

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31st December 2017

Legal and administrative details

The *Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association* is registered with the Charity Commission (No 273827) and governed by the Constitution dated 10th April 2016. Its principal address is the *National Beekeeping Centre*, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.

The Charity's working name is the *Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA)*.

The Association's bankers are *Santander*, Customer Service Centre, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB, *CafBank Ltd.*, P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA and *PayPal*.

The Independent Examiners are Rawlinsons Chartered Accountants, Ruthlyn House, 90 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 2SP.

Organisational structure

The Charity is administered by a Central Committee comprising three officers, President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a maximum of twelve committee members elected at the AGM for a renewable term of one year. The officers and committee members agree to act as Charity Trustees. At its first meeting following the AGM the committee elects a Chairman and Deputy Chairman from among their number. The committee may co-opt members to fill vacancies amongst Officers or Committee members who shall serve as Trustees with full voting rights on the committee. The committee appoints members to represent the association on other bodies and organizations and posts of responsibility. The committee may appoint, volunteers, advisors or guests as non-voting members.

During 2017/18 the Charity was administered by a Central Committee comprising:

Joseph Widdicombe	President
Iain Harley	Treasurer
Nick Bentham-Green	Chairman
Roger Patterson	Deputy Chairman
	Conference/Workshops Secretary
	Web Editor

Nicholas Mawby	Membership Secretary Website Manager
Peter Jenkins	Acting Secretary (from Nov 2017)
Stephen Rose	Technical and Scientific Committee Coordinator
Kevin Thorn	Groups' Coordinator/Facebook
David Ledger	B4 Liaison Officer
Tom Law	BIBBA Forum
Terence Hitchman	
John Chambers	Secretary until June 2017
Eifion Williams	resigned as Trustee summer 2017
Trisha Marlow	resigned as Trustee September 2017
Brian Dennis	resigned as Trustee November 2017

At the 2017 AGM John Chambers was appointed secretary but had to step down due to personal reasons in June 2017. Brian Dennis filled in for a short while and Peter Jenkins was appointed acting secretary in November 2017.

Co-options:

Kevin Lincoln Shows' Secretary.

Volunteers

Editor (*BIM*): Philip Denwood.
BIM design/Artwork Roger Cullum-Kenyon

Representatives:

Meetings

The Central Committee met 3 times between April and December 2017. In addition, 8 teleconference meetings were held together with electronic discussions via *Google Groups*.

Record of Trustee attendances (including teleconferencing) (actual/possible):

N. Bentham-Green 8/11, I. Harley 8/11, T. Hitchman 9/11, N. Mawby 7/11, R. Patterson 9/11, S. Rose 8/11, J. Widdicombe 9/11, Peter Jenkins 9/11, D Ledger 10/11, T Law 8/11, K Thorn 8/11, T Marlow 4/11, B Dennis 4/11, J Chambers 3/11, E Williams 2/11

The Charity has no paid employees and relies entirely on the goodwill and voluntary work of officers, trustees and members.

The Charity's main income is from members' subscriptions and sales of publications & merchandise. Further funding is obtained from donations, bequests and sponsorships. Some funding consists of the surpluses from training events.

Charity's Objectives

The objectives of the Charity as set out in its Constitution are “*the conservation, re-introduction, study, selection and improvement of native or near-native honey bees of Britain and Ireland*”.

Governance

The trustees have ensured that the operation of *BIBBA* complies with the *Charity Commission* requirements. In order that the Trustees carry out their duties, to the best of their abilities, it is essential that they keep themselves up to date with the latest Charity Commissioners' guidelines, which are contained in '*The Essential Trustee What you need to know*'.

They have reviewed the Constitution (Governing Document) and undertaken a risk analysis review.

Risk Management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that a risk analysis has been produced to demonstrate that we as responsible trustees have considered the risks associated with running the organisation. The identified risks, their impact and mitigation have been reviewed.

Investment Policy

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Monies not required for immediate running costs were held during 2017 in our CAFgold account bearing 0.05% interest. An assistant treasurer has been appointed to ease the work of the treasurer. Those reserves not required for immediate access will be moved to a higher interest notice account.

BIBBA does not have a defined level of reserves but the current Unrestricted Reserve of £69,293 equates to approximately six years of operating costs and is reviewed quarterly. A further £3,468 is held as a Restrictive Reserve and represents the balance of the funding received from the Co-operative Society for Project Discovery. This is being used to support the establishment and equipping of individual bee improvement groups to accelerate the process of raising native and near-native queens.

A further Restrictive Reserve of £572 is held as the balance of £800 donated by Essex and Suffolk Water to support the Essex 4 Bees project based at the Abberton Reservoir in Essex.

Activities during 2017

Membership

Total membership at the end of 2017 was 437; we gained 83 new members and lost 61 members.

