

Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100709

Details

Known as	UBKA
Status	Received
Registered	2014-10-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address 38 Carnacally Road
Newry
BT34 1Is
BT34 1LS

Phone 07501449014

Email secretary@ubka.org

Website www.ubka.org

Activities

Purposes: To promote and educate the public in the craft of beekeeping and the impact of honey bees on the environment.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Economic development, Education/training, Environment/sustainable development/conservation, Heritage/historical, Research/evaluation, Rural development, Urban development, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Adult training, General public, Men, Older people, Overseas/developing countries, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-01	£94,822	£97,800	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian		
Michelle		
Mr Alan Jones		
Mr John Hill		
Mr Leslie Sims		
Mrs Valentine Hodges		

Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100709

Accounts



Wednesday, July 31, 2024		Opening balance		37,077.62
	Expenditure		Income	
UBKA Operational expenses:				
Capitation		448.00		10,989.36
Bank		252.06		-
Insurances		4,985.68		-
<i>UBKA Events</i>				
<i>Honey show 2024</i>		911.16		-
<i>Conference 2025</i>		15,668.61		25,008.46
<i>Balmoral show</i>		550.22		-
<i>Microscope Course</i>		1,104.19		280.00
<i>Bee Heath Workshop</i>		4,775.48		-
<i>Young Beekeepers</i>		5,920.00		4,760.00
Safeguarding		£1,710.50	£0.00	
operational		10246.44	300.11	
<i>Education:</i>		51,227.90		53,485.00

- -

Grand Totals

97,800.24

94,822.93

**Thursday, July 31, Closing
2025 Balance**

34,100.31

Reserve Account

Tuesday, July 21,
2020

11,062.62

Saturday, July 31,
2021

20,004.75

Sunday, July 31,
2022

20,006.75

Monday, July 31,
2023

20,077.52

31-Jul-24

£30,463.80

31-Jul-25

£31,152.10

**Ulster Bee
Keepers
Association -
Assets &
Liabilities 1st
August 2021 -
31st July 2022**

1st August 2023-31st
July 2024

**Ulster Bee
Keepers
Association -
Assets &
Liabilities 1st
August 2022 -
31st July 2023**

Assets &Liabilities 1st August
2024 31st July 2025

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 24	30,463.80	Reserve Account
(year end)	37,077.62	Current Account
		Cash
		Debtors
		Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	<u>67,541.42</u>	

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 25	31,152.10	Reserve Account
(year end)	34,100.31	Current Account
		Cash
		Debtors
		Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	<u>65,252.41</u>	

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 24		
Total - year end	<u></u>	

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 25	-	
Total - year end	<u>-</u>	

Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2024	<u>67,541.42</u>	
(year end)		

Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2025	<u>65,252.41</u>	
(year end)		

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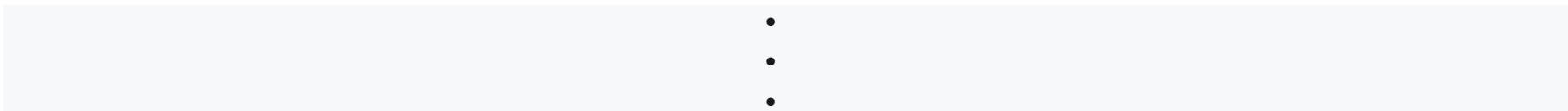
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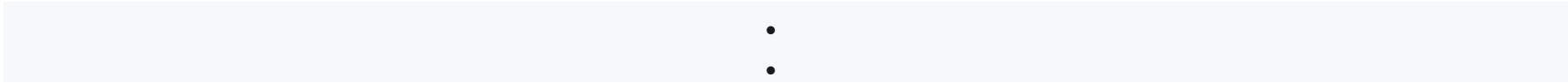


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Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100709

Accounts

ASSETS 2022 / 23

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 23	20,077.52	Reserve Account
(year end)	52,622.40	Current Account
	92.11	Cash
	470.00	Debtors
	-	Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	73,262.03	

