



Trustees' Report Year Ended 31st December 2022

The Charity's Objects

"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."

"In furtherance of the above aims the Association supports and encourages the education and the raising of awareness of beekeepers, and members of the public, as to the importance of native and near-native honey bees."

(Clause 3 of the Constitution)

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 Cairn Cottage, Spring Lane, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 5QB, UK.

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

The Charity'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, Ruthlyn House, 90 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2SP.

Trustees in 2022:

Roger Patterson	President Lead Trustee: Education & Training, and Publications Liaison with the BBKA
Selwyn Runnett	Chair
Richard Senior	Secretary
Nick Mawby	Lead Trustee: Membership & Membership Services Website Manager Joint Editor of BIBBA Monthly
Peter Jenkins	
Alla Neal	Treasurer
Brian Holdcroft	Lead Trustee: Local Bee Improvement Groups
Terence Hitchman	
Jonathan Brookhouse	(Resigned 20 March 2022)
Nick Bentham-Green	NatBIP
Ian Harley	(Resigned 20 March 2022)
Liz Childerley	(Resigned 4 July 2022)

Governance

The Trustees have ensured that the operation of the Charity complies with the Charity Commission's 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 Commission Guidance, which is published on the Commission's Website.

President's Report – Roger Patterson

As we come out of the COVID related times, BIBBA faces the same problems as other beekeeping organisations have. Attendances at events are generally still low compared to a few years earlier and although reports are patchy, the general feeling is it will take some time to recover.

BIBBA has tried to maintain presence at the larger and long established events, where the comments from visitors about the recent increase in activity by BIBBA shows appreciation for what has been achieved. The threefold increase in membership in a short time is a tribute to the hard work by a small group of people who have encouraged and enthused beekeepers to rear their own queens and increase their beekeeping knowledge. This has all been done whilst achieving CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) status, which is a step that is being taken by many other charities.

BIBBA isn't standing still, as there are plans to improve the service to members even more, but this will require help from members, as the Trustees are unable to do the required work without help. For this reason, volunteers are being sought, perhaps with expertise in specialist areas. This won't happen overnight, but we are hoping improvement will be seen in the coming year. No longer is the running of BIBBA just about bees, as there are many issues of an administrative nature needed, some of which are to comply with regulations.

Chair's Report for 2022

(Note that Selwyn Runnett was the Chair during 2022 but this report was compiled by Jo Widdicombe, the current Chair, using Selwyn's guide to BIBBA's aims and achievements).

At the 2022 AGM there was agreement for BIBBA to move from a registered Charity to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO. It was felt this was a more appropriate legal status for the future progress of the organization. As a CIO, BIBBA will be allowed to enter into contracts, own property, and employ staff. Also, Trustees of a CIO are not subject to such high personal risk, for which insurance was previously required, in case mistakes with the management of the organisation should occur. This change involved a huge amount of work by the Chair, Selwyn Runnett, and through his work huge savings were made to BIBBA's expenses, through not having to resort to formal legal advice and assistance. Due to this workload, progress in other aspects of BIBBA's work may have been held up, which resulted in frustration for some Trustees.

Also efforts were made to:

- Develop a Vision, and Strategic frameworks (so BIBBA knows where it is going and what it is trying to achieve).
- Develop a full range of governance policies.
- Implement new software systems, particularly for membership and volunteering.
- Recruit new Trustees and Volunteers
- Develop specific detailed policies together with projects and programmes.
- Develop a Financial Framework, budget process, and budget management.

- Develop a framework for managing projects and programmes, and overall management of the Charity.
- Develop marketing, media, and communications.
- Develop engagement with relevant stakeholders.

All in all, BIBBA had a good year of consolidation and progress towards setting up the organization for further growth and influence in the years ahead.

Jo Widdicombe

Finance Report from the Treasurer – Alla Neal

Financial Statements

These are as presented to the AGM.

