

Avon Beekeepers Association
Registered Charity no. 271717

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024

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 **467** BBKA Registered members, **31** Partner members, **20** Country, **6** Junior, **1** School and **1** BBKA Honorary member: total **526** (2023/2024 - 536). 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 2024 were £48,652 (2023, £62,537): £48,617 unrestricted funds after deducting designated funds specifically held for further Apiary development.

The combined unrestricted accounts for the year ended 31 October 2024 show a deficit of receipts against payments of £13,705 (2023, surplus £4,714).

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

Total cash reserves of £48,652 remain at more than one year's income from voluntary sources (£35,276) and slightly less than one year's payments that were £79,702 – although of course this figure includes an amount of £18,376 relating to the purchase of Larkhill at Bath. Without this the expenditure would have been £61,326. This is acceptable as the expenditure is wholly within the charitable purposes of the association.

The Executive's cash reserves have decreased by £1,839 to £12,365 (2022/23 £14,204) mainly as a result of the one off donation of £2,000 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 2022/23 into 2023/2024.

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 2023/24 were:

President	Anne Rowberry	Bath Delegate	Oosman Tegally
Chair	Paul Moorhouse	North Somerset Delegate	Eric Sortwell
Hon. Gen. Secretary	Chris Dudley	Bristol Delegate	Jim Daniels
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	Sue Hatton	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 Duncan Woodcock
43 Currells Lane Felton Bristol BS40 9XF

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 2024 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: Duncan Woodcock

FCA

43 Currells Lane
Felton
Bristol BS40 9XF

20 February 2025

Avon Beekeepers Association
Accounts for the Executive, Receipts and Payments Account
for the Period 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024 (General Fund)

Section A. Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts

Voluntary Sources

Avon Membership	(3)
Donations/Interest	
Gift aid tax recovery	

Sub-total

Operating Activities

Introduction and training courses
Insurance

Sub-total

Total Receipts

2023/24		2022/23	
General Funds	Total	General Funds	Total
£	£	£	£
2,455		2,540	
92		32	
0		0	
	2,547		2,572
968		502	
0		0	
	968		502
	3,515		3,074

A2 Payments

Direct Charitable Expenditure

BBKA and BDI
Education course costs
Bath & West, National and SWJCC sponsorship
Fund Raising Events Costs
Website and newsletter costs
Reimbursement for hosting ABKA AGM
Educational equipment and grants for branches
Donations to outside organisations

Sub-total

Management & Administration Expenditure

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

Sub-total

Professional fees

Costs for legal advice
Examination of Accounts

Total Payments

Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year

Opening cash and bank balances

Closing cash and bank balances (8)

0		0	
1,408		2,048	
0		0	
0		0	
0		0	
0		0	
2,000		2,950	
1,821		800	
	5,229		5,798
0		0	
0		0	
0		0	
0		0	
0		60	
	0		60
0		0	
125		125	
	125		125
	5,354		5,983
	(1,839)		(2,909)
	14,204		17,113
	12,365		14,204

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

B1 Monetary Assets

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

B2 Non-Monetary Assets

Educational Assets at insured values
47 Beecraft shares valued at cost

Total

£	£	£	£
12,365		14,204	
	12,365		14,204
0		0	
47		47	
	12,412		14,251

**Combined Executive and Branches Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the Period 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024**

Section A. Receipts and Payments

		2023/24			2022/23 Total Funds £
A1 Receipts Voluntary Sources	Note no.	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	
Membership	(3)	21,099			20,704
Associate membership		989			1,126
Members' BDI additional colony insurance		677			741
Advance subscriptions for 2024/25		0			0
Major Grants	(4)	5,000			0
Swarms		500			950
Other grants and donations		1,845			1,679
Gift aid tax recovery		5,166			4,441
Sub-total		35,276	0	0	29,641
Operating Activities					
Introduction and training courses		11,933			10,680
Advance payments for 2025 courses	(5)	0			1,050
Fundraising events proceeds		6,903			4,606
Hire of books and equipment		265			240
All risks insurance		0			0
Apiary items sold to members		9,630			11,068
Apiary honey sales		1,127			638
ABKA Reimbursement for Avon AGM		0			0
Sub-total		29,858	0	0	28,282
Income from Assets –					
Interest/sale of assets		863	0		95
Total Receipts		65,997	8	0	58,018