LIABILITIES 2022 / 23

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 23	250.00	
Total - year end	250.00	

UBKA - overall financial position - 2022-23

Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2023 (year end)	73,012.03	

ASSETS 2023/24

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 24	30,463.80	Reserve Account
(year end)	37,077.62	Current Account
	92.11	Cash
	25.00	Debtors
	-	Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	67,658.53	

LIABILITIES 2023 / 24

Date	(£)	Description
31 July 24	-	
Total - year end	-	

UBKA - overall financial position - 2023-24

Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2024 (year end)	67,658.53	

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Les Sims
UBKA Treasurer

www.ubka.org

Important:

If you forward this email, please delete the forwarding history, including my email address. It is a courtesy to me and others, who may not wish to have their email addresses sent all over the world! Erasing the history helps prevent spammers from mining addresses and viruses from being propagated.

Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100709

Annual report

Chairpersons Report

Dear Members, As I conclude my first year as Chair, I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported me throughout this journey. Transitioning into this role has been both rewarding and challenging, and I am grateful for the guidance and encouragement I've received along the way. One of the unexpected hurdles this year was simply learning the ropes — everything from navigating new systems, setting up a new email address, to getting authorisations sorted for a new bank account. These administrative tasks might seem minor, but they were essential to ensure that everything ran smoothly as I took on my responsibilities. We have been reviewing and getting all our policies in place and I hope we will have these all sorted very soon. Please bear with us as we get to grips with all of the legal obligations which are part of running a voluntary, charitable organisation such as ours. We are trying to get it right and safeguarding is the priority and it is everyone's responsibility, I want it to be right for every association big or small. From the outset, I set myself the objective of visiting as many of our associations as possible. So far, I have had the privilege of attending meetings at Roe Valley, Three Rivers, Fermanagh, Clogher Valley, Randalstown, Killinchy, and Mid Antrim. I hope these visits have strengthened our connections, and I look forward to engaging with more of you in the coming year. If you would like me to attend one of your meetings in the upcoming year, please don't hesitate to let me know. This year has also been marked by a very successful conference, with over 400 attendees. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and I am pleased to announce that next year's conference, scheduled for the 14th and 15th of February 2025, looks even more exciting. The conference team headed up by Brian deserves our recognition for the incredible work they do each year in ensuring the event runs smoothly. The highest level of speakers from across the globe which John always seems to persuade, and the traders who also attend and always attract more members than ever, along with the excellent workshops. The conference does not simply happen, it takes a dedicated team of volunteers who give up their time to ensure we have the best. I know from talking to other organisations that we have one of the best conferences on this Island and every year it just keeps getting better! However, the conference is run for your benefit I do hope you will attend in February and give some of your support and help to the team to make 2025 even better than before. Well, done team and thank you again to Brian our conference manager I would also like to highlight the remarkable work of the Education Team, now in their third year. Their dedication to the development and implementation of our new education programme has been nothing short of outstanding. Meeting every Monday afternoon for hours and meticulously preparing for each session, their commitment is something we should all be proud of. The programme they have created is of a gold-star standard, and their continued efforts to support tutors and assessors are truly commendable. The education programme remains a living, breathing initiative, constantly evolving to meet the needs of our members. A special thank you to Susie Hill, who has led this team with such energy and vision, and along with Wendy, Ethel, Ester, Robert and John who have provided invaluable support throughout this journey which continues as we speak. It would not be possible to have an education programme without all the tutors and assessors who also give up their time to support the team and give valuable feedback to the Education team. As we look back on the past year, it's important to acknowledge that while we have made great strides we must also acknowledge there are still many challenges ahead. One of the most pressing issues is the lack of bee inspections and bee inspectors and the lack of government support for managing notifiable diseases. This remains a critical area where more proactive measures are needed to safeguard our beekeeping community. We must continue to push for improvements in this area while ensuring our own procedures are regularly reviewed to

