

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

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, 43 Carlton Road, Northwich, Cheshire. CW9 5PW.

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

The Association's bankers are

- *CafBank Ltd.*, P.O. Box 289, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA,
- *PayPal.*, 22-24 Boulevard Royal, L-2449, Luxembourg
- *Santander*, Customer Service Centre, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB
- Redwood Bank, The Nexus Building, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3TA

The accountants are Azets (formerly Rawlinsons), 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 2020 the Charity was administered by a Central Committee comprising:

Joseph Widdicombe	President
Iain Harley	Treasurer
Karl Colyer	Chair
	Publicity
	Publications

Roger Patterson	Deputy Chair Education & Events Web Editor
Nicholas Mawby	Membership Secretary Website Manager
Peter Jenkins Terence Hitchman Nick Bentham-Green	MOD, Duchy, Royal Estates etc.

Five committee members resigned their position during the year. BIBBA thanks them for their support and contribution during their time in tenure.

Kevin Thorn
Tom Law
Neville Dearden
Guy Thompson
Kathy Wallis

Seven new committee members were co-opted into committee roles during 2020. BIBBA welcomes them to the roles and wishes them every success.

Brian Holdcroft 2020	Groups Secretary	Co-opted	Nov
Jonathan Brookhouse 2020	Natural Resilience Lead	Co-opted	Nov
Selwyn Runnett 2020	Scientific & Technical	Co-opted	Nov
Alla Neal 2020	Treasurer Elect	Co-opted	Oct
Richard Senior 2020	IT Support	Co-opted	Nov
Robert Silver 2020	Production Editor	Co-opted	Nov
Stephen Barnes 2020	Secretary	Co-opted	Sept

Volunteers

Philip Denwood. Liz Childerley	Editor (<i>BM articles</i>) Marketing
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Representation

BIBBA is a specialist member of the BBKA. Few attended meetings were held during 2020 due to meeting/movement restrictions by the government. BIBBA has requested to join CONBA and has requested to become a specialist member of WBKA. BIBBA did have a stand at BeeTradex. All other conferences were cancelled due to governmental movement and meeting restrictions.

Committee Meetings

The Central Committee held monthly committee meetings, initially by teleconference and then by Zoom meetings. Several sub-committee meetings (NatBIP, Publications) were held to progress strategies and activities. The committee regularly communicated by email and telephone between meetings including Email decision requests. The final decisions from email decision requests were typically ratified at the next committee meeting.

Record of Trustee attendances at monthly committee meetings (actual/possible):

N Bentham-Green 9/12, I Harley 10/12 T Hitchman 11/12, N Mawby 12/12 R Patterson 11/12, J Widdicombe 10/12, K Colyer 12/12, P Jenkins 8/12, T Law 0/2, K Thorn 2/4, K Wallis 0/2, N Dearden 2/4, G Thompson 3/4. S Barnes 8/8, J Rose 1/4, A Neal 6/7, B Holdcroft 4/4, R Senior 2/3, S Runnett 6/6, J Brookhouse 7/7

Income and expenditure

The Charity has no paid employees and relies entirely on the goodwill and voluntary work of Officers, Trustees and members. All expenditure involved direct expenses to enact BIBBA's duties and strategy.

The Charity's main income is from member subscriptions, education/training events and sales of publications. Further funding is obtained from occasional donations, bequests and sponsorships. Thank you to everybody for their support.

Money reclaimed through *Gift Aid* in 2020 should be over £2,000. Those who have not already done so can go to bibba.com/giftaid

Charity's Objectives

The objects of the Association are the conservation, restoration, study, selection and improvement of native honey bees (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) and 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*'.

President's Report

The Covid-19 epidemic has made 2020 a difficult year for us all. We are living in hope that 2021 will see some sort of return to normality.

Ignoring that for a moment, we can say that it has been another good year for BIBBA, with membership continuing to rise, a good series, or two, of webinars and much interest in BIBBA's proposal for a National Bee Improvement Programme (NatBIP). We are grateful for the support of our members, old and new, as a strong membership base allows us more chance of changing things for the better in the beekeeping world. It is gratifying to see our membership top 750, up from our traditional levels of less than half of this, and it allows us to get our message out to a wider audience.

We are very keen to see beekeeping take on a more sustainable approach, including reducing imports of foreign sub-species, and achieving a maintainable improvement in the quality of our bees. It is important for BIBBA to be relevant to all beekeepers, whatever their circumstances, and through our membership we can transform the approach to beekeeping in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Everyone can reject the use of imports and, instead, select from the bees already here, which is a more sustainable approach.

Imports of queens of other sub-species are the main obstacle to achieving better bees, as constantly bringing in untested genes does nothing to improve the quality long-term. It merely sets back our selection and improvement programmes. By working with natural selection and avoiding the use of imported stock, we can move towards a better-suited and locally adapted population. One of the aims of The National Bee Improvement Programme is to reduce imports into the UK and Ireland and so help to get us moving in the right direction.

The other aim is to get as many beekeepers as possible, individually or in groups, selecting and improving their bees from what is around them. Without the disruptive influence of imports, we believe we can gradually move away from our randomly mixed stock and achieve more consistency in our bees.

Chairman's Report

2020 was a year of significant growth for BIBBA both in terms of membership numbers and the deliverables from the committee. Membership rose by 42% and BIBBA's nimble and agile approach with webinars, new publications, NatBIP etc. has retained and grown interest in our work and Aims.

With growth comes some challenges; our membership administration was managed by a single individual and the rise in workload has prompted us to consider somewhat automating the whole process so that we can focus on bee-related initiatives. Our outreach also now includes a significant amount of non-members who follow our progress and the roll-out of the NatBIP strategy.

