THE CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 227494

Details

Other names	C B K A
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1964-01-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Magpie Manor Wistaston Green Road Wistaston Crewe CW2 8SA
Phone	07827297144
Email	thesecretary@cheshirebka.co.uk
Website	www.cheshirebka.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE AND FURTHER THE CRAFT OF BEEKEEPING IN CHESHIRE.

Activities: Beekeeping

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CHESHIRE AS CONSTITUTED ON 31 MARCH 1974
- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West & Chester
- Halton
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Warrington
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£75,156	£70,670	-	-
2023-12-31	£62,891	£58,602	-	-
2022-12-31	£54,403	£59,311	-	-
2021-12-31	£41,989	£39,336	-	-
2020-12-31	£40,721	£34,972	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PETER SUTCLIFFE	Chair	
Christopher Cornwell-Lee		2025-03-23
David Fray		2022-01-01
Dee Smith		2018-01-01
Elizabeth Camm		2014-01-01
GRAHAM ROYLE		
Helen Parkinson		2024-03-16
Isabel Large		2024-01-11
Jessica Damson Tregaskis		2025-03-23
John Hamilton		2023-04-15
Julia Jane Young		2021-01-01
LESLEY JACQUES		2013-04-11
Lesley Parker		2014-01-01
Liz Brindle		2022-01-01
MR GRAHAM PLATT		
PAMELA ANNE HATTON		
Peter Carefoot		2021-01-01
Peter Woodhead		2016-01-01
SIMON KIRKPATRICK NUTTALL BSC CTA		2006-01-01
STUART HATTON		
Sarah Johnson		2015-04-22
Stuart Forbes		2024-04-20
WILLIAM ALISTAIR SKENE TAYLOR		2015-04-22

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THE CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 227494

Accounts

Cheshire Beekeepers' Association



Report and Balance Sheet 2023

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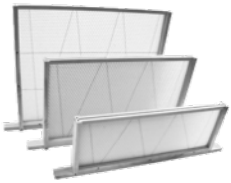
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Email: hattonlodgeapiary@gmail.com
Please telephone before visiting

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Founded 1899. Registered Charity No. 227494
(Affiliated to the BBKA formerly Lancashire & Cheshire BKA - Founded 1882)

COMMITTEE FOR 2022

President:	Mrs P.A. HATTON	Hatton	Tel. 01925 263023
Chair:	P. SUTCLIFFE	Holmes-Chapel	Tel. 01477 532171
Vice-chair:	Mrs L. JACQUES	Hartford	Tel. 07788 744086

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, Willaston	(2024)	G. F. Royle, Macclesfield	(2024)
J.S. Hollinshead, Betchton	(2024)	P. Sutcliffe, Holmes Chapel	(2026)
Mrs E. Brindle, Warrington	(2026)	A. G. Platt, Hartford	(2027)
Mrs L. Parker, Little Budworth	(2026)	Mrs J. Young, Antrobus	(2025)

BRANCH CHAIRS AND TREASURERS ON COMMITTEE

North Cheshire	S. HATTON, Hatton; P. WOODHEAD, Helsby
South Cheshire	D. FRAY, Congleton; D. SMITH, Goostrey
Stockport	P. CAREFOOT, Glossop; A. TAYLOR, Stockport
Wirral	N. BRIERLEY, Irby; J. HAMILTON, Wallasey
Mid Cheshire	S. PURKIS, Sandiway; S & N. D. JOHNSON, Antrobus

HON. SECRETARY

Mrs E.A. CAMM, Magpie Manor, Wistaston Green Rd, Crewe CW2 8SA, Tel: 07827 297144

HON. TREASURER

S.K. NUTTALL: Spurstow Lodge, Peckforton Hall Lane, Spurstow CW6 9TF, Tel: 01829 260456

CONVENTIONS SECRETARY

Mrs P.A. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ,
Tel: 01925 263023

DELEGATE TO BBKA ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING

Mrs L. JACQUES: 5 Millwood Drive, Hartford, CW8 2ZJ, Tel: 07788 744086

COUNTY ARCHIVIST

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

SHOW MANAGER

Mrs S. JOHNSON, 2 Frandley Brow Cottage, Sandiway Lane, Antrobus CW9 6LD, 01606 891318

HON. AUDITOR

J. SHEEKEY BSc. ACMA: 19 Eaton Mews, Chester, CH4 7EZ.

YEAR BOOK AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

D.FRAY: Brackenrigg, Crouch Lane, Congleton CW12 3PT 07742 187169

EDUCATION SECRETARY

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

EXAMINATION SECRETARY

S. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ,
Tel: 01925 263023

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, M.F. Haynes, J.S. Hollinshead, A.A.J. van Suchtelen,
Mrs P. A. Hatton, S. Hatton, R. Brocklehurst, G. Royle

President's Comments 2023

Thanks to the weather, the season got off to a slow start in 2023 and then a late spring had the bees bursting into life - I'm always amazed at how quickly they build up! The weather through April, May and June was glorious and it settled down and warmed up into an early summer. Colonies were busy rearing brood and bringing in nectar and, of course, swarming, and beekeepers were rubbing their hands in glee in anticipation of a glorious year ahead. But then in July it all changed and rain set in and it rained pretty well for most of the rest of the year. Luckily there were no floods in Cheshire but the weather meant that honey yields were very mixed from around the county. A few beekeepers with good forage in their area did well, while most others not so well.

County activities began with the Spring Convention and AGM, which this year was held at Forest Hills, and everyone who attended agreed it was a very enjoyable day, although numbers were down and this was put down to memories of Covid being still at the forefront of everyone's mind. Branch meetings also seemed to be affected and the only activities that didn't seem to be affected were beginners courses, which were run by all the branches this year and were as popular as ever. Attendance at branch meetings was only slow to recover, however, and it was only at the end of the year that attendance at meetings seemed to get back to something like pre-Covid levels.

Mid Cheshire Branch had a big presence at Cheshire Show this year with two adjoining stands but Cheshire BKA is no longer involved with RHS Tatton Flower Show. However there was a new trade show *The Beekeeping Show* at Telford which quite a few Cheshire members attended, and there were also workshops to keep us busy. Microscopy with Graham Royle was a popular day, as always, and there was also a Food Hygiene Course and a First Aid Course run by Tori Davies of Saracen Solutions for those who wished to renew their certificates. Certification lasts for 3 years for both these courses which is very handy, indeed necessary, for both honey producers selling to the public at farmers markets and to trainers running beginners practical sessions in the bees, or indeed beekeepers at apiary meetings and demonstrations to the public. Because of workshops, the spring was a very busy time and then it was the 'flying season' which is always busy and always seems to 'fly' by! Apiary meetings are always fun and I had the added privilege, as CBKA President, of officially opening the new Mid Cheshire Apiary.

And then, before you know it, we are thinking about autumn treatments and winter feed for the bees, and then the Autumn Convention and Honey Show, which was once again held at Forest Hills. In between all this, there were winter study groups for the modules in March and November and Basic Assessments for those wishing to further their knowledge of the fascinating hobby of beekeeping. And fascinating it is! But even so, as the days grow shorter and darker, I'm always glad to relax for a while. However, it is not long before thoughts start turning to the season ahead and plans for what it might bring. As beekeepers, we are always optimistic that the year ahead will be better than the year just gone, despite all the named storms we seem to be getting. So here's wishing you all a good season ahead.

I also wish to thank the County Committee and the Branch Committees for all their work arranging programmes and workshops and keeping everything running smoothly, not to mention the ordinary members, some of whom go out of their way to support meetings in different ways. Without you all, there would be no Cheshire Beekeepers Association! Your support is invaluable.

May all your supers be full ones through the season ahead!

Pam Hatton

Committee Report for Year 2023

This report details the work carried out by the Committee on behalf of the members for the year ended December 2023.

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held as usual in recent years as part of the Cheshire BKA Spring Convention, at Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham on March 25th at 11.30am. Please note that members wishing only to attend the AGM do not have to pay for a convention ticket. Members were welcomed to the AGM by the President, Pam Hatton, who commented that it had been a long cold winter but now the days were lengthening, the bees were flying and it was time to start active beekeeping again. The President then handed over to our Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe.

Apologies for absence were noted from Liz Brindle (N. Cheshire), Peter Carefoot (Stockport), David Fray (S. Cheshire), David Rounthwaite (N. Cheshire), Polly Smith (N. Cheshire), Nichola Summerfield (S. Cheshire), Peter Woodhead (N. Cheshire). The meeting paused in silence for a few moments to respect members who had died recently:
2022: Derek Lockett (Stockport), Jenni Joynt (Stockport), Chris Pownall (N. Cheshire), Ian Maclean (non-branch)
2023: Brian Sinfield (ex-member)

Viki Cutherbertson and Steve Purkis were appointed as Tellers.
The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairperson. There were no matters arising.

Pam Hatton was elected as President for the coming year. As there was only one candidate for the remaining offices, it was proposed by Sydney Hollinshead, seconded by Isabel Large and agreed that existing Officers of the Association and other members be elected en bloc. Graham Platt and Nigel Brierley were retiring by rule. Graham Platt agreed to stand again. There are unfilled vacancies on the committee: 2 places for 2 years to 2025 and 2 places for 4 years to 2027. It was also pointed out that the position of Social Media Manager is currently unfilled. J. Sheeky was reappointed to the office of Honorary Auditor.

There was one proposition to be considered by the meeting. The committee proposed changes to the Cheshire BKA Rules, the details of which had been circulated to the membership previously. Showing the details of the proposed changes on the screen, the Chairperson explained the reasons behind them. Members asked some questions and it was clarified that Country Members do not have voting rights. After a show of hands, the changes were agreed. There were no objections or abstentions.

The Edgar Mobbs Shield is awarded annually to the highest achieving student taking BBKA exams in the previous year and was presented to David Fray.

The Canon Evans Cup for Services to Beekeeping in Cheshire
Cheshire BKA President awarded this year's award to Isabel Large of the South Cheshire Branch and gave the following citation.
The recipient this year is currently the Education Secretary at their branch and has worked tirelessly [a well-worn phrase, but apt in this case] in organising Beginners' Courses, Taster Days and is generally involved in everything the branch does. This person has been involved heavily in the move to the branch's new apiary site and is always a safe pair of hands in organising events. This person gives talks to schools and clubs and is generally someone who gets things done. A huge asset to the branch who deserves some recognition for the work that they do.

Membership.
The Registered and Partner membership at the end of September 2023 was North Cheshire Branch 155 (includes 1 School Member), South Cheshire 181, Stockport 220 (includes 4 School Members), Wirral 115 (includes 1 School Member), Mid Cheshire 103,

Non-Branch 1. There are also 30 Associate members, 35 Country members, 42 Friends, 10 Juniors. This gives an Association total membership of 892 (872 in 2022). (This does not include new members joining after October 1 as they will be counted in the 2024 figures.)
The committee is sad to report that during 2023 two of our members have died: John Hudson (South Cheshire) and John Richards (Stockport).

Weather and crop
The rainfall in 2023 (2022 rainfall) recorded by Malcolm Haynes in Stockport was Jan 117mm (44mm), Feb 24mm (48mm), March 97mm (15mm), April 67mm (27mm), May 41mm (61mm), June 33 mm (29mm), July 167mm (48mm), Aug 115mm (44mm), Sept 99mm (82mm), Oct 144mm (114mm), Nov 106mm (116mm), Dec 146mm (73mm) Total for 2023 in the Stockport area was therefore 1156mm. This compares to 801mm for the same period last year. Equivalent rainfall figures for South Cheshire recorded by Liz Camm in Nantwich were Jan 54mm (39mm), Feb 3mm (240mm), March 72mm (64mm), April 41mm (56mm), May 4mm (32mm), June 71mm (65mm), July 115mm (47mm), August 83 mm (23mm), Sept 63mm (81mm), Oct 132mm (96mm), Nov 55mm (111 mm), Dec 133mm (55mm). Total in 2023 for the South Cheshire area was 826mm. This compares to 909mm for the same period last year.

Reports have been received from Cheshire BKA Branches regarding the 2023 honey crop. The general consensus is that what promised to be a good year with the spring crop for flowers and tree blossoms being good, turned into an overall 'average' year, following bumper crops in 2022. Summer crops were very poor due to the bad weather in July and August with many, including experienced beekeepers, reporting little or no crop at all as the bees had used all their stores. The bees were very light going into winter with the warmer October resulting in them using more of their stores than usual. As in every year, there is variation with individual people doing better than others, depending on particularly good specific locations and also the strength of colonies. The honey seems to be darker this year compared to last year.

BBKA examinations – see the separate report by the Examinations' Officer.

Conventions and meetings
See individual branch reports for details of each branch's programme.

Spring Convention
The CBKA Spring Convention was held at Forest Hills Hotel in Frodsham. Speakers were Kirsty Stainton whose subject was 'What is Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus?', Viki Cuthbertson talking about 'Preparation for the Season Ahead', and Joyce Nisbet explaining about producing 'Cut Comb, Chunk Honey and Sections'.

Members' Honey Show and Autumn Convention.
The Autumn Convention and Members' Honey Show was again held at Forest Hills Hotel. Although attendance was not as large as might have been hoped, those members that did attend listened to three very interesting talks. Dr Stephen Case-Green of British Wax gave two presentations, the first one was on 'Commercial Wax Production', the second was entitled 'Making Beeswax Products'. Professor Stephen Martin talked about 'Beekeeping and Bee Research – a Global Perspective. This was a more light-hearted talk than usual, but also informative. There was the usual raffle and the Exam Secretary, Stuart Hatton, presented exam certificates to those who had successfully passed BBKA exams earlier in the year.
At the end of the afternoon members could go and view the exhibits in the honey show and trophies were presented to the winners.

Committee meetings
The Committee now meets five times a year – in January, April, June, September and December – with the June meeting being held via the internet, in order to reduce travelling. Meetings are normally held at Frodsham Community Centre.

At the January meeting Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe,

welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2023, and extended a particular welcome to Steve Purkis who had been elected as Chairperson of Mid Cheshire Branch at their recent AGM.

Under Matters Arising, after further discussion, it was agreed that changes to the Cheshire BKA Rules that were circulated before the meeting would be recommended to CBKA members at the AGM in March.

The Treasurer, Simon Nuttall, reported that total funds at the end of 2022 were down by £4,907 from 2021 to £84,348. The County holds 26.76% of these funds. County expenditure overall was balanced with a small surplus of £660. A discussion was held regarding two endowment funds. The William Menzies fund is to used specifically to the benefit of young beekeepers. As there are several schools now that have bees it should be possible to use the fund for their benefit. The Griffith endowment should be used to fund the prize for Novice Beekeepers at the Honey Show, which is currently £40. It was agreed that, since the interest earned on these two funds would never provide a meaningful amount of money, the idea of preserving the capital should be abandoned and any money required should be taken from the funds, thereby running them down eventually. It the case of the Griffiths fund this would likely take about 30 years at the current rate of expenditure.

After each Branch Treasurer had presented their branch finance report for 2022, they then outlined their spending plans for the current year.

North Cheshire Branch planned additional expenditure for 2023 including maintenance of the training apiary sheds at a likely cost of £1,000 and the purchase of a new branch laptop priced at around £500.

South Cheshire Branch 2023 expenditure is likely to include additional extraction equipment and a new speaker system.

Stockport Branch Treasurer said that the Branch expenditure would include the purchase of fondant and honey jars at a cost of around £2,000, which would then be sold to members at cost. New apiary equipment would cost around £2,000, £1,500 would be required to support beekeeping in schools with budget hives and child-sized bee suits. Website improvements were also planned at a cost of £1,000.

Wirral Branch did not have plans available at the time of the meeting.

Mid Cheshire Branch consider a key activity to be the development of a branch apiary. Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe, asked Steve Purkis (Chairperson Mid Cheshire) to put together a bid for funds to develop the apiary, which will then be considered in a timely manner. Whether the funds should be in the form of a grant or a loan would be decided later.

BBKA had published a new Safeguarding Policy and this had been circulated for members to read before the meeting. This states that all Member Associations should have their own safeguarding policy. It was agreed that Cheshire BKA would aim to develop a policy which would be accessible to all, simply worded and applicable to both association and branch events. Pete Sutcliffe asked Peter Carefoot to be involved in the development of the policy as Peter had been active in working towards a document for the Stockport Branch.

At the April meeting this year after a welcome by President Pam Hatton, the Committee re-elected Pete Sutcliffe to be their Chairperson for 2023-2024 and Lesley Jacques as Deputy Chairperson. Treasurer Simon Nuttall reported that the County's total bank balances currently stood at around £38,162 but that £18,000 would be paid out soon for BBKA capitation and BDI. The recent bill from the printers was much less than previous ones: £850, of which £500 is postage, as a result of many members opting out of hard copies. £600 had been paid into the account following various courses but there was a £1,000 deficit from the Spring Convention.

For the first time the Spring Convention and AGM was to be held at Forest Hills Hotel in Frodsham,

after it was found that the previous venue was becoming too expensive and that the service was less than satisfactory. There were 67 bookings to attend. Although the Association underwrites any loss it would be good to see more members attending. attending. Good promotion by email and social media led to a spike in bookings. Positive feedback on these platforms would hopefully encourage better attendance at the Autumn Convention in October.

A draft Safeguarding Policy was reviewed. The Chairperson pointed out that while this is an important issue, in terms of the audience and beekeeping meetings, training and events, it would likely be a miniscule problem. Therefore, there needs to be a simple procedure to be of use to the whole Association. Peter Carefoot, Pete Sutcliffe and David Fray volunteered to form a working group to further develop this policy.

Final arrangements were made for the Auction on 29th April; it was agreed to not run another Bee Health Day in 2023; Cheshire BKA participation in RHS Tatton Park was doubtful; Cheshire Show was on 20th and 21st June and the Honey Show schedules were distributed to Committee members.

A 'virtual meeting' by Zoom was held in June. Pete Sutcliffe, Chairperson, welcomed every one and extended congratulations to Steve Donohoe, the Cheshire Beekeeper Magazine editor, on his appointment to the editorship of the Bee Farmers' Magazine, commenting that his editorship of the Cheshire Beekeeper Magazine would be a hard act to follow. This meant that a replacement editor would be needed for the Cheshire Beekeeper magazine.

Graham Royle was congratulated on organizing yet another successful Auction in April. The sales value of items including over 20 nucs and 2 colonies was around £12,000. The surplus for the Association was £420.

Treasurer Simon Nuttall reported that the savings on magazine costs continued as many more members have opted for on-line only copies. The Building Society accounts stands at around £16,500 and CBKA assets in the current account at around £4,600.

Peter Carefoot had put together a Safeguarding Policy draft document that he would circulate to Committee members. Each Branch would need to designate a Safeguarding Officer. The Guideline would be available to all members and will be easily understood.

At the September meeting, the Treasurer reported on the current state of Association finances. September is always the lowest point for the Association current account after BBKA and BDI payments have been made. Simon would be applying to HMRC for Gift Aid, expected to be in the region of £4,000.

Plans for Cheshire BKA 125th anniversary in 2024 were discussed. A history booklet covering the past 25 years will be put together including a piece about diseases from Graham Royle. Malcolm Haynes would put together some notes from his extensive knowledge of the Association. An A5 booklet is envisaged, printed in colour. Inevitably there will be facts and figures but also, as in the previous booklet when the Association was 100 years old, there will be a page for each Branch to contribute their own account of the last 25 years. The approximate cost (including postage) to send to each member would be £2,000.

It was agreed that a banner would be produced for each branch and one for the association would be ordered. These would have the usual wording and include 'celebrating 125 years'.
Tamper labels to celebrate the anniversary will be ordered from Thorne. Further refinements to the Safeguarding Policy were discussed and agreed. Under Any Other Business, Julia Young said she would report back to the Committee on the outcome of the BBKA forum on Swarm Coordinators.

Graham Royle commented that 48 Asian Hornet nests had been found so far this year. Genetic testing would ascertain whether they had been any over-wintered Queens. It was suggested that it

would be useful to have a speaker to talk about practical suggestions about what beekeepers could do at the Spring Convention in 2024.

The final committee meeting of the year was held on an extremely cold Saturday morning in December. Feedback was received regarding the Autumn Convention that was held in October. It was suggested that those on the Branch Beginner Courses should be encouraged to attend the Spring Convention as it would be a good chance to meet up again with fellow students and help to fill the gap between the end of the theory courses in the Convention that was held in October. It was suggested that those on the Branch Beginner Courses should be encouraged to attend the Spring Convention as it would be a good chance to meet up again with fellow students and help to fill the gap between the end of the theory courses in the winter and the practical courses. The idea that a voucher for the Convention could be given to beginners was discussed, possibly starting in 2025 as arrangements for 2024 courses were already finalised.

Pete Sutcliffe reported on a successful meeting for Branch Education Secretaries, a follow up is planned. The Treasurer was not at the meeting but sent in his report. It was agreed that Capitation would not be paid to Branches again this year, apart from £460 to Mid Cheshire Branch as it is our newest and smallest Branch.

There was a detailed discussion of the various propositions put forward by BBKA and Associations for the Annual Delegates Meeting in January. Lesley Jacques, our ADM delegate, will put forward the views of the CBKA committee in the discussions. Further discussions were held regarding the Safeguarding Policy and Graham Royle agreed to circulate a policy he had seen from Bedfordshire BKA, which he thought was a very straightforward document that could be tweaked for use by Cheshire.

Julia Young and Pete Sutcliffe had attended a Zoom meeting held by BBKA regarding swarm collection arrangements. It was clear that different Associations have developed various ways of organizing volunteer swarm collectors but it was evident that good communication between beekeepers willing to collect swarms is key. It would be useful if each Cheshire Branch were to set up a 'WhatsApp' group of beekeepers who will collect swarms. Not everyone wants to be on the BBKA map. Noted that the Swarm Collectors Quiz is live on the CBKA website. It is a useful resource and all should be encouraged to try it.

Other Shows and Events

This year CBKA did not take part in the RHS Show at Tatton, which we have done for many years, or any other major events. However, various members took part in the Royal Cheshire Show, very much led by the Mid Cheshire Branch. As usual, the Branches did take part in many local events.

Over the year, there were many enquiries from members of the public wishing to start up beekeeping and looking for advice, as well as the usual range of questions about bumble and solitary bees, wasps and other stinging insects. The Committee thanks all those who assisted in answering questions and helping enquirers to access the information they needed.

We wish you every success for the coming year, 2024.

Pete Sutcliffe, Chairperson
Elizabeth Camm, Hon. General Secretary

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Examination Secretary's Report 2023

There has been an increase in members taking examinations in Cheshire in 2023 with 12 members taking the Basic Assessment, 6 taking Module Examinations, 2 General Husbandry and 1 Microscopy.

Examination successes are:

Basic Assessment
Rachael Norwood (Credit), Diane Cresswell (Credit), John Hibbert (Credit), Timothy Pugh (Credit), Helen Houghton-Foster (Pass) John Loud (Pass), Andrea Toms (Credit), Julie Nicol (Credit), Carolyn Slater (Credit), Nigel Bale (Credit), Luke Bailey (Pass), Althea Wilkinson (Credit).

Module 1
Margaret Charlton (Distinction), Heather Gregory (Pass), Ian Turley (Pass), Claire Huson (Credit).

Module 5
Christopher Cornwell-Lee (Credit), Warwick Wheatley (Credit).

Module 6
Warwick Wheatley (Credit), Michael Dale (Pass). Anastasia Mochalova, James Tatlow(Pass)

Module 7
Michael Dale (Credit)

Module 8
Graham Fifoot (Credit).
Advanced Theory Certificate
Graham Fifoot (Credit).

General Husbandry
David Fray, Michael Dale.

All certificates will be awarded for Module, Basic and Practical Assessments at the Cheshire County Conventions which are currently held at the Forest Hills Hotel, Overton Hill, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 6HH.

Certificates for members not attending will be given to a branch member so they can be presented at branch meetings.

Dates for module exams in 2024 are Saturday 23 March, closing date for entry is 9th February 2024. Saturday 16th November, closing date for entry 30th September 2024.

If you require any further information on what is involved with any examinations, please contact me at hattonstuart1@gmail.com or mobile 07778592835.

Stuart Hatton
Examination Secretary

Bee Disease Report For 2023

For the fifth year in a row, there were no cases of notifiable disease found in Cheshire. A year of both good and bad news with regard to bee disease and its control. The good news is that the National Bee Unit have been able to appoint a Seasonal Bee Inspector based in Cheshire. The bad news is that the number of colony inspections in Cheshire decreased compared with the 2022 figure from 146 to 116. This reduction in number of inspections is reflected across the whole of England where the total number this year was 15,940 compared with 22,100 in 2022.

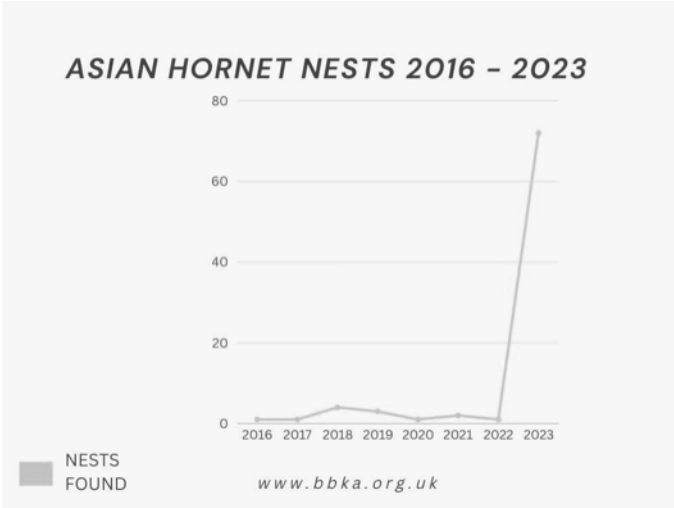
The focus of the National Bee Unit this year has been on dealing with Asian Hornet. They have done a fantastic job finding and destroying Asian hornet nests, but inevitably, colony inspections for notifiable disease have had lower priority. As this focus on Asian hornet is likely to continue next year, all members need to be vigilant and to check their colonies for notifiable disease.

This year a total of 72 Asian hornet nests have been found in 56 different locations. This is a huge increase over previous years. The majority of the

nests were found in Kent, and along the south coast. Three nests were found in Yorkshire. You can find more information about this on Beebase at www.nationalbeeunit.com.

Please make sure you are registered on Beebase, and that your contact details are up to date, as this will ensure you can be notified immediately if any notifiable disease or Asian Hornets are found in the area and will help the National Bee Unit to manage any outbreaks.

Graham Royle



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BBKA Annual Delegates' Meeting

In recent years, a virtual format has been established and refined for the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting. Delegates could choose whether to attend in person at Stoneleigh or to participate virtually through a webinar format. As in the previous year, the majority opted for the latter – negating the significant travel requirement for many of the Local Area Associations more distant from Stoneleigh and of course bringing significant cost savings to the Association. Of the 67 Area associations represented, only 7 Area associations were represented in person, the others attending virtually. Delegates represented 27,650 members.

The meeting followed the established format, with standing orders and governance issues being handled first, followed by finance reports before nominations and propositions.

BBKA finances

Howard Pool provided a review of the charity financial position; accounts for the 2022 financial year show that the charity made a small surplus of £79,017 over the year and accordingly there was no suggestion of an uplift in capitation due from the area associations. The BBKA budget is set in May, and monitored monthly; over the last 8 years forecasts have been broadly accurate and so expenditure predictable and in line with expectations.

Recognitions

The Board of Trustees recommend to the meeting that Honorary Membership of the BBKA be conferred on Margaret Wilson, Past President. The vote was carried by return of votes ahead of the ADM.

The Board of Trustees also recommend to the meeting that the award be made of an Apiculturae Maxime Se Dedit certificate to Mike Ticehurst. Mike has been a key member of the eR2 team that enabled the system to be successfully introduced and continues to work to ensure it remains a vital tool for all the associations that have come to rely on it.

Nominations to BBKA committees

In the previous year, a new process was rolled out for voting for candidates standing for positions on the BBKA committees, with delegates able to submit votes ahead of the meeting (the names of candidates and their respective supporting information is circulated with the ADM paperwork in the autumn). This proved to be a great time saver and was upheld for the 2023 meeting. This year there were 4 candidates standing for 5 position on the five vacancies on the Executive Committee. Mark Hunter, Clare McGettigan, Stephen Barnes and Joyce Nisbet were all elected to 3-year terms on the EC.

This year there were two vacancies for three-year terms on the Examinations Board. There was one candidate, Patricia Morgan, who unfortunately died in late 2022. Therefore no appointment was made to the EB in 2023.

Prize winners

This year, the Robert Hammond Award for the highest mark in the Intermediate Theory Certificate was awarded to Stephen Green of Gloucestershire BKA. The winner of the George Knight's Award for the Area Association making the most effort and progress in examinations beyond the basic was Avon BKA. The Surrey Shield for best association performance in the Basic assessment was awarded to Yorkshire BKA; and the Wax Chandlers' Award for the highest overall marks in the Master Beekeepers exams was awarded to Diane Webb (Gloucestershire).

Propositions for consideration

This year there were 9 propositions for consideration, of which a few are particularly noteworthy.

BBKA examinations

In the previous year, the BBKA exam board had made clear an intention to discontinue locally available in-person, hand-written Module examinations, intending that all examinations

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would be held on-line. Cornwall BKA put forward a proposition *that the BBKA instructs the Exam Board, with immediate effect, to retract entirely this intention, including in those situations where there are fewer than four candidates, to prevent members having to travel an unreasonable distance. The Local Associations should deal with the cost of organising a venue for a small number of candidates and they may liaise with neighbouring BKAs in this matter.* The proposition was passed, leading to withdrawal of a related proposition to survey the impact of moving to an on-line only process.

Adrenaline autoinjectors

Worcestershire BKA had put forward a proposition that *the BBKA lobby the appropriate authorities to request a change in the law to allow beekeepers to obtain adrenaline auto-injectors ('EpiPen') without prescription to have available at events where a group of people may be exposed to the risk of a bee sting*. These would be for use if a person with them suffers an anaphylactic reaction after a bee sting.

This was a contentious issue. Stephen Barnes reported that insurers had been consulted and would not insure this risk. The advice on first aid courses is not to use generic auto injectors. The potential for being sued is very high. Training is required; there is a national shortage of auto injectors and each one is to be personally carried for the sole use of the carrier. A number of amendments were floated, and ultimately the matter referred back to the EC for further assessment.

With the provenance of honey and hive products being something of a hot topic in the light of honey adulteration claims, it is not entirely surprising that this came up at the ADM also. Hampshire BKA put forward a proposition that *the BBKA resolves to help the general public find and recognise sources of local honey from BBKA member beekeepers.* Against the background that much of the imported honey sold on the open market may be adulterated, BBKA will work to extend the impact of the National Honey Day and raise awareness about honey adulteration. In particular it will seek to connect people with their local BBKA beekeepers and help educate the public about the benefits of local honey. This was carried by a small majority.

BBKA constitutional amendments

Several propositions were put forward around refinements to the constitution of the association. Should anyone wish to see this, the constitution is available on the BBKA web site. These propositions were toward the end of the meeting, and a technical issue with the eR2 voting meant that the final three propositions could not be put the vote. The meeting was closed at that point, and adjourned to such time when the system was operational. Unfortunately, this could not be completed within 30 days, which is a requirement for continuation of the propositions. Should the proposing associations wish, the propositions can be brought again in the following year.

As always, should anyone wish to know more about the ADM, then please just drop me a line at lesley.jacques@me.com

Lesley Jacques
ADM delegate for Cheshire BKA

Data Protection Act 1984

To comply with the Act it is the duty of the executive to inform members that their membership records are stored on a computer database. The executive assures you that all information on the database is for the exclusive use of the association. Registered, Partner and Country members details are supplied to the BBKA, BDI and also to the Regional and Seasonal Bee Disease Inspectors covering Cheshire BKA.

CBKA Autumn Convention 2023

The Autumn Convention, held on Saturday, 14th October at Best Western Forest Hills Hotel, is always a very social event and when you are not chatting or meeting up with friends from all over Cheshire, there is the trade stand to browse, run by Hatton Lodge Apiary, and the book stand with books provided by Jeremy Burbridge of Northen Bee Books.

We only had two speakers this year. Our first speaker, Dr Stephen Case Green from British Wax, kicked off the day with his talk *Commercial Beeswax Production*, telling us something of the history of his company, and the fact that in our climate-conscious times, customers want to know where the beeswax comes from and how it is treated to produce the finished product. British Wax source most of their beeswax from Africa, mainly Kenya, and because of this they are now moving their wax production to Kenya, buying direct from the farmers who produce the beeswax making it much more ethical. Stephen's photos showed some beautiful beeswax produced by the beekeepers in Kenya, which of course, is very pure as they do not use any pesticides or treatments. Also, a lot of the producers are women, as anyone who supports Bees for Development or Bees Abroad will know! Stephen explained the processing process, which is very simple, and the beeswax is then shipped back to customers in the UK and elsewhere, a very interesting talk which produced lots of questions afterwards.

Dr Stephen Martin is an old friend of Cheshire Beekeepers and his talk was about *Beekeeping and Bee Research: A Global Perspective* in which Stephen told us about some of his adventures around the world studying bees and bee behaviour. He had promised a light-hearted talk and it certainly made us laugh in places, as well as tackling some serious issues – and not all the bees were honeybees! The stingless bees from Brazil were particularly fascinating and are kept as pets, apparently! In the questions afterwards, the topic of Asian hornets came up, and also the fact that Australia now has varroa, despite doing everything possible to keep it out.

Lunch was a sit-down affair with two courses, and then, after lunch, Stephen Case-Green told us *How to make Beeswax Products*. Stephen had experimented with quite a few different products, mixing them with beeswax, and he encouraged us to try different waxes in making our own products, such as polish with a lovely orange-zest aroma! Again, a very interesting talk.

The raffle is always very well supported, with prizes supplied very generously by most of the branches, as well as individual members. Following the raffle, our Exam Secretary, Stuart Hatton, handed out well-earned certificates to those who were present and had passed their modules, and then it was through to the Honey Show to view the exhibits and the presentation of prizes. Sarah Johnson, the Show Manager, will give her report separately.

All in all, a lovely, sociable day with friends, and I would like to thank all the people who made it possible. Lesley Parker arranged the raffle prizes but couldn't be there on the day so Isabel Large stepped in to sell raffle tickets. Liz Camm organised the hearing loop and Lesley Jacques manned the book stall. Not forgetting Graham Royle for organising the website and the sale of tickets! Thanks Graham. Pete Sutcliffe did an exemplary job of chairing the whole day and keeping us on time, and there are probably other people I haven't mentioned, but you know who you are! Grateful thanks to you all, and to those who weren't there – why not? You missed a great day!

Happy Beekeeping,

Pam Hatton

The Annual County Honey Show

The honey show was held in conjunction with the Autumn Convention at the Forest Hills Hotel on 14th October. We were delighted to have a total of 255 exhibits at the honey show and many thanks to the 26 exhibitors from across all the branches of Cheshire. The judges, Ivor Flatman (from Yorkshire), Terry Ashley and Steve Guest (both from Cheshire) were impressed with the standard of the show and were particularly pleased with the clean presentation of the honey classes.

We had entries in nearly every class and after judging all the classes, decisions were made on the special prize cards to be awarded for each section. The Best in Show was deservedly given to Frank Kirkham's excellent light honey. Frank received the beautiful Rose Bowl which was donated by Barbara Bryant and also the Blue Riband and free membership of the National Honey Show. There were many entries in the wax, mead, photography and gift classes and we are delighted to donate over twenty jars of honey to be sold in aid of St Luke's Hospice.

Many thanks to Sidney Hollinshead who kindly sponsored the gift classes. The Confectionery classes were of an extremely high standard with a lot of entries in each class. The judges and stewards enjoyed the tasting of these classes, although I have had a request to provide some cheese to eat with the chutney next time! The microscopy was of a particularly high standard but it would be good to have some more entries next year. It would also be great to have some more novice entries so all new beekeepers should make it an aim to enter the show. We are going to have a few special classes next year as part of our 125-year anniversary celebrations and it would be wonderful to have more exhibitors to join the fun. Please let me know if you have ideas for some celebratory classes.

Thank you to Frank Kirkham, who helped to set up the show, and also to our stewards, John Sadler, Stuart Forbes and Ian Turley. Many thanks to Bex Ruskin who wrote up the prize cards and to Pam Hatton who presented the trophies.

Sarah Johnson
Show secretary







CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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& Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 16th March 2024

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Jane Medwell—Comb changes for healthy bees
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Numbers strictly limited – please purchase tickets and make lunch choices before the event

South Cheshire Branch Report 2023

Branch Chair;	David Fray	**Education Secretary;**	Isabel Large
Vice Chair;	Liz Camm	**Web Manager;**	Marine Godot
Treasurer;	Dee Smith	**Show Manager;**	Alan Smith
Secretary;	Julia Forbes-Leith	**Speaker Secretary;**	Pete Sutcliffe
Librarian;	Nichola Summerfield		

Other members; Nikki Dakin, Sydney Hollinshead, Sheila Hargreaves, Helen Scott, Liz Jenkinson, Helen Palacz, Neil Williams

Our January AGM was well attended and saw the 2022 committee re-elected en bloc. However, Liz Camm retired from her role as Apiary Manager, leaving a vacancy. The meeting was followed by a popular "Beekeepers Question Time".