maintain best practices. I was delighted with another successful year of bee health workshops well attended and our guest “expert” Jack Silberrad, was well received. He has agreed to come back with other talks in 2025 already arranged for 21st, 22nd and 23rd of March 2025 (a date for your Diary). The ever-growing threat of the Asian Hornet is also alarming, and we will continue to press the government on what the plans are along with what actions are in place to ensure we control what is coming our way. Now I’m sure you agree we do not believe we are being consulted on what those plans might be and how we could if given the opportunity, be able to support and help with the plans and efforts. I would like to set up a small action team to consult on the actions required on how to keep the pressure on the government. This team would report to the executive at each meeting. On a more positive note, I am thrilled we have once again a team of young beekeepers representing us this year in Dubai supported by Susie and Charlene. Thanks again to Randalstown for allowing us to run a very successful young beekeepers event which 20 young people attended. There are certainly some fantastic up and coming, talented young beekeepers for the future. I want to share some exciting news: we have been awarded the opportunity to host the ****International Meeting of Young Beekeepers in 2026****. This is a major achievement and an event of significant scale, which will present both exciting opportunities and logistical challenges. It will require careful planning, coordination, and most importantly, the dedication of volunteers. Again I would like to set up a small committee of people who would like to assist with several actions that will be required. This coming week we have the IMYB organisers coming to Northern Ireland and they will be checking out our facilities, along with what we are offering as an event in 2026. For this event, and indeed for all the initiatives and challenges we face, we will need your support — whether through volunteering, fundraising, or simply lending your voice and energy to our efforts. This is a community-driven organisation, and your backing is essential to our continued success. As we gear up for this prestigious international event and continue to address the challenges in our sector, I encourage everyone to get involved. With your help, we can overcome any obstacles and make 2026 a landmark year for our organisation. Finally, can I thank the trustees for all your support and help without whom the organisation would not function. I want to thank Susie Hill as our outgoing President for all your support and I know you will continue to be a great support to the UBKA, you have been very instrumental in what the UBKA is today. To Les our Treasurer, & Nicola our secretary thanks to you both for your patience and help. David Morgan thank you for all your technical help and support from a techno fobe!! In closing, I look forward to the year ahead, confident that together we can as the UBKA, continue to build on the successes of this past year.

Valentine Hodges

Executive chair UBKA 2024

Secretary’s Report

Hard to believe another year has passed already. Not much to report on my end... This year we finally got direct-to-member emails set up. I ask that each association continue to provide members' email addresses so I can inform them about upcoming events, diseases, invasive species etc. Each email has an unsubscribe link at the bottom, so if you'd rather not hear from us, you can remove yourself from the mailing list. I want to congratulate the Education Committee on another successful year. Your dedication is a huge asset to the UBKA. I want to thank Valentine and Les for all their hard work. We meet monthly to discuss numerous matters within the UBKA while having a bit of craic. I want to thank Tom Williamson for delivering a

fantastic disease webinar. I want to congratulate Susie and John for organising a very successful microscopy workshop. Everyone who attended gave excellent feedback and I hope this is something we can continue to offer members. Finally, a few points I need to share: • Booking for the 2025 Conference is now live • If your association hasn't given me the names of possible Bee Health Advisors, please come see me or email me

Thanks for listening!

