



# R&D Technical Day

Chairman Overview - 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

# Your Technical Committee



Nigel Stewart



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Paul Hamlyn



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Christopher Baker



Simon Saunders



TC Chairman  
Rob Saunders



Alex Radu



Nigel Jenner



Ryan Williams



HCP  
Carlos Duarte



Research Manager  
Rachel McGauley

# R&D year-on-year comparison

	<b>YE 31.7.2023</b>	<b>YE 31.7.2024</b>	<b>YE 31.7.2025</b>	<b>Budget YE 31.7.2026</b>
Income	£219,349	£455,946	£346,878	£397,425
Expenditure	£124,684	£285,094	£249,094	£336,892
Surplus/Deficit	£94,665	£170,852	£97,784	£60,533
Reserves	£94,665	£265,517	£363,301	£423,834

# Strategic Approach

- Since exiting AHDB we have had to be tactical:
  - Could BAPL raise a levy?
  - Would everyone pay?
  - Could we build a reserve?
  - Would we ever be able to do long term research again?
- Under development now - a new Strategic Plan for BAPL R&D
  - Longer term, multi-year R&D projects
  - Broaden Risk Register to add to Pest & Disease and include climate change mitigation and other concerns, e.g. water, nature, nutrition
  - Utilise reserves to underwrite 2-3 year plans
  - Introduce new streams of funding to bolster grower levy and enable a robust R&D plan
  - Maintain levy at current rate but increase external funding

# New Streams of Funding

- Innovate UK (IUK)
  - Competition: Defra Farming Innovation Programme (FIP) Feasibility: WeevilWise - Novel Combination and Validation of Biopesticides for Commercial Control of Apple Blossom Weevil: Submitted and awaiting review
  - Competition: Defra FIP ADOPT (Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies): 2 out of 3 wins
- BBSRC focus on Hort – tbc
- Future funding:
  - Supply chain
  - Retailers

# Wider R&D Ecosystem

BAPL are leading discussions in the R&D ecosystem about the need for:

- More applied research that directly remunerates growers for R&D actions and the risk to their crop
- More consolidated and organised academic support
- Collaboration across Hort crop associations to ensure that research is efficient and cost effective, e.g. aphids, cold storage, regen ag

# New initiative for growers – Smart Orchards



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 Smart Orchard

## Learn from each other and enhance your skills

BAPL runs a **Smart Orchard programme** of knowledge sharing and events to enable our growers to learn from each other and enhance their skills.

### What the Smart Orchard programme involves

#### Grower workshops

BAPL **Grower Workshops** are a practical, on-farm training programme developed exclusively for British Apples & Pears Limited members.

These sessions bring growers together to share knowledge, learn from experienced practitioners and discuss challenges and opportunities facing the sector.



### Case studies

BAPL collates and publishes **case studies** to showcase best practice in British apple and pear orchards. These PDFs are available to anyone who wants to enhance their orchard skills.



# New initiative for growers – Smart Orchards

## BAPL Smart Orchard Grower Workshop highlights practical pruning for healthier, more profitable orchards

by apples | Jan 21, 2026 | [1 comment](#)



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Next Workshop – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

BAPL grower members gathered at Brook Farm, Wingham on 20 January for a **BAPL Smart Orchard Grower Workshop** focused on pruning – combining disease management, commercial decision-making and hands-on learning to support both orchard health and returns.

The workshop brought together technical expertise, on-farm experience and a **practical in-orchard demonstration**, with sessions covering the role of **pruning and tree structure in 'growing by numbers'**, and **European apple canker management**. The event formed part of BAPL's ongoing programme of Smart Orchard grower-led workshops designed to share practical learning and encourage peer-to-peer discussion.

In-orchard pruning demonstration



BAPL AGM - 24/3/26 at NIAB

Thank you - any Questions?