

Summary Chair's Report WBKA, 2021/2022

Introduction 2021 - 2022

2022 saw a welcome return to something like “beekeeping association activities as usual”, following the disruption wrought by COVID 19, with members and committee members alike re-discovering the benefits of being able to meet again face-to-face, while also being able to mix and match between in-person and virtual meetings, as best suited the occasion. The ability to resume full in-person teaching and open days and to receive visitors and to sell honey again at the WBKA's Morden Hall Park apiary was especially welcome.

Apiaries Report

The WBKA continued with 7 apiaries under the charge of the following wardens:-

- Cannizaro Park - John Deacon
- Dorset Triangle - Amanda Berry
- Holne Chase - Gareth Morgan
- Martin Way - Alison Pelikan
- Morden Hall Park - Steve Derry
- Putney Vale/Stag Lodge - Steve Derry
- Watermeads - Dave Charnley

Apiary activities returned to their pre-COVID status. At Morden Hall Park apiary, the WBKA's older shed was re-roofed, with assistance from the National Trust. At Watermeads apiary, there were no incidents of vandalism or destruction of hives, unlike as in past years. No strawberry syrup contamination of honey was reported from the Dorset Triangle apiary.

Events

During 2021 a full programme of talks was run, mixing between Zoom and in-person presentations, as best suited the topic and the speaker. This enabled a wider range of topics to be covered than did using either modality on its own. The topics covered were as follows:- February – Celia Rudland, “*Essential Equipment*”; March – Mark Patterson, “*Climate Change and Pollinators*”; April – Andrew Gibb, “*Beekeeping for Fun*”; May – Barbara Daley, “*Cooking with Honey*”; June – Gareth Morgan, “*Extracting, Preparing and Bottling Honey*”; July – Jack Silberrad, “*Breeding for Hygienic Bees*”; September – Stuart Spinks, “*The Ups and Downs of Growing a Commercial Bee-Farming Business*”; and October – Kirsty Stainton, “*Asian Hornets*”.

The WBKA's Bee Health Day went ahead in April and was well attended by over 30 members, who between them checked the health of 62 hives.

The WBKA's annual summer barbecue could not go ahead in August, as planned, but had to be cancelled, close to the last minute, due to the National Trust having to close Morden Hall Park to social events, for safety reasons. This was on account of an up-surge in anti-social behavior in the park.

The WBKA's Honey Show went ahead as planned in October and was well attended. Peter Bashford kindly acted as judge. WBKA members also made good showings in the Surrey Honey Show and in the National Honey Show, winning-back the Douglas Cup from the Croydon Beekeepers Association. A planned attendance by the WBKA at the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Open Day had to be cancelled, because the open day itself was cancelled due to the death of her late majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The WBKA's AGM was run successfully on 7 November 2022. Attendance was in person and was greatly increased over the 2021 level.

Membership

The WBKA ended its membership year with 120 members (4 Life, 90 Registered, 10 Partner, 11 Country, 5 Junior), which represented a slight increase on the previous year (116). Base membership fees remained the same, with an increase of £2.50 on account of Bee Craft paper

subscriptions, due to Bee Craft's increased production costs. Renewals continued steadily via the BDI/BBKA electronic membership system.

The WBKA was pleased to award Honorary Life Membership to Charlotte Bullman and to remember fondly the beekeeping life of the late Norman Chapman.

SBKA

Steve Derry was the WBKA's trustee to the SBKA and Gareth Morgan its representative.

Swarms

In excess of 40 genuine calls were received by the WBKA's swarm hotline (10 more than in the previous year), of which 22 were attended, with a resulting 15 viable swarms being distributed to members. The role of WBKA swarm coordinator remained open after the AGM and will be reappraised before the swarming season re-starts in 2023.

Financial

The Treasurer's end-of-year financial breakdown and notes are provided separately.

Subscription income has remained strong, showing an 18% increase. Although there were 4 more members in 2022 than in 2021, the greater percentage increase in income was mainly due to the increased membership fee (by £5 per annum for all adult membership classes). The WBKA's education programme was very successful, with £6,030 being generated from the Beginners' Course and Taster Days. Income generated from sales (honey, Apivar, MAQs, Invertible and fondant) amounted to just over £1,600. All in all, total income showed a 62% increase, to £13,382. At the same time, total expenses increased by only 22%, to £10,941. Although the Snuff Mill hire and other events costs, such as course books and speaker fees, were incurred in 2022 which had not been incurred in 2021, equipment and general costs were less. As a result, the WBKA ended its year with a £2,441 net funds increase and its financial position is very satisfactory at £16,393, which represents a 28% increase on the previous year.

Honey Yield & Extractors

The WBKA has 4 extractors, two electric and two manual, all of which were well used by members and were returned clean and in good order after use. Average yields increased, as compared to the previous year.

Website & Newsletter

An update of the website remained on hold however, it continues to garner a steady number of views, to facilitate contact with and within the WBKA and to support bookings for the WBKA's various courses. The WBKA's Newsletter continues its vital role of informing WBKA members of relevant local and topical information.

Education, Library and Outreach

The WBKA's Beginners Course and two Taster Days were run, with 20, 12 and 12 attendees respectively. This represents full capacity for each event and feedback was very positive.

Additionally, a number of study courses were run to support members in studying for various BBKA exams. These courses were very helpful, as evidenced by:- two passes for Module 7; three successful Basic Assessments; two successful Honey Bee Health assessments; and one completed General Husbandry and Qualified Beekeeper.

WBKA now has over 200 publications and a variety of other material to support members' beekeeping and outreach efforts. The latter includes having one member write a regular column for the *BBKA News* and other members' presentations to various primary and secondary schools.

WBKA Committee 20221 - 2023	
<u>Role</u>	<u>Person</u>
CHAIRMAN	Paul Kearney
TREASURER	Eszter Colley-Korondi
SECRETARY	Stephan Leclair
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Brett Colley
AUDITOR	Toby Chapman-Dawe
WBKA SBKA TRUSTEE	Steve Derry
SBKA REP	Gareth Morgan
APIARY WARDENS	Gareth Morgan (HC)
	John Deacon (CP)
	Alison Pelikan (MW)
	Amanda Berry (DT)
	Dave Charnley (WM)
	Steve Derry (MHP)
SWARMS COORDINATOR	Open
SHOWS COORDINATOR	William Porter
PROGRAMME SECRETARY	Clare Rawlings
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Amanda Berry
EDUCATION/LIBRARY	Steve Derry
EXTRACTOR MANAGERS	Steve Barton
	Peter Judge
	Paul Gardiner
WEBSITE	Gareth Morgan
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS	Mario Lopez
	John Kelly
	Sally Bishop
	Zoe Hunt