In February, Andrew Easterbrook gave a thought-provoking talk to the members on how to "Invest in your Bees". In March, Steve Donohoe was scheduled to speak, but was overtaken by Covid, so Pete Sutcliffe stepped in at very short notice to talk about "Breeding out bad habits". We are lucky to have so many excellent speakers in the Cheshire beekeeping community.

Our first joint meeting of the year with North Staffordshire was a talk on the Asian Hornet situation given by Graham Royle, who stepped in for Dr Julia Hoggard who had been taken ill. The last talk of the year was by a young commercial beekeeper, Matthew Ingram, who had used his farming background and some of his family's redundant farm buildings to set up a large and viable business.

The apiary at Reaseheath started the year with 17 hives and finished with 11, as the result of strange weather and the management of some weak and some bad-tempered colonies. In the absence of an apiary manager, apiary inspections and work have been carried out by members, including a number of beginners, led by a rota of more experienced beekeepers. This has been helped by the use of *Googledocs* for planning the timetable and volunteering and a *Whatsapp* group for last minute changes.

This year's Beginners Course had 30 participants and 29 are fully signed up for 2024.

South Cheshire's own Honey Show in October was extremely well organised by Show Manager Alan Smith and judged by Terry Ashley. There were 98 entries from 19 competitors of whom four were novices. Show-cards and rosettes were placed against the staged entries and attendees were able to enjoy the display after the judging.

The sale of apiary honey from 2022 and 2023 brought in nearly £2.5K resulting in a healthy balance for the branch.

The last meeting of the year finished with the Christmas Social and Quiz where members and guests were treated to delicious hot food provided by members of the committee and were challenged by David Fray's novel and very entertaining quiz.

Julia Forbes-Leith SCBKA Sec

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North Cheshire Branch Report 2023

Branch Chair;	Stuart Hatton	**Show Manager;**	John Sadler
Vice Chair;	Liz Brindle	**Training Coordinator;**	Maria Heywood
Treasurer;	Peter Woodhead	**Librarian;**	Cathy Ellis
Secretary;	Polly Smith		

Apiary Management Committee: Peter Woodhead, Paul Williams, Julia Young, Polly Smith
Additional Committee Members: Pamela Hatton, Kelvin Heywood, Graham Fifoot, Graham Platt

For the first time since 2019, in 2023 the branch was able to provide a full programme of activities without the restrictions necessitated by the Covid pandemic.
The AGM and social in January returned to the Helter Skelter in Frodsham, but with a relatively small turnout: possibly some people were still anxious about social gatherings.
The meeting started with a short silence to remember three prominent branch members who died in 2022: Heather Hilder, Chris Pownall and Ian McLean.

The business of the AGM was conducted quickly with officers and Committee being re-elected en bloc, and Liz Brindle was elected to the vacant position of Vice Chair. The meal and free flowing conversation that followed the AGM were as enjoyable and satisfying as always.

Holding the February meeting via Zoom allowed members to attend who might otherwise have been deterred by dark nights, poor weather or a crowded room. It also allowed David Evans to give his talk on 'Bait Hives' from the comfort of his home in the north of Scotland. The meeting started a little late owing to a power cut at the Scottish end, but the time was used for an impromptu Q&A session. The 68 attendees then enjoyed an excellent talk on swarming behaviour, why and where bait hives are of value and how to make successful ones cheaply and easily.

Nothing deterred the 25 trainees on the beginners' theory course from meeting in person at Frodsham between January and March, and subsequently a record 28 trainees enrolled for the practical course held at Walton and Hatton Lodge apiaries, with 3 going to new trainer Warwick Wheatley. Although attendance at Walton was patchy, a core of 6 or 8 trainees contributed regularly to the management of up to 11 colonies, which produced in excess of 150 kg of honey: a good yield in a year that most beekeepers in the area considered to be 'about average'.

Despite winter dragging on, in March, 30 members turned out to learn from Graham Royle about developments in our knowledge of and defence strategies against the Asian hornet and we were grateful to Graham for stepping in at short notice as the advertised speaker was indisposed. At the same meeting Stuart Hatton announced the death of Paul Arthur, a much liked and respected founder member of the North Cheshire Branch.

A few days previously, Graham had been at Frodsham running his very popular microscopy course and in April he was welcomed back again to give a talk on *Beekeeping, the Way I do It*, with an audience of more than 40 enjoying a wonderfully illustrated and extremely useful explanation of the methods and equipment that Graham uses to manage his bees throughout the year.

The long but fairly mild winter meant that by the end of April, when it became warm enough for full inspections, hives were bursting – and swarming - across the county. When practical sessions began in May, trainees were thrown in at the deep end helping to manage a variety of swarm prevention and control measures at the training apiaries. Committee members and others were called out to swarms throughout the area, and registered collector Julia Young was not the only one to run out of equipment.

Fortunately, weather conditions were good for all three branch apiary meetings. The first was hosted by Mark Phillipson and attracted an excellent attendance, the same meeting last year having fallen victim to Covid. As a commercial queen rearer, Mark shared useful tips for saving time and his back when inspecting colonies, and also demonstrated the grafting technique he uses to populate his queen rearing nucs.

On a hot evening in June, Julia Young took us through some of the many swarm colonies she had collected earlier in the year, demonstrating the differences in build-up and temperament: coincidentally the best on both counts was headed by one of Mark's queens.

Norton Priory proved a popular venue for the July meeting hosted by Paul Quigley. Paul spoke about beekeeping at the Priory, the feral colonies in the garden walls, and the problems associated with managing bees in a public space; particularly when several swarms leave the walls on the same day. With his assistant Helen, he inspected 2 nucs retrieved from a wall-top bait box, and as Paul wanted to clip his queens to minimize future disruption from swarming, Stuart Hatton demonstrated how this should be done.

As usual refreshments at all three apiary meetings were excellent, and thanks go to everyone involved in their provision. In August, 12 'new starters' enjoyed a programme of informative talks from members of the training team on everything a responsible new beekeeper needs to know, and six then signed up for the 2024 training programme.

Members were disappointed when EFB was again discovered in the area of the Llandegla moors, and the September joint heather meeting with the Wirral branch had to be cancelled for the third year in succession. Despite only 'average' harvests, the Honey Show in September was a success, particularly for Malcolm Knox who took away four of the seven trophies awarded on the night. This year the Show Manager was John Sadler, taking over from Graham Platt who retired after a remarkable 17 years of both organizing and showing with great success. Some experienced members chose not to enter this year, to encourage newer entrants; a strategy that worked as the 82 entries showed, and John Goodwin gave an entertaining and helpful commentary, judging them all with a critical eye.

As well as the high number of swarms earlier in the year, many beekeepers were reporting unusually bad tempered colonies going into autumn, so Pete Sutcliffe's talk in October on breeding out bad traits; not breeding them in, was particularly apposite, as it focused on swarmy and bad tempered bees, the connection between them and how to deal with the colonies that result; the answer in almost every case being to requeen.

The last talk of the year was again hosted by County on Zoom, allowing more than 50 members to enjoy a talk by Stuart Spinks from Norfolk Honey Company in which he gave a clear and helpful account of how to plan for the year ahead and the strategies he uses to manage multiple colonies with minimum disruption to the bees and maximum convenience for the beekeeper.

Environmental awareness seemed to flourish in 2023, with more groups and organisations than ever wanting beekeepers to give talks, sell honey, and provide displays and exhibitions. Trainer Julia Young, as well as other Committee and branch members, duly obliged with several talks to school, youth and adult groups and representation at a number of open days and fairs. Committee members also mentored less experienced colleagues, supported new beekeepers who were struggling and older beekeepers who were reluctantly giving up the hobby, throughout what turned out to be quite a challenging beekeeping year.

Whatever 2024 brings, even if, as seems likely, it is the first sightings of Asian hornets in Cheshire, we are sure that North Cheshire members, with assistance from the hardworking committee, will rise to every challenge as they did in 2023.

Polly Smith NCBK Hon Sec

Mid Cheshire Branch Report 2023

Branch Chair;	Steve Purkis	**Show Manager;**	Stuart Forbes
Treasurer;	Sarah Johnson	**Show Steward;**	Lesley Parker
Secretary;	Ian Turley	**Librarian;**	Sarah Johnson

Other members; Lesley Jacques, Jo Zielinski, Natalie Bushell, Ken Houghton, Nick Johnson, Lorraine Butcher (part year), Bob Beards (part year)

The new year started with full optimism with our branch AGM in January. Karl Colyer stepped down as Chair with Steve Purkis taking over the role. We would like to thank Karl for his valuable help and contribution through the year as Chair. Ian Turley and Sarah Johnson remain in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. An additional four members joined as general committee members. As part of the proceedings, we were entertained by Mid-Cheshire's own "Dick and Dom" in Nick and Jonny giving us all a few very amusing pointers in what not to do in your first year of beekeeping!

Mid-Cheshire is continuing its steady growth, having an official membership figure of 92 members.
In February, we had a treat at our branch meeting from the future (now) BBKA Chair Diane Drinkwater with her take on *Be Prepared - How to be more organised through the year*. I think even the experienced members picked up a few tips and suggestions (Never have too many hive tools!). The event was extremely well attended with 35 members in person and a few more watching the recording later.

The informal "Bee Chat" continued in both January and February to get people interested in the coming season. These were still proving to be a good place to introduce people to beekeeping in a very informal way, without the pressure of attending a full branch meeting.

In early March, we again held our branch Beginners' Meeting attracting a massive 50 people to the event – more than we could fit into the room! The meeting at the Blue Cap included a short introductory talk by Steve Purkis with the room laid out with various pieces of kit to allow lots of questions and the new beekeepers the chance of handling all the equipment needed. This was followed up in April with Nick and Sarah Johnson hosting a practical hands-on DIY session in skills to "Let's Build a Hive". In this session we were giving new and experienced beekeepers the chance to assemble flat pack hives and frames, while also explaining the purpose of each of the parts – something that is never easy to pick up when you first start!

April also proved to be a major milestone month for the Mid-Cheshire branch where, through Bob Beards' careful sourcing and negotiations, we opened a club training apiary for the first time at Grozone Community Garden in Northwich. We had a formal opening event where Cheshire President Pam Hatton kindly performed the opening, cutting the ribbon on what will hopefully become a very successful place for us to teach practical beekeeping. We opened the apiary with two hives and small inherited abandoned colonies, with the hope of progressing to a regular number of four to six. We looked forward to using the apiary in the coming months, but unfortunately this was not to be for this year. To help with the cost of establishing this new apiary, we have been fortunate to obtain significant funding from sponsorship by J. Parker Plants & Bulbs. This has allowed us to purchase the required equipment needed to start the new apiary.

In May, we attempted to continue our beginners' theme on the early Coronation bank holiday with a hands-on practical session at Nick and Sarah Johnson's apiary in Antrobus. Unfortunately, the very poor weather meant that this could not take place on the Monday but was fortunately quickly re-arranged for the following Saturday when the spectacular sunny weather and some calm bees

were enjoyed by 25 keen new and novice beekeepers.

Regular inspections of the new apiary bees started, only to find that as the size of the colonies increased, so did the poor temperament of the bees, a trend that unfortunately continued through the year delaying the use of the apiary as a process of re-queening and merging was undertaken which lasted the rest of the year.

June started the first of our summer branch apiary visits where 30 people visited Mark Phillipson's apiary. What a great apiary set up Mark has, ideal for demonstrating his method of queen rearing and passing on his very knowledgeable tips of the trade.

June also started a busy time for the branch in supporting external organisations and events. The first of these was the Cuddington and Sandiway Gala where Steve Purkis and Stuart Forbes, along with an observation hive, braved scorching temperatures at Cuddington Playing Fields to entertain the crowds and in the process win the prize and trophy for best stand (well the bees did.)

Later in June, Mid-Cheshire branch continued to hold The Honey Show at the Royal Cheshire Show with nearly 100 entries and exhibitors from most of the branches. We were delighted that we were adjacent to the Bee Education tent which was organised by David Curbishley. There was plenty of information on bees and pollinators, an observation hive as well as a great display of honey, wax products, photographs, mead and confectionery on the show stand. This made a large area dedicated to beekeeping and we were thankful to everyone who helped on the stand and talked to a huge number of visitors.

Finally in June, we had a stand at the Arley Flower Festival where Dave Wright, Ian Turley, Josh Hampson, Jane Turley, Nick Johnson and Sarah Johnson and a three-frame observation hive of bees wowed the crowds. Progress at the new apiary was slow, due to the poor temperament of the bees, with the plus side that the new comb and foundation was being drawn and progressing well in the warm weather.

Early July, saw Ian Turley, Stuart Forbes, and Ken and Mel Houghton represent the branch, bees and beekeeping at a charity event supporting "Passion for Learning" near Chester. The event was well attended with a huge interest in our stand. Stuart was very excited and pleased to meet the beekeeper and visit the estates apiary and its collection of WBC hives.

Later in July, we were hosted by Lesley Jaques at her Hartford apiary, showing off her new stands of apidea mating hives. Progress was slow in the apiary on the bee front as the re-queening process was being affected by the weather, but one hive was successfully merged with a calmer one so hopefully they will be ready for 2024. On the infrastructure side, we managed to purchase and erect a nice bee shed to store all of our equipment and extras.

Our August branch meeting had a new treat in visiting Radbroke Hall for the first time, where Josh Hampson and Cheryl Flatman showed us around their work apiary. We closed off our seasonal apiary visits with a trip to Ken Houghton's garden apiary. Unlike most of August, the weather played nicely and everyone enjoyed the late summer social. August also completed our summer branch representations at events where a number of us, together with bees, spent two soggy days at the Cheshire Game and County Fair.

Interest at all the external events was amazing and we look forward to welcoming some new members to both our branch and the wider Cheshire Association. At the apiary, we acquired another hive of bees with a kind donation from Ken Houghton. These were also re-queened to aid with temperament.

In September, Lesley Jacques gave a detailed account on "Bee Nutrition" to 20 at our local branch meeting. Later in the month, Sarah Johnson used her extensive show experience and skill to

demonstrate how to prepare for and take part in a Honey Show. Tips on preparing honey jars, candles and wax and what to do and what not to do.

Rolling into October, Buckfast Abbey gave our branch a mind-blowing exposé into "Honey Bee Hormones" via zoom. I think we all left the call with greater knowledge and a fascination at the complexity of the honeybee and the hive, even if we did not understand all the science and terminology.

At the Cheshire Autumn Convention Honey Show, Sarah's tips and knowledge sharing came to fruition when the Mid Cheshire branch managed to win the County Shield for the very first time, claiming a number of first prizes across the various classes. Lesley Jaques then went to the National Honey Show and claimed first prize in two microscopy classes – a very remarkable achievement. In the apiary, the remaining re-queened hive finally showed signs of laying a full 12 weeks and 3 test frames after emerging. We go into winter hopeful that we will have three calm hives in early spring.

In November we had a new venue for our annual Branch Honey Show at Toolerstone House with another tremendous turn out with our judge Joyce Nisbet presiding over 100 entries. She again provided an excellent running description on the judging process, luckily with no dog hairs or "evil" honey this year. A big thanks to Stuart Forbes for the organisation and to Lesley Parker for stewarding as well as expert judging by Joyce Nisbet.

We rounded-off the year with a superbly enjoyable meal at Blue Cap in December, organised expertly by Jo Zielinski, during which members and their guests discussed the highs and lows of their beekeeping season and their plans for 2024. Mid Cheshire branch was also invited and participated in a Christmas market, again at Toolerstone House, where we sold lots of honey and some beeswax to those attending and again promoted the branch and beekeeping, but this time without an observation hive!

As a branch, 2024 approaches again with a lot of optimism and excitement as we approach the major milestone of being able to provide our own practical hand on training, albeit at a very small level to start. Our branch numbers continue to grow and have for the first time passed the 100 mark in the official figures with 103 members. Our main aim now is to consolidate and continue to improve with membership growth and with our key objective being the training apiary.

A real success story has been the *Facebook* group, but more particularly the support *WhatsApp* group which has seen topics ranging from the very basic "I need some help" type question to exploits of a grafting and queen rearing process. May this continue in the future and Happy Beekeeping.

Ian Turley MCBKA Sec

Stockport Branch Report 2023

Branch Chair;	Peter Carefoot	**Education Secretary;**	Alan Towse
Vice Chair;	Paul Wheeldon	**Show Manager;**	Sue Payge
Treasurer;	Alistair Taylor	**Programme Manager;**	Patricia Watkins
Secretary;	Stephen Donohoe (resigned July)	**Librarian;**	Paul Wheeldon
		Apiary Manager;	David Lilley
		Asst. Apiary Manager;	Dermot Carty

Other members; Liz Sparkes, Brian Gee, Mark Davis

At the end of the year, the branch membership was 267, an increase of 10 from the same time last year.

The year began with 32 students completing the 9-week Beginner's Course at Stockport Homes Group. Most of these students also signed up for the practical sessions at the Woodbank Apiary, with some continuing their education by supporting

the weekly colony checks when the course ended. In addition, there was a Beekeeping Taster Day in July; again, this popular event was fully subscribed, with many attendees signing up for the 2024 theory course—many thanks to Alan and Linda Towse, who have organised and managed the education programme efficiently.

The new SBKA website went live in May and is up and running with enhancements. There has been a lot of interest; most enquiries have been for beekeeping courses and dealing with swarms. The result is pleasing, and thanks must go to Steve Donohoe for his skill and guidance in putting this together.

David Lilley and Dermot Carty have done an excellent job in a challenging year for beekeepers. David initiated a *WhatsApp* group to summon people to the apiary's teaching and colony check nights, which has been a great success. Supported by Dermot, he has developed a team of branch members who regularly come to help out and learn at the Woodbank Apiary. Through July and August, the wet weather pressured the weekly colony maintenance. It was a case of inspecting whenever the weather allowed it. At the end of 2023, fourteen colonies and one nuc have been prepared and bedded down for the winter.

The branch honey extraction night on September 27th was back at Woodford Memorialwhere the facilities significantly improved on the restrictive space at the apiary. The yield was a disappointing 81 lbs from the 14 colonies, down from 269 lbs in 2022. The wet July and August saw the bees consume most of the stores collected during the warm spring and early summer. The apiary moved to the current site eight years ago and it was necessary to replace all the hive stands and strengthen the security fencing. Under David's direction, Paul Wheeldon and Brian Gee made the stands and members helped to fit them. A special thank you goes out to all who helped.

Trisha Watkins organised the year's events with her usual attention to detail. With the support of branch members, particularly the committee, she delivered an impressive schedule of events.

The World Bee Day celebration in Stockport Town Centre was disappointing. Holidays and sickness prevented members' support; only three people could get there during the day. Poor communication with the town centre support team added to the problems. The public interest was again excellent, but the Shopping Centre Management reported an overall disappointment for the day's events. Special thanks go to Alan, Linda Towse, and Dermot Carty for their commitment and perseverance during the day.

Woodford Community Hall was the venue for the annual Honey Show on Saturday, November 11th. The number of entries was 91, which was lower than previous years. The organisers considered the reduced honey harvest to be partly responsible. Judges Ivor Flatman and Jane Barlow commented that standards were once again of high quality. Thank you to everyone who helped with the setting up and everyone involved in putting the show together. And a big thank you to everyone who entered.

Alan has now successfully established small apiaries at five schools in the Stockport area. SBKA has bought initial equipment and the schools have had fundraising events to finance the set-up. Once again, the celebration of World Bee Day was a delight for the kids and parents involved. The highlight for the schools and pupils was the honey crop, which sold at parents' evenings.

During March, Alan taught the high-security HMP Manchester team members the basic principles of beekeeping. Alan introduced bees from captured swarms and two strong colonies have entered winter.

SBKA remains in a solid financial position. The electronic transfer of money is now more timely and robust to comply with Charity Commission requirements and protect SBKA funds. The main purchases were syrup, fondant, and honey jars, once again available to members at subsidised prices. There was also a significant outlay on the

refurbishment of the apiary.

Congratulations to Carolyn Slater, Andrea Toms and John Loud, who passed their Basic Beekeeping Certificate, and to Margaret Charlton, who passed her BBKA Module One. Also, Michael Dale passed Module 6 and gained General Husbandry and Qualified Beekeeper Certificates. The Hot Pot Supper at Woodford Hall was the year's last social event. Thirty-six members enjoyed the excellent food, followed by a seasonal quiz and raffle.

Peter Carefoot SBKA Chair

Wirral Branch Report 2023

Branch Chair;	Nigel Brierley	**Secretary;**	Janine Unwin
Vice Chair;	Barbara Bryant	**Education and Training and**	
Treasurer;	John Hamilton	**Prog Secretary;**	Nigel Brierley/Helen Parkinson

Other members; Andrew Clough, Paul Manning, Gill Medley, Graham Wilson, Jane Wright

The year started off in January with our 61st AGM held at Irby Methodist Church Hall. It was well attended and saw the election of four new members to the committee.

February saw Pam Hatton's talk on *Beeswax and Candles.* Our beginners' course was run over a weekend in February with around 25 keen students, many of whom continued their involvement with outdoor apiary meetings.

In March, committee began a search for a suitable training apiary site for 2024. This culminated in the discovery of an excellent site which a team of committee members, lead by Jane, are in the process of setting up. Details will be available on our website when this is complete.

In line with other areas in Cheshire, a warm spring and early summer gave rise to a swift build-up of stores by the bees but the good weather also led to an early start in swarms. Our swarm collectors were kept busy during this time! However, a wet July and August saw the promising stores quickly depleted, leaving little honey to harvest and a need for many colonies to have additional feeding going into winter.

During the summer we enjoyed outdoor meetngs at Gordale, overseen by Nigel. One of these had Huw Evans as visiting speaker. These were also outside practical sessions following on from the beginners' course. In September, the first of the autumn indoor meetings was *Preparing for the Honey Show* with Joyce Nesbit. Joyce entertained and instructed for the upcoming show in November. October's talk was *Pollen*, a fascinating talk from Lesley Jacques. November saw the revival of the Honey Show, organised by Helen and this proved to be a popular event with members and visitors alike. Judged by Joyce Nesbit, over 70 entries ranged from honey and beeswax to candles and cookery with honey. Many thanks to Helen for undertaking this great project.

As ever a big 'thank you' is also due to Graham for continuing to oversee the branch website, *WhatsApp* and *Facebook* pages. The WBK website links to the County website, advertising upcoming events and providing information to the members. The beginners' course for 2024 has been advertised and will be held from January. A full programme of events for 2024 has been organised with details available on the website.

Janine Unwin WBKA Sec

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

The following pages show the financial accounts for Cheshire Beekeepers' Association and its branches for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The next page shows the position of Cheshire Beekeepers' Association in total, that is to say, the sum of the County, its five branches and the endowments given for the benefit of members. These show total funds of £93,637.64 compared to funds of £89,348.34 at 31 December 2022.

All branches other than Stockport made surpluses in the year, predominantly from running training courses and selling produce from training apiaries. North Cheshire made a surplus of £1,854.43; South Cheshire £1,589.94; Wirral £2,674.78; and Mid Cheshire £910.33 after receiving capitation from the County of £460. Stockport branch made a deficit of £2,956.71 after investing in its own apiary, school apiaries and having increased room hire costs. The County's income and expenditure broadly matched in 2023, leaving a small surplus of £209.40.

Taking all of the branches, the County, and funds given for the benefit CBKA together, Cheshire Beekeepers Association made a combined surplus of £4,289.30 in 2023 (2022: deficit of (£4,907.44)).

During the year the Committee reviewed and discussed the Charity's reserves. Whilst there is no fixed policy on reserves, the Committee review these annually taking into account branch and County spending plans, the movements in BBKA capitation and overall membership.

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charity SORP FRSSE.

Simon Nuttall
Honorary County Treasurer

Independant Examiner's Report for 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Cheshire Beekeepers Association for the year ended 31 December 2023.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

I have completed my examination and I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination. I believe that in all material respects:
Accounting records were kept in respect of the Association
The accounts do accord with those records;
The accounts do comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act.
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination.

John Sheekey B.Sc ACMA ICPA
Honorary County Auditor

20 January 2024

Cheshire Beekeepers' Association Statement of Financial Activities for Year Ending 31 December 2023

				UNRESTRICTED F
		County	*North*	*South*
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	£	£
Voluntary income		30,353.13	400.00	0.00
Activities for generating funds		1,077.00	129.00	564.60
Investment income		166.66	189.67	6.04
Incoming resources from charitable activities		4,870.59	4,444.63	4,835.00
Other incoming resources		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total incoming resources		36,467.38	5,163.30	5,405.64
RESOURCES EXPENDED:				
Costs of generating voluntary income		(27,562.59)	(774.04)	(303.60)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		0.00	(99.17)	(97.28)
Cost of charitable activities		(5,754.65)	(1,440.76)	(3,375.82)
Governance costs		(1,007.50)	(578.40)	0.00
Other resources expended		(1,473.24)	(416.50)	(39.00)
Total resources expended		(35,797.98)	(3,308.87)	(3,815.70)
Net in/outgoing resources before transfers		669.40	1,854.43	1,589.94
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation	(460.00)	0.00	0.00
	Branch transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		209.40	1,854.43	1,589.94
OPENING CASH ASSETS		**25,150.92**	**17,847.42**	**8,340.51**
	Cash Funds	25,360.32	19,701.85	9,930.45
	Investment Assets	20.00	0.00	0.00
	Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
CLOSING TOTAL ASSETS		**25,380.32**	**19,701.85**	**9,930.45**

FUNDS			ENDOWMENT FUNDS	
Wirral	*Stockport*	*Mid Cheshire*	*W Menzies*	**TOTAL**
£	£	£	£	£
0.00	312.00	2,683.49	0.00	33,748.62
0.00	416.00	0.00	0.00	2,186.60
117.75	91.54	0.00	7.13	578.79
3,360.00	7,717.30	1,131.33	0.00	26,358.85
0.00	0.00	18.50	0.00	18.50
3,477.75	8,536.84	3,833.32	7.13	62,891.36
(394.50)	(2,049.88)	(304.00)	0.00	(31,388.61)
0.00	(4,731.01)	0.00	0.00	(4,927.46)
(350.30)	(4,397.63)	(3,078.99)	0.00	(18,398.15)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,585.90)
(58.17)	(315.03)	0.00	0.00	(2,301.94)
(802.97)	(11,493.55)	(3,382.99)	0.00	(58,602.06)
2,674.78	(2,956.71)	450.33	7.13	4,289.30
0.00	0.00	460.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2,674.78	(2,956.71)	910.33	7.13	4,289.30
14,274.57	**19,362.49**	**3,682.22**	**670.21**	**89,328.34**
16,949.35	16,405.78	4,592.55	677.34	93,617.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16,949.35	**16,405.78**	**4,592.55**	**677.34**	**93,637.64**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - COUNTY
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		County 2023	W Menzies 2023	County 2022	Griffiths 2022	W Menzies 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	Subscriptions	4,729.93		7,647.83		
	Gift Aid	4,936.55		4,651.38		
	BBKA fees collected via subscriptions	16,232.50		16,021.50		
	BDI premiums via subscriptions	2,852.95		2,860.30		
	Research fund income from subscriptions	1,129.10		1,249.00		
	Donations for Bee Charities received in subscriptions	472.10		665.85		
	Donations			725.00		
Activities for generating funds	Advertising	1,077.00		1,610.40		
Investment income	Interest income	166.66	7.13	36.63	2.14	1.11
Incoming resources from charitable activities	Conventions	3,841.06		3,370.38		
	Workshops: Microscopy, food safety, 1st Aid	610.51		144.26		
	Auction	419.02		399.03		
Other incoming resources	Miscellaneous					
Total incoming resources		36,467.38	7.13	39,381.56	2.14	1.11
RESOURCES EXPENDED:						
Costs of generating voluntary income	Newsletter costs	(6,875.94)		(8,411.00)		
	Room hire			(281.00)		
	BBKA Capitation	(16,232.50)		(16,021.50)		
	BDI payments	(2,852.95)		(2,860.30)		
	Payment to BBKA research fund	(1,129.10)		(1,249.00)		
	Payment to Bees Abroad/ BFD from subs	(472.10)		(665.85)		
Cost of charitable activities	Convention costs	(5,317.15)		(5,136.20)		
	Training course running costs					
	Exam fees	(437.50)		(514.00)		
	Trophy engraving					
	Griffiths prize				(40.00)	

Governance costs	Year book printing	(1,007.50)		*(1,867.20)*		
Other resources expended	National Honey show - membership/ sponsonship	(115.00)		*(115.00)*		
	Honoraria	(820.00)		*(820.00)*		
	Miscellaneous costs - AGM	(40.00)		*(61.00)*		
	Banners	(320.00)				
	Website costs	(178.24)		*(379.07)*		
Total resources expended		(35,797.98)	0.00	*(38,381.12)*	*(40.00)*	*0.00*
Net in/outgoing resources before transfers		669.40	7.13	*1,000.44*	*(37.86)*	*1.11*
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County	(460.00)		*(340.00)*		
	Branch transfer					
	Library Grant					
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		209.40	7.13	*660.44*	*(37.86)*	*1.11*
	Opening Cash funds	25,150.92	670.21	*23,241.18*	*1,287.16*	*669.10*
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	25,360.32	677.34	*23,901.62*	*1,249.30*	*670.21*
Investment Assets	War Stock	20.00		*20.00*		
TOTAL FUNDS		25,380.32	677.34	*23,921.62*	*1,249.30*	*670.21*

Treasurer - SK Nuttall
Audited - J Sheekey

Statement of Financial Activities - North Cheshire

		North 2023	North 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	£
Voluntary income	Admissions	400.00	295.00
	Subscriptions		
Activities for generating funds	Raffle	129.00	129.00
Investment income	Interest income	189.67	41.83
Incoming resources from charitable activities	Training courses	2,880.00	2,458.00
	Honey and bee sales	1,498.63	1,036.83
	Jar & equipment sales	36.00	37.60
	Donations		50.00
	Extractor rental income	30.00	75.00
Total incoming resources		5,163.30	4,123.26
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income	Running expenses	(232.66)	(275.82)
	Room hire	(201.60)	(201.60)
	Speakers expenses	(285.00)	(530.00)
	Printing & stationery	(54.78)	(38.49)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(99.17)	(58.00)
	Special celebration costs		
Cost of charitable activities	Apiary running costs	(1,018.62)	(1,157.90)
	Apiary rent		
	Training course running costs	(328.79)	(863.38)
	Training Equipment		
	Autumn Convention costs		
	Show judge & trophy engraving	(62.00)	(87.60)
	Honey show	(31.35)	
Other resources expended	Miscellaneous costs	(416.50)	(131.00)
Governance Costs	AGM costs	(578.40)	
Total resources expended		(3,308.87)	(3,343.79)
Net in/outgoing resources before transfers		1,854.43	779.47
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County		0.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		1,854.43	779.47
	Opening Cash funds	17,847.42	17,067.95
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	19,701.85	17,847.42
Liabilities	Income related to following year		
TOTAL FUNDS		19,701.85	17,847.42

BRANCH APIARY HONEY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey brought forward at 1 January (lbs)	***0***
This years branch apiary honey harvest	*428*
Sales of honey in the year	*(428)*
Payment in honey - to non CBKA members (e.g. landowners)	
Branch apiary honey carried forward at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer - P Woodhead
Auditor - P Smith

Statement of Financial Activities - Mid Cheshire

		Mid Cheshire 2023	*Mid Cheshire 2022*
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	*£*
Voluntary income	Admissions	583.49	*333.11*
	Donations	2,100.00	
Activities for generating funds	Fundraising raffle		*66.00*
Incoming resources from charitable activities	Donations	701.33	*486.68*
	Extractor hire		*20.00*
	Training courses	430.00	
Other incoming resources	Miscellaneous	18.50	*26.20*
Total incoming resources		3,833.32	*931.99*
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income	Room hire	(160.00)	*(140.00)*
	Speakers expenses	(144.00)	*(100.00)*
Cost of charitable activities	Convention costs	(50.00)	*(25.00)*
	Catering/ refreshments	(20.00)	
	Apiary running costs	(2,376.78)	
	Training equipment	(562.05)	
	Miscellaneous	(28.78)	*(172.11)*
	Honey show printing & stationery	(41.38)	
	Library books	0.00	*(117.00)*
Total resources expended		(3,382.99)	*(554.11)*
Net in/outgoing resources before transfers		450.33	*377.88*
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County	460.00	*340.00*
	Other transfers between branches		
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		910.33	*717.88*
	Opening Cash funds	3,682.22	*2,964.34*
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	4,592.55	*3,682.22*
TOTAL FUNDS		4,592.55	*3,682.22*

Treasurer - S Johnson
Audited - R Ibbett

Statement of Financial Activities - South Cheshire

		South 2023	South 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	£
Voluntary income	Admissions		
	Donations		
Activities for generating funds	Fundraising raffle	564.60	485.00
Investment income	Interest income	6.04	0.41
Incoming resources from charitable activities	Training courses	1,930.00	2,295.00
	Honey and bee sales	2,675.00	472.50
	Other sales		109.25
	Value of apiairy honey used for payments	210.00	210.00
	Extractor rental	5.00	12.00
	Miscellaneous income	15.00	52.97
Total incoming resources		5,405.64	3,637.13
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income	Room hire	(176.00)	(678.00)
	Speakers expenses	(112.00)	(275.00)
	Printing & stationery		
	BDI payments	(15.60)	
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(97.28)	(1.75)
Cost of charitable activities	Apiary running costs	(1,055.23)	(3,609.33)
	Apiary rent	(200.00)	(200.00)
	Training course running costs	(719.20)	(507.00)
	Training equipment	(728.16)	(234.59)
	Dinner costs		
	Library	(10.00)	(58.94)
	Autumn Convention costs		
	Honey Show prizes	(104.24)	(99.35)
	Honey show printing and stationery	(558.99)	(1,036.61)
Other resources expended	Miscellaneous costs	(29.00)	(133.00)
	Auditor	(10.00)	(10.00)
Total resources expended		(3,815.70)	(6,843.57)
Net in/outgoing resources before transfers		1,589.94	(3,206.44)
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County	0.00	0.00
	Branch library grant		
	Other branch transfers		
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		1,589.94	(3,206.44)
	Opening Cash funds	8,340.51	11,546.95
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	9,930.45	8,340.51
TOTAL FUNDS		9,930.45	8,340.51

BRANCH APIARY HONEY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey brought forward at 1 January (lbs)		***426.5***
This years branch apiary honey harvest		*251*
Sales of honey in the year		*(589.5)*
Payment in honey	*- to non CBKA members (e.g. landowners)*	*(22)*
	- to CBKA non trustee members (e.g. volunteers)	*0*
	- to CBKA trustees covering no more than expens	*0*
Branch apiary honey carried forward at 31 December (lbs)		***65.5***

Treasurer - D Smith
Audited - J Owen

Statement of Financial Activities - Stockport

		Stockport 2023	Stockport 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	£
Voluntary income	Admissions	202.00	175.10
	Donations	97.00	
	Show entry fees	13.00	
Activities for generating funds	Bee day		902.18
	Fundraising dinner	416.00	
Investment income	Interest income	91.54	14.11
Incoming resources from charitable activities	Training courses	3,737.00	1,350.00
	Honey and bee sales	266.00	1,022.00
	Other sales - ambrosia	3,127.70	2,850.74
	Jar sales	575.50	
	Miscellaneous	11.10	
Total incoming resources		8,536.84	6,314.13
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income	Running expenses	(315.53)	(281.89)
	Room hire	(1,574.60)	(535.00)
	Speakers expenses	(150.00)	(301.00)
	BDI payments	(9.75)	(22.20)
	Printing & stationery		(39.52)
	Postage costs		(33.42)
	Purchase of books		(16.66)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		(30.65)
	Cost of sales	(1,637.31)	
	Net Ambrosia cost	(2,293.20)	(3,942.00)
	Bee day		(279.75)
	Dinner costs	(800.50)	(83.83)
Cost of charitable activities	Apiary running costs	(2,394.00)	(2,066.23)
	Training course running costs	(327.92)	(210.16)
	Training equipment	(613.00)	(6.70)
	Library books		
	Honey show printing and stationery	(362.63)	(120.40)
	Show judge & trophy engraving	(117.68)	(118.55)
	50th anniversary celebration costs		
	Autumn Convention costs		(25.00)
	Equipment for schools and scouts		(633.72)
	Miscellaneous costs	(582.40)	(194.32)
Other resources expended	AGM costs		
	Miscellaneous costs	(315.03)	(202.50)
Total resources expended		(11,493.55)	(9,143.50)
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		(2,956.71)	(2,829.37)
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County	0.00	0.00
	Library grant	0.00	0.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		(2,956.71)	(2,829.37)
	Opening Cash funds	19,362.49	22,191.86
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	16,405.78	19,362.49
TOTAL FUNDS		16,405.78	19,362.49

BRANCH APIARY HONEY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey brought forward at 1 January (lbs)	***91***	
Correction to opening honey stock		Treasurer - A Taylor
This years branch apiary honey harvest	*82*	Audited - L Hudson
Sales of honey in the year	*(54)*	
Payment in honey - to non CBKA members (e.g. landowners)		
Gifts of honey		
Branch apiary honey carried forward at 31 December (lbs)	***118.5***	

Statement of Financial Activities - Wirral

		Wirral General 2023	*Wirral General* 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	*£*
Voluntary income	Admissions		
Activities for Generating Funds	Raffle		
Investment income	Interest	117.75	*12.04*
Incoming resources from charitable activities	Training courses	3,360.00	*0.00*
	Equipment sales		
Total incoming resources		3,477.75	*12.04*
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income	Room hire	(200.00)	*(507.50)*
	Speakers expenses	(194.50)	*(70.20)*
	Postage costs		
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		*(171.30)*
Cost of charitable activities	Training course running costs	(312.00)	*(231.00)*
	Training equipment		
	Miscellaneous costs	(38.30)	
Other resources expended	Miscellaneous costs	(58.17)	*(24.71)*
Total resources expended		(802.97)	*(1,004.71)*
Net in/outgoing resources before transfers		2,674.78	*(992.67)*
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County	0.00	*0.00*
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		2,674.78	*(992.67)*
	Opening Cash funds	14,274.57	*15,267.24*
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	16,949.35	*14,274.57*
TOTAL FUNDS		16,949.35	*14,274.57*

BRANCH APIARY HONEY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey brought forward at 1 January (lbs)	***0***
This years branch apiary honey harvest	*0*
Sales of honey in the year	*0*
Payment in honey	*0*
Branch apiary honey carried forward at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer - J Hamilton
Audited - R Spencer

Equipment Held by the Association Available to Borrow

These must be collected in person and returned by the agreed date.

