

THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH-WEST BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 506167

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1977-07-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: THE ENCOURAGEMENT, IMPROVEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT, OF BEE-KEEPING IN LANCASHIRE AND THE NORTH-WEST REGION.

Activities: To promote and further the craft of beekeeping. To advance the education of the general public in the importance of bees in the environment.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LANCASHIRE AND THE NORTH-WEST REGION
- Blackburn With Darwen
- Blackpool
- Bolton
- Knowsley
- Lancashire
- Liverpool City
- Oldham
- Sefton
- St Helens
- Wigan

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-10-31 | £94,628 | £90,725 | - | - |
| 2024-10-31 | £95,539 | £83,311 | - | - |
| 2023-10-31 | £80,999 | £84,869 | - | - |
| 2022-10-31 | £89,137 | £71,977 | - | - |
| 2021-10-31 | £57,282 | £45,597 | - | - |
| 2020-10-31 | £34,363 | £34,363 | - | - |

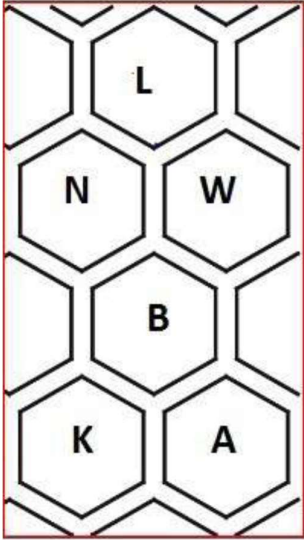
Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|
| Viki Cuthbertson | Chair | 2024-03-02 |
| Diane Drinkwater | | 2026-04-13 |
| Ian Bickerstaffe | | 2024-03-02 |
| Martin Smith | | 2023-03-05 |

THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH-WEST BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 506167

Accounts



The Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association
Lancashire and North West B.K.A

(Founded 1882. Reconstructed separately 1899)Registered Charity No 506167

Handbook and annual reports 2024-5

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Status Registered Charity Number 506167

Patrons None

President Martin Smith

General Secretary Diane Drinkwater

Independent Examiner (audit) Mr Thomas Gent

The Association’s Bank: Metro Bank Trustees:

President Mr. Martin Smith;

Chairperson Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Treasurer Mr Ian Bickerstaffe

General Secretary Ms Diane Drinkwater (elected April 2026)

Objectives of the Society:

The primary Objectives of the charity are:

To promote and further the craft of beekeeping

To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment and the

economy.

Officers of the Association

President - Mr Martin Smith

Chair - Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Vice - Chair - Mr Michael Gardner

Hon Gen Sec - Ms Diane Drinkwater

Hon Treasurer - Mr Ian Bickerstaffe

Hon Convention Officer - Mrs Liane Doree

Hon Handbook Sec. - Ms Diane Drinkwater

Hon Honey Show Officer -Mrs Elaine Hargreaves

Hon Webmaster - Mr Mark Oakley

Hon Education co-ordinator - Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Hon Examinations Officer - Mrs Robina Johnstone

Hon Examiner of Accounts incoming – Mr Conor Edwards

Disease Liaison Officer - Miss Caroline Coughlin

BeeCraft Rep & Trophies Officer- Mrs Jan Blanthorn Hazell

BDI Rep - Mr Martin Smith*

ADM Rep -Mr Dave Heaton

* It is noted that Mr Smith is also President of BDI. The Council is satisfied that this does not present any conflict of issues

Reports 2025

Chairs report

The Association has had a successful year with our Branches running a variety of training, educational and social events – see their reports in the Handbook. At Association level we have had the always popular Spring Convention and County Honey Show and thanks go to Liane Doree and Elaine Hargreaves and their teams for making these events so enjoyable for us all.

Training has been a large part of the work of the Association, with a goodly number of members taking and passing their Basics. We also had 2 new Qualified (General Husbandry) and 2 new Master Beekeepers, congratulations to them all. I would like to thank all those involved in running the training offered, as tutors, both theory and practical, as mentors and as organisers. Attending training, whether or not you sit an exam or assessment improves your skills and your enjoyment of the craft of beekeeping.

Thinking of the bees, after all that's why we are all members, it was a mixed year with some lovely weather in the spring, but the hot dry weather in August ate into some of our honey crop. Personally, I tried out my queen rearing skills and really enjoyed the process. I would encourage you all to have a go – even if you only need one queen it's very satisfying to raise a daughter from your best hive and not to need to go down the risky route of buying one in.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of Central Council, the Officers and the Branch Representatives, without you all, the Association could not function. Thanks also go to the Branch Officers and committees who support our work at local level. Keep up the good work, and together we can continue to be a vibrant, successful Association.

Viki Cuthbertson
Chair

Trophy Officer

The repairs are being carried out on one trophy from the Honey Show which although awarded was found to be cracked and therefore kept back. Thankfully Ian Sturgess has been very patient as the old enamel base was costed at £300 to replace and the engraver suggested a woodturner to carve a wooden base instead but this also proved expensive. We are lucky to have our very own woodturner in Chris Carey at Preston branch who is very kindly working on this as we speak. Once it is turned the engraving band can be replaced and all the names moved across. We hope to have this completed soon so Ian can enjoy some time with the trophy before it must be returned for the next show.

Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts

Lancashire & North West BKA

127th AGM of the Lancashire & Northwest Beekeepers Association

Monday 13th April 2026

Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts

I have attached copies of the Consolidated Accounts for the year to 31st October 2025.

I have also included for information the County accounts for the same period.

Some points to note as follows:

Income

1. Income for the County fell during the year by £911 due to a number of factors.
2. Subscriptions reduced by £1.9k, mainly at the branch level.
3. Gift Aid reduced by £6k as submissions have now been brought up to date.
4. Apiary income reduced by £2.1k due to fewer association honey sales.
5. Donations increased by £2.4k – Mersey Travel accounting for £1.5k
6. Sales to members (including the public) increased by £4k – a significant increase in honey sales at apiaries.
7. Honey Shows and Education both showing growth.

Expenditure

1. Expenditure increased by £7.4k
2. Capitation reduced by £1.5k, BDI slightly higher
3. Honey Show expenditures proportionately lower thereby reducing the net deficits on holding the shows. Major show at Southport showed a small surplus.
4. Subs & Donations lower by £2.3k,- prior year included YLH donation to BBKA.
5. Education – consistent year on year
6. Purchases for resale increase proportionate to sales to members(public).

Gift Aid Submissions

1. Submission to HMRC was made for the tax years 24/25 and amounted to £5,494 on subs of £21,976. For comparison:
 - a. Tax Year 22/23 - £21,957 – refund £5,489
 - b. Tax Year 23/24 - £23,959 – refund £5,990
2. All funds have been distributed to the branches.
3. Submission of the 25/2 Gift Aid Return will be made in April.

Financial position

1. The Association has bank balances of £126,153 (23/24: £116,649) and stock/cash balances of £5,065 (23/24: £9,459) bringing total assets at the end of the period to £131,219 (23/24: £126,078). An increase of £5,141 over the year.
2. The bank surplus is growing, and efforts should be made to utilize the funds in line with the objectives of the charity. Closing balances have moved from £90k in 2021 without any stock to the current gross total of £131k.

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Accounts to 31st October 2025

| 2024 | Income | 2025 | 2024 Expenditure | 2025 | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| £31,611 | Subscriptions | £29,670 | £0 | Postages | £0 |
| £410 | Donations | £2,802 | £98 | Printing & Stationery | £589 |
| £0 | Adverts | £0 | £21,096 | B.B.K.A Capitation | £19,521 |
| £369 | Interest | £615 | £56 | Insurance | £0 |
| £10,673 | Honey Shows | £12,236 | £15,527 | Honey Shows | £14,717 |
| £2,140 | B.D.I. Extra Hives | £1,525 | £2,982 | B.D.I. | £3,124 |
| £13,899 | Education | £15,036 | £5,680 | Education | £5,653 |
| £75 | Equipment | £55 | £2,363 | Equipment | £1,499 |
| £1,824 | Convention | £1,957 | £1,205 | Convention | £1,210 |
| £890 | Socials & Raffles | £531 | £483 | Socials Functions | £456 |
| £11,479 | Tax Refunds (Gift Aid) | £5,494 | £1,504 | Rooms | £1,059 |
| £0 | Treatments | £152 | £970 | Lecturers | £586 |
| £0 | Newsletters | £0 | £664 | Treatments | £10 |
| £5,776 | Apiary Income | £3,607 | £0 | Newsletters/magazines | £105 |
| £790 | Sundry Income | £1,377 | £412 | Honoraria | £320 |
| £0 | Grants | £0 | £611 | Cup Engrav. & Repairs | £189 |
| £504 | Fundraising | £294 | £0 | Handbook | £0 |
| £0 | Capitation | £0 | £4,005 | Subs & Donations | £1,736 |
| £15,099 | Sales to members | £19,279 | £1,419 | Sundries | £1,598 |
| £0 | Funds introduced | £0 | £133 | Bank Charges | £483 |
| | | | £1,627 | Admin incl postage | £1,484 |
| | | | £10,531 | Apiary | £17,579 |
| | | | £0 | Books | £0 |
| | | | £0 | Gift aid to branches | £0 |
| | | | £11,948 | Purchases for resale | £18,807 |
| | | | | Funds transferred | |
| £95,539 | Total Income | £94,628 | £83,311 | Total Expenditure | £90,725 |
| £9,371 | Opening Cash/Stock Balance | £9,459 | £9,459 | Closing Cash/Stock Balance | £5,065 |
| £101,854 | Opening Bank Balance | £117,312 | £116,619 | Closing Bank Balance | £126,340 |
| -£505 | unpresented chq | £0 | £0 | unpresented chq | -£187 |
| £3,131 | undeposited funds | £545 | £0 | undeposited funds | £0 |
| | stock | | | stock | |
| £113,851 | Total Assets | £127,316 | £126,078 | Total Assets | £131,219 |
| £209,389 | Assets + Income | £221,944 | £209,389 | Assets + Expenditure | £221,944 |

Note:



Signed
Ian Bickerstaffe Hon Treasurer

Date 16/3/26



Signed
Thomas Gent Independent Examiner

Date 16/3/26

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Central Council Accounts - to 31st October 2025

| 2024 | Income | 2025 | 2024 | Expenditure | 2025 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| £21,095.50 | Capitation from Branches | £20,988.50 | £0.00 | Postages | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Bank Interest | £13.26 | £0.00 | Printing & Stationery | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Donations | £50.02 | £0.00 | Handbook | £0.00 |
| £1,824.32 | Conventions | £1,957.00 | £0.00 | Room Hire | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Advertising Revenue | £0.00 | £56.00 | Insurance | £0.00 |
| £467.50 | Members Honey Show | £474.00 | £19,955.00 | BBKA Capitation | £19,539.50 |
| £11,479.30 | Tax Refunds from HMRC | £5,493.63 | £1,628.00 | Subs/Donations | £178.00 |
| £320.00 | Education | £0.00 | £1,984.21 | Members Honey Show | £1,507.47 |
| £100.00 | Sundry | £66.20 | £1,205.24 | Conventions | £1,210.23 |
| £205.00 | Raffles | £0.00 | £216.00 | Education | £534.80 |
| | | | £412.00 | Honoraria | £320.00 |
| | | | £611.00 | Engraving | £189.00 |
| | | | £11,479.30 | Branch Gift Aid | £5,493.63 |
| | | | £0.00 | Honey Shows | £0.00 |
| | | | £164.60 | Sundry | £66.20 |
| | | | £1,000.00 | Exams | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Admin (Bank Charges) | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Lancs Cap rebate to branches | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Web | £0.00 |
| £35,491.62 | Total Income | £29,042.61 | £38,711.35 | Total Expenditure | £29,038.83 |
| £0.00 | Opening Cash Balance | £0.00 | £0.00 | Closing Cash Balance | £0.00 |
| £15,358.59 | Opening Bank balance | £12,138.86 | £12,138.86 | Closing Bank balance | £12,142.64 |
| £0.00 | Opening savings Account | £0.00 | £0.00 | Closing savings Account | £0.00 |
| £15,358.59 | | £12,138.86 | £12,138.86 | | £12,142.64 |
| £0.00 | unpres cheque | £0.00 | £0.00 | unpres cq | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | undeposited funds | £0.00 | £0.00 | undeposited funds | £0.00 |
| £15,358.59 | | £12,138.86 | £12,138.86 | | £12,142.64 |
| £50,850.21 | | £41,181.47 | £50,850.21 | | £41,181.47 |

Note

Comparative numbers are for a full year

Ian Bickerstaffe Hon Treasurer

Signed 

Date 16/3/26

Thomas Gent Independent Examiner

Signed 

Date 16/3/26

Hon Examinations Secretary Report

NOVEMBER MODULE EXAMS (Saturday 15/11/2025)

6 Online

2 In Person (3 applied, 1 withdrew) 1 Cheshire member also joined L&NWBKA exam sitting.

Results to candidates in mid-January, on my screen 2 weeks later.

I have penciled in a booking with The Living Well WA10 for March 2026 and will confirm it when Module applications close.

Thanks to Ian Hinde for his help as my Exam Assistant on the day.

BBKA DATES AND FEES 2026

Document much improved.

Positives

Dates are now given for the opening of applications, making process more manageable.

Clear statement of prerequisites for all qualifications.

£10 fee for M3 should increase uptake.

Less good

Fee increases.

BH still not counting towards GH as Microscopy does in AH

BBKA Forum on Tuesday 9th Dec which I will attend via Zoom. An update from the Exam Board. Viki Cuthbertson has requested board provides feedback from training courses.

My thanks as always to everyone involved in L&NWBKAs Education Team Please continue to keep me informed on your training course both Practical and Module. Receiving list of your candidates make my job much easier.

Robina Johnstone

Examination Secretary

Honey Show Report

Lancashire Honey Show 2025

The Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association Annual Honey Show 2025 was held on Saturday 11 October 2025 at Myerscough College, Bilsborrow.

The Show attracted a strong entry across honey, beeswax, mead, cookery, craft, photographic and branch classes, with judges commenting favourably on the overall standard and presentation of exhibits.

The competitive elements of the Show were complemented by two well-received talks given by Jane Medwell, which added significant educational value and contributed to a full and enjoyable day for exhibitors and visitors alike.

Following completion of judging, the Judges gave their report and the awards were presented by the L&NW BKA President, Martin Smith.

Main Winners:

- Best Exhibit in Show (Blue Ribbon): Graham Curwen – 6 Matching Jars of Honey (Class 24)
- Highest Number of Points in Show (Sir Wroth Lethbridge President's Cup): Graham Curwen
- Highest Points Across Branch Classes (E. McCormick President's Branch Shield): Lancaster Branch

A full list of class results, placings and additional trophy winners is recorded in the official Honey Show Results 2025 document.

Thanks, and Acknowledgements:

On behalf of L&NW BKA I wish to offer sincere thanks to:

- The judges (Joyce Nisbet, Steve Guest, Dave Shannon & Andy Anderson) for their expertise and constructive feedback;
- All exhibitors for the high quality and variety of entries;
- The judges' stewards (Graham Curwen, Josephine Anderson, Kirsti Ashworth & Anne Goodwin), scribes (Caroline Coughlin, Sarah Haynes & Dave Heaton) and volunteers (Steve Hargreaves, Gwen Walton, Chris Carey, Will Hargreaves, Ian Sturgess & Martin Smith) for the setting up and smooth running of the event;
- The speaker, Jane Medwell for her entertaining and thought-provoking talks;
- Myerscough College for providing an excellent venue;
- and anyone else who contributed to help deliver another successful Lancashire Honey Show.

Preparations are well underway for the next show which will be held at Myerscough College on Sunday 4th October 2026.

Please look out for the schedule which will be finalized and circulated shortly.

I look forward to seeing many of you there for another great Lancashire Honey Show!

Elaine Hargreaves (Hon. Exhibitions Officer)

Branch Annual Reports

Each Branch provides an annual report for this handbook.

Branch Contact Details

Please visit the branch websites for up-to-date contact details and details on how to join

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Blackpool and Fylde | http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/ |
| East Lancashire | http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/ |
| Lancaster | http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/ |
| Liverpool and District | http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/ |
| Oldham & District | http://www.odbka.org |
| Ormskirk and Croston | https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/ |
| Preston and District | http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/ |
| Southport and District | http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/ |

Lancashire and North West BKA
<https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/>

Blackpool and Fylde

<http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/>

Looking Back on 2025—A Year of Growth and New Beginnings

Despite some challenges in 2024, our branch has gone from strength to strength. Attendance at branch meetings has improved and we have welcomed a wide variety of speakers to the club this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to relocate our apiary. The school where we were based was expanding and needed the space sooner than expected. We considered several locations, but contact was made with a local garden centre, who were keen to support the club. Initial meetings were very positive, and it was agreed to move the hives and clubhouse to the new location early in 2026.

One of our biggest successes was establishing a brand-new club apiary at a local school! Our Sunday morning apiary visits have become a fantastic way for members, especially new beekeepers—to connect, share knowledge, and support each other in managing our hives.

Our branch continues to make a strong impression at events. The Great Eccleston Show remains a highlight, drawing in 50,000 visitors over two days. Our stand always attracts plenty of interest, with our demonstration hive, honey sales, candle rolling, and more helping to educate the public about the vital role of bees and the benefits of local honey. Last year, we were proud to see our members succeed in the competition classes, bringing home well-earned awards!

Our Bee Awareness Day at Lytham Hall is another firm favourite, offering an engaging mix of educational talks, interactive activities, and fun for all ages. Plus, we continue to support local schools by giving talks, bringing along our demonstration hive, and using our specially designed PowerPoint presentation to introduce young minds to the world of beekeeping.

Looking ahead, we're excited to launch an Introduction to Beekeeping Course at our new apiary. We hope this will become an annual event, helping to bring in new members and ensure the long-term success of our branch.

Lastly, we're proud to have around 10 members listed as swarm collectors on the National Swarm Map, playing an important role in responsible beekeeping and conservation.

Thank you to all our members for your continued support—we look forward to a buzzing year ahead!

East Lancashire

<http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/>

In 2025 ELBKA membership rose to 207 members.

