

SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1206483

Details

Other names SBKA

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2024-01-10

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

Contact

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Website www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC AND BEEKEEPERS IN THE CRAFT OF BEEKEEPING AND PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

Activities: Somerset Beekeepers Association (SBKA) is one of over 60 County Beekeeping associations and whose purpose is to advance the education of the public and beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and to promote the importance of bees in the environment. The SBKA has 12 branches covering Somerset. All offer local training programmes and events to its members and to the public.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£124,002	£107,887	-	-
2024-09-30	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Simon Mills	Chair	2024-01-10
Andrew Dobson		2024-01-10
Barry Hulatt		2024-11-23
Dr Lance Stuart Moir		2025-06-12
Jane Ellen Jeanes		2024-01-10
Lynne Thorne		2024-01-10
Neil Geoffrey Alexander Wellum		2024-01-10
Paul James		2024-04-04
Philip Burton		2024-01-10
Richard Cottrell		2024-11-21
Suzette Perkins		2024-01-10
VANESSA WOODFORD		2024-01-10

SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1206483

Accounts



SBKA CIO
Report and Accounts of the
Trustees
for the Year ended 30 September 2025
(charity no. 1206483)

Somerset Beekeepers Association

Trustees Report for the Year ended 30 September 2025

The Trustees present their Report for the year from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 for the CIO charity no. 1206483.

1. Reference and administrative information

Somerset Beekeepers Association (SBKA) has been in existence since 1906 and it became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 10 January 2024 (CIO no. 1206483). This is the first year in which the SBKA CIO is filing a full set of consolidated accounts after all assets and liabilities transferred over from the former SBKA registered charity (no. 277803) on 1 October 2024. The figures shown in these accounts for 2024 were the results for the former charity and are shown for comparison.

The SBKA CIO has 16 Trustees, 4 being Ex-officio comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and 12 being nominated by the 12 Branches of the CIO. The Trustees during the year ended 30 September 2025 were as follows (*changes during the reporting period are shown in italics*):

Ex-officio Trustees

Simon Mills	Chairman (appointed 10 January 2024)
Vanessa Woodford	Vice-chairman (appointed 10 January 2024)
<i>Richard Edbrook</i>	<i>former Treasurer (stood down May 2025)</i>
Lance Moir	Treasurer (Trustee appointed 12 June 2025)
<i>Candy Worf</i>	<i>former Secretary (left SBKA March 2025)</i>
Neil Wellum	Secretary (appointed 8 March 2025)

Branch Trustees

<i>Richard Tiley</i>	<i>Burnham & District - stood down 21 November 2024</i>
Richard Cottrell	nominated by Burnham & District 21 November 2024
Lynne Thorne	nominated by Central
<i>Neil Wellum</i>	<i>Exmoor - stood down 8/3/25</i>
vacancy	Exmoor from 8 March to 30 September 2025
John Plaxton	nominated by Frome and District
Frederick Chaytors	nominated by Mendip
Barry Hulatt	nominated by Quantock 23 November 2024
Suzy Perkins	nominated by Somerton and District
Jane Jeanes	nominated by South-east
Philip Burton	nominated by South-west
Paul James	nominated by Taunton and District
Nicola Grass	nominated by Wedmore and Cheddar
Andy Dobson	nominated by Yeovil and District

2. Structure, governance and management

The responsibilities of the Trustees are set out in the SBKA Operation Guide and Handbook. The Trustees meet regularly and manage the day to day and seasonal requirements of the CIO and ensure

it is furthering the purpose of the charity for the benefit of beekeepers and the public. That purpose is “to advance the education of the public and beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and to promote the importance of bees in the environment”.

During the reporting period, there were 5 trustees' board meetings and two general meetings held.

The SBKA is organised for administrative purposes into 12 Branches as follows: Burnham and District, Central, Exmoor, Frome and District, Mendip, Quantock, Somerton and District, South-eastern, South-western, Taunton and District, Wedmore and Cheddar, Yeovil and District. These may be added to or modified at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

3. Overview of the year's activities

3.1 Membership

At 30 September 2025, membership was 1,175 (2024: 1,224). This includes voting and non-voting members. Registered, partner and country members have voting rights. The other member categories do not. Two SBKA Honorary members, who are not members of the BBKA, are also entitled to vote. Based on the 2025 Autumn return, the voting membership is distributed across the Branches as follows:

Branch	2025	2024
Burnham and District	40	36
Central	49	36
Exmoor	75	68
Frome and district	72	68
Mendip	46	40
Quantock	75	66
Somerton and District	162	154
South-eastern	67	65
South-western	31	26
Taunton and District	166	157
Wedmore and Cheddar	33	32
Yeovil and District	78	73
Totals	894	821

3.2 Financial review

No restricted donations were received for research and no research projects were funded during the year. Total restricted funds total £8,442, of which £530 relate to New Leaf to support beginner beekeepers and the rest to fund research.