The membership dropped in 2013 when the Native Irish Honey Bee Society was inaugurated. The overall growth of membership is gradual – each year the increase in new members is offset by non-renewals. Retention is an issue.

	TOTAL			PAYING		
	MEMBERS	CHANGE	CHANGE	MEMBERS	CHANGE	CHANGE
31/12/12	339			298		
31/12/13	297	-42	-12.39%	254	-44	-14.77%
31/12/14	328	31	10.44%	287	33	12.99%
31/12/15	376	48	14.63%	338	51	17.77%
31/12/16	415	39	10.37%	379	41	12.13%
31/12/17	437	22	5.30%	401	22	5.80%

Website

1. Shop. We are out of print of some books including Beowulf Coopers book. The committee have failed to arrange a new edition.
2. Encryption. The site now has a certificate from Let's Encrypt so that all traffic is sent securely (i.e. it uses https instead of http)
 - i. Members' Area. A 'members' only' 'area', accessed by individual login, has been setup. All members can login by using the email address registered with BIBBA as a username. The 'members' only' content currently includes:
 - ii. Forum. There has been discussion about setting up a forum for members, but no decision has been made by the committee.
 - iii. BIM online. Past issues of BIM back to number 32 are online available for members to download. Issues 1 to 31 are in the process of being scanned. So far issues have been downloaded by members over 300 times.
 - iv. Members' List. A new members' list will be produced twice a year, and is now placed online in the restricted members' area.
 - v. Future Plans - Map. A map of approximate member locations was proposed earlier in the year. This would be in a 'members' only area' but we need to review our privacy policy in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
3. Speed. & Security The website was slow to load, partly due to it being dynamic. This has been greatly improved by a move from tsohost to Siteground as our hosting company. We suffered two episodes of malicious code injection (designed to redirect users to pornographic sites). This has not recurred since our move from tsohost.
4. In the last year there were 78,000 visitors by unique IP address with 196,000 visits.

5. There were 21,300 search engine referrals, mostly from Google.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions. Payment by direct debit via GoCardless has been setup and was used by 35 members to renew on 1st January 2018. It is also possible to use PayPal, and a card reader has been purchased for the occasional member who wishes to pay by phone (although this is time consuming and costs us more).

Gift Aid

Money reclaimed through Gift Aid has increased; in 2017 £980 was reclaimed. Those who have not already done so can go to bibba.com/giftaid

Groups

A good year for BIBBA groups with six new groups formed and registered and eight more in progress. The new groups are. Abberton, Exeter, Lancashire, Wheal Primrose, South Devon and Wight Bees. We have also been able to get more existing groups registered so that our groups' web page is up to date. The next step will be to encourage existing groups to update their information with their progress made.

Two of these groups have applied for BIBBA equipment grant of £150 matched funding for the acquisition of queen rearing equipment.

We have through the efforts of Andrew Brown of B4 been able to raise between £1K and £4K for several groups in the South West through Tesco 'Bags of Help', Groundworks bids. This project is funded through the 5p charge for carrier bags, and bee related projects seem to do very well. Nearly every application has received at least £1K of funding, some £2K and several the full amount of £4K. The application process is relatively simple and the Groups' Coordinator has copies of successful bids to share; both he and Andrew Brown are happy to help.

There have been a number of educational events delivered by Conference and Workshops Sec (CWS) to groups of beekeepers across the UK. Groups' Coord works closely with Conference and Workshops Sec to follow up opportunities coming from these events and at least half the new groups and prospective ones have come as a result of these educational events. In the winter months CWS runs a one day Bee Improvement for all day and in Summer a follow up, one or two day apiary based Bee Improvement and Queen Rearing course. Members are encouraged to let Groups' Coord know if they would be interested in hosting one of these in their area. BIBBA is now planning next winter's programme!

During May 2017 a fact-finding visit to the Isles of Scilly was undertaken by the President and the Chairman. There was found to be a lot of interest and enthusiasm for developing the native strain on the Isles. Despite a mixed bee population, the varroa-free status and geographical isolation would allow the development of the native strain through a selection and improvement programme.

Groups' Coord would very much like to hear from our groups about their plans for the future and their experiences – successes and otherwise! We often learn more when things don't quite go to plan as is known from personal experience! We would particularly like experiences that can be used as articles for publication. The more articles submitted the more frequently we can publish for the benefit of all! Please don't be shy.

There are lots of exciting plans to develop BIBBA further and some of these will give increased support to our groups. We would love to hear from you all regarding any help you think we could or should be providing.

