

# Ayr & District Beekeepers Association

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Carrick Centre Maybole

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Item No.	Description	Action	Person
1.	<b>Welcome</b>  Fiona Staines welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their time.		
2.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Apologies were received from Jackie Elliot.		
3.	<b>Adoption of Minutes of the Previous AGM</b>  Minutes for the last AGM held on 09 March 2022 were not available. Julian Stanley spoke to the contents and proceedings of the last meeting. The agenda was followed with no deviation or discussion. No points were raised, or questions asked.	Julian Stanley proposed that this was a true verbal record of the previous AGM.  Seconded by Phil McAnespie.	
4.	<b>Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes</b>  There were no matters arising from the previous AGM verbal Minutes.		
5.	<b>Secretary's Report</b>  The Secretary's report was given by Anne Beamish. It deals with achievements of the last		

year, is part of the Trustees Report submitted to OSCR and is included within the December 2023 Financial Statements.

6. **Treasurers Report and Consideration of Annual Accounts**

The Treasurers draft report was presented by Chris Urie and is attached as a separate document.

7. **Presidents Report**

The Presidents report focuses on planned activities over the next 12 months and was presented by Jane Sik. It is attached as a separate document.

8. **Election of Trustees**

- 8.1 Fiona Staines asked if anyone had an objection to voting the Trustees on as a block vote rather than individually. Proceed with a single block vote of Trustees

There were no objections.

- 8.2 Fiona Staines as President with Alan Forster, Chris Lawler, Denise MacColl, Donna Coates, Dr. Jane Sik, Julian Stanley, Linda Kane, Margaret Gardner and Phil McAnespie as Trustee were put forward to be voted onto the Boards. 21 votes for  
0 Against  
0 Abstentions

9. **AOCB**

There being no other pertinent business the meeting was closed.

## **Secretary's Report 2022/3**

### Education

Our Beginners Course started on 23 March, ran for six weeks until 30 April and attracted 24 beginners. We followed the same format as previous years with the first three lessons on a Wednesday evening and the final three on a Saturday morning, followed by trips to the apiary in the afternoon. The course fee includes a year's membership to Ayr Beekeepers. As the technology had been purchased during the COVID Pandemic, we introduced a live broadcast so that participants could attend virtually. This was backed up by previously recorded presentations being made available for those that could not attend on the day.

Practical training included: 21 May a Beginners Open day to make frames, build hive parts and practical demonstrations, 23 April a Bailey Comb Exchange demonstration at the apiary, 18 June a Demaree demonstration at the apiary, a Swarm Control demonstration at the apiary, 18 June a Queen Rearing demonstration by Iain Kirkpatrick and 24 September an Extraction Day to process the association honey.

Four of our members took and attained the Basic Beekeeping certificate during the summer.

### Events and Meetings

Our shows and events schedule started to resemble normality with one notable exception. Gardening Scotland, based at the Royal Highland Centre was cancelled in 2021. It has since started again but is based at Scone, which is a far greater distance to travel so the Trustee decided to forgo this event.

Neilston again kicked off the shows season. We had the display boards out, honey tasting and the first observation hive of the year. This was quickly followed by Ayr County Show a week later. Other shows attended included Newmilns and Belleisle Conservatory as part of the Honey Show.

Throughout the summer we held apiary visits most weekends, providing members with the opportunity to learn and pass on information in a practical environment. The apiary visits are not just an educational platform but act as a social focal point for members and often lead on to other event participation and suggestions for new activities.

The Honey show was once again a great success with multiple entries and a notable increase in the entries into the beginners' classes. The event included open hive demonstration, displays, children's games and activities and honey sales.

The summer BBQ was held on 15 August at Tony and Elizabeth Riomes. Rain threatened but it was well attended with the rain holding off.

Ayrshire schools utilised Dumfries House again over a two-day period in May with 500+ 8-11-year olds. This is collaboration with the Princes Trust and the Royal Highland Education Trust introducing youngsters them to rural activities. Each group stayed for around 15 minutes of education on the Honeybee.

