

East Grinstead Beekeepers' Association
Annual General Meeting

8th November 2020 at 7.00pm

Minutes



Officers

Janice Fearn (Chair)
Karen McCulloch (Treasurer)
Oliver St. John (Education Coordinator)
Alastair Lee (Apiary)
Kevin Fearn (Secretary / Website)

Members

Mike Bonnett
Shelley Brooks
Phil Swaddling
Simon Ruffels
Stephen Busby
Richard Thompson

Apologies

Rex Fowler

1. Chairman's welcome & report (JCF):

It has been both an interesting and challenging year. At the AGM last year, I was voted in as Secretary, little did I know that 4 months later I would be Chairman.

As we had lost several colonies over the winter, we bought 4 nucs from Payne's in the Spring.

We started apiary visits back in May / June and the committee began their face-to-face meetings in August. The committee meetings are followed by a social afterwards, which is open to all members. We have had a few join us for the social, but all are welcome.

We had our first Taster Day in two years in August, this was attended by 17 people keen to learn all about beekeeping, of which we had 6 sign up as members.

We had a maintenance day in September, whereby members came, undertook some cleaning and maintenance, and we had a BBQ afterwards. Thank you to those who helped, however, we do need more participation from members in the future.



I would like to thank Alistair for his continuing support as Apiary Manager, Karen, Kevin, and Oliver St John for their continued support. Thanks also go to Shelley, Mike, Andy for their help throughout the year. Without their support we would not be able to run this Association. I would also like to thank Tom Clarke and Mick McCarthy for their help with the Apiary last year, when we found ourselves without an Apiary Manager until Alistair took over, and to Jim for fixing our roof leak.

This year we have planted a new cherry tree at the apiary, and plans are in motion for a new shed, picnic benches and trellis to separate the apiary from the seating area.

I was contacted back in August by Community Matters Champion at Waitrose. I was told that their next community matters initiative was 'The Environment' and they were looking for charities / organisations / causes to donate to. Last month I collected a cheque for £333.00, which will go towards the new shed.

I would like to touch on participation within the association. We have 118 members, but still have two vacant positions. Events Manager and Newsletter Editor. Events Manager is a vital role to the Association, and without one we cannot put on events, as the members of the committee really do not have the time to do this as well as their role on the committee. If anyone is interested in either of these roles, please see me at the end.

I would also like to ask you, what you would like to see with the Association in the future, are you happy with what we are doing at the moment, or is there something you would like to see?



2. Treasurer's report (KMCC)

- a. Karen presented the accounts for the year
- b. A reduction of income due to Covid (talks and courses). Our main expenditure for the year was on the 4 new colonies.
- c. We retain a healthy balance, with plans to spend some next year on the sheds and the picnic area.
- d. Accounts proposed by Oliver and seconded by Alastair, approved by unanimous vote.

3. Apiary manager's report (AL)

- a. Thanks to all who have supported this year. The bees have had a difficult year, with intermittent bad weather, culminating in all 4 colonies not surviving the year.
- b. Agreed to purchase 4 new ones (KMCC) for the spring from Paynes.

4. Training Coordinator's report (OStJ)

- a. Taster day late due to Covid but successful
 - b. Next year's events – Basic Assessment Training (19th February) and Taster Day (7th May) – are on the website.
5. Swarm coordinator's report (EM)
- a. None provided.
6. Election & appointment of Officers (JCF)
- a. Chairman: Janice Constance Fearn
 - i. Oliver proposed, Stephen seconded, carried
 - b. Treasurer: Karen McCulloch
 - i. Janice proposed, Shelley seconded, carried
 - c. Secretary: Kevin Fearn
 - i. Alastair proposed, Oliver seconded carried
 - d. Training Coordinator: Oliver St John (unelected)
 - e. Apiary Manager: Alastair Lee (unelected)
 - f. Events Coordination: no volunteers, job description:
 - Book venues for the regular events, in cooperation with primary officers: Taster Day, Basic Bee Training, etc.*
 - Organise other events – winter talks, apiary BBQ, etc. as might be of interest to the membership*
 - Sign-up attendees, as required, using WhatsApp, email, Eventbrite, Google Forms.*
 - Promotion of events on Facebook, via email, etc.*
 - g. Newsletter Editor: no volunteers
7. AOB
- a. Direct Debits for next year are due at the end of this year.
 - b. BBKA rates are going up, but we are holding our fees at the current rate.
 - c. Insurance may be found on the BBKA website, which we can add to our website.
 - d. Mike / Alastair to advise OStJ before the bee convention if anything is required.
 - e. A visit to a bee museum was discussed.
 - f. Christmas meal: only 3 have signed-up so far, please sign-up using the form accessed via the website.
 - g. January meeting moved to the 24th due to refurbishment, March reverts to normal.
 - h. Asian Hornet: we need to be aware during the coming season.

- i. Participation: An informal discussion was held after the meeting.
 - j. This year's honey is in the shed, to be extracted.
- 8. The meeting was formally closed at 19:50.