Income and Expenditure

The Charity has no paid employees and relies entirely on the goodwill and voluntary work of Officers, Trustees and volunteer Members. All expenditure involved direct expenses to support 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. A valuable source of funds is the Gift Aid Scheme. Those who have not already done so can go to bibba.com/giftaid

Notes to accounts

Significant increase on expenditure related to Trade stands comparing to 2021 is due to BIBBA being active and attending the following shows/events in 2022: National Honey Show, BBKA Convention, Sandringham Flower Show, Tradex, WBKA Convention. Also £668.20 out of £4,002 are prepayments for 2023.

Membership admin expenditure £6,491 is due to introduction of new membership software (see Membership secretary's report)

Only £2,585 remains 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.

Drop in Website costs – In 2021 £604.37 was paid for 3 year website hosting renewal.

An accurate accounting record for assets was introduced in 2022 but the accounts are still prepared on a bank reconciliation basis and therefore do not show prepayments and accruals. For BIBBA CIO an accrual basis for accounts will be used to represent the true financial position.

Report from the Lead Trustee for Local Bee Improvement Groups – Brian Holdcroft

Local Groups are incorporated into the general planning of BIBBA's ongoing strategy through the four sustainabilities:

- A sustainable environment
- Sustainable bees
- Sustainable beekeeping
- Sustainable honey markets

Aligning itself with this policy Local Groups was moved into the National Bee improvement Programme with the intention of encouraging BIBBA members to form Groups in their locality.

This is still work in progress and is very much part of the plans for the continuing development of NatBIP and Groups generally.

Report from the Lead Trustee for Special Apiary Projects – Brian Holdcroft

The Sandringham Special Apiaries Project continues to develop with Lead Beekeeper Eric Marshall and his team.

They have had a modicum of success in raising queens throughout the 2022 year while further developing and expanding the project generally. They consider themselves to be in a good position for 2023 providing their overwintered queens have wintered well.

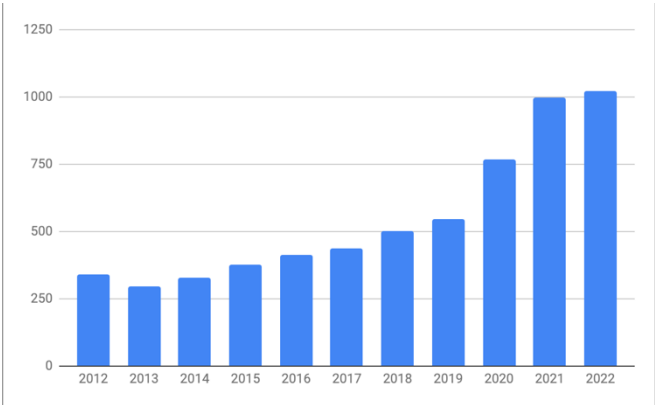
Eric and his team acquired a stand at the Sandringham Flower Show which helped to promote the project. This is something they hope to repeat for 2023.

BIBBA Trustees visited the project in September which proved to be a useful exercise for all involved and a planned meeting with the Bee Farmer Leigh Godsell who operates on the Sandringham Estate also took place.

Future updates for members will be added to the website throughout the year.

Report from the Lead Trustee for Membership and Membership Services – Nick Mawby

The steady growth in membership seen over the last eight years has levelled off. We experienced huge growth in 2020 and 2022 which was fuelled by the webinars we produced in response to the lockdown. We have plans to extend and refine our educational offerings.



Membership System (CRM)

The growth in membership had made the old manual system very onerous. We have looked at many systems and in November 2022 moved to SheepCRM to manage our membership systems.

It has taken a lot of time to implement, but we now have an automated system which allows new members to join, pay their subscription and receive automatic responses. Existing members are sent reminders without the need for manual intervention. We have also linked the login to the website with the membership system.

