

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31st December 2019

### 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 9th March 2019. Its principal address is the *The Chairman*, BIBBA, Old Trelabe, Linkinhorne, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8QL.

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.*, 22-24 Boulevard Royal, L-2449, Luxembourg

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 a 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 2019 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	
Kevin Thorn	Groups' Coordinator/Facebook
Tom Law	BIM Design/BUZZ/Bee Forum
Terence Hitchman	
Karl Colyer	Publicity
Neville Dearden	Trustee (Co-opted June 2019)
Guy Thompson	Trustee (Co-opted October 2019)
Kathy Wallis	Secretary

### **Volunteers**

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

### **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*.

### **Meetings**

The Central Committee held 16 teleconference meetings together with electronic discussions via *Google Groups*.

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

N. Bentham-Green 9/16, I. Harley 13/16 T. Hitchman 15/16, N. Mawby 16/16 R. Patterson 12/16, J. Widdicombe 10/16, K Colyer 15/16, Peter Jenkins 10/16, T Law 8/16, K Thorn 11/16, K Wallis 6/16, N Dearden 9/10, G Thompson 2/2

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, restoration, study, selection and improvement of native or near-native honey bees of the British Isles*”.

## **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.

(Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019)

## **President's Report**

'Sustainable Beekeeping' events held around the country were received enthusiastically. There is clearly an ongoing demand for information about queen rearing and a preference for home-reared rather than imported amongst many beekeepers.

In the latter half of the year, *BIBBA* launched 'BIBBA Monthly', distributed by email, as a means of regular communication with members. An annual printed communication will also be sent out to members consisting of articles that have appeared during the year. Members will then get the best of both worlds, regular communication by emails and a hard copy of all the major articles.

*BIBBA*'s membership continues to grow and is in the region of 500+. Whilst *BIBBA*'s ideas and influence have increased, imports of various honey bee sub-species have continued to expand to an all-time high. Unfortunately, these imports continue to undermine efforts to improve the quality of our bees through the constant hybridization of different sub-species.

*BIBBA* are currently looking at the possibilities of involving as many beekeepers as possible in a nationally coordinated, but locally run, bee improvement programme. The aim would be to encourage beekeepers to select and improve their own bees in preference to importing. Support for such a programme was revealed in the DEFRA survey of English beekeepers.

## **Chairman's Report**

2019 has seen BIBBA continue to build on the notable achievements of 2018, the Bee Improvement days (throughout the country), run by Roger Patterson ably supported by Karl Colyer have continued to have very high attendance. The majority of people attending are not BIBBA but BBKA members, and I think this is because Roger's courses offer something that the BBKA does not. This is both teaching beekeepers the skills required for bee improvement, and most importantly why they should be improving their own bees rather than importing bees and queens. I think the majority of beekeepers now accept that importing bees is not sustainable and is not a sensible way to go about their business. I think all of us as members of BIBBA have an important role to play here, in educating and persuading all beekeepers that we come into contact with, that local is best. For the last year we have had a coherent Strategy, which has enabled us to be more proactive. Kevin Thorn and his Strategy sub-group did absolutely sterling work to produce the document which is helping us plan our outputs for the next 5 to 10 years.

I am also keen that BIBBA continues to work more closely with the scientific community, so that research into Amm, is not done in isolation from the beekeeper, and remains relevant to our needs. This is why the work being done at Plymouth University, by the PhD student Victoria Buswell, is so exciting, looking at Amm phenotypical behavior and how it links in with the bees' genotype. BIBBA members continue to have a key input into her 4 year study.

The BIBBA Groups organisation goes from strength to strength, under the tutelage of Kevin Thorn, I see a national network of BIBBA Groups being fundamental to us being able to meet local demand for local adapted bees and thereafter local Amm.

The Committee are putting a huge amount of work into keeping BIBBA functioning as a relevant and vibrant organization, we have had a very good year, I think, but we could do with more help! There is a heavy load on certain key individuals within the Committee, and I would like to spread the load as it were by using a network of volunteers. So if you are interested in joining us (either on the Committee or as a volunteer) then please email me ([Chair@bibba.com](mailto:Chair@bibba.com)) and let me know.

## **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 2019 initially in a Redwood Bank 95 day notice account and then in a Redwood 35 day notice account at the same interest rate. A small reserve was also held in a CAF Gold account linked to our CAF Cash current account. . BIBBA does not have a defined level of reserves but the current Unrestricted Reserve of £79,628 equates to approximately seven years of operating costs and is reviewed quarterly. A further £2,585 is held as a Restrictive Reserve and represents the balance of the funding received from the Cooperative Society. 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 £3,129 is held as the balance of donations from Essex and Suffolk Water (Northumbrian Water) and the Tesco Local Charities scheme via Groundworks to support the 'Essex 4 Bees' project based at the Abberton Reservoir in Essex.

## Activities during 2019

### Membership

Total membership on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was 544.

The membership stood at 339 in 2012 but dropped in 2013 when the Native Irish Honey Bee Society was inaugurated. Since then there has been a slow but steady increase in membership which now stands at 544.

