
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association was awarded CIO status on 17 th July 2019 and transferred from a non-company charity (registered charity number 294005) to this CIO on 1 st November 2019 under a new constitution. For completeness and where appropriate, details prior to the formal transfer to CIO status are included in this report.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The Association had a successful and active year in 2019 and 2020 despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic: 1) Membership in 2020 increased to 548 (2019: 511). 2) Continued support was provided for honey bee research via the project known as 'Eastern Region Research Studentship' (EARS). This is directly sponsoring a PhD Student at Newcastle University to carry out research into why chronic bee paralysis virus is becoming more of an issue. 3) Our programme of training courses for beginner and improver beekeepers was interrupted in March 2020 due to the pandemic. Online workshops were held for members wishing to sit the British Beekeepers Association module exams held in November 2020. Preparations were made to provide an online Introduction to Beekeeping Course for spring 2021; participants of the interrupted 2020 course were either given a refund or free transfer to the 2021 course. 4) Outside events play an important part of our out-reach to the public. In 2019, we attended

		<p>various public events (Woburn Abbey Garden Show, Taste Bedford, Fibre East, Bromham Mill Apple Day) and held a Honey Festival in Woburn Abbey gardens. These attracted considerable public interest and enabled dissemination of information on bees to a wide cross-section of adults and children. Visits were made to 5 schools (nursery and primary) to talk to children about bees and their importance.</p> <p>In 2020, many planned events were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions although the Association pioneered holding the annual Honey Show as a virtual event including show classes for children.</p> <p>5) Autumn and winter talks were held in 2019 (in person) and 2020 (online via zoom). These were open to members and public alike.</p> <p>6) Members provided a swarm capture and swarnn placement service for the public.</p> <p>7) Our District Advisors continued to support members with any beekeeping issues or problems helping to ensure appropriate management and health of members bees.</p> <p>8) Our bulk purchase scheme provides members with the opportunity to obtain beekeeping supplies locally at a reasonable price thereby helping members to care for the bees in their charge..</p> <p>9) In 2019, the Committee appointed a working group to investigate how to enhance outreach to schools and other youth and adult groups. The working group developed a means to improve the interchange of visit request information with such outside groups and a document giving guidance to members who support such events, incorporating safeguarding and risk assessment.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	See attached – accounts for 2019 and 2020
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The association policy is to hold target reserves equivalent to one year's running costs plus an appropriate amount to finance the potential establishment of a beekeeping centre (subject to a 10% tolerance either way). The amounts agreed were GBP 6,500 and GBP 18,000 respectively making a total of GBP 24,500.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	GBP 27,422. This is 1.7% (£472) higher than our upper target reserves due largely to Covid restrictions impacting the associations ability to undertake certain paid activities in the year.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected by members at the AGM; one third of elected trustees must retire at each AGM. At other times, the members or the charity trustees may appoint a new charity trustee as an addition or to fill a vacancy; this trustee must retire at the next AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Bedfordshire Bee Keepers Association
Other name the charity uses	Beds BKA
Registered charity number	1184466
Charity's principal address	30 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, MK19 7DX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole of 2019 & 2020	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Matt Alabaster	Bedford Apiarist		
2	Simon Barrow	Secretary	1Jan19-27Jul20	
3	Gill Brewer	Training Officer	1Jan19-19Aug20	
4	Audrey Buxton	Past President	1Jan19-25Feb20	
5	Peter Bracey	Membership Secretary	1Jan19-23Feb19	
6	David Chapman	NE Beds District Advisor	23Feb19-31Dec20	
7	Fiona Cook	Honey Show Secretary		
8	Dave Corbett	Shefford District Advisor	1Jan19-25Feb20	
9	Anne Cross	Dunstable District Advisor		
10	Richard Dowsett	Biggleswade District Advisor		
11	Fiona Eelbeck	Kempston District Advisor	1Jan19-23Feb19	
12	John Eeuwens		1Jan19-31Dec20	
	Jeremy Freedman		25Feb20-31Dec20	
	Steve Gale		25Feb20-31Dec20	
13	Karen Glasse	Kempston District Advisor	23Feb19-31Dec20	
14	David Goodridge			
15	Colin Hall	Chair		
16	Chris Higham	Treasurer	23Feb19-31Dec20	
17	Christopher Jenkins	Assets Manager		
	Caroline Jordan	Ampthill District Advisor	25Feb20-31Dec20	
18	Paul Lawrence	Communications Officer	1Jan19-25Feb20	
19	Adrian Lake		1Jan19-23Feb19	
20	Rosemary Long	Membership Secretary	23Feb19-31Dec20	
21	Caroline Luxford	Health & Safety Officer		
22	John Macdougall	Publicity and Outdoor Events		
23	Richard Medcalf			
24	Angela Newberry	Librarian		
25	Mike Niemann	Stockwood Apiarist		
26	Maurice O'Connell	Treasurer	1Jan19-23Feb19	
27	Chris Saunders	Lecture & Talks Organiser		
28	Ray Smith	NW Beds District Advisor		
29	Richard Smith	President		
30	Wally Thrale	Sandy District Advisor		
31	Jennie Tysom	Safeguarding Officer		
32	Andrew Ulyett	Yearbook Editor	1Jan19-25Feb20	
33	Helen Vaughan	Assistant Secretary	1Jan19-25Feb20	

