

Guildford Division Report to the 2025 SBKA AGM



Guildford Division has functioned well in the past year despite starting with a committee short of a chairman and a secretary. However, three new committee members volunteered and were elected at our recent AGM, one of whom has been appointed by the new committee to act as secretary for the coming year, and Peter Jones has stepped up as chairman, having chaired a number of our committee meetings in the past year anyway.

Our apiary is the heart of our educational work and much of our Divisional social life, and thanks to the efforts of the apiary manager and a team of helpers we ran our usual winter theory course, our spring practical, and a Taster Day as well as producing honey sold to benefit the Division. Saturday morning sessions at the apiary run very regularly and are well attended. We had four members pass the BBKA Basic exam., two passes in Bee Health, one in Bees and Pests, and one in Bee Products and Forage, to the credit of themselves and of two members in particular who acted as mentors.

Our membership renewals by late November included 157 registered members, one School and two Juniors, comparable with the figures for November last year but perhaps just slightly up.

Regarding our public profile, thanks to the drive of one member (not on the committee) a total of 25 events have been attended including visits to schools and care homes, local fairs, and village fetes.

The lady member referred to above won the prize and trophy at the National Honey Show for most points by any Surrey beekeeper. and another lady referred to below also won a number of prizes at that event.

We even put on a Divisional Honey Show for the first time in many years thanks to the efforts of one member in particular, staged in Guildford and open to the public.

We run a shop carrying a good range of products and which is well used by members.

Financially we are sound but expect to have to spend on the roof of the barn we rent at the apiary on a maintain and repair lease.

Finally, we have a new editor of our monthly newsletter but are currently seeking a new webmaster as ours has just stood down.

Malcolm Clarke