

North Staffordshire Beekeepers Association

Trustees Report to the AGM 4th January 2012

Proposal to Change the Membership Year

The committee will ask the association members at the AGM to adopt the following proposal:
'The membership year of the association will commence on 1st February.'

To bring this into effect the current membership year due to end 30th September 2012 will be extended to 31st January 2013. The financial year end will remain unchanged at 30th September.

The reason for this change is to bring us closer in line with the BBKA membership year, which starts on 1st April. On that date our association becomes liable to pay a capitation fee for every member. We then have to pay on 1st September, the full year capitation fee, for anyone who joins after 1st April.

The main problem we have is for new members who join in late summer who are asked to pay their subscription (and their capitation fee will have to be paid to BBKA) and then a few months later on 1st October they are asked to pay again. The change will mean anyone joining in the summer before 1st September will not be asked to pay again until 1st February, which seems fairer.

For those who join after 1st September, the BBKA does not ask for a capitation fee until the start of their next membership year on 1st April, so we will be able to offer a special deal, to be decided by committee.

The financial year end will remain unchanged at 30th September, and this will make it easier for the treasurer as he/she will not have to deal with renewals at the same time as closing the books.

There will be minimal financial implications in the one off extension of the current membership year to end January 2013, since our major outgoings fall outside the affected period.

New Membership Categories

The committee introduced new membership categories during the year.

The introduction of 'Country Membership' offers a much better deal for the previous 'Associate' members, who are now members of BBKA and get the monthly BBKA news. This has been particularly beneficial to new members without bees.

The new 'Partner Membership' is fairer to those with two people at the same address who both need to be independently insured.

These changes do however have financial implications, but the association is financial sound and the committee and we are able to offer these benefits as a result of savings arising from most members opting to receive communications by email rather than post, and the monthly raffle raising more than enough to cover room hire and speakers' fees. Our thanks to those members who so generously provide prizes and to Pat Twigg for persuading us to buy tickets.

Beginners

We are continuing to see an upsurge in interest and have successfully run three theory courses this year. We need to improve on the way we offer practical instruction, and hope to encourage experienced members to mentor newcomers.

We also plan to set up a scheme to facilitate the creation of nucs by experienced members for sale at a fair price to newcomers. Excess income from the courses will enable us to buy polynucs for loan to members willing to join 'Plan Bee Boost', further details in the New Year.

Apiary

We have not been successful to date in finding a suitable central site for an association apiary. The apiary at Longsdon continues to offer tuition but is trying to put more emphasis on queen and nucleus production. We still have the bequest from Alan Silver, to try to establish an apiary, but in addition to a site we would need reliable dedicated volunteers to run it throughout the season.

Meetings

We have had some excellent speakers this year, and we would like to thank Tim Waye for his efforts. If any member comes across a good speaker, please contact the Meetings Secretary. Likewise, please pass on any requests for topics you would like covered.

Constitution Review

The sub-committee has put in a great deal of effort but have not yet reached agreement on a final version, so this will be carried over for the new committee to complete.

Gift Aid

Thank you to those members who signed up to giftaid. This enables us to reclaim the tax you have paid, at no cost to you.

The treasurer and secretary have put a lot of time into completing the numerous forms, and have put in claims for the last four years.

We are still waiting for the revenue to agree to pay us, but hope to have good news fairly soon.

Purchases

In addition to new books for the library, we have purchased an electric 9 frame extractor, for loan to members. Details have already been circulated.

This report was prepared by Nick Mawby on behalf of the trustees.

22nd December 2011

Treasurer's Financial Statement

<u>Income</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>
Opening balance	901.18	12,823.20
Paypal gross	1343.42	1929.67
Subscriptions 2009-10	670	
Subscriptions 2010-11	455	793
Subscriptions 2011-12		39
Donation	47.29	50
Raffle	402.5	342
Beginners course		855
Bank credit 541027		15
CCLA Fund Account	12,000.00	677
BDI extra hives insurance	11.25	10.5
	<u>15,851.61</u>	<u>17,534.37</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Open Birmingham and Midshires Account		12,000.00
Extractor		677.00
Computer speakers		30.84
Library	46.85	
Varoa conference		50.00
Visiting speakers	75	185
BBKA capitation	1246	1498
Tent repair		176.26
Postage/stationery	86.44	
Refreshments and Food	155.01	94.62
Rent	212	462
BDI Insurance	205.75	246.5
Course in a Case		50
Repaid extra hives	5.25	
Paypal	31.1	31.67
Honey Show	138.1	50
Website	126.91	
Shed	450	
Apiary improvements	250	
	<u>3028.41</u>	<u>15,551.89</u>
Excess Income	12,823.20	1,982.48
Current account balance c/f 1st October	12,823.20	1,982.48
Birmingham and Midshires Fixed Rate Selector Account		12,000
CCLA Fund Account	14,140.55	1,531.35
Interest	67.8	14.44
Less paid to bank	12000.00	
	2208.35	1,545.79
Bank Balances 30th September 2011	15,031.55	15,528.27