Nichola

UBKA Treasurers Financial Report For UBKA AGM 5th October 2024

Up to the end of current reporting year (31st July 2024), the overall financial position across all accounts is £67,658.53, we increase the Reserve Account by £10,000.00 Assets and Liabilities for the period 1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024 are summarized as follows: Date (£) Description
31 July 30,463.80 Reserve Account (year-end) 37,077.62 Current Account 92.11 Cash 25.00
Debtors - Equipment/promotional material Total-year start £ 67,658.53 Date (£) Description
31st July 24 - Total – year end - Date (£) Total 31 July 2024 (year-end) £ 67,658.53 I would like to thank David Morgan for what he has done in getting operational improvements, we will carry on and try to improve as we go, like the changes to the capitation sheet we are getting there. I would like to ask the associations to fill in the forms with all details, as with the email database Although communication has improved, I would urge all Associations to continue to assist in this process and to inform the UBKA Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of any changes to post holders and members as they arise. This is particularly critical given the pending change of personnel. Income and expenditure across both accounts over the past financial year is summarized below. 1 Reserve Account (t/a UBKA Select Account) Review – balance £30,463.80. As agreed, the balance of the reserve account was increased by £10,000 with additional funds transferred from the Current Account. This account has been 'ring fenced' for the UBKA Conference. 2 Current Account (t/a Classic Account) Review – balance £37,077.62 Transactions during the past year are summarized into the following categories: a) Capitation A total of 10,940.77 was received from the various Association during the reporting period. As has been noted in previous correspondence by the Hon. Secretary and myself, I would once again remind all Associations that members will not be insured unless they are capitated by their Association and payments received. I would acknowledge that this has improved greatly over the course of the past year. The UBKA continues to be insured through O'Leary Insurance Group (broker), with a renewal price for 2024 equating to £6,124.61. This represents a significant increase of around £840 from our previous renewal in 2023. The increase is due to (i) an ongoing claim under the policy; and (ii) the inclusion of 'member to member cover'. I would once again note that Hiscox Insurance is still the only insurance provider offering insurance specifically for beekeeping activities. Our broker continues to advise that any significant claims on the policy has the potential to dramatically increase the value of any renewals. This has been verified by market testing undertaken at the time of the renewal. We have therefore increased the capitation to £10 as from 1st Jan 2025. b) Education Education payments were not received during the current financial reporting year. We are still working on getting the payments quicker. c) UBKA Events UBKA Conference 2024 –A huge thanks should be extended to Brian Grzymek and his team for organizing yet another standout event, Brian's Conference Manager. Speaker's expenses of

around £18,065.77 costs (hire, catering, accommodation etc.) totaling about £24,095.87 were offset by ticket sales and sponsorship. Although some outstanding payments are to be finalized, I am pleased to report that the conference returned an overall profit. Honey Show 2023 – The 2023 Honey Show was considered a great success and saw a good number of exhibits. This show continues to be free to enter and incurred a cost of around £1,530.08 Bee Health Workshop 2024 – the event incurred a cost of around £6,757.83. Young Beekeeper 2023 – the UBKA funded the entry fee of about £1,073.89 d) UBKA Operational Expenses UBKA general operational expenses totaling around £were incurred over the course of the year. These included the following elements: i. Zoom subscription (monthly charge) £ 296.75 ii. Bank fees £ 259.50 iii. Auditor fees £ 100 iv. UBKA website £ 390.00 v. Misc. IT £ 134.98 In closing, I would like to thank you all for your assistance over the course of the last year period. I am pleased to report that the Association is in a good financial standing.

Kind regards

Les Sims

UBKA Treasurer

Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100709

Annual return

Ivan E. McMinn MBE

384 Belmont Road

Belfast

BT4 2NF

FAO Les Sims

Honorary Treasurer

Ulster Beekeeper Association

31st August 2024

Dear Les

**Subject Independent examination of Accounts
for Financial Year 1.8.2023 – 31/7/2024**

I confirm that I have carried out a random selection of the invoices issued and paid and have found all entries selected to be correct.

I have also carried out a reconciliation of the bank accounts and again have found that these agree with your reconciliations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ivan McMinn', written over a horizontal line.

