

### **1. Apiaries**

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 2024. 2 apiaries are anticipated to have available spaces during 2025.

The rules applicable in the WBKA's apiaries were further updated during 2024 and are available on the WBKA's website.

### **2. Events**

A full programme of talks for members was run, mixing between Zoom and in-person presentations but with a preference for the in-person option, as this allows talks to be combined with the WBKA's monthly meeting.

The topics covered were as follows:- Celia Rudland (Varroa); Gareth Morgan (Asian Hornets and Monitoring Traps); Gareth Morgan (Diseases, Pests and Poisonings Quiz); Rachel Monger (Bees Abroad); Dave Charnley (Queen Rearing); Peter Bashford (Preparing for a Honey Show); Gareth Morgan (Honeybee Health); and Dr Sara Robb (Beauty and the Bees). 4 out of 8 presentations were given by the association's own members.

The WBKA 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's Summer Barbecue was held in August, in its traditional location at the Stable Yard in Morden Hall Park, and was a great success.

The WBKA did not hold a Honey Show this year. Its format for 2025 will be reconsidered. All 4 WBKA members who entered the National Honey Show won prizes and trophies in various classes (17 in all), but the WBKA failed to retake the Douglas Cup, which went to the Croydon Beekeepers Association.

The WBKA's AGM was run successfully on 4 November. There was a lively discussion on various matters, followed by a very enjoyable honey tasting of members' honey.

### **3. Membership**

As of 2 November 2024 and as recorded in ER2, there were 73 active members and 35 members awaiting renewal.

### **4. SBKA**

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

### **5. Swarms**

Clare Rawlings was the WBKA's swarm coordinator and had a busy 2024.

### **6. Financial**

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

Thanks to the income generated by 3 Taster Days and the Introduction courses, WBKA remains in a healthy financial position. The positive income has enabled WBKA to invest in new gazebos to protect course attendees and association volunteers from the elements, display materials for shows and fairs and various equipment items to support association activities.

**7. 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. Hard data on yields was not available but, anecdotally, these were good in 2024.

**8. Education, Library, Outreach**

The WBKA's ran a Beginners Course (20 attendees) and 3 Taster Days (14, 14 and 8 attendees). Feedback for each event was very positive. In addition, a number of practical classes on the making of mead, candles, wax foundation and lip moisturiser were given by members with experience in these aspects and were much appreciated.

4 members sat the Basic Assessment, 4 sat Module 1 and various other Modules were also sat. Most were successful. In 2025 there will be:- a combined study group for the Honeybee Health certificate and Module 3 - Honey Bee Pests and Diseases; a Basic Assessment group; and other module peer groups for subsequent modules.

In the education space, the main challenges lie in getting sufficient established beekeepers to lead the study groups and to encourage more members to consider studying to improve their knowledge and skills.

WBKA continues to build its 200+ item library and holds a variety of other material to support members' beekeeping and outreach efforts. It still seeks a secure, safe but visible store for books, so that members can easily see what material is held. One attempt to obtain this during 2024 did not avail, when a bookcase proved to be to the too tall for the association's sheds.

Outreach included:- a number of members continuing to give talks about bee related topics; assisting local schools with beekeeping; supporting apiary visits; and the WBKA having a stand at the National Trust's Blossom Festival at Morden Hall Park and at the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Open Day

WBKA members participate actively in a number of bee related WhatsApp groups, focused on apiary matters, announcements, general members chat and committee business.

**9. Website & Newsletter**

The WBKA's new website is up and running on [wimbledonbeekeepers.com](http://wimbledonbeekeepers.com). Matching new WBKA email addresses were also put into use for the following roles:- Chair; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Courses; and Swarms. These all use the addresses format [Role]@wimbledonbeekeepers.com.

The WBKA's new Newsletter Editor, Zoe Hunt, took-over from the start of 2024 and the Newsletter has a new look. Regular features now include:- news from the different apiaries; apiary tours; interviews with members; jobs to do each month; reports on events and lectures; AH updates; deadlines for applying for modules and assessments.

<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>Mario Lopez</b>
AUDITOR*	<b>John Clark</b>

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>
PROGRAMME SECRETARY	<b>Rosemary Clark</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>John Kelly</b>
	<b>Sally Bishop</b>
	<b>Elham Kani**</b>
	<b>Omar Soares**</b>

\* Not active member of the Committee

\*\* New members of the Committee