An agreement has been established between the *Ministry of Defence (MOD)* via the *Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)* to allow mating apiaries for native/near-native bees to be set up on *MOD* training estates. *Bee Improvement for Cornwall (BIPCo)* has had such an apiary on *MOD* land at Tregantle, Cornwall, for the last two years. The aspiration is to get similar agreements between *BIBBA* and the *MOD/DIO* to establish apiaries at Langport ranges, Somerset, at Sennybridge ranges, Wales, at Thetford ranges, Norfolk, and at Longmoor ranges, Hampshire.

In May 2017 the UK mainland's first 'Dark Bee Reserve' was opened at Mount Edgcombe House and Countrypark, this was brought about following an enormous amount of work (principally form filling!) by B4, which is one of the *BIBBA* Groups in Cornwall. The reserve was further publicised by Countryfile in September, Countryfile has a viewing figure of 7.5million, so the message about native/near native honeybees and the work of *BIBBA* received significant, positive, publicity.

Publications

Two issues of the magazine *Bee Improvement and Conservation (BIM)* were produced during the year.

Communication

During 2017 there were eight issues of the emailed newsletter *Buzz* sent out to members and 6 issues of *Humm* sent to 815 non-members. The last two issues of *Buzz* were sent using a new email merge system as Mailchimp seemed to be directed to the spam folder for many members.

Publicity

In addition to the essential face of *BIBBA* at shows and other events, a significant input was made to the success of the *BIBBA/B4* Conference at Eden, behind the scenes using social and other media to advertise the event. The success of this was monitored using "short links" which will be effective in increasing the effective reach for future events.

Our *Facebook* group has yet to reach critical mass at 500 *Likes* and needs to be developed further by the committee.

In addition there is further collaboration needed with the website team to optimize its reach and ensure it “speaks” to search engines in an effective way.

Conference and Workshops

The conference and workshop events deliver much of BIBBA's tuition to beekeepers. Due partly to the recent increase in BIBBA events there is a fast growing interest in keeping bees that suit the regions they are kept in, rather than buying queens that may be imported. Bee Improvement For All (BIFA) days are staged during the winter months to encourage beekeepers to assess their bees and improve them. These are aimed at all beekeepers, attendees have varied between those with no bees yet to one beekeeper with over 80 years experience! BIBBA really does cater for everyone.

One and two day "Bee Improvement" courses were held during the summer. These are apiary based with a limited number of attendees to give personal tuition. It is common for participants to travel 200 miles or more to attend, showing how popular they are. There is a good social element to these courses, with a lot of beekeeping knowledge exchanged.

Open Days were trialled in 2017 and were very successful. They are all day events with a classroom session to explain what we are doing, followed by four topical "stations" with demonstrations, some being "hands - on".

All these events rely on hosts, either local BKAs or individual beekeepers as well as several members who have helped with tuition. The help and effort given by hosts and tutors is given willingly and is much appreciated.

Following many years of stagnation BIBBA are now very active in teaching simple techniques that help beekeepers better understand their bees, assess and improve them. This has finally resulted in greater knowledge of native and near - native bees amongst beekeepers. This and a good relationship with the Groups Coord has provided the opportunity for new groups to be formed, which is very encouraging.

The future looks good, with more of the above events and both, the Eden Conference in Feb 2018, and the Autumn Conference in Cirencester.

Academic collaboration

BIBBA Technical Committee

BIBBA are working on a series of guidance notes for beekeepers based on current scientific thinking. The intention is to keep these notes up to date by including new research results as they become available.

Central to this work is an assessment of the DNA assays currently favoured by various institutions. Some of these institutions are already cooperating with BIBBA or its members so their methods of purity assessments should be readily available and will be a great interest. Amongst these are the Roslin Institute and the Universities of Plymouth and Bangor (Wales). We are also speaking to Harper Adams with a view to future collaboration.

Bangor has several interesting projects in addition to the well reported “Back-Pack” project sponsored by BIBBA. One such project is sponsored by South Clwyd Beekeepers Association and this relies heavily on DNA assessments so it is of particular

interest to BIBBA, despite being sponsored by another body. South Clwyd's policy is to support native and near native honey bees by encouraging local queen rearing and advocating the use of their stock by new and existing beekeepers.

The aims of this 3-year PhD study are:

1. Help with selection of breeding stock by using DNA analysis. The stocks to be analysed will be chosen from the best of the queen rearers' bees plus selected bees from normal members of the association. The queen rearers will carry out the initial selection.
2. A search for suitable mating sites in the area that could be used by queen rearers in order to accelerate their progress and help them carry some of the burden of satisfying demand for queens and nucs by ordinary beekeepers in the area. They will also provide mating sites that more closely represent the areas where South Clwyd's members keep their bees.
3. A search for any potential sites that can be used as an inland Welsh reserve for *amm*.
4. Help with the selection of stock that might be needed from time to time from outside the immediate area. The area covers most of North Wales but genetics of selected areas in South Wales will be included for the purposes of introducing the new stock.

