

South of Scotland Beekeepers Association

Scotland · Charity number SC048334

Details

Known as	SSBKA
Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2018-04-24
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	BeeSpace Holywood Dumfries DG2 0RL
Website	www.southofscotlandbeekeepers.co.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of environmental protection or improvement'

What the charity does: Meetings were held through the year to promote beekeeping and educate members. Courses were held for beginners to introduce them to beekeeping. Members took exams in beekeeping. Honey was produced during the course of the year in the charity's apiary and sold to raise funds or donated to raise awareness.

Beneficiaries: 'Children or young people', 'Older People', 'Other defined groups'

Objectives: 4 The organisations purposes are: 4.1 The advancement of education with reference to beekeeping 4.2 To help conserve the natural environment by promoting the importance of bees in the environment

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Dumfries And Galloway
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2026-01-31	£15,296	£16,752	-	0
2025-01-31	£15,313	£13,823	-	0
2024-01-31	£13,225	£18,647	-	0
2023-01-31	£17,215	£6,956	-	0
2022-01-31	£11,934	£9,029	-	0
2021-01-31	£9,293	£5,910	-	0

Accounts

South of Scotland Beekeepers Association
Scottish Charity Number SC048334

Statement of Balance as at 31st January 2025

	Year to 31.1.25	Year to 31.1.24
Bank and Cash in Hand		
Opening Balances (Unrestricted)	13,417	18,839
Opening Balances (Restricted)	3,022	3,022
(Deficit)/Surplus for Year	1,489	-5,422
	<u>17,928</u>	<u>16,439</u>
Represented by		
Royal Bank of Scotland	14,829	13,417
Royal Bank of Scotland (Janet's Fund)	3,022	3,022
Paypal Account	77	0
	<u>17,928</u>	<u>16,439</u>

Approved By Trustees
Signed on their behalf:

4th November 2025

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of South of Scotland Beekeepers Association SCIO

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 January 2025.

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

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was 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 view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

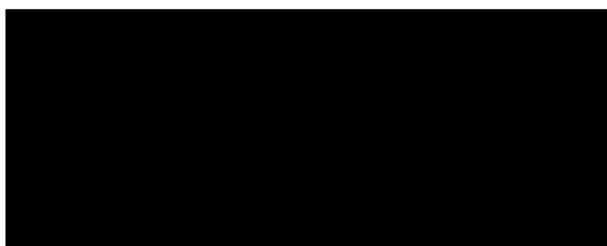
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives 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 to 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.



Farries, Kirk and McVean
Chartered Accountants
Dumfries Enterprise Park
Heathhall
Dumfries
DUMFRIESSHIRE
DG1 3SJ

Date: 4th November 2025



Trustees Annual Report

1st Feb 2024 – 31st Jan 2025

The South of Scotland Beekeepers' Association (SSBKA) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) that was registered in April 2018. Prior to this the SSBKA operated as a constituted organisation for many decades, providing support and education to beekeepers throughout Dumfries and Galloway.

Objectives & Activities

The Charitable purposes are:

- The advancement of education in relation to training supporting, monitoring & continued development of new & experienced beekeepers.
- The advancement of environmental protection in relation to beekeeping, by promoting the importance of the honeybee as a major pollinator to enhance food production & biodiversity, & to arrest the decline of the economically important pollinating activities of honeybees.

The charities main activities include:

- Supporting those with an interest in beekeeping in most of Dumfriesshire. Monthly meetings usually attract 30-40 members.
- Summer meetings involve practical activities usually at the hives weather permitting.
- Winter meetings involving educational lectures, honey shows, practical workshops such as candle making.
- Delivery of Beekeeping Beginners Courses involving a mixture of classroom theory work & practical hands on training at the training apiary.

Structure, Governance & Management

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 28th April 2018. The Charity was previously a constituted unincorporated association but changed its legal status to a SCIO on 24th April 2018.

It has a two-tier structure:

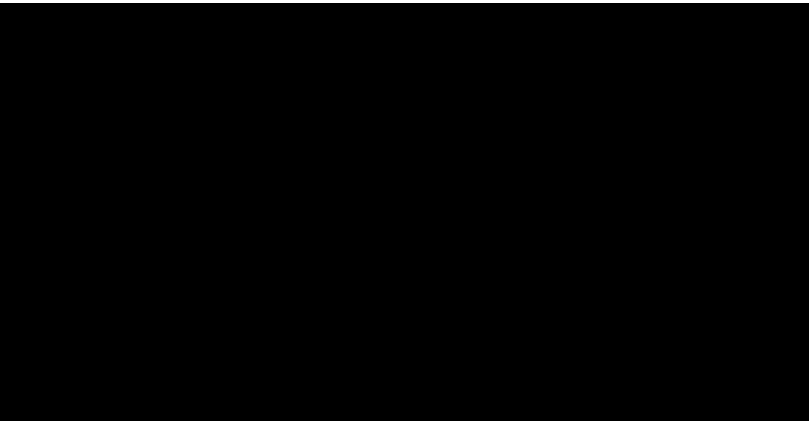
- The **MEMBERS** who have the right to attend members meetings (including any Annual General Meeting) & have important powers under the constitution; in particular, the members appoint people to serve on the board & take decisions on changes to the constitution itself.

- The **BOARD** who hold regular meetings, and generally control the activities of the organisation; for example, the board is responsible for monitoring & controlling the financial position of the organisation.

