

## Summary Chair's Report for Wimbledon Division of Surrey Beekeepers Association 2022/2023

### 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

All was good across the WBKA's apiaries during 2023, 'though the need for space remains, especially as to new members.

The rules applicable in the WBKA's apiaries were updated during the course of 2023 and are available on the WBKA's website.

### Events

During 2023 a full programme of talks for members was run, mixing between Zoom and in-person presentations, as best suited the topic and the speaker. Members generally preferred the in-person option, when combined with the WBAA's monthly meeting.

The topics covered were as follows:- Stephen Fleming, "*Drone Congregation Areas*"; Celia Rudland, "*Swarming*"; Matt Wood, "*the Woodmor Foundation*"; Dave Charnley, "*What to do with Beeswax*"; Mario Lopez, "*Commercial Apiculture*"; Wally Shaw, "*Swarm Control – the Underlying Principles*"; and Bob Smith, "*Managing the Workers*". Four out of seven presentations were given by the association's own members.

The WBKA's had a very successful Christmas Party, returning to the Masonic Hall in Sutton. A good time was had by all, with speeches, presentation of prizes, a buffet supper and a quiz.

The WBKA's Bee Health Day went ahead in April and was well attended.

The WBKA was able to revert to its usual Summer Barbecue in August, back in its traditional location at the Stable Yard in Morden Hall Park, which was a great success.

The WBKA also had a very successful attendance at the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Open Day in September, which afforded an excellent opportunity for outreach and to raise public awareness of the threat posed by Asian hornets.

The WBKA's Honey Show was held in October and was less well attended than on previous years. Peter Bashford kindly acted as judge. 5 WBKA members also made good showings in the National Honey Show, garnering 16 prizes and commendations between them, but the WBKA failed to retain the Douglas Cup, which went to the Croydon Beekeepers Association.

The WBKA's AGM was run successfully on 6 November 2023. There was a lively discussion as to what the association should be all about and follow-up in 2024 is eagerly awaited.

### Membership

The WBKA ended its membership year with 112 members (4 Life, 81 Registered, 8 Partner, 15 Country, 4 Junior) - a slight decrease on the previous year (120). Base membership fees remained the same, with an increase of £1.00 on SBKA subscriptions to subsidize its honey show. Renewals continued steadily via the BDI/BBKA electronic membership system.

The WBKA remembered fondly the beekeeping life of the late Jennifer Hetherington, RIP.

## **SBKA**

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

## **Swarms**

Clare Rawlings became the WBKA's swarm coordinator and had a busy 2023.

## **Financial**

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

Subscription income in 2023, at £4,851 remained similar to 2022, though showing a 4% decrease, reflecting 8 members fewer. The WBKA's education programme was very successful, with £6,845 being generated from the beginners' course and several summer taster days. £6,368 was generated from sales of honey, Apivar, syrup, fondant, Candipolline Gold and bee suits, representing a sales 295% increase over 2022.

All in all, 2023 total income was up 41% at £18,850. Total expenses however increased by only 25%, to £13,717. As a result, the WBKA finished the year with £5,133 net funds increase.

## **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.

## **Website & Newsletter**

The website saw a problem earlier this year, where the hosting company stopped trading and the website was inaccessible. A new website is under construction and content is being added regularly. However, because of the change, the website domain name is now [www.wimbledonbeekeepers.com](http://www.wimbledonbeekeepers.com) (not ".co.uk", as formerly). There has been no change in the email domain which is still ".co.uk". The change has given the WBKA the opportunity to make the website more user-friendly and to work on 'spring cleaning' its contents.

The WBKA's Newsletter won 3rd Prize at the National Honey Show in the Newsletter category. The association recorded a vote of thanks to its outgoing editor, Amanda Berry, who will step-down at the end of the year to be replaced by Zoe Hunt.

## **Education, Library and Outreach**

The WBKA's Beginners Course and two Taster Days were run at 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 and 4 members sat and passed their Basic Assessments. Many members completed the BBKA AH team exercise and volunteered to make their new found expertise available during 2024.

WBKA continues to build its 200+ item library and holds a variety of other material to support members' beekeeping and outreach efforts.

Outreach includes having one member write a regular column for the *BBKA News* and other members' presentations to various primary and secondary schools.

<b><u>WBKA Committee 2023 - 2024</u></b>	
<b><u>Role</u></b>	<b><u>Person</u></b>
CHAIRMAN	<b>Paul Kearney</b>
TREASURER	<b>Toby Chapman-Dawe</b>
SECRETARY	<b>Stephan Leclair</b>
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	<b>Lucy Morfey</b>
AUDITOR*	<b>John Clark</b>
WBKA SBKA TRUSTEE	<b>Steve Derry</b>
SBKA REP	<b>Gareth Morgan</b>
APIARY WARDENS	<b>Gareth Morgan (HC)</b>
	<b>John Deacon (CP)</b>
	<b>Alison Pelikan (MW)</b>
	<b>Amanda Berry (DT)</b>
	<b>Dave Charnley (WM)</b>
	<b>Steve Derry (MHP &amp; SL/PV)</b>
SWARMS COORDINATOR	<b>Clare Rawlings</b>
SHOWS COORDINATOR	<b>William Porter</b>
PROGRAMME SECRETARY	<b>Clare Rawlings</b>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	<b>Zoe Hunt</b>
EDUCATION/LIBRARY	<b>Steve Derry</b>
EXTRACTOR MANAGERS	<b>Steve Barton</b>
	<b>Peter Judge</b>
	<b>Paul Gardiner</b>
WEBSITE	<b>Gareth Morgan</b>
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS	<b>Mario Lopez</b>
	<b>John Kelly</b>
	<b>Sally Bishop</b>

\* Not active member of the committee