The net surplus for the year was £16,125 (2024: £20,879). The major changes this year were an increase of surplus at county level of £10,324 (2024: £6,393) due to lower expenditure in this transition year and the substantial expenditure on an extension to the apiary by Somerton Branch.

The County's Investment and Reserves policy is to hold a General Operating Reserve of £15,000 based on one year's expenditure plus a provision for an anticipate invasive species attack. As at 30th September 2025 the County's unrestricted reserves stood at £40,744. County anticipates a substantial spend on an

improved its platform during 2025-27. Branches have been encouraged to set operating reserves based on one year's income.

Purchase of assets

During the year some Branches bought equipment for use by their members £20,810 in total (2024: £990). Additionally ongoing repairs and maintenance are expensed. All branches are well financed and liquid.

3.3 Activities

The SBKA has been active both centrally and throughout its 12 local branches during the reporting period.

The SBKA's education officers have continued to run online study groups for members regarding the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) study modules. These groups also extend to beekeepers from other areas. The Annual Lecture Day took place in February and was well attended. Former online educational lectures remained free to access for members and were generally available throughout the UK and abroad. Some 9 school visits were undertaken and some 27 lectures were given to gardening groups and similar.

A number of members have been successful in obtaining BBKA qualifications this year, including the basic assessment and a range of BBKA theory modules. One member was awarded the advanced theory certificate and one was awarded an Intermediate theory certificate.

Introduction to beekeeping courses for beginners were run by 10 SBKA Branches, training some 200 people, of whom more than 10% are known to have gone on to keep bees. Notable amongst these were a number of Royal Marine Commandos from the Norton Manor Camp, where an apiary has been installed with the help and guidance of Taunton Branch members to help promote education and welfare. A number of Branches also ran 'taster days' for people who might be interested in taking the course.

Considerable emphasis continues to be given to SBKA's preparedness to respond effectively in the event that Yellow-legged (Asian) hornets (YLH) and their nests are found in Somerset. Two nests have been found and destroyed as close as Hampshire and Dorset in 2025. All Branches have Asian hornet action teams (AHATs). Under the guidance of our Asian hornet co-ordinator, a training day was held for AHAT members. The teams also undertake their own training, including monitoring for the presence of hornets and learning to mark them and track them to find their nests. Advisory leaflets and other literature continue to be widely circulated through Branch events across the county. The SBKA is looking to develop more cost-effective ways to produce YLH monitoring equipment and bait with the help of some of its most experienced members. The environmental risks associated with YLH have also been drawn to the attention of County Councillors and a local MP, a small number of members going on to visit the Houses of Parliament to discuss the problem and the wider challenges facing bees and beekeepers.

Numerous town and village shows and fairs were also attended across the county, including the Royal Bath and West Show, Taunton Flower Show, Mid-Somerset Show, as well as shows and events in Bridgwater, Castle Cary, Dunster, Frome, Somerton and many more. At the Royal Bath and West Show, the SBKA won the coveted Challenge Shield, narrowly beating Wiltshire, and there were also the highest number of competition entries, with over 400 exhibits displayed on the show benches. A number of Branches also ran their own Honey Shows which are open to the public and where there are judge competitions in relation to honey, beeswax and other related products. All these events provide opportunities to inform the public about bees and beekeeping. Supervised observation hives are often on display.

The Branches also undertook a large number of social activities for members, including apiary visits, educational lectures, bee teas, annual dinners, etc. All such events provide an opportunity to talk about beekeeping and promote the craft. Some practical sessions were undertaken to improve skills regarding beeswax, candle-making and skep making.

The SBKA introduced its own safeguarding policy this year, drawing heavily on the BBKA's version. At the time of submitting this report, the SBKA is starting to undertake a review of its other policies. A more detailed description of Branch activities can be found in the attached Annex to this report.