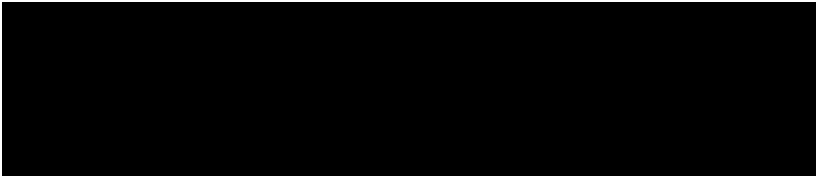
Trustee Recruitment & Appointment

The trustees meet every 8 weeks. Trustees are elected to The Board at the AGM by the membership, and the Trustees from time to time may appoint an eligible person to the Board. Office bearers will be recruited at their next meeting. The maximum number of Trustees is 12 and the minimum 6. The Board comprises people with a wide range of skills, knowledge & experience required to run the charity

Charity Trustees



Office Bearers as of 9th October 2024



Special thanks go to [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] longstanding contribution to the Board of the SSBKA.

Achievements and Performance

Meetings and education

Members meetings

Monthly members meetings are split between winter and summer meetings. The summer meetings were held at BeeSpace and included practical demonstrations in the apiary of various beekeeping procedures. [REDACTED].

Winter meetings were held on the evening of the second Wednesday of the month in February, March, April, October, November and December 2024 and in January 2025.

These meetings included:

- February 2024 – [REDACTED] “Non-notifiable Bee Diseases”
- March 2024 – [REDACTED] “SSBKA Queen Rearing”

- April – August 2024 - Summer meetings at BeeSpace Apiary
- September 2024 – AGM and BBQ at BeeSpace
- October 2024 – [REDACTED] “Varroa Essentials”
- November 2024 – SSBKA Honey Show
- December 2024 – [REDACTED] “Ethical Beekeeping”
- January 2025 – Natural Little Bee Company gave a talk about their skincare range.

The AGM was held on 14th September 2024.

2024 Beginners Course

Nineteen students completed a classroom-based “Beginners Theory of Beekeeping” course over four consecutive Saturdays in January and February 2024. These sessions were led by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. A practical session followed in May and more instruction was given at members meetings.

SBA Exams

Basic Beekeeper Exam - Three members completed three preparation sessions and then sat the Scottish Beekeepers Association Basic Beekeeper Exam.

Apiarian Exam – BeeSpace was used by the SBA to hold the practical element of an Apiarian Exam. Both the classroom and apiary were used. One member passed the exam.

Module exams – One member passed the Module 1 exam.

Congratulations to all the members that passed their exams!

Swarm Control Workshop

[REDACTED] from West Galloway Beekeepers Association held a swarm control workshop at BeeSpace for SSBKA members on Saturday 20th April 2024. Fifteen members attended the workshop where they spent a full day learning about effective swarm control techniques.

The Apiary

Phil continued to work as apiary manager and looked after 12 hives during the summer of 2024. [REDACTED] provided updates to the members by email to let them know what was happening in the apiary. All of the summer meetings were held at BeeSpace in the training apiary.

Nuc Production

Eleven nucs of bees were produced as part of swarm control within the apiary. These nucs were offered for sale to members.

Queen Rearing

[REDACTED] led queen rearing sessions using the nicot kit to obtain larvae which were transferred to a queenless colony to produce new cells. The mature queen cells were placed in mini mating nucs to allow the new queens to emerge and mate. The poor weather of 2024 made it a difficult process but still some new queens were produced for use in the apiary.

Association honey

This year approximately 460lbs of honey were extracted from the bees at BeeSpace. [REDACTED] gets mileage expenses for apiary management paid in honey and which this year was approx. 210lbs of

honey. The remaining honey was bottled and 216 12oz jars were donated to local charities and foodbanks. Those getting honey included Kate's Kitchen (Annan), River of Life Foodbank (Dumfries), Thornhill Community Food Initiative, Lothlorien Community, Summerhill Community Centre, Foodbank in Stranraer and Dumfries and Galloway Multicultural Association.

Jar and feed sales

The SSBKA used their bulk buying power to provide members with the opportunity to buy honey jars and winter feed at a very good price. With the price of jars and feed increasing so much, this enables our members to take advantage of our ability to buy by the pallet-load, resulting in lower price per unit. The organisation of this, and the distribution of the jars to all the members that have bought stock, is a very time-consuming undertaking and relies on our Trustees to co-ordinate everything. Thank you to [REDACTED] for continuing to order the jars and feed for us and to [REDACTED] for organising the sale and collections. This year 179 jerricans of ambrosia syrup and 118 boxes of honey jars were bought through the association by members.

Use of BeeSpace Facilities

Extraction facilities at BeeSpace were used by members. BeeSpace has two large extractors, one suitable for national frames and the other fits Langstroth frames. It is possible to extract both blossom and heather honey. In addition, the honey warming cabinet, heather honey strainer and smaller extractor were all loaned out to be used elsewhere.

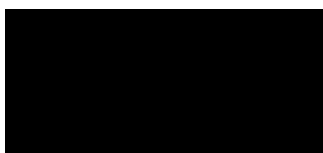
BeeSpace Garden

The garden at BeeSpace is cared for by [REDACTED]. This is no small task, and they meet every Tuesday afternoon to weed and tend the garden. Many thanks to everyone that has helped to keep our bee friendly, wildlife garden looking so wonderful!

Swarms

Many members have helped provide a free service to the public by collecting swarms. Thanks to our swarm co-ordinator [REDACTED] for organising this. Please don't forget that you can opt into be on the swarm collection list through the membership portal - [Sign In to membermojo](#)

The Trustees would like to thank all our members for their input to the association. Everything that is accomplished is done so by trustees and members volunteering their time and everyone's dedication and contributions are greatly appreciated.



Chair

South of Scotland Beekeepers Association