



East of Scotland Beekeepers Association

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in Scotland, SCIO number SC050832

Trustees' Annual Report

Period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Charity Contact Information

Name: East of Scotland Beekeepers Association
Scottish Charity No.: SC050832

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Charity Trustees (2025)

Avril Aitken	(11 Mar 2021 – 31 Dec 2025), re-elected 03 Mar 2025
John Andrew	(04 Mar 2024 – 31 Dec 2025)
Lorraine Cooper	(03 Mar 2025 – 31 Dec 2025)
Alastair Crozier	(11 Mar 2021 – 31 Dec 2025), re-elected 06 Mar 2023
Alexander Fraser	(04 Mar 2024 – 31 Dec 2025)
Stanley Franklin	(11 Mar 2021 – 03 Mar 2025), resigned 03 Mar 2025
William Hunter	(11 Mar 2021 – 31 Dec 2025), re-elected 04 Mar 2024
Neil Lakenby	(06 Mar 2023 – 31 Dec 2025), re-elected 03 Mar 2025
Alan Marr	(04 Mar 2024 – 31 Dec 2025)
Robert McKenzie	(23 Mar 2021 – 31 Dec 2025), re-elected 06 Mar 2023
Gavín Ramsay	(11 Mar 2021 – 31 Dec 2025), re-elected 06 Mar 2023
Colin Sinclair	(23 Mar 2021 – 31 Dec 2025), re-elected 03 Mar 2025
Andrew Simpson	(03 Mar 2025 – 31 Dec 2025)

Stanley Franklin resigned as a trustee at the AGM on 03 Mar 2025.

At the same AGM, Avril Aitken, Neil Lakenby and Colin Sinclair were re-elected as trustees. Lorraine Cooper and Andrew Simpson were elected as new trustees.

Office-Bearers

At the first trustees meeting a decision was taken to re-appoint William Hunter as the new Chair for a further year with Lorraine Cooper taking on the role of Vice-Chair. Alan Marr agreed to be Treasurer, and other posts remained the same.

Chair:	William Hunter
Vice-Chair:	Lorraine Cooper
Secretary:	Colin Sinclair
Treasurer:	Alan Marr
Apiary Managers:	Robert McKenzie and Neil Lackenby
Education Convener:	Gavin Ramsay

Background

East of Scotland Beekeepers Association was formed in 1876 for beekeepers in the Dundee and Angus area. Since then, it has thrived. In 2019, it applied for SCIO status and was awarded this status on 11th March 2021.

The association had 96 members on 31st December 2025.

Objectives

The East of Scotland Beekeepers Association is a local organisation open to all beekeepers and those interested in beekeeping but especially to those in the Tayside area. It provides a meeting point for beekeepers to discuss and learn about their craft as well as having a presence at local and national shows.

The Association exists to support bees and beekeepers, to improve standards of beekeeping and to provide a source of information about bees to the general public and interested organisations.

As part of the beekeeping year the Association organises the following for their members:

- Evening lecture series over the winter.
- Beginners & improvers classes in Spring.
- Summer apiary demonstrations.
- Mentoring of beginners.
- Access to the Association's library.
- Access to honey extraction equipment.
- Social events.

Activities in 2025

We held four Board of Trustee meetings during 2025. All were held online, and the minutes of these meetings are available on the Association's website to all members. These meetings serve to discuss strategy for use of funds, make plans for association activities and communication with members.

The committee organised a winter programme of talks from October to April for 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. In 2025 we held six meetings (January, February, March, October, November, December). Five meetings were held in person and one online by Zoom. This was shared with all other Scottish beekeeping associations.

- January: "Members' Night" : extraction of honey, tasting of honey, tasting of mead.
- February: "The spectre of EFB in Tayside and how we might plan for the future" Claire Gill and Graham Henderson, Scottish Bee Inspectors.
- March: "The Sacred Bee" Gino Jabbar, SBA vice-president.
- October: "Honey Processing from an environmental health point of view" Lorraine Cooper
- November: "What beekeepers can do in winter" Bron & David Wright.
- December: by Zoom, "Tropilaelaps Mite" Maggie Gill

These talks are designed to inform members about important aspects of beekeeping such as bee health, pests and disease, forage, and products of the hive. A particularly useful evening involved two bee inspectors from the Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) talking about bee health strategy and practical aspects of colony inspections. Due to increased costs to host speakers and

to facilitate interactions between our members we encourage, where possible, local speakers and Association members to present at our meetings.

Beginners' classes were organised over February/ March. The material was provided online in chunks followed by in-person meetings to discuss the online material and to hold some practical sessions. Follow-up visits to various mentor's apiaries were held during May/June. Mentoring went ahead during the summer.

Unfortunately, all colonies at the Association's apiary near Monikie in Angus, died out over the 2024/2025 winter and it was necessary to acquire replacement stocks. This done, visits to the Association's apiary were then organised for the purposes of teaching and mentoring.

Inclement weather ruled out our annual Picnic, in August at the Association's apiary.

Due to lack of uptake a decision was taken to disband the library of books relevant to the craft. A selection of books was donated to the Scottish Beekeeper's Association Moir Library collection whilst the others were made available to members who were encouraged to offer a donation to the Association.

The Association purchased two new honey extractors during the summer. A motorised nine-frame rotary system and a two-frame tangential hand driven one. These, together with an existing extractor and heather honey press are homed by one of the trustees (Andrew Simpson) who makes them available to members as required to deal with harvesting.

Financial review

Total receipts during the reporting period amounted to £2,197. This income comes from members subscriptions, fees for beginners' classes and a raffle.

Total expenditure amounted to £2,908.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our unrestricted funds balance now stands at £19,438. We continue to manage our funds to ensure that the organisation is sustainable without accumulating excessive financial reserves. Each major expenditure is assessed by the Board of Trustees in advance and the impact on our reserves considered.

Future plans

Due to the nature of the beekeeping season, it is important to plan ahead. For the coming year (2026) the Association plans the following activities:

- Apiary visits for beginners
- Apiary visits for all members
- Mentoring of beginners and improvers. In Spring, we will emphasise the topic of swarming and swarm control, by holding a training session prior to the swarming season.
- Continue managing our Association apiary, with a special emphasis on improving the breeding stock, and providing nucleus colonies to beginners.
- Organise bee-related talks for members during the winter months
- Organise our annual Honey Picnic, and possibly other social events
- Review our methods of communication
- Produce training for our members who handle swarm collection, so that we can expand our list

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees: Colin Sinclair,

Print name COLIN SINCLAIR

Designation SECRETARY

Date 26 MAY 2026