Ivan E. McMinn MBE

Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100709

Accounts

Ulster Beekeepers Association - Current & Reserve Accounts 1 August 2022 - 31 July 2023

31 July 2022	Opening balance			38,610.02
		Expenditure	Income	
UBKA Operational expenses:		10,922.88	-	
Capitation				
2022		-	3,446.37	
2023		-	9,624.00	
UBKA Events				
<i>Winter webinar 2022</i>		500.00	-	
<i>Honey show 2022</i>		1,734.00	-	
<i>Conference 2023</i>		14,381.37	19,941.56	
<i>Bee Health Workshop:</i>		2,574.53	-	
<i>Wax workshop 2023</i>		809.00	560.00	
<i>Young beekeeper 2023</i>		1,173.42	-	
Education:				
2022		37,462.00	40,020.00	
2023		22,437.35	30,000.00	
<i>Wax Chandlers donation</i>		-	2,415.00	
Grand Totals		91,994.55	106,006.93	

31 July 2022	Closing Balance			52,622.40
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Reserve Account	For August 2020 - July 2021			
21 July 2020				11,062.62
31 July 2021				20,004.75
31 July 2022				20,006.75
31 July 2023				20,077.52

Ulster Bee Keepers Association - Assets & Liabilities 1st August 2021 - 31st July 2022

ASSETS 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 22	20,006.75	Reserve Account
(year end)	38,610.02	Current Account
	92.11	Cash
	300.00	Debtors
	-	Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	59,008.88	

LIABILITIES 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 22	500.00	
Total - year end	500.00	

UBKA - overall financial position - 2021-22		
Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2022 (year end)	58,508.88	

Ulster Bee Keepers Association - Assets & Liabilities 1st August 2022 - 31st July 2023

ASSETS 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 23	20,077.52	Reserve Account
(year end)	52,622.40	Current Account
	92.11	Cash
	470.00	Debtors
	-	Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	73,262.03	

LIABILITIES 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 23	250.00	
Total - year end	250.00	

UBKA - overall financial position - 2021-22		
Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2023 (year end)	73,012.03	

Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100709

Annual report

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is a resume of my three years as Chair of UBKA.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my three years in this position. I took on the role in October 2020 which, of course, was in the middle of the Covid pandemic. This gave rise to various problems for me and the Executive to steer the association through this unprecedented time.

The first change was to have Executive meetings by "Zoom". This was new technology and required mastering the system, which we did quickly. This format proved successful, and I continued with it after the pandemic because it was very convenient, however I do hope my successor will include some face-to-face meetings.

Bank arrangements had proved a major headache for many years. Brian Grzymek and David Morgan reformed everything and so produced an online system that even this technophobe Chair was able to work. Accounts are now produced and audited much more easily.

The pandemic meant that we could not have a conference in 21 and 22. I set up a series of webinars with 6 in 21 and 7 in 22. These were widely publicised to the home countries. What surprised us was how far the publicity went. In 21 we had listeners from UK and Ireland but also all-over North America, Europe, and the Middle East. We had over 900 people for Jed Marshals second lecture. In 22 we reached the same spread plus Australia and New Zealand. These webinars were sponsored and free to listen to. Prof Jamie Ellis from Florida could not believe the audiences as he was used to speaking online to perhaps 50-100 people. The goodwill generated for UBKA was astonishing will many congratulatory emails. I would like to thank Jo Gibson for designing the webinar publicity and David Morgan and Trevor Dawson for managing the live shows.

WE had a major reform of the Constitution introducing 6 trustees to oversee governance. The various sub committees were renamed teams. Trustees meet twice a year and occasionally if an issue needs to be discussed urgently.

A major bespoke Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection policy was written for us by the NSPCC. Regular training meetings have been held and will continue in the future.

We found that there was a need for better communication between UBKA and associations. WE have created a database of all members and their email addresses so that we can publicise events directly to members.