This year the visit to the Royal Highland Show was “spiced up” as a group from the association entered a Local Association Display. This was a great learning experience for the participants and will hopefully lead to greater entries in future. Once again, a lot of Ayr members attend as stewards. With the opportunity to meet beekeepers from all over Scotland and 10,000 members of the public a day I would encourage continued support and for others to take part.

Over the last number of years, we have entertained a Spanish school group visiting Scotland. We have become fixed item on their itinerary as they again visited Phil McAnespie’s apiary to look through and learn about bees.

The winter programme included talks from Dr John Hill on Orientation and Communication, Julian Stanley on Pollinators, Matthew Richardson on Swarming, Alan Riach on Microscopy, Phil McAnespie on Pollen, a quiz night and a further talk by Claire Gill on Bee Inspectors and Honeybee Health.

Outside of Ayr Beekeepers meeting, many of our members visit other beekeeping association and diverse groups providing talks and education. This often passes un-noticed but it aligns with our constitutions stated aims and is worthy of mention.

The number of each type of meeting over the period was:

Summer Apiary Meeting	16
Winter Meeting	7
Shows and Exhibitions	8
Courses	7
Total Events	38

### **President Report 2022/3**

The coronavirus pandemic restrictions have finally abated, and a normal programme of events has become possible. We have not returned to pre-pandemic ways as many of the innovative and new methods of operating have not been forgotten and are being incorporated into the way we now work. For example, the broadcasting of beginner's courses when possible.

Last year's practical day was a great success, and we hope to replicate that again this year. This gives individuals the chance to come along and see equipment and partake in more practical skills such as box building, making nucs. etc.

Adding to the educational side the association would like to encourage members to take the Basic Beekeeping Certificate. To this end a programme of training is being planned, including at the apiary, to help individuals prepare for the exam.

In addition, we would like to encourage members to participate in the Scottish Beekeepers' modules and are planning a series of training sessions around the modules. This is likely to be a series of virtual presentations that address one module at a time.

Onto the summer programme. This has been completed and is ready to be published up to the end of May and will be added to as shows and events publish their dates. Practical demonstrations at the apiary will be included in the programme throughout the year. We would encourage experienced members to attend the Saturday apiary visits. During lock down people got out of the habit of coming to the apiary and last summer we had a lack of beekeepers supporting the beginners. Helping new beekeepers is very rewarding and I would encourage you all to give of your time.

The collaboration with Belleisle Conservatory continues with the Honey Show and a public event combination. This widens the appeal of the show and encourages entries from non-members.

A new apiary remains high on the Trustees agenda and a couple of sites are currently being investigated: Dumfries House and Auchincruive. Both are still under investigation and when something substantial is known we will let you know. This has not stopped the search for land to purchase as this is still seen as the best option for the long-term future of the association.

Finally, although I remain a Trustee, I would like to thank you all for your kindness and support during my tenure as President and leave you in the safe hands of Fiona.

### **Treasurer Report 2022/3**

The final accounts were in draft, and these were presented at the AGM. While not yet formally approved by the trustees, it is not believed there will be any material changes to these.

Income had increased from £10,105 to £14,161. This was mostly due to subscriptions not being charged in 2021 due to COVID-19. This, as well as an increase in shows and event income, generates additional income.

Expenses also increased with the increase in activities, rising from £9,687 to £13,444, this was mostly an increase in event expenses. The other increase was in donations made, several years ago following the death of Lindsay Baillie a restricted fund was established at the request of Lindsay's family, with 50% of the sales proceeds of her equipment going to Ayr Beekeepers and 50% to Cancer Research, now all the equipment had been dealt with the £1,156 due to Cancer Research was paid in January 2023 and accrued into the 2022 accounts at the date the donation was agreed by the trustees.

On the balance sheet, there were no purchases of fixed assets so the decrease represents depreciation charged in the year. Stock decreased £877, debtors and prepayments were up £478, and cash was up £3,508. With the accrued donation mentioned above, creditors were up £1,645, which gave an increase in net current assets of £718.

Our total funds stood at £25,208, which was not fully unrestricted, with £1,708 being in a designated education fund.

The accounts will be signed off by the trustees and submitted to OSCR following finalisation.