Observation hive Pam and Stuart Hatton. (Tel 01925 263023)

Honey extractors Most branches hold honey extractors for hire to members for a nominal sum. Please contact your branch secretary for details.

Library books A selection of library books is available for loan from branch libraries. Please contact your branch librarian for details. These are listed in the branch reports.

Archive materials A selection of CBKA archive materials is held by Peter Sutcliffe. (Tel: 01477 535374)

Microscopy equipment Microscopes and associated equipment are held by Graham Royle. (Tel 01260 252042)

Please note that the borrower is responsible for the careful use and safe return of all equipment borrowed.



List of Holders of the Canon Evans Memorial Cup

This Trophy is awarded annually for service to Cheshire Beekeeping

1925 E.W. Franklin
1926 A.J. Blakeman
1927 Miss L. Brooks
1928 E.P. Hinde
1929 W. Stokoe
1930 H. Stubbs
1931 Rev. H.W. Comber
1932 W. Bradburn
1933 H. Cropper
1934 D.J. Hemming
1935 R.G. Williams
1936 H. Hope
1937 T.A. Jones
1938 H.H. Brook
1939 E.W. Hughes
1940 T.W. Wilbraham
1941 T. Moore
1942 B.O. Rayson
1943 A. Shaw
1944 J. Rhind
1945 Miss E. Goodier
1946 J.E. Palmer
1947 H.B. Eaton
1948 Mrs M.E.H. Edgerley
1949 Mrs Dunkerley
1950 G.E. Hancox
1951 E. Wallis
1952 Sir E.B. Royden, bart.
1953 J.F. Johnson
1954 A. Witter
1955 D. Heaton
1956 D.R. Hardy
1957 E.F. Marchant
1958 W.A. Dutton
1959 W.R. Burgess
1960 Mrs G. White
1961 J. Wright
1962 H.H. Jackson
1963 V.D. Wavish
1964 W. Vickers
1965 G.E. Morgan
1966 W.S. Basnett
1967 J.W. Corbett
1968 G.W. Banwell CBE, MC
1969 F. Griffiths
1970 Miss L. Manley
1971 J.D. Frimston FBBKA
1972 R. Brandon
1973 G. E. Mitchell
1974 D. Smart
1975 W. Horn
1976 J.C. Tucker
1977 Mrs M. Griffiths
1978 J. Smart
1979 Mrs E. Robinson
1980 Dr. R.Bennett
1981 J. Nixon
1982 S.S. Hancock
1983 K.J. McMorine
1984 E. Mobbs
1985 J. Todd
1986 B. Stonehouse
1987 H. Holland
1988 J. Hunt
1989 I.S. McLean
1990 R.S. Ayliffe
1991 A.A.J & Mrs B.J. van Suchtelen
1992 D. Lockett
1993 H.J.V. Charlton
1994 B. Chapman
1995 Mrs. H. Turner
1996 H.A. Buckley
1997 M.F. Haynes
1998 P. Collinge
1999 Mrs. B Bryant
2000 E.F. Hilder
2001 R. Parsonage
2002 M.R. Brierley
2003 M. Minter
2004 J.S. Hollinshead
2005 S.L. Kidman
2006 S. & Mrs P.A. Hatton
2007 R. Brocklehurst
2008 G.F. Royle
2009 R. Burns
2010 S.B. Guest
2011 S.K. Nuttall
2012 T.E. Ashley
2013 P. Sutcliffe
2014 J. Goodwin
2015 D. Buckley
2016 D. Ryan
2017 Mrs L. Jacques
2018 No award made
2019 Mrs E. Camm
2020 G. Platt
2021 J. Sadler
2022 A. Towse
2023 Mrs I. Large



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THE CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 227494

Accounts

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET for 2022

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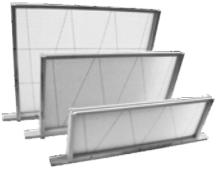
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CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Founded 1899. Registered Charity No. 227494
(Affiliated to the BBKA formerly Lancashire & Cheshire BKA - Founded 1882)

COMMITTEE FOR 2022

President:	Mrs P.A. HATTON	Hatton	Tel. 01925 263023
Chair:	P. SUTCLIFFE	Holmes-Chapel	Tel. 01477 532171
Vice-chair:	Mrs L. JACQUES	Hartford	Tel. 07788 744086

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, Willaston	(2024)	G. F. Royle, Macclesfield	(2024)
J.S. Hollinshead, Betchton	(2024)	P. Sutcliffe, Holmes Chapel	(2026)
N. Brierly, Irby	(2023)	A. G. Platt, Hartford	(2023)
Mrs E. Brindle, Warrington	(2026)	Mrs J. Young, Antrobus	(2025)
Mrs L. Parker, Little Budworth	(2026)		

BRANCH CHAIRS AND TREASURERS ON COMMITTEE

North Cheshire	S. HATTON, Hatton; P. WOODHEAD, Helsby
South Cheshire	D. FRAY, Congleton; D. SMITH, Goostrey
Stockport	P. CAREFOOT, Glossop; A. TAYLOR, Stockport
Wirral	N. BRIERLEY, Irby; N. W. ASHTON, Willaston
Mid Cheshire	K. COLYER, Northwich; S & N. D. JOHNSON, Antrobus

HON. SECRETARY

Mrs E.A. CAMM, Magpie Manor, Wistaston Green Rd, Crewe CW2 8SA, Tel: 07827 297144

HON. TREASURER

S.K. NUTTALL: Spurstow Lodge, Peckforton Hall Lane, Spurstow CW6 9TF, Tel: 01829 260456

CONVENTIONS SECRETARY

Mrs P.A. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ,
Tel: 01925 263023

DELEGATE TO BBKA ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING

Mrs L. JACQUES: 5 Millwood Drive, Hartford, CW8 2ZJ, Tel: 07788 744086

COUNTY ARCHIVIST

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

SHOW MANAGER

Mrs S. JOHNSON, 2 Frandley Brow Cottage, Sandiway Lane, Antrobus CW9 6LD, 01606 891318

HON. AUDITOR

J. SHEEKEY BSc. ACMA: 19 Eaton Mews, Chester, CH4 7EZ.

YEAR BOOK AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

S. C. DONOHOE: 375 Barlow Moor Road, Manchester M21 7FZ, Tel. 07432 476005

EDUCATION SECRETARY

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

EXAMINATION SECRETARY

S. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ,
Tel: 01925 263023

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, M.F. Haynes, J.S. Hollinshead, D. Lockett, I.S. McLean, A.A.J. van Suchtelen, Mrs P. A. Hatton, S. Hatton, R. Brocklehurst, G. Royle

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

2022 has been something of a 'transitional' year! By that I mean transiting from COVID restrictions being top of the agenda, to no COVID restrictions because we are learning to live with the virus and getting back to 'normal' life. Zoom meetings were the norm through most of January and into February, including module and beginners' theory courses. Slowly but surely, starting with Branch AGM's, live meetings began again.

We had two named storms in February, Storm Dudley and Storm Franklin - and then Russia invaded Ukraine and it wasn't just the weather causing concern! Suddenly the whole world was in crisis, the invasion causing repercussions concerning energy supplies and food that we are still living with.

However, all this didn't deter our first live CBKA Spring Convention and AGM at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club, and how great it was to be back at a live County event, meeting beekeeping friends old and new. Other conventions were also under way; Bee Tradex and the Welsh BKA Convention, closely followed by the BBKA Spring Convention at Harper Adams. This was followed at the end of April by the CBKA Auction, then in June the Cheshire Show was very successful for the Mid Cheshire branch who enjoyed glorious summer weather. Cheshire Beekeepers were at RHS Tatton Flower Show again in July, although not in one of the big marquees as usual. The weather was very hot in July and apiary meetings were well under way, as well as beginners' practical sessions. Six people took the Basic Assessment in August, although unusually, without doing the theory sessions. Even so, they all passed, which should encourage anyone considering taking the Basic Assessment in the future!

Then in September another shock – the death of our dear Queen. We now have a King! Another 'transitional' event, certainly in the UK, and much more deeply felt than the passage of all the prime ministers through the doors of Number 10 that we have had this year!

The joint heather meeting for Wirral and North Cheshire Branches was cancelled in September due to EFB in the Llandegla area, despite the promise of a good crop. It wasn't worth risking the health of our bees for what is usually a very enjoyable meeting, and then in October the Autumn Convention at Forest Hills was another enjoyable event, and module theory courses got under way, using zoom once again!

So, have we transitioned away from Covid and back to normality? I would say, yes, we have, but it is a 'new' normal. Attendances at meetings are still not what they were – the pandemic has had a big psychological impact that will take some getting over, but we are getting there. Many beekeepers have reported good crops of honey this year, as evidenced by successful branch honey shows and the display at the county honey show at Forest Hills, and there are plenty of events planned for the spring of 2023, which are getting booked up quickly. So, lots of beekeeping events to look forward to.

Of course, all these events need organising, and volunteers to run them, and I would like to thank all the County Committee, and the Branch Committees, as well as individual beekeepers who work so hard to keep everything running smoothly. Following COVID and the war in Ukraine, the economy in the UK is struggling, like many other European countries, but this hasn't affected the number of people wanting to take up beekeeping as a hobby. Many of the beginner courses were already full in early Autumn! Our bees continue to give us pleasure despite what is happening in the big wide world, and this is as it should be.

May all your supers be full ones. Happy Beekeeping!

Pam Hatton
President

COMMITTEE REPORT FOR YEAR 2022

This report details the work carried out by the Committee on behalf of the membership for the year ended December 2022.

The year's main meeting is our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year the meeting was held at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club, Northwich, at 11.30am during the Cheshire BKA Spring Convention. The AGM was free for all CBKA Members to attend if they wished. Members were welcomed to the AGM by the President, Pam Hatton, who commented that it was great to be back to a 'live' meeting after two years of living through a pandemic. The President then handed over to our Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe.

Apologies for absence were noted from Nichola Summerfield (S Cheshire), Pamela Cubbin (S Cheshire), Isabel Large (S Cheshire), Nick Johnson (Mid Cheshire), Sarah Johnson (Mid Cheshire), Nigel Brierley (Wirral). The meeting paused in silence for a few moments to respect members who had died recently: John Hebron (Wirral), Susan Hewitt (Stockport), Derek Lockett (Stockport), and Jenni Joynt (Stockport).
Stuart Forbes and Stuart Hatton were appointed as Tellers.

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true record of proceedings, and there were no matters arising. Pam Hatton was elected as President for the coming year. As there was only one candidate for the remaining offices, it was proposed and agreed that existing Officers of the Association and other members be elected en bloc. The position of Social Media Manager was vacant as the current post-holder had stepped down.

There were two propositions to be considered by the meeting. The first, proposed by the Cheshire BKA Committee, was concerned with changes to the Cheshire BKA rules. The details of the proposed changes had been circulated to the membership previously. Following a lively debate, it was decided to adjourn the matter until the 2023 AGM to give the Committee time to consider the issues raised. The second proposition, to increase the Country Membership fee to £20, was agreed.

The Edgar Mobbs Shield is awarded annually to the highest achieving student taking BBKA exams in the previous year and was presented to Mark McLoughlin.

The Canon Evans Cup for Services to Beekeeping in Cheshire was awarded to Alan Towse, a valued and long-standing member of the Stockport Branch. Alan teaches and organises the beginners' course, works at the branch apiary, is a swarm collector and works closely with Stockport Council to promote beekeeping in the town. As Education Secretary, he gives regular talks to local schools. He has helped Bramhall High School to establish an apiary at the school.

Membership
The Registered and Partner membership at the end of September 2022 was North Cheshire Branch 159, South Cheshire 170, Stockport 209 (includes 1 School Member), Wirral 125 (includes 1 School Member), Mid Cheshire 91, Non-Branch 1. There are also 30 Associate members, 56 Country members, 20 Friends, 11 Juniors. This gives an Association total membership of 872 (854 in 2021). (This does not include new members joining after October 1, as they will be counted in the 2023 figures.)
Membership of a Branch is only through membership of the Association, and only membership of CBKA gives access to all the benefits. Any member of CBKA is entitled to attend any Branch meeting.

Weather and crop
The rainfall in 2022 (2021 rainfall) recorded by Malcolm Haynes in Stockport was Jan 44mm (191mm), Feb 48mm (59mm), March 15 mm

(81mm), April 27 mm (15mm), May 61mm (137mm), June 29 mm (12mm), July 48mm (149mm), Aug 44mm (37mm), Sept 82mm (41mm), Oct 114mm (105mm), Nov 116mm (79mm), Dec 73mm (156mm) total for 2022 in the Stockport area was 801mm. This compares to 1062mm for the same period last year. Equivalent rainfall figures for South Cheshire recorded by Liz Camm in Nantwich were Jan 39mm (144mm), Feb 240mm (138mm), March 64mm (63mm), April 56mm (17mm), May 32mm (107mm), June 65mm (28mm), July 47mm (13mm), August 23 mm (56mm), Sept 81mm (92mm), Oct 96mm (58mm), Nov 111mm (95 mm), Dec 55mm (130mm). The total in 2022 for the South Cheshire area was 909mm. This compares to 942mm for the same period last year.

Reports have been received from some Cheshire BKA Branches regarding the 2022 honey crop. Generally, all appeared to have had a better than average year, with most stating improved or even "best ever" yields. New beekeepers reported getting a first-year crop and much drawn comb. Even when beekeepers had disruption due to swarming and poor or unmated queens, the colonies have been productive. The honey seems to have been noticeably lighter in colour than last year. Despite any concerns about drought, the hot weather seems to have suited our bees. However, some, mainly the more rural apiaries, experienced lower yields in summer. This was possibly due to the extreme summer heat. Late summer crops were boosted by Himalayan Balsam.

BBKA examinations – see the separate report by the Examinations' Officer.

Conventions and meetings

Following a hiatus of about two years when branch meetings could not be held in person, the usual Branch programmes of monthly meetings and apiary meetings again took place as the year progressed. (See the individual branch reports for further details.)

Spring Convention

Following last year's 'virtual' Spring Convention, this year, the CBKA Spring Convention was held again at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club. The speakers at the well-attended day were Dr Martin Bencsik from Nottingham Trent University, who spoke about his research into the various sounds and vibrations of bees inside bee hives. Trisha Marlowe talked about the work of the charity Bees Abroad, and Lynfa Davies explained various methods of Queen rearing.

Members' Honey Show and Autumn Convention

The Autumn Convention and members' Honey Show were again held at Forest Hills Hotel. Although attendance was not as large as might have been hoped, those members that did attend listened to three fascinating talks. Liam Olds talked about the many different pollinators in the UK; Lynne Ingram spoke about the growing problem of honey fraud and adulteration, and Gerry Collins talked about some common beekeeping problems and what to do about them.

At the end of the afternoon, members could view the honey show exhibits, and trophies were presented to the winners.

Committee meetings

The Chairperson and Treasurer of each branch are members ex officio of the County Committee. Each branch has, therefore, two representatives at the County level. In addition, there are up to twelve elected members. The elected members serve for four years on a rolling programme of elections. The Committee meets four times a year in January, April, September and December. Any relevant business to be discussed and any suggestions for consideration should be forwarded via the branch or elected representatives to the County Secretary for inclusion in the agenda, which is posted or emailed out no later than one week before the meeting. Meetings usually are held at Frodsham Community Centre. This year the meetings in January and April were held remotely, and the

September and December meetings were held at Frodsham. At the January meeting held via Zoom, Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022, especially David Fray (South Cheshire) and Karl Colyer (Mid Cheshire), who had each been elected to the chair of their branch at recent Branch AGM's.

The Treasurer, Simon Nuttall, reported on the Association's finances for 2021. All Branches made a surplus, but the County made a deficit over the previous year. Association finances as a whole had increased to £94,255, an increase of £2,673 over the previous year. The County holds 25% of the funds, North Cheshire 18%, South Cheshire 12%, Stockport 24%, Wirral 16% and Mid Cheshire 3%. There are also two endowment funds containing 2% of the Association funds. The accounts are made up on a Cash Basis, so subscriptions paid in December 2021 for the year to the end of 2022 are included in the 2021 accounts.

Branch Treasurers outlined their spending plans for the year. North Cheshire Treasurer Peter Woodhead said that similar costs to 2021 were expected in 2022. Spending plans included revamping the Branch Apiary at a cost in the region of £1,200. South Cheshire Treasurer Dee Smith said there were increased costs for the Branch Apiary because of the move to Reaseheath College, including £1,200 running costs and £1,800 for new equipment to accommodate an increased number of colonies. There were also plans to purchase different kinds of hives for demonstration purposes and possibly a wax extractor for loan to members. Dee pointed out that there are practical difficulties to initiating new projects as they all require people to volunteer to make them work. Wirral Branch Treasurer Nick Ashton reported that the Branch Committee would be meeting soon to discuss 2022 plans. Consideration will be given to the provision of a Branch Apiary. A consultation with members was being held to find out what they would like. Stockport Branch Treasurer Alistair Taylor said that Stockport had £22,000 in the bank account, which has built up over time due to training courses and the sale of honey. Stockport Council has provided an apiary site free of charge. A building for meetings and the Committee considers that a contingency amount of £11,000 is required to cover costs for two years in case the current situation does not continue. Plans include £20 vouchers to spend with a local beekeeping supplier for each person who completes the Stockport Introductory course and the bulk purchase of Ambrosia, which would be self-financing after an initial cash outlay. Apiary costs and other expenditures meant an overall total of £17,900. Mid Cheshire Treasurer Sarah Johnson said that the branch was planning increased expenditure on speakers this year and higher room hire expenses as meetings were held at the Blue Cap hotel.
A sub-committee had met to review the Association's finances. Graham Royle was thanked for refining a spreadsheet initially produced by the Treasurer. This allowed members to 'play' with the numbers to try different options. The sub-committee had come to a consensus on some things and agreed that a suitable cash reserve for the County would be £15,000; however, Simon said that a Reserves Policy for the Association as a whole must be considered. It was agreed that the County could not be considered in isolation from the Branches.

Chairperson Pete Sutcliffe reported back from the sub-committee that had met to consider changes to the Association Constitution, probably the most significant changes to our Constitution in 70 years. A draft of the amended Constitution with highlighted changes had been circulated before the meeting. The proposition that the changes should be accepted by the Committee and recommended to the membership at the AGM was carried after 10 voted for, 7 against and 3 abstentions. A proposed change to para 5g regarding attendance at Committee meetings was not agreed upon.

ADM Delegate Lesley Jacques reported back on the recent ADM. She was pleased to tell the Committee that Mark McLoughlin had been

awarded the prestigious Wax Chandlers' Award for the highest overall marks in the Master Beekeeper Examinations.

At the April meeting this year, again held via Zoom, the Committee re-elected Pete Sutcliffe as their Chairperson and Lesley Jacques as Deputy Chairperson.

Treasurer Simon Nuttall reported that there was currently around £19,000 in the current and deposit accounts and £16,000 in the Building Society account. Payments amounting to £18.000 were due to BBKA for capitation, BDI, and to the printer for the latest magazine. Simon expected the balance for CBKA to go negative this year because of the increased cost base.

The Treasurer agreed to head up a sub-group to consider a Reserves Policy to put to the Committee: this should take into account the Association as a whole, not just the County. This report would be included in his Treasurer's report at the end of the year. Pete Sutcliffe, Peter Carefoot, Julia Young, and Nick Ashton made up the sub-group with Simon.

The Spring Convention and AGM were reviewed. Attendance at the Convention was better than expected, with around 65 members enjoying the day. The venue for the Spring Convention in 2023 will be Forest Hills Hotel, as the rate is much better than other venues. The AGM went well, apart from the discussion about Rule changes.

Chairperson Pete Sutcliffe welcomed members to the September meeting. Bex Ruskin had been co-opted to the Committee as Social Media Manager, and Pete extended a special welcome to her. This was the first face-to-face meeting since January 2020. Pete said he planned to canvas opinions on whether to meet in person for the winter meetings or revert to Zoom meetings.

Under Matters Arising, Peter Carefoot reported on the successful Bee Health Day at Aquinas College. 53 people had attended. Pete Sutcliffe thanked Graham Royle for his role in organising the CBKA Auction in April. Graham reported there had been 200 lots and nucs for sale, and turnover was about £10,000, generating a £400 surplus for the Association.

The Treasurer, Simon Nuttall, sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting. He sent a report that was read out by the Chairperson. County funds total £18,319, of which £16,125 is on deposit at the Vernon Building Society. The Autumn BBKA capitation payment and BDI payment would be due at the end of the month and would amount to £1,900. There would also be a printer's invoice. Member subscriptions will start to come in from the beginning of December.

The Reserves Policy sub-group report was also read out by Pete Sutcliffe. The recommendation was that the Association should not have a Reserves Policy. The Charities Commission does not require a Reserves Policy but has to be informed that we do not have one. The Committee agreed with this recommendation and that County funds should not be allowed to fall below £16,500. There was still the question of how to manage funds held by the branches, and it was agreed that this discussion should be postponed until the Treasurer was present.

Currently, magazines and the Year Book are sent to all eligible members unless they opt out of receiving printed copies. The magazine and year Book are available to members on the CBKA website. It was agreed by the Committee that the 2023 membership form, both the paper form and online renewal form, would have tick boxes to opt in or opt out of the printed copies of either or both of the publications.

The amended Cheshire Rules document had only been circulated a few days before the meeting, and some members had not had time to go through it in detail. Members found the document format somewhat confusing, so the Chairperson agreed to recirculate it in a clearer form. After they had had time to read and consider the document, members were asked to

email their comments to Pete Sutcliffe.

The December meeting was again held at Frodsham Community Centre. The Treasurer reported that the Association funds as a whole stood at around £94,000. However, the funds are distributed between the Association bank account and the five Branch accounts. The Association bank account balance fluctuates significantly throughout the year leading to a low balance in October before the membership renewal fees for the following year are received. £4,800 in Gift Aid had recently been received. Association funds should be spent for the benefit of members rather than large sums being held in Branch bank accounts. Branch Treasurers will explain their branch spending plans for 2023 at the January meeting. It was agreed that capitation payments would not be made to the Branches this year, apart from to Mid Cheshire Branch, as it is currently the smallest branch and has limited funds available.

Further discussion took place on the CBKA Rules, and changes were agreed to recommend to the AGM in March 2023.

Other Shows and Events

Cheshire BKA members were able to participate in several public events this year despite some interruptions following the Covid epidemic. There was no invitation to have a stand at the Blue Dot Festival this year. We participated in the RHS Show at Tatton. The stand we were offered was much less generous than in previous years despite all the gold medals awarded in the past and the massive public interest. Cheshire has always put on a good show at these events. This is due to a lot of hard work and dedication from a small group of people, in particular, Sarah Johnson and Dave Curbishley at the Cheshire Show and Mark and Andrea Phillipson at Tatton this year. All members are strongly encouraged to give a hand with these events. They do add to your experience and enjoyment of beekeeping.

As usual, over the year, there were many enquiries from members of the public wishing to start up beekeeping and looking for advice, as well as the typical range of questions about bumble and solitary bees, wasps and other stinging insects. The Committee thanks all those who assisted in answering questions and helping the enquirers to access the information they needed.

During 2022 we sadly lost 4 of our members, Derek Lockett (Stockport), Jenni Joynt (Stockport), Chris Pownall (North Cheshire) and Ian McLean (non-Branch). Please do let the Secretary know of any members who pass on so that, as an Association, we can collectively pay our respects.

We wish you every success for the coming year, 2023.

Pete Sutcliffe
Chairperson

Elizabeth Camm
Hon. General Secretary

EDUCATION SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2022

This year saw a return at least towards the normal, although attendance at meetings and events has been down on previous years.

Beginners' Courses
Most of the "Introduction to Beekeeping" courses went ahead "in person", and here numbers are not down! The large numbers on these courses cause problems in terms of giving the students enough practical experience and mentoring as a follow-up. Branches need as many volunteers as they can get to mentor new beekeepers. You do not have to be an "expert" – just willing to give advice or get advice from someone else if you are unable to answer the question.

Basic Assessment
After the glut last year there was a dip in the number of people wanting to take the Basic Assessment, but those wanting to enter were coached towards it. We will advertise courses towards this again next year.

Study Groups
A pattern for study groups has by now established itself, whereby each BBKA module is covered every second year. At the moment there are three study groups involving about 20 members from all five Branches, basing their studies on the syllabuses for Modules 1: "Honeybee Management", 5: "Honeybee Biology" and 6: "Honeybee behaviour". These are led by Pam and Stuart Hatton, Lesley Jacques, and Pete Sutcliffe respectively.

This time the three leaders opted for Zoom from the start because of the advantages of online meetings where the group includes people from all four corners of Cheshire. I think all the participants are happy not to have to travel long distances on dark evenings in inclement weather, and pictures and papers can be presented very easily on the screen.

Although we are following the BBKA syllabuses, there is no pressure on the participants to enter for the examination. The emphasis in Cheshire is on support and training in practical beekeeping, in order to help people enjoy the craft. We will fully support those who, later, feel they are ready to try for an examination.

We felt unable to offer the usual higher level "hands-on" training sessions in practical beekeeping because of uncertainty. We hope to be able to offer something on those lines next year. One microscopy course went ahead with very small numbers and another had to be cancelled because of lack of support. Please look out for notifications about training opportunities and make use of them where you can.

All training opportunities will be advertised in the magazine and on the website. Please get in touch with me with any suggestions as to how we could help you develop your beekeeping skills.

Pete Sutcliffe
Education Secretary

EXAMINATION SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2022

With the implementation of the on-line system for written exams in April 2021, the demand for the hand written option has dramatically fallen. Most members seem to choose the on-line option which has led to a reduction in hand written modules. The Exam Board took the decision to phase out hand written modules and in 2025 only on-line modules would be available.

When the changes were published, the Exam Board received feedback from associations and individuals, stating that this disadvantages

members with inadequate IT skills, or internet access. At the last Exam Board meeting, the decision to discontinue the hand written exams has been withdrawn.

Hand written modules will continue providing there are a minimum of 4 applicants and one invigilator present. Area Associations are to facilitate the process of consolidating candidates from neighbouring associations into a venue convenient to all.
Refunds will only be considered in the event of illness, injury of the candidate or sudden death of an immediate family member occurring within (2) weeks prior to the examination or assessment.
17 members have taken written and practical exams in Cheshire this year,
6 basic and 11 module exams.
Examination successes are:

Basic Assessment
Carl Nichols (Distinction), Mark Sargent (Credit), Lorraine Shuker (Credit), Margaret Charlton (Credit), Ian Turley (Credit), Jane Turley (Credit)
Module 1
Warwick Wheatley (Credit), Anastasia Mochalova (Pass), James Tatlow (Pass), Machael Dale (Pass)
Module 2
Warwick Wheatley (Credit)
Module 3
Michael Dale (Credit), Christopher Cornwell-Lee (Credit), Anastasia Mochalova (Pass), James Tatlow. (Pass)
Module 7
Graham Fifoot (Pass)
Module 8
David Fray (Credit)
Intermediate Theory Certificate
Anastasia Mochalova (Pass), James Tatlow (Pass), Michael Dale (Pass)
Advanced Theory Certificate
David Fray (Distinction)

All certificates will be awarded at the Cheshire County Spring Convention and AGM at the Forest Hills Hotel, Overton Hill, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 6HH on Saturday 25th March 2023. Dates for module exams in 2023 are Saturday 18th March, closing date for entry is 10th February 2023. For Saturday 18th November, closing date for entry is 5th October 2023.

If you require any further information on what is involved with any of the examinations, please email me at hattonstuart1@gmail.com or Tel 07778592835.

Stuart Hatton

CBKA AUTUMN CONVENTION REPORT 2022

This year's event was our first 'in person' Autumn Convention since 2019 and it was very satisfying to be back at Forest Hills greeting bee friends old and new! Numbers were down slightly, but in some respects that made it a more relaxed event. Once the honey show entries had been staged, everyone sat around drinking coffee and eating biscuits, or browsing the trade stand provided by Hatton Lodge Apiary and the large selection of books provided by Northern Bee Books, until the first lecture, which was Liam Olds talking about the Diversity of Pollinators in Britain. Usually, we are regaled with talk of loss of habitat and problems due to climate change, but thanks to some excellent photographs, Liam explained that it was not all bad news, and some species are actually thriving.

After more refreshments, the second lecture got us all stirred up. Lynne Ingram's talk 'The Truth about Honey' was a bit of a shocker as she explained about adulterated honey and what it was doing to honey prices and the livelihoods of beekeepers worldwide. Lynne asked us all to sign the BBKA's latest petition to get the government to change the honey labelling regulations so that they show the country of origin, not just 'produce of the EU', and she has set up a Facebook page, 'HAN UK' which anyone can look at and support. One of the most important things each of us as beekeepers can do is not to undersell our own honey, which

is a fantastic health-giving, natural product. Lunch was a two course, sit down meal served in the sunlit restaurant, but we didn't have time for an after-lunch snooze as our Chair, Pete Sutcliffe, decided to draw the raffle of excellent prizes donated by the branches, and this was followed by Gerry Collins' talk, which also kept us wide-awake. Gerry is a popular and knowledgeable speaker who had spent the morning judging the honey show, but his afternoon talk was all about problems in beekeeping: 'What do I do about this?' Gerry has a vast catalogue of photographs illustrating many of the problems we come up against with our bees through the season, and he is also a very humorous speaker, raising many chuckles as we acknowledged some of our own mistakes either as beginners or (shock horror) more experienced beekeepers!

Finally, it was time to go through to the honey show to view the exhibits, listen to the judges' comments and applaud the worthy prize winners. I would like to thank Sarah Johnson, our Honey Show Secretary, and all the stewards who supported her and made the show such a success, and her report will appear separately. I would also like to thank Lesley Jacques and Mark and Andrea Phillipson for organising the books from Northern Bee Books, Polly Smith and Peter Woodhead for selling the books on the day, Stuart Hatton on the trade stand, and Lesley Parker for supervising the raffle. Not to mention our chair, Pete Sutcliff, for compering what was a very enjoyable day. Hope to see you all again next year!

Pam Hatton

CBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW REPORT 2022

It was great to be able to return to The Forest Hills Hotel and hold our annual honey show in conjunction with the Autumn Convention on Saturday 8th October. We were delighted to have an increase in the number of new exhibitors and had over 200 entries in the show.
Our judges John Goodwin, Joyce Nisbet and Jerry Collins spent a busy morning deciding on the winners of the classes and then the special prize cards for the best exhibit in each section of the show and finally awarding the best in show to a beautiful round section, exhibited by Liz Camm.

Sydney Hollinshead sponsored the gift classes and this resulted in 10 jars being gifted to St Luke's Hospice in Winsford. Special thanks go to Frank Kirkham, who gifted some extra jars which will be sold at the Hospice. The Hospice staff have sent their thanks to the CBKA for our contributions from this show and from the Royal Cheshire Show.

Thanks go to our stewards and helpers, Stuart Forbes, Nicki Summerfield, Sue Payge, Ian Turley, Nick Johnson and Frank Kirkham who helped us set up at the beginning of the day. Our microscopy classes were judged by Jerry Collins and he was impressed by the entries which he said were of an extremely high standard. It would be brilliant to have some more entries in these classes next year. Our thanks go to Pete Sutcliffe for bringing the microscopes and setting them up ready for the judging.

The stewards finished their duties in time to join everyone for Jerry Collins hugely informative and entertaining talk and then we returned to the show for the prize giving. Pam Hatton kindly presented the trophies for all the sections and then the County Challenge Shield for the most points earned by members of each branch. North Cheshire were delighted to win (again!) but the other branches were not far behind. Just a few more entries needed from the other branches!
North Cheshire 71 points, Mid-Cheshire 62 points, South Cheshire 40 points, Stockport 32 points

Sarah Johnson

BEE DISEASE REPORT FOR 2022

For the fourth year in a row, there were no cases of notifiable disease found in Cheshire. Despite the ongoing shortage of resources within the National Bee Unit North West Regional team, the number of colony inspections by the Bee Inspectors increased slightly over the 2021 figure. All members need to be vigilant and to check their colonies for notifiable disease. The fact that no cases have been reported in recent years does not mean there is no longer a threat.

A bee health day was organised in May this year by Stockport Branch in conjunction with Bee Inspectors from the National Bee Unit. Some 53 beekeepers from Cheshire and surrounding counties attended.

Two confirmed sightings of Asian Hornet were reported in the UK this year, one near Rayleigh, Essex in September where a nest was found and destroyed and a single insect caught in Felixstowe, Suffolk in April. You can find more information about this on Beebase at www.nationalbeeunit.com.

Please make sure you are registered on Beebase, and that your contact details are up to date, as this will ensure you can be notified immediately if any notifiable disease or Asian Hornets are found in the area and will help the National Bee Unit to manage any outbreaks.

Graham Royle

Bees for Development

Bees take nothing, yet give so much. I can think of no better way than beekeeping to help people in a world where it is crucial that we take care of our fragile environment

Bill Turnull (1956 - 2022)

https://beesfordevelopment.org

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SOUTH CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2022

Branch Chair:	Daid Fray	**Librarian:**	Nichola Summerfield
Vice Chair:	Liz Camm	**Speaker Manager:**	Pete Sutcliffe
Secretary:	Julia Forbes-Leith	**Other Members:**	Nikki Dakin
Treasurer:	Dee Smith		Sydney Hollinshead
Apiary Manager:	Liz Camm		Sheila Hargreaves
Education Secretary:	Isobel Large		Helen Scott
Website Manager:	Marine Godot		Liz Jenkinson
Show Manager:	Alan Smith		Helen Palacz
			Neil Williams

2022 has enabled us to get back to face to face meetings and fully establish the new apiary at Reaseheath College while settling in to Smallwood Village Hall for winter meetings. The legacy of Covid has meant a drop in attendance at all meetings, although it is gradually improving, and membership is as high as ever. January saw David Fray take over as Chairman after Pete Sutcliffe completed his maximum term.

Our January AGM saw a few other changes to the Committee which remains at full strength. We have had several entertaining and informative talks, including Karl Colyer on “Things I wish I had known earlier and David Fray on “Bee Pheromones”. There have also been two joint meetings with North Staffordshire. The summer and winter venues mean that the library has only been available during the winter meetings at Smallwood, where It is now housed in a locked cabinet.

We continue to establish the relationship with Reaseheath College. The new apiary started the year with 14 hives and finished with 17.

A number of beginners have been helping the apiary team. The branch is indebted to all the work that Liz Camm and her team have put in over the year.

This year’s Beginners Course had 24 participants of whom 22 completed the course. 21 people attended two “Taster Days” at Reaseheath College. A workshop was held on Swarm control. While we did not have the option of previous years of helping the Cheshire BKA displays at RHS Tatton or the Cheshire Show, a number of members helped to steward the Nantwich Honey Show in July.

South Cheshire’s own Honey Show in October was well subscribed and Alan Smith was able to engage national judge, Joyce Nesbit.
The year finished with the Christmas Social and Quiz where members and guests were very well fed and challenged by David Fray’s entertaining and not-too-difficult quiz.

Julia Forbes-Leith

NORTH CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2022

Branch Chair:	Stuart Hatton	**Apiary Management Committee:**	
Secretary:	Polly Smith		Peter Woodhead
Treasurer:	Peter Woodhead		Paul Williams
Training Coordinator:	Maria Heywood		Julia Young
Show Manager:	Graham Platt		Polly Smith
Librarian:	Cathy Ellis	**Other Members:**	Pamela Hatton
			Kelvin Heywood
			Graham Fifoot
			John Sadler

Although 2022 was another unsettled year, honeybees kept on working, and North Cheshire Beekeepers kept on looking after their bees and fulfilling their aim of promoting and furthering the craft of beekeeping.

The year started with a setback when a rise in Covid cases meant that the January AGM had to be conducted via Zoom. John Sadler retired from his position as Branch Secretary and Programmes Manager after 10 years of complete dedication and incomparable efficiency; Polly Smith was elected to take over as Secretary, and the role of Programmes Manager is currently being filled by the Branch Committee as a whole. All other officers and committee members were re-elected.

It was disappointing to have to start the 2022 Beginners' Theory course on Zoom, but the 22 trainees were undeterred and attended with equal enthusiasm when face to face sessions became possible in February. Seventeen of them went on to take the practical courses at Walton, Hatton, Chester and Hartford, where they experienced the effects of an unsettled year including swarms, failed and missing queens and laying workers, alongside very strong colonies filling supers faster than they could be replaced. Such challenges might have disconcerted the faint hearted, but in fact both trainers and trainees appreciated the learning opportunities they offered.