I would like to mention the steadfast work of the entire committee. There is always a degree of change in the makeup of a committee and we thank those that have stepped down from their roles during the year and welcome an even larger number of committee members and helpers with new roles, new strategy, new approaches, new members, new publications, new website and new opportunities.

Our BIBBA strategy (2019-2022) now reflects the NatBIP launch and major milestones. Adherence to the NatBIP timelines as well as the associated NatBIP Marketing Plan is managed by the NatBIP sub-committee.

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 2020

Membership

Total membership on 31st December 2020 was 769. There are 26 Life or Honorary members and 37 family members (22 last year).

Last year BIBBA introduced a 12 month rolling year for those who join by Direct Debit part way through the year. This appears to have encouraged new members to join throughout the year. Membership fees for those on Direct Debit have been maintained at £20 per year. The few members not paying by DD incur an administrative cost (£5) in addition to the membership fee.

31st December	TOTAL MEMBERS			PAYING MEMBERS		
	MEMBERS	CHANGE	PERCENT	MEMBERS	CHANGE	PERCENT
2013	297			254		
2014	328	+31	+10.4%	287	+33	+13.0%
2015	376	+48	+14.6%	338	+51	+17.8%
2016	415	+39	+10.4%	379	+41	+12.1%
2017	437	+22	+5.3%	401	+22	+5.8%
2018	502	+65	+14.9%	467	+66	+16.5%
2019	546	+42	+8.4%	517	+48	+10.3%
2020	769	+223	+40.8%	744	+227	+43.9%

Website

BIBBA online Shop.

The Beowulf Cooper book (*The Honeybees of the British Isles*) was finally reprinted and is on sale worldwide via Amazon. There will be an increasing range of reprinted BIBBA publications as well as several new publications released now that the publishing route has been set up.

Webinars

Roger Patterson has facilitated and, in many cases, entirely delivered an extraordinary number of educational webinars. These are open for all beekeepers to attend and the recordings are freely available on the website as storage capacity permits.

Groups Page

We share groups information within the GDPR guidelines on information sharing.

NatBIP

Since the strategy launch in February 2020, an increasing amount of information and articles has been put online to maximize the outreach of this important route to get the very best from our existing bees in the UK.

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

- i. BIM online. Past issues of *BIM* back to number 1 (Spring 1998) are available online.
- ii. BM (BIBBA Monthly). These are also available online.
- iii. Members' List. The member's list remains offline due to GDPR constraints. We endeavor to seek permission from members to be able to share selected personal information.

Communications

1. BIBBA Monthly (BM)
With only one BIM issued in 2019, the format was changed to a more regular sharing of information, events information and articles to members. The savings from not having to print and post BIM's will be used to produce a BIBBA Annual which will contain the BM content as well as other relevant information for members.
2. Non-members emailed news
We have over 1000 non-members who have signed up for news from BIBBA.
3. Events information
Webinar events are emailed to all branch BKA's on a regular basis to publicise them.

4. Beekeeping.events

A separate website was set up to publicise BIBBA events and any other beekeeping-related events around the UK. The content and list of contributors is slowly growing. Its aim is to be a one-stop website to show what is happening around the UK beekeeping scene.

Publicity

The Trade Stand was present at BeeTradex but all other publicity events were cancelled, including the BIBBA conference, the Varroa conference day and the education events (14 events in 2019 with 1,500+ attendees in total).

Efforts were refocussed towards publicising the newly formed webinar approach and events. The launch of the beekeeping.events website also assisted in general engagement and publicity.

Additionally, the republishing of out-of-print books was progressed to continue the BIBBA outreach opportunities.

Events, Teaching and Education

Attended events were suspended and replaced by webinars. The long term situation will presumably evolve but it is likely that webinars will be part of the BIBBA events programme into the future. The recordings can also be a growing library of educational materials for members.

The BIBBA conference was cancelled due to the imminent introduction of meeting restrictions in early 2020. It was thought that the restrictions may be lifted after a few weeks so a one-day conference on Varroa Resilience was arranged. This also had to be cancelled which disappointed the ten speakers and the people that had to be refunded their ticket purchases.

Teaching and Education was able to continue with a new approach to retain engagement with members and the beekeeping community.

Printed and website material.

The Publications sub-committee has commenced on a long term programme to produce educational material on a wide variety of beekeeping topics. Several of these publications will address frequently asked questions from webinars and to support the NatBIP programme and other BIBBA strategies.

Webinars.

Attendance, questions and feedback from the four series of webinars delivered up until December 2020 were very good. The third series of 7 webinars was dedicated to sharing the NatBIP messages and methods.

Although it wasn't the intention, there has been an unexpected bonus in a good influx of new members. We have to provide reasons to retain them.

Viewing figures, questions asked and feedback are all used to continuously improve this new approach to events. A comprehensive programme of 40+ webinars will be delivered in early 2021. These will be a mixture of general

beekeeping and related to bee and queen production to help BKAs and beekeepers alike produce their own bees in the future.

BIBBA Scientific & Technical Committee

We now have a committee 'lead' for the Scientific and Technical Committee and the committee will be relaunched in early 2021.

Constitution

The BIBBA constitution, using the Charity Commission's GD3 template has been approved by the Charity Commission.

Future Plans

The scope of the BIBBA Strategy evolves and grows during these uncertain times. The webinar concept has proven to be very popular and this approach will be both continued and enhanced over the next 12 months. A library of educational webinars is growing and will continue to be a member benefit for the future.

2021 will see NatBIP fully cascaded out to beekeepers of all abilities. The follow-on effect will be to support the DAMM (Distribution of Amm) project, as previously approved by the Committee.

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

Roger Patterson - Acting Chair