Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association

Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association Annual Report for year ending 2025

The **Bee Improvement & Bee Breeders Association** is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales No 1200969.

- Principal contact address is 10 Skiers Hall, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74 8EU
- Principal email contact address is secretary@bibba.com
- The working name is Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA).
- The website address is bibba.com
- The constitution can be downloaded from https://bibba.com/constitution/

The charity commission approved the new CIO in November 2022 and the assets of the previous unincorporated charity (Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association No 273827) have been transferred to the new CIO. Those who were members of the unincorporated charity have had their membership transferred to the new charity.

The Charity's Bankers are:

- Lloyds Bank, Business Banking, BX1 1LT
- PayPal., 22-24 Boulevard Royal, L-2449, Luxembourg
- Redwood Bank, The Nexus Building, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3TA

Trustees in 2025:

Roger Patteson	President
	Lead Trustee: Education, CaSCA and Publishing
	Lead Trustee for Liaison with the BBKA
Nick Mawby	Chair
	Lead Trustee Membership &Membership Services Website
Karl Colyer	Vice Chair
	Lead Trustee Scientific and Technical Committee
	Lead Trustee Publications
Lynn Cartwright	Secretary
Michael Andrews	Treasurer

Gareth Trehearn	Lead Trustee BIBBA Monthly
Stephen McGrath	Lead Trustee Groups
Emma Buckley	Trustee
Martina Hendry	Trustee

Governance

The Trustees have ensured that the operation of the Charity complies with the Charity Commission's requirements. In order that the Trustees carry out their duties to the best of their abilities, it is essential that they keep themselves up-to-date with the latest Charity Commission Guidance, which is published on the Commission's Website.

Chairmans Report: Nick Mawby

This has been another positive year for BIBBA, in which we have continued to strengthen both our finances, outreach and our impact. Membership income and Gift Aid now provide the bulk of our funding, supported by healthy interest income and successful education events, leaving us with a net surplus for the year and reserves of almost £170,000 to support future work. Our educational reach has grown markedly: BIBBA's YouTube channel added over 1,000 new subscribers to now exceed 7,000 worldwide, with a 43% increase on viewing time compared to the previous year. Live@theHive is once again running regularly, and feedback from major events such as Apimondia confirms that BIBBA is now recognised internationally for practical, evidence-based material on native and locally adapted bees and beekeeping. We have also invested in research, including funding specialist equipment for scientific work on tropilaelaps, and maintained a strong publications programme with continuing book sales and generous donations of royalties to the charity.

Operationally, the trustees have ensured continued compliance with Charity Commission requirements, fully embedded the CIO structure, and sustained all this activity entirely through volunteers, without paid staff. Looking ahead, our priorities are to further modernise our membership and website systems to give members a smoother, better-integrated experience; to expand our educational offer, particularly to newer and younger beekeepers; and to build on our strengths in digital content, publications and research so that we can widen understanding and uptake of locally adapted, varroa-resistant bees. With strong finances, a growing membership and an increasingly visible educational presence, BIBBA is well placed to take these next steps in the coming year.

We have increased our overall operating surplus every year for the last 10 years. Thanks to moving our newsletter online, holding committee meetings virtually, and simplifying our operations, we've reduced running costs. Direct Debit payment of subscriptions also makes administration easier for trustees, helping BIBBA continue to run economically, effectively and efficiently.

Coupled with the benefit of an increasing membership base (now over 1000 members), the trustees wanted these efficiencies to be passed back to members and have agreed an enhanced direct debit discount, which will be trialled for one year and reviewed annually to ensure it works well for both members and the organisation. Other payment options will, of course, remain available for those who prefer them.

Finance Report from Treasurer Mike Andrews

Draft 2025 Accounts have been prepared and are presented below. It is not expected that there will be any changes to these figures scrutiny by the Independent Accountants.

BIBBA has no paid employees and relies entirely on the goodwill and unpaid work of Officers, Trustees and Volunteer Members. All expenditure is limited to direct expenses to support BIBBA's duties, strategy and initiatives.

