

# 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

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

## ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs B. Bryant, Willaston	(2024)	G. F. Royle, Macclesfield	(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

<b>North Cheshire</b>	S. HATTON, Hatton; P. WOODHEAD, Helsby
<b>South Cheshire</b>	P. SUTCLIFFE, Holmes Chapel; D. SMITH, Goostrey
<b>Stockport</b>	P. CAREFOOT, Glossop; A. TAYLOR, Stockport
<b>Wirral</b>	N. BRIERLY, Irby; N. W. ASHTON, Willaston
<b>Mid Cheshire</b>	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

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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

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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

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## COMMITTEE REPORT FOR YEAR 2021

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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 (78mm), 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 lockdown 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

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## **EDUCATION SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2021**

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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

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## EXAMINATION SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2021

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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), Warwick 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](mailto:hattonstuart1@gmail.com) or Tel 01925 263023 or 07778592835.

**Stuart Hatton**  
*Examination Secretary*

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## CBKA AUTUMN CONVENTION REPORT 2021

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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***



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## CBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW REPORT 2021

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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***

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## BEE DISEASE REPORT FOR 2021

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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](http://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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## SOUTH CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2021

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

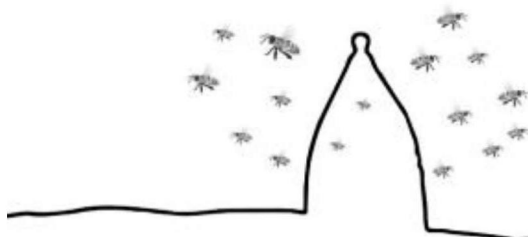
Our winter meetings have also changed from the first Thursday in the month to the second Thursday at Smallwood Village Hall. We started our winter programme with a branch honey show at the October meeting, organised by Alan Smith, with a hundred entries judged by John Goodwin. In November Andrew Easterbrook 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

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

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## MID CHESHIRE BRANCH REPORT 2021

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<b>Branch Chair:</b>	Lesley Parker	<b>Webmaster:</b>	Shaun Gee
<b>Secretary:</b>	Stuart Forbes	<b>Other Members:</b>	Lesley Jacques
<b>Treasurers:</b>	Sarah & Nick Johnson		John van Suchtelen
<b>Show Manager:</b>	Stuart Forbes		Dave Wright
<b>Show Steward:</b>	Lesley Parker		Steve Purkis
<b>Librarians:</b>	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 for the 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**

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## STOCKPORT BRANCH REPORT 2021

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<b>Branch Chair:</b>	Peter Carefoot	<b>Education Secretary:</b>	Alan Towse
<b>Secretary:</b>	Steve Donohoe	<b>Show Manager:</b>	Pat Booth
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Alistair Taylor	<b>Programme Manager:</b>	Tricia Watkins
<b>Apiary Manager:</b>	Roy Brocklehurst	<b>Librarian:</b>	Paul Wheeldon
<b>Assistant Apiary Manager:</b>	David Lilley	<b>Other Members:</b>	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.

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.

Branch meetings started again after lockdown,

**Peter Carefoot**

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## EQUIPMENT HELD BY THE ASSOCIATION AVAILABLE ON LOAN

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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

<b>Branch Chair:</b>	Nigel Brierley	<b>Prog. Secretary:</b>	Nigel Brierley
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Barbara Bryant	<b>Other Members:</b>	Paul Manning
<b>Secretary:</b>	Janine Unwin		Gillian Medley
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Nick Ashton		Avril Rowley
<b>Education Secretary:</b>	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

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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 FRSE.

**Simon Nuttall**  
*Honorary County Treasurer*

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## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

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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		
	<i>County</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
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
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>31,658.72</b>	<b>3,695.14</b>	<b>2,650.29</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
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)
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>(31,979.19)</b>	<b>(2,795.50)</b>	<b>(1,864.69)</b>
<b>Net in/out resources before transfers</b>	<b>(320.47)</b>	<b>899.64</b>	<b>785.60</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>			
Branch capitation	(3,145.00)	735.00	645.00
Branch transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>(3,465.47)</b>	<b>1,634.64</b>	<b>1,430.60</b>
<b>OPENING TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>26,706.65</b>	<b>15,433.31</b>	<b>10,116.35</b>
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
<b>CLOSING TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>23,261.18</b>	<b>17,067.95</b>	<b>11,546.95</b>



**FUNDS****ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

<i>Wirral</i>	<i>Stockport</i>	<i>Mid Cheshire</i>	<i>Griffiths</i>	<i>W Menzies</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>
£	£	£	£	£	£
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
<b>14,982.52</b>	<b>19,670.06</b>	<b>2,720.75</b>	<b>1,284.60</b>	<b>667.77</b>	<b>91,582.01</b>
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
<b>15,267.24</b>	<b>22,191.86</b>	<b>2,964.34</b>	<b>1,287.16</b>	<b>669.10</b>	<b>94,255.78</b>