Results from this work and details of the other collaborative projects will be made available to members as they are finalised.

BIBBA (via B4 Liaison Officer) is also working with B4 (a BIBBA Group) on a 4 year Phd with Plymouth University, starting in September 2017 – 'Investigating the phenotypic and genomic basis of local adaptation in the UK native honey bee (*Amm*) traits'. It is hoped to involve not only BIBBA groups within the SW but also groups across the whole UK.

Representation

BIBBA is a specialist member of the *BBKA* and a representative attended the *Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM)*. *BIBBA* was represented at the *National Honey Show AGM*.

Constitution

The new BIBBA constitution, using the Charity Commission's GD3 template as a guide, was approved by the membership at the 2017 AGM, subject to approval by the Charity Commission. This was reviewed during the year to correct small errors and to add a paragraph clarifying the ways committee meetings may be held. This will be put to the 2018 AGM.

Archives

At present housed with a committee member, there is a need to safeguard them for the future and form an electronic repository.

Future Plans

In the next year the trustees will continue efforts to improve benefits to members and communication, provide courses and support bee improvement groups. In particular, consideration will be given to developing the *Facebook* group & the website, reprinting books, forming an electronic archive repository.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare a financial statement for each financial year, which gives a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing the statement, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Nicholas Bentham-Green.
Chairman

Charity Registration no.273827

BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017



BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

CHARITY INFORMATION

TRUSTEES

Mr J Widdicombe
Ms P Marlow (Resigned 31st August 2017)
Mr T Hitchman
Mr S Rose
Mr R Patterson
Mr I Harley
Dr N Mawby
Mr P Khorassandjian (Resigned 9th April 2017)
Mr N Bentham-Green
Mr J Chambers (Appointed 9th April 2017)
Mr K Lincoln (Appointed 9th April 2017)
Mr T Law (Appointed 9th April 2017)
Mr K Thorn (Appointed 9th April 2017)
Mr D Ledger (Appointed 9th April 2017)
Mr P Jenkins (Appointed 9th April 2017)

ADDRESS

The National Beekeeping Centre
Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

ACCOUNTANTS

Rawlinsons Chartered Accountants
Ruthlyn House
90 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 2SP

BANKERS

CAF Bank Limited
Kings Hill
Kent
ME19 4TA

Santander
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Paypal
Hotham House
1 Heron Square
Richmond on Thames
Surrey
TW9 1EJ

BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is also not required under section 145(1) of the 2011 Act.

In accordance with our engagement letter, we have prepared for your approval the financial information of Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprises of Receipts and Payments Account and the Balance Sheet from the entity's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at icaew.com/regulations.

This report is made solely to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial information of Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report in accordance with the guidance of ICAEW as detailed at icaew.com/compilation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the association for our work for this report.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2017 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, for the appropriateness of the financial reporting framework adopted and for providing all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.



Rawlinsons Chartered Accountants

Date: 16 February 2018

Ruthlyn House
90 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 2SP

BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		7,165		7,626
Gift aid		2,245		1,528
Publications and videos		391		1,339
Interest received		34		95
Donations		906		356
Workshops & BIFA days		6,125		17,178
Conferences		5,784		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		22,650		28,122
EXPENDITURE				
Treasurer's expenses	35		-	
Membership secretary's expenses	38		163	
Insurance	394		245	
Meeting expenses	1,673		717	
Trade stand fees	445		412	
Bee Improvement magazine	2,613		2,622	
Bank charges	62		10	
Website costs	255		-	
Book reprints	433		-	
BIFA days & workshops	2,631		896	
AGM costs	187		182	
Subscriptions	200		50	
Project Discovery	228		294	
Conferences	1,746		8,472	
Advertising	-		407	
PayPal fees	98		318	
Accountancy fees	360		360	
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		11,398		15,148
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
		11,252		12,974

BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
CAF Gold account	69,380		60,707	
CAF Cash account	1,000		1,000	
Santander account	1,200		25	
PayPal account	1,753		349	
	<u>73,333</u>		<u>62,081</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		73,333		62,081
NET ASSETS		<u><u>73,333</u></u>		<u><u>62,081</u></u>
FINANCED BY:				
CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
Balance brought forward		62,081		49,107
Surplus for the year		11,252		12,974
		<u><u>73,333</u></u>		<u><u>62,081</u></u>

Notes:

Stock held at 31 December		1,366		1,656
Liabilities:	Accountancy fee	(360)		(360)

We approve the accounts set out on pages 3 to 4. We acknowledge our responsibility for the accounts, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. We have provided Rawlinsons with all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

On behalf of the board of trustees


Mr I Harley
Honorary Treasurer

Date: 15TH FEB 2018