BIBBA's income is from four primary sources:

1. Membership subscriptions and Gift Aid reclaim
2. Interest income from fund deposits
3. Net surplus funds from education and training events
4. Sales of BIBBA publications.

There are small amounts of ad hoc funding from donations, bequests and sponsorships.

The ability to reclaim Gift Aid on membership income remains a valuable source of funding, and we thank all members who are taxpayers for registering their willingness to allow Gift Aid to be collected.

Income and Expenditure Report

The report for 2025 shows a net funds inflow of £2,109. Although this is much lower than in previous years it is in line with our projections at this time last year.

Membership and associated Gift Aid collections contributed 75% of our total income, with interest income providing £4,775 (13% of total income).

Expenditure in the year was dominated by training and conference costs at £12,409, marketing costs of £5,603, and costs associated with maintaining membership systems, the BIBBA website etc, amounting to £8,272. BIBBA also made a research grant donation of £4,000 to PHIRA-Science to enable the purchase of a microscope for the study of *tropilaelaps*.

The Financial Balances Statement

The report shows that BIBBA holds net assets of £170,504, and accrued liabilities of £1,206. This continues to be a healthy financial position. We strive to maintain a balance between managing the Association's liquidity to be able to pursue all opportunities to further our aims and objectives and sensible management of our funds to maximise income.

Forward projection

The accumulated fund balances allow BIBBA the ability to incur small net revenue and expenditure deficits on individual events, initiatives or activities, as we may expect in 2026 from time to time, as we pursue initiatives on a not for profit basis in furtherance of our aims.

The financial reports, as verified by the Independent Examiner are attached at the end of the Report.

Education Report from Lead Trustee – Roger Patterson

Much of BIBBAs activity is educational, dealing with a wide variety of topics regarding native, locally adapted and varroa resistant honey bees and their relevant management. It is therefore demanding more time from those who prepare and deliver educational material, especially as the other sub-committees and interests are expanding with education delivering their material.

Electronic methods of teaching and educating beekeepers have advanced considerably in a short time and although it doesn't help in a practical way at the hive, it does mean that we can reach a much wider audience than before. It is a difficult balancing act between getting the BIBBA message out to beekeepers in general and providing specific member benefits.

Although education has always been a part of BIBBA, it is only in recent years that it has increased, not only in our core aims, but in general beekeeping for all abilities, including the "early years", so newer beekeepers can extend their learning beyond their beginner's courses. BIBBA has quickly become more attractive and relevant to the ordinary beekeeper, so helping them understand native and locally adapted bees, rather than following the "standard teaching" that often favours imports. This policy has paid off handsomely, with a much greater interest in what BIBBA is doing for sustainable beekeeping. Feedback via emails and comments from beekeepers at shows and events indicates a great appreciation for what has been achieved. There has been a knock-on effect with an increase in membership.

The BIBBA YouTube channel grew very strongly in 2025, adding more than 1,000 subscribers to take the number to over 7,000. The majority of our subscribers are in the UK, although the channel has international appeal, with subscribers hailing from across the world. At Apimondia in Denmark in September 2025, where there were more than 8,000 attendees from over 120 countries, many beekeepers from countries including Australia, New Zealand, Holland, Czech, Scandinavia, Greece, USA, Canada, Slovenia, South Africa, India and Barbados complimented BIBBA on the videos.

The increase in subscriber numbers accelerated over the autumn and winter when we started releasing videos a couple of times a week that were recorded over the 2025 summer season. These videos, which include longer views, shorts and video series, have proved to be popular, although some of our older videos also continue to do very well. "Using mini nucs for queen rearing", a topic that will always attract new viewers, published in April 2023 garnered another 8,000+ views over the year.

Over half the audience over the past year have been new viewers to the channel, and mobile phones and televisions are the most popular devices for watching the videos, with over 30% of views on each device. The audience is aligned with the general beekeeping population, skewed towards males and 45+ years old. Our challenge is how to attract a younger audience and newer beekeepers. Following a few technical challenges in live broadcasting in an apiary situation, Live@theHive got back on track and has attracted a good following. For all these activities, there is a team of five people working tirelessly. Not only have we covered a wide range of beekeeping topics, but also highly topical aspects such as tropilaelaps and varroa resistance, both of which we hope to build on in the future.

