

2017 BIBBA AGM

11:30am, Sunday 9 April 2017

Temperton Room, Harper Adams University, Newport, TF10 8NB

Present

Peter Jenkins (P.J.), Kevin Williams, Derek Sothcott, Terry Hitchman (T.H.), Richard Neary, Dave Wright, Iain Harley (I.H.), Nick Bentham-Green (N.B-G., Acting Chair), Jo Widdicombe (J.W., President), David Ledger, Ann Waldok, Christopher Slade, Carol Demmer, Ray Dowson, John Hewitt, Nick Mawby, Roger Mould, Roger Patterson (R.P.), Steve Rose (S.R.), Chris Poupard, Kevin Thorn (K.T.), Phil Khorassandjian (P.K.), Eifion Williams, John Chambers, Roy Parker, Stephen Barnes.

President's Opening Remarks

JW reported that this has been a good year for BIBBA with the Isle of Man conference and many Bee Improvement days and Queen Rearing events.

The Scottish Native Honey Bee Society was set up during the last year. There is also a Native Irish Honey Bee Society. Both these organisations could have some impact on BIBBA membership. BIBBA has reached out to both groups by letter and this has been well received.

There have been regrettable differences within the BIBBA executive over the last year which might have hampered progress. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes administration in running BIBBA. Opportunities exist for any BIBBA members wishing a more active role within the association. It is important for BIBBA not to stagnate.

Apologies for Absence

Karl Colyer, Andrew Gibb, Pam Hunter, Dorian Pritchard, Roger Cullum-Kenyon, Claire Waring, Adrian Waring, Trisha Marlow, Jim Pearson, Alan Brown, Ian Homer, Elizabeth Hoopard, Thomas Law.

(Trisha Marlow requested that her attendance record in the Trustee Report was due to serving abroad with Bees Abroad, followed by a broken leg that prevented her from travelling).

Minutes of last AGM

An accurate record. Proposed by N.B-G., seconded by K.T. Agreed by majority vote, no objections.

Matters Arising from the minutes

None.

Trustees' Report for year ending 31 December 2016

This is a big document with a lot to digest. All but one trustee had accepted it. When asked why he had not put his name to it, P.K. said he felt that the wording did not satisfy the requirements of the Charity Commission. He indicated that he had not been privy to all BIBBA-related activities or financial affairs during 2016 despite technically being BIBBA Chair for 7 months of that time. He won a 4-to-3 vote to become chair in April 2016 but a motion of no confidence had been proposed against him just one month into post, before he had chaired a single meeting. He said that there had been a difference of opinion regarding how to work as a group and how to serve as a Trustee. P.K.

had therefore suggested that the committee had training on how committees should work as well as a mediation process to resolve the specific problems that the Trustees were facing at that time but both ideas were rejected. Following the vote of no confidence, he had been "Chair under duress". A truce was established prior to the Isle of Man conference which allowed him to convene one committee meeting in August to ensure that the conference was adequately funded and that a fellow committee member was not exposed to financial risk. He was finally voted out of office by 5-to-4 in November 2016. The Trustee Report for the year ending 31 December 2016 should have been approved by 15 Trustees but there were only 9 at the time and these voted 8 to 1 in support of it.

P.J. asked for further clarification of the nature of the dispute and the reason for the vote of no confidence. N.B-G. read verbatim the minutes of the November meeting at which P.K. was removed from office. Amongst other things these cited excessive quantities of emails with a wide circulation and rude tone as the cause of the problem.

The Trustee Report was proposed by K.T. and seconded by I.H.. It was passed by majority vote with one objection and two abstentions.

Accounts for year ending 31 December 2016

I.H. reported that a large surplus was made during 2016 due to the success of the BIBBA conference, BIFA days and queen rearing work. BIBBA now has a substantial reserve in the region of £62,000, which is the biggest in its history. The main expenses are production and distribution of the Bee Improvement Magazine, which cost about £1,300 per issue, and the holding of committee meetings. R.P. observed that we need to start planning for training and other activities. I.H. indicated that the Charity Commission is happy with BIBBA's accounting approach which is based on the calendar year. No concerns have been raised over the current size of the surplus. All Committee members have access to the full accounts spread sheet. There is no requirement for the accounts to be audited or inspected, although BIBBA subjects them to annual independent examination.