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - COUNTY

## YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	County		Griffiths W Menzies		County		Griffiths W Menzies	
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES:</b>								
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			
Advertising	825.00				1,017.60			
Interest income	39.01	2.56		1.33	113.84	9.49		4.93
Conventions					146.88			
Training courses					470.32			
South Cheshire beginners course					180.00			
Miscellaneous								
Other incoming resources								
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>31,658.72</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>4.93</b>	<b>32,447.52</b>	<b>9.49</b>	<b>4.93</b>	
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED:</b>								
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)			
Convention costs	(613.51)							
Training course running costs	(400.00)				(180.00)			
Exam fees					(304.00)			
Trophy engraving					(17.85)			
Griffiths prize	(40.00)							
Cost of charitable activities								



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - NORTH CHESHIRE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	North 2021 £	North 2020 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES:</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Admissions	77.00	302.00
Subscriptions	44.50	
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		
Raffle	93.00	40.00
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest income	0.91	7.28
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>		
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
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>3,695.14</b>	<b>2,319.55</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED:</b>		
<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>		
Running expenses	(203.88)	(115.10)
Room hire	(216.00)	
Speakers expenses	(149.90)	(76.80)
BDI payments		
<b>Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold</b>		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle	(85.22)	(28.80)
Special celebration costs		
<b>Cost of charitable activities</b>		
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		
<b>Other resources expended</b>		
Miscellaneous costs	(99.00)	(603.00)
AGM costs		(595.70)
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>(2,795.50)</b>	<b>(2,300.16)</b>
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers</b>	<b>899.64</b>	<b>19.49</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>		
Branch capitation from County	735.00	650.00
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>1,634.64</b>	<b>669.49</b>
Opening cash funds	15,433.31	14,763.82
Closing cash at bank	17,067.95	15,433.31
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>17,067.95</b>	<b>15,433.31</b>

## 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 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES:</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Admissions		8.94
Donations		280.00
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		
Raffle	172.00	183.00
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest income	0.69	9.18
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>		
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
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>2,650.29</b>	<b>1,653.62</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED:</b>		
<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>		
Room hire		(190.00)
Speakers expenses		(459.40)
Printing & stationery		(23.00)
BDI payments	(13.10)	
<b>Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold</b>		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		(5.94)
<b>Cost of charitable activities</b>		
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		
<b>Other resources expended</b>		
Miscellaneous costs		(31.19)
Auditor	(10.00)	(10.00)
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>(1,864.69)</b>	<b>(2,160.09)</b>
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers</b>	<b>785.60</b>	<b>(506.47)</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>		
Branch capitation from County	645.00	635.00
Other branch transfers		180.00
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>1,430.60</b>	<b>308.53</b>
Opening cash funds	10,116.35	9,807.82
Closing cash at bank	11,546.95	10,116.35
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>11,546.95</b>	<b>10,116.35</b>
<b>BRANCH APIARY STOCK NOTE:</b>		
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	<i>Mid Cheshire</i> 2021 £	<i>Mid Cheshire</i> 2020 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES:</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Admissions	74.00	44.00
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		
Raffle	43.00	34.00
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>		
Donations	65.00	
Extractor rental income	5.00	15.00
Miscellaneous	122.46	
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>309.46</b>	<b>93.00</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED:</b>		
<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>		
Room hire	(60.00)	(132.00)
Speakers expenses	(20.00)	
<b>Cost of charitable activities</b>		
Convention costs	(25.00)	(25.00)
Miscellaneous	(195.87)	(80.33)
Honey show printing and stationery		
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>(300.87)</b>	<b>(237.33)</b>
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers</b>	<b>8.59</b>	<b>(144.33)</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>		
Branch capitation from County	235.00	180.00
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>243.59</b>	<b>35.67</b>
Opening cash funds	2,720.75	2,685.08
Closing cash at bank	2,964.34	2,720.75
	<b>2,964.34</b>	<b>2,720.75</b>

*Treasurer: S. Johnson*

*Auditor: R. Ibbett*

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - STOCKPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	<i>Stockport</i> 2021 £	<i>Stockport</i> 2020 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES:</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Admissions	60.00	93.10
Show entry fees		
Donations		
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest income	16.90	63.10
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>		
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
Equipment sales		
50th anniversary celebration		
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>3,460.90</b>	<b>1,313.20</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED:</b>		
<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>		
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)
<b>Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold</b>		
Catering/ refreshments/ raffle		(6.00)
Convention costs	(49.00)	(46.00)
Dinner costs	(112.00)	
<b>Cost of charitable activities</b>		
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)
<b>Other resources expended</b>		
Donations		
Miscellaneous costs		
AGM costs		(48.50)
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>(1,914.10)</b>	<b>(3,223.98)</b>
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers</b>	<b>1,546.80</b>	<b>(1,910.78)</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>		
Branch capitation from County	975.00	950.00
Library grant		
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>2,521.80</b>	<b>(960.78)</b>
Opening cash funds	19,670.06	20,630.84
Closing cash at bank	22,191.86	19,670.06
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>22,191.86</b>	<b>19,670.06</b>

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

### 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

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## REPORT ON THE 2021 BBKA DELEGATES' MEETING

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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 short 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.