Club activities were overseen by a committee of 8 members assisted by a group of other members who volunteered for different jobs.

The committee met monthly throughout the year.

Well attended teaching sessions were held weekly in each of the 2 club apiaries.

Our big educational events for members were – A session on hive autopsy + hive sterilisation and cleaning, a half day of training on Bee diseases and disease checking of colonies, a half day of practical demonstrations of swarm control methods, a half day training on colony increase including queen raising and a Basic Assessment course.

Shorter practical demonstrations and short talks covering practical beekeeping issues are a weekly event after apiary sessions through the summer. BBKA zoom lectures and other events are advertised to members in our regular club emails and through our private Facebook group.

Support for members was provided via our private Facebook group, email and in-person at the apiary. This is a very active ad hoc system whereby members give their time and advice willingly to help other members.

2 taster sessions and 2 'Introduction to beekeeping courses' were held to help people wishing to become beekeeping.

ELBKA Charitable activities 2025:

Engagement with schools /children's community groups

This year we worked with the Community Rail Lancashire to provide a joint learning experience for 3 groups of primary school children and cub scouts working from CRL's centre at 'The Bunker' at Accrington railway station – an ecostation.

Community Rail Lancashire's education officer met the children, around 30 per visit, and their teachers at a station local to the school and escorted them by train to the hub at Accrington station. Many children had never travelled by train so this was an opportunity for them to experience rail travel. On arrival in Accrington the East Lancashire Schools team spent 2 hours with the children doing 4 activities – learning about the importance of pollination in growing the foods they eat and making seed bombs. Learning about wax production and rolling candles. Seeing live bees in an observation hive and learning about the honey bee colony and the hives we keep them in. Playing a game based on recalling simple facts about honey bees and tasting honey. After we had finished our activities the children had a picnic lunch, learned about the eco station and rail safety and were then escorted back on the train to their home station.

A joint venture with very varied learning content that also gave the children a wonderful day out from school.

2 of our members visited schools and did bee themed educational sessions for a class of children

1 of our members took an observation hive of bees into her university to educate a group of students
Community engagement

A member who has her hives on an industrial site did a bee educational session for the employees on site on World Bee day. She used an observation hive of live bees, the club's educational roller banners and other props to illustrate her presentation.

A member has presented a talk about beekeeping to 2 different community groups.

The club supported Burnley Council's Autumn festival with a stall for children offering tastes of 5 different honeys and free candle rolling. The children were fascinated to find that all honey may taste good but does not all taste the same. A lot of honey was tasted and candles rolled over 4 hours!

11 members are registered as BBKA swarm collectors. They work as a team communicating by WhatsApp so that any swarm reported can be collected as soon as possible

Charitable giving

A retiring beekeeper donated all his beekeeping equipment to the club. A volunteer member did the work of clearing his shed and apiary for him. The equipment, which was high quality, was either kept by the club or sold on at very reasonable prices to club members. Approximately 50% of the money raised was donated to 'Bees for Development' during the week when matched funding was available. Over £1,200 was raised after adding in the matched funding.

Gwen Walton

ELBKA Secretary. 19.11.25

ELBKA Chairman report November 2025

Welcome to East Lancashire branch of the BBKA Annual General Meeting (AGM).

I am pleased to report the Association has had another successful year and the Committee has provided support and guidance to our members, actively organising club meetings, educational support, apiary sessions at both Offshoots and Gawthorpe Hall, and our Honey Show. This has been noted in the reports circulated prior to the AGM on the 10th November via email.

Education we had 8 candidates this year, all passed with credits or distinctions. 1 member completing the Honey Bee Heath and 1 member completing the General Husbandry course and 5 modules passed. 2 introductory courses with 14 candidates becoming members. It's wonderful to see the BBKA values of sharing our knowledge with each other is continuing to happen each year, with a combination of different educational methods. From Introductory courses, apiary sessions, online Zoom meetings and in person club meetings, plus taster sessions.

Membership has continued to increase and is currently at 207 up 70 over 5 years. We asked members to renew using the preferred method online and almost everyone has renewed online which has helped the membership secretary complete the process easier than in past years.

Apiary both locations have been popular with our members and continue to be well attended, especially for our new beekeepers. The apiary leads have done an excellent job in making sure these sessions are safe and informative, and the colonies flourish, sometimes in difficult conditions. This year was no exception. Surprisingly the honey harvest was lower than expected, despite the fine summer unexpected weather changes must have been a contributor. The harvest has been shared between Offshoots and Gawthorpe, with some jars being available to members to purchase.

Beekeeping in our area We are able to report once more there have been no reports of AFB, EFB or Asian Hornets in our area.

Swarm Collectors Vici McLean coordinated the swarm collectors WhatsApp and we now have a group working together as a team

Website has been updated and due to go live soon. Anne Goodwin has been editing and updating the site to make it easier for all to navigate and enjoy the visiting experience. Benefitting members of the public interested in bees, our members and more importantly the Committee members accessing the website to keep content current and informative.

New members feedback (Committee) The Committee contacted the new members and received positive feedback. Again highlighted how friendly, approachable and informative the members have interacted with one another.

Honey Show in September was well attended and another success including talks by Damien Barber, Rocco Croft-Senior and John Zamorski. We also had success at the County Show.

DARREN HELLIWELL

15.11.2025

Lancaster

<http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>

Membership of Lancaster Beekeepers has remained around 80 for the past couple of years. Lancaster Beekeepers have held training, meetings and socials and participated in a number of community events throughout the year. Highlights have included:

- Beginners' course
- Bee health day and hive autopsy to review winter losses
- Club visit to Mawson's Garden in Silverdale
- Queen rearing training at a member's apiary
- Community Open Day at Lancaster & Morecambe College
- Stands with activities, honey tasting and information at Judges' Lodgings Museum "Bee Day" and a similar stand at Carnforth Carnival.
- Honey extraction demonstration for members
- A "Pollinators of Morecambe Bay" game night, which led to some thought provoking discussions.

Honey show

Following our club success at the Lancashire honey show we revived our own club honey show at our AGM, which proved a popular addition to our programme.

Outreach work with schools

Involvement with local schools has developed this year. We have made a donation to a local special school (Morecambe Road School) this year for beekeeping equipment so they can set up a hive and we provided a free training place for a teacher at the school on our beginners course. We also support an after-school bee club at Bolton-le-Sands Primary School which is going from strength to strength. We are also supporting Bowerham school in Lancaster, who are hoping to establish an apiary in 2026.

Shows attended

Members have visited both the BBKA Spring Convention and the L&NWBKA Spring convention and have shared their learning at these with other members.

Club members participated in the L&NWBKA Honey Show at Myerscough College, and several achieved significant success. Bringing back the Branch Shield was a remarkable achievement.

Training

This was a positive and productive year for education and training, with a continued focus on supporting beekeepers of all experience levels.

On the beginners' programme, 10 people completed the theory course, and 8 participants continued to practical sessions at the club apiary. We saw high enthusiasm and engagement and welcomed several new active members.

Our more experienced beekeepers have also progressed their training. One member achieved a distinction in Module 1, and three members passed the Basic Assessment, two of whom attained distinctions.

A practical queen-raising course run over the summer with very positive feedback.

An informal mentoring network continues to be a major strength of the club. Experienced members provided valuable advice, reassurance, and hands-on support.

For 2026, the beginners' course is being reshaped with two days of face-to-face lectures and demonstrations, with more existing members being encouraged to pass on their knowledge and experience by leading different sessions.

We are very proud that our Training Coordinator himself passed the Advanced Husbandry course and is now a Master Beekeeper! Huge congratulations to him for achieving this very prestigious award.

Apiary

We continue to make good use of our club apiary for practical training sessions, focused on different aspects of beekeeping. Regular working parties take place during the year which also involve good banter and bacon butties!

Swarm collection

We have a nominated swarm collection coordinator and a team of twelve volunteer swarm collectors who liaise with each other over WhatsApp. Last season they collected at least 10 swarms between them.

We are holding a swarm collection training session in April 2026 with the aim of expanding the number of members able to collect swarms.

Liverpool and District

<http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/>

This report summarises the secretary's annual update on branch activities, apiary status, member engagement and plans for the coming year. Overall, the branch has experienced a mixed year, with significant colony losses in some apiaries, continued effort to maintain branch activities, and a need to improve attendance and member participation.

Apiary Status and Colony Losses

Members' experiences over winter mirrored reports seen nationally: some lost entire colonies while others came through without issue. The closure of the Rice Lane apiary was a significant loss for the branch, although its equipment has been moved to Woolton. Walton apiary also suffered heavy winter losses, and rebuilding work is under way. There is now a clear need for members to help clean, prepare and restore hives at Woolton so they can support future colony expansion.

Branch Meetings and Attendance

The branch held meetings in February, March, May, June, July, August, September and October, with a varied programme including Asian hornets, bee photography, disease recognition, mead-making, candles and wax, competition preparation, and hive management. The new venue at the Ken Dodd Happiness Hall was praised for its excellent facilities. However, attendance remained low overall, ranging from 7 to 21 members, with an average of around 15. This continues to be a concern, particularly as poor turnout may discourage external speakers from accepting invitations in future.

Plans for the Coming Year

Three talks have already been arranged for next year. January will feature Keith Bartlett on preparing hives for spring. February will include the first of Peter Lewis's two sessions on honey tasting and analysis, with a second practical session planned later in the year. In March, Martin Smith will speak about managing colony numbers and swarm control. A planned November talk may have to be cancelled due to the speaker withdrawing at short notice, although efforts are continuing to find a replacement. The aim is to finalise the full annual calendar as early as possible.

Communication and Promotion

The newsletter continues to be circulated widely by email and is supplemented by printed copies at meetings. Although production has sometimes been delayed, it remains well regarded and was recognised with first place in the newsletter section of the National Honey Show. Promotion of branch meetings currently focuses on members and other Lancashire branches, but there was discussion about widening publicity and possibly holding occasional open meetings to attract new interest and improve attendance.

Key Issues and Actions

Encourage more members to volunteer at Woolton to restore and prepare hives.

Increase attendance at branch meetings to support member engagement and maintain speaker interest.

Complete and publish the annual talks calendar as early as possible.

Consider broader promotion, including closer collaboration with neighbouring branches and possible open meetings.

Improve the timeliness of newsletter publication while continuing print copies for members who prefer them.

Oldham & District

<http://www.odbka.org/>

Membership & Community Outreach

While our total membership numbers are holding steady, we are noticing a shift in our demographics. A few long-standing members have recently scaled back their operations or moved on from beekeeping due to health and financial considerations. While we continue to receive inquiries from the public, our focus remains on turning that initial interest into active, long-term participation.

Education & Training

We have enjoyed a robust educational calendar throughout 2025. Ian Baker, Editor of our monthly newsletter, has been instrumental in keeping our skills sharp, leading both our monthly member training sessions and dedicated workshops for our newcomers. We were also privileged to host guest speakers John Hewitt and Jonathan Downs, whose expertise provided fresh insights for our beekeepers.

A major highlight this year has been the monthly family sessions hosted by our Secretary, Catherine Charnock. Held at the local church, these free events allow families to suit up and get "hands-on" with the bees. The feedback has been wonderful, providing a safe and exciting introduction to the craft for the next generation.

Public Liaison & Future Goals

The public's interest in pollinators continues to grow, with a high volume of inquiries regarding swarms, bumblebees, and wasps. We continue to work closely with the local council to manage honeybee call outs and provide the community with the right resources for other stinging insects.

Looking ahead, our Chairperson, Robert Titherington, is set to expand our educational reach. Using the official BBKA-sponsored school kits, he will be heading out to work with local Scout groups and schools to further promote bee welfare and environmental awareness.

Ormskirk and Croston

<https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/>

The Ormskirk & Croston District Branch had another active and productive year, with membership standing at 227 and a strong intake from the Introduction to Beekeeping course. As the report notes, *‘‘the Introduction to Beekeeping course this season attracted 26 new members’’, and the branch continues to convert a high proportion of trainees into full members. Regular meetings ran throughout the year, including three well-attended summer sessions at Fir Tree Farm, weekly apiary team meetings at both FTF and Aughton, and a full winter programme of monthly talks at New Church House.

Both branch apiaries remain in excellent condition, supported by committed maintenance teams who meet several times a week. Honey sales continue to be a major point of engagement with the public, with *‘‘over 1000 jars of FTF, Aughton and Members honey having been sold’’. Education remains a core strength of the branch, with introductory, basic assessment, and winter improvement courses all delivered successfully. Seven members passed the Basic Assessment, several passed modules, and Elaine Hargreaves completed the requirements to become a Master Beekeeper.

The branch also maintained a strong presence in public-facing and outreach work. Members delivered numerous school visits, supported community events, and hosted two well-received open days at Aughton Apiary. The branch also contributed significantly to regional shows, with several members winning prizes at the Southport Flower Show. Alongside this, the branch continued its important work in swarm collection and Asian hornet monitoring, with 29 monitors registered and ongoing coordination led by Graham Hull.

Overall, the branch report reflects a thriving, well-organised, and outward-looking community. It highlights the breadth of activity undertaken—from education and apiary management to public engagement and examination success—and acknowledges the many volunteers whose contributions ensure the branch continues to run smoothly and successfully.

Preston and District

<http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/>

We are a continually active club with 211 members and a thriving teaching apiary. This year we have 22 candidates on our Beginner's Course who will go on to have practical experience at the teaching apiary under the guidance of a dedicated team of apiary inspectors. They will also be provided with mentors to help them look after their bees. We will be running the Honey Bee Health course again and PBKA has another Master Beekeeper who qualified last year.

Improvements are constantly being made to our teaching apiary including the addition of solar panels to give us electricity and lighting on site to aid teaching when the weather is poor. The huge amount of time installing the equipment was given free of charge by one of our members.

We hold monthly meetings and a variety of events and lectures. A new WhatsApp group has been formed to let all members know of upcoming meetings and lectures.

Our Hive Lab will be running again this year. This has been a very popular initiative which involves two of our members running microscopy courses at the local agricultural college where our teaching apiary is located.

Our popular Meet the Bees Taster Days are running again this year. These events encourage members of the public to find out more about our honey bees and take a look inside a hive.

In order to help our members we have a system of loaning out equipment and we held our second auction last year which was another great success.

The PBKA organises the Lancashire Spring Convention and we have just had the highest attendance at the latest event. We attend shows throughout the year including Garstang Show, Fylde Steam and Vintage Show and Fylde Vintage Farm Show.

Our members hold many talks locally on the importance of bees in the environment and to the economy in food production. We have given talks to the WI, adult learner groups, local schools and as far afield as the Institute of Mechanical Engineers Support Network in London.

We have also contributed to the sting research being carried out through BDI Ltd and continue to educate the public on the threat from the yellow legged Asian hornet. Our local YLHA coordinator has recently given talks to 16 schools throughout Preston and Chorley.

We continue to thrive thanks to a dedicated committee who give their free time to improve our beekeeping skills and keep the public informed on current concerns such as the Asian Hornet and honey adulteration.

Kathryn Shield.
PBKA Secretary.

Southport and District

<http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/>

2025 has been an interesting year with a new apiary, new sponsorship and increased membership.

Several of our members reported moderate colony losses over winter 2024/25.

The season started off slowly and the spring flow was reasonable so members whose bees were in the right condition managed to get a surplus.

The summer flow started well and would have been good if the very dry weather hadn't dried the flow up. Nevertheless, several members reported good yields.

No notifiable bee diseases have been reported in our area.

Swarming was at a much lower level than usual, but over a larger timescale ranging from the second week in March to the second week in October.

Varroa levels were generally low, but a report of a Yellow Legged (Asian) Hornet in October 2025 at the southern end of our area was concerning. Nearby members were contacted and advised to install and monitor suitable traps. All members need to keep a serious lookout for this pest which if it establishes will have a serious effect on our beekeeping activities.

We held a Special Meeting in October where members agreed to increase all membership levels by £1, this allows us to cover the additional costs we are now incurring for our banking.

During the year we have received an income to the branch from 101 members. We also received Gift Aid for 2024/25 subscriptions.

We held two Beekeeping Taster Sessions during the year which were well attended and together with other education courses run by Vinny Greenall, Steve Wakefield, Francine Sagar, and Diane Drinkwater this year brought in 5 times the amount we did in 2024.

We had much higher expenses for the Apiary this year, which included moving the apiary; a new shed and ground work; and some new equipment. We were lucky to secure sponsorship for four new hives from The Beatles Story, it is hoped that this sponsorship will continue in a lesser form going forward.

The branch also produced an updated Recipe Book which has covered costs and continues to raise additional funds.

Overall in the year to October 31st 2025 the branch made a loss, but we continue to have a decent bank balance.

Early in 2025, the Apiary was moved from the old site at Hesketh Park, due to ongoing issues, to a new venue in Birkdale. We lost over half of the branch's hives during the Winter, which we feel was due to spraying of weed killer in Hesketh Park, right next to where the hives were placed. Part of the move included installing a new much larger shed, including groundworks. Many members came along on various days to help out with getting the new site up and running. The new site also gives us a couple of teaching spaces, one inside and one outside but both away from the main apiary. The site has been very successful for us during 2025 with two Taster Sessions being held and two Introduction Courses as

well as general learning sessions for all members. We also had five members take their Basic Exam at the Apiary all of whom passed.

Our monthly meetings continue to be held at Southport Fire Station with guest speakers giving some very interesting talks on beekeeping subjects, including talks on First Aid; The Beekeeping Year - What Should Happen and Reality for 2025; and Products from the Apiary.

Members also carried out talks on behalf of the Branch, engaging further with the general public and schools. Judy and Andy Muchall spoke to Formby Inner Wheel District Interclub and also Wallasey's Harlequin Group; while Vinny Greenall and Phil Reeves spoke to groups at Broadoak Junior School and Farnborough Road Junior School.

During the year we have increased our use of Social Media, answering many questions from the General Public via our FaceBook page, and signing people up to courses. We also successfully improved our profile within the community: Our Apiary Manager was again interviewed by a couple of radio stations, answering questions and talking about beekeeping, photographs of some members were published in Lancashire Life magazine, on Southport Flower Show website and The Beatles Story website.

