

Avon Beekeepers Association
Registered Charity no. 271717

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document

The Association's objectives are to advance the science of apiculture and to promote and foster the education of the public therein.

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

In planning our activities for the year the trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The main activities are as follows:

- ABKA stands at county shows where members of the public can find out about beekeeping and the importance of bees in the environment from practicing beekeepers,
- beginner courses for members of the public who are interested in taking up beekeeping,
- practical training for new members at one of our training apiaries,
- advanced classes for practicing beekeepers to enable them to take firstly the basic examination, and then further Module examinations run by the national beekeeping association, the BBKA, as they become more experienced,
- regular meetings and lectures by invited specialist speakers on specific aspects of beekeeping and honey bee problems,
- giving talks on beekeeping at schools, both primary and secondary, to help children's awareness and importance of bees and other insects in the environment,
- upgrading our training apiaries to provide the best possible environment for educating our new members in practical beekeeping and, where possible, spaces for holding meetings and lectures,
- collecting honey bee swarms and while doing so helping the public to become aware of bee behaviour and their importance in the environment,
- the ABKA website (www.avonbeekeepers.org.uk), and the websites of our branches and links from BBKA website provide plenty of information on bees and beekeeping and associated events in the locality. Members are informed of forthcoming events both locally and nationally by post or email. Regular newsletters are produced to promote the importance of education for members.
- running meetings and talks via the Internet (e.g. on 'Zoom') where meetings at outside venues are impractical.

Many of our experienced beekeepers carry out these activities as volunteers. We also encourage young people from all backgrounds and faiths to become interested in bees and, hopefully, some will take up beekeeping as junior members of the association.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

ABKA's membership remained steady over the year. By the year end there were **484** BBKA Registered members, **33** Partner members, **11** Country, **3** Junior, and **5** BBKA Honorary member: total **536** (2021/2022 - 507). In addition each branch has a number of associate members who do not have bees. These are members who are considering taking up beekeeping and attend apiary meetings to gain knowledge.

The charity ran several talks throughout the year along with a successful ABKA Spring Day School and a two day stand at the Bath and West show.

The Association and its' branches continue to use the online platform 'Zoom' to run some talks as well as committee meetings.

Financial Review

Total monetary assets at 31 October 2023 were £62,537 (2022, £57,643): £50,321 unrestricted funds after deducting designated funds specifically held for further Apiary development.

The combined unrestricted accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023 show a surplus of receipts against payments of £4,714 (2022, surplus £10,472).

Membership subscriptions remain the main source of income for the charity.

Total cash reserves of £62,537 remain at more than one year's income from voluntary sources (£29,641) and slightly more than one year's payments that were £53,304. This is acceptable as the expenditure is wholly within the charitable purposes of the association.

The Executive's cash reserves have decreased by £2,911 to £14,204 (2021/22 £17,115) mainly as a result of the one off donation of £2,950 to the branches.

Reserves Policy

The overriding policy is to ensure that the Association and each of its branches shall end each year with a minimum level of reserves and available funds to enable each to cover the next year's projected expenditure. The funds shall not be more than three times the minimum unless established to meet anticipated costs of improving or replacing apiary facilities by one or more branches. Unless there is such a proposal branches should not consider any further increase in subscription until funds are brought within the policy.

Subscription Rates

There was no change to BBKA capitation and ABKA capitation rates from 2021/22 into 2022/2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Avon Beekeepers Association ("ABKA") was founded in 1974 and registered as a charitable trust with the Charity Commission (Registered Number 271717) in 1976.

ABKA is an unincorporated association administered by an Executive Committee of officers and branch delegates (trustees) in accordance with the revised Rules of Association registered with the Charity Commission, as adopted 6 March 2004 and amended 19 March 2008.

The officers of the Executive Committee are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Association in March and branch delegates are appointed annually at the AGMs of branches in November.

ABKA has five branches the members of which live in the local authority areas of Bath, Bristol and North Somerset and their neighbouring districts that once formed the County of Avon. In accordance with the Rules of ABKA, separate committees run each of the five branches and their committee members are elected at branch AGMs.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Avon Beekeepers Association
 Other name used: ABKA
 Registered Charity no. 271717
 Charity's principal address: 38 Currells Lane Felton Bristol BS40 9XF

Names of charity trustees who managed the charity for 2022/23 were:

President	Vacant	Bath Delegate	Anne Rowberry
Chair	Neil Campbell	North Somerset Delegate	Eric Sortwell
Hon. Gen. Secretary	Paul Moorhouse	Bristol Delegate	Neil Campbell
Hon. Treasurer, Membership Sec'y & eR2 Manager	Mark Hunter	Keynsham Delegate	Vacant
Publications and Public Relations	Eric Sortwell	Weston-super-Mare Delegate	Brenda Davis
Education Secretary & Newsletter	Rob Francis	BBKA Delegate	Neil Campbell
SWFC Delegate	Anne Rowberry		

The members of the Executive Committee are the Trustees of the Charity. No branch committee member is a trustee other than the branch delegate unless elected as one of the main officers of the executive. Details of branch committees are published on the website www.avonbeekeepers.co.uk.

