



Open to everyone this is an opportunity to explore your creativity either through drawing, painting or photography and to submit your entries by August 31st 2017.

# THE GREAT BRITISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION BEES IN ART COMPETITION 2017



## WE HAVE THREE CATEGORIES

1. UP TO 12 YEARS OF AGE
2. 12 - 18 YEARS
3. 18 AND OVER

Entries will be judged by a team of experts and the winning entries and reserves will be exhibited at the Honey Show in October 2017





Elwood Preston Bolt - Aged 7 - Our first entry!

For further details and terms and conditions please visit our website [bbka.org.uk](http://bbka.org.uk) or email me at [George.brown@bbka.org.uk](mailto:George.brown@bbka.org.uk). The theme is '**Sound and Vision**' and we are particularly interested in seeing how you interpret 'honey bee sounds' visually.

**The first prize in each category will be an individual personalised plate of the winning entry.  
GOOD LUCK!**



CHARITY NUMBER - 212025



# The British Beekeepers Association

The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA), registered charity 212025, was founded in **1874** and today it represents, at national level, the interests of **24,000 amateur beekeeper members** and the **3 billion honey bees** they care for when pollination activity is at its peak.

Our charitable objectives are to further & promote **the craft of beekeeping** and to advance the **education of the public** in the importance of bees in the environment.

In response to many requests we are introducing a **special membership for schools**. The overall aim will be to encourage more schools to take an **interest in beekeeping** and to **establish a network of schools who would support each other and exchange ideas**. Schools will receive:

copies of **BBKA News**,  
a **membership certificate**,  
**free entry to the Junior Certificate** for their pupils,  
free copies of all **materials that we produce for schools**,  
**BDI insurance** for up to 5 hives.



Junior School Membership **£25.00 pa**

Senior School Membership **£50.00 pa**

Junior Certificate **free entry** for pupils

Basic Exam **£20**

For more details please contact **Simon Cavill**, [simon.cavill@BBKA.org.uk](mailto:simon.cavill@BBKA.org.uk)



British Beekeepers Association, National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.  
[www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)





10<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
GM 11 2017

Dear Association Chair

Over recent weeks many Area Associations (AAs), Branches and individual members have written to me or emailed seeking clarification concerning the financial arrangements for the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB). Most asked for copies of the accounts or bank statements. Some asked for lists of sponsoring companies with the amounts sponsored, others for the final cost to the BBKA. Some, in fact threatened censure if I did not send the information to all AAs. I was spending considerable time writing a variation of the same letter in response to each request. This was the backdrop to our letter of last week.

IMYB finished on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July. It was a great success. There were 57 young beekeepers from 19 countries and Ruth and Ian's organisation ensured a smooth event which, as far as I could see, was enjoyed by all. So, I would like to thank Ruth and Ian for the hard work they have carried out over many months.

Other thanks are due. I would like to Margaret Wilson for the valuable work she carried out on the budget and finances. A special thanks must go to our Press Officer Diane Roberts. Diane arranged extensive media coverage.

BBC television's Countryfile were filming (to be shown on 23<sup>rd</sup> July)  
Radio 4's Farming Today's coverage was aired on 10<sup>th</sup> July  
Radio and TV Times magazine interviewed and will publish a feature.  
Radio Wiltshire carried out interviews (aired on 10<sup>th</sup> July), as did a regional television programme called Points West.

We are all hoping that the coverage given to IMYB will encourage more young people here in the UK to become involved with beekeeping. If that happens it will be a fitting legacy.

Many of you will be aware from BBKA News that we are just launching our Schools Membership, again to encourage young beekeepers. It is proving extremely popular and we are hoping the IMYB coverage will make it more so.





Some of you have written to me thanking me for the letter of last week and the clarification it afforded. Others have written asking me why I sent it. I hope it provided the financial information many were seeking. The IMYB was certainly a success for all who participated. The accounts are yet to be finalised but at the moment they appear to be positive.

Thank you again to the many Associations, Branches, Divisions and individual members who have supported us.

Best wishes,

Margaret Murdin NDB

This letter is being sent by email to all Association Secretaries.

Due to the holiday period it will also be sent by email to all Branch Secretaries so hopefully all BBKA members will be notified about the IMYB feature on country file before it airs.