There are 29 Life or Honorary members and 22 family members (14 last year).

We have now introduced a 12 month rolling year for those who join by Direct Debit part way through the year.

31st December	TOTAL MEMBERS			PAYING MEMBERS		
	MEMBERS	CHANGE	PERCENT	MEMBERS	CHANGE	PERCENT
2018	502	65	14.87%	467	66	16.46%
2019	546	42	8.36%	517	48	10.27%

### Gift Aid

Money reclaimed through *Gift Aid* in 2019 was £1,210

Those who have not already done so can go to [bibba.com/giftaid](http://bibba.com/giftaid)

### Website

Shop. We are out of print of some books including Beowulf Coopers book. This has now been scanned and is being proof read. The shop has been taken offline while the committee decides on its policy on reprinting and sales. We are exploring the use of an online 'print on demand' service.

Members' Area. The 'members only' content currently includes:

- i. BIM online. Past issues of *BIM* back to number 1 (Spring 1998) have now been scanned and are online. Issues 1 to 25 are available for anyone to download, and issued 26 to 52 are available only to logged in members, as are issues of the new BIBBA monthly.
  - ii. Members' List. The member's list has been taken offline until we have GDPR compliant consent from all members. Since the requirement to state consent for sharing was introduced on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 127 new members have agreed to share and 45 have declined (26% declined). We have not yet requested consent from those who joined before May 2018.
1. Groups Page. In view of concerns over GDPR, the contact information was removed from the Groups page. We currently have updated consent for 15 groups and are in the process of updating consent from the others.

## **Communications**

1. Bee Improvement Magazine

We only produced one issue of BIM in 2019. The committee decided on a change in how we communicate and from September 2019 have aimed to produce a monthly emailed magazine titled “BIBBA Monthly”.

Only seven members do not have an email address.

We plan to produce an annual printed collation of the most useful articles that have appeared in BIBBA Monthly.

2. Non-members emailed news

We have 794 non-members who have signed up for news from BIBBA

## **Groups’ Report 2019**

A good year for groups with several more registered in 2019 mainly in the South and Home Counties and there are a number that we are supporting that are yet to register.

The advent of GDPR meant that we needed to remove personal contact information for groups registered more than 2 years ago and would be grateful if all groups could re-register so that we have the correct details and permissions in place.

An important part of our strategy has been the expansion of BIBBA activities more locally and to that aim we now have 3 regions covered with Andrew Musgrove covering the South West, Ian King covering the South and myself covering the East. The aim of this new role is to bring together individual members, groups and BKA’s to work on improving our bees. We aim to hold an annual event in each region to bring beekeepers who want to produce nucs, queens and improve their bees. Eventually we would like to be able to exchange good stock on a local basis. We are holding a first event in the East on 16 February 2020 with over 100 beekeepers attending.

We are looking for Regional coordinators for Midlands, Wales, North East and North West so if you’re interested please contact me for details.

I’ve been able to talk to 15 BKAs’ mainly in the East about the Abberton native honey bee project and this has resulted in a lot of interest in forming bee improvement groups by beekeeping associations to produce queens for members and nucs for beginners.

During the year I get a lot of enquiries from individuals and groups looking for help with starting to improve their bees so I am writing a series of articles for Bee Improvement Magazine which will give a comprehensive guide to getting started as a group.

I would love to hear from all our groups on their experiences and plans and would encourage you all to consider penning these for articles for Bee Improvement Monthly so these can be shared.

Kevin Thorn, Group Coordinator  
[groups@bibba.com](mailto:groups@bibba.com)

## Publicity

This role was established in late 2018. During 2019, a growing range of network contacts were initiated to communicate BIBBA training events and activities. The response from local BKA's was very supportive and, with their help, 17 events were held with each event selling every booking space available. These contacts will continue to be nurtured and used for future training events.

The Trade Stand was available at most of the training events and beekeeping conferences. There were some inevitable clashes of events which prevented attendance at every venue. Some new booklets were available on the stand and there was a continual stream of visitors at all events.

The publicity role will continue to develop in terms of its reach, the communications methods and the positive impact it makes. Part of this role will be to refresh and add to the range of BIBBA booklets available to beekeepers.

## Conference, Activities and Education Report

Beekeeping education is becoming a more important part of what BIBBA does, of which our presentations are practical methods of delivery. There are more new beekeepers than there has been for a long time and as the average time beekeepers are in the craft is getting lower, there is less experience within the craft in order to teach them. BIBBA are therefore trying to provide events of a practical nature and sound material to help all beekeepers, whatever their ability or knowledge.

