

**Stowmarket and District Beekeepers' Association**  
**Founded in 1947**

A light lunch was served at 1pm prior to the AGM.

**Minutes**  
Of the  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Sunday, 19th February 2023 at 14.00

Held at

Stowmarket Community Centre,  
Hillside,  
Stowmarket  
IP14 2BD.

**1) Apologise for absence –**

Paddy and Howard Gallagher, Alan Twite, Wendy Donoghue, Murray Douglas, James Crickmore, Penny Marland, Simon Saunders, David Mason, Nigel Gosling, David Hopps, Caroline Crosthwaite, Michael Heath.

A total of 25 members attended the meeting.

**Committee-**

Roger Chapman (Chairman). Richard Martin (President). Andy Smith (Treasurer).  
Linda Stuart (Secretary). Sarah Neesam (Membership Secretary).  
Bohdan Antoniv. Maggie Lawrence - (Committee Members).

**2) Minutes from the previous AGM–**

Held Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Jubilee Hall, 49 All Saints Road, Creting St Mary,  
IP6 8NF. Minutes were agreed (proposed by Maggie Lawrence, seconded by Greg Monaghan).

**3) Matters arising –**

Roger Chapman gave a recap on points raised at the previous AGM.

The training courses are ongoing with some continuation training being offered by encouraging members to join Bee Basic and Husbandry courses to improve beekeeping skills.

The club currently has sufficient equipment and has no room to store more.

Club honey is now sold at £7 per 1lb at Wyken Market.

As Covid rules have been lifted the club has been able to attend some shows. Stowmarket Food Festival proved very popular as did the 'Potato Day' held at a new venue, Otley College.

Members had been encouraged to enter the Honey Shows but no one had participated. A 'Honey Taste Off' was held at the President's Tea. This was a fun event for members to enter their honey. All entries were tasted blind and the jar receiving most votes won.

#### **4) Chairmans report -**

Like 2022, 2023 has been another unusual year, the spring weather was unpredictable which triggered many swarms. We trained 20 new beekeepers thanks to the efforts of Caroline Crosthwaite, Stella Zethraeus, Louise Eady, Richard Martin, Steve Galpin Andy Smith and Tony Payne. All the theory sessions were delivered face to face, we did manage to conduct some face-to-face practical sessions. We plan to conduct all sessions this year face to face – hopefully.

Membership remains consistently around 150 full members.

The Honey harvest was a bit hit and miss for many, the club apiary at Baylham produced about 550lbs of honey which is sold through the Rare Breeds Farm shop and at Wyken farmers' market.

There were some notable events during 2021. The Hog Roast at Andy and Jan Smith's house was very well attended as was the President's Tea. We are obviously a very sociable bunch who prefers face to face events to Zoom meetings. My thanks to Richard (not forgetting Kathryn) for the Taster Session at Little College Farm in June. The year was rounded off with a highly successful Christmas quiz and social event at Hillside.

We continue to support EARS – East Anglian Research Scholarship, however, while all supporting Associations wait for a research proposal Suffolk County are holding back any contributions.

As some of you may know this is my last AGM as chairman to be replaced by the highly capable Greg Monaghan. My thanks to all the committee for their support, especially Caroline, Linda and Steve for all their hard work. Caroline and Steve have decided to leave the committee.

#### **5) Treasurer's Report. Adoption of accounts –**

The association's finances are in good health. With an opening balance at 01.01.2022 of £6527.36 and a closing balance at 30.12.2022 of £6102.06. Spending was £425.30 more than income but the club still has 150lb of honey in stock worth £450.00. The present club current account balance stands at £9260.27. See attached SDBKA 2022 accounts reconciliation.

**STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 2022 ACCOUNTS RECONCILIATION**

Opening Balance 1 Jan 22

6527.36

**INCOME**

Honey sales	90.00	100.00	120.00	40.00	62.00	90.00	100.00	150.00	144.00
Training	55.00	55.00							
membership subs									4993.88
Hive sale									0.00
Refund books									0.00

2965.60  
110.00  
4993.88  
0.00  
0.00  
5995.88

**EXPENDITURE**

speaker expenses	27.47	82.41	27.74	27.74	27.74				0.00
Hall hire	130.00								195.10
EARS	143.88								130.00
Zoom membership	132.00	59.52							143.88
Training									191.52
Laptop/software									0.00
Website	31.50								31.50
Capitalation	2754.45	1192.50	19.90	2.99	5.50	10.00			3956.95
AGM Expenses	10.00	42.00							90.39
Beecraft subs	120.00								120.00
Hog Roast	8.00	24.40	179.66	394.00	117.73	5.00	450.00		1168.79
Apiary expenses	22.30	161.90							184.20
Presentation	24.00								24.00
refund overpayment	42.50								42.50
Postage	3.30								3.30
xmas party	20.37	109.68							130.05
Baction Fyffe	15.00								15.00

Closing Balance 31 Dec 22

6425.18

6102.06

Notes:

Spend 425.30 more than income but with 150lbs of honey worth 450.00 in stock  
Closing balance of 2021 given on 30 Dec at 6599.36 with further receipt on 31st of 28.00 giving start of 6527.36

## **6) Election of Officers –**

Richard Martin- President. Proposed Sarah Neesam. Seconded Maggie Lawrence

Greg Monaghan- Chairman. Proposed Roger Chapman. Seconded Linda Stuart

Roger Chapman- Secretary. Proposed Andy Smith. Seconded Maggie Lawrence

Andy Smith- Treasurer. Proposed Richard Martin. Seconded Linda Stuart

Linda Stuart, Sarah Neesam, Maggie Lawrence, Bohdan Antoniv - Committee Members

Proposed Bob Gosling. Seconded Stella Zethraeus

Committee unanimously appointed by all members present.

## **7) Any Other Business-**

The new committee will hold it's first meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March (details to be arranged).

Stowmarket is to host the Suffolk Beekeeping Association AGM. This will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 19.30 at Stowmarket Community Centre, Hillside Stowmarket, IP14 2BD.

Chris Milton, a Bee Inspector, will give a talk to SDBKA on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 19.30. The meeting will also be held at Stowmarket Community Centre, Hillside, Stowmarket.

The SDBKA website is currently not functioning. A professional web designer will set up a new website. This will be at a cost of approximately £1000.

Greg Monaghan, the new chairman, addressed the group. He thanked Roger Chapman for all his hard work and said he would set up the new website as soon as possible. He hoped to encourage more people to attend meetings and have more speakers.