CBKA secretary &lt;cantbees@gmail.com&gt;

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## International Meeting of Young Beekeepers

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Ian Homer &lt;beekeepers@live.co.uk&gt;

23 July 2017 at 16:35

Dear Fellow Beekeeper

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Event Coordinator of IMYB 2017 and not as a trustee of the BBKA.

You may be aware that several letters have recently been circulated by the BBKA Chair and President which have made a number of inaccurate and also demeaning statements about IMYB and, by implication, about myself and Ruth who have taken the brunt of the organisation. Unfortunately, apart from several of the BBKA staff, there has been no support forthcoming from the majority of the Trustees.

Ruth & I have become rather tired of the unwarranted aggression shown by the Executive but now we have become the subject of censorship also. I quote from an e-mail to me from Stephen Barnes, Chair of BBKA Governance "I accept that you have a right of reply to the letter ..... Unfortunately as Chair of Governance I cannot sanction the use of BBKA headed stationery to circulate your letter ..... and I have instructed the General Manager not to do so."

We therefore have no alternative but to write to you directly and I have attached an accurate summary together with an income and expenditure spreadsheet for your information. You will note that, rather than funding the event, the line that Margaret Murdin was peddling to any who would listen, it has in fact generated a substantial surplus for the BBKA. At an early stage, the BBKA Exec agreed that any surplus should be ring-fenced for activities related to the development of young beekeepers but it remains to be seen whether this commitment will be honoured.

Thank you to those who have supported IMYB.

Please feel free to forward this email if you are no longer in any official capacity with your association or indeed to your members if you see fit.

Regards,

Ian Homer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



**Reply to Murdin-Hendrie letter.pdf**  
438K

From: Ian Homer  
Event Coordinator – International Meeting of Young Beekeepers 2017



July 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Association Member

I felt that I should write to Associations to provide accurate information and correct some of the mis-statements which the letters from Margaret Murdin and John Hendrie have promulgated.

Firstly, let me say that the **BBKA have made absolutely no financial contribution towards IMYB 2017** although Leigh Sidaway has done a lot of work in the office, George Brown has given significant help in bringing in some of the £31,000 sponsorship and voluntary donations which we have received and both Sharon Blake and Christine Knott have helped over production of the brochure and certificates. The total income of nearly £66,000 was made up of the donations referred to plus payments from some (but not yet all) Associations approved at the ADM 2016, a lump sum of £5000 from Surrey BKA, donations in kind from equipment suppliers and participation fees from visiting countries.

Secondly, I am pleased to tell you that the event was rated by both young participants and adults alike as the most successful and enjoyable IMYB to date. It has done much to foster the further development of young beekeepers on an international scale though it is clear that neither the BBKA Chair, Margaret Murdin or President, John Hendrie had much interest in these objectives as their main preoccupations were, as per MM's letters, to obtain publicity for the BBKA and to enjoy being in the media limelight. The event was covered by the BBC (CountryFile and Farming Today) which has made a positive contribution to the image of beekeeping.

Turning now to the first letter from Murdin and Hendrie. The timing of it, on the eve of the event, shows a total disregard for all of the work that Ruth and I, and our team, have put into the event. What it was supposed to achieve other than protecting the authors backs is a mystery; at best it makes clear the shortcomings of the current Executive in terms of management control. It is worth noting that when the initial decision to support IMYB was made by the Executive all of the present Executive who were on the Exec at that time supported it. It is disingenuous to try to blame others for the decision - I would remind you that the Executive at the time of the decision, which included Margaret Murdin, were unanimous in these decisions. The current Executive reviewed the viability of the event following the ADM 2017 and agreed that it should take place.

There was valid concern that the £30,000 sponsorship figure may be hard to achieve and, with the economic situation and the Brexit decision, this proved to be the case. I insisted from the outset that we should have a totally separate bank account in order that all transactions would be transparent. Unfortunately, successive IMYB treasurers have seen fit to deny us the bank statements, presumably on the basis that if we are made to work in the dark we would be more likely to make mistakes.