There is an increasing awareness of some of the problems caused by the importation of bees and queens, in particular many beekeepers recount stories of aggression in later generations, not only in their own bees, but bees of other beekeepers too. There is also concern about introducing pests, diseases and pathogens. As a pilot scheme we produced a one day event "**Sustainability - Bees and Queens for Everyone using low-cost, simple methods**". This encouraged beekeepers to raise their own bees and queens, rather than buying what may be imported. There was advice for small and large scale beekeepers and BKAs to help them quickly make increase to provide bees for new beekeepers. These were held regionally in 9 venues, Kent, West Sussex, Warwickshire, Suffolk, Northumberland, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Devon and Monmouthshire. We had a staggering 1350 attendees, with all venues filled. There were 4 x two day "Bee Improvement courses" held in North Wales, Warwickshire and Yorkshire (2), which were also full. For each of these events we relied heavily on beekeepers or BKAs hosting the event. They all did an incredibly good job which helped the events run smoothly. I am grateful to them and Karl Colyer who helped set up events and publicise them. There was also help tutoring from other beekeepers. This is an example of beekeepers working together for the good of the craft and the people in it.

In future the intention is to hold more regional annual training around the country, typically some one-day offerings in the winter and the two-day Bee Improvement events in the summer.

To aid presentation the committee have approved the purchase of high quality projector and equipment to cater for the increasing range of training venues.

## **Academic collaboration**

### **BIBBA Technical Committee**

Owing to the fact that we have not had a Scientific and Technical Committee ‘lead’ within either the Committee or within BIBBA generally, there is nothing to report.

### **Future Plans**

The BIBBA Strategy 2019 – 2029 will continue to provide the baseline for BIBBA’s outputs over the next 10 years.

There continues to be huge demand for the Queen Rearing and Sustainable beekeeping days, we will continue to provide these whilst demand is high. BIBBA groups continue to expand and provide local positive effect for native/near native bees BIBBA will continue to support the President’s National Bee Improvement Plan, as approved by the Committee BIBBA will continue to support the DAMM (Distribution of Amm) project, as approved by the Committee.

In the next year the Trustees will continue efforts to improve benefits to members and improve communication, as well as providing 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. BIBBA will continue to support academic institutions wherever possible, where the work should provide benefits to the BIBBA members.

BIBBA will continue to support DNA research where the Trustees see that there are tangible benefits to BIBBA members

### **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 RH Bentham-Green.  
Chairman

Charity Registration no.273827

**BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

# BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

## CHARITY INFORMATION

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### TRUSTEES

Mr J Widdicombe  
Mr T Hitchman  
Mr R Patterson  
Mr I Harley  
Dr N Mawby  
Mr N Bentham-Green  
Mr T Law  
Mr K Thorn  
Mr P Jenkins  
Mr K Colyer  
Ms K Wallis  
Mr N Dearden  
Mr P Thompson

### ADDRESS

Old Trelabe  
Linkinhorne  
Callington  
Cornwall  
PL17 8QL

### ACCOUNTANTS

Baldwins  
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

Redwood Bank  
The Nexus Building  
Broadway  
Letchworth Garden City  
SG6 3TA

## 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 2019

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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 2019 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.

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. 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 2019 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.



**Baldwins**

Date: 12th February 2020

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 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions		8,046		8,820
Gift aid		1,276		980
Publications and videos		2,349		748
Interest received		1,451		25
Donations		1,196		4,533
Workshops & BIFA days		11,063		10,372
Conferences		-		28,496
Breeding Groups		4,630		-
		<u>30,011</u>		<u>53,974</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Secretary's expenses	33		-	
Treasurer's expenses	-		-	
Membership secretary's expenses	7		124	
Insurance	394		394	
Meeting expenses	-		448	
Trade stand fees	49		1,028	
Bee Improvement magazine	2,096		2,705	
Bank charges	60		55	
Website costs	181		930	
Book reprints	640		815	
BIFA days & workshops	11,100		3,998	
AGM costs	-		192	
Subscriptions	100		100	
Project Discovery	-		1,346	
Conferences	1,247		30,680	
Advertising	433		642	
PayPal fees	325		236	
Accountancy fees	360		365	
Book sale expenses	-		22	
Breeding Groups	10,421		-	
Speakers	450		-	
		<u>27,896</u>		<u>44,080</u>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<u><u>2,115</u></u>		<u><u>9,894</u></u>

## BEE IMPROVEMENT AND BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

### BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
CAF Gold account	2,854		32,011	
CAF Cash account	1,000		1,000	
Santander account	25		25	
PayPal account	40		191	
Redwood 95 account	-		50,000	
Redwood 35 account	81,423		-	
	<u>85,342</u>		<u>83,227</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		85,342		83,227
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>85,342</u></u>		<u><u>83,227</u></u>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>				
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>				
Balance brought forward		83,227		73,333
Surplus for the year		2,115		9,894
		<u><u>85,342</u></u>		<u><u>83,227</u></u>

#### Notes:

Stock held at 31 December		595		927
Liabilities:	Accountancy fee	(360)		(360)
Debtors:	Duplicated trustees expenses	1,146		-
	HMRC Gift Aid for 2019	1,210		-

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 Baldwins with all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

On behalf of the board of trustees



Mr I Harley  
Honorary Treasurer

Date: 11th Feb 2020