The biggest change in the last three years was in Education. Previously we shared the FIBKA system which we had done for many years. During covid, however, FIBKA had a change of personnel and made some changes we could not agree to. We decided to produce our own Education system with support from CAFRE and Open College Network NI. We set up the Introduction to Beekeeping course for beginners. This is based on lectures with the student's doing homework through the online Moodle system. Their work was assessed and verified and if successful, a certificate was awarded. There was no exam at the end, the work could be completed with the books open. The second course "Proficiency in Beekeeping" took over from the old Intermediate course. A two-year course, again set up in similar lines with homework submitted through Moodle and assessed and verified. A separate Apiary Practical exam is carried out when the student has 2 years hive records. The students were given free reign to write in the first year. This proved difficult as many wrote vast volumes of

material which, while good learning, put huge strain on the assessors. Maximum word counts have been introduced to help students and assessors and this has proved successful. This has been a very successful project and with some future tweaking will be a huge asset to UBKA. The standard of learning has improved. I would like to thank the Education Team for their incredible hard work and dedication in producing a great learning system. They are Esther Ross, Ethel Irvine, Wendy Johnston (Secretary) Robert McCreery, Chris Hodges, and Chair Susie Hill. I have sat in on many of their weekly meetings and can assure you that their achievement has been monumental. Next courses will be a Senior level and Bee Master.

The Website had become very outdated and needed an overhaul. A website team worked in conjunction with Andy White of Trebania (Website designer) After a long gestation the new website has been rolled out earlier this year and looks well. It needs content from every association and can act as a central information hub. My thanks to the Website Team, Cathal Tunney, Gary McConnell, Valentine Hodges.

Trevor Dawson (Randalstown) has produced editions of a ezine called "Buzz" in collaboration with a journalist student. These have been excellent publications and congratulations to Trevor. He is always on the lookout for articles and photographs from members and would appreciate your help.

The conference made its return on 17th and 18th February 2023 to Greenmount under the management of Brian Grzymek. The theme was "Back to the Future" looking at post-covid times. We planned for fewer numbers at around 200-250 and ended up with nearly 400 which was brilliant. The main speaker was Prof Juliana Rangel from Texas A&M University. The trade exhibition was smaller, especially as Donegall Bees withdrew at the last minute due to illness. Thorne, however, coped with the red tape of the NI Protocol and appeared with full contingent as did Burke's Beehives. The lectures and workshops were well attended. Unfortunately, Fewer southern beekeepers appeared due to an emergency meeting of FIBKA held the Saturday. Plans for 2024 are well on the way.

The UBKA Honey Show returned in 2022 and was a great success. Judges Enid Brown, Shirley Bond and Jim Fletcher were impressed by the standard of entry with Gary McConnell, Three Rivers< winning the Blue Riband for his mead. This gave him free entry to The National Honey Show where he came third in his class. Many new beekeepers have not experienced showing through Covid and many are stimulated to try for today.

We had three Bee Health Workshops in March in Enniskillen, Derry and Belfast. The speakers were Dan Basterfield NDB from Devon and Tom Williamson, Senior Bee Inspector. These were well attended and excellent chances for members to socialize again after Covid.

UBKA invited wax expert Joyce Nisbet for a concentrated workshop day in Greenmount in March. Joyce showed groups how to clean wax, make wax molds of fruit and wax flowers. A great day which must be repeated in the future.

We made an appeal to the Wax Chandlers Guild for money towards a Microscopy course for our Senior Course. This was successful and they have awarded us £4,000 to develop this project. Plans will be made in the forthcoming year.

UBKA has entered a team on several occasions for the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers, IMYB. This July, Susie Hill, Valentine Hodges, and Charlene Abraham took our team of three to Slovenia. Despite a delay in Zurich, they performed well and gained a huge amount of experience as well as great networking with young beekeepers from 30 other countries.

Several UBKA Associations have been running Queen Rearing courses in conjunction with the Native Irish Honeybee Society, NIHBS, and promoting the Native Irish Black Bee. These are proving very successful with many beekeepers learning the ins and outs of queen rearing techniques. This will help us to become more self-sufficient in queens and reduce imports. It is fair to say that UBKA will support any beekeeper and will not discriminate against any breed of bee that members wish to keep.