All communications should be addressed in the first instance to the Hon. Secretary through the ABKA website.

Professional Support

ABKA's principal banker is Lloyds Bank PO Box 1000, Andover, BX1 1LT.

The branches have accounts with clearing banks as follows:-

Bath - HSBC (2 accounts), Bristol - Lloyds (2 accounts), North Somerset - Lloyds (2 accounts),
 Keynsham - Barclays, Weston-super-Mare - CAF

The Independent Examiner is Fiona Hale
 22 Woodside Road Brislington Bristol BS4 4DP

Avon Beekeepers Association
Independent Examiner's Report to the Association's Trustees

I Report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 October 2023 set out on pages 5 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

N.B. I have not been responsible for the independent examination of the individual Branch Accounts.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed: Fiona Hale

FCCA

22 Woodside Road
Brislington
Bristol BS4 4DP

22 January 2024

Avon Beekeepers Association
Accounts for the Executive, Receipts and Payments Account
for the Period 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023 (General Fund)

Section A. Receipts and Payments
A1 Receipts

		2022/23		2021/22	
		General	Total	General	Total
		Funds		Funds	
		£	£	£	£
Voluntary Sources	Note				
no.					
Avon Membership	(3)	2,540		2,375	
Donations/Interest		32		8	
Gift aid tax recovery		0		850	
	Sub-total		2,572		3,233
Operating Activities					
Introduction and training courses		502		0	
Insurance		0		0	
	Sub-total		502		343
	Total Receipts		3,074		3,576

A2 Payments

Direct Charitable Expenditure

BBKA and BDI	0	0
Education course costs	2,048	1,196
Bath & West, National and SWJCC sponsorship	0	0
Fund Raising Events Costs	0	0
Website and newsletter costs	0	0
Reimbursement for hosting ABKA AGM	0	0
Educational equipment and grants for branches	2,950	0
Donations to outside organisations	800	0
	5,798	1,596

Sub-total

Management & Administration Expenditure

Committee meetings	0	0
General stationery, postage, telephone	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Presidential chain repair	0	0
Bank charges	60	87
	60	87

Sub-total

Professional fees

Costs for legal advice	0	0
Examination of Accounts	125	125
	125	125

Total Payments

Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year

Opening cash and bank balances	17,113	15,347
Closing cash and bank balances	14,204	17,115

Section B. Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the General Fund at year end

B1 Monetary Assets

£ £ £ £

CAF Bank interest bearing account (8)
Total for General Funds

14,204		17,115	
	14,204		17,115

B2 Non-Monetary Assets

Educational Assets at insured values
 47 Beecraft shares valued at cost

Total

0		0	
47		47	
	14,251		17,162

Combined Executive and Branches Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Period 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023

Section A. Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts Voluntary Sources no.	Note	2022/23			Total Funds £	2021/22 Total Funds £
		General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
Membership	(3)	20,704			20,704	19,011
Associate membership		1,126			1,126	730
Members' BDI additional colony insurance		741			741	761
Advance subscriptions for 2023/24		0			0	0
Major Grants	(4)	0			0	6,013
Swarms		950			950	850
Other grants and donations		1,679			1,679	0
Gift aid tax recovery		4,441			4,441	4,247
Sub-total		29,641	0	0	29,641	31,612
Operating Activities						
Introduction and training courses		10,680			10,680	10,137
Advance payments for 2024 courses	(5)	1,050			1,050	1,300
Fundraising events proceeds		4,606			4,606	1,017
Hire of books and equipment		240			240	145
All risks insurance		0			0	0
Apiary items sold to members		11,068			11,068	9,210
Apiary honey sales		638			638	4,140
ABKA Reimbursement for Avon AGM		0			0	0
Sub-total		28,282	0	0	28,282	25,949
Income from Assets -						
Interest		95	0		95	14
Total Receipts		58,018	8	0	58,018	57,575

A2 Payments

Direct Charitable Expenditure

BBKA	(3)	10,821			10,821	10,181
Bee Diseases Insurance		1,760			1,760	1,712
Teaching Apiary Building and Equipment		4,799			4,799	9,515
(6)						
Teaching apiary costs	(6)	8,264			8,264	4,353
Educational courses costs		8,674			8,674	8,381
Educational Expenses		2,992			2,992	2,373
Costs at regional shows etc.		0			0	0
Fundraising event costs		0			0	60
AGM & other meetings inc speakers costs		538			538	439
ABKA Reimbursement for Avon AGM		0			0	0
Website and newsletter costs		1,746			1,746	493
Costs of apiary items for sale to members		11,461			11,461	7,446
Donations to other charities, organisations		373			373	287
Agent's fee for site valuation		0			0	0
Sub-total		51,428	0	0	51,428	45,240