Report from the Lead Trustee for Marketing, Media, and Communications – Caretaker Trustees Richard Senior and Selwyn Runnett

Sadly, in July 2022, Liz Childerley resigned as a trustee and as MMC Lead Trustee. We would like to formally recognize the hard work that Liz did in rebranding and bringing to the fore modern BIBBA. Since her resignation the Chair and Secretary have been caretaking the role of Lead Trustees for MMC.

As of April 2023, BIBBA has or will be attending: The Beekeeping Show, the WBKA Convention, the BBKA Spring Conference, Sandringham Flower Show, and The National Honey Show. To compliment the high-quality branding that BIBBA now has at events, badges and car stickers were precured to spread the word of both BIBBA and its flagship National Bee Improvement Program.

Priority during this interim period, which happened to coincide with preparing BIBBA CIO, was given to the Facebook Groups, YouTube and compiling Local BKA contacts so that the work of BIBBA and, particularly, NatBIP could be communicated far and wide.

Local BKA Databases

As part of its Specialist Membership of the BBKA, BIBBA has access to the officers list for each of the local BKAs via ER2. Unfortunately, this access is restricted to downloading a PDF document meaning that someone must manually copy and paste each contact into our database. With the turnover of local officers (chairs, secretaries, and treasurers) being so high, and with these officers often having personal email addresses (rather than “chair@xxx”) regular updates have to be made to ensure that

the data is accurate. We have sent a couple of emails out to this database with the hope that officers will disseminate this information. Scotland and Northern Ireland must be done manually by trawling websites to find up-to-date information.

Facebook

Both Facebook groups continue to flourish. We are grateful to the moderators for their support. We keep being asked why there are two groups. The simple answer is that the BIBBA group admin is a previous trustee who resigned several years ago. Despite several attempts asking her to relinquish her admin access, she hasn't. Because current BIBBA trustees are not in complete control of the group, a second group was created which is controlled by a BIBBA Secretary Facebook account.

The BIBBA group has 2451 members and is restricted to people who live in countries where Amm is the indigenous honey bee. (600 members in 2020)

NatBIP has 1115 members and is open to anyone world-wide. (700 members in 2022)

YouTube Stats

In the last year:

116420 views, 31.5K hours of watch time, added 961 subscribers (total now 4208)

Added 14 live stream videos, 10 edited videos, 7 "shorts" to the channel

51.4% of our viewers are not subscribed.

New Lead Trustee

Thankfully on 3rd April 2023, as part of the preparations for the new BIBBA CIO, Nick Mawby took on the new role of Membership, Marketing and Media Lead Trustee.

Lend a Hand!

You may remember that an email went out to BIBBA members a couple of months ago asking for volunteers to support the trustees.

If you think that you could support Nick in his new role, please do reach out to volunteers@bibba.com

Report from the Lead Trustee for Education & Training – Roger Patterson

During the 2022 summer, there were ten "Bee Improvement" courses that were run in four locations: North Wales, West Wales, Yorkshire and West Sussex. The content was similar to those we ran pre-COVID, but instead of two days in the apiary, we reduced it to one, with videos to cover the content for the other day. This worked well and was appreciated by attendees, some of whom travelled over 200 miles.

Webinars continued, many of which were recorded for future viewing. This looks like it will be the standard format for winter meetings into the future.

The last conference was in Cirencester in 2018, so it is pleasing to report that the next will be held in Carmarthen in 2023.

Report by the Lead Trustee for Publications – Roger Patterson

The flurry of new titles in 2021 has meant there have been steady sales, which have become a good income stream for BIBBA. With modern print on demand methods, it has

become difficult to produce booklets, that BIBBA was previously known for. With small publications, it is cheaper to print in bulk, but this requires careful storage and someone to post out when orders are taken. It also limits sales, as small value items are of little interest to re-sellers. There are several useful BIBBA booklets that need reprinting, but it's difficult to see a way of reproducing them economically.

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

Jo Widdicombe