



Scottish Native Honey Bee Society

Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025

Charity contact information

Scottish Native Honey Bee Society

Scottish Charity Number: SC047105

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Twitter: [@snhbsociety](https://twitter.com/snhbsociety)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SNHBS/>

Charity Trustees

1. John Durkacz (20 Jan 2017 -)
2. Gavin Ramsay (20 Jan 2017 -)
3. Alexander Scott (17 Mar 2018 – 4 Sep 2023)
4. Alastair Sharp (30 Mar 2019 – 30 Mar 2024)
5. David Morland (14 Mar 2020 – 25 Mar 2023)
6. Sarah Leahy (6 May 2020 -)
7. Joan Sneddon (27 Mar 2021 – 25 Mar 2023)
8. Clive Baker (27 Mar 2021 – 6 Aug 2024)
9. Colin Campbell (27 Mar 2021 -)
10. James Lindsay (27 Mar 2021 -)
11. Roman Inauen (25 Mar 2023 – 30 Nov 2023)
12. George Nicol (25 Mar 2023 – 30 Mar 2024)
13. Kitta Potgieter (11 Oct 2023 -)
14. Helen Aiton (30 Mar 2024 – 4 Jun 2024)
15. Sue Spence (30 Mar 2024 – 8 May 2024)
16. Barbara Sandbach (29 Mar 2025 -)
17. Jane O'Hara (29 Mar 2025 -)

Background

The Scottish Native Honey Bee Society was registered as a SCIO on 20 January 2017 and launched on 1 April 2017 in Perth.

Objectives and activities

The organisation's purposes are to promote the conservation, maintenance, breeding, study and widespread reintroduction of the Scottish native honey bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*. The original native honey bee of the Western fringes of Europe is seriously threatened by genetic mixing with internationally traded non-native types of honey bee, and this is a major concern to many beekeepers in Scotland. The society aims to reverse this decline by increasing the interest in, the knowledge of, and the breeding of the native type. To achieve this, we aim to raise the profile of our native honey bee, understand better the distribution of remaining stocks in Scotland, encourage local breeding groups and assist the distribution of breeding material. In the longer run we hope to re-establish this honey bee as the dominant type in some areas and reverse the decline it has suffered in recent decades.

Achievements and performance

In our ninth year we:

- Held a General Meeting in person for members in Perth.
- Continued to build skills in the techniques to achieve successful instrumental insemination of Scottish native honey bees.
- Held monthly winter and spring online talks and workshops on topics related to the conservation of native honey bees.
- Circulated periodic online newsletters to the members.
- Promoted the work of the Society at the Scottish Beekeepers Association Annual convention.
- Continued membership of SICAMM, an International Federation whose primary aims are the conservation, protection and promotion of the European Dark Bee.

- Continued to represent SNHBS at the Scottish Government Bee Health Improvement Partnership.
- As part of our plan to encourage beekeepers to build their queen rearing skills, four trustees held a queen rearing course at the events venue at Whitmuir Farm, south of Edinburgh.

Our Annual Meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, both in person at the Subud Centre, Perth and simultaneously online via Zoom on 29th March 2025. The AGM part of the meeting reviewed the activities of the year, noted the financial report for 2025, thanked retiring trustees and agreed the appointment of two new trustees. The meeting ran successfully online as well as in person and members from across Scotland were able to attend.

Our online programme of talks included the following:

- Professor Tom Seeley – The Honey Bee Colony as an Information Centre
- Norman Carreck – The Future of Native Honey Bees in Scotland & Ireland
- Professor Tom Seeley – Nature-based Beekeeping

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The society adopted its Constitution in April 2017 at the first General Meeting at the Lovat Hotel, Perth. The Constitution was adapted from the model Constitution for two-tier charitable organisations provided by SCVO. This was reviewed in 2024 and updated in line with the latest model constitution, which was adopted at the 2025 AGM. The current version of the Constitution is available on our website.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Eight trustees were in post on 1 Jan 2026. No external organisations may appoint trustees. All trustees are unpaid volunteers and are members of the society.

Good Governance

SNHBS has appropriate policies in place and did not develop them further during the year.

Financial review

Total receipts during the year amounted to £3,257. This was £1,024 higher than the previous year, mainly because of income from workshops. Subscription income was £115 higher than the previous year.

Expenditure of £3,224 was £1,329 lower than the previous year as we had no trips to native bee reserves this year.

Overall, in 2025 income exceeded expenditure by £33. At the year end, the society had a balance of £14,904 in its account.

Trustees do not accept any funds from the society other than recovering their own costs, such as travel and subsistence in some cases.

The trustees approved the accounts at the trustees meeting on 14 Jan 2026 with 5 trustees present. The SNHBS Receipts and Payments Account for 2025 developed from these reports was approved by our Independent Examiner on 14 March 2026 and presented to the membership at the AGM on 28th March 2026.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our unrestricted funds balance now stands at £14,904. 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

For the coming year the society plans the following activities:

- Issue members e-newsletters quarterly.
- Continue to encourage local breeding groups.
- Practice instrumental insemination methods to aid the conservation of Scottish native honey bees.
- Develop and improve our website.
- Continue to engage with other organisations with similar aims in the UK and internationally.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Colin Campbell

Print name

Colin Campbell

Designation

Trustee

Date

17 Aug 2026