Initially we, Ruth and I, did not indicate that we would underwrite the event but that we had identified an anonymous benefactor who would underwrite it. The Executive later took a very aggressive approach towards the benefactor, insisting initially that funds be immediately transferred to the BBKA and then subsequently that a signed agreement be provided – the phrase “kicking a gift horse in the teeth comes to mind” and eventually the benefactor could no longer tolerate the aggression and walked away. Ruth and I had already agreed to provide a backup in the event that it was needed, and this was reiterated at ADM 2017. A signed letter was therefore not necessary and we felt that our

integrity was being questioned when we were pressurised for a signed agreement. Eventually, to break the deadlock and to avoid further unpleasant and aggressive behaviour by the Executive we provided a signed document, which was accepted on behalf of the BBKA by the President. As it happens, all of the aggression from the Exec was unnecessary as the £30,000 figure has been reached and exceeded.

To say that Margaret Wilson is scrutinising and overseeing the accounts is something of an exaggeration. Her scrutiny is pitched at questioning whether the celidh band engaged for entertainment on one evening could manage with just two musicians instead of three in order to save money! She has made no contribution to the healthy budgetary situation, in fact her constant intrusions fuelled by confusion and an ignorance of the event just delayed the real work of organising and managing the event. Far from keeping costs to a minimum, had we followed her purchasing recommendations, our expenditure would have been several thousand pounds greater. Whilst there are still some costs to be dealt with for which allowance has been made and is shown, I have attached an accurate and simplified version of the current income and expenditure account in order that you can understand the true situation. We will also need to include as income the value of all of the equipment specially acquired for the event and which the Chair unilaterally decide to remove from site for the BBKA apiary – a conservative estimate would value this at approximately £2,500. We ourselves have made no claim for any travel or personal expenses incurred during the planning and organisation of the event and many of our volunteers have also declined to take expenses.

The Murdin and Hendrie letter goes on to suggest that it was a mistake to agree to host the event and that it was a grave error to ask me to manage it alone. In fact, at my suggestion, two other Trustees were charged with working with me on the project however I am still waiting for them to make their contributions. The major and valuable help we have received in running this event has not come from Trustees but from a host of trusted ordinary members from our Associations.

To say that the current Trustees have learnt from this is an interesting statement. What they should have learnt, and some seem unable or unwilling to accept, is that I take my Trustee role seriously. If I commit to doing something, I do it professionally and thoroughly and do my utmost to manage the project within budget. What I do find difficult to deal with is the incompetence and underhanded attempts by some of the Exec to undermine the event. They seem to be unaware of their collective responsibility

We will not get more young beekeepers by serendipity – it is something which must be worked at. Unfortunately, there has been little or no action in that direction until recently when we have had a few words of positive intent, but no action. The Trustees now have the perfect opportunity to use IMYB as a springboard to show young people that beekeeping can be exciting, social and challenging, whilst at the same time, educational.

It does not surprise me that some associations are threatening a censure motion as the management skills and financial acumen exhibited by the Vice Chair, President and particularly the Chair are not those that would be expected in a charity of this nature. It is particularly distressing to have had our integrity and financial acumen challenged by those who show so little capability.

Thank you for sparing to time to read this letter; I hope that you feel that you are now more fully informed of what has occurred.