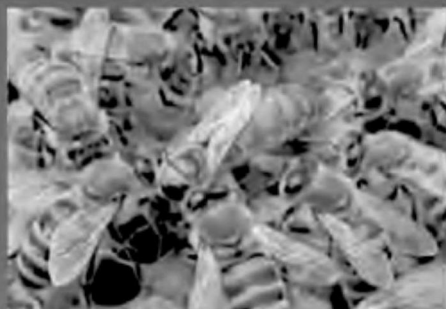
### **Nominations to BBKA committees**

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 put 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 a 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](mailto:lesley.jacques@me.com)

**Lesley Jacques**

*ADM delegate for Cheshire BKA*

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## PUBLIC BENEFIT FROM CBKA ACTIVITIES

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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.

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## DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984

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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.

REASONS I CANT  
TREAT & FEED MY  
BEES?

I dont have time  
to suit up.

Its too dark.

Its raining.

Its snowing.

I dont want to  
disturb them  
again.

Its too cold.

Its just not  
convenient.



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## **CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

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# ***Spring Convention***

***& Annual General Meeting***

**On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

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*At The Vale Royal Abbey Golf and Country Club,  
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***With keynote presentations from:***

***Lynfa Davies NDB ★ Trisha Marlow***

***Dr Martin Bencsik***

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*Tickets will be available online at:*

<https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/spring-convention/>

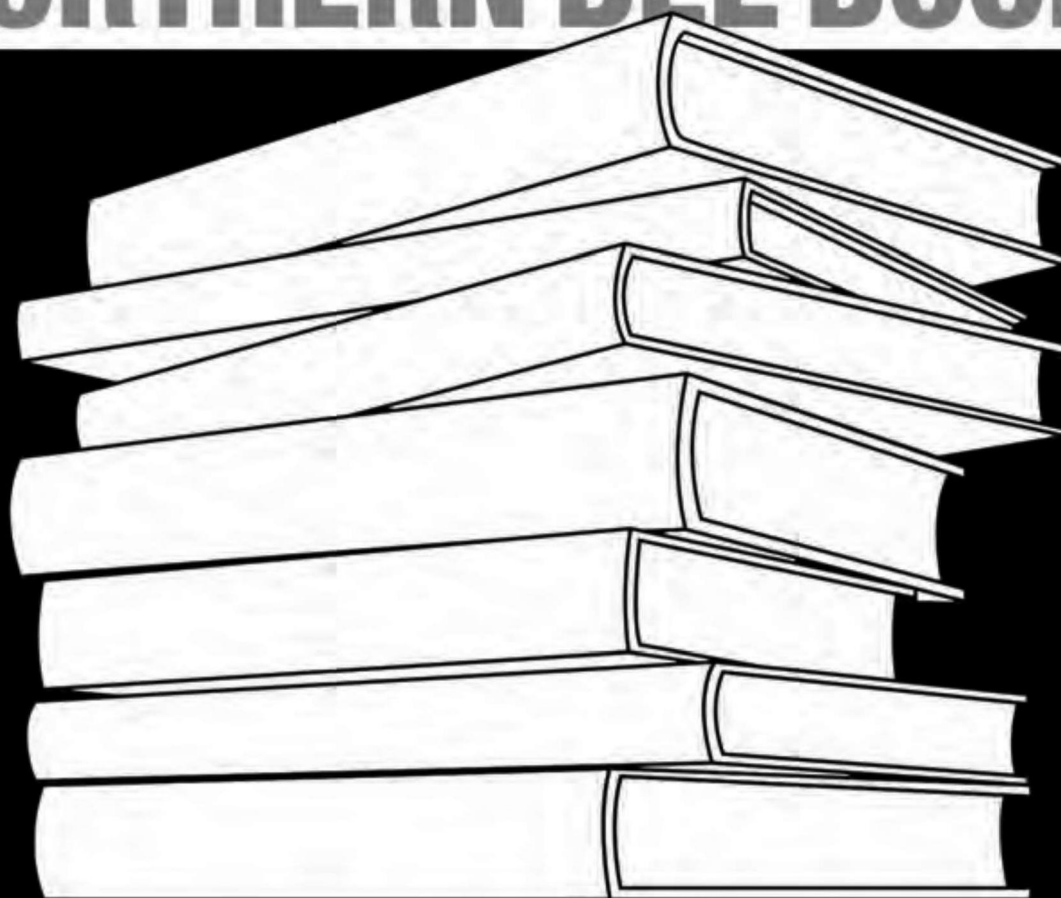
*or for collection at the venue when purchased in advance from*

***Lesley Jacques*** via email at [lesley.jacques@me.com](mailto:lesley.jacques@me.com)

*To ensure Covid safety, numbers are strictly limited – please purchase tickets  
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## LIST OF HOLDERS OF THE CANON EVANS MEMORIAL CUP

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This Trophy is awarded annually for service to Cheshire Beekeeping

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