In other outreach we also had a couple of articles appear in the BBKA News and one of our members has secured funding and is progressing with a Bee Troop Community Apiary to help in providing welcome respite for army veterans.

The Southport Flower Show continues to be a key event in our calendar, with over 50,000 visitors it was once again a successful profit making element for the branch.

There were a number of people who helped deliver a successful show and we would express a huge thank-you to all including:

- Those volunteering to help with pre-show preparation, moving items from storage to the show site, setting up the marquee and taking down at the end of the show.
- All those members who entered the Honey Show.

Overall, we had 31 volunteers who covered 80 shifts.

During the 4 days we sold over 900 jars of honey on behalf of members and our apiary.

We made over 500 candles with the public (children and adults).

We had produced packets of wildflower seeds and together with the new recipe book these proved very popular and sold well.

We ran a school's competition to design a Wheelbarrow Garden for Bees.

We had display areas in the marquee covering Honey Bees and Other Insects, including we managed to borrow the Yellow Legged (Asian) Hornet Sculpture from the NBU.

The Flower Show was also used to launch four new decorated hives (each hive is decorated with one of the Beatles) with The Beatles Story museum, who were also onsite for a couple of days engaging with the general public.

The Judges response to our show was overall positive and they were very impressed with our engagement with local schools.

Public feedback was very appreciative of the presentation of the marquee.

Northern Region Bee Unit Report

The National Bee Unit no longer publish their regional reports. Data is available on their website in the form of maps which shows the North West region is free of both European and American Foulbrood: <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/reports-charts-and-maps/maps-2>

Access to NBU resources is free of charge to anyone. Beekeepers in England, Scotland and Wales can use the online portal to register as a beekeeper and provide details of apiaries to receive email alerts about disease and pest outbreaks in your area. Beekeepers may receive inspections from NBU inspectors as part of statutory disease programme. These inspections are free of charge and can provide a learning opportunity to beekeepers as the inspector will give advice on preventing and identifying honey bee diseases.

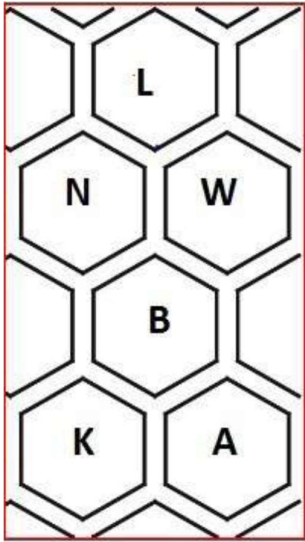
More information about the Statutory Apiary Inspection programme can be found here: <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/about-us/apiary-inspection-programme/the-statutory-apiary-inspection-programme-3/>

BeeBase contains a wealth of resources for beekeepers. They have a large library of free downloadable beekeeping literature including best practice guides, fact sheets, advisory booklets/leaflets, training videos, online lectures and articles written by the NBU.

THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH-WEST BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 506167

Accounts



The Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association
Lancashire and North West B.K.A

(Founded 1882. Reconstructed separately 1899)Registered Charity No 506167

Handbook and annual reports 2023-4

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Status Registered Charity Number 506167

Patrons None

President Martin Smith

General Secretary Mrs Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Independent Examiner (audit) Mr Conor Edwards

The Association’s Bank: Metro Bank Trustees:

President Mr. Martin Smith;

Chairperson Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Treasurer Mr Ian Bickerstaffe

General Secretary Mrs Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Objectives of the Society:

The primary Objectives of the charity are:

To promote and further the craft of beekeeping

To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment and the

economy.

Officers of the Association

President - Mr Martin Smith

Chair - Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Vice - Chair - Mr Michael Gardner

Hon Gen Sec - Mrs Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Hon Treasurer - Mr Ian Bickerstaffe

Hon Convention Officer - Mrs Liane Doree

Hon Handbook Sec. - Ms Diane Drinkwater

Hon Honey Show Officer -Mrs Elaine Hargreaves

Hon Webmaster - Mr Mark Oakley

Hon Education co-ordinator - Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Hon Examinations Officer - Mrs Robina Johnstone

Hon Examiner of Accounts incoming – Mr Conor Edwards

Disease Liaison Officer - Miss Caroline Coughlin

BeeCraft Rep & Trophies Officer- Mrs Jan Blanthorn Hazell

BDI Rep - Mr Martin Smith*

ADM Rep -Mr Dave Heaton

* It is noted that Mr Smith is also President of BDI. The Council is satisfied that this does not present any conflict of issues

Reports 2024

Chairs report

This has been my first year as Chair of LNWBKA, and it has been interesting and enjoyable learning about the organisation from the inside, and meeting more of my fellow beekeepers from around the county. So my first "Thank you" is to all the members of the Association for electing me as Chair.

2024 was very mixed weather wise, a wet spring, followed by a cloudy summer. However, this seemed to suit my bees and I had a bumper honey harvest - I hope all our members were as lucky.

The Association, as always, has had a busy year at all levels, with a successful county Spring Convention and County Honey Show, Thanks go to Liane Doree and Elaine Hargreaves for all their hard work ensuring these events went so smoothly. I must also mention all our Branches, who run varied programmes of lectures and practicals all year round, maintain training apiaries and teach new beekeepers the ropes. So Thanks to all their Branch Officers, without whom the Association would not function.

Education continues to be a valued resource for our members and thanks go to the Branch Education Secretaries, and to all those running Beginners, Basic and higher practical sessions, and to the tutors working with students studying to pass Module exams. Not forgetting our hard working Exam Secretary, who organises the exams and liaises with National. My congratulations go to everyone who passed an exam or assessment this year - everything you learn helps to improve your beekeeping.

Thanks must also go to every member of Central Council, who turn out for meetings, make decisions, manage the finances, represent us on other bodies and support the Association and each other in very many ways.

Finally, congratulations go to Rocco Croft-Senior, one of our junior members, who was part of the England team at the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers. I'm very pleased that the Association was able to provide some sponsorship for Rocco for his amazing trip (see March 25 BBKA News). The team came a very creditable 5th.

Viki Cuthbertson

Secretary report

It's been a sharp learning curve as the new secretary and I am still finding things arise that should be written in "The Great Secretary's Handbook" somewhere, but I have yet to find it! So I am happy to apologise for the many errors along the way and hope that next year will be smoother.

We now have a WhatsApp group set up for the branch secretaries and myself following the suggestion by MG at our last meeting. The feedback from the secretaries is very positive with easy communication and information sharing already showing excellent results. We are thinking of ways to improve creating emails via Google docs/PDFs, email addresses and how to create a to do list for secretaries to serve as reminders for the infrequent events and for essential tasks that haven't been passed on from retiring secretaries. It has been restricted to secretaries only and I will be reaching out to membership secretaries for their opinion on a WhatsApp group for their role.

Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Trophy Officer

The repairs are being carried out on one trophy from the Honey Show which although awarded was found to be cracked and therefore kept back. Thankfully Ian Sturgess has been very patient as the old enamel base was costed at £300 to replace and the engraver suggested a woodturner to carve a wooden base instead but this also proved expensive. We are lucky to have our very own woodturner in Chris Carey at Preston branch who is very kindly working on this as we speak. Once it is turned the engraving band can be replaced and all the names moved across. We hope to have this completed soon so Ian can enjoy some time with the trophy before it must be returned for the next show.

Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Hon Treasurer Consolidated Accounts

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Central Council Accounts - to 31st October 2024

| 2023 | Income | 2024 | 2023 | Expenditure | 2024 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| £21,259.90 | Capitation from Branches | £21,095.50 | £0.00 | Postages | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Bank Interest | £0.00 | £0.00 | Printing & Stationery | £0.00 |
| £135.58 | Donations | £0.00 | £0.00 | Handbook | £0.00 |
| £1,499.50 | Conventions | £1,824.32 | £0.00 | Room Hire | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Advertising Revenue | £0.00 | £0.00 | Insurance | £56.00 |
| £387.50 | Members Honey Show | £467.50 | £19,434.00 | BBKA Capitation | £19,955.00 |
| £0.00 | Tax Refunds from HMRC | £11,479.30 | £152.37 | Subs/Donations | £1,628.00 |
| £35.00 | Education | £320.00 | £1,615.81 | Members Honey Show | £1,984.21 |
| £141.00 | Sundry | £100.00 | £1,295.00 | Conventions | £1,205.24 |
| £432.00 | Raffles | £205.00 | £366.00 | Education | £216.00 |
| | | | £320.00 | Honoraria | £412.00 |
| | | | £829.80 | Engraving | £611.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | WINDY TGA INCLUSIVE HOTEL | £11,479.30 |
| | | | £0.00 | Honey Shows | £0.00 |
| | | | £133.00 | Sundry | £164.60 |
| | | | £1,060.00 | Exams | £1,000.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Admin (Bank Charges) | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Lancs Cap rebate to branches | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Web | £0.00 |
| £23,890.48 | Total Income | £35,491.62 | £25,205.98 | Total Expenditure | £38,711.35 |
| £107.20 | Opening Cash Balance | £0.00 | £0.00 | Closing Cash Balance | £0.00 |
| £16,566.89 | Opening Bank balance | £15,358.59 | £15,358.59 | Closing Bank balance | £12,138.86 |
| £0.00 | Opening savings Account | £0.00 | £0.00 | Closing savings Account | £0.00 |
| £16,674.09 | | £15,358.59 | £15,358.59 | | £12,138.86 |
| £0.00 | unpres cheque | £0.00 | £0.00 | unpres cq | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | undeposited funds | £0.00 | £0.00 | undeposited funds | £0.00 |
| £16,674.09 | | £15,358.59 | £15,358.59 | | £12,138.86 |
| £40,564.57 | | £50,850.21 | £40,564.57 | | £50,850.21 |

Note

Comparative numbers are for a full year

Ian Bickerstaffe Hon Treasurer

Signed



Date

15/12/25

Thomas Gent Independent Examiner

Signed



Date

15/12/25

Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts

I have attached copies of the Consolidated Accounts for the year to 31st October 2024.

I have also included for information the County accounts for the same period.

Some points to note as follows:

Income

1. Increased by £14.5k during the year mainly as a result of the Gift Aid refunds (see below)
2. Subscriptions increased by £3.3k
3. Interest – small increase as branches begin to utilize deposit accounts
4. Apiary income includes Treatments, so similar year on year
5. Sales to members reduced by £3.3k

Expenditure

1. A slight reduction of £1.5k year on year.
2. Capitation and BDI similar year on year.
3. Honey Show expenditure increase includes some apiary costs – correcting for some identified mis postings after the reviews would reduce the costs by £667.
4. Subs & Donations made during the year include:
 - a. County - BBKA Yellow Legged Hornet Fund £1,000
 - b. County - Rocco Croft-Senior YBA Trip £500
 - c. Lancaster – Friends of Mawson Garden Silverdale £2,002
 5. Education – full year effect of subsidising exams £1,000
6. Purchases for resale reduction in line with sales

Gift Aid Submissions

1. Submissions to HMRC were made for the tax years 22/23 and 23/24. This brings us up to date.
 - a. Tax Year 22/23 - £21,957 – refund £5,489
 - b. Tax Year 23/24 - £23,959 – refund £5,990
2. All funds have been distributed to the branches.
3. Submission of the 24/25 Gift Aid Return will be made in April.

Financial position

1. The Association has bank balances of £116,649 and stock/cash balances of £9,459 at the end of the period totaling £126,078. An increase of £12,227 over the year. This increase can be mainly attributed to the Gift Aid refunds.
2. The bank surplus is growing, and efforts should be made to utilize the funds in line with the objectives of the charity. Closing balances have moved from £90k in 2021 without any stock to the current gross total of £126k.

Hon Examinations Secretary Report

BBKA CERTIFICATES – Distributed at LANCASHIRE SPRING CONVENTION 2025 PRESTON.

On this occasion every Lancashire Branch had Members who had been awarded BBKA Certificates, a first in my experience. (2017 to present date)

Credit goes not only to the successful candidates, but also to Viki Cuthbertson and everyone else who give their time and commitment to educating our Members.

2 MICROSCOPY awards were made increasing the number of Lancs. Member who hold this Certificate from 7-9.

AWARDS for Members unable to attend (including the Leonard Ross Cup) were given to Branch Representatives for safe keeping and distribution.

APPLICATIONS TO DATE

BASICS 2

MARCH 2025 MODULES 13 (10 Online 3In Person)

GH 2

AH 4

SHOW JUDGE 1

BBKA ZOOM MEETING FOR EXAMINATION SECRETARIES TUESDAY 11th MARCH

I will report back to next CC and inform the Education Team of any significant developments in the meantime.

MODULE EXAMS SATURDAY 22nd MARCH 2025

All candidates have received information and instructions from the Exam Board

Thanks to Ian Hinde who has kindly agreed to assist me with organisation and administration on the day.

THANKS AND A REQUEST.

Thank you to all Members involved in Practical and Module training who keep me informed of their Branches activities and candidate details Applications have been much easier to manage and it allows me to keep you up to date too.

This makes my role considerably easier, please continue!

Robina Johnstone

Examination Secretary.

Honey Show Report

The Lancashire & North West Beekeepers' Association Honey Show was held on 5th October 2024 at Walton le Dale High School, Bamber Bridge.

Once again, previous targets were met and exceeded, with 61 exhibitors (including 4 branches) entering 408 exhibits.

Our four judges, Tony Jefferson (Whitby), Sarah Haynes (Harrogate), and Dave & Bron Wright (Edinburgh), capably assisted by stewards Sue Lang (Bedford), Josephine Anderson (Hebden Bridge), Graham Curwen (Ormskirk & Croston BKA) and Chris Humphries (Lancaster BKA), gave the entries a thorough assessment.

As in previous years, the judges were impressed by the number, variety and overall quality of the exhibits.

Awards were well spread, with both newer and more experienced exhibitors winning in some very strong classes.

New for this year were the junior classes which were very well supported. The judges for these classes had some very hard decisions to make! We will definitely be scheduling junior classes again.

The Blue Ribbon for best exhibit in show was won by Liane Doree with her stunning entry in the Craft class.

The trophy for Highest Number of Points was won by David Neely and Judith Hayton.

4 branches (Preston, Ormskirk & Croston, Blackpool and Lancaster) entered the branch classes to compete for the E. McCormick President's Branch Shield, awarded for the highest number of points accumulated across the three branch classes. It was won this year by Preston BKA.

Many congratulations to everyone who won an award.

This year, we had two speakers on different aspects of "Honey".

The Barbara Roderick Memorial Lecture, entitled "The Truth About Honey", was given by Lynne Ingram.

Our second speaker, Gino Jabbar, gave a presentation entitled "An Introduction to Honey Sensory Analysis".

Although I was unable to attend these presentations, feedback was that, despite the technical hitches, they were interesting, informative and well received.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the show a success:

Our Judges: Tony, Sarah, Dave & Bron.

Our Stewards: Sue, Chris, Josephine & Graham.

Our Speakers: Lynne & Gino.

Caroline who acted as scribe, bringer of food and sounding board.

Chris & Tracy who helped before, during and after the show.

Steve for being a gopher extraordinaire!

Nicky who ably ran "front of house".

Viki for hosting our speaker (& those who also offered but whose accommodation wasn't required on this occasion).

Jan for relieving me of the burden of dealing with the trophies and helping clear up.

And all those who helped in all sorts of different ways, both big and small.

The help of each & every one of you is very much appreciated!

But mostly, I would like to thank all those who entered and staged so many fabulous exhibits – without you there would be no show!

Lancashire Honey Show is being recognised both as a good show with high quality exhibits, but also as a very friendly show – we should all be very proud of that.

We have set the bar high but hope to continue to grow & enjoy "our" show in the future.

The 2025 show is to be held on Saturday 11th October at Myerscough College.

The schedule will be available in early summer, once finalised, but the classification will be very similar to previous years, so save the date & start thinking what you and/or your branch will be able to enter!

If you have any comments, thoughts or suggestions about the show or ideas for speakers, or if you want any guidance about showing, please contact me.

Elaine Hargreaves (Hon. Exhibitions Officer)

Branch Annual Reports

Each Branch provides an annual report for this handbook.

Branch Contact Details

Please visit the branch websites for up-to-date contact details and details on how to join

Lancashire and North West BKA

<https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/>

Blackpool and Fylde

<http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/>

East Lancashire

<http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/>

Lancaster

<http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>

Liverpool and District

<http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Oldham & District

<http://www.odbka.org>

Ormskirk and Croston

<https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Preston and District

<http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/>

Southport and District

<http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Blackpool and Fylde

<http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/>

Looking Back on 2024 – A Year of Growth and New Beginnings

Despite some challenges in 2024, our branch has made great strides! While attendance at meetings was lower than we'd hoped and membership saw a slight decline, we're pleased to report that we now have around 70 members and a revitalized committee, with new faces bringing fresh energy and ideas. This expanded team will help us spread the word about our activities and keep our branch thriving. One of our biggest successes was establishing a brand-new club apiary at a local school! Our Sunday morning apiary visits have become a fantastic way for members—especially new beekeepers—to connect, share knowledge, and support each other in managing our hives.

Our branch continues to make a strong impression at events. The Great Eccleston Show remains a highlight, drawing in 50,000 visitors over two days. Our stand always attracts plenty of interest, with our demonstration hive, honey sales, candle rolling, and more helping to educate the public about the vital role of bees and the benefits of local honey. Last year, we were proud to see our members succeed in the competition classes, bringing home well-earned awards!

Our Bee Awareness Day at Lytham Hall is another firm favourite, offering an engaging mix of educational talks, interactive activities, and fun for all ages. Plus, we continue to support local schools by giving talks, bringing along our demonstration hive, and using our specially designed PowerPoint presentation to introduce young minds to the world of beekeeping.

Looking ahead, we're excited to launch an Introduction to Beekeeping Course at our new apiary. We hope this will become an annual event, helping to bring in new members and ensure the long-term success of our branch.

Lastly, we're proud to have around 10 members listed as swarm collectors on the National Swarm Map, playing an important role in responsible beekeeping and conservation.

Thank you to all our members for your continued support—we look forward to a buzzing year ahead!

East Lancashire

<http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/>

ELBKA Chairman report November 2024

Welcome to East Lancashire branch of the BBKA Annual General Meeting (AGM).