CaSCA (Commercial and Semi Commercial Apiarists) Report from Lead Trustee Roger Patterson

Following a summer break in activity, there was an increase towards the end of the year, with six all-day courses in various locations and webinars arranged for early in 2026.

This is a potential growth area where members are encouraged to produce bees and queens for sale that are raised from locally adapted stock, in addition to any other form of generating hive products revenue from their own bees.

Membership and Website Report for 2025 from Lead Trustee Nick Mawby

We continue to struggle with some lack of functionality with our membership database run on SheepCRM and we have now identified a possible alternative which will be explored in early 2026. Our aim with a new system will be tighter integration of the CRM (membership system) and the website and events booking system. There will be a one-off cost to transfer the data.

On 31st December 2025 we had 1031 members, an increase of 53 from the year before, a 5.4% increase.

During 2025, 149 members did not renew their membership, a churn of 15.1%. Many of these had discontinued keeping bees after many years. We gained 202 new members.

Our membership has grown steadily over the last 10 years, as has our surplus. The committee have decided to trial a reduction in membership fees (if paid by direct debit) to make membership accessible to more people. We expect this may possibly result in a deficit initially and will review progress annually.

Website – we invested in a redesign of the website in Spring 2025 and will develop this further when we have migrated to a new membership system.

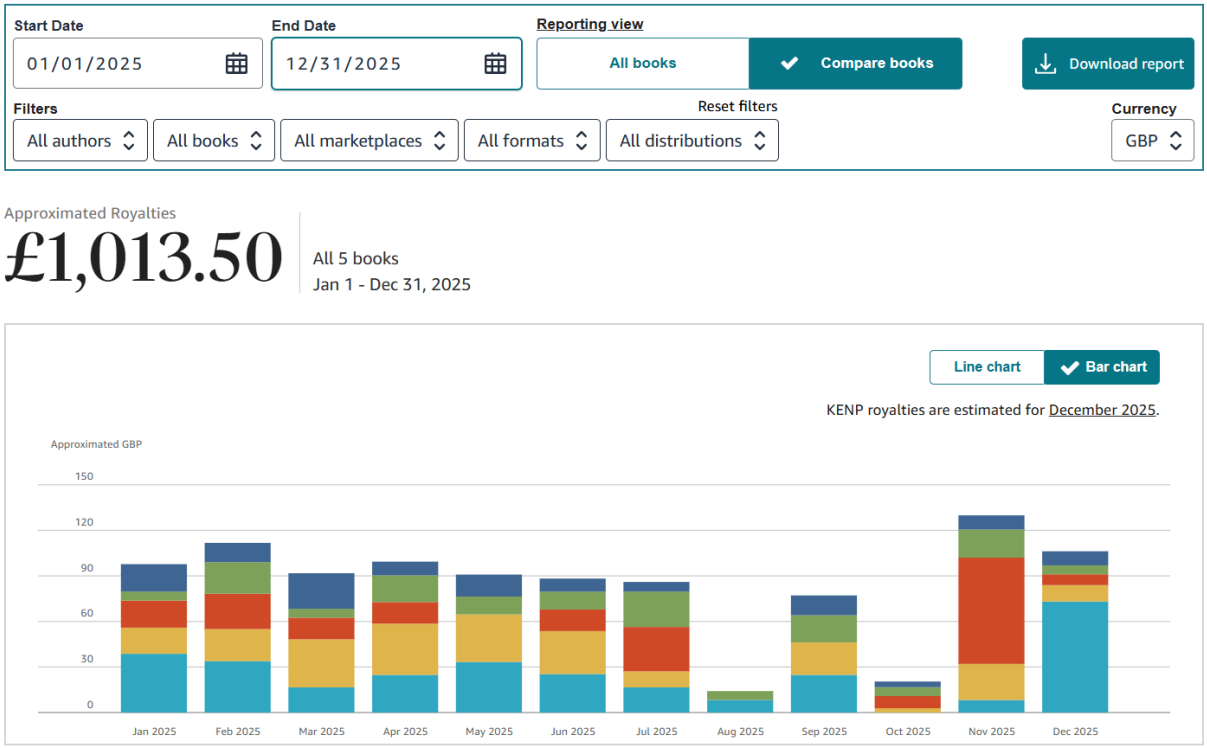
Publishing 2025 Annual Report from Lead Trustee Karl Colyer