As well as providing beginners' training, the Branch also supported its more experienced members: Pam & Stuart Hatton ran a study group for BBKA Module 7, held a practical session for members taking the Basic Assessment, and are currently guiding learners through Module 1. In addition, the Branch hosted a well-attended microscopy course with Graham Royle, and two Wax Workshops run by Pam Hatton.

By February both Covid and the weather had settled enough to allow almost 40 members to get to Frodsham for Alison Hine's excellent presentation on what comes next after starting with a nuc last year: unsurprisingly the answer involved a lot more than simply putting the bees in a hive.

A theme that emerged in the beekeeping press and online forums during 2022, was whether or not to continue treating for varroa. This debate was put into context at the March meeting, in a scholarly but accessible talk from varroa expert Professor Stephen Martin, titled 'understanding varroa mite resistance', in which he explained why best practice might be to 'halve the treatment and double the monitoring'.

The following month, the importance of monitoring varroa also featured in Graham Royle's beautifully illustrated talk on 'Reading the Bees'. Although this was the annual 'disease meeting' the talk focused on healthy as well as diseased colonies; an approach that was justified when the microscopists who had been behind the scenes checking samples of bees for nosema reported that out of 16 colonies tested only two

showed signs of the fungus. Anecdotally, it seemed that variations in colony temperament were more marked than usual in 2022, and the topic arose at the first Branch apiary meeting for two years, when members gathered at Julia Young's apiary on a warm May evening for a demonstration by Ian Molyneux. After explaining the demaree process for swarm control, and showing how to mark and number a queen, Ian shared his criteria for selecting good colonies and rejecting others on the basis of their defensive behaviour: roughly summed up as 'three stings and you're out'.

As well as temperament, from the start of the flying season problems with queens seemed to be a regular topic of conversation and queens were the focus for the June apiary meeting at Hatton Lodge, where Pam and Stuart demonstrated what to do with a colony of laying workers: in this case find a volunteer to climb over the fence to shake the bees out at a suitable distance from the hive site; and how to deal with a queenless hive that had multiple queen cells, by creating two nucs with a queen cell in each. As the Branch meetings programme seemed to be running smoothly, it was no trouble to postpone the July meeting at Mark Phillipson's apiary for a week so he could concentrate on again organising the BBKA stand at RHS Tatton. However, it was particularly unfortunate that Mark then tested positive for Covid and the meeting had to be cancelled at short notice.

There was further disappointment when disease of another kind led to the cancellation of the September Heather Meeting at Llandegla, in this case the presence of EFB in the area. However, the new starters evening in August attracted record numbers of would-be beekeepers, several of whom had signed up for the 2003 training course before the end of the evening.

Despite, or maybe because of the extreme weather conditions during the summer months, the honey harvest across the area showed a significance increase on last year, which may have been a factor in the number of members entering the Branch Honey Show in September for the first time. This was particularly gratifying as for various reasons some of the Branch's more experienced exhibitors chose not to enter this year. Show judge Terry Ashley provided a helpful and entertaining commentary on all the entries, and although he missed having candles to light, or mead to taste, he found compensation in the standard of the confectionary entries.

It was in part thanks to the efforts of new and less experienced members that North Cheshire was once again awarded the County Shield at the CBKA Honey Show in October, and to judge by the success of Pam Hatton's wax workshops, and the attendance of more than 40 at her excellent talk on wax and demonstration of candle making, there may be more entries in wax classes next year. The turn-out for this November meeting was all the more pleasing as the weather was dreadful on the night. Audience sizes are often affected by external conditions, as seen in October when road closures and traffic chaos resulted in a delayed start and smaller than usual numbers attending Geoff Critchley's informative talk on how bees and plants communicate.

However, whatever the weather, interest in bees and beekeeping in the region remained high, and throughout the year requests were received from schools and other organisations wanting beekeepers to give talks or provide information stands at events. Several branch committee members responded by going into schools, and to meetings of clubs and societies, providing information stands at fetes and garden open days, or simply by talking at length about bees to interested members of the public anywhere and everywhere they came across them.

No-one can predict the future, but if we can be certain of anything in 2023, it is that honeybees will keep on working, beekeepers will go on caring for them, and NCBK will continue to provide support and encouragement to keep that relationship strong and fruitful.

Polly Smith

MID CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2022

Branch Chair:	Karl Colyer	**Other Members:**	Lesley Jacques
Secretary:	Ian Turley		Jo Zielinski
Treasurers:	Sarah & Nick Johnson		Dave Wright
Show Manager:	Stuart Forbes		Steve Purkis
Show Steward:	Lesley Parker		Shaun Gee
Librarians:	Sarah & Nick Johnson		

As usual the year started with our branch AGM in January. Lesley Parker stepped down as Chair and Stuart Forbes stepped down as Secretary. This allowed Karl Colyer to be elected to both roles, with Lesley Jacques taking the role of Vice-Chair. Two new committee members were added, Ian Turley and Jo Zielinski joining as general committee members during the AGM. Mid-Cheshire is still the smallest CBKA branch having started on from the 2021 membership year with 76 members but is continuing to steadily grow with 32 new members joining in 2022.

A major new initiative led by Steve Purkis and Sarah Johnson was also started in January with the launch of the "Bee Chat" at the Blue Cap. This is aimed at attracting new and prospective beekeepers to come along to discuss and find out about beekeeping in a less formal surroundings than a branch meeting where people can come and go as needed. These have been held approximately every third Wednesday of the winter months and have been a tremendous success especially contributing significantly to attracting new members to the branch. The end of January saw Steve Purkis and Shaun Gee step down from the committee.

In February, we were entertained by the excellent Mark Phillipson who gave his experiences and advice in beekeeping with "Getting Ready for Spring". This was particularly interesting for new and novice beekeepers as he gave useful tips on preparing for the coming year with examples of the equipment he uses both in normal hives and for queen rearing. He also gave some wise tips about not getting too comfortable in thinking we know everything there is to know and about thinking it is an easy hobby as the bees will surprise us all – little did we know how particularly relevant this would turn out to be with what the 2022 summer would bring!

The second Bee Chat took place, again proving to be very popular with a number of new faces attending and Steve Purkis explaining his smoker box as a very useful addition.

In early March, we had our Beginners' Meeting attracting 35 people to the event; a brief introduction to the craft, allowing potential new beekeepers to attend our summer apiary meetings and even to acquire their own colony of bees during the same season. The meeting at the Blue Cap included a short introductory talk by Karl Colyer with the room laid out with various pieces of kit to allow lots of questions and the new beekeepers the chance of experiencing all the equipment needed. We concluded our first winter of successful sessions of the Bee Chat.

In April, we started the month by "Making Colony Increases" with Bob Beards, who explained a rapid method of increasing your colonies developed by Miller. Amazing that within weeks you could go from 7/8 hives to 56 – Think of all that extra equipment!

Later, the "Bee Chats" moved outdoors with a more practical focus with Nick and Sarah Johnson hosting another first for Mid-Cheshire, with their "Beginners Taster Apiary Meeting" or more aptly "Introduction to Practical Beekeeping" sessions held in their apiary in Antrobus. The event allowed a first chance for

new or novice beekeepers to actually look into a hive, hold a frame and to try and spot the queen – always an interesting task (and am sure Nick and Sarah are just using us to find their queen for them)! Expert tuition was provided with help from Karl Colyer and Steve Purkis. Two sessions were run in the afternoon with over 20 people attending.

In May, we started the first of our summer branch apiary visits at Dave Wright's Oscroft Apiary. An interesting visit as Dave has a selection of different hive types including a top bar hive, (and a top bar nuc of sorts!) long hive, WBC as well as nationals. Interesting to see the different techniques required to inspect.

The Bee Chats switched to Summer "Apiary Training", where different members host a themed training evening at their apiary. This started at Ian and Jane Turley's Kingsmead apiary where, due to the advantageous weather, they were able to demonstrate a Bailey Comb Change, a routine swarm control method and the re-queening (with a frame of eggs from Nick and Sarah Johnson) of a hive with a failing and grumpy queen.

Our June apiary visit was hosted by Lesley Jacques in Hartford, demonstrating merging a colony with newspaper and small queen rearing techniques using mini mating nucs. She also amused the crowd with her blue marked drones showing up in multiple hives, including later in the year in Arley – clearly demonstrating that the drones do not care and will happily visit and live in any hive.

The Mid-Cheshire branch held a successful honey show at The Royal Cheshire Show in June. We were delighted to have entries from each of the branches of Cheshire with entries in twenty-seven classes and a total of seventy exhibits. Our judge, Terry Ashley, was impressed by the quality of the entries and we were able to present some of the trophies which had been held in the trophy vault of the Cheshire show for many years. The honey show remained on display for the duration of the show and many people visited the stand and asked about the exhibits and were able to buy some honey and wax products. Several mid-Cheshire members, particularly Jane Turley, Lorraine Shuker and Stuart Forbes helped steward the stand and we also had help from Pam and Stuart Hatton and Pete Sutcliffe. David Curbishley organised a beekeeping information stand where there were bees in an observation hive, a demonstration of skep making and a lot of other information about bees and beekeeping. David was helped on the stand by Mark and Andrea Phillipson, Bob Beards, Lesley Parker and Graham Law. This stand was very busy with visitors and the honey show is going to be next to this stand next year, making it a large area dedicated to bees and beekeeping. For the second year, we also had a stand at the Arley Flower show where Dave Wright, Ian Turley, Jane Turley and Stuart Forbes and three frames of bees wooed the crowds, including Lord Ashbrook himself, with their beekeeping knowledge and skill. Thanks go to Dave Wright for providing the observation hive and contents. It was interesting to see as much fascination from the adults as from the children, with most children knowing a lot more than their parents.

Early July, saw the branch revisit Nick and Sarah's apiary in glorious hot weather for an educational demonstration on doing an alcohol wash for varroa counting and other useful tips such as removing odd frames for early extraction. Later in July, we were hosted by Simon Raeburn at his wood in Cuddington, where due to the ideal weather and growth of the bees, he had performed multiple splits and a useful demonstration of how different bees can have such a different temperament.

Also in July, we re-launched our Facebook Group (Open Mid Cheshire Beekeepers) and opened a Twitter account (@MidCheshBKA). We hope these will provide a useful resource to both Mid-Cheshire and the wider CBKA and will also be used to co-ordinate buying groups, share knowledge and keep everyone up to date. Our August branch visit had to be cancelled due

to Mark Phillipson unfortunately contracting COVID.

Our final outdoor Bee Chat was hosted by Ken Houghton in Winsford, where the plan was to check and potentially re-queen one of the hives that had a new queen that was not laying, only to find with much surprise, a full brood of eggs and capped brood. How the bees tease us!
In September Buckfast Abbey gave an enlightened zoom talk "Swarming – oops my bees have swarmed!" - the reasons bees swarm and the mechanics which unfold prior to that big exit. Simple ways to work with the bees to stop them going; the back-up work needed to check how it all went; and encourage the beekeeper to embrace the phenomenon of swarming to be full of opportunities, rather than something to be feared or viewed as a nuisance.

Later in the month, Lesley Jacques gave a packed Winnington Park Rugby Club useful lessons on preparing for winter.

Ian Turley took over the role of secretary.
In October, we were back to our indoor branch meetings with a pragmatic talk on "Breeding Out Bad Traits" from the CBKA Chair Peter Sutcliffe. Everyone left with a number of interesting facts and tips to think over and consider especially around the effects on others a poor queen can have (including her drones!)

We also launched our new website, which we hope will help to attract new members and to provide a useful resource to members.

In November we had a tremendous turn out at our yearly Honey Show at the Blue Cap with over seventy entries. This was especially pleasing after last year's event had to be cancelled due to lack of support. The event was superbly judged by Joyce Nisbet, who provided an excellent running description on the judging process. At one point, we were concerned that the pub would close before the judging could be completed, such was the number of entries and the expert commentary by Joyce. Outstanding contributions from Sarah Johnson who won the greatest number of points and for Helen Parkinson for winning Best in Show for her "Frame ready for extraction". A big thanks to Stuart Forbes for the organisation and to Lesley Parker for stewarding as well as expert judging by Joyce.

November also saw another first for Mid-Cheshire, with the start of our "Beginner Beekeeping Theory" course created and hosted by Lesley Jacques. The course was vastly oversubscribed and it is hopeful that this will be the first of many years of providing these sessions.

The last winter Bee Chat of 2022 was a slightly more subdued event, mainly due to poor weather and a certain football event. The next event will be at the end of January, where we hope to continue to attract new members prior to our March 2023 beginner's event.

We rounded-off the year with a superbly enjoyable meal at Blue Cap in December, organised expertly by Jo Zielinski, during which members and their guests discussed the highs and lows of their beekeeping season and their plans for 2023.

As a branch, 2023 approaches with a lot of optimism and excitement as we approach the major milestone, allowing for people not re-joining, of breaking (or already broken) the 100-membership mark, with 32 new members in 2022 alone. Our main aim now is to consolidate and continue to improve with membership growth and with our key objective being the addition of our own training apiary.

Ian Turley

STOCKPORT BRANCH REPORT 2022

Branch Chair:	Peter Carefoot	**Education Secretary:**	Alan Towse
Secretary:	Steve Donohoe	**Show Manager:**	Sue Payge
Treasurer:	Alistair Taylor	**Programme Manager:**	Tricia Watkins
Apiary Manager:	David Lilley	**Librarian:**	Paul Wheeldon
Assistant Apiary Manager:	Dermot Carty	**Other Members:**	Mark Davis Liz Sparkes Brian Gee

At the end of the year, the branch membership is 257. An increase of 5 from the same time last year. The year began with the sad news that Derek Lockett had died. He was a founder of Stockport Beekeepers and the last surviving member of that thoughtful group whose initiative established Stockport as a premier centre of northern beekeeping. Representatives from the Committee attended Derek's funeral at Langley Methodist Church.

After the Covid disruptions of 2021, it was with relief that 26 students could complete the 9-week Beginner's Course on schedule at Aquinas College. There were some Covid restrictions in place, but these did not detract from the capability to deliver the nine scheduled lessons. Most of these students also signed up for the practical sessions at the Woodbank Apiary, with some continuing to support the weekly colony checks when the course ended. In addition, there was a Beekeeping Taster day in July, again fully subscribed, with many attendees signing up for the 2023 theory course. Many thanks to Alan and Linda Towse, who have organised and managed the education programme with their usual efficiency.

David Lilley has done an excellent job in his first season as the Apiary Manager. But, unfortunately, the apiary lost two colonies from the twelve that entered the winter. Nevertheless, colonies developed nicely and supported an intensive season of training and interruptions. David initiated a WhatsApp group to summon people to the teaching and colony check nights at the apiary, which has been a great success. Supported by Dermot, he has developed a team of branch members who regularly come to help out and learn at the Woodbank Apiary.

The branch honey extraction night on September 7th was two weeks earlier than previous years and may indicate the influence that warmer weather has had on bee activity and honey production. The yield was 269 lbs from 10 colonies. It is a good result considering the interruptions and strains that teaching puts upon the bees. At the end of 2022, twelve national colonies have been prepared and bedded down for the winter.

Trisha Watkins organised the year's events with her usual attention to detail. With the support of branch members, particularly the Committee, she delivered an impressive schedule of events. However, members have suggested ways of enhancing the program for 2023, focusing on more face-to-face events with an emphasis on enabling members to meet and socialise more. The 2023 programme makes a start to reflect this, but more needs to be done.

A Bee Health Day took place at Aquinas College on May 21st. It was a long day, but attendees, NBU presenters and the SBKA support team all agreed it had been worthwhile and enjoyable. The classroom layout with integrated IT was ideal, minimising any time lost between breakout sessions. The NBU team had revised the day's content, and there was much praise from attendees for the style and scope of the presentations. The organisation of the day had been long and meticulous. Aquinas College

supported ideas from the team and ensured staff were on hand to test processes and provide support on the day. The NBU team arrived the night before to set up and test procedures and advise on last-minute alterations. Their approach throughout the process was professional and expert. SBKA kept costs to a minimum by re-using resources and avoiding unnecessary expenses, which did not detract from the enjoyment. Beekeepers from across the North West regional organisations attended the event. Those who registered considered the £20 ticket price to be good value. There was a small financial surplus.

On May 28th, members took seven stalls selling beekeeping products and demonstration hives into Stockport town centre to celebrate World Bee Day. Against the backdrop of the Mersey Way Woodland experience and with support from Stockport Council and the security team, the celebrations were a big hit with the shoppers. There is already a date in the 2023 diary, thanks to the tremendous support from the public and Stockport Council. This event now has the makings of a yearly event. A special thanks to Alan Towse and Tricia Watkins for their help planning these events and to other colleagues for their support.

Woodford Community Hall was the venue for the annual Honey Show Saturday, November 12th. It was Sue Payge's first as Show Manager, and members responded with over 140 entries. The high number of new beekeepers showing honey and cakes was outstanding, and, according to judges Terry Ashley and Jane Barlow, standards were high quality. Thank you to everyone who helped with the setting up and to everyone involved in putting the show together. And a big thank you to everyone that entered. It was great to have so many newcomers help us celebrate the golden nectar that our wonderful bees produce.

Alan now has bees at three primary schools in the Stockport area. SBKA has bought initial equipment, and the schools have had fundraising events to finance the set-up. The celebration of World Bee Day, particularly at Mellor Primary School and Torkington Primary School, was a delight for the kids involved and the lookers-on. It was a brilliant day. The highlight for the schools and pupils was the first honey crop, which sold at parents' evenings at exorbitant prices. So great was the demand that families could buy just one jar.

During May, Alan and Peter delivered beekeeping theory lessons at The ARC, an abstinence and recovery centre next to HMP Strangeways. Alan supported the team throughout the summer and was able to share the excitement with the first crop of honey. Alan then repeated the course at The Pavilion, a residential drug and alcohol treatment centre near Lancaster. In November, the Governor of HMP Strangeways asked Alan if he would arrange the beekeeping course for the prison in the spring of 2023. The Branch ended the year in a solid financial position as in previous years. Alistair closed the old bank account and transferred branch funds to a new current account with Barclays bank. The electronic transfer of money is now more timely and robust to comply with Charity Commission requirements and protect SBKA funds.

Steve Donohoe arranged the bulk purchase delivery of syrup and fondant from Paul Beardmore at Modern Beekeeping at cost price. The Branch paid all delivery and admin charges. The fondant sold out almost immediately, whilst a small amount of syrup is leftover should beekeepers need it at spring start-up. Congratulations to Margaret Charlton and Carl Nicholls, who passed their BBKA Basic Assessment. Also, Michael Dale passed Module 3 - Honey Bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning with credit. Alan Towse received the prestigious Canon Evans Memorial Cup at the Cheshire BKA Spring Convention. The trophy is awarded annually for service to Cheshire Beekeeping. Congratulations to Alan for his outstanding contribution to Stockport Beekeeping in 2021.

Peter Carefoot



EQUIPMENT HELD BY THE ASSOCIATION AVAILABLE ON LOAN

These must be collected in person and returned by the agreed date.

Observation hive	Pam and Stuart Hatton. (Tel 01925 263023)
Honey extractors	Most branches hold honey extractors for hire to members for a nominal sum. Please contact your branch secretary for details.
Library books	A selection of library books is available for loan from branch libraries. Please contact your branch librarian for details. These are listed in the branch reports.
Archive materials	A selection of CBKA archive materials is held by Peter Sutcliffe. (Tel: 01477 535374)
Microscopy equipment	Microscopes and associated equipment are held by Graham Royle. (Tel 01260 252042)

Please note that the borrower is responsible for the careful use and safe return of all equipment borrowed.

WIRRAL BRANCH REPORT 2022

Branch Chair:	Nigel Brierley
Secretary:	Janine Unwin
Treasurer:	Nick Ashton

Our 2022 AGM was again held via Zoom, with one member resigning as no one stepped forward to fill their position, as a direct result of this the Beginners Course had to be put on the back burner.

An Apiary meeting was held in mid July for Beginners who had missed the practical section of their course due to Covid restrictions. Several attendees commented afterwards, saying the methods learnt on the theory course were now better understood. A follow up meeting took place in early September to show the progress of the Colonies.

Our joint heather meeting had to be cancelled, after I received an email from the SBI for North East Wales, informing me of an outbreak of EFB in the local area, which is a common occurrence. Our September indoor meeting was a semi-social event where members mixed, asking and answering questions and sharing their Beekeeping experiences.

Graham Royle came to our October meeting to tell us about his methods of Beekeeping, very interesting and well received by those present. November saw a quiz hosted by the North West regional Bee inspector, which was very informative.

Our December meeting was the first at a new venue. This was a bring and share evening, plus a general knowledge quiz, all good fun and extremely enjoyable.

Most members I have spoken to agree with me that this is one of the best season's for honey yield for some years.

Nigel Brierley

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Manufacturers & Suppliers of Beekeeping Equipment!



If you are not going to any of the shows then check our website for fantastic offers as we will be having sales on these days below:-

Beetradex at Stoneleigh - 4th Feb

Ulster BKA - 17th - 18th Feb

The Beekeeping Show at Telford - 25th Feb

Welsh BKA - 25th March

BBKA at Harper Adams - 21st, 22nd & 23rd April

Maisemore 3 Day Online Sale - 24th to 26th June

National Honey Show at Sandown Park 27th to 29th October



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sales@bees-online.co.uk www.bees-online.co.uk

www.woodenbriquettes.co.uk

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

The following pages show the financial accounts for Cheshire Beekeepers' Association and its branches for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The next page shows the position of Cheshire Beekeepers' Association in total, that is to say, the sum of the County, its five branches and the endowments given for the benefit of members. These show total funds of £89,348.34 compared to funds of £94,255.78 at 31 December 2021.

North Cheshire and Mid Cheshire branches both made surpluses in the year of £779.47 and £717.88 respectively. South Cheshire made a deficit of (£3,206.44) after investing in its new branch apiary at Reaseheath. Stockport branch made a deficit of (£2,829.37) after apiary running costs and investing in the bulk purchase of ambrosia syrup for resale to members. A deficit of (£992.67) was made by Wirral due to the timing of expenses for 2023 training costs. The County's income and expenditure broadly matched in 2022, leaving a small surplus of £660.44 from donations received.

Taking all of the branches, the County, and funds given for the benefit CBKA together, Cheshire Beekeepers Association made a combined deficit of (£4,907.44) in 2022 (2021 surplus of £2,653.77).

During the year the Committee reviewed and discussed the Charity's reserves. Whilst there is no fixed policy on reserves, the Committee review these annually taking into account branch and County spending plans, the movements in BBKA capitation and overall membership.

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charity SORP FRSSE.

Simon Nuttall
Honorary County Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Cheshire Beekeepers Association for the year ended 31 December 2022.

I have completed my examination and I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination. I believe that in all material respects:

1. Accounting records were kept in respect of the Association
2. The accounts do accord with those records;
3. The accounts do comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act.
4. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination.

John Sheekey B.Sc ACMA ICPA
Honorary County Auditor

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	UNRESTRICTED		
	County	*North*	*South*
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£
Voluntary income	33,820.86	295.00	0.00
Activities for generating funds	1,610.40	129.00	485.00
Investment income	36.63	41.83	0.41
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3,913.67	3,657.43	3,098.75
Other incoming resources	0.00	0.00	52.97
Total incoming resources	39,381.56	4,123.26	3,637.13
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating voluntary income	(29,488.65)	(1,045.91)	(953.00)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	0.00	(58.00)	(1.75)
Cost of charitable activities	(5,650.20)	(2,108.88)	(5,745.82)
Governance costs	(1,867.20)	0.00	0.00
Other resources expended	(1,375.07)	(131.00)	(143.00)
Total resources expended	(38,381.12)	(3,343.79)	(6,843.57)
Net in/out resources before transfers	1,000.44	779.47	(3,206.44)
TRANSFERS			
Branch capitation	(340.00)	0.00	0.00
Branch transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	660.44	779.47	(3,206.44)
OPENING TOTAL ASSETS	**23,241.18**	**17,067.95**	**11,546.95**
Cash funds	23,901.62	17,847.42	8,340.51
Investment assets	20.00	0.00	0.00
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
CLOSING TOTAL ASSETS	**23,921.62**	**17,847.42**	**8,340.51**

FUNDS			ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
Wirral	*Stockport*	*Mid Cheshire*	*Griffiths*	*W Menzies*	**TOTAL**
£	£	£	£	£	£
0.00	175.10	333.11	0.00	0.00	34,624.07
0.00	902.18	66.00	0.00	0.00	3,192.58
12.04	14.11	0.00	2.14	1.11	108.27
0.00	5,222.74	506.68	0.00	0.00	16,399.27
0.00	0.00	26.20	0.00	0.00	79.17
12.04	6,314.13	931.99	2.14	1.11	54,403.36
(577.70)	(1,229.69)	(240.00)	0.00	0.00	(33,534.95)
(171.30)	(4,336.23)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,567.28)
(231.00)	(3,375.08)	(314.11)	(40.00)	0.00	(17,465.09)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,867.20)
(24.71)	(202.50)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,876.28)
(1,004.71)	(9,143.50)	(554.11)	(40.00)	0.00	(59,310.80)
(992.67)	(2,829.37)	377.88	(37.86)	1.11	(4,907.44)
0.00	0.00	340.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(992.67)	(2,829.37)	717.88	(37.86)	1.11	(4,907.44)
15,267.24	**22,191.86**	**2,964.34**	**1,287.16**	**669.10**	**94,235.78**
14,274.57	19,362.49	3,682.22	1,249.30	670.21	89,328.34
00.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14,274.57	**19,362.49**	**3,682.22**	**1,249.30**	**670.21**	**89,348.34**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - COUNTY
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		County 2022	*Griffiths* 2022	*W Menzies* 2022	*County* *2021*	*Griffiths* *2021*	*W Menzies* *2021*
INCOMING RESOURCES:		£	£	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Voluntary income	Subscriptions	7,647.83			*7,474.25*		
	Gift Aid	4,651.38			*4,352.16*		
	BBKA fees collected via subscriptions	16,021.50			*13,848.00*		
	BDI premiums via subscriptions	2,860.30			*2,631.60*		
	Research fund income from subscriptions	1,249.00			*1,348.15*		
	Donations for Bee Charities received in subscriptions	665.85			*640.55*		
	Donations	725.00			*500.00*		
Activities for generating funds	Advertising	1,610.40			*825.00*		
Investment income	Interest income	36.63	2.14	1.11	*39.01*	*2.56*	*1.33*
Incoming resources from charitable a	Conventions	3,370.38					
	Microscopy workshop	144.26					
	Auction	399.03					
Other incoming resources	Miscellaneous						
Total incoming resources		39,381.56	2.14	1.11	*31,658.72*	*2.56*	*1.33*
RESOURCES EXPENDED:							
Costs of generating voluntary income	Newsletter costs	(8,411.00)			*(9,718.60)*		
	Room hire	(281.00)			*(166.00)*		
	BBKA Capitation	(16,021.50)			*(13,848.00)*		
	BDI payments	(2,860.30)			*(2,631.60)*		
	Payment to BBKA research fund	(1,249.00)			*(1,348.15)*		
	Payment to Bees Abroad/ BFD from subs	(665.85)			*(640.55)*		
Cost of charitable activities	Convention costs	(5,136.20)			*(613.51)*		

	Training course running costs				*(400.00)*		
	Exam fees	(514.00)					
	Trophy engraving						
	Griffiths prize		(40.00)		*(40.00)*		
Governance costs	Year book printing	(1,867.20)			*(1,446.60)*		
	National Honey show - membership/						
Other resources expended	sponsonship	(115.00)					
	Honoraria	(820.00)			*(820.00)*		
	Miscellaneous costs	(61.00)			*(64.20)*		
	Website costs	(379.07)			*(241.98)*		
Total resources expended		(38,381.12)	(40.00)	0.00	*(31,979.19)*	*0.00*	*0.00*
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		1,000.44	(37.86)	1.11	*(320.47)*	*2.56*	*1.33*
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County	(340.00)			*(3,145.00)*		
	Branch transfer						
	Library Grant						
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		660.44	(37.86)	1.11	*(3,465.47)*	*2.56*	*1.33*
	Opening Cash funds	23,241.18	1,287.16	669.10	*26,706.65*	*1,284.60*	*667.77*
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	23,901.62	1,249.30	670.21	*23,241.18*	*1,287.16*	*669.10*
Investment Assets	War Stock	20.00			*20.00*		
TOTAL FUNDS		23,921.62	1,249.30	670.21	*23,261.18*	*1,287.16*	*669.10*

Treasurer - SK Nuttall
Audited - J Sheekey

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - NORTH CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022	*North* 2022	*North* 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions	295.00	77.00
Subscriptions	0.00	44.50
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	129.00	93.00
Investment income		
Interest income	41.83	0.91
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	2,458.00	2,360.00
Honey and bee sales	1,036.83	751.24
Jar & Equipment sales	37.60	278.49
Donations	50.00	
Extractor rental income	75.00	90.00
Total incoming resources	**4,123.26**	**3,695.14**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Running expenses	(275.82)	(203.88)
Room hire	(201.60)	(216.00)
Speakers expenses	(530.00)	(149.90)
Printing & stationery	(38.49)	
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(58.00)	(85.22)
Special celebration costs		
Cost of charitable activities		
Apiary running costs	(1,157.90)	(1,241.10)
Apiary rent		
Training course running costs	(863.38)	(767.40)
Training Equipment		
Autumn convention costs		
Show judge & trophy engraving	(87.60)	(33.00)
Honey show printing and stationery		
Other resources expended		
Miscellaneous costs	(131.00)	(99.00)
AGM costs		
Total resources expended	**(3,343.79)**	**(2,795.50)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	779.47	899.64
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	0.00	735.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**779.47**	**1,634.64**
Opening cash funds	17,067.95	15,433.31
Closing cash at bank	17,847.42	17,067.95
TOTAL FUNDS	**17,847.42**	**17,067.95**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:	
Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***0***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*296*
Sales of honey in the year	*(296)*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer: P. Woodhead
Auditor: P. Smith

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - SOUTH CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022		*South* 2022	*South* 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES:		**£**	**£**
Voluntary income			
Admissions			
Donations			
Activities for generating funds			
Raffle		485.00	172.00
Investment income			
Interest income		0.41	0.69
Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Training courses		2,295.00	1,761.00
Honey and bee sales		472.50	493.60
Other sales		109.25	
Value of apiary honey used for payments		210.00	200.00
Extractor rental		12.00	25.00
Miscellaneous income		52.97	
Total incoming resources		**3,637.13**	**2,650.29**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income			
Room hire		(678.00)	
Speakers expenses		(225.00)	
Printing & stationery			
BDI payments		0.00	(13.10)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold			
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		(1.75)	
Cost of charitable activities			
Apiary running costs		(3,609.33)	(1,259.66)
Apiary rent		(200.00)	(190.00)
Training course running costs		(507.00)	(80.00)
Training Equipment		(234.59)	
Dinner costs			(101.03
Library		(58.94)	(210.90)
Autumn convention costs			
Honey show prizes		(99.35)	
Honey show printing & stationery		(1,036.61)	
Other Miscellaneous costs		(133.00)	
Auditor		(10.00)	(10.00)
Total resources expended		**(6,843.57)**	**(1,864.69)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		(3,206.44)	785.60
TRANSFERS			
Branch capitation from County		0.00	645.00
Other branch transfers			
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		**(3,206.44)**	**1,430.60**
Opening cash funds		11,546.95	10,116.35
Closing cash at bank		8,340.51	11,546.95
BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:		**8,340.51**	**11,546.95**
Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***0***		
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*520*		
Sales of honey in the year	*(71.5)*		
Payment in honey - to non CBKA members	*(22)*		
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***426.5***		

Treasurer: D. Smith
Auditor: L. Stone

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - MID CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022	*Mid Cheshire* 2022	*Mid Cheshire* 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions	333.11	74.00
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	66.00	43.00
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Donations	486.68	65.00
Extractor rental income	20.00	5.00
Miscellaneous	26.20	122.46
Total incoming resources	**931.99**	**309.46**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Room hire	(140.00)	(60.00)
Speakers expenses	(100.00)	(20.00)
Cost of charitable activities		
Convention costs	(25.00)	(25.00)
Miscellaneous	(172.11)	(195.87)
Library books	(117.00)	
Total resources expended	**(554.11)**	**(300.87)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	377.88	8.59
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	340.00	235.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**717.88**	**243.59**
Opening cash funds	2,964.34	2,720.75
Closing cash at bank	3,682.22	2,964.34
	3,682.22	**2,964.34**

Treasurer: S. Johnson
Auditor: R. Ibbett

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - STOCKPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022		*Stockport* 2022	*Stockport* 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES:		**£**	**£**
Voluntary income			
Admissions		175.10	60.00
Activities for generating funds			
Bee day		902.08	
Investment income			
Interest income		14.11	16.90
Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Training courses		1,350.00	2,775.00
Honey and bee sales		1,022.00	609.00
Other sales - Ambrosia		2,850.74	
Extractor rental income			
Total incoming resources		**6,314.13**	**3,460.90**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income			
Running expenses		(281.89)	(202.59)
Room hire		(535.00)	250.00
Speakers expenses		(310.00)	
BDI payments		(22.20)	(9.75)
Printing & stationery		(39.52)	
Postage		(33.42)	
Purchase of books		(16.66)	
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold			
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		(30.65)	
Net Ambrosia cost		(3,942.00)	
Bee day		(279.75)	(49.00)
Dinner costs		(83.83)	(112.00)
Cost of charitable activities			
Apiary running costs		(2,066.23)	(971.32)
Training course running costs		(210.16	(409.03)
Training Equipment		(6.70)	(33.00)
Library books			
Honey show printing & stationery		(120.40)	(104.54)
Show judge & trophy engraving		(118.55)	(161.59)
50th anniversary celebration costs			(111.28)
Autumn convention		(25.00)	
Equipment for schools & scouts		(633.72)	
Miscellaneous		(194.32)	
Other resources expended			
AGM costs			
Miscellaneous costs		(202.50)	
Total resources expended		**(9,143.50)**	**(1,914.10)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		**(2,829.37)**	**1,546.80**
TRANSFERS			
Branch capitation from County		0.00	975.00
Library grant		0.00	0.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		**(2,829.37)**	**2,521.80**
Opening cash funds		22,191.86	19,670.06
Closing cash at bank		19,362.49	22,191.86
BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:		**19,362.49**	**22,191.86**
Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***110***		
Correction to opening honey stock	*(80)*		
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*300*		
Sales of honey in the year	*(237)*		
Gifts of honey	*(2)*		
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***91***		

Treasurer: A. Taylor
Auditor: L. Hudson

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - WIRRAL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022	*General* 2022	*General* 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions	0.00	31.00
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle		
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	0.00	180.00
Eqipment sales		
Total incoming resources	**0.00**	**211.00**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Room hire	(507.50)	(170.00)
Speakers expenses	(70.20)	
Postage costs		
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(171.30)	(75.27)
Cost of charitable activities		
Training course running costs	(231.00)	(150.00)
Training Equipment		
Miscellaneous costs		
Other resources expended		
Miscellaneous costs	(24.71)	(86.01)
Total resources expended	**(1,004.71)**	**(481.28)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(1,004.71)	(270.28)
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	0.00	555.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**(1,004.71)**	**284.72**
Opening cash funds	15,267.24	14,982.52
Closing cash at bank	14,262.53	15,267.24
TOTAL FUNDS	**14,262.53**	**15,267.24**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***0***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*0*
Sales of honey in the year	*0*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer: N. Ashton
Auditor: R. Spencer

REPORT ON THE 2022 BBKA DELEGATES' MEETING

Following the establishment of a virtual format for last year's ADM, a similar format was offered this year; delegates could choose whether to attend in person at Stoneleigh or to participate virtually through a webinar format. The majority opted for the latter – understandable given the travel requirement for many of the Local Area Associations, as there are many for whom in-person attendance requires hours of travel and often, an overnight stay. The teething troubles of the previous year's webinar format were almost entirely remedied, with a better system in place to ensure that all questions or queries, and requests to speak were captured and given time. The meeting ran smoothly – at least as much as the ADM ever does!

This year 66 Area Association delegates attended (either in person, virtually or via proxy vote) representing 27,105 BBKA members. All but ~10 individuals opted to attend remotely. It was highlighted that remote attendance resulted in a cost saving of £9800 to the BBKA (most of this is made up of savings in delegates' expenses) and a mileage saving of 14,000 miles – this certainly highlights some of the benefits of the virtual format. The meeting followed the established format, with standing orders and governance issues being handled first, followed by finance reports before nominations and propositions.

Finances

Howard Pool provided a review of the charity financial position; accounts for the 2021 financial year show that the charity made a small surplus of £79,017 over the year – some of this is due to the restrictions that were in place due to Covid, in that the BBKA could not provide financial support to some areas that had been budgeted for – for example, some of the research projects that were nominated for bursaries were not run in the last year, as many academic institutes were in complete lockdown.

Similarly, shows and events where the BBKA would have been represented did not take place or were carried out virtually, with a subsequent cost saving. The budget for 2022 indicates that a return to more normal operations will see this situation evened out with a restoration of the more usual 'break-even' situation.