I am pleased to report the Association has had another successful year and the Committee has provided support and guidance to our members, actively organising club meetings, educational support, apiary sessions at both Offshoots and Gawthorpe Hall, and our Honey Show. This has been noted in the reports circulated prior to the AGM on the 10th November via email.

Success story: Junior member Rocco Croft-Senior (12yrs) competed and won one of three places to represent the U.K. at the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers in Dubai. Where he will also attend the Rolls Royce Motor Cars apiary which opened on world bee day in 2021. For the members who don't know Rocco, he was featured on the front cover of the BBKA News 231 Aug/24. Both Club and County have also provided additional financial support to ensure Rocco has a wonderful experience. He has also agreed to hold a talk in 2025 and share his experience.

Education we had the largest number of passes, credits and distinctions recorded throughout the Associations in Lancashire. It's wonderful to see the BBKA values of sharing our knowledge with each other is clearly happening and is the combination of our mix of education. From Introductory courses, apiary sessions, online Zoom meetings and club meetings.

Membership has continued to increase and is currently at 203 up 78 over 5 years. We ask members to renew as soon as possible to allow administration be completed by the membership secretary.

Apiary both locations have been popular with our members and continue to be well attended. The apiary leads have done an excellent job in making sure these sessions are safe and informative, and the colonies flourish, sometimes in difficult conditions. This year was no exception and to our surprise what is possibly a record harvest. Which has been shared between Offshoots, Gawthorpe, hive leads and foodbanks in Rossendale, Burnley & Clitheroe.

Beekeeping in our area We are able to report once more there have been no reports of AFB, EFB or Asian Hornets in our area.

Swarm Collectors Vici McLean coordinated the swarm collectors WhatsApp and we now have a group working together as a team

Website has been edited and updated, including adding a SSL certificate on our next renewal.

Additional support and suggestions are planned for the year ahead.

New member Liaison Officer has provided positive feedback and highlighted how friendly, approachable and informative the members have interacted with one another.

Honey Show we were awarded a Blue Ribbon certificate for having over 100 entries at our local show in October and the show was another success including a talk by Julia Pigott, activities for children and the traditional pie & peas lunch. We also had success at the County Show.

Local events:

St Thomas School, Barrowford: Climate Change, Ecofest 4th May Observation Hive and information about ELBKA talking to the general public.

Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham : Walled Garden open day to the general public, 5th October General information about British bees, Hives, Bees Wax, Asian Hornet and how to get involved in Beekeeping. Darren Helliwell.

East Lancashire Chair

Other educational events:

The ELBKA school visit team visited three schools in the area and did activities with 30-50 Infant and junior children at each visit based around

- pollination – a pollination game, education about which foods come from plants requiring pollination and making seed bombs
- The honey bee colony and beekeeping – live bee observation hive, hive parts and frames
- Hive products – Tasting honey's from around the world, information about wax and candle rolling.

Talks to groups

A member has given a talk on beekeeping to two community groups

Gwen Walton.
ELBKA secretary

Lancaster

<http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>

Lancaster Beekeepers have 77 members who participate in a range of activities the club provides and attends local shows including the Lancs and North West Honey show and national conventions. A member was on radio Lancashire talking about beekeeping, We run a beginners theory course via zoom and a practical course based at our apiary each year. In addition there are other training days throughout the year looking at disease, extraction, queen rearing techniques etc. We also attend festivals, museums and open days to promote the society and responsible beekeeping. We have one nominated swarm collector who assists the public.

Members attend the Lancs and North West Honey show and attend other open day and talks as requested to schools and the public.

Liverpool and District

<http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/>

The Branch held 8 of the initially planned 10 monthly meetings this year, with a couple of speakers being re-arranged for different months within the Calander due to them apparently putting family first! We started the season in January with an inspirational insight into the life of a real Buckfast Monk, with David Prior regaling tales of mead and lazy days on the moors. An interactive meeting in February at the Ship & Mitre combined alcohol and Zoom to provide a detailed Asian Hornet update from a Kent beekeeper on the frontline and our own Education Officer, with a detailed analysis of identifying the hornet and its life cycle. March gave members the opportunity of learning from the wisdom of our retiring Treasurer to be truly Show 'ready' with tricks of the trade to make sure your presentation frame for extraction is pristine! April was the debut of your secretary into the realm of beekeeping tuition with a Beginners Guide to Swarm Control methods through a practical demonstration on real hives with pretend swarming bees? Luckily the mayhem was hopefully contained and didn't cause a swarm of beekeepers to abscond from the demonstrations. As alluded to above, June gave the ideal opportunity to combine an Apiary branch meeting with the hive swaps required at Woolton. The military operation saw everything done and dusted before 4pm. The following month saw a move northward to the Rice Lane Apiary ably managed by our now retired manager. Once more our Education Officer stood in at the last minute to ensure the meeting went ahead when the booked speaker had to pull out. An essential and informative presentation was given upon diseases, pests and pathogens that we should all be familiar with and following the classroom seminar, a practical demonstration took place within the apiary itself so that actual and or potential problems could be identified or noted for further investigation. Practise makes perfect and only by looking and identifying brood and other diseases can you properly manage your colonies. August and October respectively saw the return of the renowned Karl Colyer and the fascinating Kirsty Williams. Both have decades of experience to share, and the room is silent as everyone present lapped up the anecdotes, tips and guidance provided. I am sure they will continue to be regularly requested speakers for forthcoming events.

As members will sadly be aware of the Rice Lane Apiary Manager stepping down. The committee has appointed a caretaker manager until the coming spring to enable the committee to fully assess the health of the colonies after over wintering and for the new manager to be able to fully assess whether the responsibility is manageable with their own apiary commitments. The former Manager was ably assisted by several members who regularly attended and helped. It is hoped this will continue, but this turn of events does highlight that the burden of weekly management of the apiaries is shouldered by a very small number of members and as with the branch meetings, greater involvement of all members would be an ideal and obvious solution to avoiding further problems arising.

The Branches Educational Officer has been extremely busy in running and teaching the beginners' course and assisting those members who took the Basic BBKA qualification. There were also several talks given by him to promote beekeeping and the aims of the BBKA to local groups including the Women's Institute, Allotment Society and local primary schools.

The dramatic increase in educational qualifications by members with the BBKA is producing greater 'officially' qualified members who will be reaping the rewards in their ability to carry out good bee husbandry and hopefully be able to pass their knowledge onto newer members and beginners alongside the guidance offered by the seasoned beekeepers. Coupled with the balance sheet containing new equipment for the branch's use, 2025 should see a continuing and growing development and growth of the branch.

Oldham & District

<http://www.odbka.org>

Membership Trends

Membership levels remain steady but show signs of a potential decline as some members downsize or sell their apiaries due to health or financial reasons. New member inquiries have been limited, with few converting into active memberships.

Public Engagement

Over the past two years, there has been a notable increase in public inquiries, primarily concerning swarms, bumblebee, and wasp issues. Redirecting non-honey bee inquiries appropriately remains a priority. It is clear that the council's referral of honey bee concerns to our branch aligns with our role, and we have a responsibility to educate communities on honey bee welfare and actions for other pollinators.

Ormskirk and Croston

<https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Ormskirk & Croston District Branch of L&NWBKA Branch Report Year ending 31st October 2024

Ormskirk and Croston branch have had a successful year as demonstrated by the activities and events described in this report.

Recruitment and Membership (Graham Hull) - Membership for the branch is 238 for the past year, which is an increase from 228 last year. The Introduction to Beekeeping course this season attracted 42 new members, all extremely enthusiastic. Of the 33 people who took the Introductory course in 2023, 18 (55%) became members in 2024.

Apiaries - Aughton, and Fir Tree Farm apiaries continue to be successful, and both the bees and the maintenance teams are working very well. Aughton sold 197 lbs of honey and Fir Tree Farm 263 lbs of honey.

Schedule of meetings - Monthly Branch meetings took place at Fir tree Farm Apiary during the summer and winter meetings at New Church House in Ormskirk. A number of highly informative talks were held by experts in various aspects of beekeeping. Executive committee meetings took place regularly through the year.

The Branch Honey Show - A successful day, organised by Graham Curwen, took place in Aughton Village Hall on the 7th of September. There were many entries by members in various categories.

Education – Several education events took place as follows: -

- Our Introductory Course took place at Aughton Village Hall and our Aughton Apiary. This was continued with Beginners' Practical training in 7 sessions at FTF apiary and some at Aughton.
- Nine members of the branch underwent the BBKA Basic Assessment at Aughton Apiary the sessions were conducted by Tony Lee. All candidates passed the external assessment.
- Five members passed various BBKA modules, and one passed the Honey Bee Health Assessment. Exam entries were organized by Robina Johnstone the branch examination coordinator.
- The branch also hosted a Basic Assessment Day for Liverpool branch members at Aughton.
- Demonstration of Queen rearing was carried out by Ray Dowson and Tony Lee. during the summer at Aughton apiary.

Swarm collection and Asian Hornet Coordinator - Graham Hull is our Swarm Collection Coordinator. We currently have 15 swarm collectors covering our district. Graham Hull is also branch Asian Hornet Coordinator with the Asian Hornet team currently consisting of 18 people. Twenty-five members have completed the Asian Hornet exercise

Liaison with the public - In support of our charitable objectives and in accordance with BBKA policy to raise awareness of the importance of bees and beekeeping, members attended schools, other organizations.

Talks and demonstrations - Were given by members to organisations including: -

- Lavender Garden group Birkdale (Vicki Hall),
- St Helen's Rotary club (Caroline Philips).
- NGS technology Centre, (Phil Reeves, and Vicki)
- Ladies group at Christ church, Aughton (Vincent Creamer)
- Ormskirk and Lathom Beaver scout group (David Mason).
- Parbold cubs in the "Hut on the Hill" (Vicki)

School visits - To raise awareness of the importance of bees several talks and demonstrations have taken place as follows:--

- Ormskirk children's nursery (Vicki Hall)
- Willow Grove special needs school in Ashton in Makerfield (Hazel Smith and Vicki Hall)
- St Thomas of Canterbury primary (David and Judith Neely)
- Broad oak primary in St Helens (Phil Reeves and Vicki Hall)
- St Cuthberts Catholic Primary (Ros Walker and Vicki Hall accompanied by Anna from Bright Park as an observer).

Outside events – Members supported the following events: -

- The Aughton Apiary Open Day
- The Green Fayre held in Beacon Park, Upholland over 2 days (Hazel Smith, Supported by several other members)
- The outdoor event "St. Helens Blacksmith Day (Robina Johnstone, Ian Hind and Dave Farmer)
- Moss Bank Gala (Derrick Harris and Peter Melding)
- Our branch members took part in The Southport Flower Show.
- Several branch members took part in the NGFE Open Day (Nippon Glass Fibres Europe
- Part of the old Pilkington Group in Lea Green, St Helens.

Supporting other local charities – As follows: -

The branch provided Bright Park (a historic Trust and registered charity), Knotty Ash, Liverpool two free places on our beginner's bee keeping course followed by 8 practical training sessions. In addition, a colony of honeybees was donated to the charity and ongoing support for construction of new hives was provided along with weekly maintenance of the colony.

Branch web site

The site, maintained by Graham Hull and Mark Oakley, continues to be a useful resource for members and interested parties. Information about our programme of events and contact details can be found at www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk

The branch newsletter is published monthly keeping members up to date with bee keeping events, meeting information and education opportunities.

Thanks are due to our chairman for his direction and support, and to the many members who have played an active part in the activities of our Branch this season.

Vicki Hall

Branch Secretary
October 2024

Preston and District

<http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/>

Preston and District Beekeeping Association Report 2025

We are a continually active club with 184 members and a thriving teaching apiary. This year we have 29 candidates on our Beginner's Course who will go on to have practical experience at the teaching apiary under the guidance of a dedicated team of apiary inspectors.

We provide a mentoring service for new beekeepers and are currently mentoring 3 prison staff who will maintain beehives in local prisons.

Monthly meetings are well attended by our members and a variety of events and lectures take place.

A new venture this year is "The Hive Lab", which involves two of our members running microscopy courses at the local agricultural college where our teaching apiary is located.

Our popular Meet the Bees Taster Days are running again this year. These events encourage members of the public to find out more about our honey bees and take a look inside a hive.

In order to help our members we have a system of loaning out equipment and held our first ever equipment auction last year. This was a huge success.

Thirteen of our members are on the National Swarm Map System where members of the public can report swarms and our well maintained Facebook page and website provide information to members and the general public on the courses we run and current topics. Many of our members were also part of the Asian Hornet Watch.

The PBKA organises the Lancashire Spring Convention which is always a success and we attend country shows locally with our observation hive. Shows include Garstang Show, Fylde Steam and Vintage Show and Fylde Vintage Farm Show. Last year four of our members attended the National Honey Show in two categories.

Our members hold many talks locally on the importance of bees in the environment and to the economy in food production. We have given talks to the Young Farmers, Cubs, Brownies, the WI and schools.

We continue to thrive thanks to a dedicated committee who give their free time to improve our beekeeping skills and keep the public informed on current concerns such as the Asian Hornet and honey adulteration.

Kathryn Shield.
PBKA Secretary.

Southport and District

<http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Southport and District Report

Despite the fairly mild winter of 2023, several of our members reported large colony losses. This year's spring was cold and wet and the honey flow never really got going. As a result, many colonies were starving and needed feeding up until June; a few members whose hives were in the right condition at the right time managed to get a reasonable yield from the short summer flow, but for most members yields were significantly down, with some having the worst crop ever.

There were no reports of notifiable bee diseases in the Branch. Varroa levels were generally lower this year. Two reports of suspected Asian Hornets were received, these were both confirmed as queen wasps and were duly released.

The general public reported many more swarms than usual, some in very strange places – the top of a crane jib, inside a central heating boiler, and in a gas regulating valve box, all of which were safely recovered. 5 collected swarms were offered free of charge to members who were without or who had lost bees.

Branch meetings included many talks throughout the year, providing education for many members, including those from other branches. Chorley's Angels provided a great demonstration focusing on how to use a defibrillator, CPR and anaphylactic shock reactions. Our County Yellow Legged Hornet Co-ordinator Dave Heaton provided an important update; a talk on honey showing was given by honey show judge John Goodwin; Fred Ayres gave a talk on alternative ways to keep bees; Dave Bonner spoke to members about swarming; and Diane Drinkwater, current Chair of the BBKA, covered why beekeepers give up in the first five years.

We held a Beekeeping Taster session at the beginning of September which was very well attended and together with other courses run by Diane Drinkwater this year helped to increase our public profile and raise funds.

Training sessions at the Branch Apiary included hive set-up, equipment, names of hive parts, record cards and a long discussion about diseases. In April John Bryan did a session on frame making for brood and super and in May Mike Lavelle came to demonstrate an artificial swarm.

This season we included the occasional Sunday morning session for flexibility in case of inclement weather, and also to give people the opportunity to attend if they weren't available on a Saturday. The weather continued to be very hit and miss with lots of rain, so unfortunately a number of sessions had to be cancelled. Queen-rearing and mating hives were also interesting specialist sessions. The queens reared from these sessions came in very timely for some of the hives that were failing. We have also benefitted from receiving damaged bags of sugar from Tesco, who very kindly donate the unusable sugar to us in exchange for a few jars of honey.

This year has seen the introduction of AH teams and identifiers. We have around 4 identifiers. There has been a lot of AH communications and the introduction of an outreach officer for support. Some members participated in the AH monitoring event earlier in the year.

We had a number of people taking the basic assessment this year which is great and hopefully we can continue this next year.

This year S&DBK have launched a new website, logo, brochure and letterhead. The logo was adapted from the competition winner at the Southport Flower Show. The website also has a new Blog page,

Southport and District Bee Times, written by Diane Drinkwater as an overview of the beekeeping year.
Membership 2024

The branch currently has 86 members, a significant increase since 2023 when we had only 59.

Gift aid has now been received for both 2022/23 and 2023/24 subscriptions.

During 2024, we have also changed our bank account, we are still with Lloyds Bank but have now got a Treasurers Account.

Although the Flower Show did make a profit this year, as in previous years, we also spent money on

making the tent look more exciting for visitors, so overall we have made a small loss of £81.23. Many of the items invested in for 2024 will continue to be used going forward.

We had expenses for the Apiary this year, mainly due to vandalism, and we invested in replacing and adding to the library books. We also received donations of beekeeping suits from Winstanley College via Mike Stephenson and bees and hives from a member that was giving up beekeeping. Southport Flower Show 2024

A key outreach for Southport and District Beekeepers is the Southport Flower Show, the branch has had a relationship with the show since the 1940's. 2024 was a joint celebration, it was the 100th Flower show and the BBKA's 150th Anniversary, the footfall was higher than ever, even with a very disappointing first day which was very wet and discouraged people from attending.

The show has over 50,000 visitors, and as this was a special year the branch made major changes to the presentation of the Bee, Bakery and Preserves Marquee and involvement of our membership. Local schools were invited to enter our Future Beekeepers Art competition, details of which were circulated via our website, social media and Sefton Council. We had over two hundred and fifty entries from local schools, with some entries from as far away as Australia. There were two age groups for the competition, with winners in each of the groups. Our winners received their prizes from Diane Drinkwater, Chair of BBKA. The winning design of the older age group has been turned into the new logo for our branch by a local designer, who gave his services free of charge.

Members of several branches volunteered to help in the marquee. These amazing volunteers explained to visitors the various entries and exhibits, engaging, and encouraging everyone to learn more about bees and beekeeping.

Within the marquee we made significant changes to our signage and displayed the full set of Royle educational posters which brought lots of questions around beekeeping and created positive talking points. We had two bespoke display modules made and this year they were used to give a comparison view of how beekeeping used to be and where we are now. There were displays of older equipment and photographs from archives which we were able to compare. These displays will have different themes each year.

Two observation hives, fully manned by our experienced members throughout the show, provided the opportunity to answer a lot of questions from the general public.

We were grateful for the loan of a WBC cedar hive with a copper roof as a show piece from our local bee supplier Simon the Beekeeper.

For younger visitors, who loved our pair of commissioned hand-crafted wicker bees flying high in the Marquee, we had specific displays of a bee's lifecycle, some brochure for them and our candle making proved to be even more popular. We were also very busy at the honey tasting table with all the tasting samples provided by local beekeepers.