The accounts were proposed by S.R. and seconded by P.J. and R.P.. They were accepted by majority vote with one abstention.

2017 budget

Copies have been circulated to BIBBA members with the AGM agenda. No conferences have been planned for 2017 so a notional surplus of £1,500 is forecast after all operational costs have been covered.

Accepted by majority vote, none against.

2018 subscription rates

In view of the surplus generated from events, there is no need to increase the annual subscription, which just covers the cost of Bee Improvement Magazine and BIBBA meetings.

R.P. enquired whether, in view of the surplus, it was possible for BIBBA members to enjoy reduced entry fees for BIBBA events. I.H. explained that because most BIBBA members gift-aid their annual subscriptions turning them into charitable donations, donors must not receive benefits in kind. In contrast, fees for attending BIBBA events cannot be gift-aided as they are not donations. Even if no BIBBA annual subscriptions were gift-aided, BIBBA must not give back to its members anything greater in monetary value than 25% of the cost of BIBBA membership. It is up to BIBBA members to consider how to use the financial surplus in a way that meets the aims of the organisation.

Re-appointment of Rawlinsons Chartered Accountants as Independent Examiner for the accounts.

Accepted by majority vote with no dissent.

Propositions (Executive)

- i. That the present constitution be replaced with a new constitution
As the constitution had not been reviewed for several years, a new draft version had been modelled on the format recommended by the Charity Commission. It still needs minor typographic corrections. The Charity Commission have not yet approved it. It was agreed that, whilst paragraph 36 (dispute resolution) was adoptable in its submitted form, it could benefit from further refinement.
K.T. proposed and C.H.(who? I thought it was Carol Demmer) seconded the new constitution subject to the following caveats:
 - a. That it needed approval from the Charity Commission prior to being adopted.
 - b. The committee would refine Paragraph 36 during 2017 and table an improved arrangement at the 2018 AGM.

Agreed by majority vote, one abstention, no objections.
- ii. That the AGM standing orders be amended if (i) is passed.
Proposed by I.H., seconded by K.T.. Agreed by majority vote with no objections.
- iii. Two other proposals, both from P.K., were tabled too late for debate and formal voting at this meeting. One of these related to the establishment of 10 BIBBA regional training centres across Great Britain and Ireland. The other was a proposal for a Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy. It was agreed that these could be discussed in “Any Other Business” but not voted on in this meeting. They would also be added to the agenda of the next committee meeting

Election of Officers

J.W. willing to stand for president. Accepted by majority vote, no objections.

J.C. willing to stand for secretary. Proposed by T.H. and seconded by N.B-G.. Accepted by majority vote, no objections.

I.H. willing to stand as treasurer. Accepted by majority vote, no objections.

Election of Trustees

There were 13 nominations for 12 places. All but one was present at the meeting. N.B-G. provided assurance that the nominee in absentia had given apologies for their absence and was indeed committed to the role. On receiving this assurance, P.K. withdrew his nomination and therefore no election was necessary. The remaining 12 nominees were accepted by majority vote with no objections.

Any other Business

PK had nothing to add regarding the two proposals that had been discussed earlier. However, he observed that the BIBBA committee had no work plan for the coming year. He also observed that BIBBA membership had remained static recently in contrast to BBKA membership which has grown considerably. Furthermore, there are now separate bee improvement groups for Northern Ireland

and Scotland. He stressed the importance of rapidly spreading the message regarding the aims of BIBBA over a broad geographic area. J.W. indicated that addressing this was a top priority for the committee.

It was suggested that BIBBA investigated the possibility of hosting a stand at the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers at Marlborough College, Wiltshire, in July 2017.

Date and venue of 2018 AGM

The membership will be asked whether they would prefer this to take place at the Bee Tradex in Stoneleigh in March 2018 or at the BBKA Spring Convention in Telford in April 2018. The most popular option will be chosen. As BIBBA accounts are prepared by calendar year, they will be available in time for either option.

MEETING CLOSED