Management & Administration Expenditure

Committee meetings		0			0	0
General stationery, postage, telephone		126			126	3
Insurance	(7)	1,177			1,177	1,236
Presidential chain repair		0			0	0

Bank Charges					
Honoraria	348			348	399
	0			0	0
Sub-total	1,651	0	0	1,651	1,638
Professional fees					
Costs for legal advice	0			0	0
Examination of Accounts	225			225	225
Total Payments	53,304	0	0	53,304	47,103
Net receipts/(payments) for the year	4,714	8	0	4,714	10,472

Avon Beekeepers Association Combined Executive and Branches Accounts (cont'd)

A3 Summary of Cash and Bank Movements in Year	Note	2022/2023			2020/2021
		General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
no.					
Opening bank and cash balances		45,607	12,036	0	57,643
Excess/(shortfall) of receipts over payments		4,714	0		4,714
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Closing bank and cash balances		50,321	12,036	0	62,357
(8)					

Section B. Statement of Assets and Liabilities at end of the year 31/10/20

B1 Monetary Assets

Bank balances and cash funds

Bank Current Accounts	(8)	50,321	12,036	0	62,357	57,643
Cash						
Total Funds		50,321	12,036	0	62,357	57,643
(8)						

B2 Non-monetary Assets

Educational Assets at Insurance Values (11)

Branch Apiary Buildings		163,100	163,260
Beekeeping Equipment		48,148	48,080
Apiary Equipment		16,999	16,488
Educational and display equipment		18,543	18,231
Trophies at insured values		21,533	21,533
Total Insured Assets		268,323	267,592
Honey stocks	(12)	300	300
Bulk purchase stocks		380	623
Bristol Apiary land at registration value	(13)	10,000	10,000
47 Bee Craft shares valued at cost	(14)	47	47
Total Other Assets		10,727	10,970
Total Non-monetary Assets		279,050	278,562

Avon Beekeepers Association
Notes to the accounts for the period 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2023

1. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP revised 2015).

2. Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either: -

Unrestricted general funds. These are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. These funds are termed as General Funds within this document.

Designated funds. These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects. They may be held within the unrestricted general funds or in a separate account.

Restricted funds. These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Endowment funds. ABKA has no endowment funds.

3. Membership

Members' subscriptions include branch fee, ABKA capitation, BBKA capitation and Basic BDI insurance. These can be claimed for Gift Aid tax reclaim by eligible members.

4. Grants

The branches received a grant of £2,950 from Avon during the year. As these are consolidated accounts this amount does not show in the consolidated profit and loss account.

5. Advance Payments for Educational Courses

Deposits were received for 2023 courses of £1,050 (2021 £1,300)

6. Teaching Apiary building and equipment/Teaching apiary costs

The total of £13,063 includes North Somerset costs of £4,461, Bristol costs of £4,714 and Bath costs of £3,717.

7. Insurance

All Risks Insurance cover is for branch apiary buildings and equipment.

8. Bank Balances

Unadjusted Bank balances held by the branches and the ABKA Executive at 31 October 2023 were:

		Bath	North Somerset	Bristol	Keyn sham	W-s-M	Executiv e	Total
2023	General	7,894	9,582	14,468	2,755	1,418	14,204	£50,321
	Design'd	12,034		2				£12,036
	Total	£19,928	£9,582	£14,470	2,755	£1,418	£14,204	£62,357
2022	General	6,456	6,768	11,593	2,267	1,408	17,115	£45,607
	Designate d	12,034		2				£12,036
	Total	£18,490	£6,768	£11,595	£2,267	£1,408	£17,115	£57,643

9. Each branch and the Executive plan to hold sufficient funds to meet their budgeted net outgoings for the following year but target not to hold funds in excess of approximately three year's net outgoings.

10.ABKA Unrestricted Funds

The Executive funds increased by £1,767 on the previous year.

NON-MONETARY ASSETS

11. The branches can be confident that all their property is adequately covered by full replacement all risks insurance and at reasonable cost. Cover is with Aston Lark.
12. Honey stocks and bulk purchase stocks are not eligible for insurance cover. Nil values are attributed to hives, colonies, or very old assets.
13. Bristol's freehold apiary site is zoned as agricultural land and was valued at £10,000 on registration in 2004. Discussions with the valuer in March 2010 indicated that there had been no material change since 2004 and the Executive consider this valuation still applies.
14. At present the executive has no assets other than Bee Craft shares.

LIABILITIES

Avon Beekeepers Association has no liabilities

The Receipts and Payments Accounts and Statements of the Assets and Liabilities relating to the year ended 31st October 2023, which are set out on the pages above are as approved by the Trustees of the Association.

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees

Mark Hunter

Avon Beekeepers Association
Reg Charity No. 271717