The live bee demonstrations, weather permitting, happened a number of times over the four days of the show. These gave people the opportunity to see a beekeeper looking inside a hive and observing bee behaviour while the beekeeper explained what he was doing and why. There were Q&A sessions after each, with our Joint-Chair John Bryan, after 40 years, handing over the reins to Vinny Greenall our apiary manager.

There were over sixty judged classes including, displays of honey, mead, wax cakes, candles, plants, flowers, photographs, bee equipment, artwork, cakes, and biscuits. There are some areas where we significantly need to improve the number of exhibitors, and we have plans in early stages to help in this area and encourage more members to enter.

The information leaflets received great feedback, and our up-and-coming taster day was very popular with people showing a continued interest in wanting to know how to help bees and what to plant to give them better sources of pollen and nectar. There was a great deal of concern about the overall welfare of all bees with children showing enthusiasm in learning more.

We also successfully improved our profile within the community: Vinny was interviewed by Radio Merseyside answering questions and talking about beekeeping, and we had a photographer taking photographs of some of our members, these went on to be published in Lancashire Life magazine.

Northern Region Bee Unit Report

The National Bee Unit no longer publish their regional reports. Data is available on their website in the form of maps which shows the North West region is free of both European and American Foulbrood:

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/reports-charts-and-maps/maps-2>

More information about the Statutory Apiary Inspection programme can be found here:

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/about-us/apiary-inspection-programme/the-statutory-apiary-inspection-programme-3/>

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Accounts to 31st October 2024

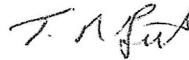
| 2023 | Income | 2024 | 2023 Expenditure | 2024 | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| £27,353 | Subscriptions | £31,611 | £0 | Postages | £0 |
| £1,129 | Donations | £410 | £515 | Printing & Stationery | £98 |
| £0 | Adverts | £0 | £20,906 | B.B.K.A Capitation | £21,096 |
| £60 | Interest | £369 | £28 | Insurance | £56 |
| £9,383 | Honey Shows | £10,673 | £12,933 | Honey Shows | £15,527 |
| £2,198 | B.D.I. Extra Hives | £2,140 | £3,038 | B.D.I. | £2,982 |
| £12,004 | Education | £13,899 | £5,476 | Education | £5,680 |
| £13 | Equipment | £75 | £1,653 | Equipment | £2,363 |
| £1,500 | Convention | £1,824 | £1,295 | Convention | £1,205 |
| £1,080 | Socials & Raffles | £890 | £1,365 | Socials Functions | £483 |
| £0 | Tax Refunds (Gift Aid) | £11,479 | £1,448 | Rooms | £1,504 |
| £1,898 | Treatments | £0 | £910 | Lecturers | £970 |
| £0 | Newsletters | £0 | £2,193 | Treatments | £664 |
| £3,648 | Apiary Income | £5,776 | £0 | Newsletters/magazines | £0 |
| £1,507 | Sundry Income | £790 | £320 | Honoraria | £412 |
| £0 | Grants | £0 | £830 | Cup Engrav. & Repairs | £611 |
| £851 | Fundraising | £504 | £0 | Handbook | £0 |
| £0 | Capitation | £0 | £930 | Subs & Donations | £4,005 |
| £18,375 | Sales to members | £15,099 | £2,200 | Sundries | £1,419 |
| £0 | Funds introduced | £0 | £0 | Books | £133 |
| | | | £1,298 | Admin incl postage | £1,627 |
| | | | £10,964 | Apiary | £10,531 |
| | | | £0 | Bank charges | £0 |
| | | | £0 | Gift aid to branches | £0 |
| | | | £16,568 | Purchases for resale | £11,948 |
| | | | | Funds transferred | |
| £80,999 | Total Income | £95,539 | £84,869 | Total Expenditure | £83,311 |
| £7,649 | Opening Cash/Stock Balance | £9,371 | £9,371 | Closing Cash/Stock Balance | £9,459 |
| £106,941 | Opening Bank Balance | £101,854 | £101,854 | Closing Bank Balance | £116,619 |
| £0 | unpresented chq | -£505 | -£505 | unpresented chq | £0 |
| £0 | undeposited funds | £3,131 | £0 | undeposited funds | £0 |
| £0 | stock | | | stock | |
| £114,590 | Total Assets | £113,851 | £110,720 | Total Assets | £126,078 |
| £195,589 | Assets + Income | £209,389 | £195,589 | Assets + Expenditure | £209,389 |

Note:



Signed
Ian Bickerstaffe Hon Treasurer

Date 11/12/25



Signed
Thomas Gent Independent Examiner

Date 15/12/25

Lancashire & North West BKA

126th AGM of the Lancashire & Northwest Beekeepers Association

Saturday 8th March 2025

Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts

I have attached copies of the Consolidated Accounts for the year to 31st October 2024.

I have also included for information the County accounts for the same period.

Some points to note as follows:

Income

1. Increased by £14.5k during the year mainly as a result of the Gift Aid refunds (see below)
2. Subscriptions increased by £3.3k
3. Interest – small increase as branches begin to utilize deposit accounts
4. Apiary income includes Treatments, so similar year on year
5. Sales to members reduced by £3.3k

Expenditure

1. A slight reduction of £1.5k year on year.
2. Capitation and BDI similar year on year.
3. Honey Show expenditure increase includes some apiary costs – correcting for some identified mis postings after the reviews would reduce the costs by £667.
4. Subs & Donations made during the year include:

| | |
|--|--------|
| a. County - BBKA Yellow Legged Hornet Fund | £1,000 |
| b. County - Rocco Croft-Senior YBA Trip | £500 |
| c. Lancaster – Friends of Mawson Garden Silverdale | £2,002 |
5. Education – full year effect of subsidising exams £1,000
6. Purchases for resale reduction in line with sales

Gift Aid Submissions

1. Submissions to HMRC were made for the tax years 22/23 and 23/24. This brings us up to date.
 - a. Tax Year 22/23 - £21,957 – refund £5,489
 - b. Tax Year 23/24 - £23,959 – refund £5,990
2. All funds have been distributed to the branches.
3. Submission of the 24/25 Gift Aid Return will be made in April.

Financial position

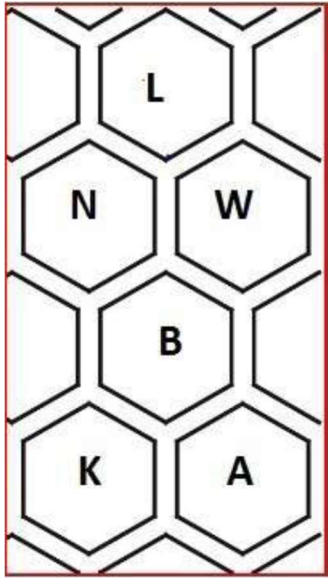
1. The Association has bank balances of £116,649 and stock/cash balances of £9,459 at the end of the period totaling £126,078. An increase of £12,227 over the year. This increase can be mainly attributed to the Gift Aid refunds.

2. The bank surplus is growing, and efforts should be made to utilize the funds in line with the objectives of the charity. Closing balances have moved from £90k in 2021 without any stock to the current gross total of £126k.

THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH-WEST BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 506167

Accounts



The Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association

Lancashire and North West B.K.A

(Founded 1882. Reconstructed separately 1899)Registered
Charity No 506167

Handbook and annual reports 2022-23

CONTENTS

Officers of the Association

President - Mr Martin Smith

Chair - Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Vice - Chair - Mr Michael Gardner

Hon Gen Sec - Mrs Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Hon Treasurer - Mr Ian Bickerstaffe

Hon Convention Officer - Mrs Liane Doree

Hon Handbook Sec. - Ms Diane Drinkwater

Hon Honey Show Officer -Mrs Elaine Hargreaves

Hon Webmaster - Mr Mark Oakley

Hon Education co-ordinator - Mrs Viki Cuthbertson

Hon Examinations Officer - Mrs Robina Johnstone

Hon Examiner of Accounts incoming – Mr Conor Edwards

Disease Liaison Officer - Miss Caroline Coughlin

Beecraft Rep & Trophies Officer- Mrs Jan Blanthorn Hazell

BDI Rep - Mr Martin Smith*

ADM Rep -Mr Dave Heaton

* It is noted that Mr Smith is also President of BDI. The Council is satisfied that this does not present any conflict of issues

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Status Registered Charity Number 506167

Patrons None

President Martin Smith

General Secretary Mrs Jan Blanthorn-Hazell
Independent Examiner (audit) Mr Conor Edwards

The Association's Bank: Metro Bank Trustees:

President Mr. Martin Smith;
Chairperson Mrs Viki Cuthbertson
Treasurer Mr Ian Bickerstaffe
General Secretary Mrs Jan Blanthorn-Hazell

Objectives of the Society:

The primary Objectives of the charity are:

To promote and further the craft of beekeeping

To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment and the economy.

Reports 2023

Chairman's Report

Looking back on 2023 made me wonder if we're currently enjoying the golden years of beekeeping in the UK as we know it.

We've weathered Varroa successfully but Asian Hornet's potential for destruction, both of our bees and (just as importantly) other insects, is extremely worrying.

The updates coming from the South last year should be a wake up for us all to remain vigilant and endeavour to engage and educate the general public at every opportunity.

To that end, I'd like to express a huge thank you to our Bee Inspectors and beekeeping colleagues along the South Coast for their efforts so far in stemming the tide of Asian Hornet infestations.

Closer to home we've had a few changes on the Council.

- Martin became our President at the last AGM.
- Mike has resigned as Secretary with Jan temporarily filling in until this AGM.
- and Arthur has resigned as Treasurer.

My thanks to all of them, with a special mention to Mike who has been our rock for a quite a few years now.

Recognition is also due for my other Council colleagues:

- Liane for organising today's convention.
- Elaine for once again retaining her sanity whilst organising our Honey Show (please get your entries in earlier this year!);
- Viki and Robina for managing our education and qualifications.
- Mark for his web prowess.
- Dave for representing us and our propositions at the ADM
- and Diane as our BBKA link trustee.

Finally, as ever, a huge thank you to the unsung heroes on the branch committees. None of this would work without you.

Have a great 2024.

Michael Gardner

Chairman Lancashire & Northwest Beekeepers Association

Hon Treasurer Consolidated Accounts

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Central Council Accounts to 31st October 2023

| 2022 | Income | 2023 | 2022 | Expenditure | 2023 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| £20,604.50 | Capitation from Branches | £21,259.90 | £160.00 | Room Hire | £0.00 |
| £0.59 | Bank Interest | £0.00 | £56.00 | Insurance | £0.00 |
| £126.37 | Donations | £135.58 | £18,845.00 | BBKA Capitation | £19,434.00 |
| £1,716.00 | Conventions | £1,499.50 | £0.00 | Subs/Donations | £152.37 |
| £383.00 | Members Honey Show | £387.50 | £618.46 | Members Honey Show | £1,615.81 |
| £13,784.70 | Tax Refunds from HMRC | £0.00 | £1,413.00 | Conventions | £1,295.00 |
| £850.00 | Education | £35.00 | £0.00 | Education | £366.00 |
| £159.90 | Sundry | £141.00 | £320.00 | Honoraria | £320.00 |
| £0.00 | Raffles | £432.00 | £0.00 | Engraving | £829.80 |
| | | | £14,145.17 | Branch Tax Refunds from HMRC | £0.00 |
| | | | £504.10 | Sundry | £133.00 |
| | | | | Exams | £1,060.00 |
| | | | | Admin (Bank Charges) | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Lancs Cap rebate to branches | £0.00 |
| | | | £17.74 | Web | £0.00 |
| £37,625.06 | Total Income | £23,890.48 | £36,079.47 | Total Expenditure | £25,205.98 |
| £164.80 | Opening Cash Balance | £107.20 | £107.20 | Closing Cash Balance | £0.00 |
| £12,400.21 | Opening Bank balance | £16,566.89 | £16,566.89 | Closing Bank balance | £15,358.59 |
| £3,527.49 | Opening savings Account | £0.00 | £0.00 | Closing savings Account | £0.00 |
| £16,092.50 | | £16,674.09 | £16,674.09 | | £15,358.59 |
| -£1,368.00 | unpres cheque | £0.00 | £0.00 | unpres cq | £0.00 |
| £499.50 | undeposited funds | £0.00 | £95.50 | undeposited funds | £0.00 |
| £15,224.00 | | £16,674.09 | £16,769.59 | | £15,358.59 |
| £52,849.06 | | £40,564.57 | £52,849.06 | | £40,564.57 |



Signed **Ian Bickerstaffe** Honorary Treasurer

Date **14th June 2024**

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Accounts to 31st October 2023

| 2022 | Income | 2023 | 2022 Expenditure | 2023 | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 29,584.93 | Subscriptions | 27,353.48 | 1,057.13 | Printing & Stationery | 514.68 |
| 1,737.17 | Donations | 1,128.75 | 19,124.10 | B.B.K.A Capitation | 20,905.60 |
| - | Adverts | - | 84.00 | Insurance | 28.00 |
| 311.57 | Interest | 59.58 | 7,413.85 | Honey Shows | 12,933.33 |
| 7,283.05 | Honey Shows | 9,382.97 | 2,505.48 | B.D.I. | 3,037.90 |
| 3,883.25 | B.D.I. Extra Hives | 2,198.00 | 4,576.84 | Education | 5,475.88 |
| 13,049.60 | Education | 12,004.40 | 4,447.24 | Equipment | 1,652.63 |
| - | Equipment | 13.00 | 1,413.00 | Convention | 1,295.00 |
| 1,716.00 | Convention | 1,499.50 | 350.09 | Socials Functions | 1,364.62 |
| 538.95 | Socials & Raffles | 1,080.37 | 1,769.50 | Rooms | 1,447.75 |
| 13,784.70 | Tax Refunds (Gift Aid) | - | 1,935.88 | Lecturers | 910.40 |
| 441.52 | Treatments | 1,897.77 | 31.00 | Treatments | 2,193.07 |
| - | Newsletters | - | 3,030.00 | Newsletters/magazines | - |
| - | Apiary Income | 3,647.62 | 320.00 | Honoraria | 320.00 |
| 556.18 | Sundry Income | 1,507.23 | 86.50 | Cup Engrav. & Repairs | 829.80 |
| - | Grants | - | - | Handbook | - |
| 700.00 | Fundraising | 851.06 | 2,072.20 | Subs & Donations | 929.90 |
| - | Capitation | - | 279.37 | Sundries | 2,200.22 |
| 15,551.45 | Sales to members | 18,375.13 | - | Books | - |
| - | Funds introduced | - | 2,742.62 | Admin incl postage | 1,298.05 |
| | | | 6,797.56 | Apiary | 10,964.14 |
| | | | 155.68 | Bank charges | - |
| | | | - | Gift aid to branches | - |
| | | | 11,785.11 | Purchases for resale | 16,568.26 |
| | | | - | Funds transferred | - |
| 89,138.37 | Total Income | 80,998.86 | 71,977.15 | Total Expenditure | 84,869.23 |
| 432.58 | Opening Cash Balance | 7,648.95 | 542.95 | Closing Cash Balance | 9,370.95 |
| 98,387.79 | Opening Bank Balance | 106,941.35 | 109,727.14 | Closing Bank Balance | 101,853.53 |
| - 1,368.00 | unpresented chq | - | - | unpresented chq | - 504.55 |
| 499.50 | undeposited funds | - | 365.50 | undeposited funds | - |
| 2,628.50 | stock | - | 7,106.00 | stock | - |
| 100,580.37 | Adjusted | 114,590.30 | 117,741.59 | Adjusted | 110,719.93 |
| 189,718.74 | Assets + Income | 195,589.16 | 189,718.74 | Assets + Expenditure | 195,589.16 |

Note:

1. HMRC Gift Aid refund not claimed for Tax Year 22/23 and 23/24



Signed
Ian Bickerstaffe Hon Treasurer

Date 14/6/24



Signed
Thomas Gent Independent Examiner

Date 14/6/24

Hon Examinations Secretary Report to Central Council December 2023.

BASIC CERTIFICATE

There were 40 applications this year, 39 were assessed and passed. It was very pleasing to see high grades achieved by many Lancashire members.

Totals: PASS 11 CREDIT 24 DISTINCTION 4

EAST LANCS P3 C5
BLACKPOOL C2 D1
LIVERPOOL C1
ORMSKIRK & CROSTON C7 D2
PRESTON P4 C5 D1
LANCASTER P4 C3
OLDHAM C1

MARCH 2023 MODULES

18 candidates took Modules and again high grades were achieved.

EAST LANCS P3 C1 D2
BLACKPOOL C2
O & C P2 1 INTERMEDIATE THEORY
PRESTON P3 C3 D1
LANCASTER D1
OLDHAM P1

MARCH 2023

Two candidates who applied and paid fees for their papers to be re-marked remain dissatisfied. Each has submitted a personal complaint directly to the Exam Board.

MARCH 2024 one Module application to date.

GENERAL HUSBANDRY P4

NOVEMBER 2023 MODULES

Lancashire members applied for Online and In Person Module Exams.

One declined to take his two Modules on the grounds of the date being inconvenient and his application was cancelled by Nicky Campbell.

One member has informed me of Online issues which prevented the candidate from completing the paper. If there are any others with concerns/complaints please ask them to contact me.

BBKA SURVEY OF EXAM SECRETARIES.

Recent feedback from the Exam Board stated that the majority of Associations are satisfied with the level of service and help they receive. Only 2 were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. (Lancashire & North West and Yorkshire)

This matter will be dealt with at 2024 ADM.

To Conclude

Lancashire members clearly have an appetite for education. This is demonstrated in willingness to provide courses and the achievements of those who take BBKA qualifications.

Thanks as always to Mike Lavelle and Viki Cuthbertson for their support. I very much appreciate the help of Branch Education Officers and others involved in training candidates for their assistance when candidates encounter problems. Thanks too to Ian Hinde for his assistance with the November In-Person Modules.