Honorary membership

This year saw a special event – the BBKA Board of Trustees had recommended that Honorary Membership of the BBKA be conferred on Val Francis. Val was Exam Board Secretary for 15 years until April 2021, so anyone who has taken any of the BBKA exams in that time will likely have dealt with Val. She administered the examinations system, supported the Exam Board, processed applications, examinations and assessments and also provided training sessions in what the various exams entailed at events such as the Spring Convention. Not surprisingly, the proposition was carried, and congratulations offered to Val for this very worthy appointment.

Nominations to committees

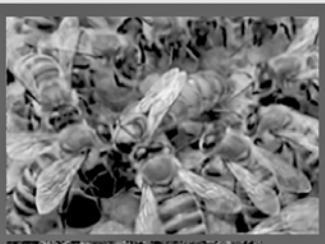
This year, a slightly different process was rolled out and agreed by delegates for voting for candidates standing for positions on the BBKA committees. Rather than carrying out the voting 'live', delegates were able to submit votes ahead of the meeting (the names of candidates and their respective supporting information is circulated with the ADM paperwork in the autumn). This proved to be a great time saver. Anne Rowberry was the only candidate standing for BBKA President, and accordingly was voted in. There were seven candidates standing for five vacancies on the Executive Committe. Diane Drinkwater (Lancashire), Jane Medwell (Warwickshire), Julie Colman (Kent) and Jo Widdicombe (Cornwall) will take up three-year tenures; Clare McGettigan (Yorkshire) will take up a one-year tenure.

There were five candidates standing for five vacancies on the Examinations Board. Lynne

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Ingram NDB (Somerset), Stuart Roberts (South Staffs) and Anne Rowberry (Somerset) will take up three-year tenures, Marin Anastasov (Gloucestershire) will take up a two-year tenure and Patricia Morgan (Middlesex) will take up a one-year tenure.

Prize winners
This year, the Surrey Shield for best Area Association performance in the basic examination was won by North Shropshire BKA. The Wax Chandlers' Prize for the best overall marks in the Master Beekeeper's examinations was awarded to Mark McLoughlin of Cheshire BKA. Mark is currently our Regional Bee Inspector and many will be familiar with his very thorough and informative inspections– congratulations Mark!

Area Association Membership
Anyone who has been following the business of the ADM for any time will know that there has been a number of smaller branches applying for Area Association membership in recent years. A number were denied, including an initial application by Laddingford and District in 2020. The BBKA subsequently laid down conditions for any group wishing to follow this route. These are that:

• The branch has a constitution which is in line with that of the BBKA
• There are 100+ active members
• Financial reports are available for at least the past two years
• An investigation is carried out and the legal implications of becoming an Area Association discussed with the branch chair.

As a branch of Thanet and District BKA, Laddingford and District BKA members were finding it increasingly difficult to attend meetings or events – for some, it is an 80-mile round trip. The membership has grown year on year. Following discussions with their Link Trustee, Gareth Morgan, it was deemed that Laddingford fulfilled the necessary criteria for Area Association membership and had the support of the BBKA Trustees. The vote to confirm that status was carried.

Propositions for consideration
This year there were 12 propositions for consideration, some of which were once more around refinements to the constitution of the association. Should anyone wish to see this, the constitution is available on the BBKA web site. These generally pass without incident, and this year was no exception.

Adulterated honey
Devon BKA had put forward two propositions for the BKA to take action to investigate and discourage the importation of adulterated or fake honey into the UK. This doubtless follows a number of high-profile news reports that have revealed that much of the honey on UK supermarket shelves is a blend of unnatural sugar syrups originating in the far east. Two propositions were passed which will mandate the BBKA to approach the Government, the Food Standards Agency and other appropriate Agencies, Authorities and Trade Bodies to establish what action is being taken to investigate the importation of adulterated and fake honey into the UK. The BBKA will also investigate whether analysis methods are adequate, and to raise awareness so that consumers are made fully aware that any product sold in the UK as 'pure honey' could in fact contain added ingredients that are not itemised on the label.

Invasive species
In light of the great threat to the UK's honey bees from the potential importation of non-native pests and diseases, BBKA was requested to re-affirm its complete opposition to the import of honey bees, including individual queens, from overseas countries and to lobby Government to introduce a complete ban on the import of honey bees. The proposer made the point that although this is done already, there are still come suppliers who almost boast that they still supply imported bees/queens in spite of changes due to Brexit. The Northern Ireland Protocol stands in the way

of a wholly successful ban or change from government, as bees can be imported into N Ireland, and then freely into the UK. The process of checking imported bees/queens is not considered to be robust. This proposition elicited a good deal of debate, but was ultimately passed.

Similarly Harrogate and Ripon BKA had put forward a proposal that the BBKA continue to support the eradication of Asian hornet incursions and to call upon government to prepare a comprehensive plan by the end of June this year for a widespread monitoring and control programme. Although this is clearly important for UK beekeeping, there was some debate about how realistic any proposed course of action may be. A lot of education is required to raise awareness in the general public about the wider threat of the Asian hornet on all pollinators and biodiversity. If there are a lot of incursions, the cost of eradication will be very high for e.g. local councils, and if second generation nests are established, then it may quickly become too late to remedy the situation.

The proposition was passed, with the meeting agreeing that in spite of the potential issue of resources this is clearly a priority for UK beekeeping, and so BBKA may need to realign priorities accordingly.

Lesley Jacques
ADM delegate for Cheshire BKA

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PUBLIC BENEFIT FROM CBKA ACTIVITIES

Cheshire Beekeepers' Association is a registered charity, the objectives of which are to promote and further the craft of beekeeping in Cheshire. CBKA endeavours to do this for the benefit both of its members and the public, by providing support, education and training for beekeepers at all levels and also by promoting and providing educational initiatives in beekeeping to a wider audience, including participation in local shows and events, presentations to interested groups and parties including schools and special interest groups. The association also provides a swarm coordination and collection service which helps to promote the responsible face of beekeeping.

The annual programme of events and activities reflects the association trustees' commitment to the charitable purpose of CBKA, and to ensuring a benefit to the wider public in line with the public benefit guidance as outlined by the Charity Commission.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984

To comply with the Act it is the duty of the executive to inform members that their membership records are stored on a computer database. The executive assures you that all information on the database is for the exclusive use of the association. Registered, Partner and Country members details are supplied to the BBKA and also to the Regional and Seasonal Bee Disease Inspectors covering Cheshire BKA.

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& Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 25th March 2023

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With keynote presentations from:

Kirsty Stainton – What is Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus?

Viki Cuthbertson – Preparation for the season ahead

Joyce Nisbet – Cut comb, chunk honey and sections

Tickets £25 in advance to include lunch and refreshments.

Tickets will be available online at:
https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/spring-convention/

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2018 No award made
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Dr	A J	Charlton	Mr	P	French	Ms	A-M	Knight

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Ms	A	Large	Mr	J	Osbourn	Ms	C	Slater
Mrs	D	Leach	Mr	D	Owen	Mrs	L	Smetham
Mrs	R	Lees	Mrs	M	Owen	Ms	L	Sparkes
Mr	C D	Lees	Mr	S	Parker	Mr	J M	Stables
Mr	F J	Leete	Mr	A	Parrott	Mr	P J	Stafford
Mr	I C	Lester	Mr	J J R	Parry	Mr	J H	Stone
Ms	J E	Lewis	Mr	R	Paul	Ms	C	Stopes
Mr	D J	Lilley	Ms	S	Pavey	Mr	A	Stringer
Mr	M	Lomas	Ms	S	Payge	Mr	J	Swallow
	J	Loud	Mr	D K	Percy	Mr	M	Tabachnik
Mrs	K H	Lowe	Mr	S D	Perry	Mr	J	Tan
Mr	D	MacDonald	Mrs	J A	Pettit	Mrs	L J	Taylor
	A	MacGilvery	Ms	R	Pike	Mr	W A S	Taylor
	A. J.	Makin	Ms	H	Platt Wells	Ms	A	Toms
Mr	S.J.	McDermott	Mr	F	Pleszak	Mr	A	Towse
Mr	D J	McDermott	Mr	D F	Porter	Mrs	L M	Towse
Mr	A	McDermott		A	Ramsay		J	Trueman
Mr	S P	Mead	Dr	N	Reeve	Mr	B M	Trybuchowski
Mr	J J	Meadmore	Mrs	J	Richards	Ms	N	Tzitzas
Mrs	D	Meadows	Mr	J C	Richards	Mr	S H	Walsh
Mr	A	Mellor	Mrs	C	Roberts	Mrs	C A	Walsh
Mr	S	Merry	Mr	P I	Roberts	Mrs	L	Ward
Mr	A P	Metters	Mr	M J	Robinson	Mr	S	Ward
Mr	I P	Miller	Ms	K	Rogers	Miss	S	Waring
Mr	AP	Mills	Mr	T H	Rogers	Mrs	P	Watkins
Mr	R J	Mister	Mr	G F	Royle	Mrs	G	Wetters
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Ms	N D	Morse	M	A Z	Rylance	Mr	P L	Wheeldon
Mr	C	Nicholls		J	Scott-Warren	Mr	M R	Wienholt
Mrs	J	Nicol	Mr	T	Sengun		A	Wilkinson
Mr	M R	North	Prof.	M H	Seymour	Ms	A	Williams
Mr	C	Oakes	Mr	G C	Shaw	Mr	L	Williams
Mrs	S M	O'Connor	Mr	M K	Shaw		C	Williams
Mr	N	O'Dell	Mr	S	Shawcross	Mr	K	Worthington
Ms	S	O'Dell		T	Shield			

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Mrs	T	Alpine	Mr	S	Bramwell	Mr	S	Carr
Dr	D	Armson	Mr	P N G	Brierley	Mr	R H J	Carroll
Ms	M	Armstrong	Mr	A	Brown	Mr	P M	Chisholm
Mr	D	Armstrong	Ms	J	Brown	Mr	A J	Clough
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Mr	J	Cross	Mr	G	Little		S	Rimmer
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Mr	M	Diggory	Mr	N D	Lye	Mr	M	Rollason
	D	Edmunds	Mr	B	Maffin	Dr	A	Rowley
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Ms	C J	Farthing	Mrs	S	Masterton	Dr	G	Russell
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Mr	A	Gillibrand	Mrs	K	McLoughlin	Mr	D	Smith
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	M	Stapleton-Chambers	Mr	P	Herbert	Mr	D W	Smetham
			Ms	S	Metters	Ms	A	Alpine
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Mr	D	Greig	Mr	S	Lees	Ms	N	Rafferty
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Mr	I	Hutchinson	Mr	D	Clarke	Mrs	J I	Barnes
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	A	Coe		I	Pressler		A	Flatman
	C	Lawrence		H	Brunt		A	Latham
	N	Nuttall		L	Pickles			

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Mr	R	Smith	Mr	S	Kent	Mr	J	Mooney
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Mrs	C	Ellis	Mr	J	Turner	Mr	G	Contos
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Mr	C	Walsingham	Ms	A	Turner	Ms	S	Garside
	M	Brown		M	Paxton	Mr	S	Wild
	R	Smith		K	Browning	Ms	C	Sheader
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	B	Hardman		N	Wimpenny	Dr	S E	Davidson
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	F	Caffrey		G	Ward	Mr	M F	Haynes
	BR	Tuffin		F	Burke-Jackson	Mr	A	Tromp
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THE CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 227494

Accounts

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET for 2021

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CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Founded 1899. Registered Charity No. 227494
(Affiliated to the BBKA formerly Lancashire & Cheshire BKA - Founded 1882)

COMMITTEE FOR 2021

President:	Mrs P.A. HATTON	Hatton	Tel. 01925 263023
Chair:	P. SUTCLIFFE	Holmes-Chapel	Tel. 01477 532171
Vice-chair:	Mrs L. JACQUES	Hartford	Tel. 07788 744086

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, Willaston	(2024)	G. F. Royle, Macclesfied	(2024)
Mrs P.A. Hatton, Hatton	(2022)	P. Sutcliffe, Holmes Chapel	(2022)
J.S. Hollinshead, Betchton	(2024)	A. G. Platt, Hartford	(2023)
N. Brierly, Irby	(2023)	Mrs J. Young, Antrobus	(2024)
Mrs L. Parker, Little Budworth	(2022)		

BRANCH CHAIRS AND TREASURERS ON COMMITTEE

North Cheshire	S. HATTON, Hatton; P. WOODHEAD, Helsby
South Cheshire	P. SUTCLIFFE, Holmes Chapel; D. SMITH, Goostrey
Stockport	P. CAREFOOT, Glossop; A. TAYLOR, Stockport
Wirral	N. BRIERLY, Irby; N. W. ASHTON, Willaston
Mid Cheshire	Mrs L. PARKER, Tarporley; S & N. D. JOHNSON, Antrobus

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

Mrs E.A. CAMM, Magpie Manor, Wistaston Green Rd, Crewe CW2 8SA, Tel: 07827 297144

HON. TREASURER

S.K. NUTTALL: Spurstow Lodge, Peckforton Hall Lane, Spurstow CW6 9TF, Tel: 01829 260456

CONVENTION SECRETARY

Mrs P.A. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ, Tel: 01925 263023

DELEGATE TO BBKA ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING

Mrs L. JACQUES: 5 Millwood Drive, Hartford, CW8 2ZJ, Tel: 07788 744086

COUNTY ARCHIVIST

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

SHOW MANAGER

S. JOHNSON, 2 Frandley Brow Cottage, Sandiway Lane, Antrobus CW9 6LD, Tel: 01606 891318

HON. AUDITOR

J. SHEEKEY BSc. ACMA: 19 Eaton Mews, Chester, CH4 7EZ.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR and HANDBOOK SECRETARY

S. C. DONOHOE: 375 Barlow Moor Road, Manchester M21 7FZ, Tel. 07432 476005

EDUCATION SECRETARY

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

EXAMINATION SECRETARY

S. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ,

Tel: 01925 263023

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, M.F. Haynes, J.S. Hollinshead, D. Lockett, I.S. McLean, A.A.J. van Suchtelen, Mrs P. A. Hatton, S. Hatton, R. Brocklehurst, G. Royle

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

If we thought lockdowns were over in 2020, we were wrong! The country's third lockdown began on 5th January! But thankfully the association has been more equipped to deal with it in 2021, and meetings by Zoom have continued pretty much all year. Are we getting too used to sitting at home in front of a screen? Possibly, but the weather hasn't helped with snow in January, a very cold February, and then snow again at the beginning of April! Members reported drone cells early on in their hives, but it hasn't been a particularly swarmy year and it seems the bees, too, preferred to stay at home!

Module exams recommenced in March on Zoom, and BBKA prepared for this with practice sessions for participants and invigilators and it seemed to go well, but some people didn't want the added stress of sitting a module online and later in the year, in November, there was a choice to sit the module online or do a written exam, and this will continue into the foreseeable future.

Covid restrictions came to an end in July, and thanks to the vaccination programme in the UK, some of the branches were feeling confident enough to start arranging face to face meetings again. There was a smattering of apiary meetings and then events moved indoors. A lot of the shows early on in the year were cancelled, but Cheshire Show and RHS Tatton flower show went ahead again this year, with a very successful BBKA stand at Tatton organised by Mark and Andrea Phillipson. Stewards were limited and there was no candle rolling, observation hive or quiz, but thanks to Mark and Andrea's hard work the stand once again was awarded a gold medal and they deserve warm congratulations.

Training this year also continued online, with beginner's study groups on Zoom followed by practical sessions for small numbers to comply with covid restrictions. 18 people attended Zoom sessions for the basic assessment, followed by a practical session, and the actual assessments went ahead as usual in July, as these are one-to-one with an assessor so this was not a problem, but practical courses such as husbandry that have been held in the past and have been very popular have not gone ahead for a second year.

September was very warm, but also wet, and the joint heather meeting with Wirral and N. Cheshire was not well supported, but the bees have obviously done well in bringing in honey crops and this has proved beneficial for branch honey shows and the county honey show which all had good entries. Only Mid-Cheshire had to cancel their honey show, unfortunately, due to lack of entries.

Confidence in going to meetings and other events has slowly been returning, although life is by no means back to normal. The weather in November has once again been unpredictable, with Storm Arwen causing havoc further north in the UK, and as I write this in December a new more virulent covid variant has appeared and in England we have just entered 'plan B', with the reinstating of restrictions and the possibility of another lockdown.

Whatever the restrictions, our bees will continue as normal and still need looking after. The work of the association continues and events are already being planned for the season ahead.

Grateful thanks go to the county committee and the branch committees who have continued to give us meetings to look forward to and enjoy during this difficult year, and may all your supers be full ones in the new season ahead!

Pam Hatton
President

COMMITTEE REPORT FOR YEAR 2021

This report details the work carried out by the Committee on behalf of the membership for the year ended December 2021.

The main meeting of the year is our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year the meeting was held remotely via Zoom at 11.15am on Saturday March 27th 2021, during the Cheshire BKA Spring Convention. The event was free for all CBKA Members to join if they wished. Members were welcomed to the AGM by the President, Pam Hatton, who commented that the events have adversely affected all our lives in many ways. Technology has allowed us to meet online although many members do not have the means to access it. Pam wished everyone a good beekeeping season and hoped that by late summer we would be able to meet together in person again. The President then handed over to our Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe.

One apology for absence was noted, from Mike North (Stockport).

The meeting paused in silence for a few moments to respect members who had died recently: Albert Jameson (North Cheshire), Dr Naomi Tobias (North Cheshire), David Smart (Wirral), and John Hebron (Wirral).

An on-line voting system was in place so that members could register an 'agree', 'disagree' or 'abstain' vote for each proposal. The reports as detailed in the Year Book were all accepted. The delegate to the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) in January 2021 reported on the meeting. A written report on the ADM would appear in the 2021 Year Book and the CBKA News magazine. Pam Hatton was elected as President for the coming year. The committee had recommended that the office of Website Manager and Social Media Manager should be formally instituted. This was agreed. The meeting elected Steve Donohoe as the new Handbook and Newsletter Editor and Shaun Gee as the Social Media Manager. As there was only one candidate for the remaining offices it was proposed and agreed that existing Officers of the Association and other members be elected en bloc.

The Edgar Mobbs Shield is awarded annually for the highest achieving student taking BBKA exams in the previous year. However, as no examinations had taken place in 2020 due to Covid restrictions the award could not be presented.

The Canon Evans Cup for Services to Beekeeping in Cheshire was awarded to John Sadler who has been a valued and long-standing member of North Cheshire Branch. He assists with both theory and practical training, has been a swarm collector for many years and has provided many new beekeepers with their own first colony free of charge. John has been a volunteer steward at the BBKA Spring Convention and goes out of his way to assist members of the public and new beekeepers with bee-related problems. He is the Secretary of North Cheshire Branch.

Membership

The Registered and Partner membership at the end of September 2021 was North Cheshire Branch 163, South Cheshire 158, Stockport 202 (includes 1 School Member), Wirral 118 (includes 1 School Member), Mid Cheshire 68, Non-Branch 2. There are also 37 Associate members, 76 Country members, 20 Friends, 10 Juniors. This gives an Association total membership of 854, (724 in 2020). (This does not include new members joining after 1st October as they will be counted in the 2022 figures).

Membership of a Branch is only through membership of the Association, and only membership of CBKA gives access to all the benefits. Any member of CBKA is entitled to attend any Branch meeting.

Weather and crop

The rainfall in 2021 (2020 rainfall) recorded by Malcolm Haynes in Stockport was Jan 191mm (68mm), Feb 59mm (178mm), March 81mm (70mm), April 15mm (0mm), May 137mm (28mm), June 12mm (114mm), July 149mm (110mm), Aug 37mm (126mm), Sept 41mm (37mm), Oct 105mm (173mm), Nov 79mm (75mm), Dec 15605mm (139mm) Total for 2021 in the Stockport area was 106211mm. This compares to 1118mm for the same period last year.

Equivalent rainfall figures for South Cheshire recorded by Liz Camm in Nantwich were Jan 144mm (69mm), Feb 138mm (188mm), March 63mm (52mm), April 17mm (17mm), May 107mm (15mm), June 28mm (133mm), July 13mm (69mm), Aug 56mm (120mm), Sept 92mm (62mm), Oct 58mm (156mm), Nov 95mm (78 mm), Dec 13017mm (122mm). Total in 2021 for the South Cheshire area was 928mm942mm. This compares to 1081mm for the same period last year.

Reports have been received from Cheshire BKA Branches regarding the 2021 honey crop.

Reports varied across our area, which could perhaps be explained in part by the differences in weather between the Cheshire plains and the edge of the Pennines. Generally bees did well in the early part of the season but some areas reported little summer honey. Some members thought their poorer crops could be explained by their focus on building up nuclei. Other beekeepers reported a bumper year. It was noted that members with strong colonies were the ones with higher yields.

BBKA Examinations – see the separate report by the Examinations Officer.

Conventions and Meetings

The usual branch programmes of monthly meetings were again disrupted by the Covid pandemic. Outdoor apiary meetings were held during the summer. Some branches held 'virtual' branch meetings for their members using Zoom.

As Autumn 2021 progressed Branches were able to hold face to face meetings. During 2021 the Association organised a series of interesting and relevant presentations using Zoom software. Members could sign up for each presentation through the members only area of the Cheshire BKA website and recordings of each presentation were available for the two weeks following (also on the website) for those who wanted to listen again or who missed the original talk. Speakers have included Mark Phillipson, Joyce Nesbit, Lesley Jacques, John Goodwin, Steve Donohoe, Sarah Wyndham-Lewis, Gavin Broad, Stuart Hatton, Graham Royle, Alexandra Sapoznik.

Spring Convention

The CBKA Spring Convention was held 'virtually' this year. This was free to members, who had to register on-line to receive the zoom link. While many would agree that an in-person Convention is best, this was not possible due to Covid regulations this year. However, a benefit was that we could invite speakers from anywhere in the world to our Convention, which would not normally have been possible. Speakers were Noman Carreck (IBRA), Mike Palmer (Vermont, USA), Jamie Ellis (University of Florida, USA).

Instead of the usual raffle, a series of prize draws was held utilising an on-line 'roulette wheel' system at various times during the day. Members had to be on-line at the time to claim their prize.

Members' Honey Show and **Autumn Convention**

The Annual Honey Show was held as separate event from the Autumn Convention this year, which had been planned as an on-line event. The Show was held at the Blue Cap pub on October 3rd. A short film was made of the prize giving which was then shown during the Autumn Convention.

The online Convention once again made possible an impressive array of speakers: Celia Davies

(Warwickshire), Jamie Ellis (Florida), Tom Seeley (Cornell University) and Ross Gillanders and Janja Filipi (St Andrew's University). The 'roulette wheel' was again put into action for picking prize winners in the prize draw.

Committee Meetings

The Chairperson and Treasurer of each Branch are members ex officio of the County Committee: each Branch has therefore two representatives at County level. In addition, there are up to twelve elected members. The elected members serve for four years on a rolling programme of elections. The Committee meets four times a year and these are usually on the third Saturday in January and the first Saturday in April (but can vary depending on when Easter occurs), September and December. Any relevant business to be discussed and any suggestions for consideration should be forwarded via the Branch or elected representatives to the County Secretary for inclusion in the agenda which is posted or e-mailed out no later than one week before the meeting. Meetings are normally held at Frodsham Community Centre however this year all meetings have been held remotely via Zoom because of Covid.

At the January meeting, Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2021 and commented that on a cold winter's night it was quite nice to be able to stay at home in the warm for the meeting.

Under Matters Arising the effect of Covid on the CBKA Constitution was discussed particularly with regard to holding the AGM as a virtual meeting. The Chairperson explained that it had been accepted by the Charity Commission that AGM could be held this way, this year, as the circumstances are exceptional. The BBKA had circulated information to this effect and the ADM was also held virtually this year.

The Treasurer reported that despite a drop in income of £5,000 compared with 2019 there was a surplus of £2,000 for 2020. If this had been a normal year there would probably have been a £2 - £3,000 deficit. Membership income for 2020 had not been affected by Covid as most subscriptions had been paid before the lock-down and the subsequent curtailing of Branch and Association activities. Newsletter printing and postage costs have increased substantially. Members would be reminded that they can opt out of receiving a paper copy of the magazine and that it is available on the website, in the members' area. It was pointed out that, although it is expensive, sending the magazine by post was a service we should still offer to members.

Branch Treasurers presented their Branch accounts. Branch cash reserves are generally good. The BBKA had announced that capitation fees would go up from September 2021. If CBKA do not increase fees to cover the increase the Treasurer estimated that there will be a deficit of between £2000-£3000. However, it was agreed to keep the fees the same for 2021 as a way of giving something back to members after a very challenging year. The question of whether capitation payments should be distributed differently was briefly discussed and will be discussed further at the September meeting. It was pointed out that costs for smaller branches are approximately similar to those for larger branches, for example the cost of room hire.

At this meeting each Branch outlined their spending plans:

North Cheshire Branch estimated that around £1300 would be spent on apiary and shed maintenance, otherwise expenditure would be similar to 2020.

South Cheshire Branch expected to spend on the apiary and a new shed but currently all expenditure is on hold until a new site is found. Stockport Branch as already purchased solar panels for the apiary shed roof at a cost of £400, otherwise the Branch is waiting to see what the situation is later in the year.

Mid Cheshire Branch planned a website and costs would be associated with this.
Wirral Branch was waiting to see what happens with Covid regulations before deciding on spending.

Lesley Jacques, our ADM Delegate, reported on the ADM meeting that was held remotely, earlier in January. The meeting worked well in some respects but she felt there were issues for the Chair of keeping sufficient control of the meeting. There is a full report in this Year Book.

Arrangements for the CBKA Spring Convention and AGM were discussed. All of the office holders agreed to stand again. It was proposed that the Offices of Social Media Manager and Website Manager be instituted.

Pete Sutcliffe had previously circulated a draft of the Cheshire Swarm Collector Guidelines. A small working group will put together a outline for Swarm Collector training, a theory module as well as a practical assessment. The danger of making the system too bureaucratic and so discouraging volunteers was discussed.

At the April meeting the Committee elect their chairperson for the year. Pete Sutcliffe indicated he was willing to stand again and was duly elected utilising the on-line voting system. Lesley Jacques was re-elected as Deputy Chairperson. Under Matters Arising progress regarding Swarm Collector training was reported. A working group has put together an online questionnaire to go onto the website for prospective swarm collectors. The training needs of existing swarm collectors was also discussed with the possibility of holding on-line sessions to go through procedures and various issues. Prospective swarm collectors must have taken the BBKA Basic Assessment before being considered to be added to the list. No Basic Assessments could be held in 2020 but it was hoped they would be held in 2021.

The Treasurer reported that the capitation payment to BBKA and BDI payment had recently been made. These amounted to £15,000. The County currently had funds of £17,482 on deposit and £6,235 in the current account.

There was a lot of good feedback regarding the Spring Convention and everyone agreed it was thoroughly enjoyable. An invoice for £100 had been received from Norman Carreck, Mike Palmer waived payment but Jamie Ellis asked that his payment be paid as a donation to Bees for Development. It was agreed that a £100 payment would be sent to Bees for Development.

Plans for the rest of 2021 were discussed. Zoom presentations would continue but would avoid weeks where Branches had already arranged a Zoom talk. It was agreed that the Zoom licence would be renewed in August.

Practical beekeeping meetings should be arranged at Branch level when possible. These are essential for beginners and many are waiting for their first sessions as they could not be held last year. As an example, South Cheshire Branch had 52 beginners waiting for their first practical session and other Branches are most likely in a similar position. Mentors were also urgently required.

Committee members were welcomed to the September virtual Committee meeting by the Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe. Under Matters Arising it was reported that 47 members had taken the on-line swarm collectors' interactive quiz and practical sessions for beginners had been successfully set up by Branches.

The Treasurer, Simon Nuttall, reported that County funds amounted to £17,482 on deposit and £3,445 in the Current account. Payments are due to BBKA and BDI amounting to £1,300 for the half year to the end of September, the bill for the printer's will be about £1,500. The Treasurer noted that magazine costs after advertising income of around £1,000 are £6,000 for printing and postage. Including printing the Year Book and website costs this worked out at

£10.88 per member. Subscription income does not cover the major costs, which are publication of the bi-monthly magazine and the annual Year Book - around £7,500 pa, the Website £410 and Branch capitations of £2850 in 2020. Next year, 2022, BBKA is increasing the capitation that Associations must pay for Registered members from £19 to £21 with the other categories of BBKA membership also increased. It has already been decided that the Association will keep membership fees the same for 2022 but this will eat into the Association reserves. An increase in membership fee could be made from January 2023. Currently it costs about £8,000/pa to run the Association.

The possibility of adjusting the amounts of Branch capitation was discussed but also acknowledged that some Branches rely on the capitation income. Additionally, the number of magazines a year could be reduced to save costs, or some of the editions could be on-line only. The number of magazines per year has increased from 3 issues 20 years ago to 6 issues a year now. Magazine printing and postage costs have increased substantially over the years. Fees were last increased 5 years ago. The Treasurer commented that a small surplus in 2020 was largely because there were limited costs due to Covid.

It was proposed and agreed to recommend an increase in Country membership fees to the same level as Partner membership fees as Country members are, in effect, being subsidised by Registered members.

Pete Sutcliffe pointed out that the Association has good reserves at the moment which had been built up since the previous rise in fees in order to avoid continuous rises in membership fees. . Members asked Simon if there were other sources of income. Simon said there were but these were not reliable and permanent sources of income. The only reliable source of income is membership fees, but it must be remembered that, if membership decreased then some costs decreased too.

The Committee also looked at the Association Constitution with a view to making suggestions for improvements to propose to CBKA members at the 2022 AGM. The Chairperson highlighted three possible changes, (1) to have the Chairperson and Deputy elected at the AGM instead of by the committee at the first committee meeting after the AGM, (2) to remove the category of Vice President from the Constitution, (3) to allow Country members of serve as Officers on the Committee. Regarding (1), members were generally not in agreement with this change, (2) it was agreed to recommend the deletion of the category of Vice President from the Constitution, (3) Committee members did not agree to recommend this possible change.

Plans for the Autumn Convention were discussed, which would again be held on line with speakers Celia Davies, Jamie Ellis, Tom Seeley and Ross Gillanders and Janja Filipi. The Cheshire BKA Honey Show would be held at the Blue Cap Hotel on Sunday 3rd October. Reminders to members to enter would be sent out. A 30-minute video of the prize giving would be made to be shown during the Autumn Convention.

The December meeting was again held virtually using Zoom. After welcoming members to the meeting, the Chairperson commented that the issue to be discussed was an unprecedented one in the history of Cheshire BKA.

A serious complaint had been made against a member regarding publicly made allegations of corruption and malpractice amongst members of the Association. After detailed discussion there was a consensus amongst committee members that the actions of this member had brought the organisation into disrepute. It was unanimously agreed that this member should be removed from the membership list, barred from rejoining, and also that they should be banned from attending any meeting or event organised by Cheshire BKA members. In accordance with the Cheshire BKA rule 4i the member had been

invited to the meeting to put their side of the affair but did not take up the invitation.
Following on the discussions at the September meeting regarding membership fees, Association finances and also possible changes to the rules it was agreed that subcommittees would meet to discuss and then report to the January meeting ahead of possible recommendations for changes to put to the Association membership at the AGM.

Cheshire BKA responses to the various propositions to be discussed at the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting in January were agreed. It was also agreed to hold the CBKA auction again in April 2022.

Other Shows and Events
Many public shows and events were cancelled this year. However, RHS Tatton went ahead and Cheshire BKA put on a display and received a Gold Award, thanks to Mark and Andrea Phillipson and a team of volunteers. There was not a live display of bees at this event this year. As usual, over the year, there were many enquiries from members of the public wishing to start up beekeeping and looking for advice as well as the usual range of questions about bumble and solitary bees, wasps and other stinging insects. The Committee thanks all those who assisted in answering questions and helping enquirers to access the information they needed, as well as those who helped members who were unable to care for their bees themselves this year due to the epidemic precautions.

During 2021 we sadly lost 2 of our members, John Hebron (Wirral) and Susan Hewitt (Stockport). Please do let the Secretary know of any members who pass on so that as an Association we can collectively pay our respects.

We wish you every success for the coming year 2022

Pete Sutcliffe, Chairperson
Elizabeth Camm, Hon. General Secretary

EDUCATION SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2021

This time last year we were all hoping that the pandemic would soon be over. However the shadow of Covid still hangs over all our plans.

Beginners' Courses
The 'Introduction to Beekeeping' courses are usually provided by the branches, and some were already over-subscribed a year ago. However, the idea of face-to-face sessions had to be abandoned. The North and South Branches held their courses via Zoom and Graham Royle and Pete Sutcliffe took over the lists of 'students' from the other Branches and provided two County-wide courses online. Importantly, the Branches managed to provide practical sessions for the participants once the beekeeping season had started, as these, obviously, are held outdoors and in small groups. Since people were waiting for these from the Beginners Courses the previous year, there was quite a backlog of demand.

Basic Assessment
Covid restrictions affected the plans for preparation for the Basic in the same way. Pam and Stuart Hatton held a course towards the Basic Assessment via Zoom and collected a total of 18 people for the assessment. Pete Sutcliffe organised practical sessions to follow as well as the actual assessments. Thanks are due to Alan Towse, Nigel Brierley, Lesley Jacques, Mark Philipson and Vicki Cuthbertson as well as the Hattons for taking on these very efficiently.

Study Groups
A pattern for study groups has by now established itself, whereby each BBKA module is covered every second year. At the moment there are three study groups involving about 30 members from all five branches, basing their studies on the syllabuses for Modules 2: 'Honey bee products and forage', 3: 'Honey bee Diseases' and 7: 'Queen Rearing'. These are led

by Lesley Jacques, Pete Sutcliffe and Pam and Stuart Hatton respectively. This time the three leaders opted for Zoom from the start because of the advantages of online meetings where the group includes people from all four corners of Cheshire. I think all the participants are happy not to have to travel long distances on dark evenings in inclement weather, and pictures and papers can be presented very easily on the screen.

Although we are following the BBKA syllabuses, there is no pressure on the participants to enter for the examination. The emphasis in Cheshire is on support and training in practical beekeeping, in order to help people enjoy the craft. We will fully support those who, later, feel they are ready to try for an examination.

The usual higher level 'hands-on' training sessions in practical beekeeping were impossible in the conditions prevailing this year. We look forward with some hope that such things might be feasible next year.

All training opportunities will be advertised in the magazine and on the website. Please get in touch with me with any suggestions as to how we could help you develop your beekeeping skills.

Pete Sutcliffe
Education Secretary

EXAMINATION SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2021

Due to Covid 19 no written examinations or practical assessments were carried out during 2020 with many beekeepers being disappointed when the March modules were cancelled one week prior to the exams. During 2020 a system was developed by the BBKA to enable beekeepers to continue studies and take exams in March 2021 online, with written modules continuing again in November for anyone not comfortable using a computer. The number of members taking modules in November 2021 were roughly equal between online and in person.

15 members took their Basic Assessment in 2021.

9 members took module examinations either on line or in person.

3 members took various practical assessments.

The results are as follows:

Basic Certificate
Ian Buckingham (Credit), Mark Davis (Credit), Helen Forbes (Credit), Neil Harrison (Credit), Karen Holden (Credit), Claire Huson (Credit), Amanda Pritchard (Credit), Bex Ruskin (Credit), Peter Ruskin (Credit), Mike Wharton (Credit), Barbara Wyatt (Credit), Jane Wright (Distinction), Susan Cooper (Pass), David Gibson (Pass), St John Price (Pass)

Module 1
Christopher Cornwell-Lee (Distinction), Warwich Laurence Wheatley (Credit), Barbara Wyatt (Pass)
Module 2
David Fray (Distinction), Anastasia Mochalova (Credit), Mike Dale (Credit), James Tatlow (Pass).
Module 3
David Fray (Credit).
Intermediate Theory Certificate
David Fray
Module 5
Michael Dale (Pass) Anastasia Mochalova (Credit), James Tatlow (Credit)
Module 8
Liz Brindle (Credit), Nicola Summerfield (Pass).
General Husbandry Certificate
Liz Brindle.
Qualified Beekeeper
Liz Brindle.
Advanced Husbandry Certificate
Lesley Anne Jacques, Mark Mcloughlin.

Master Beekeeper
Lesley Anne Jacques, Mark McLoughlin. Congratulations also goes to Mark Mcloughlin who has been awarded the Wax Chandler Award for best Master Beekeeper in 2021.

All certificates will be awarded at the Cheshire County Spring Convention and AGM at the Vale Royal Golf Club on Saturday 5th March 2022.

Dates for module exams in 2022 are Saturday 19th March and Saturday 12th November.

If you require any information on what is involved with any of the examinations, please email me on hattonstuart1@gmail.com or Tel 01925 263023 or 07778592835.

Stuart Hatton
Examination Secretary

CBKA AUTUMN CONVENTION REPORT 2021

After much discussion, and following the very successful online Spring Convention, it was decided to once again hold the Autumn Convention online by zoom, allowing unrestricted (almost!) access to speakers worldwide. Of course, time zones were an issue, as the UK was still in British Summer Time, but in the event, we had top quality speakers and four of the best beekeeping lectures we have ever had.
Our first speaker was Celia Davis, who's talk 'In Self Defence' was a positive and in-depth approach to bee health, showing how bees show immunity to disease, first of all at a colony level, and then at an individual level, and how we as beekeepers can impact this. Hygienic behaviour plays a part not only on behalf of the beekeeper, and Celia mentioned that bees with the best sense of smell can detect varroa and other pathogens.