Ian Homer



# PROVISIONAL IMYB 2017 INCOME and EXPENDITURE as at July 14th 2017



## INCOME

## EXPENDITURE

	Association ADM 2016 payments	Sponsorship, Voluntary Donations and donations in kind	Participation payments	Additional income		Paid to date	Committed	Provisional additional sums
Association ADM 2016 payments	19,235.80				Marlborough College	10,800.00	23,074.80	
Voluntary additional donations by association members		1,877.00			Competition costs	2,306.68	1,435.18	
Private donations		425.00			Clothing	783.60	1,598.15	
Just Giving donations		3,153.00			Airport transport		3,485.00	
Just Giving gift aid		604.50			Cultural visits	580.50	3,199.61	
Vita Europe		5,000.00			Social programme	830.00		
Wax Chandlers		8,000.00			Misc expenditure	109.37		400.00
Eva Crane Trust		4,000.00			Translation		500.00	
Vandervell Foundation		3,000.00			Programme		485.00	
Bee Diseases Insurance		500.00			Badges, certificates and trophies	252.00	368.27	
Beecraft		500.00			Expenses			2,500.00
National Honey Show		250.00			DBS checks	284.00		
DIK - Maisemore		81.20			Bank charges	376.00		100.00
DIK - Bee Equipment		107.80			Postage			300.00
DIK - BBWear		1,075.18			Just giving costs - 6.5%			204.95
DIK - Thornes		1,209.01			Stationery			500.00
DIK - Just Bee drinks		510.00			Video production costs			1000.00
DIK - Mighty Fine Chocolate		310.00						
DIK - Translators		600.00						
DIK - Beecraft book		20.00						
Participation fees			10,393.07			16,322.15	34,143.01	5,000.95
Surrey BKA Contribution				5,000.00				
	19,235.80	31,222.69	10,393.07	5,000.00	= provisional sums not yet confirmed			
					= donations in kind			
<b>Total to date</b>				<b><u>65,851.56</u></b>				<b><u>55,470.11</u></b>
<b>NETT SURPLUS</b>	<b>10,381.45</b>							



21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

**Document ref: GM 12/2017**

To all Association Secretaries & Branch Secretaries of the BBKA.

Dear All

Over the past week we have had various calls and emails to the office alerting us to the fact that some of you have not received the recent communications regarding IMYB.

I am delighted to say that the event was a huge success and we are all looking forward to seeing the item that will be show on the BBC programme CountryFile, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

It has come to the attention of the Trustees that Mr Ian Homer has sent a letter out to Associations. Mr Stephen Barnes, Chair of Governance & Standing Orders Committee, has asked me to send the following statement to you.

Statement

"The BBKA takes very seriously the unsubstantiated allegations made by Mr Homer in his letter and had already initiated an investigation into the claims made. This investigation will be thorough in depth and overseen by past presidents. The Charity Commission will also be kept informed of developments. The intention is to have this investigation completed at the earliest opportunity and once completed a full and detailed report will be published"

Yours faithfully





GM 13 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

Communication sent by email to all Association & Branch Secretaries

Dear Members,

Six months have passed since the ADM and the BBKA has been busy working hard for the benefit of the membership. So we thought we would let you all know some of the good things that have been achieved whilst we have been Trustees and the things that are still in the development stage for this year.

We have produced books specific to tasks within the apiary, one for the beginners, one for those taking up Microscopy and another one for those taking General Husbandry, all written by members of the BBKA and given freely by the authors to be printed and used for the members. There are three more in the making, the first is 'Feeding Honey Bees' and we are hoping that one will be ready for the National Honey Show.

There are two more exams being set up to bridge the gap between the Basic Assessment and the General Husbandry: 'Breeding Honey Bees' and 'Honeybee Health'. These are purely practical assessments and will help beekeepers have a better awareness of the needs of honey bees and the management of them. We are still in the 'testing stage' but it all looks good. There is a lot of work in designing new courses, then 'test driving' them to be sure that they are fit for purpose.

All materials from the four Courses in a Case have been transferred onto one memory stick, much easier to use and cheaper to send out. They are being sold at little more than the cost price.

On education, we have managed to get some financial support from DEFRA to part fund Advanced and General Husbandry training. This is the second year that we have been successful with our grant application and this allows us to teach and train without it breaking the bank.

The Vice-Chair sought to improve the insurance cover for the membership, getting better cover than previously and at a saving in the region of £16K, this has helped us to keep costs down avoiding the need for a capitation increase.

Bees in the Curriculum, which has been around for a while was seen to need upgrading, photographs, information and layouts on the pages all being improved. This has been the brain-





child of the E & H Committee and as with all committees there are several Trustees involved. It should be noted that many trustees are involved in the activities of more than one committee.

Another project we have been busy with is for Schools. We are getting together a memory stick and a pack of items to go out to Schools where there is an interest in Beekeeping for their pupils. It will consist of a haversack, filled with educational material following the National Curriculum, a bee game, pictures and photographs, quizzes and much, much more. This again is in the development stage as we needed to upgrade the information on the memory stick. This pack will also be ideal for members who are invited into schools to take an assembly or speak to pupils in a classroom.

We have just launched the new Schools Membership category and this has been well received. Some schools have already entered pupils to take the Junior Certificate or Basic Examinations.

