

North Shropshire Beekeepers' Association AGM
19 October 2021
Annual Reports 2020/21

Chair's report

As you will all be only too well aware, COVID 19 meant that we started the first half of the year unable to hold face-to-face meetings or activities. Fortunately, restrictions began to ease by the middle of the year and we were able to open the apiary on a restricted basis and hold both Taster and Basic courses.

Through it all, the NSBKA Committee has continued to do its best to keep the Association running. I would like to thank all Committee members for their continued efforts on behalf of the Association. In particular we should thank Sarah and her dedicated 'bubble' of Brian, Ann and Guy who continued to manage the apiary every week. They have put in an enormous amount of work during their time in office and we are very grateful to them.

Communications throughout the year have been maintained in large part by the Association's excellent newsletter, Beelines. It has also received high praise from other BKAs.

Four members of the Committee have stood down: Angie Kirk as Secretary, Sarah Hodnett as Apiary Manager, Brian Roberts as Assistant Apiary Manager and Alison Hine as Chairman. We are grateful to them for all their hard work on behalf of the Association.

We can only continue to be a successful Association with the help and support of committee members and other volunteers giving their time. Please would anyone who is able to help, in any capacity, consider standing for a Committee position at the AGM or offering help in other ways.

Secretarial report

The main secretarial work continued as normal with the distribution of correspondence and NSBKA newsletters. The distribution of the bulk food order had again to be 'socially distanced'.

Treasurer's report: Accounts to 30th September 2021

Our finances for the past year have again been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic; however this year we were able to hold Taster courses in Spring, the income from which has enabled us to finish the year with a surplus of £547, which made up in part for the large deficit experienced last year.

Income

Our primary sources of income were membership fees of £1,515 and course fees of £1,380, together with sales of honey totalling £740. Total income from all sources was £3,816.

Expenditure

This year our expenditure was at similar levels to last year; the largest element was Apiary costs where we carried out further work on the apiary paths (£560) and replaced old equipment (£600), with the balance being spent on frames, wax, gloves and treatments.

The other main areas of expenditure were Hall hire for Taster/Basic courses, which were held in separate locations this year to ensure social distancing (£334), speaker and Zoom fees for remote talks (£522), and bulk feed for the apiary (£364). Total expenditure was £3,269.

Summary

The association's financial year ended with a surplus of £547, which has partly offset the large deficit of £1,658 incurred in the previous year.

As at 30th September 2021 the association's bank balances totalled £9,899, which should enable us to continue to fund future association activities, including at those times when our fund-raising activities are curtailed by circumstances beyond our control.

NORTH SHROPSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT - ACCOUNTS PERIOD 1ST OCTOBER 2020 to 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

	ACTUAL 2021 £	BUDGET 2021 £	ACTUAL 2020 £	BUDGET 2020 £
<u>INCOME</u>				
Subs - NSBKA	1,515	1,200	1,225	1,100
Subs - BBKA/BDI/Beecraft	(32)		(291)	
Honey sales	740	500	162	500
Taster fees	1,380	300	160	900
HOT Fees	-	-	-	400
Annual dinner/Other events	-	-	355	-
Prize money	-	-	50	-
Polo shirts	-	-	15	-
Donations/Interest	213	-	19	-
Total Income	3,816	2,000	1,695	2,900
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Admin/Library/Insurance	195	100	100	200
Room Hire	334	200	614	600
Speakers & Zoom fees	522	300	353	500
Apiary costs	1,720	600	1,409	1,000
Jars/Labels	-	100	-	200
Ambrosia & Fondant costs	364	400	397	400
Education & Training expenses	134	50	178	500
Flower Show/Honey Shows	-	200	302	250
Total Expenses	3,269	1,950	3,353	3,650
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	£547	£50	£(1,658)	(£750)
BANK BALANCES AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER:-				
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
Current Account	5,278		4,856	
Savings Account	4,621		4,496	
Total Bank Balances	£9,899	£9,403	£9,352	£9,906

Events report

Due to Covid 19, the majority of events over the past year have been held online via Zoom. This has proved successful in many ways as it has enabled us to get speakers from further afield, and enabled events to be recorded and put on the website.

The virtual zoom events have been well attended, but it has meant that people with poor internet connections are unable to attend. A summary of the events up until the AGM, the format used and the number of attendees is provided in the table below.

Unfortunately, a number of regular annual events that would normally have been held in person and were not possible to move onto zoom were not held in 2021. This included the Christmas Social in January and an out-apiary visit.