BIBBA has five books published via Amazon. One was a reprint of Beowulf Cooper's book and the other four were authored by Roger Patterson. The Amazon account offers worldwide print-on-demand supply, with Amazon being responsible for the promotion, marketing, sales, packaging and postage costs to customers. This report covers the sales directly from solely Amazon and excludes:

- Books sold to book resellers
- Books sold at conferences
- Books sold at Educational events

2025 Royalties

When Amazon sells a book directly (without BIBBA involvement and cost), a royalty is paid to BIBBA, typically a month in arrears. The total royalties paid to BIBBA for 2025 was **£1,013.50.**
For reference, the total royalties paid to BIBBA for 2024 was £1,125.22.



In November, the largest amount of royalties was received from the sales of 'The Teaching Apiary'.
In December, the largest amount of royalties was received from the sales of 'Beekeeping – Challenge What You Are Told'

Scientific and Technical Report from Lead Trustee Karl Colyer

BIBBA is a long-term supporter of scientific research on native and locally adapted bees. There is a wealth of scientific papers available nowadays from worldwide sources and a Scientific & Technical Team was set up support and promote scientific and technical advances relevant to beekeeping, and to help translate research findings into practical, useful guidance for BIBBA members.

The Team exists as a Working Group to ensure that BIBBA engages constructively with emerging science through input, interpretation, and where appropriate, sponsorship or support of research initiatives aligned with BIBBA's aims and objects.

Members should now be enjoying monthly articles in the BM and the intention is to continue this information flow with a strong focus on it being relevant and applicable to bee improvement and management.

Groups Report from Lead Trustee Steve McGrath

This year, BIBBA revamped its groups offering, recognizing that encouraging and supporting breeding groups in their aspirations to produce locally adapted, and increasingly varroa resistant, bees is a key part of meeting its aims.

The revamp included:

- Renewing the BIBBA Groups directory, de-listing groups that are no-longer active and bringing contact details and group descriptions up to date
- Widening the groups offering to include those breeding for varroa resistance, as long as they support BIBBA's aims
- Revamping the guide for Groups, which offers guidance for new groups in starting and managing a breeding group
- Introducing a regular newsletter for BIBBA Groups members as part of an effort to better communicate with them
- Delivered an advertising campaign to attract new groups. This wasn't as successful as we hoped but we did add one new group to the network
- Launched a Case Studies template to help groups showcase their projects to the network, fostering ideas and communication
- Had our first groups forum for many years, bringing together groups to discuss ideas for developing the programme over the coming year – we have several new ideas to take forward as a result of this initial forum meeting
- Brought two groups together to share information and potentially genetic material

BIBBA Groups has been going for some time, and due to time constraints on trustees it hasn't always been well tended and supported. Some of our groups' network are long-standing and it is taking longer to re-engage with them, but with the revamp and ideas for initiatives, we hope that the offering will go from strength to strength and we are very pleased that new groups are joining the network.

Varroa Resistance Report from Steve McGrath

This year, BIBBA launched a project to champion the practical and scientific progress that has been made to understand and document how bees are naturally controlling their varroa populations. We believe that breeding for varroa resistance, meaning that bee populations can survive sustainably without intervention by the beekeeper, is one of the biggest steps forward in bee improvement in recent years.

As part of its project, BIBBA partnered with the team at varroaresistant.uk – renowned in the UK as one of the foremost authorities on varroa resistance.

