

10. ELECTIONS

There are four Trustee vacancies for the Executive Committee.

Candidate	Nominating Association	Seconding Association
Ian Homer	Devon	Dorset

PERSONAL STATEMENT

“Ian Homer graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1971 and has worked for the BBC and in the UK electricity supply industry. He has also worked as a freelance consultant and project manager, managing information systems projects for electricity utilities throughout Europe.

In 1999 he joined the National Bee Unit as a Bee Inspector, initially working seasonally in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and Co. Durham, then in Devon and, from April 2003 until June 2009, as the Regional Bee Inspector for Southern England. In July 2009, Ian took on a new job-share role as Extension and Learning Officer for the NBU. In this role, Ian and his co-worker sought to develop and promote best practices and deliver training material to compliment these practices. He retired from this post in August 2011. Whilst with the National Bee Unit he provided around 300 talks to local association meetings on a variety of subjects but often on one or other aspect of bee husbandry or bee behaviour.

Having first learnt his beekeeping skills from his wife Ruth (who first kept bees at age 9), they have gone on to keep bees together for 35 years, in both Dorset and Northumberland - two very different environments. Together, they have kept an average of around 12 colonies during this period. Ian has held posts as Secretary, Treasurer and Education Officer at local and county association level. He has edited and produced association newsletters and is currently County Examination Secretary. He has helped beekeepers learn their skills for nearly two decades and holds a Certificate in Adult and Further Education Teaching. Ian achieved the Basic Certificate in 1996 and has subsequently, through self-learning, successfully taken and passed all of the modular assessments to hold the Intermediate and Advanced Theory Certificates. He also, in 2011, and again through self-learning, passed the General Husbandry Assessment.

Ian has spoken to many association meetings and at numerous conventions around the country and was the speaker on the Scottish Autumn Lecture Tour in 2011. His strong interest in the practical aspects of beekeeping has led to him being asked to demonstrate practical handling skills at a number of association apiary meetings and to lead workshops at the Spring Convention. He is also a regular contributor to the BBKA News and has acted as technical editor on beekeeping publications.

Currently secretary to the BBKA Education and Husbandry Committee, Ian also serves on the BBKA Governance, Operations and Member Services, and Technical and Environment Committees where he aims to represent the opinions and aspirations of the beekeeping members of our constituent associations.

Ian’s major interests are encouraging beekeepers to practice good bee husbandry and attempting to present beekeeping issues in a practical and straightforward way. He feels strongly that if beekeepers can develop a greater understanding of their bees, they will derive more pleasure from keeping them.”

Candidate	Nominating Association	Seconding Association
Margaret Murdin	Lancashire & North West	North Staffs

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Having kept bees for a number of years I now have 20 colonies over 3 apiaries. I am currently Vice Chair of the Ormskirk and Croston branch of Lancashire. For the past few years I have taught courses leading to the modules for Lancashire and General Husbandry both locally and nationally. I am continuing my own beekeeper education by working towards the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

I am a Master Beekeeper.

I have given talks at the Spring Convention and to various Associations and Branches around the country.

I have been a Trustee of the BBKA for the last three years and sit on the Education and Husbandry and Finance Committees. I am a member of the Exam Board, a tutor for the Correspondence Course and a trained assessor for all BBKA Exams and assessments.

During a past life I was the Principal of a large Further and Higher Education College, a college inspector and the Chief Examiner for teacher Education at a University.

I have sat on several Government Committees advising Ministers on Adult, Further and Special Education.

I have a natural interest in beekeeper education particularly in ensuring that it is accessible, affordable, relevant and fun! Courses need to be enjoyable, informative and delivered locally whenever possible. I am aware that many beekeepers feel that examinations are irrelevant and daunting or both But continuing to learn and improve our skills are important even if the exams are ignored. I am also particularly interested in enabling young people to partake of beekeeping either as part of a school group or individually.

The college where I was Principal had 1600 staff over an extended campus both in the UK and abroad. With a £30million annual budget I feel that I have developed excellent financial and business skills and can work quickly, under pressure and in a timely manner.

I have excellent communications skills and spent considerable time working in teams on media relations and marketing. This is an area that I would like to pursue within the BBKA.

I am an active member of my branch and am interested in becoming more involved with the future development of the BBKA. I am interested in development of new beekeepers and particularly in retaining their interest in beekeeping. I am aware of how well the BBKA have raised the profile of beekeeping with the general public and I am keen to help further this work.

I have been a trustee of a national charity for disabled students and a local educational charity so am aware of the responsibilities of Trustees.

I hold a B.Sc. in Biochemistry and a Masters qualification in Education.

My other interests are scuba diving, growing my own vegetables on my allotment and doting on my grandchildren.

Candidate	Nominating Association	Seconding Association
Howard Pool	Sedburgh	Cambridgeshire

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a qualified accountant (FCMA) and Treasurer (MCT)

For the first 8 years of my working life I was responsible for a variety of financial roles within major international companies. Subsequently, and until retirement in 2006, I have been responsible for the running and change management of a number of international companies – both in the UK and overseas.