Summary of 2020/1 NSBKA Events.

Date	Event Format	Speaker	Topic	Attendees
17/11/20	Zoom Talk	Clare Densley and Martin Hann from Buckfast Abbey	Preparing for Spring	32
15/12/20	Zoom Talk – including tasting element	Northumberland Honey Co	From Bees to Bottle	24
19/01/21	Zoom Talk	Celia Davies	Plants and Honeybee Nutrition	28
16/02/21	Zoom Talk	Jim Vivian-Griffiths	Spring Management	31
16/03/21	Zoom Talk	Julian Routh	Swarm Control	40
20/04/21	Zoom Talk	Colin Pavey and Ben Bowen	Pictorial disease quiz	23
01/08/21	In person - outside	N/A	Bring and Buy / picnic at Whixall Village Hall	Approx. 50
21/09/21	Zoom Talk	David Evans	Preparing for Winter	32

Education report

We made full use of Zoom over the winter, running two remote Taster courses and one Module 1 group. Once we were able to run 'live' courses we ran a further Taster course and also a Basic course. These were run at Tilstock and Whixall respectively to ensure 'social distancing'.

Following the Basic course, six candidates sat and passed their Basic Assessments. Three candidates also gained passes in the written Modules 1, 2 and 8. Congratulations to all!

Hopefully, we will be able to meet face-to-face in 2022 and plans are already being made for training events. We would be grateful for suggestions of anything that members would like us to put on.

Membership report

This year we have 138 members, of these, 28 are new. It is a shame that we couldn't offer our normal level of support for these new members but hopefully next year we will be back to our normal weekly apiary meetings. We invited all new members from both this and last year to the apiary during the summer, it was good to meet so many of you.

For the coming year there is a small increase in the BBKA part of our annual membership. There will again be a £5 discount for NSBKA membership for those who pay by the 1st December. Membership renewals will be sent via an email link to eR2.

I look forward to meeting you all at our meetings this year for interesting talks and cake!

Apiary report

The Association Apiary at Pimhill remained closed to the wider membership for the first part of the season, due to Covid19 restrictions. During this time the apiary was ably managed by Sarah, Brian, Ann and Guy, and time was also found to replace the path and do other maintenance work.

Once the Covid restrictions were eased it became possible to re-start apiary evenings but only on a limited basis so that social distancing regulations could be maintained. All new members from 2020/21 were invited on an individual basis. The three Hands On Training (HOT) 8 participants restarted their course in June and have now been able to take their colonies home.

Management of the apiary for the winter is in hand and plans are being developed for next season when hopefully we will be back to normal meetings.

Librarian/Publicity report

One of the consequences of the Covid restrictions is that the association library has not been out and about at NSBKA meetings; however it is still alive and well and the books are available for borrowing by members, and it will make its next appearance at the AGM.

The library has 130+ plus books (and a few dvds), ranging from general interest books, which are a great introduction for newer members, to more technical reference books for those members that way inclined. All the books can be viewed on the NSBKA website, and members can request books via the website or directly from librarian@nsbka.org

Suggestions from members for books they would like to see in the library are always very welcome, so do let the Librarian know if you have any ideas.

Webmaster report

It has been a pleasure to maintain and develop the association website nsbka.org over the last twelve months and to look after the associations email setup.

If you have not already done so, I would urge you to register on the website for a username and password; this gives you a personal login so that you can access the NSBKA members' areas which cannot be reached by the public, such as current and back copies of the Beelines newsletters, recent recorded Zoom presentations and many other items. The website content is also updated regularly.

Website Features

- Zoom presentations (Members' area)
- Beelines, the NSBKA newsletter - current and previous issues (Members' area)
- Latest Bee News – bee-related news articles in the press and media are outlined with a link to view them online.
- A focal point for information for anyone interested in beekeeping in Shropshire
- A source of information for the general public – e.g. swarm collection, Asian Hornet identification/contact
- Interactive swarm collectors' map
- All the NSBKA library book details appear in an interactive section of the website so that books details can be viewed, and books requested and reserved online.
- NSBKA Events calendar
- Bee related Word puzzles

- Pollen colour identification chart
- Pollen and Nectar-rich plants for bees

Beelines report

Thanks to all contributors, over the past year 12 regular monthly editions of Beelines have been sent to all members. We understand that the NSBKA newsletter is the envy of surrounding associations!

The editors always welcome suggestions and articles from members. Please don't be shy. The newsletter is only as interesting as the material submitted!