3.4 Future activities

The standard range of activities will continue in 2026. Asian hornet response preparedness will continue to be a high priority, in keeping with national activity across the country.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Lance Moir

Lance Moir – Treasurer
Somerset Beekeepers' Association

23 January 2026

Somerset Beekeepers Association (charity no. 1206483)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Somerset Beekeepers'
Association
for the Year ended 30 September 2025**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Somerset Beekeepers Association

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Somerset Beekeepers Association (the Charity) for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 2011 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; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I 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.

Joshua Kingston

Joshua Kingston BSc (Hons) ACA
Burton Sweet Limited
The Clock Tower
5 Farleigh Court
Old Weston Road
Flax Bourton
Bristol BS48 1UR

23 January 2026

SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION								
Accounts for Year Ended 30 September 2025								
	COUNTY			DIVISIONS			CONSOLIDATED	
	2025			2025			2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income	General	Restricted	Total	General	Restricted	Total	Total	Total
Subscriptions								
Subs - SBKA & Divisions	14,410	-	14,410	7,350	-	7,350	21,760	22,311
BBKA Capitation	-	18,347	18,347	-	-	-	18,347	17,461
Divisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BDI	-	-	-	25	-	25	25	446
Research	-	1,001	1,001	-	-	-	1,001	1,333
Magazines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	958
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
Donations								
General Funds	175	-	175	1,245	-	1,245	1,420	1,789
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,976
Fundraising								
Advertising/Sponsorships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	2,070	-	2,070	2,070	-
Auctions/ events	-	-	-	7,364	-	7,364	7,364	10,622
Gift Aid								
	-	-	-	10,477	-	10,477	10,477	10,235
Bank Interest	578	-	578	2,066	-	2,066	2,644	1,957
Educational Activities								
AHAT/SWBKF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,335
Lectures	2,358	-	2,358	50	-	50	2,408	2,320
Courses	-	-	-	16,064	-	16,064	16,064	14,054
Exam Refunds etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honey and other shows								
Bath & West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
County/Divisional Honey Shows	-	-	-	9,348	-	9,348	9,348	6,200
Other shows	-	-	-	486	-	486	486	2,461
Other shows	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Member Activities								
Apiary meetings	-	-	-	762	-	762	762	1,180
AGM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Committee meetings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newsletters	-	-	-	29	-	29	29	-
Year books/ badges	62	-	62	8	-	8	70	-
Equipment sales/hire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunches	-	-	-	1,074	-	1,074	1,074	51
Apiary								
Asian Hornet	-	-	-	45	-	45	45	-
Honey & fondant sales	-	-	-	10,869	-	10,869	10,869	6,939
Equipment sales/hire	-	-	-	17,394	-	17,394	17,394	7,253
Donations	-	-	-	20	-	20	20	70
Buildings								
Room hire	-	-	-	50	-	50	50	150
other income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	133
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Website/ IT/Social Media								
General Administration								
Misc Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	275	-	275	275	58
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	17,583	19,348	36,931	87,071	-	87,071	124,002	113,557
TOTAL INCOME	£ 17,583	£ 19,348	£ 36,931	£ 87,071	£ -	£ 87,071	£ 124,002	£ 113,557

SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION									
Accounts for Year Ended 30 September 2025									
	COUNTY 2025			DIVISIONS 2025			CONSOLIDATED		
	£ General	£ Restricted	£ Total	£ General	£ Restricted	£ Total	£ Total	£ Total	
Expenditure									
Subscriptions									
BBKA	£ -	£ 18,305	£ 18,305			£ -	£ 18,305	£ 19,135	
SBKA	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
Divisional	£ -	£ -	£ -			£ -	£ -	£ -	
BDI	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 30		£ 30	£ 30	£ -	
Research	£ -	£ -	£ -			£ -	£ -	£ 2,784	
Magazines	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ 955	
Other JCC	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ 248	
Projects /Donations									
Donations & bees for developme	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
Project* 2 Costs				£ 208		£ 208	£ 208	£ 50	
Badges			£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
New Leaf		£ -	£ -			£ -	£ -	£ 502	
Fundraising									
BBKA IYBM			£ -			£ -	£ -	£ -	
Grants		£ -	£ -			£ -	£ -	£ -	
Auctions/ events			£ -	£ 7,856		£ 7,856	£ 7,856	£ 10,105	
Gift Aid									
Bank Charges	£ 60		£ 60	£ 370		£ 370	£ 430	£ 404	
Educational A AHAT	£ -	£ -	£ -			£ -	£ -	£ 5,749	
EFB			£ -			£ -	£ -	£ -	
Lectures	£ 3,517		£ 3,517	£ 217		£ 217	£ 3,734	£ 1,126	
Courses			£ -	£ 4,137		£ 4,137	£ 4,137	£ 3,663	
Exam Refunds etc	£ 720		£ 720	£ 207		£ 207	£ 927	£ 591	
Honey and other shows									
Bath & West	£ 1,000		£ 1,000			£ -	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	
County/Divisional Honey Shows	£ 170		£ 170	£ 5,468		£ 5,468	£ 5,638	£ 4,700	
Other shows			£ -	£ 346		£ 346	£ 346	£ 1,233	
National Honey Show membersh	£ -		£ -			£ -	£ -	£ -	
Member Activities									
Apiary meetings			£ -	£ 1,749		£ 1,749	£ 1,749	£ 2,385	
Lecture day costs	£ -		£ -			£ -	£ -	£ -	
AGM	£ -		£ -			£ -	£ -	£ 328	
Committee meetings	£ 649		£ 649	£ 784		£ 784	£ 1,433	£ 720	
Newsletters			£ -	£ 28		£ 28	£ 28	£ 212	
Year books/ communications	£ 152		£ 152	£ 402		£ 402	£ 554	£ 89	
Special Awards	£ -		£ -	£ 59		£ 59	£ 59	£ 24	
Lunches/Dinners			£ -	£ 1,234		£ 1,234	£ 1,234	£ -	
Apiary									
Asian Hornet	£ -		£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
Maintenance & Repair			£ -	£ 1,168		£ 1,168	£ 1,168	£ 1,419	
Equipment purchases etc			£ -	£ 21,063	£ -	£ 21,063	£ 21,063	£ 13,349	
Fondant costs			£ -	£ 6,221		£ 6,221	£ 6,221	£ 3,173	
Utilities/Rent/Insurance			£ -	£ 2,698		£ 2,698	£ 2,698	£ 1,980	
Other			£ -			£ -	£ -	£ -	
Buildings									
Utilities/Rent			£ -	£ 532		£ 532	£ 532	£ 902	
Maintenance & Repair			£ -	£ 2,682		£ 2,682	£ 2,682	£ 1,170	
Insurance			£ -	£ 1,435		£ 1,435	£ 1,435	£ 1,304	
Website/ IT	£ 876		£ 876			£ -	£ 876	£ 837	
General Administration									
Treasurers & Secretaries Expenses				£ 1,104		£ 1,104	£ 1,104	£ 853	
Insurance	£ -		£ -	£ 168		£ 168	£ 168	£ 701	
Postage & Stationery/Manuals			£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
Misc	£ -		£ -	£ 294		£ 294	£ 294	£ 4,374	
Accounting review	£ 1,158		£ 1,158			£ -	£ 1,158	£ 180	
Sub Total	£ 8,302	£ 18,305	£ 26,607	£ 60,460	£ -	£ 60,460	£ 87,067	£ 91,688	
Asset/ Investment Purchases									
Exmoor				£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 200	
Burnham				£ 3,968		£ 3,968	£ 3,968	£ -	
Taunton				£ 600		£ 600	£ 600	£ 300	
Somerton				£ 16,042		£ 16,042	£ 16,042	£ -	
Mendip						£ -	£ -	£ -	
Frome				£ 200		£ 200	£ 200	£ 490	
Central				£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 8,302	£ 18,305	£ 26,607	£ 81,270	£ -	£ 81,270	£ 107,877	£ 92,678	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	£ 9,281	£ 1,043	£ 10,324	£ 5,801	£ -	£ 5,801	£ 16,125	£ 20,879	
BALANCE OF FUNDS B/FWD	£ 33,358	£ 5,504	£ 38,862	£ 173,264	£ -	£ 173,264	£ 212,126	£ 191,247	
Trabsfer between funds	- 1,895	1,895							
BALANCE OF FUNDS C/FWD	£ 40,744	£ 8,442	£ 49,186	£ 179,065	£ -	£ 179,065	£ 228,251	£ 212,126	

SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION				
Accounts for Year Ended 30 September 2025				
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th September 2025				
<i>Cash Funds 2025</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>2024</i>
County	£ 40,744	£ 8,442	£ 49,186	£ 38,862
Burnham	£ 9,271	£ -	£ 9,271	£ 12,604
Central	£ 12,459	£ -	£ 12,459	£ 9,975
Exmoor	£ 15,217	£ -	£ 15,217	£ 12,020
Frome	£ 21,169	£ -	£ 21,169	£ 18,910
Mendip	£ 12,756	£ -	£ 12,756	£ 12,110
Quantock	£ 14,555	£ -	£ 14,555	£ 13,349
Somerton	£ 11,803	£ -	£ 11,803	£ 19,104
South East	£ 4,208	£ -	£ 4,208	£ 4,486
South West	£ 5,749	£ -	£ 5,749	£ 5,832
Taunton	£ 41,227	£ -	£ 41,227	£ 36,918
Wedmore	£ 14,096	£ -	£ 14,096	£ 13,288
Yeovil	£ 16,555	£ -	£ 16,555	£ 14,669
Total	£ 219,809	£ 8,442	£ 228,251	£ 212,126
RESTRICTED FUNDS INCLUDED IN BALANCE C/FWD	c/fwd			
Research	7,912			
New Leaf	530			
	£ 8,442			

Other assets

The Charity owns, through its Divisions, equipment for the use by members such as bee suits, extractors, hive equipment etc. Some Divisions own an apiary site and building and all the equipment and bees thereon. Display and promotion equipment are owned by Divisions and County. The overall value for of these assets is estimated at £484,388 (2024: £522,854). There has been a complete re-evaluation of asset values this year and so figures are not directly comparable.

Liabilities

At the year end, no liabilities were noted:

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 23 January 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

Lance Moir

Lance Moir – Treasurer
Somerset Beekeepers' Association

Somerset Beekeepers' Association Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2025

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Restricted funds

Funds which have been donated for special purposes, being bee research, cannot be used for general purposes without the prior written agreement of the members. Educational funds relate to grants which the charity has restricted for that use.

Branch funds are restricted for the use by the Branch and cannot be used by any other branch or county without members' agreement.

3. General funds and reserves

The Trustees have a policy to hold central reserves for general use of a minimum of £15,000, being sufficient to cover general expenditure in the event of an emergency.

4. Trustees' Liability Insurance

Insurance costs in respect of Trustee Liability are paid for by the British Beekeepers' Association.

Contact information

Chairman

Simon Mills

chair@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Treasurer

Lance Moir

treasurer@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Website:

<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk>

Charity Registered address:

c/o Secretary
16, Millands Lane
Kilve
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA5 1ED

SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1206483

Accounts



SBKA CIO
Report and Accounts of the
Trustees
for the Year ended 30 September 2024
(CIO charity no. 1206483)

Somerset Beekeepers Association
Trustees Report
for the Year ended 30 September 2024

The Trustees present their Report for the year from 10 January 2024 to 30 September 2024 for the CIO charity no. 1206483.

1. Reference and administrative information

Somerset Beekeepers Association (SBKA) has been in existence since 1906. During the reporting period it made the change from being a registered charity (no.277803) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with effect from 10 January 2024 (CIO no. 1206483). The new CIO charity is taking over the assets and liabilities of the old charity in stages such that the effective date of transfer was 1 October 2024. Thus, for the reporting period, all financial activities remained with the old registered charity (no. 277803). The new CIO charity (no.1206483) accordingly is filing nil accounts.

The SBKA CIO has 16 Trustees, 4 being Ex-officio comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and 12 being nominated by the 12 Branches of the CIO. The Trustees during the year ended 30 September 2024 were as follows:

Ex-officio Trustees

Simon Mills	Chairman (appointed 10 January 2024)
Vanessa Woodford	Vice-chairman (appointed 10 January 2024)
Peter Derbyshire	Treasurer (appointed 10 January 2024, resigned June 2024)
Richard Edbrook	Treasurer (appointed June 2024, resigned May 2025)
Maggie Norris	Secretary (appointed 10 January 2024, resigned June 2024)
Candy Worf	Secretary (appointed June 2024, resigned March 2025)

Branch Trustees

Richard Tiley	nominated by Burnham and District
Lynne Thorne	nominated by Central
Neil Wellum	nominated by Exmoor
John Plaxton	nominated by Frome and District
Frederick Chaytors	nominated by Mendip
Barry Hulatt	nominated by Quantock
Suzy Perkins	nominated by Somerton and District
Jane Jeanes	nominated by South-east
Philip Burton	nominated by South-west
Andy Glendinning	nominated by Taunton and District (stood down 16 March 2024)
Paul James	nominated by Taunton and District (appointed circa Apr. 2024)
Nicola Grass	nominated by Wedmore and Cheddar
Andy Dobson	nominated by Yeovil and District

The Branch nominated Trustees were appointed by the Ex-officio Trustees on 15th February 2024.