Robina Johnstone, Examination Secretary

Branch Contact Details

Please visit the branch websites for up-to-date contact details and details on how to join

Lancashire and North West BKA

<https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/>

Blackpool and Fylde

<http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/>

East Lancashire

<http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/>

Lancaster

<http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>

Liverpool and District

<http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Oldham & District

<http://www.odbka.org>

Ormskirk and Croston

<https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Preston and District

<http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/>

Southport and District

<http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Branch Annual Reports

Each Branch provides an annual report for this handbook.

Blackpool and Fylde

<http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/>

Chairman's Report – Paul Leeks

This summer we managed to relocate to a much better site at Brookfield School in Poulton which, not only has a better environment for the bees, but also is located right in the middle of our club area; making it much easier for all members to attend on a Sunday morning. We now have two new and (currently) thriving colonies which will hopefully make it through winter ready for next year.

We once again had a very successful Bee Awareness Day at Lytham Hall during the summer which attracted many visitors and brought in good revenue for the club.

Great Eccleston Show was also a tremendous success. Our 'Bee Tent' was packed for most of the weekend and the feedback we got from the public was wonderful. It seems everybody not only loves bees but also loves hearing all the incredible facts we beekeepers have at hand to amaze and educate. Again, the stand made valuable revenue for the club through sales of honey, candles and other bee-related items.

So, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everybody who participated in both these events. They were both very hectic and, because we struggled to get an adequate number of members to participate, were extremely arduous work for those who did volunteer to help the club.

So, I would once again encourage all members to get involved in these events. They really are great fun. And, again, if we get the numbers, the commitment is minimal; only about four hours of your time.

Finally, we had two very enjoyable out-apiary days at Doris' and Michael's with lots of beekeeping tips and advice, plenty of hands-on practical experience (particularly at Doris's!) and, of course, the usual excellent hospitality at both.

Huge thanks also to Janet who once again ran her highly successful Bee Introductory Days with theory sessions at St Martin's and St Hilda's Church Hall in Carleton coupled with hands-on practical sessions at Peter's apiary near Lytham the out apiary. On top of all that, Janet has also found time to teach several educational courses for our members preparing for their BBKA modules.

Thanks also go to Peter, our web master, who as well as making his bees available for the Bee Intro Days, has maintained the club's website for members and the local general public.

Last, but not least, thanks to Michael for being our representative on the North West Committee and feeding back to us directives from on high and helping us to have a voice at regional level.

Finally, thank you to you, all our members for your continued support for the club. We are lucky to have so many skilled members and, as I mentioned earlier, all the club's highly successful meetings and events could not happen without our members tremendous hard work and dedication.

We hold a Bee Awareness Day at Lytham Hall (2024 date is Wed 29th May) which is always very popular, with an observation hive and members' hive products on sale. We also held 2 awareness sessions in local shopping centres last year, and one is already planned for this year, plus a session in local schools. A popular stand is always held at Gt Eccleston Show, this year 13th-14th July.

East Lancashire

<http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/>

Chair's report 2022-2023

I am happy to report another successful year for the club, our bees remain healthy and we have provided training opportunities to lots of members
Membership has increased again and the Apiary sessions remain popular with new beekeepers.

Apiary

Our relationship with Newground staff at offshoots continues to be good, however there have been some car parking issues which remain less than ideal.

We have been fortunate enough to establish a second apiary at Gawthorpe Hall. This will enable us to provide a better training experience, reducing the competing demands of club sessions and assessments.

We have distributed the honey produced between Offshoots, Gawthorpe Hall, Apiary leads and the foodbanks in Burnley and Clitheroe

Community engagement events 2022-2023

| | |
|--------------|---|
| May 2023 | Gorple Girls and Womens group – talk 'A year in the Life of a Beekeeper' |
| May 2023 | Educational visit by a beekeeper St Bartholomews Primary school reception class |
| June 2023 | Schools team visit to St Mary's Hall Junior school, Hurst Green |
| June 2023 | Beekeeping information stall with Observation hive at Accrington Ecofest |
| June 2023 | Educational activities with St Mary Magdalene School – 4 members involved |
| June 2023 | Home Education group - Educational morning with a Beekeeper |
| Summer 2023 | Primary school bee educational visit by a beekeeper |
| October 2023 | Beekeeping information stall and honey tasting at Gawthorpe Hall NT open day |

Lancaster

<http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>

Vice Chair's – Annual Report

Report of the vice chairman I wish to thank all those who have served on the officers of the club for the time given to the club and the excellent way they have carried out those duties. I particularly wish to thank Chris Humphries for his unstinting work for the club as chairman and swarm coordinator and your many other roles to many to list which you carry out with such enthusiasm You have given the society a 100% and I know the support he has given to Emma our secretary and Jenny our treasurer has been greatly appreciated.

Emma you are a star the hours you have given to the club are amazing. You are dependable reliable and always cheerful. The perfect club secretary.

Jenny thank you very much for your work as treasurer. Your work unfortunately goes unnoticed unless things go wrong. Well done Jenny nothing amiss. We all grateful for what you have and are doing.

Mark you have done so much to raise the standard of education in the club. Your fame as a trainer is reflected in the number of people wanting to attend the beginners courses we run. Thank also for the work you have done with Chris at the apiary.

Can I also thank the rest of the committee for all they have done over the past year. There are many other members who have helped support the club in many ways particularly Kirsty who has worked closely with Mark and Chris insuring the apiary is well run. Linda and Richard thank you for all you have done. Thank you very much one and all it is greatly appreciated. We have fulfilled our mission by having an open day event to promote the club and good beekeeping practices. Provided education advice to members directly or via WhatsApp, thank you one and all for this. The club is constantly improving the quality of the members' knowledge, Mark has passed yet another exam and Chris and Mark are both taking further exams.

So a summary of the year, Open Day and Beginners Course were both successful and well attended. The club was represented at The Highest Point Festival in Williamson's Park, The Judges' Lodgings and Carnforth Carnival. A Honey Extraction workshop was held at Linda and Richards home.

Members entered the Lancashire Honey show and came away with 4 firsts, 2nd a third and a very highly recommended. Plus, the club won the Lancashire Association Clubs trophy. Zoom meetings were held on many topics and the club apiary bees produced over 40kg of honey.

The Apiary

The top bar was repopulated again this year but has sadly failed again. Chris has also brought his long hive (built by Vincent) which is now in our bee cage. The club has 9 colonies to overwinter and apart from two nucs, which will come to my house, the rest will stay on site. The apiary tidy up day last weekend was very well attended (thank you all) and the container is now very well organised. In January/February, I'll organise a day when we will lay the rest of the hedge and get the apiary ready for another season.

I'd like to thank all the club members who help with the training, especially Emma who does a lot of the organising and Chris and Kirsti who have done the majority of the club bee inspections this year. I'd also like to thank those members who gave zoom lectures to the beginners.

Liverpool and District

<http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Liverpool & District Branch had around 80 members during the year and undertook a range of activities towards advising and teaching people interested in taking up the craft of beekeeping. Branch members were on the national swarm collection map and engaged in both swarm collecting and giving advice to the public about all sorts of bees including bumble bees, wasps as well as honey bees.

Oldham & District
<http://www.odbka.org>

I can confirm that there was a significant increase in general public enquiries. The main themes have been swarms, but also bumble and wasp issues that had my intervention to point elsewhere. It is obvious, but also appropriate, that for example, the council are properly redirecting the public to ourselves to deal with honey bee problems, but now it is clear we have a responsibility to our communities to educate them in honey bee welfare and appropriate actions for other pollinators that are an issue for them.

The secretary has been very helpful in proof reading and distributing the newsletter by email (ER2). Hard copies have fallen off the radar in recent months- partly communication and physical resources.

Changes to the newsletter construction have been few this year- periodically a new section called HOW TO has been added. The "gaff" section has been dropped as there were very few contributors- became natural death.

As Editor I have concentrated on developing a monthly in depth section- "The Apiary in .. as a practical guide to members for action and consideration no matter how experienced members are. The intention is to develop this further where changes to practice become evident such as emphasising more varroa monitoring and pinpointing Asian hornet observations in spring and late summer (September).

Ormskirk and Croston

<https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Membership for the branch is 228 for the past year, which is an increase from 220 last year. 3 of these are junior schools which is extremely pleasing.

Out of 40 people who took the Introductory course in 2022, 24 were retained this year.

The Introduction to Beekeeping course this season attracted 33 new members, all extremely enthusiastic.

Schedule of meetings

During the summer season the following meetings took place as follows: -

Monthly Branch meetings at Fir tree Farm Apiary.

Out Apiary Team meetings at both FTF and Aughton apiaries.

Our second branch apiary at Aughton, organised by a small team last year, led by our chairman, Martin Smith, continues to be successful and is working very well, as is Fair Tree Farm apiary.

The Branch Honey Show This took place in Aughton Village Hall on the 2nd September.

This was a very enjoyable successful day, organised by Graham Curwen.

Graham Hull is our Swarm collector coordinator. The current season began with 16 swarm collectors.

Two members decided to retire from this position and one other member joined, so we currently have 15 swarm collectors.

In support of our charitable objectives and in accordance with BBKA policy to raise awareness of the importance

of bees and bee keeping, we attended schools, other organizations, and other public facing events as detailed below'

School visits to raise awareness of the importance of bees etc have taken place. Three primary schools and

one nursery school have been visited by one, two, three or four members of a small team in our branch to give talks and demonstrations, organised by Vicki Hall.

Organisation and planning have not always been easy, but the response of the children and staff has fully compensated for the effort needed.

Talks and demonstrations were also given by members to organisations such as a Care home, WI. groups, Church groups, Scouts, Beavers, Brownies and Allotment clubs. There may be others I am not aware of, although I do ask to be kept in touch.

Outside events, that our branch has been involved in this season include: -

The Green Fayre held in Beacon Park, Upholland, organised by Hazel Smith, our Events Coordinator.

and The Southport Flower Show. Taking part in the Southport Flower Show was under the direction of Southport branch,

A Sustainability Day at Edge Hill University organised by Vicki Hall as Hazel was working.

We usually take part in "Animal Magic at Martin Mere", but sadly it did not run this year due to an inability of Martin mere to obtain enough unusual animals.

One event involving just our branch was the "Open Day" for our apiary in Aughton. As for last year, this involved honey sales, honey tasting, members and local people looking round the apiary, demonstration of a hive etc and an auction of beekeeping equipment no longer required by some members.

Local people were really interested in the whole set up and spent a lot of time talking to branch members.

The branch web site, maintained by Graham Hull and Mark Oakley, continues to be a useful resource for members and interested parties.

Information about our programme of events and contact details can be found at

www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk

Preston and District

<http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/>

At the year end membership had dropped slightly to 187 members.

We now have screens at the apiary separating the hives from the shop and other sheds which means we can use the seating area for training and meetings without too much interruption from our friendly bees. These proved very effective when we held our Taster Day – two days were planned but our very rainy summer put paid to one of them. We had 8 people attend and feedback was excellent. A couple of people have deferred to next year. Many thanks to the Thursday Crew for all their ongoing work and maintenance.

Our website continues to expand and we will shortly be rolling out online membership renewals and applications.

Thanks once again to Elaine Hargreaves for organising the County Honey Show and to Janet Harrison and Liane Doree for co-ordinating the club entries into the County Honey Show.

Several members won trophies and certificates at the show, reflecting the high standard of beekeeping within the club.

Spurred on by this success, Liane encouraged people to enter the National Honey Show and many people contributed material for a shop window display which won third place.

Several members also won individual prizes and certificates for honey and wax products, films and even a limerick! This is no mean feat in a national competition. Well done to all those winners.

All Preston's work is carried out by club volunteers, from booking venues for events, booking speakers, updating the Website, sending out the newsletter, ordering stock and staffing the shop, maintaining the club apiary, attending external events on our stand, teaching our new beekeepers and a range of other tasks which enable the club to run smoothly.

The shop continues to expand and is ever popular.

We have manned publicity stands at Chorley flower show and Garstang show among others. There were over 100 entries at our show, report on Website.

We have some splendid new fencing around the apiary which has improved safety. The sheds are all now finished.

We offered 2 taster days again, unfortunately they had to be combined due to inclement weather but were well received.

We entered the club classes at the County honey show again, with a calendar and a display.

This year at the National Honey show's centenary at Sandown Park, the club entered a class for a shop window exhibit by a group.

The items were supplied by a number of members and 3 of us staged it.

In a very strong class we won 3rd place with a £25 prize. The judge described it as stunning and you can see photos on the Website.

Southport and District

<http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Yearly report Mar 2023- March 2024 Southport & District Beekeepers Association.
The Apiary 2023-2024

Last season many new members attended the Saturday morning Introduction to Beekeeping course and they reported that they enjoyed the experience. A small collective went ahead and acquired their own bees but still continued to attend the sessions at the apiary.

In September we held a taster day for potential new members and some of those have now become full members of the SBKA.

The apiary suffered a number of vandalism attacks which knocked over all the hives, including those that were fully inhabited. The worst attack saw the apiary shed broken into and all the equipment for the Southport Flower Show and the spinning machine strewn all over the plot. Fortunately the bees that were attacked appear to have survived and hopefully will build up again this coming season. The shed door has been replaced and plans for a more secure unit are underway with the new occupants, namely Bridge Inn.

Apart from the damage, last season was very productive and most of the attendees reported that it had built their confidence enough to acquire their own bees. The season ended with a social gathering in the Windmill, Southport which was a great way to celebrate the closing of the introductory course.

Piece for Southport Flower Show,

Southport and North-West Beekeepers had a very successful presence at the Southport Flower Show in 2023. There were over 50,000 people visiting the show and over the four days a large percentage of these visited our Honey and Bee Marquee.

Within the marquee we had several types of exhibits including two observation hives, a virtual hive, a useful hands-on tool to explain the workings of the hive and bees, over 60 judged classes including, displays of honey, mead, wax cakes, candles, plants, flowers, photographs, bee equipment, artwork, cakes and biscuits. We also had a demonstration of skep making, with educational information about the skills of this craft and how these have been used over the years.

We had over 30 volunteers helping in the marquee. These volunteers explained to visitors the various entries and exhibits, engaging, and encouraging everyone to want to learn more about bees and beekeeping.

The opportunity to have a go at candle making proved to be very popular and it was also very busy at the honey tasting table with all the tasting samples provided by local beekeepers. People tasting the various honeys were surprised about the huge differences in them, even some of the people who said they did not like the taste of honey were able to find a sample they did like.

Another big crowd pleaser were our live bee demonstrations, held a number of times over the four days of the show. Giving people the opportunity to see a beekeeper looking inside a hive and observing bee behaviour while the beekeeper explained what he was doing and why. The public showed a lot of interest in wanting to know how to help bees and what to plant to give them better sources of pollen and nectar. There was a great deal of concern about the overall welfare of all bees with children showing a lot of enthusiasm in learning more.

The Flower Show this year went very well and for a change, we had good weather. Well done Jeanette for your excellent organization. Next year is the 100th anniversary of the Flower show. Watch this space!?

The branch has 59 members.

Northern Region Bee Unit Report

The National Bee Unit no longer publish their regional reports. Data is available on their website in the form of maps which shows the North West region is free of both European and American Foulbrood:

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/reports-charts-and-maps/maps-2>

More information about the Statutory Apiary Inspection programme can be found here:

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/about-us/apiary-inspection-programme/the-statutory-apiary-inspection-programme-3/>

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Accounts to 31st October 2023

| 2022 | Income | 2023 | 2022 Expenditure | 2023 | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| £29,585 | Subscriptions | £27,386 | £0 | Postages | £0 |
| £1,737 | Donations | £1,110 | £1,057 | Printing & Stationery | £525 |
| £0 | Adverts | £0 | £19,124 | B.B.K.A Capitation | £20,785 |
| £312 | Interest | £60 | £84 | Insurance | £28 |
| £7,283 | Honey Shows | £7,180 | £7,414 | Honey Shows | £11,016 |
| £3,883 | B.D.I. Extra Hives | £2,198 | £2,505 | B.D.I. | £3,027 |
| £13,050 | Education | £11,869 | £4,577 | Education | £5,496 |
| £0 | Equipment | £13 | £4,447 | Equipment | £2,123 |
| £1,716 | Convention | £1,500 | £1,413 | Convention | £1,295 |
| £539 | Socials & Raffles | £1,753 | £350 | Socials Functions | £1,365 |
| £13,785 | Tax Refunds (Gift Aid) | £0 | £1,770 | Rooms | £1,448 |
| £442 | Treatments | £1,898 | £1,936 | Lecturers | £910 |
| £0 | Newsletters | £0 | £31 | Treatments | £2,224 |
| £0 | Apiary Income | £3,648 | £3,030 | Newsletters/magazines | £0 |
| £556 | Sundry Income | £1,537 | £320 | Honoraria | £320 |
| £0 | Grants | £0 | £87 | Cup Engrav. & Repairs | £830 |
| £700 | Fundraising | £851 | £0 | Handbook | £0 |
| £0 | Capitation | £0 | £2,072 | Subs & Donations | £957 |
| £15,551 | Sales to members | £18,375 | £279 | Sundries | £2,200 |
| £0 | Funds introduced | £0 | £0 | Books | £0 |
| | | | £2,743 | Admin incl postage | £1,296 |
| | | | £6,798 | Apiary | £10,995 |
| | | | £156 | Bank charges | £0 |
| | | | £0 | Gift aid to branches | £0 |
| | | | £11,785 | Purchases for resale | £16,568 |
| | | | £0 | Funds transferred | |
| £89,138 | Total Income | £79,377 | £71,977 | Total Expenditure | £83,408 |
| £433 | Opening Cash Balance | £7,653 | £543 | Closing Cash Balance | £9,370 |
| £98,388 | Opening Bank Balance | £105,601 | £109,727 | Closing Bank Balance | £100,358 |
| -£1,368 | unpresented chq | £0 | £0 | unpresented chq | -£505 |
| £500 | undeposited funds | £0 | £366 | undeposited funds | £0 |
| £2,629 | stock | | £7,106 | stock | |
| £100,580 | Adjusted | £113,254 | £117,742 | Adjusted | £109,223 |
| £189,719 | Assets + Income | £192,630 | £189,719 | Assets + Expenditure | £192,630 |

Note:



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 October 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

506167

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31.10.2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

T. Rodney

Date:

14/06/2024

Name:

Thomas Rodney Gent

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

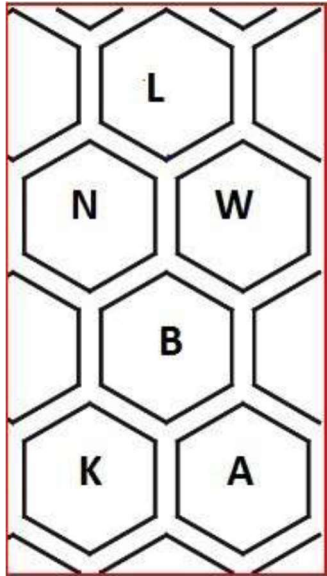
Address:

18 The Vinery
New Longton
Lancashire PR4 4YB

THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH-WEST BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 506167

Accounts



The Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association Lancashire and North
West B.K.A

(Founded 1882. Reconstructed separately 1899) Registered Charity
No 506167

Handbook and annual reports 2021-22

CONTENTS

Introduction

Officers of the Association
Legal and Administrative Details 2021 -22

Central Council Reports 2022

Chairman's Report
Hon Treasurer report including Consolidated Accounts and Central Council Accounts
Hon Examinations Secretary

Branch Reports

Blackpool and Fylde <http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/>
East Lancashire <http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/>
Lancaster <http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>
Liverpool and District <http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/>
Oldham & District <http://www.odbka.org>
Ormskirk and Croston <https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/>
Preston and District <http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/>
Southport and District <http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Please visit the branch websites for up-to-date contact details and details on how to join Lancashire and North West BKA
<https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/>

Northern Region Bee Unit Report

The NBU's Annual report for the North West.