Since retirement I have had time to act as a trustee and treasurer for the charities Break (children), Chiltern Woodland Project (environment), and Eating Disorders Support (health) as well as trustee for Friends of Friendless Churches (heritage). Through these activities I have gained a certain experience with the Charities Commission and their accounting requirements. I am also governor of two local schools – and Chair of their finance committees.

Married with 4 grown children, it was my granddaughter who re-sparked interest in beekeeping. I joined the introduction to beekeeping course run by the High Wycombe branch of the BBKA in 2013, and have kept my own bees since March 2014.

If the Association needs support in the financial field, I feel I may offer the maturity, qualifications, and experience to be of some assistance in this area.

Candidate	Nominating Association	Seconding Association
David Teasdale	Yorkshire	Cheshire

PERSONAL STATEMENT

After commencing employment in banking accountancy, I made a career change into computing and eventually moved from Yorkshire to Staffordshire several years ago. I began beekeeping with North Staffordshire Beekeepers 28 years ago.

I joined the Committee of NSBKA because I wanted to be involved in the developmental activities of the Association and have undertaken the posts of Association Secretary, BBKA Delegate and Newsletter Editor for several years. My main objective has been to help develop and improve the Associations’ activities and its services to members.

I was elected as a BBKA Trustee in 2011 but prior to 2011, I was an active member of the Stoneleigh Shows Committee (SSC) and involved in the BBKA representation at the Royal Show, Gardeners World Live and The Edible Gardening Show. The main focus of this was to represent the face of beekeeping, beekeeping Associations and the BBKA to the general public to inform and attract people to the craft and therefore membership of Associations.

When the replacement BBKA website was conceived, I was asked to Chair the Group and we successfully launched the site in May 2011. That development and support task has continued to ensure that the site fully meets the needs of the BBKA and all members of the beekeeping fraternity.

I became a Director of BDI (Bee Diseases Insurance) in 2010 and whilst my main task is to act as a board member of the company, I consider that my equally important task is to ensure that BDI provides the best cost effective services to beekeepers and beekeeping.

I have now completed my first term as an elected BBKA Trustee during which I have been the Secretary of the BBKA Finance Committee and a member of Operations and Membership Services Committee (OPMS) and am currently The Lead Trustee for SSC and Chair of OPMS in addition to my active work with the BBKA Website.

The BBKA is an Association of Associations and I strongly believe that without the member Associations the BBKA would be nothing. The BBKA exists to represent the needs of beekeeping and beekeepers which is what it must continue to do and that is what I have tried to achieve during my term of office.

Over the last three years, I have seen many in the way the BBKA operates on behalf of beekeepers/Associations and I want that progress to continue. I believe there is still work needed to improve communications and interactions between the member Associations and the BBKA in order to jointly ensure that beekeeping continues to grow and flourish and I want to help in that task.

Whilst much has been achieved, I would welcome the opportunity and your support to further continue this work on your behalf as a BBKA Trustee, and I hope that Associations will wish to support my continuing in this role.

For the Exam Board

Candidate	Nominating Association	Seconding Association
John Whittaker	Yorkshire	Cleveland

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I was brought up in the Isle of Man. My formative years were spent working on my grandfather's farm at weekends and holidays. In a more formal way I was educated at Douglas High School for Boys and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University, where I read Mechanical sciences being awarded a 2.1 in 1969. At college I was that rare species, a northern comprehensive farm boy. In my working life I taught mathematics for seven years and then designed and developed IT systems in the construction industry. I have now been retired for four years.

I married Ela in 1975. We spent three years travelling and then settled down in Yorkshire where we raised our two children, who have grown up to make their parents proud. We are now obsessed grandparents of four grandchildren.

I took up beekeeping in 1992, and it has become a significant part of my life. Currently I have about 25 colonies, distributed across four apiaries. I have served for fourteen years as secretary of my local beekeeping association and ten years as treasurer of Yorkshire beekeepers. In 2013 I became a Master Beekeeper. I have been a basic assessor for several years and am now an assessor for the general husbandry assessment. Recently I have become a part of the team that produce and mark the BBKA module theory papers.

If anyone is interested in my views on beekeeping they have been set out at length in a number of articles that have been printed in BBKA News and in my book "on the keeping of bees". In brief I believe that the main weapon we have in ensuring healthy and productive honey bees in this country is education. Though my role on the Yorkshire committee was as treasurer, my primary motivation for being on the committee was to encourage the development of a beekeeping education programme in Yorkshire. And I am proud of the way that the team, of which I was just a part has transformed the status of beekeeping training in Yorkshire and this has been recognised by the reward of the Surrey Sheild to Yorkshire in 2013. In addition our local beekeeping association has run training courses for beginners for the last ten years and I do the winter evening part of the course. I have been known to give talks on beekeeping to neighbouring associations, WI groups etc. with more enthusiasm than god given talent.