The Trustee with responsibility for HR initiated a review of the staff employed by the BBKA. There have been quite a few changes with two leaving to pursue other interests, and one retiring it was important to recruit suitable replacements. This has been done with careful regard to the budgets. This reorganisation including the appointment of a staff member with day to day responsibility for the accounts should lead to a better service for members with little increase in costs.

We felt that someone in the office working on accounts daily was a must for an organisation like the BBKA so we are pleased that Jacqueline Vagg started with us in May and supported by Anna is providing more detailed financial support to the Trustees and office. We recruited Leigh Sidaway as General Manager who has taken to the task very well.

We also started the Pension Scheme for the staff and have managed to give some pay increases to those on honoraria as they really deserve it and have been neglected for quite a few years.

The office at Stoneleigh was in need of upgrading so when looking to clear out the stock room all kinds of odds and ends were discovered, these were taken out to shows or events where they were sold, the proceeds going back into the BBKA bank.

With a new Chair of Governance, Standing Orders have been reviewed, and some other policies have either been improved or returned to their original state.

We have covered two major shows this year, with Trustees working alongside the shows committee. For RHS Chatsworth, four Trustees (plus the partner of one of the Trustees) gave two days each to work and support. Country File Live will be held at Blenheim Palace this weekend, where again there will be Trustees attending to support the Shows Committee.





A revamp of how we will conduct shows in future, having mobile units which can go anywhere in the country to assist all Associations and Branches, not just those in the south, another one that is work in progress as the volunteers for the shows work very hard for the BBKA, We have two Trustees working alongside them to give help where it is needed.

The IMYB was a successful event but it took a lot of man hours by both Trustees and office staff during the build up. In fact we lost a valued Trustee because of this event. Ian and Ruth Homer worked tirelessly supported by George Brown our Relationship Manager and Diane Roberts, PR. On the actual day there were 40% of the Trustees working plus numerous other volunteers, most of which were BBKA members.

We have placed the order for the creation of a new Membership Database. This is desperately needed as some of our members will realise. We are hoping this will be working by the next Capitation date, fingers crossed.

We have also been fortunate enough to get a grant to purchase a new website for the BBKA thanks to the volunteer, who looks after our IT security. The new site will be much easier for members to use.

We have had better fund raising results than ever this year thanks to the newly appointed fund raiser who has been a driving force bringing in much needed contributions. This has been achieved with the support from the office staff and the Trustees.

The newly appointed public relations officer is doing a splendid job keeping the BBKA at the front of the media including a prominent piece on Country File recently as well as pieces broadcast on several radio stations.

We are also introducing a new management database to support Fund Raising . We have had better results this year than ever before thanks to George and the support he gets from the office and the Trustees.

It was also decided that we needed to get the budgets out earlier for Associations to check, so quite a lot of work has gone into the preparation of that. Lyn Barker, our new Honorary Treasurer, together with Anna Chapman has done an excellent job analyzing the past five years' accounts history for each Trustee Committee and budget department so that more accurate budgets can be completed. Association Secretaries should all get your copies in the next few weeks.

You may not be aware that Howard Poole, Chair of Finance, has been rather ill this year but despite that he has only missed one meeting. He has kept up to date with the news and hopes to get back to normal duties in the near future. Last year we came in at a surplus circa £30,000





and with continued good management we look as though we may also come in with a surplus again this year, so once again no request for an increase in capitation.

Quite a large percentage of the Trustees also volunteer to travel the country giving talks not only on beekeeping but what the Exec is doing on your behalf.

The Chair has calculated that the work done as a Trustee, unpaid, is the equivalent to working full time in an office for four months a year, there are some who do less but also some who do more. Trustees give this time freely, the reward being the satisfaction of improving services for the members and of course maintaining the beekeeping population. The nice thing about being a Trustee, is that you are with likeminded people, giving time and effort with a free will for the benefit of others. The reward is a job well done, better services for the membership, keeping the books balanced, working as a team with other Trustees and looking after the staff who work on behalf of the BBKA. It does not get better than that!

Yours faithfully

John Hendrie  
President

Margaret Murdin  
Chair

Margaret Wilson  
Vice Chair

Stephen Barnes  
Chair of Governance