Officers

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| President | Mr Martin Smith* |
| Chair | Mr Michael Gardner |
| Vice - Chair | Mrs Viki Cuthbertson |
| Hon Gen Sec | Mr Mike Lavelle |
| Hon Treasurer | Mr Arthur Leyland |
| Hon. Convention Officer | VACANT |
| Hon Handbook Sec. | Ms Diane Drinkwater |
| Hon Honey Show Officer | Mrs Elaine Hargreaves |
| Hon Webmaster | Mr Mark Oakley |
| Hon Education Coordinator | Mrs Viki Cuthbertson |
| Hon Examinations Secretary | Mrs Robina Johnstone |
| Hon Examiner of Accounts | Mrs Amanda Moat |
| Disease Liaison Officer (Co-opted member) | Miss Caroline Coughlin |
| Beecraft Rep & Trophies Officer | Mrs Jan Blackthorn Hazell |
| BDI Rep | Mr Martin Smith* |
| ADM Rep | Mr Dave Heaton |

** It is noted that Mr Smith is also President of BDI. The Council is satisfied that this does not present any conflict of issues*

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS 2021 – 2022

Status Registered Charity Number 506167
Correspondence address: 47 Trafalgar Road Birkdale. PR8 2NP
Patrons None
President Martin Smith
General Secretary Mr Mike Lavelle
Independent Examiner (audit) Mrs Amanda Moat
The Association's Bank: Metro Bank

Trustees:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| President | Mr. Martin Smith; |
| Chairperson | Mr Michael Gardner; |
| Treasurer | Mr Arthur Leyland; |
| General Secretary | Mr Mike Lavelle |

Objectives of the Society:

The primary Objectives of the charity are:
To promote and further the craft of beekeeping
To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment and the economy.

Obituaries

Ian McLean - Master Beekeeper, NDB

For those who hadn't the privilege of knowing Ian, he was recently awarded his BBKA 50 years of Beekeeping certificate at Ormskirk & Croston's AGM and here is the accompanying citation:

Ian started beekeeping in 1972 and shortly afterwards enrolled on the first BBKA Correspondence Course. This culminated in being awarded the Wax Chandlers Prize for the best senior candidate in 1980. He joined the Exam Board of which he was Moderator for about 9 years, and in 1984 gained the NDB. As a BBKA examiner he examined many beekeepers at varying levels over the years.

Around 1990 he was seconded by IBRA to GTZ, the German overseas aid agency teaching beekeeping in Pakistan. When the funding for this ceased in 1992 he returned to the UK to hear that Varroa had been found in Devon and subsequently was employed by MAFF in searching for varroa in the North.

With the reorganisation of the National Bee Unit, he became Northern Region Bee Inspector until retirement in 2002, lecturing on their behalf to many associations including the Scottish Bee Tour and twice at Gormanston.

Initially a member of the Cheshire Beekeepers Association he was active on the committee for many years and was awarded Hon. Life Membership on this move to Lancashire in 1989.

Ian was instrumental in training the growing numbers of beekeepers that joined in the 2000's. In particular he instigated the 'pyramid' training of those that had taken the lower-level examinations, taking them through the higher levels. He was the driver behind the high number of beekeepers in the North West who have achieved Master Beekeeper status in recent years

Despite his retirement from active training, due declining health, in 2012, he continued to take an active interest in branch events, was willing to give advice, and regularly contributed to local newsletter.

He latterly attended to four colonies of bees, well down from the peak of 40.

RIP Ian.

Raymond Owen

Ray and his wife Jenny attend the Introductory course with Preston PKA sometime in the 2010's, and kept bees continuously from then on. Ray was a Cabinetmaker by trade, and an enthusiastic Hot Air Balloonist, as well as a keen beekeeper.

Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association Treasurers Report 1/11/21-31/10/22

This has been a difficult year. Due to a combination of Metro Bank sending the wrong form, holidays, work commitments, unable to access the bank account for nearly one month and Metro Bank not being helpful, the books and accounts were handed over in late November. (One month after the close of the financial year's account.)

Many thanks to Sue Counsell, the previous Treasurer. Sue continued to make payments, completed the Tax Refund Return, completed the ER2 Autumn Return and generally kept the finances on track. Sue also did much of the work in compiling the Central Council End of Year Accounts.

During the year Central Council decided to refund 50% of the Exam Fees to successful candidates. This is for a 2-year trial period, starting with the Autumn Exams 2022. The refund is applied to all exams above the Basic Award.

The Annual Account reflects the growing development in education as well as the wide variety of, training, events and activities organised by the branches.

Tax Refund (Gift Aid) is a valuable source of income, (estimated at over £13,000 per year) We must ensure these records are accurate and encourage members, who are eligible, to Gift Aid their membership fee. Thanks to Sue, the Tax Refund is now up to date. In future years this will be claimed annually in April.

Following the trend of previous years, membership has continued to rise. This has resulted in a steady increase in income. On most branch accounts Income has exceeded expenditure. This has resulted in an increase in the end of the year balances.

Whilst we are not advocating spending for spending's sake, we are encouraging branches to look at their income/expenditure and account balances, with a view to making long term strategies.

Over the year the adjusted closing balance has increased by over £17,000 to more than £117,000. This is by no means a small amount. If the trend continues, within the next 5 years, balances will top £200,000. Central Council need to consider this and develop long term plans.

It has come to light that the income/expenditure guide lines given to branches are outdated and not suitable for the larger membership with an increasing number of activities. Branches interpret the guide lines in different ways, this has caused some anomalies on the consolidated account.

I intend to consult with branch treasurers, to revamp the various headings and to create a standard Income/Expenditure Account that branches will complete. Guidelines will be issued to explain the various headings.

The current online Central Council Account with Metro Bank is operated on a single authorisation. This is contrary to the recommendations of the Charity Commission. This account is being moved to Barclays Bank who operate a dual authorisation charity account free of commission. This problem has arisen with the advent of online banking and BACS payments. Branches who have a single authorisation bank account are advised to revise their banking practices.

Thanks to all the Branch Treasurers and Members of Central Council for their help and support during the year. Thanks, also to Amanda Moat for stepping in at short notice to audit the accounts. I look forward to the year 22/23 being much easier.

Arthur Leyland
Honorary Treasurer

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Central Council Accounts Year Ending 31st October 2022

| 2021 | Income | 2022 | 2021 | Expenditure | 2022 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| £16,575.00 | Capitation from Branches | £20,604.50 | £0.00 | Postages | £7.60 |
| £4.62 | Bank Interest | £0.59 | £0.00 | Printing & Stationery | £0.00 |
| £212.26 | Donations | £126.37 | £0.00 | Handbook | £0.00 |
| £1,492.30 | Conventions | £1,716.00 | £120.00 | Room Hire | £160.00 |
| £0.00 | Advertising Revenue | £0.00 | £56.00 | Insurance | £56.00 |
| £0.00 | Members Honey Show | £383.00 | £15,237.00 | BBKA Capitation | £18,845.00 |
| £0.00 | Tax Refunds HMRC | £13,784.70 | £0.00 | Subs/Donations | £280.00 |
| £0.00 | Education | £850.00 | £0.00 | Members Honey Show | £618.46 |
| £1,533.00 | Sundry | £159.90 | £1,598.40 | Conventions | £1,413.00 |
| | | | £20.95 | Education | £10.00 |
| | | | £320.00 | Honoraria | £320.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Engraving | £0.00 |
| | | | £4,739.49 | BranchTax Refunds HMRC | £14,145.17 |
| | | | £0.00 | Meeting Expenses | £9.90 |
| | | | £0.00 | Sundry | £196.60 |
| | | | £0.00 | Exams | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Admin (Bank Charges) | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Lancs Cap rebate to branches | £0.00 |
| | | | £17.74 | Web | £17.74 |
| £19,817.18 | Total Income | £37,625.06 | £22,109.58 | Total Expenditure | £36,079.47 |

| Opening Balances 01/11/21 | | Closing Balances 31/10/22 | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| £0.00 | Opening Cash Balance | £164.80 | Closing Cash Balance | £107.20 |
| £14,008.91 | Opening Bank balance | £12,400.21 | Closing Bank balance | £16,566.89 |
| £3,527.49 | Opening savings Account | £3,527.49 | Closing savings Account | £0.00 |
| £17,536.40 | | £16,092.50 | | £16,674.09 |
| -£20.00 | Unpresented cheque | -£1,368.00 | Unpresented cheques | |
| | Undeposited funds | £499.50 | Undeposited funds (Cheques) | £95.50 |
| £17,516.40 | | £15,224.00 | | £16,769.59 |
| £37,333.58 | | £52,849.06 | | £52,849.06 |

Note

Sundry items are amounts received in error and later refunded to the Preston branch.
At 31/10/22 Outstanding Honey Show Expenses £619.61

Signed




Arthur Leyland Honorary Treasurer

Date

15/01/23

Signed



Amanda Moat Independent Examiner

Date

30/01/2023

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Accounts to 31st October 2022

| 2021 | Income | 2022 | 2021 | Expenditure | 2022 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| £23,231.85 | Subscriptions | 29,584.93 | 218.69 | Printing & Stationery | 1,057.13 |
| £1,241.48 | Donations | 1,737.17 | 16,456.00 | BBKA Capitation | 18,845.00 |
| £0.00 | Adverts | 0.00 | | Capitation | 279.10 |
| £14.49 | Interest | 311.57 | 180.00 | Insurance | 84.00 |
| £312.20 | Honey Shows | 7,283.05 | 524.33 | Honey Shows | 7,413.85 |
| £1,662.05 | B.D.I. | 3,883.25 | 2,573.35 | BDI Extra Hives | 2,505.48 |
| £7,941.00 | Education | 13,049.60 | 1,965.42 | Education | 4,576.84 |
| £0.00 | Equipment | 0.00 | 1,846.07 | Equipment | 4,447.24 |
| £1,492.30 | Convention | 1,716.00 | 1,598.40 | Convention | 1,413.00 |
| £176.74 | Socials & Raffles | 538.95 | 135.25 | Socials Functions | 350.09 |
| £4,739.49 | Tax Refunds (Gift Aid) | 13,784.70 | 315.00 | Rooms | 1,769.50 |
| £238.95 | Treatments | 441.52 | 715.00 | Lecturers | 1,935.88 |
| £0.00 | Newsletters | 0.00 | 266.15 | Treatments | 31.00 |
| £695.00 | Apiary Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | Newsletters/magazines | 3,030.00 |
| £1,803.23 | Sundry Income | 556.18 | 320.00 | Honoraria | 320.00 |
| £0.00 | Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 | Cup Engrav. & Repairs | 86.50 |
| £867.00 | Fundraising | 700.00 | 0.00 | Handbook | 0.00 |
| £1,338.00 | Capitation | 0.00 | 1,153.78 | Subscriptions & Donations | 2,072.20 |
| £7,999.85 | Sales to members | 15,551.45 | 321.00 | Sundries | 279.37 |
| £3,528.82 | Funds introduced | 0.00 | 0.00 | Books | 0.00 |
| | | | 820.92 | Admin incl postage | 2,742.62 |
| | | | 5,195.48 | Apiary | 6,797.56 |
| | | | 0.00 | Bank Charges | 155.68 |
| | | | 6,003.22 | Purchases for resale | 11,785.11 |
| | | | 1,249.50 | Funds transferred | |
| £57,282.45 | Total Income | £89,138.37 | £46,597.05 | Total Expenditure | £71,977.15 |
| Opening Assets 31.10.21 | | | Closing Account Assets 31.10.23 | | |
| £300.42 | Cash In Hand | 432.58 | £3,063.27 | Cash in Hand | 542.95 |
| £89,614.55 | Bank Current Accounts | 83,193.66 | £98,385.60 | Bank Current Accounts | 100,560.40 |
| | Bank Deposit Accounts | 15,194.13 | | Bank Deposit Account | 9,166.74 |
| £89,914.97 | Assets | £98,820.37 | £101,448.87 | Assets | £110,270.09 |
| -£20.00 | Unpresented Chq | -1,368.00 | -£1,368.00 | Unpresented Chqs | |
| | Undeposited Funds | 499.50 | £499.50 | Undeposited Funds | 365.50 |
| | Stock | 2,628.50 | | Stock | 7106.00 |
| £89,894.97 | Adjusted Assets | £100,580.37 | £100,580.37 | Adjusted | £117,741.59 |
| £147,177.42 | Assets + Income | £189,718.74 | £147,177.42 | Assets + Expenditure | £189,718.74 |

Note:

Signed

Arthur Leyland Hon Treasurer

Date 25/01/23

Amanda Moat Independent Examiner

Date

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2022

Each of the eight Branch membership secretaries control their respective membership data including online renewals of membership, online applications for new members, lapses, and other changes to member information.

Similarly, each Branch is responsible for its own maintenance and upkeep of the BBKA membership system.

Strict abidance to GDPR rules is meticulously followed.

It's very pleasing to report that overall membership numbers across the Association have again seen significant growth. This positive trend upholds one of the Associations key tenets: "To promote and further the craft of beekeeping in Lancashire and the North West area"

There was a total of 922 Active members at the 2023 April AGM compared to a total of 888 active members for the same period (April 2022 AGM) +34 members (+3.8%)

I wish to thank the Branch Treasurers and Branch Membership Secretaries for their continued support throughout the year.

Mike Lavelle

Hon Gen Sec & Membership Sec

EXAMINATION SECRETARY'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2022.

November 2022 Modules.

15 Lancashire Members took Module examinations on Saturday 12th November.

10 Online exams (including one Double Entry) and 6 In Person.

Branches members participated as follows:

EL 4, Blackpool 1, (Double entry), O&C 3, Preston 4, Lancaster 1, Oldham 1

One In Person absentee who had failed to respond to Venue details sent out to candidates and an individual reminder in the week prior to the exam. Still registered on eR2 as a candidate and Module paper included in BBKA exam pack.

The BBKA will not tell me if Online candidates failed to log in. There is no evidence of Withdrawals or Refunds although one Double Entry name 'disappeared'.

Attrition

In Marin Anastanov's email to Exam Secretaries (further discussion of this issue later in CC agenda) he refers to the fact that there are candidates who make application for Module Exams and then fail to sit.

The refund/withdrawal system is, in my opinion, harsh. Admin fees being charged for members who have suffered bereavements.

REVISED SYLLABUS March 2023 - see website

Trainers and potential candidates need to be aware of new syllabi which apply.

MARCH 2023 In Person Venue

Alexandra Suite WA10 3RN already book as instructed by Nicky Campbell before Marin Anastanov's revision of In Person demise.

My thanks as always to Mike Lavelle, Viki Cuthbertson, Branch Education Officers and Ian Hinde who assisted me with November's In Person Modules.

Robina Johnstone,
Examination Secretary.

Branch Annual Reports

Each Branch provides an annual report for this handbook.

AGM Blackpool & Fylde Beekeepers held on Tuesday 15th November 2022

Apologies: from Peter Mason, Silvia Schorn

1. **Minutes** of the previous meeting: no matters arising
2. **President's address:** Doris Richardson

Welcome to everyone and thank you to Paul Leeks for keeping our group together over the difficult times throughout the pandemic and with successful zoom calls in lieu of face to face meetings. Also my thanks to our secretary and treasurer for their sterling work over this year. Its been pleasing to see we have had some successful results to exams form those who have completed the module examinations and in training for new beekeepers.

Congratulations also tour members who exhibited at shows and won prizes; a special mention to Jan Blenkhorn-Hazel who achieved a second prize at the National Honey Show.

I very much appreciated the lovely cards and flowers, along with the help given to look after my bees whilst I had my hip replacement earlier this year. I will look back fondly on many years of friendship and happy times over my term as President, as I am retiring this year, and look forward to welcoming the new President and handing over my chain of office.

3. **Chairman's report:** Paul Leeks

Following the last two years' hiatus due to Covid, it was good to get back to normal activities this year.

Our regular **Monday night club meetings at the Lytham Hall** out apiary were a bit of a mixed bag. These weekly get togethers do offer an ideal opportunity to meet and chat about bees and share and help each other with beekeeping issues. However, the quality of the training sessions has been severely hampered by the location of the apiary which is cold, dark and damp, making inspecting the bees very unpleasant and perhaps not the best introduction for newcomers! I'll come back to this in AOB. Having said that, we did welcome quite a few newcomers in the spring and were lucky to have a very informative bee inspection from Caroline Cofflin, one of Lancashire's Bee Inspectors. So, this does demonstrate that some sort of out apiary is a valuable part of a successful beekeeping club.

On a more positive note, we were able to reinstate our highly successful **Bee Awareness Day** at Lytham Hall during the summer which attracted many visitors and brought in good revenue for the club. Thank you to everybody who participated. I know it was very hectic and next year we will need more volunteers.