A2 Payments

Direct Charitable Expenditure

BBKA	(3)	10,518			10,518	10,821
Bee Diseases Insurance		1,666			1,666	1,760
Teaching Apiary Building and Equipment	(6)	13,474			13,474	4,799
Teaching apiary costs	(6)	6,894			6,894	8,264
Educational courses costs		7,164			7,164	8,674
Educational Expenses		2,706			2,706	2,992
Purchase of Larkhall	(6)	18,376			18,376	0
Fundraising event costs		0			0	0
AGM & other meetings inc speakers costs		319			319	538
ABKA Reimbursement for Avon AGM		0			0	0
Website and newsletter costs		635			635	1,746
Costs of apiary items for sale to members		14,241			14,241	11,461
Donations to other charities, organisations		1,743			1,743	373
Agent's fee for site valuation		0			0	0
Sub-total		77,736	0	0	77,736	51,428
Management & Administration Expenditure						
Committee meetings		0			0	0
General stationery, postage, telephone		27			27	126
Insurance	(7)	1,424			1,424	1,177
Presidential chain repair		0			0	0
Bank Charges		290			290	348
Honoraria		0			0	0
Sub-total		1,741	0	0	1,741	1,651
Professional fees						
Costs for legal advice		0			0	0
Examination of Accounts		225			225	225
Total Payments		79,702	0	0	79,702	53,304
Net receipts/(payments) for the year		(13,705)	8	0	(13,705)	4,714

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

A3 Summary of Cash and Bank Movements in Year	Note no.	2023/2024				2022/2023
		General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Opening bank and cash balances		50,321	12,036	0	62,357	57,643
Excess/(shortfall) of receipts over payments		(13,705)	0		(13,705)	4,714
Transfers between funds		12,001	(12,001)	0		0
Closing bank and cash balances	(8)	48,617	35	0	48,652	62,357

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)	48,617	35	0	48,652	62,357
Cash						
Total Funds	(8)	48,617	35	0	48,652	62,357

B2 Non-monetary Assets

Educational Assets at Insurance Values (11)

Branch Apiary Buildings		163,100	163,100
Beekeeping Equipment		48,828	48,148
Apiary Equipment		16,999	16,999
Educational and display equipment		18,943	18,543
Trophies at insured values		21,533	21,533
Total Insured Assets		269,403	268,323
Honey stocks	(12)	300	300
Bulk purchase stocks		4,322	380
Bristol Apiary land at registration value	(13)	10,000	10,000
Bath – Larkhill	(14)	18,377	0
47 Bee Craft shares valued at cost	(15)	47	47
Total Other Assets		33,046	10,727
Total Non-monetary Assets		302,449	279,050

Avon Beekeepers Association
Notes to the accounts for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2024

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 £2,000 from Avon BKA during the year. As these are consolidated accounts this amount does not show in the consolidated profit and loss account.

Bristol received a Social Impact grant of £5,000 from CMS legal services. This was for fencing to secure part of the boundary.

5. Advance Payments for Educational Courses

Deposits were received for 2025 courses of £0 (2024 £1,050)

6. Teaching Apiary building and equipment/Teaching apiary costs

The total of £13,474 includes North Somerset costs of £3,968, Bristol costs of £6,857 and Bath costs of £2,649.

The apiary improvements of £6,894 relate to Bristol and include a mower at £4,800.

The purchase of Larkhill relates to Bath.

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 2024 were:

		Bath	North Somerset	Bristol	Keyns ham	W-s-M	Executive	Total
2024	General	6,343	9,745	15,436	2,887	1,521	12,365	£48,297
	Design'd	353		2				£355
	Total	£6,696	£9,745	£15,438	2,887	£1,521	£12,365	£48,652
2023	General	7,894	9,582	14,468	2,755	1,418	14,204	£50,321
	Designated	12,034		2				£12,036
	Total	£19,928	£9,582	£14,470	£2,755	£1,418	£14,204	£62,357

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 decreased by £1,839 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. Bath's acquisition of Larkhill is shown at cost.
15. 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 2024, 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
ABKA Hon. Treasurer

7 January 2025

