

# Minutes of the 2019 BIBBA Annual General Meeting

Beetradox, Stoneleigh Park.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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## Present

Steve Ash, Alan Brown, Kath Brown, Tony Champion, Karl Colyer (KC), Peter Edwards, Andrew Eelbeck, Fiona Eelbeck, Iain Harley (IH), John Hendrie, Terry Hitchman (TH), Julie Howells, Martin Howells, Pam Hunter, Peter Jenkins (PJ), William Lee, Garth Matthews, Nick Mawby (NM), Mark McVey, Richard Neary, Jim Pearson, Richard Rickitt, Kevin Roles, Stephen Rose, Ann Rowberry (AR, BBKA link), Chris Stephens, Jo Widdicombe (JW).

## Apologies for absence

Dorian Pritchard, Nick Bentham-Green (NBG), Kathy Wallis (KW), Tom Law (TL), Roger Paterson (RP) Kevin Thorn (KT).

## President's opening remarks

JW welcomed everybody and reminded all attendees that an AGM is an important forum for people to air their views. As well as the AGM formalities, there will be a discussion around BIBBA strategy.

JW explained that there is a need to elect the committee and that the committee had been meeting virtually for the last year via monthly teleconferencing saving travel time and costs. This year, BIBBA is seeking a nomination for Treasurer to be trained up over the next few months whilst IH continues in the role.

2018 had been a good year for BIBBA events. The BIBBA message is starting to reach further than before and the membership touched above 500 for the first time. However, BIBBA is not complacent and much needs to be improved and help is needed from the membership and committee.

JW thanked the committee including the five who had stepped down over the last year (John Chadwick, John Chambers, Dave Ledger, Kevin Lincoln, Stephen Rose) and for the two volunteers (Philip Denwood and Roger Cullum-Kenyon) who have helped produce the BIM magazine.

JW noted that efforts had been made over the last year to produce BIM more regularly but obtaining content for the magazine was an ongoing challenge. The Buzz and Humm [e-magazines] helped with the BIBBA outreach.

## Minutes of last AGM

Proposed as accurate by William Leigh, seconded by PJ. Approved unanimously.

## Matters arising from the minutes

No matters were tabled or discussed.

## Trustees report for the year ending 31 December 2018

This had previously been distributed by the BIBBA Buzz.

Proposed as accurate by PJ, seconded by KC.

## Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018

IH reminded attendees that the final report for the accounts is available on the website.

2018 saw a £53k income, higher than usual because of the conference. Expenditure was around £43k resulting in a 2018 surplus of just under £10k, the highest surplus ever.

The [Cirencester] conference produced a £2k loss reflecting a lower attendance than expected and the fact that this was the first conference that received no external financial support. IH reminded attendees that the aim of the conference is to educate so a surplus is not a specific requirement at that event. The BIFA days and workshops brought in £10.5k with only about £4k of expenses.

Magazine and AGM costs are about the same as previous years. Donations of £4.5k are shown which consists of a £500 private donation and a £4k Tesco funding package for the Abberton Project. IH explained that the breeding groups can expand further because third party funds are available to assist their set up and achievement.

## 2019 budget

IH explained that there will be no conference in 2019. Subscriptions have held up reasonably well at £6-7k Gift Aid continues to contribute to this figure.

The sale of publications has been very much down as stocks had run out for books that were out of print. Two books will be republished shortly on a print-on-demand basis.

BIFA and workshops income is budgeted at £10k. £4k has also been received from Tesco.

In terms of expenditure, IH highlighted that membership management will now require ongoing costs for a suitable online membership management software system.

£8k has been provisioned for breeding groups.

£4k has been put aside for DNA analysis. The work has been done but the feedback report is to be received before final payment is made. There has been some discontinuity on this project because the project was initiated by a trustee who has since left BIBBA.

Overall budgeted expenditure is slightly above income so a budgeted £1k loss is shown. Reserves were at £83k total of which £50k sat in a higher interest account.

JW thanked IH for the accounts overview and reiterated that the Treasurer's role is in need of succession. In addition JW reiterated that project nominations for BIBBA funding would be welcomed. Some projects such as the Victoria Buswell DNA analysis may allow 'free' analysis for several participants over the coming months.

The tabled accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018 were approved (Proposed JW, seconded PH)

## 2020 subscription rates

In view of the existing large funds, there is no proposal to increase subscription rates for 2020.

**Appointment of Rawlinsons Chartered Accountants, Ruthlyn House, 19 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 2SP, as independent examiner for the accounts.**

BIBBA has enjoyed a long relationship with this company at a good cost. The company has been consistently very supportive and prompt with returns.

Proposed by IH, seconded by PJ.

## Executive proposition that the present constitution be replaced with a new constitution

The constitution has been agreed with the Charity Commission for approval and is available for viewing on the website.

A vote was held to accept the constitution. Result: Accept; 16 votes, Reject; 0 votes. Accepted.

## Election of officers

There are three officer roles and just one person stood for each of these:

**President:** Jo Widdicombe. Agreed by unanimous vote.

**Secretary:** Kathy Wallis. Agreed by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer:** Iain Harley. Agreed by unanimous vote.

## Election of trustees

Twelve additional trustees are allowed. There were currently some trustee vacancies. PJ announced his intention to step down from the committee in the next year or so. IH explained that a trustee to fill the Treasurer role would be very welcome. NM explained that help had been sought across the 500 BIBBA members via a recent Buzz request and only one response was received and that was for occasional help at local events. The following nominations were received for trustee positions, all of whom were approved without any opposition:

Nick Bentham-Green, Karl Colyer, Terry Hitchman, Peter Jenkins, Tom Law, Nick Mawby, Roger Patterson, Kevin Thorn.

## Any other business

It was noted that Roger Patterson deserved a big Thank You for doing so much work at the conferences and training events. He was largely responsible for improving the branding of BIBBA. A vote of thanks was suggested and all in attendance were in approval.

## Date and venue of 2020 AGM

Not determined at this meeting.

## Draft Strategy document

KC presented an overview of the draft BIBBA strategy which was currently under construction. The top level summary included the overall BIBBA strategy to:

- Continue to increase the number of BIBBA members
- Improved benefits and engagement with members, groups, bee farmers and outside agencies.
- Reduce queen and bee imports into UK and Ireland

KC also outlined the top level themes around

- Member Benefits
- Member Education
- Member Groups
- Raise native and near native Queens
- Science & Technical Committee
- Publicity
- Regional Organisation

The discussion was opened up to the floor and the following feedback received.

1. More focus on publicity required
2. Need availability of native bees and drone stock
3. In the past, there was a film about BIBBA which explained a lot about what they did
4. There is little BIBBA presence at the Sustainability events. Roger is “on his own”
5. Should there be a second BIBBA stand available where multiple events on at the same time?
6. People don't know about BIBBA
7. Can BIBBA get involved at beginner level to make them aware of BIBBA
8. There is no lobbying. Defra is looking for fewer imports. We need queen rearing to be carried out on a large scale (bee farmers) and on a small scale (Associations and improvement groups).
9. Where is the demonstrable progress? Where are we getting near to native stock? What are the specific outcomes of the work being done?
10. What's the genetic baseline per region?
11. A more practical and measurable approach is required. SMART targets.

## Meeting closed