The bees' sense of smell also came up in our second lecture by Dr Ross Gillanders from St Andrews University, UK, and Prof. Janja Filipi from Zadar University, Croatia, who talked about 'Sniffer Bees – Using Honeybees in Environmental Sensing'. This is extraordinary work being carried out using honeybee colonies to detect landmines in post-conflict areas. Landmines are a part of life in many parts of the world. They are a non-discriminatory lethal hazard and can still be triggered decades after the original conflict has ended. Efforts to detect these explosive devices are expensive, time-consuming, and dangerous to humans and animals involved but thanks to this work honeybees have emerged as efficient bioaccumulation and biomonitoring animals. Two methods are used: passive sampling and active search. Passive sampling aims to confirm the presence of explosive materials in a mine-suspected area by the analysis of explosive material brought back to the colony on honeybee bodies returning from foraging trips. Analysis is performed by light-emitting chemical sensors detecting explosives thermally desorbed from a preconcentrator strip at the hive entrance. So the bees are not harmed in any way – they simply go about their business foraging for the colony! The active search is intended to be able to pinpoint the place where individual landmines are most likely to be present. Used together, both methods are part of an end-to-end process for surveying suspected hazardous areas so that mines can be detected and cleared. We sincerely hope that Ross and Janja can obtain further funding for this important work.

Our third lecture was Dr Jamie Ellis talking from Florida about 'Colony Reproduction'. Jamie is a lively and amusing speaker. He stated that there are two main goals of a honeybee colony. The first is to survive the winter uncompromised, and the second is to reproduce at the colony level, and swarming is colony-level reproduction. Jamie referenced Tom Seeley quite a bit in his talk, using Tom's comparison of honey bee reproduction to that of an apple tree. Apple trees spread their genes in two ways; through the production of fertilized seeds with an apple and by spreading pollen to fertilize the seeds of other

trees. In bees, the mated queen and swarm are the apple and the drones are the pollen going out to fertilize other queens in other colonies.

Our last speaker of the day was Prof Thomas D. Seeley himself, talking from Cornell University about 'Darwinian Beekeeping', asking how Darwin's concept of natural selection applied to beekeeping. Everything bees do when they are living in nature is done to favour their survival and reproduction, from the amount of brood reared to the amount of honey stored and 'natural beekeeping' advises 'let the bees be their own keepers'. So how does this fit in with twenty first century beekeeping?

Right at the beginning Tom advised that his talk would not be for everyone. It would not be for large scale beekeepers, or even urban beekeepers, but it was an option for 'hobby' beekeepers. But is it wise to allow bees to live naturally? Don't our bees need our help to survive varroa? In the early 2000's signs began to appear that colonies don't always need our help. Wild colonies had not been killed off as everyone supposed, and Tom pointed at the wild colonies living in the Arnott Forest in New York State, which is owned by Cornell University, and which is the one place in N. America with data on wild colony abundance before the arrival of varroa (c1992). Before varroa (1978) there were roughly 2.5 colonies per square mile. After varroa (2002) there were roughly 2.5 colonies per square mile.

How was this possible? Genetic analysis revealed that populations had crashed and then recovered and we now know that this is not a unique phenomenon. Using his own research with the Arnott Forest bees, Tom explained what he had found and advised on the way forward with our own beekeeping; not exactly 'let alone' beekeeping, but a very thought provoking and absorbing talk about how bees are kept and how they should be kept for their own continuing survival.

During the convention we also had lighter moments, including the prize draw 'roulette', and a video of the Annual Honey Show, including the prize giving, which had been held the week before at the Blue Cap at Sandiway, another enjoyable event! All in all, an excellent day with four amazing lectures. Disappointingly, numbers registered for the event were low, despite the quality of the speakers. But those who weren't there don't know what they missed!

Pam Hatton



*The queen marking colour for 2022 is **YELLOW***

CBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW REPORT 2021

The annual honey show was held at the Blue Cap at Sandiway on Sunday 3rd October 2021. This was due to the Autumn convention being run as an online event. We were extremely lucky that John Goodwin and Joyce Nisbet were able to judge on the new date and thanks must go to them for their skill in completing the judging during the morning. They were also filmed describing the different classes and talking about the quality of exhibits for a video which was shown at the Autumn Convention.

Huge thanks go to Shaun Gee and his daughter, Freya, who filmed and edited highlights of the show and the presentation of prizes.

The judges were very impressed with the quality of the exhibits, particularly in the comb classes and they awarded the best in show to Liz Camm for her excellent section of honey. There were also some excellent wax and honey exhibits and very worthy winners of all the trophies. The gift classes were kindly sponsored by Sydney Hollinshead and over 20 jars of honey were donated to St. Luke's Hospice.

Thanks go to Frank Kirkham who helped set up the show and carried many tables and chairs. Many thanks to Graham Platt and Lesley Parker who were the stewards and Nicky Summerfield and Nick Johnson who wrote all the prize cards and added up all the winning points.

Thank you to everyone who entered the show as we had 188 exhibits of a very high standard. We only just had enough space in the room and we are looking forward to running the show alongside the Autumn Convention in 2022.

Sarah Johnson

BEE DISEASE REPORT FOR 2021

For the third year in a row, there were no cases of notifiable disease found in Cheshire. Changes to the National Bee Unit Regional boundaries in 2021 have resulted in the Northern Region being renamed as North West Region. This region now includes Derbyshire and parts of North, West and South Yorkshire. It no longer includes Durham and Northumberland. The NBU inspection team has been focused on Derbyshire and Yorkshire areas where significant numbers of diseased colonies have been found. This inevitably meant that the numbers of inspections in Cheshire fell for the third consecutive year.

The Bee Inspectors provide an invaluable service and it is important that we support their efforts to help keep our bees healthy. It is also important that members take responsibility for the health of their bees and know how to carry out regular disease checks of their colonies.

Two Asian Hornet nests were found in the UK this year, one near Ascot in Berkshire and one near Portsmouth. Two reported sightings in Cheshire were followed up by members and identified as being European hornets. Members should take time to learn how to identify Asian and European hornets. You can find more information about this on Beebase at www.nationalbeeunit.com.

Please make sure you are registered on Beebase, and that your contact details are up to date, as this will ensure you can be notified immediately if any notifiable disease or Asian Hornets are found in the area and will help the National Bee Unit to manage any outbreaks.

Graham Royle

SOUTH CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2021

Branch Chair:	Pete Sutcliffe	**Show Manager:**	Alan Smith
Vice Chair:	Liz Camm	**Librarian:**	Julia Forbes-Leith
Secretary:	Sheila Hargreaves	**Other Members:**	Nikki Dakin
Treasurer:	Dee Smith		David Fray
Apiary Manager:	Liz Camm		Sydney Hollinshead
Education Secretary:	Isobel Large		Helen Palacz
Website Manager:	Marine Godot		Neil Williams

Our year began with the AGM but for the first time on Zoom followed by a discussion. For the following six months both the branch and committee meetings took place on Zoom. The meetings covered a wide range of topical subjects and were well supported with over eighty members attending on one occasion.

Last year SCBKA was given notice on the use of Bradwell Village Hall where we had been meeting for many years. It was decided to look for another apiary site as well as a hall for winter meetings. An agreement was reached with Reaseheath College on an apiary site surrounded by apple trees and with Smallwood Village Hall for the winter meetings. Volunteers cleared the overgrown site and laid slabs for the hives. We have been lent a shipping container by Reaseheath College which Richard Camm waterproofed. Allyn Nightingale made new hive stands and has been commissioned to make a shelter for the stored supers. The bees moved into their new home after the supers were removed and the number of hives has already expanded to sixteen with a call for more equipment from the apiary manager, Liz Camm.

In August we held our first face to face meeting since the beginning of lockdown in the new apiary where the team were delighted to welcome members under umbrellas in the rain, a first. The weather was favourable in September and the focus was on winter preparations and feeding

Our winter meetings have also changed from the first Thursday in the month to the second Thursday at Smallwood Village Hall. We started our winter programme with a branch honey show at the October meeting, organised by Alan Smith, with a hundred entries judged by John Goodwin. In November Andrew Easterbrook gave a talk, 'The Devil is in the Detail', concerning the problems faced by beekeepers using poorly designed hives. Our last meeting of the year in December was the traditional Christmas Social with a buffet and quiz, a familiar format with no changes.

Isabel Large organised a Beginners' Course for twenty participants via Zoom followed up by the essential practical work in small groups at the apiary. Members who had attended the course last year were also offered sessions in the apiary. One member took and passed the Basic Assessment examination.

Sheila Hargreaves

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NORTH CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2021

Branch Chair:	Stuart Hatton	**Apiary Management Committee:**	
Secretary:	John Saddler		Peter Woodhead
Treasurer:	Peter Woodhead		Paul Williams
Training Coordinator:	Maria Heywood		Julia Young
Show Manager:	Graham Platt		Polly Smith
Librarian:	Cathy Ellis	**Other Members:**	Pamela Hatton
Minutes & Reports:	Polly Smith		Kelvin Heywood
			Graham Fifoot

Once again, 2021 was a year of uncertainties. However, both the committee and our members proved equal to the challenge and upheld the aims of the Association, with courses, meetings, training programmes, displays and demonstrations all going ahead.

During a very cold January and a tight lockdown, the Branch had to forego the social side of the AGM, and attendance at the Zoom meeting was small, but enough to re-elect the existing committee with the addition of Graham Fifoot, and approve the relevant documentation. Training continued for the module 6 study group and began for the 22 new beekeepers enrolled on the theory course, after the trainers had themselves learnt the new skills required to make remote presentations. Later in the year 15 beekeepers joined the Hattons' Zoom study group for the Basic Assessment, and the 7 North Cheshire members all subsequently passed. 2 more experienced members passed module exams, with a third obtaining the General Husbandry qualification.

With restrictions still in place in early spring, monthly meetings and training sessions continued on Zoom, which did have some advantages: the choice of speakers was not limited by proximity or mobility, and neither were audiences: Alison Hines did not have to worry about bad weather when she gave her very useful talk on what to do with an overwintered nuc, and over 70 people were 'present' for Graham Royle's disease evening in March, when the ability to see photographs and slides in close up was truly advantageous. The programme was adapted to make the most of sessions shared with the County, and every talk was more or less topical. The April talk on the importance of pollen in honeybee nutrition, given by Seb Owen from Vita Bee Health, had relevance throughout the year as colonies came near starvation in long periods of poor weather.

The first easing of Covid restrictions came in April but too much remained unpredictable to allow for the resumption of apiary meetings in May, and instead Pam and Stuart Hatton hosted a Zoom question and answer session dealing with relevant topics such as swarm prevention; chalk brood, and honey prices. Mid month restrictions eased further, practical training could begin for 22 trainees, the weather turned warm: and millions of bees took the opportunity to swarm.

Having decided to cancel all apiary meetings, sessions continued on Zoom. Another Q&A allowed for discussions on what to do when your swarm prevention fails; problems with queens; hornets; and the 'June' gap. In July a very informative video demonstration of Pam and Stuart Hatton's honey extraction took on extra relevance as the warm weather mid-month allowed the bees to produce a surplus, but many members found that after a spell of bad weather the bees had made good use of it.

As Covid restrictions came to an end in July, Frodsham Community Centre re-opened and the Branch was able to hold the annual New

Beekeepers Evening as a live indoor event, and even provide refreshments thanks to the compliance measures in place.

September was unusually warm, but also wet, so only the bravest of souls were present for Marshall Pugh's demonstration at the heather meeting at Llandegla. However, many members with strong colonies had the gift of a late honey harvest. This may have contributed to the success of the Branch Honey Show, which had over 60 entries, despite uncertainty as to whether it could go ahead. It was an open judging show, with John Goodwin applying rigorous national standards, but helpfully explaining why and how they should be met. The trophy for most points in show went to John Sadler; yet more proof of his standing in the Branch, which was also recognized at the County Spring Convention when he was the deserving winner of the Canon Evans Cup for services to beekeeping. In October John decided to step down from his role as Hon Secretary and Programme Secretary, but fortunately he will remain on the Branch Committee for a while longer.

The honey show trophies, and the welcome news that once again North Cheshire had won the shield at the County Honey Show, were given out the following month, at the first face-to-face monthly meeting for almost two years, when over 40 mostly masked and socially distanced members and visitors were treated to an excellent, fact filled, and beautifully illustrated talk from Gerry Collins on 'Reading the Bees'; a particularly useful skill in a year when reading the books did not always help.

For the final meeting of the 2021 we were fortunate that Graham Royle agreed to step in when the scheduled speaker was unable to attend. Not only was his talk as clearly presented and illustrated as ever, but it was also topical and aspirational. 'What to do in Winter' ranged from extracting honey at the end of August, to ensuring that by the start of the following season all the equipment needed is to hand: though not everyone needs, or could make, the impressive honey processing equipment purpose-built by Graham to deal with his impressive honey harvest. An unscientific survey of members' honey yields conducted soon after showed no consistency, but it did reinforce one of Graham's key points, that strong colonies produce more honey.

Despite fewer events taking place, the Branch was able to maintain a presence at the Thelwall Rose Queen event, and the Norton Priory Quince and Apple Day. In July, the Branch was delighted when Mark & Andrea Philipson stepped comfortably into the shoes of Stuart and Pam Hatton and won a gold medal, helped by the plants, advice and encouragement given by the retiring winners. For the success of all of the activities described here, and more, sincere and grateful thanks are due to our Chairman, and particularly to retiring Secretary John Sadler; to Training Co-ordinator Maria Heywood, and all other Committee members, trainers, speakers, and helpers, and to our loyal members.



Stuart and Pam Hatton at the Cheshire Honey Show 2021

As we enter December the weather is once again unpredictable and extreme, a new Covid variant has emerged, and many colonies have been adversely affected by the problems of 2021. However, we have all had to develop new skills, and are confident that they will enable us to continue to achieve the aims of the Association, no matter what challenges arise in 2022.

Polly Smith

MID CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2021

Branch Chair:	Lesley Parker	**Webmaster:**	Shaun Gee
Secretary:	Stuart Forbes	**Other Members:**	Lesley Jacques
Treasurers:	Sarah & Nick Johnson		John van Suchtelen
Show Manager:	Stuart Forbes		Dave Wright
Show Steward:	Lesley Parker		Steve Purkis
Librarians:	Sarah & Nick Johnson		Karl Colyer

I'm sure that few if any of us would have believed when we held our Beginners Meeting in March 2020 that our next indoor F-2-F meeting would not take place until eighteen months later in September 2021. However, despite the disruptions and challenges to our beekeeping activities resulting from the Covid pandemic, the Mid-Cheshire Branch has again seen a significant increase in membership this year. Having grown from 41 to 50 members during 2020, we now have a total membership of 76 and have welcomed 27 new members during 2021.

As usual, the year started with our branch AGM in January, which was conducted via Zoom owing to lockdown restrictions. Steve Purkis joined the committee and all the other committee members were re-elected en masse. Karl Colyer, who was heavily involved with BIBBA activities at that time and therefore did not join at the AGM, became a committee member later in 2021.

Much of the discussion at the AGM focused on continuing to build our membership given that it appears there are many beekeepers in our locality who are not Mid-Cheshire members. It was agreed that we need to increase our visibility to potential new members, and we therefore decided to develop our own website which was subsequently launched in 2Q 2021.

In February Karl Colyer gave a presentation entitled 'Resilient Bees' in which he discussed how much attention we should give to our bees and, given that they have lived through changeable times for millions of years, whether our actions as beekeepers help or hinder them. Following on from a successful Beginners Meeting at a similar time of year in 2020, our March meeting was again focused at new beekeepers. Despite this being a virtual event, it was very successful and gave participants both a basic introduction to beekeeping and information on equipment, training, mentoring, events, contact details of Mid-Cheshire committee members willing to help them and how our branch links to the county and national beekeeping associations. All this information together with a membership form was provided in a 'starter pack' which was supplied by e-mail to all participants together with copies of the slides used in the introductory talk.

Because Mid-Cheshire currently has no training apiary, we explained our intention to hold 'taster sessions' at our own apiaries so that potential new beekeepers could witness hive inspections and gain some hands-on experience before acquiring their own bees. This led to our Mentoring Programme, coordinated by Sarah Johnson, which pairs up newcomers with an experienced beekeeper who supports them during their first year of beekeeping.

At our April meeting Jay Moran, one of our members with professional knowledge of trading standards and environmental health matters, outlined some of the legal requirements related to selling hive products. As usual, our May to August meetings were apiary visits but, owing to the Covid restrictions during this period, both the May and June events were virtual visits via Zoom.

The first visit in May was to Dave Wright's apiary at Oscroft during which Dave, who has a keen

interest in different beehive designs, showed us his Top Bar, WBC and Long Hives which, as a professional joiner, were all self-made. Karl Colyer filmed the event which was shown during the subsequent online meeting with Dave providing a commentary to the visit.

Our second apiary visit in June was hosted by Mark and Andrea Phillipson who showed us the techniques they employ for swarm management at their apiary at Sutton Weaver. This included a video showing what happens when a swarm led by a clipped queen leaves the hive. Following the virtual visit, Mark kindly led a lively discussion session on swarming and several other topical beekeeping issues.

By the time of our July apiary visit Covid restrictions had been eased enabling us to hold a live event with up to 30 participants and subject to other precautions such as social distancing and keeping track and trace records. Nick and Sarah Johnson invited us to their apiary at Antrobus where small groups could inspect both their established colonies and some nucs containing new queens before enjoying a fine selection of outdoor refreshments kindly provided by our hosts. Following a break of almost two years since the previous F-2-F branch apiary meeting it was truly enjoyable to get together again and exchange news in person on our beekeeping activities.

Our final visit in August was a team effort involving Stuart Forbes and Lesley Jacques who have apiaries close to each other in Hartford. Following a quick inspection of Stuart's WBC hives we took a short walk through the field adjacent to his back garden to visit Lesley's apiary where she explained how she prepares the bees for winter. We then returned to Stuart's house for refreshments and much discussion amongst those present.

As previously indicated, the September meeting was our first indoor F-2-F event since the introduction of pandemic restrictions in March 2020 and we welcomed Graham Royle to give a presentation on the Asian Hornet. Graham's talk covered the biology of this insect, how it has spread across Europe and into the UK, the risks of this predator to our bees, how we can detect it and what we can do about it. It was a very timely presentation given that it coincided with the first day of BBKA Asian Hornet Week (6-12 September) and that 2021 had seen record high reported numbers of this insect in the Channel Islands.

Our final talk of 2021 was given by Bob Beards at the October branch meeting. Bob's talk was entitled 'Nectar Management' during which he discussed the inner workings of the hive and described the 'Checkerboard' method to control swarming.

The branch honey show was scheduled for November but unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to lack of support from our members and a disappointingly low number of entries which was particularly sad given the relatively good honey harvests reported by some members this year.



The Blue Cap at Sandiway - new meeting location

The year concluded with our Christmas Social in December in which a relatively low number of our members and their guests enjoyed dinner at the Blue Cap in Sandiway. This will be the new venue for Mid-Cheshire branch meetings from January 2022 because, unlike our current venue at Hartford Methodist Church Hall, it offers us WiFi connectivity which we will require if we are to hold "hybrid meetings" either because of lockdown restrictions or the inability of speakers and/or members to attend in person.

In addition to the monthly branch meetings outlined above, Mid-Cheshire Branch members have actively promoted beekeeping at several other events during 2021. In June we were asked to provide a display stand at the Arley Garden Festival which was most successful and created much interest especially because of the display hive on show; many thanks are due to Dave Wright, Bob Beards, Graham Law, Steve Purkis and Lesley Parker who manned our display forthe two days of this event.

Similarly in July we were responsible for providing the display and organising the honey show at the Royal Cheshire Show which also attracted many visitors; many thanks are due to Sarah and Nick Johnson, Bob Beards, Graham Law, Lesley Parker, Dave Curbishley and Liz Brindle.

Throughout the year our members have also given talks and demonstrations to school children, scout groups and other bodies all of which have hopefully highlighted the importance of bees in our lives and possibly encouraged some new future beekeepers.

Stuart Forbes

STOCKPORT BRANCH REPORT 2021

Branch Chair:	Peter Carefoot	**Education Secretary:**	Alan Towse
Secretary:	Steve Donohoe	**Show Manager:**	Pat Booth
Treasurer:	Alistair Taylor	**Programme Manager:**	Tricia Watkins
Apiary Manager:	Roy Brocklehurst	**Librarian:**	Paul Wheeldon
Assistant Apiary Manager:	David Lilley	**Other Members:**	Colin Booth Liz Sparkes Brian Gee

At the end of the year Branch membership was 252.

The new year started ominously when our expectations were dashed with the cancellation of the Beginners' theory course, which should have started at Aquinas College, Stockport. However, several of those due to attend were able to join online beekeeping classes from the central Cheshire team.

The early year lockdown presented several challenges for the branch committee when attempts to start courses and branch meetings were met with further cancellations. Eventually, with the easing of restrictions, the committee started to get members together for events. The early attempts were sparsely attended, as members were cautious about meeting in groups. As confidence returned, so did the members' trust in the efforts of the committee to keep things safe.

The Beginner's practical course, through May and June, had full attendance for all sessions. There was a lot of support from beginners, with many attending the subsequent weekly apiary sessions.

The first inspections at Woodbank Apiary confirmed five lost colonies. One very small, late swarm did manage to survive in a poly nuc and developed into a productive colony. The focus for Roy and David was to bring the apiary to full strength through in-house splits and combinations.

The attempt at grafting new queens failed after a mix up with dates. There is no room for error when managing queen rearing dates, the bees do not hang about waiting for the beekeeper. By September, the apiary was up to full strength. The honey yield was down at 175 lbs at the expense of building colony strength and supporting the bees through the coming winter.

At the AGM in February Brian Gee stepped down as Chairperson. It was June before Stephen Donohoe took over as Secretary, enabling Peter Carefoot to be elected as the new Chairperson. Catharine Edwards-Evans stepped down as Events Manager. Tricia Watkins replaced her and soon proved a very able replacement, benefiting from Catharine's mentorship.

At the end of the year, Roy Brocklehurst announced he was retiring from the role of Apiary Manager after many years. David Lilley has been shadowing Roy for a couple of years and will now take over from Roy. Pat and Colin Booth will also step down from committee work at the end of the year. Pat has been the Show Manager for many years, and her attention to detail will be a hard act to follow.

The Branch finances remain strong, and with a full calendar of events through 2022, the committee aims to fully support the Stockport beekeeping community with special events to attract and retain new members. Towards the end of the year, the branch changed its banker to ensure better compliance with Charity Commission requirements for more secure controls on monetary transactions.

Branch meetings started again after lockdown, with apiary meetings in June and July at Woodbank. The August meeting was at Happy Valley Honey, hosted by Paul Beardmore and his family. It was an excellent visit, with Paul demonstrating a variety of varroa treatments. Paul also presented the October meeting at Woodford, when over 40 members attended his talk about how he started commercial beekeeping.

The branch honey show was on November 13, when there were over 140 high-quality entries. The main project of the year was Trees for Bees. Alan Towse planned the project with the aim of planting a fruit tree in every Stockport school. It began in November when Marple Primary School planted the first tree. This was quickly followed by 46 other schools. Thanks to Alan for the idea and for following through to make it happen, and to the group of volunteers who assisted each school with the planting.

The final event of the year was the Hot Pot supper at Woodford. With numbers restricted to satisfy Covid protocols, 40 members enjoyed excellent food, a raffle and Alan Towse's fiendishly tricky quiz.

Peter Carefoot

EQUIPMENT HELD BY THE ASSOCIATION AVAILABLE ON LOAN

These must be collected in person and returned by the agreed date.

Observation hive	Pam and Stuart Hatton. (Tel 01925 263023)
Honey extractors	Most branches hold honey extractors for hire to members for a nominal sum. Please contact your branch secretary for details.
Library books	A selection of library books is available for loan from branch libraries. Please contact your branch librarian for details. These are listed in the branch reports.
Archive materials	A selection of CBKA archive materials is held by Peter Sutcliffe. (Tel: 01477 535374)
Microscopy equipment	Microscopes and associated equipment are held by Graham Royle. (Tel 01260 252042)

Please note that the borrower is responsible for the responsible use and safe return of all equipment borrowed.

WIRRAL BRANCH REPORT 2021

Branch Chair:	Nigel Brierley	**Prog. Secretary:**	Nigel Brierley
Vice Chair:	Barbara Bryant	**Other Members:**	Paul Manning
Secretary:	Janine Unwin		Gillian Medley
Treasurer:	Nick Ashton		Avril Rowley
Education Secretary:	Nigel Brierley		Graham Wilson
	Marshall Pugh		

Owing to the ongoing Covid situation Committee meetings were again via Zoom.

Our Beginners course was delivered by Zoom and our thanks go to Pete Sutcliffe and Graham Royle for organising and delivering this. .All indoor and apiary meetings were cancelled.

At our September Committee meeting we decided to conduct a survey of members about future meetings which produced a good response, from this we decided to have a 'let us get back together and give us your suggestions for the future' meeting, which was held in early December. We had a good attendance at this meeting with lots of good ideas put forward.

The 2022 Beginners course is again over subscribed and we look forward to delivering this face to face in a larger hall at a later date in the Spring. I would like to send the Committee's thanks to Graham Wilson for keeping the membership informed throughout the year by email and Facebook.

Nigel Brierley



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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

The following pages show the financial accounts for Cheshire Beekeepers' Association and its branches for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The next page shows the position of Cheshire Beekeepers' Association in total, that is to say, the sum of the County, its five branches and the endowments given for the benefit of members. These show total funds of £94,255.78 compared to funds of £91,602.01 at 31 December 2020.

Each of the branches other than Wirral made surpluses from their own activities in the year; once the County had paid capitation to each of the branches (totalling £3,145) all of the branches showed a surplus.

The County produced a deficit of £3,465.47. After receiving and paying over the monies collected for the BBKA and BDI, the largest item of expenditure for the County is the Newsletter, which in 2021 cost £9,718 to print and distribute. Whilst costly, the newsletter is seen as a vital communication providing a link between members and the Association.

North Cheshire's surplus was £1,634.64; South Cheshire's surplus was £1,430.60; Wirral's surplus was £284.72; Stockport's surplus was £2,521.80 and Mid Cheshire's surplus was £243.59.

Taking all of the branches, the County, and funds given for the benefit CBKA together, Cheshire Beekeepers Association made a combined surplus of £2,653.77 in 2021 (2020 surplus of £5,749.04).

During the year the Committee reviewed and discussed the Charity's reserves. Whilst there is no fixed policy on reserves, the Committee review these annually taking into account branch and County spending plans, the movements in BBKA capitation and overall membership.

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charity SORP FRSSE.

Simon Nuttall
Honorary County Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Cheshire Beekeepers Association for the year ended 31 December 2021.

I have completed my examination and I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Association
2) The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3) The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination.

John Sheekey B.Sc ACMA ICPA
Honorary County Auditor, 13 January 2022

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	UNRESTRICTED		
	County	*North*	*South*
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£
Voluntary income	30,794.71	121.50	0.00
Activities for generating funds	825.00	93.00	170.00
Investment income	39.01	0.91	0.69
Incoming resources from charitable activities	0.00	3,479.73	2,479.60
Other incoming resources	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total incoming resources	31,658.72	3,695.14	2,650.29
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating voluntary income	(28,352.90)	(569.78)	(13.10)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	0.00	(85.22)	0.00
Cost of charitable activities	(1,053.51)	(2,041.50)	(1,841.59)
Governance costs	(1,446.60)	0.00	0.00
Other resources expended	(1,126.18)	(99.00)	(10.00)
Total resources expended	(31,979.19)	(2,795.50)	(1,864.69)
Net in/out resources before transfers	(320.47)	899.64	785.60
TRANSFERS			
Branch capitation	(3,145.00)	735.00	645.00
Branch transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	(3,465.47)	1,634.64	1,430.60
OPENING TOTAL ASSETS	**26,706.65**	**15,433.31**	**10,116.35**
Cash funds	23,241.18	17,067.95	11,546.95
Investment assets	20.00	0.00	0.00
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
CLOSING TOTAL ASSETS	**23,261.18**	**17,067.95**	**11,546.95**

FUNDS			ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
Wirral	*Stockport*	*Mid Cheshire*	*Griffiths*	*W Menzies*	**TOTAL**
£	£	£	£	£	£
31.00	60.00	74.00	0.00	0.00	31,081.21
0.00	0.00	43.00	0.00	0.00	1,131.00
0.00	16.90	0.00	2.56	1.33	61.40
180.00	3,384.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	9,593.33
0.00	0.00	122.46	0.00	0.00	122.46
211.00	3,460.90	309.46	2.56	1.33	41,989.40
(170.00)	37.66	(80.00)	0.00	0.00	(29,148.12)
(75.27)	(161.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(321.49)
(150.00)	(1,790.76)	(220.87)	0.00	0.00	(7,098.23)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,446.60)
(86.01)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,321.19)
(481.28)	(1,914.10)	(300.87)	0.00	0.00	(39,335.63)
(270.28)	1,546.80	8.59	2.56	1.33	2,653.77
555.00	975.00	235.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
284.72	2,521.80	243.59	2.56	1.33	2,653.77
14,982.52	**19,670.06**	**2,720.75**	**1,284.60**	**667.77**	**91,582.01**
15,267.24	22,191.86	2,964.34	1,287.16	669.10	94,235.78
00.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15,267.24	**22,191.86**	**2,964.34**	**1,287.16**	**669.10**	**94,255.78**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - COUNTY
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		County	*Griffiths*	*W Menzies*		*County*	*Griffiths*	*W Menzies*
		2021	2021	2021		2020	2020	2020
		£	£	£		£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES:								
Voluntary income	Subscriptions	21,322.25				22,280.27		
	Gift Aid	4,352.16				3,733.01		
	BDI premiums via subscriptions	2,631.60				2,335.60		
	Research fund income from subscriptions	1,348.15				1,340.70		
	Donations for Bee Charities received in subs	640.55				759.30		
	Donations	500.00				70.00		
Activities for generating funds	Advertising	825.00				1,017.60		
Investment income	Interest income	39.01	2.56	1.33		113.84	9.49	4.93
Income from charitable activities	Conventions					146.88		
	Training courses					470.32		
	South Cheshire beginners course					180.00		
Other incoming resources	Miscellaneous							
Total incoming resources		31,658.72	2.56	1.33		32,447.52	9.49	4.93
RESOURCES EXPENDED:								
Costs of generating voluntary income	Newsletter costs	(9,718.60)				(7,022.80)		
	Room hire	(166.00)				(96.00)		
	BBKA Capitation	(13,848.00)				(11,936.00)		
	BDI payments	(2,631.60)				(2,335.60)		
	Payment to BBKA research fund	(1,348.15)				(1,340.70)		
	Payment to Bees Abroad/ BFD from subs	(640.55)				(759.30)		
Cost of charitable activities	Convention costs	(613.51)						
	Training course running costs	(400.00)				(180.00)		
	Exam fees					(304.00)		
	Trophy engraving					(17.85)		
	Griffiths prize	(40.00)						

Governance costs	Year book printing	(1,446.60)			*(1,526.00)*		
Other resources expended	National Honey show - membership/sponsonship				*(80.00)*		
	Honoraria	(820.00)			*(870.00)*		
	Miscellaneous costs	(64.20)			*(150.00)*		
	Website costs	(241.98)			*(410.38)*		
Total resources expended		(31,979.19)	0.00	0.00	*(27,028.63)*	*0.00*	*0.00*
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		(320.47)	2.56	1.33	*5,418.89*	*9.49*	*4.93*
TRANSFERS	Branch capitation from County	(3,145.00)			*(3,000.00)*		
	Branch transfer				*(180.00)*		
	Library Grant						
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		(3,465.47)	2.56	1.33	*2,238.89*	*9.49*	*4.93*
	Opening Cash funds	26,706.65	1,284.60	667.77	*24,467.76*	*1,275.11*	*662.84*
Cash Funds	Closing cash and bank	23,241.18	1,287.16	669.10	*26,706.65*	*1,284.60*	*667.77*
Investment Assets	War Stock	20.00			*20.00*		
TOTAL FUNDS		**23,261.18**	**1,287.16**	**669.10**	***26,726.65***	***1,284.60***	***667.77***

Treasurer - SK Nuttall
Audited - J Sheekey

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - NORTH CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	*North* 2021	*North* 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions	77.00	302.00
Subscriptions	44.50	
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	93.00	40.00
Investment income		
Interest income	0.91	7.28
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	2,360.00	900.00
Honey and bee sales	751.24	1,015.37
Equipment sales	278.49	
Value of apiary honey used for payments		
Extractor rental income	90.00	55.00
Total incoming resources	**3,695.14**	**2,319.55**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Running expenses	(203.88)	(115.10)
Room hire	(216.00)	
Speakers expenses	(149.90)	(76.80)
BDI payments		
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(85.22)	(28.80)
Special celebration costs		
Cost of charitable activities		
Apiary running costs	(1,241.10)	(830.43)
Apiary rent		
Training course running costs	(767.40)	(49.73)
Training Equipment		
Autumn convention costs		
Show judge & trophy engraving	(33.00)	
Honey show printing and stationery		
Other resources expended		
Miscellaneous costs	(99.00)	(603.00)
AGM costs		(595.70)
Total resources expended	**(2,795.50)**	**(2,300.16)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	899.64	19.49
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	735.00	650.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**1,634.64**	**669.49**
Opening cash funds	15,433.31	14,763.82
Closing cash at bank	17,067.95	15,433.31
TOTAL FUNDS	**17,067.95**	**15,433.31**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:	
Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***43***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*148*
Sales of honey in the year	*(191)*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer: P. Woodhead
Auditor: P. Smith

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - SOUTH CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	*South* 2021	*South* 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions		8.94
Donations		280.00
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	172.00	183.00
Investment income		
Interest income	0.69	9.18
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	1,761.00	135.00
Honey and bee sales	493.60	927.50
Value of apiary honey used for payments	200.00	110.00
Extractor rental	25.00	0.00
Total incoming resources	**2,650.29**	**1,653.62**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Room hire		
Speakers expenses		(190.00)
Printing & stationery		(459.40)
BDI payments	(13.10)	(23.00)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		(5.94)
Cost of charitable activities		
Apiary running costs	(1,259.66)	(364.82)
Apiary rent	(190.00)	(100.00)
Training course running costs	(80.00)	(607.85)
Training Equipment		(250.00)
Dinner costs	(101.03	(117.89)
Library	(210.90)	
Autumn convention costs		
Honey show prizes		
Other resources expended		
Miscellaneous costs		(31.19)
Auditor	(10.00)	(10.00)
Total resources expended	**(1,864.69)**	**(2,160.09)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	785.60	(506.47)
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	645.00	635.00
Other branch transfers		180.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**1,430.60**	**308.53**
Opening cash funds	10,116.35	9,807.82
Closing cash at bank	11,546.95	10,116.35
TOTAL FUNDS	**11,546.95**	**10,116.35**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***55***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*79*
Sales of honey in the year	*(94)*
Payment in honey - to non CBKA members	*(40)*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer: D. Smith
Auditor: L. Stone

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - MID CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	*Mid Cheshire* 2021	*Mid Cheshire* 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions	74.00	44.00
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	43.00	34.00
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Donations	65.00	
Extractor rental income	5.00	15.00
Miscellaneous	122.46	
Total incoming resources	**309.46**	**93.00**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Room hire	(60.00)	(132.00)
Speakers expenses	(20.00)	
Cost of charitable activities		
Convention costs	(25.00)	(25.00)
Miscellaneous	(195.87)	(80.33)
Honey show printing and stationery		
Total resources expended	**(300.87)**	**(237.33)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	8.59	(144.33)
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	235.00	180.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**243.59**	**35.67**
Opening cash funds	2,720.75	2,685.08
Closing cash at bank	2,964.34	2,720.75
	2,964.34	**2,720.75**

Treasurer: S. Johnson
Auditor: R. Ibbett

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - STOCKPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	*Stockport* 2021 £	*Stockport* 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:		
Voluntary income		
Admissions	60.00	93.10
Show entry fees		
Donations		
Investment income		
Interest income	16.90	63.10
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	2,775.00	100.00
Honey and bee sales	609.00	1,005.00
Other sales		24.00
Extractor rental income		28.00
Eqipment sales		
50th anniversary celebration		
Total incoming resources	**3,460.90**	**1,313.20**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Running expenses	(202.59)	(281.59)
Room hire	250.00	(450.00)
Speakers expenses		(130.00)
Printing, stationery & postage		
BDI payments	(9.75)	(11.50)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		(6.00)
Convention costs	(49.00)	(46.00)
Dinner costs	(112.00)	
Cost of charitable activities		
Apiary running costs	(971.32)	(1,350.83)
Training course running costs	(409.03)	(721.56)
Training Equipment	(33.00)	
Library books		
Honey show printing & stationery	(104.54)	
Show judge & trophy engraving	(161.59)	(72.00)
50th anniversary celebration costs	(111.28)	(106.00)
Other resources expended		
Donations		
Miscellaneous costs		
AGM costs		(48.50)
Total resources expended	**(1,914.10)**	**(3,223.98)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	1,546.80	(1,910.78)
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	975.00	950.00
Library grant		
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**2,521.80**	**(960.78)**
Opening cash funds	19,670.06	20,630.84
Closing cash at bank	22,191.86	19,670.06
TOTAL FUNDS	**22,191.86**	**19,670.06**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***113***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*175*
Sales of honey in the year	*(176)*
Gifts of honey	*(2)*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***11***

Treasurer: A. Taylor
Auditor: L. Hudson

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - WIRRAL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	*General* 2021	*General* 2020	*Training* 2020	*Branch* 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income				
Admissions	31.00			
Activities for generating funds				
Raffle				
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Training courses	180.00	2,610.00	270.00	2,880.00
Eqipment sales				
Total incoming resources	**211.00**	**2,610.00**	**270.00**	**2,880.00**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:				
Costs of generating voluntary income				
Room hire	(170.00)			
Speakers expenses		423.33		423.33
Postage costs				
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold				
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(75.27)	(32.00)		(32.00)
Cost of charitable activities				
Training course running costs	(150.00)	(390.00)		(390.00)
Training Equipment				
Miscellaneous costs				
Other resources expended				
Miscellaneous costs	(86.01)	(23.51)		(23.51)
Total resources expended	**(481.28)**	**(22.18)**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(270.28)	2,587.82	270.00	2,857.82
TRANSFERS				
Branch capitation from County	555.00	585.00		585.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**284.72**	**3,172.82**	**270.00**	**3,442.82**
Opening cash funds	14,982.52	4,600.85	6,938.85	11,539.70
Closing cash at bank	15,267.24	7,773.67	7,208.85	14,982.52
TOTAL FUNDS	**15,267.24**	**7,773.67**	**7,208.85**	**14,982.52**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***0***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*0*
Sales of honey in the year	*0*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer: N. Ashton
Auditor: R. Spencer

REPORT ON THE 2021 BBKA DELEGATES' MEETING

For the first time in its history, the BBKA Annual Delegates' Meeting was held virtually this year. With lockdown restrictions in full effect there was little choice, but this was not a small undertaking. The ADM is generally attended by probably 100 people, including 60-70 delegates, the BBKA Exec Committee (EC) and BBKA staff and helpers. So as well as including many attendees, the meeting format had to allow for presentations, discussion, voting and amendments to propositions, often simultaneously. And while not ideal by any way given the obvious limitations on live debate, it's fair to say that the system worked well in general. The routine business of the meeting was dealt with swiftly and there was some time for debate over those items that were perhaps more contentious.