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--



Other optional information

--

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Rankin Macdougall	Christopher Higham
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Assistant Secretary	Treasurer
Date	27 th October 2021	

**BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PROFIT/LOSS 2020**

	Actual Full Year 2020 GBP	Actual 2 months to Dec 2019 2019 GBP
REVENUE		
Subscriptions	5,542	916
Bulk purchase scheme	25,752	1,092
Training	530	0
Events	0	0
Apiary sales	1,287	413
Donations	138	0
Interest earned	21	9
Magazines	673	0
Other revenue	0	0
Total revenue	33,943	2,429
COSTS		
Bulk purchase scheme	24,504	1,208
margin %	4.8%	-10.6%
EXPENSES		
Subscriptions	565	0
Print & Post	1,895	78
Committee	639	43
Events	170	345
Training	937	50
Apiary	575	0
Insurance	1,806	0
Donations	1,500	1,500
Bank charges	161	21
Depreciation	868	121
Magazines	541	0
Total expenses	9,658	2,158
surplus/(deficit)	(219)	(937)

BALANCE SHEET

	2020 GBP	2019 GBP
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	3,708	3,539
Cash	27,723	26,741
Stock	1,957	4,711
Debtors	2,882	1,539
Creditors	(3,183)	(3,224)
Total	33,086	33,306
REPRESENTED BY		
Surplus b/f	33,306	34,243
Profit/(loss) for period	(219)	(937)
Total	33,086	33,306

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association on accounts for the twelve months to December 2020 as set out on page 2 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under sections 43 of the Act).
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from us as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 03-02-2021

Name: NEIL JAMES BLAKEMORE

Professional qualification or body: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (ACA)

Address: MOOR FARM, HIGH STREET, PINNENHAM, BEDFORD MK43 7NU.

Disclosures: None to report

COMBINED POSITION OF BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 2019

The charity transitioned to a new CIO during 2019 and commenced activity on 1st November. The figures below are for memo purposes only to show the 2019 full year position relating to the charity's activities in the year. This covers the now removed charity (registration number 249005) and the new CIO (registration number 1184466).

**BEDFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PROFIT/LOSS 2019**

CHARITY NUMBER	294005 Actual To 31st Oct 2019 GBP	1184466 Actual Post 31st Oct 2019 GBP	Actual Full year 2019 GBP	294005 Actual full year 2018 GBP
REVENUE				
Subscriptions	4,377	916	5,293	5,257
Bulk purchase scheme	18,437	1,092	19,529	20,480
Training	3,430	-	3,430	2,700
Events	136	-	136	808
Apiary sales	1,408	413	1,821	1,591
Donations	36	-	36	51
Interest earned	27	9	36	19
Magazines	700	-	700	981
Other revenue	40	-	40	15
Total revenue	28,592	2,429	31,020	31,902
COSTS				
Bulk purchase scheme margin %	17,164 6.9%	1,208 -10.6%	18,372 7.1%	19,218 6.2%
EXPENSES				
Subscriptions	250	-	250	517
Print & Post	1,579	78	1,657	2,412
Committee	476	43	518	326
Events	1,077	345	1,422	2,832
Training	1,518	50	1,568	1,589
Apiary	722	-	722	668
Insurance	1,897	-	1,897	1,339
Donations	136	1,500	1,636	1,500
Bank charges	108	21	129	147
Depreciation	674	121	795	963
Magazines	640	-	640	973
Total expenses	9,076	2,158	11,234	13,265
surplus/(deficit)	2,352	(937)	1,415	(582)

BALANCE SHEET*

	31st Oct 2019 GBP	31st Dec 2019 GBP	31st Dec 2018 GBP
ASSETS			
fixed assets	3,660	3,539	3,862
cash	24,782	26,741	25,904
stock	4,184	4,711	4,735
debtors	4,717	1,539	494
creditors	(3,100)	(3,224)	(3,104)
Total	34,243	33,306	31,891
REPRESENTED BY			
surplus b/f / assets transferred in	31,891	34,243	32,473
Profit/(loss) for period	2,352	(937)	(582)
Total	34,243	33,306	31,891

*Balance sheet at 31st October is shown prior to the transfer of assets from charity number 294005 to 1184466

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association on accounts for the two months to December 2019 as set out on page 2 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under sections 43 of the Act).
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from us as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

3. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
4. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 14-02-2020

Name: NEIL JAMES BLAMORE

Professional qualification or body: (CHARTERED) ACCOUNTANT, MEMBER OF ICAEW.

Address: MOOR FARM, HIGH ST, BEDFORD MK43 7NU.

Disclosures: None to report

Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association – Annual Return for 2019-2020
Notes for Examiner Report

Account examiner reports are included in the same PDF as the accounts.

The accounts PDF contains:

- Full year 2020 accounts
- Examiner report for 2020 accounts
- full year 2019 accounts, divided into pre- and post-transfer to CIO (CIO status was awarded on 7th July 2019 but the Association transferred officially on 1st November 2019)
- Examiner report for 2019 accounts