I am delighted to say that five new associations have joined the UBKA umbrella during my three-year chairmanship. These are Foyle, Three Rivers, Downpatrick, Cornfields and recently Rasharkin. These are an excellent addition to our family. Unfortunately, Derry BKA decided to join FIBKA for their own reasons.

UBKA has been a member of the Council of National Beekeeping Associations which has recently rejoined Apimondia the world beekeeping organization. The British BKA had dropped out of membership some years ago which meant all 4 nations membership lapsed. Sense has since prevailed and membership for all has been restored. I have been elected Treasurer of CONBA.

There have been a few negatives in the past three years.

The organization of FIBKA has gone through collapse in recent years and we are sorry to see it. There is no doubt that we split away from their education system at the right time. No exams were held for their associations this year. I hope their emergency meeting in February will bring about a new start and return to normal function. We will look forward to re-establishing our regular biannual meetings.

A sequela to our new education system was that Derry BKA decided to move to FIBKA. A couple of other associations did not take up our new "Introduction to Beekeeping" course but did their own beginner's course. Unfortunately, this means that these students cannot progress further with our system until they repeat the Introduction course. I do hope that they will return now that the course is refined.

There has been a huge increase in EFB this year and in areas such as Co Down where it has not been seen in decades. There is every likelihood that there is much more Foulbrood disease out there in Ulster. EFB is not easily seen, however the fact that many beekeepers are reporting it means that our Bee Health Workshops are having an effect. WE are in desperate need of the bee inspectorate especially with the additional threat of Asian Hornet.

DAERA has proved a disappointment. Our bee inspectorate has effectively been nonfunctional for 2 years with very few apiary inspections. There is the issue of NI being used as a staging post for bee importations from Europe threatening introduction of Small Hive Beetle never mind a potential deleterious effect on the gene pool. Despite making approaches for discussions and meetings at various times, very little meaningful communication has occurred. Bee importations through NI to GB will continue as there is only a fraction of the paperwork required as opposed to importing directly from EU to GB.

As I said at the beginning, I have thoroughly enjoyed my chairmanship. I have worked with a group of very special people who have worked very hard for UBKA and helped it to attain a worthy status both at home and abroad. The Education Team, Ethel Irvine, Esther Ross, Robert McCreery, Education Secretary Wendy Johnston, Chris Hodges and Chaired by Susie Hill. Conference Manager, Brian Grzymek, Webmaster Cathal Tunney, Valentine Hodges and Gary McConnell. Mark Wallace for the Honey Show team. Trevor Dawson and Nichola Whan as UBKA Secretaries. I look forward to continuing to support this organization from the back benches.

Thank you.

John Hill MRCVS

Chair UBKA 2020-2023

Ulster Beekeepers' Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100709

Annual return

Ulster Bee Keepers Association - Assets & Liabilities 1st August 2021 - 31st July 2022

ASSETS 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 22	20,006.75	Reserve Account
(year end)	38,610.02	Current Account
	92.11	Cash
	300.00	Debtors
	-	Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	59,008.88	

LIABILITIES 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 22	500.00	
Total - year end	500.00	

UBKA - overall financial position - 2021-22		
Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2022 (year end)	58,508.88	

Ulster Bee Keepers Association - Assets & Liabilities 1st August 2022 - 31st July 2023

ASSETS 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 22	20,077.52	Reserve Account
(year end)	52,835.40	Current Account
	92.11	Cash
	470.00	Debtors
	-	Equipment/promotional material
Total - year start	73,475.03	

LIABILITIES 2021 / 22		
Date	(£)	Description
31 July 22	250.00	
Total - year end	250.00	

UBKA - overall financial position - 2021-22		
Date	(£)	Description
Total 31 July 2022 (year end)	73,225.03	

I confirm I have carried out a random examination of the account records of Ulster Bee Keepers Association and having found no errors or inconsistencies, I am satisfied that the records are in my opinion correct and suitable to be presented at the forthcoming AGM.

Signed *Ivan E. Menting*
 IVAN E. MENTING MBE

DATE 3rd October 2023