The concern was that debate would be difficult in a non-live forum, and that the meeting may not be able to fairly deal with contentious issues. Comments were invited using a messaging system, with delegates invited to speak if they requested it (although requests weren't always met). Aside from that, all attendees were muted by the facilitator. Also, a process was put in place such that, with the exception of a proposal around capitation, prior to the start of debate, the Chair would ask if any delegate wished to propose that the item be 'referred to the EC' (for inclusion at a future meeting). This method would give the EC the flexibility to decide whether to defer the item to a future post-COVID Special Delegates' Meeting or wait until the 2022 ADM. If such a request was made, a vote would determine whether the meeting wished to defer or continue with the debate.

In practice, this was not ideal as questions were rarely raised proactively as in the spirit of the agreement, in spite of delegates raising issues in a timely way; many messages and questions were not addressed. And while in principle, the meeting was chaired by BBKA President, Margaret Wilson, in practice, many of the later proceedings were taken over by former trustee Martin Smith, who pushed ahead without taking note of the deferral agreement.

Many see the ADM as an opportunity to catch up with some beekeeping friends, myself included, and I was sorry not to be seeing some old friends in person. But needs must, and hopefully things will be back to normal soon.

This year the meeting included 68 Area Association delegates, representing almost 26,000 BBKA members throughout the UK. The meeting followed the established format, with standing orders and governance issues being handled first, followed by finance reports before nominations and propositions.

Howard Pool provided a review of the charity financial position; due to the ongoing pandemic, it has proven more difficult to plan financial matters – this is true for all organisations, and we are lucky in that the reserves of the BBKA have not been to adversely affected the shifting COVID landscape. While there has not been the opportunity to progress fundraising as much as usual, and the Spring Convention had to be cancelled at shot notice, expenditure has also been lower, and there has been less research spending than in previous years. The outcome is that the Association made a small surplus income of £50,198 over expenditure in 2020, and reserves remain in line with the Charities Commission recommendations.

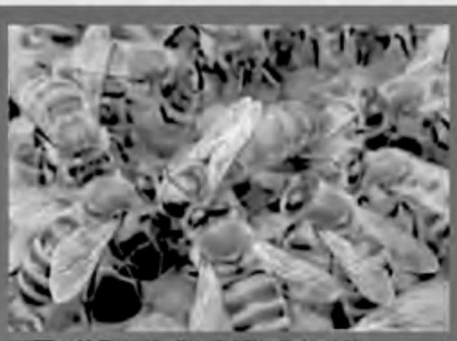
Nominations to BBKA committees

This year there were as many candidates as vacancies, so each candidate needed only one vote to secure tenure. It was assumed that this would be given by their nominating and seconding organisations, so all candidates were awarded tenure automatically on that basis. Executive Committee (EC) positions with a three-year tenure were taken up by John Hendrie

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(Kent), Jenny Morgan (Bucks) and Suzanne Bennett (Warks). Howard Poole (Bucks) took up a position for 2 years.

Similarly, there were three candidates for four vacancies on the Exam Committee. Andrew Gibb (Surrey), Julie Coleman (Kent) and Shirley Bond (Harrogate and Ripon) all took positions with a three-year tenure.

It has often been the case that there are fewer candidates standing for election than there are positions available. The chair put it to the meeting that should this situation arise in the future, the Executive Committee should be able to appoint suitable individuals to fill any vacancies, and we were fully expecting this to arise as a proposition to the delegates. However, it did not – perhaps next year!

Propositions for consideration

This year there were 13 propositions for consideration, some of which were around minor refinements to the constitution of the association. Should anyone wish to see this, the constitution is available on the BBKA web site. These generally pass without incident, and this year was no exception.

As anyone who has been a member for any time will know, the capitation rate payable to the BBKA (the amount of your membership fee paid to county that goes to BBKA) has not changed in a number of years. Through the capitation, each member receives benefits including the comprehensive training and examination system run by the BBKA, up to £10M third party liability insurance and also bee disease insurance, the BBKA spring convention, the bi-monthly BBKA News magazine as well as representation of bees and beekeepers in media and government. Changes to capitation are always contentious, but in spite of some vigorous debate, the delegates voted by a substantial majority to agree a small increase in capitation from £19 to £21 for a registered member. Partner members capitation will increase from £12.50 to £13.50, Country Members from £9.50 to £10.00. Junior members will remain unchanged at £9.50. Increases will come into effect from April 2022.

ADM voting system

The voting system used at the ADM has been questioned recently, and a proposition was but to the ADM to move to a single-tier system. At the moment, the system works such that each delegate has a single vote (the delegate vote) to represent the views of their association. However, any delegate can call at any time for a 'membership vote', in which each delegate's vote is weighted to represent the number of members in their association. This has sometimes overturned the result of a vote and is usually called upon when the voting for vs. against is particularly close as it represents a more granular way of looking at the numbers.

Ahead of this year's ADM, a BBKA working party had been convened to look at the voting arrangements to identify a route that would instil the optimum degree of 'fairness'. Martin Smith investigated an algorithm, that enabled a weighted average voting method based on the square root of the number of members per area association. This method would effectively temper the extremes that we currently see – that of smaller associations having a disproportionately strong vote in the former case, and larger associations having a disproportionately strong vote in the latter. Cheshire is a mid-sized association, and our voting status would be largely unchanged.

A change in the voting system represents a constitutional change, and so would require 75% of the vote to carry the proposition. After a lengthy debate, the voting showed that the meeting appeared marginally in favour of the change, with 78% of votes in favour. However, a membership vote was requested, and this overturned the decision as it indicated only 73% in favour – an insufficient majority to effect change. This may seem like lot of emphasis over a small constitutional detail, but it is one that causes consternation at practically every meeting.

Neonicotinoid licensing

Finally, there was an emergency proposition put to the delegates meeting this year. Many will be aware that on January 9th, the government issued an emergency authorisation that will allow the use of a neonicotinoid seed treatment, thiomethoxam, for sugar beet crops in 2021. Emergency authorisations are a derogation from the normal requirements of pesticide authorisation, allowing use for 120 days where there are special circumstances.

The BBKA has already expressed disappointment at this move, however Hampshire BKA called for stronger action, and proposed that the BBKA call on the Government to withdraw the derogation permitting the use of neonicotinoids and allow no further breaches of the commitment to ban their use. Not surprisingly, the proposition was passed by a huge majority. A membership vote was called for to illustrate the weight of feeling in the meeting, and this showed over 25,000 votes cast in favour of more active lobbying. The BBKA is currently posting news items around this on their web site, so it will be interesting to see if the ADM vote has any material effect on policy.

Should anyone wish to know more about the ADM, then please just drop me a line at lesley.jacques@me.com

Lesley Jacques
ADM delegate for Cheshire BKA

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PUBLIC BENEFIT FROM CBKA ACTIVITIES

Cheshire Beekeepers' Association is a registered charity, the objectives of which are to promote and further the craft of beekeeping in Cheshire. CBKA endeavours to do this for the benefit both of its members and the public, by providing support, education and training for beekeepers at all levels and also by promoting and providing educational initiatives in beekeeping to a wider audience, including participation in local shows and events, presentations to interested groups and parties including schools and special interest groups. The association also provides a swarm coordination and collection service which helps to promote the responsible face of beekeeping.

The annual programme of events and activities reflects the association trustees' commitment to the charitable purpose of CBKA, and to ensuring a benefit to the wider public in line with the public benefit guidance as outlined by the Charity Commission.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984

To comply with the Act it is the duty of the executive to inform members that their membership records are stored on a computer database. The executive assures you that all information on the database is for the exclusive use of the association. Registered, Partner and Country members details are supplied to the BBKA and also to the Regional and Seasonal Bee Disease Inspectors covering Cheshire BKA.


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1932 W. Bradburn
1933 H. Cropper
1934 D.J. Hemming
1935 R.G. Williams
1936 H. Hope
1937 T.A. Jones
1938 H.H. Brook
1939 E.W. Hughes
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1941 T. Moore
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1943 A. Shaw
1944 J. Rhind
1945 Miss E. Goodier
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1952 Sir E.B. Royden, bart.
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1984 E. Mobbs
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1986 B. Stonehouse
1987 H. Holland
1988 J. Hunt
1989 I.S. McLean
1990 R.S. Ayliffe
1991 A.A.J & Mrs B.J. van Suchtelen
1992 D. Lockett
1993 H.J.V. Charlton
1994 B. Chapman
1995 Mrs. H. Turner
1996 H.A. Buckley
1997 M.F. Haynes
1998 P. Collinge
1999 Mrs. B Bryant
2000 E.F. Hilder
2001 R. Parsonage
2002 M.R. Brierley
2003 M. Minter
2004 J.S. Hollinshead
2005 S.L. Kidman
2006 S. & Mrs P.A. Hatton
2007 R. Brocklehurst
2008 G.F. Royle
2009 R. Burns
2010 S.B. Guest
2011 S.K. Nuttall
2012 T.E. Ashley
2013 P. Sutcliffe
2014 J. Goodwin
2015 D. Buckley
2016 D. Ryan
2017 Mrs L. Jacques
2018 No award made
2019 Mrs E. Camm
2020 G. Platt
2021 J. Sadler

THE CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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Accounts

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET for 2020

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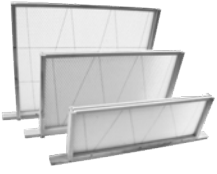
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CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Founded 1899. Registered Charity No. 227494
(Affiliated to the BBKA formerly Lancashire & Cheshire BKA - Founded 1882)

COMMITTEE FOR 2020

President:	Mrs P.A. HATTON	Hatton	Tel. 01925 263023
Chair:	P. SUTCLIFFE	Holmes-Chapel	Tel. 01477 532171
Vice-chair:	Mrs L. JACQUES	Hartford	Tel. 07788 744086

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, Willaston	(2024)	G. F. Royle, Macclesfied	(2024)
Mrs P.A. Hatton, Hatton	(2022)	P. Sutcliffe, Holmes Chapel	(2022)
J.S. Hollinshead, Betchton	(2024)	A. G. Platt, Hartford	(2023)
N. Brierly, Irby	(2023)	J. Goodwin, Brereton	(2023)
Mrs L. Parker, Little Budworth	(2022)		

BRANCH CHAIRS AND TREASURERS ON COMMITTEE

North Cheshire	S. HATTON, Hatton; P. WOODHEAD, Helsby
South Cheshire	P. SUTCLIFFE, Holmes Chapel; D. SMITH, Goostrey
Stockport	B. GEE, Hyde; A. TAYLOR, Stockport
Wirral	N. BRIERLY, Irby; N. W. ASHTON, Willaston
Mid Cheshire	Mrs L. PARKER, Tarporley; S & N. D. JOHNSON, Antrobus

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

Mrs E.A. CAMM, Magpie Manor, Wistaston Green Rd, Crewe CW2 8SA, Tel: 07827 297144

HON. TREASURER

S.K. NUTTALL: Spurstow Lodge, Peckforton Hall Lane, Spurstow CW6 9TF, Tel: 01829 260456

CONVENTION SECRETARY

Mrs P.A. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ, Tel: 01925 263023

DELEGATE TO BBKA ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING

Mrs L. JACQUES: 5 Millwood Drive, Hartford, CW8 2ZJ, Tel: 07788 744086

COUNTY ARCHIVIST

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

SHOW MANAGER

S. JOHNSON, 2 Frandley Brow Cottage, Sandiway Lane, Antrobus CW9 6LD, Tel: 01606 891318

HON. AUDITOR

J. SHEEKEY BSc. ACMA: 19 Eaton Mews, Chester, CH4 7EZ.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR and HANDBOOK SECRETARY

S. C. DONOHOE: 375 Barlow Moor Road, Manchester M21 7FZ, Tel. 07432 476005

EDUCATION SECRETARY

P. SUTCLIFFE: Broad Oak, 13 Station Rd, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AU, Tel. 01477 532171

EXAMINATION SECRETARY

S. HATTON: 2 Hatton Lodge Cottages, Warrington Road, Hatton, Warrington WA4 5NZ,
Tel: 01925 263023

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, M.F. Haynes, J.S. Hollinshead, D. Lockett, I.S. McLean, D. Smart, A.A.J. van Suchtelen, Mrs P. A. Hatton, S. Hatton, R. Brocklehurst, G. Royle

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

2020 has been a year like no other – and probably one we will never forget! Everything we always thought of as 'normal' flew out of the window thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Spring Convention was our very last social get-together. The UK went into lockdown on 23rd March and since then there have been no branch meetings, no shows, no Autumn Convention – and even the module exams were cancelled! Hand washing, face masks and social distancing – even from family and friends, became the 'new normal'. However, despite what was happening in the human world, nature carried on as usual, and thankfully, just like farmers tending their livestock, beekeepers were allowed to visit their apiaries to look after their bees. Beginners who had completed the theory courses were left stranded because practical sessions could not take place, but any of them who already had bees or who managed to get a swarm and needed help were mentored by generous minded individuals with visits on a socially distanced, one-to-one basis. Members who were struggling with health or other issues also received help with their bees, and of course swarm collection continued as usual.

Thankfully technology came to the rescue and since September the county and some of the branches have been holding regular talks and meetings by Zoom, which have been very popular, but this is not ideal, as many members do not have access to technology. As I write this at the turn of the year there is hope. A vaccine is on the horizon with another in the pipeline, but also a new, more virulent strain of the virus has been discovered. The future is still uncertain, but what is certain is that come the spring our bees will build up and need our attention once again, and caring for our bees is something we can all definitely look forward to. So stay safe everyone – and happy beekeeping!

Pam Hatton
President

COMMITTEE REPORT FOR YEAR 2020

This report details the work carried out by the Committee on behalf of the membership for the year ended December 2020.

The main meeting of the year is our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year the meeting was held at 11.30am on Saturday March 7th 2020 at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club, Northwich during the Cheshire BKA Spring Convention. Members could attend the AGM free of charge if they did not want to attend the Convention.

Members were welcomed to the AGM by the President, Pam Hatton, who wished all members a successful 2020 with full supers. She then handed over the chairmanship of the meeting to Pete Sutcliffe, Deputy Chairperson in the absence of John Goodwin.

Five apologies for absence were accepted. The meeting stood as a mark of respect for the following members who had died recently: Roland Ayliffe (non branch member) and John Davies (Stockport). Both had rendered valuable service to the CBKA over many years.

The reports as detailed in the Year Book were all accepted. The delegate to the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) in January 2020 reported on the meeting. A written report on the ADM would appear in the 2020 Year Book and the CBKA News magazine.

Pam Hatton was elected as President for the coming year. It was proposed and agreed that Officers of the Association and other members be elected en bloc.

Edgar Mobbs Shield

The shield is presented to the best student of the year chosen from Cheshire Beekeeper members taking BBKA exams in the previous year. The recipient this year was Liz Brindle.

The Canon Evans Cup for Services to Beekeeping in Cheshire

The Canon Evans Cup for Services to Beekeeping in Cheshire was awarded to Graham Platt. Graham was commended for having been very active for many years in CBKA, both at county and at Branch level. He was very knowledgeable about bees and always ready to chat and offer advice. He has in the past been both Branch Treasurer and Show Manager, and currently runs a Module study group in the winter and offers his apiary for training in the summer.

Honorary Life Membership

Certificates were awarded to Roy Brocklehurst, Graham Royle, Pam Hatton and Stuart Hatton, for, in each case, outstanding commitment and service to the Association over many years.

Membership

The Registered and Partner membership at the end of September 2020 was North Cheshire Branch 138, South Cheshire 129, Stockport 195 (includes 1 school member), Wirral 112, Mid Cheshire 47, Non-Branch 3.

There are also 32 Associate members, 47 Country members, 14 Friends, 7 Juniors. This gives an Association total membership of 724, (712 in 2019). (Note this does not include new members joining after 1st October as they will be counted in the 2021 figures).

Please note that membership of a Branch is only through membership of the Association, and that only membership of CBKA gives access to all the benefits. Any member of CBKA is entitled to attend any Branch meeting, and this applies particularly to the meetings being held via Zoom in the present situation.

Weather and crop

The rainfall in 2020 (2019 rainfall) recorded by Malcolm Haynes in Stockport was Jan 68mm (71mm), Feb 178mm (28mm), March 70mm (116mm), April 0mm (40mm), May 28mm (22mm), June 114mm (139mm), July 110mm (209mm), Aug 126mm (114mm), Sept 37mm (156mm), Oct 173mm (150mm), Nov 75mm (137mm), Dec 139mm (103mm) Total for 2020 in the Stockport area was 1118mm. This compares to 1285mm for the same period last year. Equivalent rainfall figures for South Cheshire recorded by Liz Camm in Nantwich were Jan 69mm (56mm), Feb 188mm (70mm), March 52mm (118mm), April 17mm (86mm), May 15mm (35mm), June 133mm (129mm), July 69mm (95mm), Aug 120mm (37mm), Sept 62mm (103mm), Oct 156mm (92mm), Nov 78mm (97 mm), Dec 122mm (93mm). Total in 2020 for the South Cheshire area was 1081mm. This compares to 1011mm for the same period last year.

Reports have been received from Cheshire BKA Branches regarding the 2020 honey crop. Results vary, in part according to the skill of the beekeeper. Beekeepers who took off an early crop had reasonably good results but the bees seemed to use the stores up after that and reduced any later surplus. One branch reported that the best honey crops came from colonies kept in polyhives. In general, it seems to have been an average to disappointing year despite the early promise. Some beekeepers however have reported exceptional crops from the Himalayan Balsam this year.

BBKA Examinations

See the separate report by the Examinations Officer.

Conventions and meetings

The usual branch programmes of monthly meetings were halted in March this year because of the national 'lockdown' in response to the COVID epidemic. Some branches held virtual branch meetings for their members using Zoom.

Spring Convention

We were able to hold our Spring Convention, which took place just prior to the national 'lockdown'. It was held at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club, Northwich. The speakers were Marin Anastasov and Steve Rose. Marin gave two presentations, firstly on the nutritional requirements of bees and supplemental feeding, and the second entitled 'Flowers and bees – successful advertising and target audience'. Steve gave a presentation on 'Queen rearing and bee improvement'.

Members' Show and Autumn Convention

Unfortunately this year we were unable to hold our annual Honey Show and Autumn Convention. This usually takes place in October.

However, starting in August and continuing during the autumn and winter months, the Association organised a fortnightly series of interesting and relevant presentations using Zoom software. Members could sign up for each presentation through the members only area of the Cheshire BKA website and recordings of each presentation were available for the two weeks following (also on the website) for those who wanted to listen again or who missed the original talk. Speakers have included David Buckley, Graham Royle, Stuart Hatton, Celia Davies, Bob Beards, Keith Bartlem, Pam Hatton and Karl Colyer.

Committee meetings

The Chairperson and Treasurer of each Branch are members ex officio of the County Committee. Each Branch has therefore two representatives at County level. In addition, there are twelve elected members. The elected members serve for four years on a rolling programme of elections. The Committee meets four times a year and these are usually on the third Saturday in January and the first Saturday in April (but can vary depending on when Easter occurs), September and December, normally at Frodsham Community Centre. Any relevant business to be discussed and any suggestions for consideration should be forwarded via the Branch or elected representatives to the County Secretary for inclusion in the agenda which is posted or e-mailed out no later than one week before the meeting.

This year arrangements were varied as the April committee meeting was postponed with essential business completed by a series of telephone calls and emails between committee members An additional meeting was held using Zoom software in July. The September and December meetings were also held by Zoom to avoid any problems with appropriate social distancing.

At the January meeting, held at Frodsham as usual, the Chairperson, John Goodwin, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2020. John announced that, because of commitments, he would not stand again as Chairperson at the April meeting.

The Treasurer, Simon Nuttall, presented the accounts for 2019. Currently, funds controlled directly by the Association stood at £24,487, down from £26,467 the previous year but total Association funds were £82,167. Of the total funds the County held 32%, North Cheshire 17%, South Cheshire 11%, Wirral 13%, Stockport 24% and Mid Cheshire 3%.

It was agreed that the Association would provide matched funding of up to £200 for Branches to buy books for their libraries in 2020. It was agreed that the level of capitation to Branches would remain at £5 per full adult member.

At this meeting each Branch outlined their spending plans:

North Cheshire Branch would like to reimburse trainers for use of their own apiaries for beekeeping training; discussion followed on how that might be achieved.

South Cheshire Branch was considering a remote monitoring system and a WBC hive for the branch apiary. The apiary shed had been

badly damaged during winter storms and extensive renovations or replacement would be necessary.

Stockport Branch is putting aside funds against the event that the current rent-free apiary and meeting place becomes unavailable. Apiary expenditure includes a top bar hive. The branch is planning to be actively involved with 'Trees for Bees' and to get schools involved. The Branch also raised the issue of expenses payments for members attending committee meetings.

It was subsequently decided to raise the issue of expenses payment at the April meeting, although in the light of events and holding 'virtual meetings' this discussion was deferred until such time as face-to-face meeting can again take place.

Mid Cheshire Branch was planning to purchase new trophies for their Branch honey show.

Wirral Branch planned to run a beginner course.

Lesley Jacques, our ADM Delegate, reported on the ADM meeting that was held earlier in January. The meeting this year had been very straight forward. There is a full report in this Year Book.

Arrangements for the CBKA Spring Convention and AGM were discussed. All of the office holders agreed to stand again.

Correspondence with NBU over the loss of a local seasonal bee inspector was reviewed. Graham Royle agreed to discuss this again with the Regional Bee Inspector and a letter on CBKA letterhead regarding this matter may be sent to all Cheshire MP's.

The Cheshire BKA website had been revamped and updated and the Chairperson thanked Graham Royle for his work on this.

The Cheshire Newsletter is now available on line, accessible in the members only area of the website. It was agreed that members would be asked if they would prefer an online version only, in order to reduce costs and waste. In 2019 the cost of producing and mailing out the bi-monthly magazine was £4660. Approximately 2/3 of that cost is postage. It was noted that there is a commitment to produce the printed version as not all members had computers. There is a newsletter opt-out form on the website; those opting out would receive an email alerting them when the on-line version was available.

At the April meeting we usually elect a Chairperson. As previously reported, this meeting could not take place because of social distancing regulations. The essential business of electing a new Chairperson was carried out by circulating emails between committee members, and by telephone for any committee member who did not have access to a computer. Pete Sutcliffe was unanimously elected as Chairperson and Lesley Jacques as Vice-Chairperson.

Most of the matters arising from the previous meeting were now irrelevant as all activities had been cancelled or discussion postponed until normal meetings could be resumed.

The Treasurer reported on the finances. Most membership fees had now been received and the current bank account balance was £19,630, deposit account £1,356 and Building Society balance was £15,973. Payments totalling over £14,000 were due to be made to BBKA for capitation, to BDI and to the printers. Due to the epidemic crisis, planned courses had to be cancelled and fees returned to members.

Under Any Other Business, the committee discussed how our members may be best supported this year when ordinary branch meetings could not be held. It was suggested that the committee continue to communicate by email, with the possibility of a video conferencing. Everyone should consider producing articles for the magazine, video clips and snippets for the website. A list of people

willing to help beekeepers with advice and also people who would to go and help out with colonies if required will be compiled.

A virtual committee was held in July. Chairperson Pete Sutcliffe welcomed everyone to our first Zoom meeting.

The proposed Zoom presentations were discussed. The first of the fortnightly presentations would be given in mid August. The presentations would be available to members only and would be listed on the Cheshire BKA website with a link to access each presentation. Recordings would be available afterwards for a limited time. Speakers would be offered a fee as they would have been under normal circumstances. The annual cost of a Zoom licence is around £120 for up to 100 participants but it costs more for a higher number of participants - in the region of £600 per year.

Pete Sutcliffe agreed to find the speakers while Graham Royle will organise the technical side and hold a rehearsal session for speakers in advance of the presentation. It was envisaged that Branches would run their Beginner/ Introductory training sessions by Zoom, at least initially.

The education programme for 2020/2021 would go ahead by Zoom, at least initially. Three modules are being offered this year.

Steve Donohoe, as the new Newsletter and Year Book Editor, was co-opted to the committee for the rest of the year as was Shaun Gee as FaceBook moderator. It was noted that before being allowed access to the FaceBook page, new participants are vetted and made aware of the rules. Anyone not complying with the rules can be excluded. Cheshire BKA activities can be flagged up on FaceBook with pointers to more information on the website.

Committee members were welcomed to the September virtual Committee meeting by the Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe.

It was noted that so far only 9 members had opted out of receiving a hard copy of the Cheshire Newsletter.

Pam and Stuart Hatton wish to retire from running the Cheshire BKA stand at RHS Tatton. Mark Phillipson had volunteered to head up the stand but had asked Pam to continue to recruit the stewards. Other tasks could possibly be shared out and will be discussed later.

The Treasurer commented that September was a low point for our bank funds. The current account balance stands at about £6,500, deposit account approximately £1,300 and there is £15,000 in the Building Society. Fees to BBKA and BDI totalling about £1,100 would be made in September and also a printer's bill of £1,500. Capitation payments to the branches were due to be paid. There had been no additional income this year with courses being cancelled. The committee agreed there will not be an increase in membership fee for 2021. However, BBKA is looking to increase capitations in 12 months' time so the situation for membership fees for 2022 would have to be reviewed in September next year.

It was noted that the BBKA have announced that the Annual Delegates' Meeting held in January will be held 'virtually' for 2021. There were no resolutions from Cheshire BKA to put to the ADM.

Shaun Gee discussed further ideas about the FaceBook page, which could be set up as a shop window to the whole County with meetings and events etc advertised on the page. People now expect information to come directly to them rather than have to look for it. The FaceBook page would be a 'brand' page and therefore would be completely under the control of the Association. It was agreed that the new page would be instituted but to also run the existing page and review the situation in 6 months. Graham Royle reported that the Zoom talks programme had been well attended with positive feedback. He offers support to people having

difficulty with using Zoom. Surveys after each event asked for feedback and suggestions.

Steve Donohoe, Newsletter Editor, said that he had appreciated a good handover from Lesley Jacques. Steve discussed some ideas for articles. Advertising rates are low and it would not be unreasonable to put them up by a small amount each year.

The December meeting was again held virtually using Zoom. After the Chairperson, Pete Sutcliffe, had welcomed everyone to the meeting he announced that David Smart who was a very well-known and respected beekeeper, both locally and nationally, had sadly died. Members sent their sympathies to David's family.

The Treasurer reported on the Bank accounts. Funds are increasing as membership renewals are starting to come in. The current account stood at £7,600, the deposit account £1,357 and Building Society funds are around £16,000. Honoraria payments were confirmed.

Pete Sutcliffe reported on the plans for beekeeper training in 2021. It is hoped that practical beekeeping sessions will be possible this year. Basic Assessment practical training would be organised when possible with theory sessions via Zoom if necessary. There are 3 BBKA exam modules courses currently underway. Stuart Hatton, Exam Secretary, said that the BBKA had come up with plans for on-line module examinations in 2021.

Lesley Jacques said that plans were in place for a 'virtual' CBKA Spring Convention to be held on 27th March 2021. Speakers will be Norman Carreck and Jamie Ellis and Mike Palmer from the United States. The CBKA AGM will also be held on-line.

It was decided to defer the CBKA auction, held in April in previous years, to 2022. The Zoom talks organised by the Association will continue in 2021. The possibilities of holding the CBKA autumn honey show 'virtually' was discussed. There were some good ideas for suitable classes put forward to bear in mind even if the actual event can take place as usual.

Currently members who collect swarm and are on the Swarm Collectors list work to a Protocol issued by the BBKA. It was agreed that this document contains some elements that are a little vague and that it would be useful to have a Cheshire BKA Swarm Collectors' protocol with tighter guidelines.

The BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting is to be held in January, an on-line meeting this time. Committee members discussed the various propositions that had been put forward and agreed what our Delegate's, Lesley Jacques, response should be to each of these. As usual a full report of the ADM will be made at the next CBKA Annual General Meeting in March.

Other Shows and Events

All public shows and events were cancelled this year. There were, however, still many enquiries from members of the public wishing to start up beekeeping and looking for advice as well as the usual range of questions about bumble and solitary bees, wasps and other stinging insects. The Committee thanks all those who assisted in answering questions and helping enquirers to access the information they needed, as well as those who helped members who were unable to care for their bees themselves this year due to the epidemic precautions.

During 2020 we sadly lost three of our members; Albert Jameson (N. Cheshire), Dr Naomi Tobias (N. Cheshire) David Smart (Wirral). Please do let the Secretary know of any members who pass on so that as an Association we can collectively pay our respects.

We wish you every success for the coming year 2021.

Pete Sutcliffe, Chairperson
Elizabeth Camm, Hon. General Secretary

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EDUCATION SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is the aim of CBKA to support all its members in improving their beekeeping skills and knowledge.

The 'Introductory Courses' are provided by each of the Branches. This year, all the courses were full if not over-subscribed. Unfortunately, the practical sessions, which are the most important part of these courses, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. With Covid 19, there have been varying approaches to the problem of delivering the courses in 2021. Stockport Branch is intending to hold the course face-to-face with appropriate distancing and safety measures. North and South Branches are delivering the course, at least initially, via Zoom.

Basic Assessment

Again, the preparation courses towards the Basic are usually delivered by the Branches, but they had to be cancelled. If face-to-face meetings are still impossible or unadvisable in May of next year, we will offer a course via Zoom, to be followed by practical sessions as soon as possible.

Study Groups

Three study groups are active in Cheshire at the moment involving about 30 members from all five Branches basing their studies on the syllabuses for Modules 1 'Honeybee management', 5, 'Honeybee Biology' and 6 'Honeybee behaviour'. These have had to be held via Zoom for obvious reasons. However some advantages of Zoom are very apparent: nobody has to drive long distances on winter evenings, participants can use powerpoint to present their work, and the group can be split into 'breakout rooms' where participants can work on a topic in smaller groups.

We organise the Study Groups so that, over two years, all the modules from 1 to 7 are covered. We will put on a Study Group for Module 8 (the final Module which recaps all the others) if and when there is demand. The emphasis in Cheshire is on support and training in practical beekeeping, in order to help people enjoy the craft. We will fully support those who, later, feel they are ready to try for an examination.

All other training had to be cancelled. We look forward to next year, in the hope that some "hands on" training will again be possible.

All training opportunities will be advertised in the magazine and on the website. Please get in touch with me with any suggestions as to how we could support your beekeeping.

Pete Sutcliffe
Education Secretary

PUBLIC BENEFIT FROM CBKA ACTIVITIES

Cheshire Beekeepers' Association is a registered charity, the objectives of which are to promote and further the craft of beekeeping in Cheshire. CBKA endeavours to do this for the benefit both of its members and the public, by providing support, education and training for beekeepers at all levels and also by promoting and providing educational initiatives in beekeeping to a wider audience, including participation in local shows and events, presentations to interested groups and parties including schools and special interest groups. The association also provides a swarm coordination and collection service which helps to promote the responsible face of beekeeping.

The annual programme of events and activities reflects the association trustees' commitment to the charitable purpose of CBKA, and to ensuring a benefit to the wider public in line with the public benefit guidance as outlined by the Charity Commission.

EXAMINATION SECRETARY'S REPORT

With no examinations taking place in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, changes are being brought into place for the 2021 season to accommodate beekeepers wishing to take the module exams and continue expanding their knowledge on beekeeping.

The Examination Secretary, Val Francis has been doing this job for over 15 years and over the last few years Val has been working towards retiring and passing the Examination Secretary job on.

Over the years interest in taking module exams has increased by over 300% from 2006 to 2019 and has resulted in splitting the job into Examination Secretary and Examination Officer.

After advertising the position of Examination Secretary, Nicky Campbell who is a member of Sheffield Beekeepers, has been appointed as Examination Secretary and started the job on November 1st.

Module Exams 2021

The exam papers will not change, they will still have the same layout and type of questions.

Only online module exams will be available in the spring 2021. We hope to offer some hand written opportunities in the Autumn but this will depend on the COVID-9 situation.

Candidates will be allowed to sit a maximum of two modules.

The closing dates for the new entries will be **January 31st 2021** to allow more time for setting up and training.

The date for the exams will move to **24th/25th April 2021** – probably 24th April but at this stage we are not ruling out two days. This is to allow more time for the preparation.

Candidates and invigilators will receive training on the system and computer access will be checked beforehand. Invigilators for the online modules will be arranged centrally.

If you require any more information, please contact me on hattonstuart1@gmail.com or 01925 263023

Stuart Hatton
Examination Secretary

CBKA AUTUMN CONVENTION REPORT 2020

This did not take place in 2020 due to the social distancing restrictions put in place by the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW REPORT 2020

This did not take place in 2020 due to the social distancing restrictions put in place by the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BEE DISEASE REPORT FOR 2020

The Covid pandemic has made the task of inspecting colonies during 2020 even more challenging than usual for our bee inspectors.

For the second year in a row, there were no cases of notifiable disease found in Cheshire. This does not mean that notifiable disease is not present, only that it was not found. Despite the difficult conditions for the inspectors, the number of apiaries inspected in Cheshire increased slightly (59 vs. 56) although the number of colonies did drop somewhat (301 vs. 347). This is a remarkable performance by the inspection team, considering the social distancing requirements which have had to be observed.

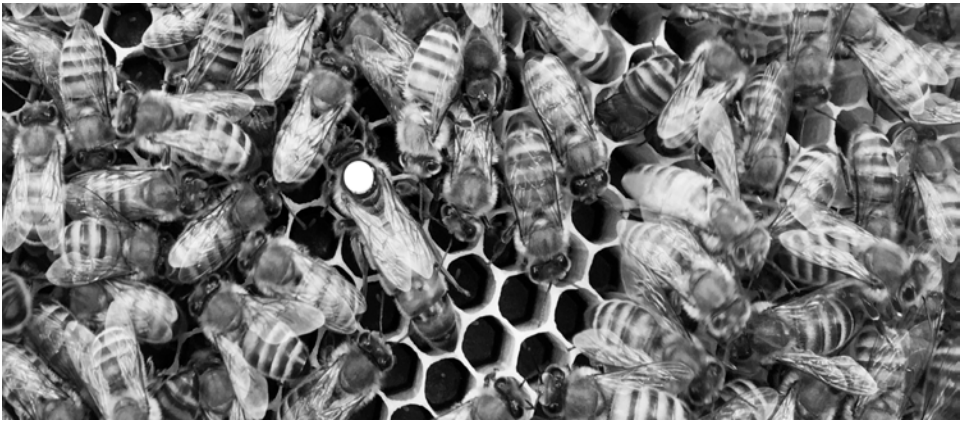
Varroa continues to be a significant threat to our bees. All members should regularly monitor mite levels and take appropriate action if damaging levels are reached.

Only one Asian Hornet nest was found this year, located in Hampshire. Members should take time to learn how to identify Asian and European hornets. You can find more information about this on Beebase at www.nationalbeeunit.com.

As a result of Brexit, new rules apply to the import or export of honey bees as from 1st January 2021. If you intend to import or export queens or colonies you must follow the new regulations. You can find more details by searching the internet for: www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals

Please make sure you are registered on Beebase, and that your contact details are up to date, as this will ensure you can be notified immediately if any notifiable disease or Asian Hornets are found in the area and will help the National Bee Unit to manage any outbreaks.