Together we came up with a definition for varroa resistance:

"Honey bees that manage their own varroa populations, without any involvement by the beekeeper, to a level that allows the colony to function normally without any significant loss of bees or honey."

During the year, the project has included:

- In February 2025, BIBBA hosted the "Varroa Resistance through Bee Improvement" conference in Ettington, near Stratford-upon-Avon. Around 180 beekeepers attended the sold out event to hear the varroaresistant.uk team talk on various subjects including the latest research, working as a group towards varroa resistance, free-living bees as a source of varroa resistance, and managing varroa resistant bees in a commercial enterprise.
- Creating a specific area on the BIBBA website with three guides on identifying varroa resistant bees, starting on your varroa resistant journey and breeding varroa resistant bees.
- Introduced an email drip campaign with key information and education for those starting on their varroa resistant journey. Around 900 people have received up to 35 emails and many are very complimentary on the initiative and content.
- A series of 12 seasonal articles on varroa resistance in BIBBA Monthly
- Promoted varroa resistance across our other channels, including social media and advertising
- Created a YouTube playlist specifically on varroa resistance
- Created a video that premiered at the National Honey Show to introduce varroa resistance to beekeepers
- Opening our BIBBA Groups offering to those breeding for varroa resistant bees

We have had a great deal of interest in our offering across all channels and we're pleased to see an increasing number of beekeepers who are starting out on their varroa resistant journey. Due to this, we have plans to continue and enhance the project over the coming year.

BM Report from Lead Trustee Gareth Trehearn

This year, *BIBBA Monthly* (BM) has flourished, featuring a number of excellent articles from both our Trustees and the general membership.

With the focus in the wider beekeeping world shifting heavily toward varroa resistance, we dedicated significant space this year to a monthly update on what to expect from varroa-resistant colonies. Our goal was to encourage beekeepers to actively look out for these important resistance indicators in their own apiaries.

I would like to make special mention of these articles written by Steve McGrath. The feedback on this series has been overwhelmingly positive, and his work has certainly contributed to raising awareness of this vital subject.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue including important updates and the latest information on Varroa Resistance over the coming year. We also aim to provide our members with the guidance and support needed to transition to treatment-free beekeeping, should they wish to do so.

Bee Improvement & Bee Breeders Association (Charity Number 1200969)

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above named charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

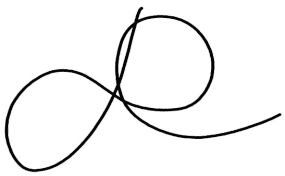
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



4th May 2026

Jonathan White

Jonathan White & Co Accountants Limited
134 Dobbin Hill
Sheffield
S11 7JD

Bee Improvement & Bee Breeders Association (Charity Number 1200969)

Receipts and Payments Account for the year 1st January to 31st December 2

	Total Funds Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Receipts		
BIBBA Membership	20,488	20,170
Gift Aid	6,867	0
Training & Education	2,314	11,195
BIBBA Book Sales	1,894	3,112
Interest Income	4,775	4,756
Other Income Miscellaneous	100	87
Total receipts	36,438	39,320
Payments		
Bank and finance charges	1,018	2,462
Computer expenses	8,272	6,103
Insurance	1,289	480
Training and conference costs	12,409	5,085
Independent accountants' fees	0	450
Marketing costs	5,063	1,175
Donations	4,000	0
Subscriptions	706	710
General expenses	382	35
Total payments	33,139	16,500
Asset and investment purchases		
Assets purchased	1,190	0
Total asset and investment purchases	1,190	0
Total payments	34,329	16,500
Net (Payments)/Receipts for the year	2,109	22,820
Funds balance brought forward	159,482	136,662
Funds balance carried forward	161,591	159,482

Bee Improvement & Bee Breeders Association (Charity Number 1200969)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2025

	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Assets retained for the charity's own use		
Office equipment	3,002	3,514
Intangible assets	650	650
	3,652	4,164
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	161,591	159,482
Other current assets	5,261	4,961
	166,852	164,443
Total assets	170,504	168,607
Liabilities		
Accrued expenses	1,206	663
Total Liabilities	1,206	663