

STRATFORD-on-AVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Trustees Annual Report for the year ending 30 September 2025

Reference and Administration:

Registered Charity No: 1209137

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association

Trustees:

B. Donley	- Chair
R. Richardson	- Secretary
A. Seymour	- Treasurer
T. Hitchman	
J. Hudson	- from 17 February 2025
C. Lea	- from 21 January 2025
C. Ricketts	

Principal Address:

Larkshill
Spernal Lane
Great Alne
Alcester
Warwickshire
B49 6HZ

Structure, Governance and Management:

Stratford-on-Avon Beekeepers' Association (SBKA) was approved as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by the Charity Commission on 16 July 2024. It is governed by its Constitution as accepted by The Charity Commission. The Association has been in existence since 1936 and is affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association.

Serving Trustees to 30 September 2025 are as listed above. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Governing Document.

Objectives and Activities:

The objectives of the Association are as set out in the governing document: *'to promote and further the craft of beekeeping and to advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment'*. In carrying out the charity's objects, the Trustees confirm they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities are undertaken to educate and encourage new and existing beekeepers in the craft, as well as attending public events forming an important part of promoting bees and beekeeping generally. These activities inform the wider public of the importance of bees to the environment. Honey bees are important pollinators which are crucial for a healthy ecosystem, supporting both the agricultural industry, wild plants and flowers.

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Achievements and Performance:

The principal activities during this year have been:

- Holding a Beekeeping Taster Day for 20+ members of the public who were interested in bees and/or beekeeping but not sure what is involved.
- Running a successful Introduction to Beekeeping Course for 20+ members of the public, consisting of a series of indoor theory sessions plus practical sessions at the new training apiary, with follow-up mentoring.
- Development of a new website showcasing the association and its aims to members and the wider public.
- The provision of a free Swarm Collection Service to collect reported swarms encouraging the members of the public to conserve bees, and for the bees' welfare.
- The setting up of a new Training Apiary with the help of member volunteers. It is planned our existing apiary will become a designated Breeding/Queen Rearing Apiary.

Education:

- Continued practical training sessions for all member levels at both apiaries during the summer.
- Practical working parties for all members at both apiaries concentrating on the care and correct cleaning of equipment (preventing disease), together with apiary maintenance.
- Autumn practical apiary meeting '*Putting the Bees to Bed for Winter*'
- Members winter meetings consisted of both face-to-face and zoom educational presentations including the National Honey Monitoring Scheme, Bigger Better Queens, and Making Mead.
- At no cost to ourselves, in February the association was privileged to host an all-day BIBBA (Bee Improvement and Bee Breeding Association) event at Ettington Community Centre, titled *Varroa Resistance through Bee Improvement*. An educational day with several internationally known speakers, attended by 180 cross-generation beekeepers from all over the country.

Public Events:

- With the help of member volunteers, the association raised awareness of honey bees and their importance by manning displays at local events, including the larger Forest of Arden Ploughing Match, with 1000+ attendance. Individual members gave talks to schools and/or local groups.
- Information was promoted at these events about the threat of the Yellow Legged Hornet following increased incursions in the south-east of the country.

Trustees Meetings:

- Trustees agreed their meetings be held quarterly or as deemed necessary, with Sub-Committee meetings held every 6-8 weeks. All held via zoom.

Honey Show:

- We ran a successful Honey Show where members were encouraged to showcase their honey and hive produce. Open judging is favoured as the show then becomes informative for both new and more experienced beekeepers about the preparation of their products. Potential beekeepers and members of the public were welcomed.

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Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH) (*also known as the Asian Hornet*)

- Meetings of the Yellow Legged Hornet Team (YLHT) were held quarterly. With a large increase in YLH incursions last year, the association's YLHT volunteers set and monitored bait traps in the spring as a practice exercise, with no sightings. As of 25 September 2025, the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) National Bee Unit (NBU) confirmed there has been a total of 476 sightings of the YLH this year with 129 nests confirmed, mainly but not solely in the south east of the country. It is paramount beekeepers and the general public realise the importance of reporting sightings of the YLH. This was promoted to members and at all public events attended. Our YLHT Team anticipates being called upon to support the National Bee Unit in the event of local incursions.

Subscriptions:

- At a previous Special General Meeting, members voted for an increase in 2024/2025 subscription rates. Annual subscriptions had not been raised for some time, even though running costs were constantly rising. With the expected arrival of the Yellow Legged Hornet, it is anticipated, costs towards basic and track/trace equipment, PPE etc will be incurred.

BBKA Capitation = £21

SBKA Capitation = £7

Bee Disease Insurance = £2

Full Member = £30

- Partner, Country, Junior and Local members benefitted from lower subscription rates pro rata.
- Full voting rights are awarded to all member categories, except Local and Associate members.
- All member categories receive an informative monthly association newsletter.

Financial Review:

- A Reserves Policy is not currently in place. During the year, income of £10476 was received with a total expenditure of £10519. Income received was mainly from membership subscriptions, Taster Day & Introduction Course fees, plus donations.

Correspondence:

All correspondence should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary at the Principal Address on page1.

Approval:

Approved by the Trustees on 10 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

B Donley

T. P. Hitchman

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Brian Donley

Terry Hitchman

Chair

Trustee

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

For the period 16 July 2024 to 30 September 2025

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
RECEIPTS		
Members' subscriptions	2,719	2,840
Donations	66	109
Course fees	2,380	1,162
Apiary sales	150	300
Honey sales	1,496	490
BDI received from members	367	380
Gift Aid claim	651	651
Fondant sales	2,607	1,335
Foundation sales	25	0
Misc unallocated income	15	198
Total Receipts	<u>10,476</u>	<u>7,465</u>
PAYMENTS		
Room hire	253	294
Speakers	265	395
Meetings costs	0	370
Miscellaneous	130	
Course expenses	769	596
Honey Show	249	226
Office type & catering expenses	1,203	216
BBKA Capitation	2,345	2,631
BDI Insurance	378	378
Fondant cost	1,344	1,395
Beecraft costs	0	0
Insurance-trophies & equipment	612	331
Hampton Wood costs	374	352
Folly Fields costs	2,325	801
Purchase of fixed assets Lawn mower	272	0
Total Payments	<u>10,519</u>	<u>7,985</u>

Net Receipts				This bit is this years checking
Net payments	-43			10,476.35 receipts
Cash funds last year end at bank		14775		10,518.41 payments
Cash funds this year end	<u>14,789</u>	<u>14,775</u>	Bal 16 July 24	-42.06 Net income
				14732.72 Bank should be
	<u>14,789</u>			14788.74 Actual
				-56.02 variance

Signed *S.Calladine*
Name Sarah Calladine ACCA (membership number 1946626)
Independent examiner
Address 8 Crompton Avenue, Bidford on Avon, B50 4DG
Date 14/04/2026