2. Structure, governance and management

The responsibilities of the Trustees are set out in the SBKA Operation Guide and Handbook. The Trustees meet regularly and manage the day to day and seasonal requirements of the CIO and ensure it is furthering the purpose of the charity for the benefit of beekeepers and the public. That purpose is *“to advance the education of the public and beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and to promote the importance of bees in the environment”*.

The SBKA is organised for administrative purposes into Branches as follows: Burnham and District, Central, Exmoor, Frome and District, Mendip, Quantock, Somerton and District, South-eastern, South-western, Taunton and District, Wedmore and Cheddar, Yeovil and District. These may be added to or modified at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

3. Overview of the year's activities

3.1 Membership

At the time of reporting, current membership stands at 1,075. This includes voting and non-voting members. Registered, partner and country members have voting rights. The other member categories do not. Two SBKA Honorary members, who are not members of the BBKA, are also entitled to vote. Based on the 2025 Spring Return, the voting membership is distributed across the Branches as follows:

Branch	2025	2024
Burnham and District	36	45
Central	36	38
Exmoor	68	70
Frome and district	68	69
Mendip	40	37
Quantock	66	66
Somerton and District	154	162
South-eastern	65	64
South-western	26	34
Taunton and District	157	156
Wedmore and Cheddar	32	35
Yeovil and District	73	83
Totals	821	859

3.2 Financial review

The CIO inherited assets totalling £212,126 in cash on 1 October 2024. This excludes other assets such as land and apiaries. The full accounts inherited are reported within charity no. 277803

3.3 Activities

The SBKA has been active both centrally and throughout its 12 local branches. The Annual Lecture Day took place in February and was well attended. Online study groups for BBKA modules continue to be provided. The SBKA worked on producing its own Safeguarding policy, drawing heavily on the

BBKA's own policy and this is now a live policy at the time of writing this report. There have been fewer general online lectures as resources have been prioritised to other areas. Online lectures remained free, however, and were generally available throughout the UK and abroad having regard to the public benefit regulations.

Considerable emphasis has been placed on raising the SBKA's preparedness to respond effectively in the event that Asian hornet arrives in the county. All Branches have Asian hornet action teams (AHATs). Under the guidance of our Asian hornet co-ordinator, a training day was held for AHAT members. Advisory leaflets and other literature were obtained and have been widely circulated in cafés, shops, etc to raise public awareness. The public has also been notified through various Branch events across the county. Equipment, in the form of traps, bait and open bait stations to monitor for the presence of Asian hornet, was procured and members set up monitoring stations widely across the county.

SBKA's 12 Branches have been very active during the year. Branches ran a total of 10 introduction to beekeeping courses for beginners, training some 205 people, of whom 45 have gone on to keep bees. Branches also ran Honey Shows which are open to the public. As well as selling honey and beeswax products, these shows provide an opportunity to inform the public about bees and beekeeping and there are judged competitions in relation to honey, beeswax and other related products. Numerous town and village shows and fairs were attended across the county, including the Royal Bath and West Show, Taunton Flower Show, Dunster Show, Frome Show, and many more. At the Royal Bath and West Show, one of our members was successful in gaining first prize in the honey show area.

A number of members have been successful in obtaining British Beekeepers Association qualifications this year. 14 members passed the basic assessment practical exam. 7 members passed BBKA theory modules. 3 members went on to achieve their advanced theory certificates and one member obtained the intermediate certificate.

The branches also undertook a large number of social activities for members, including apiary visits, educational lectures, bee teas, etc. All such events provide an opportunity to talk about beekeeping and promote the craft.

3.5 Future activities

The standard range of activities will continue in 2025. Asian hornet response preparedness will continue to be a high priority, in keeping with national activity across the country.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Simon Mills

Simon Mills – Chair
Somerset Beekeepers' Association

28 July 2025

Nil return accounts – see report and accounts submitted for registered charity number 277803 for the period 1/10/23 to 30/9/24

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