Graham Royle



*The queen marking colour for 2021 is **WHITE***

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SOUTH CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2020

Branch Chair:	Pete Sutcliffe	**Show Manager:**	Alan Smith
Vice Chair:	Liz Camm	**Librarian:**	Julia Forbes-Leith
Secretary:	Sheila Hargreaves	**Other Members:**	Nikki Dakin
Treasurer:	Dee Smith		Hayley Dutton
Apiary Manager:	Liz Camm		Sydney Hollinshead
Education Secretary:	Isobel Large		Helen Palacz
Website Manager:	Marine Godot		Neil Williams

This has been a challenging year for us all with much of our daily lives transformed by restrictions, yet in beekeeping some aspects of life continued normally with the bees benefitting from the good weather and beekeepers tending their hives both at home and in out apiaries.

The apiary team moved some hives to members' homes and the remainder were cared for in the Bradwall Apiary. Early promise of a record honey crop turned into a disappointing July and August with starvation warnings from Bee Base.

Himalayan balsam boosted winter stores in some areas. Reports from members suggest an average crop overall.

We started the year in January with our AGM followed by '10 Minute Talks' and then in February we had the pleasure of John Whitaker's talk called, 'The Ethics of Beekeeping.' The subject is many faceted and John illustrated the choices beekeepers have to make and how they impact on the health and welfare of the bees, the beekeeper and society in general.

In February we were encouraged to get to know the many and different butterflies in our local area by Tony Parker from the Liverpool Museum and Mammal Society and, as it turned out, we all spent a lot more time exploring our local countryside and gardens in the spring and summer of 2020.

Sadly, in April our busy programme of meetings and events for the summer was cancelled. A new phenomenon, Zoom, took hold and we were able to enjoy beekeeping activities online. SCBKA held several informal branch meetings where members could discuss and support each other. To end the year members enjoyed an end of year social complete with our annual quiz but sadly without refreshments and Sydney's much enjoyed auction.



The village hall is no longer our meeting place

In February SCBKA was informed that we could no longer use the village hall for our meetings. We have been truly blessed all these years to have both the apiary and the excellent hall so near to each other. Our apiary will continue to be located at Bradwall with Mr Willis' kind permission and the committee is searching for another venue which offers the same advantages as Bradwall.

The Beginners' Course managed to teach nine of the planned ten sessions and the mentoring of beekeepers in their early careers has continued despite the restrictions we all lived under.

Liz Camm

NORTH CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2020

Branch Chair:	Stuart Hatton	**Apiary Management Committee:**	
Secretary:	John Saddler		Peter Woodhead
Treasurer:	Peter Woodhead		Paul Williams
Training Coordinator:	Maria Heywood		Julia Young
Show Manager:	Graham Platt		Polly Smith
Librarian:	Cathy Ellis	**Other Members:**	Pamela Hatton
			Kelvin Heywood

The year started well with an excellently attended AGM and Social. The Committee having been re-elected en bloc the business of the AGM proceeded efficiently and there was plenty of time left for the attendees to relax over an excellent meal.

As usual the Committee, and John Sadler in particular, had worked hard to produce a full and varied programme of Branch activities, which started in February with an interesting and entertaining talk from Dr Paul Cross on Tracking Insect Pollinators.

By then the theory element of the Branch training programme for beginner beekeepers was well underway, with a capacity attendance of keen learners on eight Monday evenings throughout January and February and into March, with the last meeting being held on the evening of the 16th, too late to be cancelled in the wake of the Health Secretary's announcement, but a full week before the national 'lockdown' became mandatory.

Somewhat ironically the first branch event to be cancelled was the 'Disease Evening', depriving members of the opportunity to have their own bees checked for Nosema and to learn about the signs, symptoms and treatments of other pests and diseases that all beekeepers should know about.

Hopes that the preparations for practical training and monthly meetings would not all be wasted were soon dashed, and instead beekeepers across the County became accustomed to meeting remotely, with North Cheshire members taking advantage of the talks arranged by County, and other Branches, as well as national organisations. It was a matter of some concern that no practical training for beginners could take place, but several individual members of the training team were able to mentor and help out those who had already acquired bees.

Beekeepers were fortunate to have a directive from the BBKA early on which stated that we were allowed to attend to our bees no matter what restrictions were imposed on other activities, and the layout of the hives at the Branch Training Apiary meant that it was relatively easy for 2 managers to attend at a time while remaining socially distanced, so weekly inspections continued throughout the year, and the substantial honey crop was harvested and quickly sold.

In September the Branch Committee took advantage of an easing of regulations to hold a committee meeting in the now COVID safe Frodsham Community Centre, but with the need to wear masks, sit metres apart and have no refreshments, it was an uncomfortable experience and increased the resolve to revise plans for the rest of the year and for 2021, to provide as many of the usual activities as possible by Zoom.

In following weeks the Branch acquired its own Zoom licence and Pamela Hatton ascended a very steep learning curve to become proficient in

managing meetings to include live presentations, video presentations, breakout meetings, and question and answer sessions with both large and small audiences.

By this means, the Branch was able to invite members to the last meeting of the year in November, which was a lively open discussion session, and the training Committee met a number of times to prepare for a smooth delivery of the 2021 beginners' theory course. This was largely a case of checking out technical matters, as Training Co-ordinator Maria Heywood has worked tirelessly throughout the year, keeping in contact with the 2020 beginners and ensuring that everything is ready for the 2021 course which already has 20 participants, and will, as usual, run for eight weeks from January to March.

Plans are underway for a Zoomed AGM, and a 2021 meetings programme which can be flexible enough to return to in-person meetings as soon as circumstances allow.

Thanks to our hard working Secretary, relations with the Frodsham Community Centre remain strong which means that the COVID safe venue can again be used for Branch meetings as well as some County and National meetings such as the excellent First Aid for Beekeepers course, held in February this year.

Whatever happens in 2021 many lessons have been learnt this year that will help the Branch Committee to continue to serve the thriving community of enthusiastic beekeepers in North Cheshire. Maybe in 2021 we can learn how to control the weather.

Polly Smith

MID CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2020

Branch Chair:	Lesley Parker	**Librarian:**	Dave Wright
Secretary:	Stuart Forbes	**Other Members:**	Lesley Jacques
Treasurers:	Sarah & Nick Johnson		Shaun Gee
Show Manager:	Stuart Forbes		John van Suchtelen
Show Steward:	Lesley Parker		

The year started with our branch AGM in January. Bob Beards resigned from the committee, but the other committee members were re-elected en masse. Much of the discussion focussed on increasing our membership base and it was agreed that we should make greater use of social media to publicise our activities. Shaun Gee, who has expertise in this area, was elected to the committee.

Our new membership drive has been successful because, despite the disruption to our meetings caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our membership increased from 41 to 50 in 2020. We have welcomed 13 new members this year, but sadly a few of our existing members did not renew their subscriptions.

At our February meeting Karl Colyer presented a talk entitled 'The Nuc Box: An Essential Requirement' during which he described how a couple of nuc boxes can help us deal with many of the challenges we face in beekeeping, such as winter losses and emergency queen rearing. Karl, who typically manages 50+ colonies and 15+ nucs, demonstrated the various set-ups and working techniques employed in his apiaries.

We decided to build on the success of last year's event by again holding our beginners meeting in March such that, following a brief ntroduction to the craft, new beekeepers could immediately start a formal training programme and even acquire their own colony of bees in the same season. However, despite these best laid plans, the start of the first COVID-19 lockdown soon

after this meeting meant that few new beekeepers were able to commence any formal training.

The meeting itself included a short introductory talk, details of local training courses, a display of beekeeping equipment, honey and beeswax products, and the opportunity for potential new beekeepers to ask questions and discuss the craft with existing branch members. Publicising the event on social media and in the local press attracted a lot of interest which most probably led to the increased branch membership.

Our programme of physical meetings and apiary visits for the remainder of 2020 had to be aborted owing to the restrictions arising from the pandemic. Based on the positive responses we received to a Survey Monkey mailing conducted in April, it was clear that our members wished to maintain contact by using online video meetings in place of physical events.

We therefore held our first Mid-Cheshire Branch Zoom Meeting in May at which Lesley Jacques presented an interesting and informative talk on 'The Marvellous Honeybee'. Lesley explained how, ever since starting beekeeping, she has been intrigued by the remarkable lives and capabilities of these insects and illustrated why with many interesting facts and figures on a typical colony. Lesley presented this talk again at the CBKA's inaugural on-line meeting in August when the County followed our initiative of holding meetings via Zoom.

Having received much positive feedback to our first Zoom meeting we decided to continue holding online events with our first virtual apiary visit in June. This involved a visit to Shaun Gee's apiary in Hartford during which Shaun and his daughter Freya told us about their bees and attended to the filming while Lesley Jacques carried out the hive inspections. Clearly this live and remote event was technically more challenging than our other online meetings, but we were blessed with a beautiful summer evening and well-behaved bees. The only drawback was that, unlike at our normal apiary visits, we were unable to join Shaun, Lesley and Freya for 'al fresco' tea and cakes following the hive inspections.

At our July online meeting Mark Phillipson described his method of queen rearing using mini-nucs. He showed a short video recorded in his own apiary with the help of his wife, Andrea, which illustrated the various steps they employ to raise queens. Following the presentation Mark acted as the chairman for a highly participative Q&A/discussion session on queen rearing and other subjects. Many of our members were able to benefit from his considerable knowledge and experience of beekeeping.

The ongoing series of CBKA online meetings, which started in August, has included two presentations originally scheduled for our April and October meetings: Stuart Hatton on 'Garden Planting for Bees' and Bob Beards on 'Queens for Pennies'. Given the wide availability of Zoom speaker events, we decided to change the balance of our branch meetings for the remainder of this year to place greater emphasis on Q&A/ discussion sessions.

At our November Zoom meeting our members discussed a range of subjects including checking stores and feeding, varroa treatments, problems with wasps and new equipment acquisitions.

We were unable to hold our annual honey show although in hindsight this might have been fortunate given that members indicated a large variation in this year's harvest with several reporting very poor yields. Some members have, with adherence to social distancing rules, been able to visit new beekeepers this year and assist them with their first hive inspections.

Clearly 2020 has been a difficult time for everyone. The pandemic disrupted most of our planned events, but hopefully we will see some form of "normality" return in the course of 2021.

Stuart Forbes

STOCKPORT BRANCH REPORT 2020

Branch Chair:	Brian Gee	**Programme Manager:**	Catharine Edwardes-Evans
Secretary:	Peter Carefoot		
Treasurer:	Alistair Taylor	**Social Secretary:**	TBA
Apiary Manager:	Roy Brocklehurst	**Librarian:**	Paul Wheeldon
Education Secretary:	Alan Towse	**Other Members:**	Colin Booth
Show Manager:	Pat Booth		Liz Sparkes

At the end of the year Branch membership was 219.

The branch started the year on a strong financial footing with a balance of £20,630. The main income streams for 2020 were once again the training courses and sales of honey and bees.

The beekeeping year 2020 started well enough but activities were quickly curtailed with the national lockdown in March. The Beginners' Theory Course was completed at Aquinas College, Stockport with 28 students. Alas, the practical course scheduled for May was cancelled, as was an attempt to complete the course at the end of July.

In February a 4 week beekeeping course was successfully completed with Manchester and Stockport Council Pest Control teams. Manchester Council has established an apiary and intend to capture swarms offering a more bee friendly approach to the general public. The course to Salford University academics was cancelled after one week when the university closed due to lockdown.

In March a presentation from Prof Steven Martin was squeezed in just before lockdown. Whilst this was primarily about the varroa mite and the virus it spreads, Steven took the time to explain the principles of "R" rate spread with occasional reference to coronavirus. A very informative and thought provoking talk from one of the world's leading experts on varroa disease in honey bees.

In September the students at Bramhall High School were delighted to get their first honey crop from the apiary established in 2019.

In the Woodbank Apiary, colony management continued during the lockdown through a small, regular group of volunteers from the Committee. Meeting on Wednesday or Thursday each week the colonies were managed successfully through to the end of the season. The branch entered winter with 9 national colonies, one nucleus colony and one top bar hive.

In November solar panels were added to the container roof to provide power for lights to make working safer during the winter months. The apiary fence was painted and the area generally tided.

The honey yield from the Woodbank hives was 232lbs, down on the 2019 figure of 315lbs. Reports from beekeepers in the Stockport region suggest the crop was below average. The early summer expectations were dashed by the wet weather. Some colonies near to balsam were 'rescued' with the long flowering season. At the end of September the branch supers were extracted at Woodbank over 2 nights for a restricted number of beginners, to demonstrate the charms of de-capping and spinning.

The year ended with a successful Beekeepers' Question Time on Zoom.

Finally, congratulations and thanks to Roy Brocklehurst and Graham Royle who were given life membership of Cheshire Beekeepers for their outstanding contribution to beekeeping.

Peter Carefoot

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WIRRAL BRANCH REPORT 2020

Branch Chair:	Nigel Brierley	**Prog. Secretary:**	Nigel Brierley
Vice Chair:	Barbara Bryant	**Other Members:**	Paul Manning
Secretary:	Janine Unwin		Gillian Medley
Treasurer:	Nick Ashton		Avril Rowley
Education Secretary:	Nigel Brierley		Graham Wilson
	Marshall Pugh		

The year started off smoothly in January with no blood spilt at our AGM. February saw Joyce Nisbet's talk about what to expect in your second year of beekeeping. As the corona virus situation unfolded, the remainder of our programme had to be cancelled due to Government restrictions.

Our beginners' course started in January with twenty eight very keen students, most of whom attended every week. This ran until March when lockdown on the 20th March prevented delivery of the final session on the very next day! This will now go ahead via zoom; thanks are due to Avril, Janine and Graham for organising this. A big thank you is also due to Graham for revamping the branch website and Facebook page. Our website links to the County website, advertising upcoming events and providing information to the members.

During the summer we have all followed the guidelines, and done our best with the "I have a swarm of bees" calls.

Demand for next year's beginners' course is quite positive, with a recent inquiry from a local secondary school.

Next year's AGM will be via Zoom as will the theory segment of the Beginners' course. If restrictions are still in place, we have discussed the possibility of delivering the practical sessions of the beginners' course using more demonstrators, enabling us to have groups of two or three.

Fingers crossed 2021 delivers some improvement.

Nigel Brierley

EQUIPMENT HELD BY THE ASSOCIATION AVAILABLE ON LOAN

These must be collected in person and returned by the agreed date.

Observation hive	Pam and Stuart Hatton. (Tel 01925 263023)
Honey extractors	Most branches hold honey extractors for hire to members for a nominal sum. Please contact your branch secretary for details.
Library books	A selection of library books is available for loan from branch libraries. Please contact your branch librarian for details. These are listed in the branch reports.
Archive materials	A selection of CBKA archive materials is held by Peter Sutcliffe. (Tel: 01477 535374)
Microscopy equipment	Microscopes and associated equipment are held by Graham Royle. (Tel 01260 252042)

Please note that the borrower is responsible for the responsible use and safe return of all equipment borrowed.

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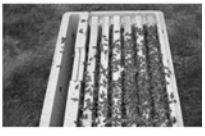












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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

The following pages show the financial accounts for Cheshire Beekeepers' Association and its branches for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The next page shows the position of Cheshire Beekeepers' Association in total, that is to say, the sum of the County, its five branches and the endowments given for the benefit of members. These show total funds of £91,602.01 compared to funds of £85,852.97 at 31 December 2019.

Including the capitation payments paid by the County to the branches totalling £3,000, all of the branches except for Stockport branch made surpluses– Stockport's loss resulted from a the timing of its training courses which were impacted by the pandemic. 2020 was a year like no other, and branches responded by sizing their expenditure to meet with the reduced activity allowed, and by making the most of technology to host meetings. The bees in branch apiaries continued to work regardless of Coronavirus, and branch apiaries produced well providing another source of branch income.

The County produced a surplus of £2,238.89; membership was little effected by coronavirus with most people having joined before the first lockdown in April, also expenditure reduced as the more costly physical events were replaced by less costly virtual events. North Cheshire's surplus was £669.49; South Cheshire's surplus was £308.53; Wirral's surplus was £3,442.82; Stockport's loss was £960.87 and Mid Cheshire's surplus was £35.67.

Taking all of the branches, the County, and funds given for the benefit CBKA together, Cheshire Beekeepers Association made a combined surplus of £5,749.04 in 2020 (2019 surplus of £3,355.43).

During the year the Committee reviewed and discussed the Charity's reserves. Whilst there is no fixed policy on reserves, the Committee review these annually taking into account branch and County spending plans, the movements in BBKA capitation and overall membership.

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charity SORP FRSSE.

Simon Nuttall
Honorary County Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Cheshire Beekeepers Association for the year ended 31 December 2020.

I have completed my examination and I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:
Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Association
The accounts do not accord with those records; or
The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act.
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination.

John Sheekey B.Sc ACMA ICPA
Honorary County Auditor, 17 January 2021

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	UNRESTRICTED		
	County	*North*	*South*
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£
Voluntary income	30,518.88	302.00	288.94
Activities for generating funds	1,017.60	40.00	183.00
Investment income	113.84	7.28	9.18
Incoming resources from charitable activities	797.20	1,970.37	1,172.50
Other incoming resources	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total incoming resources	32,447.52	2,319.65	1,653.62
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating voluntary income	(23,490.40)	(191.90)	(672.40)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	0.00	(28.80)	(5.94)
Cost of charitable activities	(501.85)	(880.16)	(1,440.56)
Governance costs	(1,526.00)	0.00	0.00
Other resources expended	(1,510.38)	(1,199.30)	(41.19)
Total resources expended	(27,028.63)	(2,300.16)	(2,160.09)
Net in/out resources before transfers	5,418.89	19.49	(506.47)
TRANSFERS			
Branch capitation	(3,000.00)	650.00	635.00
Branch transfers	(180.00)	0.00	180.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	2,238.89	669.49	308.53
OPENING TOTAL ASSETS	**24,467.76**	**14,763.82**	**9,807.82**
Cash funds	26,706.65	15,433.31	10,116.35
Investment assets	20.00	0.00	0.00
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
CLOSING TOTAL ASSETS	**26,726.65**	**15,433.31**	**10,116.35**

FUNDS			ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
Wirral	*Stockport*	*Mid Cheshire*	*Griffiths*	*W Menzies*	TOTAL
£	£	£	£	£	£
0.00	93.10	44.00	0.00	0.00	31,246.92
0.00	0.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	1,274.60
0.00	63.10	0.00	9.49	4.93	207.82
2,880.00	1,157.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	7,992.07
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2,880.00	1,313.20	93.00	9.49	4.93	40,721.41
423.33	(873.09)	(132.00)	0.00	0.00	(24,936.46)
(32.00)	(52.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(118.74)
(390.00)	(2,250.39)	(105.33)	0.00	0.00	(5,568.29)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,526.00)
(23.51)	(48.50)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,822.88)
(22.18)	(3,223.98)	(237.33)	0.00	0.00	(34,972.37)
2,857.82	(1,910.78)	(144.33)	9.49	4.93	5,749.04
585.00	950.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3,442.82	(960.78)	35.67	9.49	4.93	5,749.04
11,539.70	**20,630.84**	**2,685.08**	**1,275.11**	**662.84**	**85,832.97**
14,982.52	19,670.06	2,720.75	1,284.60	667.77	91,582.01
00.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14,982.52	**19,670.06**	**2,720.75**	**1,284.60**	**667.77**	**91,602.01**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - COUNTY

YEAR ENDED31 DECEMBER 2020

	County 2020 £	Griffiths 2020 £	W Menzies 2020 £	County 2019 £	Griffiths 2019 £	W Menzies 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income						
Subscriptions	22,280.27			18,401.31		
Gift Aid	3,733.01			3,450.26		
BDI premiums via subscriptions	2,335.60			2,162.90		
Research fund income from subscriptions	1,340.70			1,205.40		
Donations for Bee Charities received in subs	759.30			154.75		
Donations	70.00			585.50		
Activities for generating funds						
Advertising	1,017.60			50.00		
Autumn Convention raffle & sponsorship				389.00		
RHS prize money				682.50		
Investment income						
Interest income	113.84	9.49	4.93	98.20	8.12	4.22
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Conventions	146.88			3,437.00		
Training courses	470.32			1,929.00		
South Cheshire beginners course	180.00			2,115.00		
Other incoming resources						
Miscellaneous	0.00			145.47		
Total incoming resources	**32,447.52**	**9.49**	**4.93**	**34,806.29**	**8.12**	**4.22**
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating voluntary income						
Newsletter costs	(7,022.80)			(8,604.00)		
Room hire	(96.00)			(65.00)		
BBKA Capitation	(11,936.00)			(11,584.50)		
BDI payments	(2,335.60)			(2,162.90)		
Payment to BBKA research fund	(1,340.70)			(1,205.40)		
Payment to Bees Abroad from subscriptions	(759.30)			(484.55)		
Postage	0.00			0.00		

Treasurer: SK Nuttall; Audited: J Sheekey

Cost of Charitable Activities						
Convention costs				(3,340.10)		
Training course running costs	(180.00)			(1,909.79)		
Exam fees	(304.00)			(412.00)		
Trophy engraving	(17.85)			(234.99)		
Grittiths prize				(40.00)		
Governance costs						
Year book printing	(1,526.00)					
Other resources expended						
Donations						
National honey show membership	(80.00)			(150.00)		
Honoraria	(870.00)			(810.00)		
Miscellaneous costs	(150.00)			(71.40)		
Hearing loop				(54.97)		
Banners and posters				(511.20)		
Website costs	(410.38)			(75.04)	0.00	0.00
Total resources expended	**(27,028.63)**	0.00	0.00	**(31,715.84)**	8.12	4.22
Net in/out resources before transfers	**5,418.89**	9.49	4.93	**3,090.45**		
TRANSFERS:						
Branch capitation from County	(3,000.00)			(2,920.00)		
Branch transfer	(180.00)			(2,115.00)		
Library Grant				(173.90)	8.12	4.22
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	2,238.89	9.49	4.93	(2,118.45)	1,266.99	658.62
Opening cash funds	24,467.76	1,275.11	662.84	26,586.21		
Cash Funds						
Closing cash and bank	26,706.65	1,284.60	667.77	24,467.76	1,275.11	662.84
Investment Assets						
War Stock	20.00			20.00		
Creditors Bees for Development						
TOTAL FUNDS	**26,726.65**	**1,284.60**	**667.77**	**24,487.76**	**1,275.11**	**662.84**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - NORTH CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER	*North* 2020	*North* 2019
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions	302.00	495.00
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	40.00	226.00
Investment income		
Interest income	7.28	13.57
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	900.00	2,890.00
Honey and bee sales	1,015.37	1,004.66
Value of apiary honey used for payments		
Extractor rental income	55.00	25.00
Total incoming resources	**2,319.55**	**4,654.23**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Running expenses	(115.10)	
Room hire		(816.00)
Speakers expenses	(76.80)	(229.80)
BDI payments		(17.00)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(28.80)	(43.50)
Special celebration costs		(34.98)
Cost of charitable activities		
Apiary running costs	(830.43)	(399.38)
Apiary rent		
Training course running costs	(49.73)	(786.10)
Training Equipment		(618.58)
Autumn convention costs		(28.80)
Show judge & trophy engraving		(37.50)
Honey show printing and stationery		
Other resources expended		
Miscellaneous costs	(603.60)	(60.00)
AGM costs	(595.70)	(700.00)
Total resources expended	**(2,300.16)**	**(3,771.64)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	19.49	882.59
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	650.00	675.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**669.49**	**1,557.59**
Opening cash funds	14,763.82	13,206.23
Closing cash at bank	15,433.31	14,763.82
TOTAL FUNDS	**15,433.31**	**14,763.82**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***58***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*275*
Sales of honey in the year	*290)*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***43***

Treasurer: P. Woodhead
Auditor: P. Smith

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - SOUTH CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020	*South* 2020 £	*South* 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:		
Voluntary income		
Admissions	8.94	28.00
Donations	280.00	250.00
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	183.00	753.50
Investment income		
Interest income	9.18	8.78
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	135.00	1,360.50
Honey and bee sales	927.50	570.00
Value of apiary honey used for payments	110.00	90.00
Other sales	0.00	0.00
Total incoming resources	**1,653.62**	**3,370.78**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Room hire		(360.00)
Speakers expenses	(190.00)	(515.60)
Printing & stationery	(459.40)	
BDI payments	(23.00)	(11.50)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(5.94)	(17.00)
Cost of charitable activities		(34.98)
Apiary running costs	(364.82)	(519.71)
Apiary rent	(100.00)	(81.00)
Training course running costs	(607.85)	(1,307.59)
Training Equipment	(250.00)	(335.39)
Dinner costs	(117.89)	(281.72)
Library		(487.26)
Autumn convention costs		(55.00)
Honey show prizes		(204.99)
Other resources expended		
Miscellaneous costs	(31.19)	
Auditor	(10.00)	(9.00)
Total resources expended	**(2,160.09)**	**(4,184.76)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(504.47)	(813.98)
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	635.00	560.00
Other branch transfers	180.00	2,115.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**308.53**	**1,861.02**
Opening cash funds	9,807.82	7,946.80
Closing cash at bank	10,116.35	9,807.82
TOTAL FUNDS	**10,116.35**	**9,807.82**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***103***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*167*
Sales of honey in the year	*(193)*
Payment in honey - to non CBKA members	*(22)*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***55***

Treasurer: D. Smith
Auditor: L. Stone

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - MID CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020	*Mid Cheshire* 2020	*Mid Cheshire* 2019
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income		
Admissions	44.00	121.00
Activities for generating funds		
Raffle	34.00	141.00
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Donations		400.00
Extractor rental income	15.00	5.00
Total incoming resources	**93.00**	**667.00**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Room hire	(132.00)	(162.00)
Speakers expenses		(230.00)
Cost of charitable activities		
Convention costs	(25.00)	(50.00)
Miscellaneous	(80.33)	(815.56)
Honey show printing and stationery		(33.75)
Total resources expended	**(237.33)**	**(1,291.31)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(144.33)	(624.31)
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	180.00	210.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**35.67**	**(414.31)**
Opening cash funds	2,685.08	3,099.39
Closing cash at bank	2,720.75	2,685.08
TOTAL FUNDS	**2,720.75**	**2,685.08**

Treasurer: S. Johnson
Auditor: R. Ibbett

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - STOCKPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020	*Stockport* 2020 £	*Stockport* 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:		
Voluntary income		
Admissions	93.10	253.08
Show entry fees		
Donations		3.00
Investment income		
Interest income	63.10	57.78
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Training courses	100.00	3,825.00
Honey and bee sales	1,005.00	749.00
Other sales	24.00	181.50
Extractor rental income	28.00	62.00
Eqipment sales		
50th anniversary celebration		1,474.00
Total incoming resources	**1,313.20**	**6,605.36**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Running expenses	(281.59)	(272.84)
Room hire	(450.00)	(835.00)
Speakers expenses	(130.00)	(244.00)
Printing, stationery & postage		
BDI payments	(11.50)	(23.00)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(6.00)	(351.04)
Convention costs	(46.00)	(50.00)
Dinner costs		
Cost of charitable activities		
Apiary running costs	(1,350.83)	(888.80)
Training course running costs	(721.56)	(169.78)
Training Equipment		
Library books		(173.90)
Honey show printing & stationery		(120.00)
Show judge & trophy engraving	(72.00)	(130.00)
50th anniversary celebration costs	(106.00)	(3,097.10)
Other resources expended		
Donations		(80.00)
Miscellaneous costs		(23.00)
AGM costs	(48.50)	(33.00)
Total resources expended	**(3,223.98)**	**(6,491.46)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(1,910.78)	113.90
TRANSFERS		
Branch capitation from County	950.00	925.00
Library grant		173.90
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**(960.78)**	**1,212.80**
Opening cash funds	20,630.84	19,418.04
Closing cash at bank	19,670.06	20,630.84
TOTAL FUNDS	**19,670.06**	**20,630.84**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***207***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*232*
Sales of honey in the year	*(322)*
Gifts of honey	*(4)*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***113***

Treasurer: A. Taylor
Auditor: L. Hudson

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - WIRRAL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020	*Wirral General* 2020	*Wirral Training* 2020	*Wirral Branch* 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income			
Admissions			
Activities for generating funds			
Raffle			
Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Training courses	2,610.00	270.00	2,880.00
Eqipment sales			
Total incoming resources	**2,610.00**	**270.00**	**2,880.00**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income			
Room hire			
Speakers expenses	423.33	423.33	423.33
Postage costs			
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold			
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(32.00)		(32.00)
Cost of charitable activities			
Training course running costs	(390.00)		(390.00)
Training Equipment			
Miscellaneous costs			
Other resources expended			
Miscellaneous costs	(23.51)		(23.51)
Total resources expended	**(22.18)**	**0.00**	**(22.18)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	2,487.82	270.00	2,857.82
TRANSFERS			
Branch capitation from County	585.00		585.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**3,172.82**	**270.00**	**3,442.82**
Opening cash funds	4,600.85	6,938.85	11,539.70
Closing cash at bank	7,773.67	7,208.85	14,982.52
TOTAL FUNDS	**7,773.67**	**7,208.85**	**14,982.52**

BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:

Branch apiary honey b/fwd at 01 January (lbs)	***0***
This year's branch apiary honey harvest	*0*
Sales of honey in the year	*0*
Branch apiary honey c/fwd at 31 December (lbs)	***0***

Treasurer: N. Ashton
Auditor: R. Spencer

	Wirral General 2019	*Wirral Training* 2019	*Wirral Branch* 2019
INCOMING RESOURCES:	**£**	**£**	**£**
Voluntary income			
Admissions	210.91		210.91
Activities for generating funds			
Raffle	149.12		149.12
Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Training courses	230.00	2,570.00	2,800.00
Eqipment sales			
Total incoming resources	**590.03**	**2,570.00**	**3,160.03**
RESOURCES EXPENDED:			
Costs of generating voluntary income			
Room hire	(505.00)		(505.00)
Speakers expenses	(648.13)		(648.13)
Postage costs		(27.60)	(27.60)
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold			
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(90.67)		(90.67)
Cost of charitable activities			
Training course running costs		(270.00)	(270.00)
Training Equipment	(337.33)		337.33)
Miscellaneous costs			
Other resources expended			
Miscellaneous costs	(102.86)	(484.00)	(586.86)
Total resources expended	**(1,683.99)**	**(781.60)**	**(2,465.59)**
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(1,093.96)	1,788.40	694.44
TRANSFERS			
Branch capitation from County	550.00		550.00
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS	**(543.96)**	**1,788.40**	**1,244.44**
Opening cash funds	5,144.81	5,150.45	10,295.26
Closing cash at bank	4,600.85	6,938.85	11,539.70
TOTAL FUNDS	**4,600.85**	**6,938.85**	**11,539.70**

REPORT ON THE 2020 BBKA DELEGATES' MEETING

This year's Annual Delegates' Meeting was once again held at Myton School in Warwick. On 11th January, 67 Area Association delegates assembled, representing over 24,000 BBKA members throughout the UK. The meeting always has a busy agenda, so a summary of the key outcomes is given here.

The agenda always covers reports from the various subcommittees that undertake the day-to-day running of the BBKA as well as an overview of Association finances. Following a significant drive to manage expenditure, the association made a small surplus in 2019, so for the fourth year running there will be no increase in capitation – an outcome received as good news by all, with appreciation for the BBKA staff shown in the traditional manner with a round of applause!

Exams, awards and recognitions

There was a significant increase in the number of Basic Assessments in the past year, with 712 successful candidates from 61 areas compared with 636 from 55 areas last year. A similar trend has been seen with module exams, with 522 exams taken, up by 100 on the previous year. This year, the Surrey Shield, for best performance in the Basic examinations, was presented to Tyneside BKA. The George Knights Memorial Award for the best performance in assessments above basic (so module exams, general and advanced husbandry etc.) was awarded to Yorkshire BKA.

Applications for association membership

Previous years have seen several applications for BBKA membership from new groups or splinter groups from larger area associations. This year there were applications from Darlington BKA and Laddingford and District BKA. Darlington's application was withdrawn. Laddingford's application had been put forward and rejected last year, with the feeling that the delegate group, and particularly the larger associations, were tiring of the apparent fragmentation of existing groups. The application was again rejected.

Nominations to BBKA committees

This year, Executive Committee (EC) positions with a three-year tenure were taken up by Anne Rowberry (Avon), Joyce Nisbet (Shropshire), Stephen Barnes (Cumbria), and Richard Bond (Harrogate & Ripon). Two-year tenures were taken up by Gareth Morgan (Surrey) and Robert Hogge (Jersey). John Hendrie (Kent) took up a position for one year.

In addition, Helen Hughes (Cleveland) was elected to the Examinations Board. After many years in office in various organisation and committee roles, Margaret Murdin stepped down and Margaret Wilson (Lancs & NW) was voted in as President.

It has often been the case that there are fewer candidates standing for election than there are positions available. The chair put it to the meeting that should this situation arise in the future, the Executive Committee should be able to appoint suitable individuals to fill any vacancies.

Propositions for consideration

This year there were 15 propositions for consideration. A number of these were to finalise the constitution of the BBKA as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). At the last ADM the delegates voted overwhelmingly to convert to a CIO, which required the existing BBKA constitution to be amended to match (as closely as possible) the Charity Commission Model Constitution without altering the ethos or structure of the BBKA.

The changes have been minor, however, following several disagreements between trustees in recent years, the discipline and grievance procedure for trustees that was in place was deemed not fit for purpose. A new

procedure was therefore put in place, including training in dispute resolution for all new trustees. This was ratified this year, along with other changes, including an amendment to simplify the voting mechanism for filling vacancies on the executive committee. There is more information about the CIO and the route to its finalisation on the BBKA web site at

https://www.bbka.org.uk/charitable-incorporated-organisation

While attendance at the ADM is generally good, for those more distant associations, the journey is a long one and it may be difficult for some delegates to attend in person. Moreover, should a delegate be unable to attend at short notice and a substitute be unavailable, the proxy voting arrangement enables their associations' mandate to be represented at the meeting. However, the issue of proxy voting has been contentious in recent years.

This year, a proposition was put forward by West Sussex BKA to activate proxy voting only when there is a physical attendance of 90% of delegates, thereby encouraging delegates to attend in person. This was amended to 70% during the meeting, and the issue sparked some fierce debate, notably that the more remote associations might feel disenfranchised.

Ultimately, the feeling of the meeting was that anything that restricts an association's representation at the ADM would not be a good thing and the proposition was not carried.

Buckinghamshire BKA had tabled a proposition that the BBKA should raise pollinator awareness among planning and landscaping professionals.

Education around the value of bees, and indeed, all pollinators, is one of the key objectives of the Association. And while the point was made that it is difficult for the BBKA to influence landscape professionals' initial training directly, there remain many opportunities in continued professional development which will capture people at all stages of their career, and therefore may impact a much wider cross section of individuals. The proposition was carried overwhelmingly, with a closing comment that more tightly defined actions are needed now to put the plan into action.

The final proposition of the day was for the delegates to vote on a proposal for the BBKA to support the UK in pursuing membership of Apimondia – the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and other organisations working within the apicultural sector.

Apimondia aims to promote many aspects of apicultural development internationally, and has 118 global members, 33 being European countries. For the UK to join, we must do so as the UK (rather than just England), and so the membership must be sought under the auspices of CONBA – the Confederation of National Beekeeping Associations, which includes the BBKA, the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, Welsh BKA and Ulster Beekeepers.

While there would be little direct benefit to BBKA members from the UK's membership of Apimondia, the group felt that it is important for the UK to have a voice in, and to contribute to the global beekeeping community, and the proposition was carried with a solid majority.

In closing, Margaret Murdin handed over the presidency and chains of office to the incoming President, Margaret Wilson who in turn offered a vote of thanks for her predecessor's many years of service to the Association.

Should anyone wish to know more about the ADM, then please just drop me a line at

lesley.jacques@me.com

Lesley Jacques
ADM delegate for Cheshire BKA

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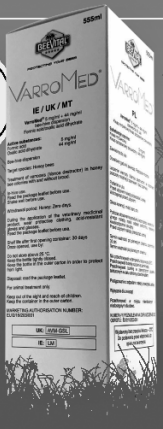
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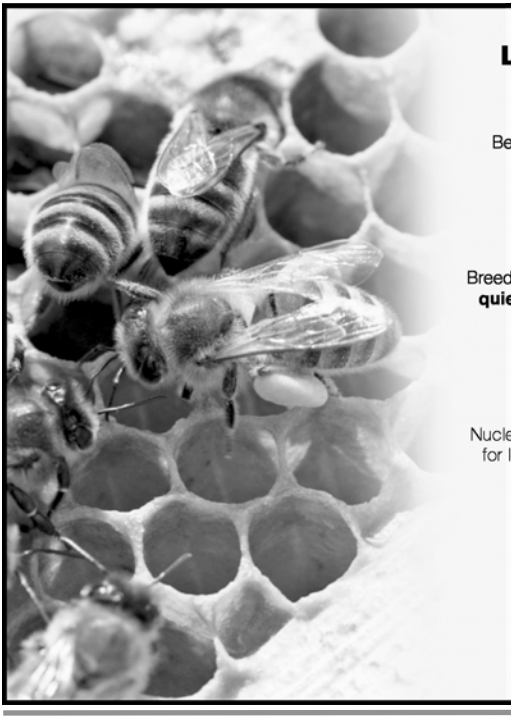


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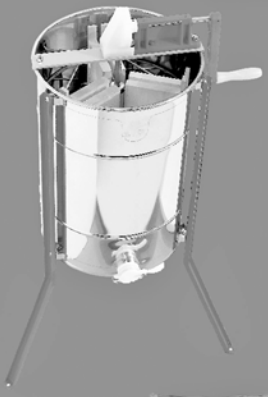
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