

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association SCIO
Scottish Charity Number SC031754
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Period
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association SCIO

Charity Number

SC031754



Structure, Governance & Management

Governing Document

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association was incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on 30th October 2014 and is governed by its constitution. The assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association were transferred to the SCIO on 9th December 2014.

Appointment of Office Bearers

Association Office Bearers consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom are elected for one year at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The gap between one AGM and the next must be no longer than 15 months.

The business of the Association is conducted by an Association Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and at least one other member of the Association, all of whom are nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of one year. Membership of the Association Committee is open to all members of the Association.

Management

The Association Committee is responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the Association. The day-to-day running is conducted by the Office Bearers and those members of the Association Committee who volunteer for duties as required.

Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the operational, financial and reputational aspects of the association.

- **Operational risk**

The Association has its own apiary and has procedures in place to promote safety to members, visitors and the general public. Procedures are continually reviewed to ensure that all beekeeping activities are conducted in a safe manner.

- **Financial risk**

The Association seeks to obtain the best return on its surplus funds whilst retaining flexibility of access should unforeseen expenditure arise. Surplus funds are placed on deposit and rates of return reviewed regularly to ensure that satisfactory market rates are obtained.

- **Reputational risk**

The Association is keenly aware of the need to maintain the high reputation of the Association and the craft of beekeeping, both within the beekeeping community and with the public. The promotion of responsible beekeeping and high-quality products underpins all the Association's education and qualification activities and the Association endeavours to operate to high standards at all times.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

To advance education through promoting the study and development of apiculture, and to advance the heritage, culture and science of beekeeping amongst its membership and throughout the wider community.

Activities

The Association maintains a working apiary at a site in Aberdeenshire which is used to promote the practical aspects of beekeeping. The Association undertakes a wide range of educational events, including talks and practical apiary-based demonstrations and training courses, which are open to all ADBKA members and on occasion to interested members of the public.

Members are encouraged to study for the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA) qualifications in beekeeping. The Association provides support to members in their beekeeping activities and disseminates information about the importance of bees and beekeeping throughout the area of operation. A library of books on beekeeping is maintained and made available to Association members.

Achievements and Performance

Membership at the end of the year was 283, a slight increase on 274 in both 2022 and 2023, plus three life members. ADBKA thus remains one of the largest beekeeping Associations in Scotland.

The Trustees of 14 people met five times during the year, plus the AGM.

Five demonstrations and two beginners' practical courses were held at the Training Apiary. Regular Sunday morning apiary management sessions continued, giving Members the opportunity to receive hands-on experience and instruction. A coaching programme led to five members obtaining the SBA 'Basic Beekeeping' certificate, all with distinction and with one achieving a national award for the top mark in Scotland. A further 15 SBA qualifications were achieved by Members.

The annual public 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course attracted 90 participants, slightly more than in 2023. It is hard to know precisely but it is estimated that typically around 15% of the participants will go on keep bees for at least three years.

In addition to the above training delivered by the Association, external providers were brought in to deliver both a skep-making workshop and importantly also a Scottish Government 'Bee Health' day.

The Association had a stand at the two-day Turriff Show as usual. This large agricultural show is a primary opportunity to interact with and inform large numbers of members of the public about beekeeping. The Aberdeen Highland Games was cancelled due to bad weather but a stand was staffed at the Banchory Show.

Despite 2024 generally being a poor season due to extended periods of poor weather, a successful Honey Show took place in October. This event fundamentally promotes the production of high-quality honey and wax products and the enhanced skills needed to achieve these.

Work continued to improve the standards and efficacy of the 'swarm collection' service offered to the public. Due to extended periods of generally poor weather, swarming was perhaps less of an issue in 2024 than usual. Nevertheless, the majority of 'nuisance bee' calls turn out to be about wasps and bees other than honeybees and the Association is unable to act on these.

The Association has an outstanding resource of around 200 beekeeping books in its library to support beekeeping education. A few new volumes were added in 2024 to reflect changes in examination syllabuses. The Association website was continuously updated and improved throughout the year to increase its utility both to Association Members and members of the public. As has been the case for decades, a monthly newsletter for Members continued to be produced.

Financial Review

The Association prepares receipts and payments accounts that summarise all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash by the charity during its financial year, along with a statement of balances, as required by OSCR. A surplus of £4,698 was achieved for the 2024 financial year.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain a balance of reserves sufficient to cover any unexpected expenditure that may arise from time to time. The normal running costs of the Association are dealt with through the Bank of Scotland Treasurer's account. Excess funds are transferred into an interesting bearing deposit account (currently Skipton Community Saver Account).

An important objective of the ADBKA is to provide practical tuition to new beekeepers in the northeast of Scotland in the handling and management of bees. To do this, the Association needs to maintain access to a teaching apiary of sufficient scale to allow groups of new beekeepers to attend both formal and informal sessions to develop their skills. At present the Association leases an area of ground at the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) Crathes Castle Estate and has established a teaching apiary there. The Association has a long-term aspiration of expanding the teaching facilities either at the existing site or on any land to be purchased by the Association. The Association is using the annual surplus to build up sufficient reserves to support this aspiration.

Future Plans

The Association is firmly back into its traditional pattern of annual activities after the disruption of the Covid years. This programme has evolved over many years to fit the natural cycle of the beekeeping year and is therefore likely to be the basis for the Association's operations for years to come.

