



Summary report of key issues considered at the HBA Exec. C'ttee October 2022 meeting held via zoom.

- The 2023 HBA AGM would be held in person at 7.00pm on Monday March 2023 at Itchen Abbas Village Hall. LAs had been informed and reminded they need to appoint delegates on the basis of one per 20 members or part thereof.
- One volunteer had come forward to replace Mike Lloyd Owen as Treasure of HBA, Richard Ray, Treasurer of Winchester BKA. Richard was appointed as Acting HBA Treasurer until the 2023 AGM when an election would be held for the substantive post. Mike was thanked for his significant contribution over the previous four years.
- The Chair reported that a meeting had been held with those who were working with the Gilbert White House and Garden charity to introduce a 'bee theme' into the charity's activities. He had indicated that HBA would support the charity developing an institutional link with BBKA.
- The HBA cloth badges are selling well and a further supply is on order
- The beekeepers who had recently taken bees to the New Forest heather have been consulted on their experience in 2022 of applying for permits directly to Forestry England rather than through HBA. It was noted that the cost of the direct applications to FE was substantially higher and that most respondents found dealing with FE less straightforward than applying through HBA. The Exec. noted the considerable amount of work that fell on the HBA co-ordinator in managing the applications and that if HBA were to resume its previous co-ordinating role a new Constitution would need to be adopted to remove the unlimited liability that currently could fall on the Trustees. It was concluded that this major change was not justified, and it should be left for Hampshire beekeepers to apply directly to Forestry England if they wished to take bees to the heather.
- The HBA Honey Show held on 1/2 October in the Great Hall in Winchester had been very successful in many ways. However it had been disappointing that the number of entries was well down on the 2019 Show and that the number of members of the public visiting had been well below expectations. The Organising Committee was preparing a consultation note to circulate to LAs and would make recommendations to the Exec. for consideration at its early February meeting in regard to the 2023 Honey Show.
- Planning for the HBA Convention on 19 November at Sparsholt College was going well and tickets were available via Eventbrite.
- Various improvements to HBA's communication arrangements with LAs and HBA members were underway, including major improvements to the website, and a note was about to be circulated to LA secretaries summarising the changes being made.
- The BBKA ADM would be held on 14 January 2023 with provision for both attendance in person and virtually. The Exec. appointed the Chair as the HBA delegate with Paula Little as the alternate. The Exec. also supported the proposition which originated with NF&DBKA seeking to get BBKA to promote local honey produced by BBKA members.
- The Exec. received a report on the Asian Hornet study visit to Jersey by three HBA members including the AH Co-ordinator, Alan Baxter. This had proved extremely informative and Alan

would be sharing what had been learned through talks to LAs and via a HBA Zoom talk early in the New Year.

- The Education and Training co-ordinator reported that for the first time all entrants would be taking their module exams on-line so there would be no need to provide a room at Sparsholt together with an invigilator. 37 HBA members had taken Basic, three gaining a distinction. Five had passed the Bee Health assessment.
- HBA and various LAs had been approached to participate and support a 400th. Charles Butler Anniversary Bee Fayre to be held at Wootton St. Lawrence on 20 August 2023. It was agreed that HBA should have a stall at the Fayre perhaps centred on the history of beekeeping in Hampshire.
- It was noted that in July NF&DBKA had held an Extraordinary General Meeting at which those attending had resolved to *pursue a direct relationship with BBKA*, which were this to be accepted by all interested parties, would mean it would leave HBA. The formal process by which BBKA will consider the request from NF&DBKA has started. The HBA Exec. recorded its view that if the process led to a formal request for NF&DBKA to leave HBA, there should be a vote of the full membership of their association to establish that a majority endorsed that decision.
- It was noted that two trustees, Christine Coulsting and Bert Laan, would step down from the HBA Executive at the 2023 AGM.