

Charity Registration Number: 1193201

NORTH DORSET BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 September 2024

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

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North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mr Robert Baird - Chair Mr Mark Burnell (Appointed 6 December 2023) Mrs Lesley Gasson Mr Gordon Grant Mr Julian Grazebrook Mr James Nalty (Resigned 19 March 2024) Mr Terence Payne Mr Grant Stenhouse (Appointed 4 June 2024) Mr Tim Villiers (Resigned 6 December 2023)
Principal Office	The White House, Shillingstone, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0SF
Charity Registration Number	1193201
Bankers	Lloyds Bank, Blandford Branch, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT
Independent Examiner	Mr Peter Robbins FCA 25 Edwina Drive, Poole, Dorset BH17 7JG

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Objectives

The North Dorset Beekeepers Association aims to advance the education of the public and existing beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and the importance of bees in the environment. It provides basic and advanced training in accordance with the policies of the British Beekeepers Association, keeps qualified members up to date with current thinking and good practice, and attends local events to help educate the general public about the importance of bees in the environment and the threats they face.

Trustees

Trustees are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting held in November. The Chair of Trustees is elected at the first Trustees Meeting following the AGM.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or benefits.

Organisation and Governance

The routine management of Association activities is delegated to a Management Committee. An additional sub-committee, The New Apiary Working Group, was also established by the Trustees to exercise close control over the raising of funds and construction of the proposed Honey Bee Centre.

As part of the progression towards the creation of a new apiary, and in consideration of increased community engagement at the Centre, involving people from a wider range of backgrounds and age groups, the Safeguarding Policy for vulnerable adults and children has been updated, and a new Health and Safety Policy introduced.

Review of Current Association Status and Future Development

The Association's current activities are limited by the size and location of the teaching apiary. To rectify this, the Association has signed a 25-year lease agreement for land near the existing apiary, and obtained planning permission to erect a new building for training and related purposes. It will be called the North Dorset Honey Bee Centre and will have the teaching apiary and parking located adjacent to the building, so that future tuition will all be on one site. This will enable the Association to reach out into the community, introducing more people to bees and beekeeping and the impact bees have on our daily life, food security, and biodiversity. At the same time, it will remove access limitations caused by the physically demanding route to the current teaching apiary and the lack of facilities on the site.

The Association has raised over £80,000 during this financial year from grants and donations made by charitable trusts, foundations, local government, businesses, and individuals. Of this, £66,288 is included within the Financial Statements and firm commitments have been received for £17,600

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Trustees' Report

which will be paid upon completion of specific work schedules. At the year end, further grant requests remain in the pipeline. This generosity has allowed the Trustees to commit funds to start work on the building. Construction will start in early October 2024. To date reserves committed to this project stand at £132,303 (excluding funds committed but not received). Our project fundraising target is £200,000. We hope to open the new building in late summer 2025.

Review of Activities of the Association

In planning our activities, we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The main activities of the Association are:

Training

A number of formal training courses, for which fees are charged, are run to:

- provide future beekeepers with the practical experience and theoretical knowledge to manage bees in a sustainable manner throughout the year.
- improve the knowledge of existing beekeepers on current best practice, good husbandry and pests and diseases.
- give students the knowledge required to sit the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) theoretical advanced modular exams. The modules (7 in total) cover various aspects of beekeeping such as bee management, pests and diseases, bee biology, etc. Courses covering these modules are run by North Dorset BKA instructors for the benefit of all Dorset registered beekeepers.

Examples of training include:

Beginners and Second Year Course

- The annual Beginners Course was held from April - August 2024, following our established format, with 30 new beekeepers as students; an additional 4 potential new beekeepers also attended the Introduction Day. The Second Year Course was attended by 13 beekeepers.
- The Association continues to be indebted to the tutors and other volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort into making the programme such a success.

Modules (written examinations)

- Two separate courses were prepared and run for Module 1, delivered in Dorchester and in Iwerne Minster.
- A course for Module 2 was held in Blandford, and one for Module 5 was held in Shillingstone.
- An aggregate of 65 students attended these courses.

The written examinations will be held this November with four Dorset members sitting the exams for three different modules.

