

WEYBRIDGE DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 SBKA AGM

Financial The Weybridge division remains in a healthy financial situation. Now the dispute over Gift Aid claimed on the Beecraft element of membership fees has been resolved, the balance of the money set aside since 2016 to cover this (£6400) has been released back to the general reserves.

Membership At the end of the 2021/22 financial year, the Weybridge division had 143 members. This is a decrease of 8 on the previous year.

Committee The full committee met on 7 occasions during the year.

Bee health No AFB in the Weybridge area in 2022. EFB was again found in the Weybridge area but fewer cases than in 2021. A Nosema diagnosis clinic, held on 11 April, was well attended.

Bee swarms The BBKA swarm website page is being used as the first point of contact for people reporting swarms. This directs callers to one of several local swarm collectors. A recruitment drive has added more names to the Weybridge swarm collector list (now 17 persons). Householders with swarms are being invited to make a no-obligation donation to the Weybridge division. In 2022 this raised £295, plus gift aid still to be received. Swarms are passed on to new members and those who have had winter losses. Members being given swarms are asked to make a donation that goes to the division, along with covering the expenses of swarm collectors. With EFB in part of our area, care is taken to put swarms from that area into an isolation apiary until it is confirmed that the bees are healthy.

Apiaries The Weybridge division has its longstanding apiary site for members at Row Town. The Apiary Manager is Claire Balla. A teaching apiary had to be created at Byfleet Manor when the member's apiary used in recent years became unavailable. Two taster sessions were held at the apiary in August.

New Teaching Apiary and Education Centre/Clubhouse Project After many false dawns since a search for a more permanent teaching apiary and centre for our activities began in 2015, it now looks very promising that we have found a home at the SUEZ Eco Centre at Shepperton. Final details are currently being negotiated.

Honey Yields 2022 honey yields have been good for most people. The heat of this year's summer and the prolonged drought in July-August produced honey with a lower water content and greater viscosity than usual.

Honey Shows A Surrey Honey Show, hosted by the Reigate division, was held on 8th October. Weybridge members did well at this show and were second to Reigate division in terms of points gained. The National Honey Show in October was able to be held this year, with Weybridge members being among the winners in the Surrey and other classes.

Asian Hornet Action Team Information on Asian hornet was given out at a street market event in Weybridge in June. Talks given to garden clubs, wildlife groups etc have also provided opportunities to promote Asian hornet awareness. No sightings of Asian hornet were made in the Weybridge division area but a number of reports of European hornet and other insects were made to the Weybridge AHAT team.

Education Twenty four people attended the Weybridge winter theory course for new beekeepers. The theory course was delivered on Zoom. While not quite as satisfactory as giving the lectures in person, with Zoom it is possible to record the lectures. These recordings have been put on a

restricted access Youtube page. This enables students who had missed lectures to catch up. The practical sessions were held at Byfleet Manor during 30 April – 9 July. One practical session incorporated a disease inspection by the Seasonal Bee Inspector. The principal lecturer for the theory course for new beekeepers is Andrew Halstead.

Two Weybridge members passed the Basic Assessment Certificate

Web Site The Weybridge division's website continues to be updated; the address is www.weybridgebeekeepers.org. A password-protected members' area is now in operation. This enables the separation of information that is primarily of interest to members only from pages that are aimed at the wider public.

Equipment No new items of equipment for members' use were purchased in 2022.

Events

27 Jan Matthew Ingram talk 'A year at Holt Hall Apiary'- video link <https://youtu.be/jgrenS0di70>

17 Feb Members' short talks by Marian Cooper 'Showing honey'; Jane Hunter 'Showing wax'; David Parker 'Judging at the National Honey Show'; David Ramsey 'Learning experiences of a new beekeeper' – video link https://youtu.be/5iO3Ep_x50

21 March Bee diseases and hive pests talk by David Rudland

11 April Nosema diagnosis clinic

23 April Garden apiary meeting hosted by Michael Main at Weybridge – shook swarm, Pagden swarm control, hiving a feral colony from a tree

30 April Bee practical classes began at Byfleet Manor

15 May Garden meeting hosted by Aslam Aziz near Cobham – hiving swarms

18 June Disease inspection and recognition demonstration by Stewart Westsmith at Byfleet Manor apiary

25 June Weybridge Street Market - sale of honey and beekeeping promotion stall

25 July Garden meeting hosted by Richard Emmett at Egham – dealing with the summer flow

10 and 13 August Taster days for potential beekeepers

14 August BBQ social event, hosted by Paul and Helen Bunclark

17 September Apiary meeting hosted by David Parker at Fair Oaks – preparing bees for winter

8 October Surrey Honey Show at Reigate

27-29 October National Honey Show

13 November Weybridge division AGM – held in person and on Zoom

4 Dec Honey stall at Christ the Peace church hall, Weybridge.

**Andrew Halstead, Chairman, Weybridge Division of Surrey Beekeepers Association
Chairman Weybridge Division 2022**