

## Summary Chair's Report for Wimbledon Division of Surrey Beekeepers Association 2024/2025

### 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 (outgoing) and Claire Rawlings (incoming)
- Watermeads - Dave Charnley

All was good across the WBKA's apiaries during 2025. Limited spaces look likely to be available to qualified members during 2026.

The rules applicable in the WBKA's apiaries were updated during the course of 2025, are available on the WBKA's website and are signed-up-to as part of the regular WBKA's membership renewal process.

### Events

During 2025 a full programme of talks for members was run, predominately as in-person presentations and combined with the WBKA's monthly meetings. The topics covered were as follows:- Mark Patterson, *Climate Change and Pollinators*; Steve Derry and Dave Charnley, *Swarms*; Gerry Brierly, *Secrets of Bee Welfare*; Steve Riley, *Varroa Resistant Bees*; Jorge Gutierrez- Beth, *Infectious Diseases*; Paul Vagg, *Making Wax Polish*; Stephen Durham, *Anaphylaxis – what you need to know to keep safe*.

The WBKA's had a very successful Christmas Party, at 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 its Summer Barbecue in August. Both were well attended.

The WBKA did not hold a honey show in 2025. 2 WBKA members entered the Surrey Honey Show, gaining 13 prizes and commendations between them. 5 WBKA members entered the National Honey Show, gaining 14 prizes and commendations between them, but the WBKA failed to win-back the Douglas Cup, which remained with the Croydon Beekeepers Association.

The WBKA's AGM was run successfully on 3 November 2025, combined with a talk on *Measures to Deal with Asian Hornets* by Steve Derry and a honey tasting competition for members' honey, won by Dave Charnley's honey. The committee was substantially refreshed, with new or changed members in the following roles:- Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Library Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Extractor Manager, Committee Member, Auditor and Apiary Warden of the WBKA's teaching apiary, all being selected or in place by the end of the AGM.

### Membership

Lucy Morphy was succeeded as Membership Secretary by Mario Lopez, with further assistance provided by Omar Soares.

Membership remained relatively constant compared to 2024, with 88 paid-up members, 19 members awaiting renewal and 6 undecided, for a total of 107 members, as at the date of the AGM. Of note has been the increase in junior members, which was most welcome. Much work was needed during the year to ensure renewals were made, backlogs cleared and Beecraft and the BBKA News duly delivered, with the database which runs membership, ER2, proving temperamental at times.

### **Financial**

The Treasurer's end-of-year financial report is provided separately, but things remain stable and solvent. Honey sales and course fees represent the bulk of the free cashflow, with only £5 of the annual membership fee ending-up with the WBKA, the rest going to the BBKA, the SBKA, Beecraft and BDI.

The WBKA was able to run for its members bulk-buying of sugar syrup, fondant and anti-varroa treatment.

### **SBKA**

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

The WBKA successfully hosted the SBKA's AGM for 2024, at Wimbledon FC's ground. This benefited from a fascinating presentation from Dr. Jamie Ellis, beamed-in from Florida.

### **Swarms**

Clare Rawlings was the WBKA's swarm coordinator and had a busy 2025, fielding calls for about 50 swarms.

### **Honey**

The WBKA has 4 extractors, two electric and two manual, all of which were well used by members and were mostly returned clean and in good order after use. Extraction of honey from the WBKA's hives was organised as a group activity, by Mario Lopez using the kitchen facilities of the Masonic Hall in Sutton. Jaring of the WBKA's honey was also organised as a group activity, by Alison Pelikan who volunteered the use of her own kitchen. Both events proved to be an invaluable introduction to these processes for new members.

### **Website & Newsletter**

The WBKA's website continued to be run by Gareth Morgan and its Newsletter produced by Zoe Hunt, during 2025.

### **Education, Library and Outreach**

The WBKA's Beginners Course and three Taster Days (2 public and 1 private) 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. 6 members achieved the Basic Certificate with Credit or Distinction; 4 achieved the Honeybee Health Certificate; 2 passed the Module 3 exam; and 1 passed Module 8 with credit, thereby also becoming an Advanced Beekeeper

WBKA continues to build its 200+ item library and holds a variety of other material to support members' beekeeping and outreach efforts. The library was rehoused in a new cabinet and books may be reserved and borrowed through a new on-line portal.

The WBKA made a successful bid for a package of education materials from the BBKA on behalf of the SBKA. This is stored at the Epsom apiary and is available for use by all Surrey divisions.

The WBKA carried out a goodly number of visits to schools and participated in other activities to promote the craft of beekeeping and to inform the public about beekeeping issues and a number of members give talks about bee related topics. Details are now recorded in the Members section of the WBKA website.

<b>WBKA Committee 2025 – 2026 (* new in role)</b>	
<b><u>Role</u></b>	<b><u>Person</u></b>
CHAIRMAN	<b>Dave Charnley*</b>
TREASURER	<b>John Clark*</b>
SECRETARY	<b>Stephan Leclair</b>
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	<b>Omar Soares*</b>
AUDITOR	<b>Paul Kearney*</b>
WBKA SBKA TRUSTEE	<b>Steve Derry</b>
SBKA REP	<b>Gareth Morgan</b>
APIARY WARDENS	<b>Alison Pelikan (MW)</b>
	<b>Amanda Berry (DT)</b>
	<b>Clare Rawlings (MHP)*</b>
	<b>Dave Charnley (WM)*</b>
	<b>Gareth Morgan (HC)</b>
	<b>John Deacon (CP)</b>
	<b>Steve Derry (SL/PV)</b>
SWARMS COORDINATOR	<b>Clare Rawlings</b>
SHOWS COORDINATOR	<b>[Open]</b>
PROGRAMME SECRETARY	<b>Rosemary Clark</b>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	<b>Elham Khani*</b>
LIBRARY	<b>Elham Khani</b>
EDUCATION	<b>Zoe Hunt*</b>
EXTRACTOR MANAGERS	<b>Steve Barton</b>
	<b>Gregory Gardiner*</b>
WEBSITE	<b>Gareth Morgan</b>
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS	<b>John Kelly</b>
	<b>Sally Bishop</b>
	<b>Ellesse Stewart*</b>