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Trustees' Report

Bee Experience Days

In response to the interest in bees and honey production shown by visitors to our stands at public events, the association organised three Bee Experience Days in 2024. Attendees were introduced in a 'hands on manner' to the basics of beekeeping through a short lecture, followed by a visit to the teaching apiary to open a hive and gain an understanding of how bees behave, collect pollen and nectar (to produce honey) and reproduce. 44 people paid a fee to attend these days; a number of the attendees have subsequently applied to do the Beginners Course.

Lectures

Over the winter months, the association has organised evening lectures on beekeeping related subjects.

Public Interaction

Shows

In the past 12 months, the association has participated in a number of local agricultural shows and community events.

- The largest of these, the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show, included live bee observation hives, beeswax candle rolling, and information displays, over a two-day period, as well as providing an opportunity for the public to learn about and purchase pure local honey.
- A very successful Honey Show was also held in the marquee in association with the displays.
- A smaller display was provided over two days at the Spring Countryside Show on the Turnpike Showground.
- Talks were given to several village gardening clubs and other community groups.
- Displays and talks were provided for children at "bee-themed" mornings at local libraries in the summer holidays.
- A honey information display and sales point was mounted over two days at the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival in September.

Rescues

Members of the Association have responded to many requests from the general public to help with swarms and established bee colonies; in a number of cases we have cut out bee nests from the fabric of buildings, often in response to these being discovered by builders undertaking renovation work. No charge is made for this work, although donations for the new apiary are welcomed. As the Association's reputation for providing an efficient and friendly service has grown, so too the number of requests for this public service has increased.

General Information

- The local and free New Blackmore Vale Magazine is published in both paper and electronic form, and the association has provided regular articles on bees and beekeeping. These have charted beekeeping activities as the year progressed and have been well received.

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Trustees' Report

- Asian hornets are a massive threat to bees and all other pollinating insects; they are now well established on Continental Europe and the Channel Isles and are attempting to establish themselves in the United Kingdom. Information displays have been mounted to alert the public to this danger and to enlist their help in spotting these invaders. The Association's Asian Hornet Action Team has responded to two requests from DEFRA/National Bee Unit to check on possible sightings of these insects in North Dorset – traps were set and monitored over many days; happily, both were false alarms.

All these activities are of direct benefit to the public and no charges are made, except for attendance on formal courses to cover the equipment costs incurred.

Summary

It has been a busy year, but the association is at the limit of the activities it can undertake, principally because inaccessibility and inadequacy of facilities at our apiary restricts the amount of teaching and familiarisation that can be undertaken. Trustees are delighted by the successful fundraising this year, and that a commitment could be made to commence construction work at our new site in early October 2024. Efforts to raise funds will continue in the coming year, and we plan to finish building the Honey Bee Centre and move the apiary to its new site by the end of summer 2025.

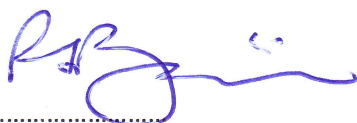
We are grateful for the many hours volunteers have spent raising funds on their own and assisting at local shows and events.

Review of Finances

The charity had an income during the year of £79,532 and is eligible for independent examination.

All income received by Association, whether from ongoing operations or from donations, are credited to the general reserves. At the start of the Fundraising Project in 2023 the Trustees agreed that all surplus funds in excess of £5,000 should be transferred to a designated reserve which will be used to fund the Honey Bee Centre and relocate the existing teaching apiary. A retained balance of £5,000 in the general reserve was deemed sufficient at the time to meet the annual working capital requirements of the Association; the Trustees will review this annually. At a Trustee's meeting on 22 October 2024, the trustees approved the transfer of £79,532 from general reserve to the designated reserve fund.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 22 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Robert J Baird

Chair of Trustees

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of North Dorset Beekeepers Association

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

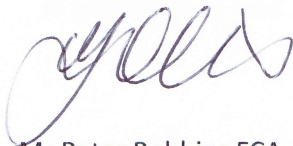
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr Peter Robbins FCA
25 Edwina Drive, Poole, Dorset BH17 7JG
Date: 14 October 2024