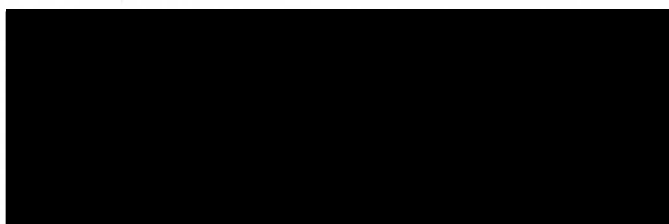
The Trustees intend that the Association should continue the slightly increased emphasis over the past few years on the education and training of members, especially novices to the craft. A range of courses and talks will be offered to the membership to broaden the skills base and programmes leading to qualifications are being considered.

Public engagement and education are principally achieved through:

- Operating educational stands at selected local agricultural and other shows.
- The annual 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course, which is open to the public and is perennially popular and well-received. This serves a dual purpose of giving the majority of participants who choose not to go on to keep bees greater awareness of the craft and bee ecology, and recruiting a smaller proportion into the craft and membership of the Association.
- Talks about bees and beekeeping given to schools, gardening clubs, social groups and the like on request.
- Operating a 'swarm collection' service to the public in the May-June swarming season, when skilled member beekeepers will attempt to remove honeybee swarms that are a nuisance to a householder or in a public area.

All the above are expected to continue in future and may be enhanced or improved as circumstances dictate and opportunities arise.

Approved by the trustees on 28th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Independent Examiner's Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

During my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed:

Name:

Address:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FRSA Stage II

Date:

22/4/25

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Receipts			
Membership subscriptions	4	5,371	6,440
Donations		110	188
Gross receipts from other charitable activities			
- Gift Aid		1,055	1,067
- Other Income	5	4,271	4,183
Income from bank deposit interest	6	1,920	189
Gross trading receipts	7	33	-
		12,760	12,067
Payments			
Payments relating directly to charitable activities			
- General Expenses	8	5,752	5,663
- Insurance		199	205
- Stationery		122	24
- Postage		201	191
- Newsletter	9	179	214
- Rent/Apiary Expenses	10	1,609	1,348
		8,062	7,645
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		4,698	4,422

The Notes on page 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

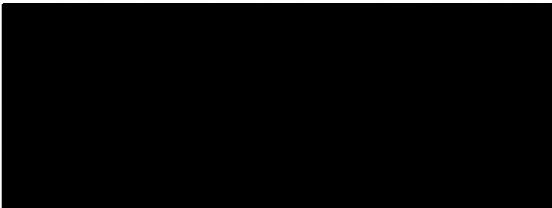
All funds in the above statement are unrestricted.

Statement of Balances – As at 31st December 2024

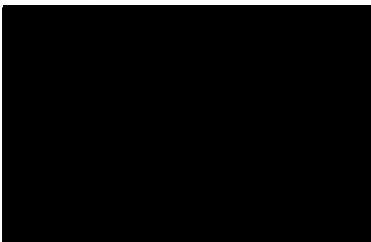
	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Cash at Bank and in Hand:			
Opening Balance		69,238	64,816
Surplus for Year		4,698	4,422
Closing Balance		73,936	69,238
Bank and Cash Balances			
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account		2,882	5,104
Skipton Community Saver		71,054	64,134
		73,936	69,238
Restricted Funds			
None		-	-
Unrestricted Funds			
		73,936	69,238

The Notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 28th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Chair



Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts – For the Period ending 31st December 2024

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain two unrestricted funds as follows:

Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account – for the day-to-day running of the Association and is non-interest bearing.

Skipton Community Saver Account – an instant access, interest bearing account which allows the Association the flexibility of instant access if funds are required for any unexpected reason and the benefit of higher interest rates for additional funds.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. The Association currently has no Restricted Funds.

3. Trustee remuneration

No Honoraria payments were made to Trustees.

4. Membership subscriptions

Comprises annual membership subscriptions received by the Association in the 2024 financial year and not necessarily all relating to the 2024 membership year.

5. Other Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Sale of Association Apiary Honey	796	1,185
Sale of Association nucleus colonies	0	160
Beekeeping Classes	1,038	1,107
Skep Workshop	455	-
Annual Convention	1,962	1,660
Other	20	71
	<u>4,271</u>	<u>4,183</u>

6. Income From Investments other than Land and Buildings

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank Interest		
Skipton Community Saver	1,920	189

7. Gross Trading Receipts – Sale of Stock

In 2020 the Association decided to withdraw from selling consumables so the receipts from stock in 2024 were from supplies purchased in prior years.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other (hessian)	33	-
	33	-

8. Analysis of General Expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Venue Hire	60	159
Intro to Beekeeping Course	204	204
Annual Convention	1,981	2,656
Honey Show	1,116	773
Turriff Show	5	303
AGM	63	46
Other events	605	368
Speaker fees/expenses	50	60
Equipment Purchase	901	276
IT (website, online meetings)	289	467
Library purchases/expenses	157	70
Other	321	281
	5,752	5,663

9. Advertising and Promotion

	2024	2023
	£	£
Newsletter expenses (including postage)	179	214

10. Rent/Apiary Expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Crathes Apiary rent	750	750
Equipment/supplies	859	598
	<u>1,609</u>	<u>1,348</u>

11. Assets

Assets owned by the Association are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at annual rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Cabin 6.66% per annum

Apiary and computer equipment, furniture and fittings 20% per annum

	Cabin at Crathes £	Apiary and other equipment £	Total £
Net Book Value 1st January 2024	9,292	2,160	11,452
Additions	-	801	801
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2024	<u>9,292</u>	<u>2,961</u>	<u>12,253</u>
Depreciation			
Charge for period	<u>1,858</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>2,252</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 31st December 2024	<u>7,434</u>	<u>2,567</u>	<u>10,001</u>