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£ Designated	£ General	£ Designated	£ General
Income					
Donations and Legacies	2	-	66,288	-	18,222
Investment Income	3	-	2,433	-	243
Membership Income		-	5,824	-	5,809
Training Income		-	10,408	-	6,938
Fund raising and Beekeeping Activities	4	-	6,139	-	6,525
Total Income		-	91,092	-	37,737
Expenditure					
Membership Costs		-	4,123	-	4,045
Cost of Fundraising and Beekeeping Activities		-	7,437	-	7,213
Legal Fees			-	1,595	-
Total Expenditure	5	-	11,560	1,595	11,258
Net Movement in Funds		-	79,532	(1,595)	26,479
Reconciliation of Movement in Funds					
Total Funds Brought Forward		52,771	5,000	19,187	13,700
Transfer		79,532	(79,532)	35,179	(35,179)
Total Funds Carried Forward	9	<u>132,303</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>52,771</u>	<u>5,000</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 September 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets			
Bank	8	<u>139,409</u>	<u>59,330</u>
		<u>139,409</u>	<u>59,330</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>2,106</u>	<u>1,559</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>137,303</u>	<u>57,771</u>
Net Assets		<u>137,303</u>	<u>57,771</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted – General		5,000	5,000
Unrestricted – Designated		<u>132,303</u>	<u>52,771</u>
Total Funds	10	<u>137,303</u>	<u>57,771</u>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 14 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 22 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr RJ Baird
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis of preparation

North Dorset Beekeepers Association meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Income including membership, beekeeping activities, donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding are of a general nature and are recognised only when the charity has received the income.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2024

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and Legacies		
Appeals and donations	66,288	17,856
Legacies	-	366
	<u>66,288</u>	<u>18,222</u>

Appeals and donations include donations from general public and also income tax recovered from HMRC. Income from subscriptions includes gross contribution by members for county and national beekeepers membership and insurance.

3 Investment Income

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Bank Interest	<u>2,433</u>	<u>243</u>

4 Income from activities for generating funds

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fund raising activities	258	1,953
Sale of Produce	<u>5,881</u>	<u>4,572</u>
	<u>6,139</u>	<u>6,525</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2024

5 Total Resources Expended

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General Funds		
Cost of Membership to National Associations and insurance	4,123	4,045
Cost of apiary supplies	827	854
Cost of products sold	2,270	3,327
Venue Hire for lectures and tuition	990	907
Cost of Events	473	1,007
Consultancy and Other Training	2,197	119
General	680	999
Total General Resources Expended	<u>11,560</u>	<u>11,258</u>
Designated Funds		
Legal Fees	-	1,595
Total Designated Funds Expended	<u>-</u>	<u>1,595</u>
Total Funds Expended	<u>11,560</u>	<u>12,853</u>

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustee, nor any person connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

Trustees are reimbursed for expenses which they have incurred directly on behalf of the charity and are paid for any produce which they supply to the charity and which is sold at the events which are attended by the charity.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2024

8 Bank

	2024 £	2023 £
Lloyds Bank Current	482	2,330
Lloyds Bank – Instant Access Interest Bearing	24,544	57,000
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	114,383	-
	<u>139,409</u>	<u>59,330</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due in one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts received from members and due to the regional and national beekeeping associations and for insurance	1,256	1,309
Deposits received for bee suits used by members	250	250
Accruals	600	-
	<u>2,106</u>	<u>1,559</u>

10 Funds

	Balance at 1 October 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer £	Balance at 30 September 2024 £
Unrestricted					
General	5,000	90,026	12,927	(79,532)	5,000
Designated	52,771	-	-	79,532	132,303
	<u>57,771</u>	<u>90,026</u>	<u>12,927</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,303</u>

11 Capital Commitments

A commitment had been made before the year end to commence the construction of the Honey Bee Centre in Shillingstone, Dorset. Orders had been placed for £50,210 to cover Phase 1 of the construction project, which involved preliminary groundworks and drainage. Work will commence in early October. Quotes have been received for the complete project, which will cost in total approximately £200,000.