Our return to the **Great Eccleston Show** was also a huge success. It is great fun talking to the public about all things bees and again the stand made valuable revenue for the club through sales of honey, candles and other bee-related items.

I would encourage all members to get involved in these events. They are hard work, but great fun. And I'd say to newbies, don't worry if you think you don't know much about bees ... you only have to know more than those you are talking to :-).

We also had two very enjoyable out-apiary days at **Doris' and Michael's** with lots of beekeeping tips and advice, not to mention excellent hospitality!

Now some thank yous ...

I would like to start by thanking our out-going president **Doris** for her sterling work over many years. You will be missed as our President, and we wish you and Ted all the best.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to the **committee** for all their help and support during the year as we got back on track after Covid and moved from virtual Zooms to real-life hands-on activities again.

I'd like to thank **Will**, our Vice Chairman, for stepping in for me at meetings and also looking after my bees when I was away in Italy sunning myself.

I'd also like to thank **Janet** for all her hard work as Secretary; doing an excellent job keeping us all informed of club activities as well as arranging some very informative talks from some excellent speakers. We will be sorry to see her go, as she stands down as Secretary.

Thank you also to our Treasurer, **Karen**, who, as well as sorting out the memberships payments and doing all the usual accounts work, has also battled bravely with BBKA's ER2 system (don't ask) as well as RBS's antiquated banking practices, to try to bring the club's financial control into the 21st century.

Huge thanks also to **Janet** who has been a stalwart on our Monday evenings at the Lytham Hall out apiary; guiding new and not-so-new beekeepers through the beekeeping season. In the spring, Janet also ran two highly successful Bee Introductory Days with on-line theory sessions couple with hands-on practical sessions at the out apiary. On top of all that, Janet has also found time to teach several educational courses for our members preparing for their BBKA modules.

Thanks also go to **Peter**, our web master, who has maintained the club's website as the 'go-to' information source for, not only members, but also the local general public. Peter is currently working on an update to the website which we look forward to going live in 2023.

Last, but not least, thanks to Michael for being our representative on the North West Committee and feeding back to us directives from on high and helping us to have a voice at regional level.

Finally, thank you to you; all **our members** for your continued support for what is a very happy and thriving Association. The club is lucky to have so many skilled members and all the club's highly successful meetings and events could not happen without your tremendous hard work and dedication.

4. **Treasurer's report:** Karen Lay

A very short report from me as the club accounts, whilst in order, have not yet been finalised due to some issues with the eReturn2 system and delayed access to banking. However, suffice to say we have had a successful year, with income of approx. £6,000, made up of member subscriptions plus two successful 'Introduction to beekeeping' courses held by Janet Preece. We also had success at the local honey shows and our 'Bee Awareness Day' held at Lytham Hall.

Out closing balance as of 1st November is £6,300.

5. **Secretary's report:** Janet Rimmer

6. **Education Officer's report:** Janet Preece
7. **Quarter master's report:** N/A
8. **Central council's representative's report:** Michael Gardner
9. **Election of officers:**

New President (ex Doris Richardson): **Paulette Goldstone**
Proposed by Paul Leeks, seconded by Janet Preece

New Secretary (ex Janet Rimmer): **Karen Lay**
Proposed by Paul Leeks, seconded by Janet Preece

New Treasurer (ex Karen Lay): **Will Aucott**
Proposed by Paul leeks, seconded by Michael Gardner

New Vice-Chairman (ex Will Aucott): **Keith Henning**
Proposed by Paul leeks, seconded by Janet Preece

10. **Any other Business:**

Topics for speakers for club meetings for 2023

Members to send in suggestions for speakers and topics **email to be sent out**

Club out apiary - new set-up/home needed

Some interest and concern around whether to keep one fixed out apiary or move around members apiaries during the season.

General agreement that Lytham Hall is no longer suitable due to environment and location.

Members to send in suggestions of researched possible locations to be considered by the committee. **Email to be sent out**

Members asked to sign up to commit to time at an out apiary and to support the club at events and in running education courses

Some suggestions at the meeting for possible apiary sites:

The Villa at Wray Green – suggested by ?

World of Water – suggested by ?

Lancashire County Council (contact)

Blackpool County Council (contact)

Kirkham Prison – suggested by Eric ? Prison site did have some beekeepers who have now moved to Scotland; secure site, would need to train some inmates as part of any deal. To be investigated.

Facebook - requires a member with social media skills/knowledge to manage. Jan Hazell has volunteered to pick this up. She will need to be given the account access details by Janet P

Members were told that yearly subscriptions are now due; however due to changes in access to eReturn2 system, were asked to wait until an email is sent out by the secretary before completing renewal.

Welcome

As Chair of the committee I would like to welcome all members to the East Lancashire branch of the BBKA AGM.

This is the chance for us as your committee to report back, reflecting on the previous 12 months.

We will be looking to elect members of the committee.

The committee members will be reporting individually on what feels like a very successful 2022.

Membership has increased, club assets have increased, apiary sessions have been well attended with the year culminating in an exceptional club honey show.

Membership

As will be reported by our membership secretary Juli, the number of members continues to increase.

I would like to thank everyone that was able to do the online payment early, and hope everyone will do it at renewal. This simplifies the somewhat difficult task of membership management.

Finance

Club finances remain very healthy. Hilary Wilson, our treasurer talk us through the audited finances.

Committee

As a committee we have a zoom calls roughly every month to keep the club ticking over, Gwen Walton, as Club secretary keeps us in order during these meetings.

Education

The education report from Nicky Leeth will show that we continue to provide excellent opportunities for our members to learn from both the BBKA syllabus and practical sessions at the apiary.

We took some of our training materials and demonstration hives into Stonyhurst, West Bradford and Broadway Primary schools. These have been very well received, thanks to the members that devoted time to help.

Club Apiary

2022 saw the return of the bees to the club apiary. This area and storage is provided by offshoots is a fantastic resource.

Club Meetings

In addition to our own panel of expert type meetings we have had some great guest speakers for our club zoom and in person meeting this year.

Coordinating the club meetings, organising the speakers and Zoom admin has fallen onto Barrie Scott, in addition to the work he does on the club Buzz website, club emails and the "who wants bees" swarm register. Much of what Barrie does for the club is behind the scenes and probably not apparent to anyone other than the committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again, thank him, for what at times feels like thank-less tasks.

Honey Show

Emma will report on the honey show which was an amazing success this year with the largest number of entries I have seen. A number of the club members were also successful at the Lancashire honey show.

Further afield

We continue to represent our club at a County level, feeding into the BBKA

Notifiable diseases in our area

Once again it looks like we have had no reporting of EFB or AFB in our area, for which we should be thankful. This does not mean however that we are free of these serious diseases and vigilance is required.

We as a club should ensure all our members are aware of the signs of the diseases, and encourage potential non members to be aware. As a minimum I would hope that all our members are registered on the National Bee Units "BeeBase" database of beekeepers and hives.

The potential threat of Asian Hornet, Small Hive Beetle and Tropilallaps beetle has not gone away and we need to remain vigilant.

In 2022 our objective to commission some of our members to provide queens to club members was very successful, and I feel we should continue to provide this service going forward.

Honey harvest

Across our area we have seen record temperatures once again. We have had long periods of low rainfall, and high temperatures, many of our members reporting good harvests.

Some members, including the club's own apiary have reported a heather harvest for the second year on the run. I feel as a club we need to be providing equipment to enable members to extract heather honey.

I would now pass on to the committee leads for their reports.

Closing words

I would encourage the 2022 cohort of new beekeepers to continue to get involved and reach out to other members of the club. Between us we have a vast experience of beekeeping within our area that has been passed down over many years. It is a valuable resource that you should make the most of.

To close I would reflect on what has been reported here to say we have had a good year in 2022

I would like to once again thank all the committee and members for their support and efforts in 2022

Finally we need to move forwards in 2023. We can only do this if we have members that support the club, and we need your specific help.

- We need members to attend club meetings, help with managing the apiary, apiary sessions, teaching members and educating the general public about bees and beekeeping.
- We need input to guide the direction of the club

As always this is a specific request for you to devote some of your time to the club, to be active and not passive. We are always looking to share the workload. If you have specific skills and knowledge that will help, please make yourself known to us.

Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 19th November 2022

Agenda

Item Topic

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Election of Management Committee

- Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Membership Secretary
 - Vice Chairman
 - Education Coordinator
 - Programme Coordinator
 - Apiary Maintenance Coordinator
 - Examination Coordinator
 - Swarm Coordinator
 - Asian Hornet Coordinator
 - Marketing Coordinator
 - Health and Safety Lead
- 3 Officers Reports

- Chair – Annual Report
 - Treasurer’s Report
 - 2022/2023 Subs
 - Bids for funding
 - Education Report
 - Update from Bolton Le Sands
- 4 Any Other Business
- Events in 2022
- 5 Honey Tasting

Item 1

Attendees

Emma Wright Crooks

Richard Wilson

Linda Wilson

Mark Stott

Sue Counsell

Jenny Webster

Geoffrey Higginson and Friend

Christine Hamilton and Jim

Heather Wilkinson and Steve

Roger Jump

Helen Jump

Jane Rees

Cath Briggs

Chris Humphreys

James Anderton
Apologies
Jenny and Kevin Gilpin
Edell Armes
Sue Capstick
Ian Morley and Michaela
Pennie Drinkall
Samantha Walton
Skye Lyselle
Paul Tynan
Caroline Nussey
Tracy Hornby
Peter McClintock
David Wareing

Item 2 – Election of Management Committee

Roger opened the meeting, welcoming attendees and pointing out housekeeping for the venue. Chris welcomed the attendees and explained the format of the evening for those new to attending the AGM. Sue and Richard both stepped down from their roles on the committee.

| Role | Elected | Nominator/Seconder |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chairman | Chris Humphreys | Linda/Jane |
| Secretary | Emma Wright Crooks | Jim/Helen |
| Treasurer | Jenny Webster | Mark/Roger |
| Membership Secretary | Jane Rees | Chris/Sue |
| Vice Chairman | Roger Jump | Emma/Sue |
| Education Coordinator | Mark Stott | Chris/Emma |
| Programme Coordinator | Edell Armes | Richard/Roger |
| Apiary Maintenance Coordinator | Mark Stott | |
| | Chris Humphreys | Jim/Linda |
| Examination Coordinator | Mark Stott and Emma Wright Crooks | Chris/Sue |
| Swarm Coordinator | Chris Humphreys | Richard/Roger |
| Asian Hornet Coordinator | David Wareing | Emma/Linda |
| Marketing Coordinator | James Anderton | Roger/Heather |
| Health and Safety Lead | Tracy Hornby | Jane/Geoff |

Jenny was thanked again for stepping forward to take on the treasurer role and welcomed onto the committee. Jenny has a back ground in finance so she is well suited to the role.

Item 3 – Reports

Chairman's – Annual Report

I believe that this year has been a very successful year, both for the Club and its members, and as a result we have a number of new members.

The dedicated committee has managed to keep a programme of events running smoothly.

There have been a number of events hosted by some of our long standing members:

- Harvesting and Spinning honey
- Wax wraps and candle making event

These were well attended and I believe the members enjoy these socially focussed gatherings at member's houses. We make a particular effort to ensure the culture of the club is friendly and welcoming and very much focussed on hobbyist beekeeping, promoting good bee husbandry and social networking.

The Beginners Course has been a success, as a result we have ... more members

Open day. In accordance with our charitable objectives we also facilitated a very successful open

day event at the apiary for members of the public coming to an educational talk and practical demonstration. A number of families and young people attended who have signed up to take next year's beginner course.

A group of committed members hosted a number of successful marketing stalls at:

- Bee Heath Day at the Boys Grammar School
- The High point Festival in Williamsons Park
- The Judges Lodgings in Lancaster
- Visit of 3 Japanese University students
- Morecambe Library
- Leighton Hall. Where Roger gave a talk on basic beekeeping to a team build session.

Several club members attended the Lancashire Honey Show and came away with 4 x 1st, 1 x 2nd 1 x 3rd and a Highly Commended. It has been suggested that we enter the Club class next year, and we encourage more members to have a go. Although a little stressful it turned out to be a really good fun experience.

Bolton Le Sands Junior School. Last year we gave a £3,000 Grant to the school to set up an Apiary in the school grounds. With the aim to teach basic beekeeping to the pupils. Hopefully these will become the Beekeepers of the future. A number of members gave their time and expertise to help to locate and build the apiary and as a result the school got its first two colonies in late June. A WBC and a Top bar hive. Both colonies are doing well, in fact the WBC produced a super of honey but it was decided to leave it on the hive for the bees. Both are tucked up for winter.

b) MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS

Overall numbers were down from 101 members to 72. Various new members joined during the year however we also saw some people leave. Having another bee club in the area has had an effect on LBK club numbers however many of the people who have left have just stopped keeping bees and some older members have passed away. We expect some members may join both organizations to receive extra benefit. LBK is the only BBKA associated organization locally so we wish to maximize on this with regard to the standard of training and bee husbandry to promote our advantages.

At the end of our bee club year we have 106 (at AGM) active members and is split as follows:

LBK only 10 (23)

BBKA registered 55 (65)

BBKA Partner 10 (11)

BBKA Country 2 (2)

Schools 3

Lancaster only Not BBKA -15

Honorary BBKA 3

Plans for 2023

- Ongoing monthly programme for club members
- May public open day – targeting new students
- Guest speakers for example Buckfast Abbey amongst others
- Ongoing maintenance and improvements to the Apiary itself
- Site visits: Safari Visits to other members Apiaries
- Marketing Events
- Club Honey Show. Hopefully a talk on how to prepare before hand

Volunteers and additional information:

If anyone would like to volunteer to help out at the practical course opening hives with our new beekeepers or for any information regarding the beginners courses, please get in contact with Emma.

Acknowledgements:

I feel it is important to recognise that the training couldn't take place without a committed group of individuals who freely give their time and effort to make this a reality. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by all of those members.

I would like to thank our committee for their ongoing support. A lot of pressure falls on a few

people but people always rise to the challenge and are positive, collaborative and we have great fun at our committee meetings.

In particular, a number of committee members such as:

Mark Stott, for his tireless contribution to the training of others and how he never fails to step up when things need doing.

Edell for producing amazing tea and cakes without a second thought.

Emma who despite having two very young children continues to amaze me how she finds time to do all she does.

Jenny, Lynda and Richard, for their continuous work on Workshops

And everyone else for their ongoing support, commitment and effort to the club and in making the training a reality.

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

The attached accounts are set out in the format required by Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association using their categories for income and expenses.

The accounts presented are currently in Draft and have not yet been independently verified. Final accounts will be circulated when available.

Income and expenditure highlights

Looking at the 'true' position, this year has seen our income (£8,687) exceed our expenditure (£8,350) generating a 'profit' of £337 compared to £1,285 in 2021.

The club's income is mainly made up from membership subs and income generated by the training courses.

Membership

This year has seen an increase in our membership to a total of 102 current active members and income from membership subscriptions is up for the fourth year in succession from £1,860 in 2019 to £1,943 in 2020, £2,418 in 2021 and to £2,932 this year which again is a reflection of growing member numbers, as subs were again held at their previous level. It should be remembered that we retain only £10 of each member's subscription, the remainder being passed on to BBKA and Lancashire (£1,828 was paid across this year).

Additional income of £1,445 came to us by way of Gift Aid reclaimed by LNWBKA. This included a 'catch up' element and is now up to date to 5th April 2022.

Education and Training

Mark and Emma ran very popular and successful theory and practical training courses for new beekeepers and the income from these added £2,700 to our overall income with the Bee Health Day bringing in a further £608 making a total of £3,308 under the heading of Education. Total direct costs under Education amounted to £215 plus apiary and equipment costs amounting to around £1,000. Overall the training income has more than paid for the upkeep of the apiary and the bees including the renewal of a substantial amount of kit which was agreed in October by the Committee.

Donation out of reserves

We were delighted at last year's AGM to agree a substantial donation of £3,000 to support the establishment and running costs of an apiary at Bolton-le-Sands school. This has been passed over to the school within this year's expenses.

Other

It was agreed at the start of the year that we needed to renew our exhibition equipment and we

invested in the design and production of two new banners for use at exhibitions and shows.

We also invested in a new laptop and portable solar power supply to enable presentations to be run at the apiary. This, together with the bee keeping equipment that we renewed last month represents an investment in the club's asset of over £1,400 this year.

Bank Balance

We opened the 2021/22 year with a bank balance of £13,431 and petty cash of £49, total funds of £13,480.

We closed the year with a bank balance of £13,759 (after adjustments) and petty cash of £77, total funds of £13,836.

2022/23 Subscriptions

Based on these accounts and the plans for 2022/23, the committee propose no change to the Lancaster Beekeepers' element of our subscriptions which would remain at £10 for the year. This was passed at the AGM.

BBKA and LNWBKA have also agreed to maintain their subscriptions at the same level.

The overall subs from 1st November 2022 will be unchanged at:

| Category of membership | Fee from 1st November |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Registered | £35.00 |
| Partner | £25.00 |
| Country | £21.00 |
| Junior | £20.50 |
| School | £35.00 |
| Local (LBK only) | £10.00 |

Jane will be issuing the invitations to renew via the online renewal system some time later in November.

Reserves

Lancaster Beekeepers is a branch of Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association (LNWBKA), a Registered Charity. LNWBKA recently updated their stance in terms of the charity's reserves policy for which the LNWBKA Trustees are responsible as follows:

Reserves Policy

We are required as a charity to spend the money that we raise from donations and membership in line with our charitable aims. It is appropriate that we hold reserves to:

- o Cover for unforeseen expenditure
- o Keep the charity going should there be a fall in our income
- o Ensure that we could wind down in an appropriate manner

The trustees, following discussion at Central Council have determined that an appropriate reserve is two times our annual expenditure (excluding payments received by members for onward transmission to BBKA/BDI).

The trustees therefore encourage the branches to review their cash positions in light of this and to consider how best to spend any excess on the furtherance of beekeeping or the promotion and protection of honey bees in your area.

Two years' approximate expenses (excluding BBKA capitation/BDI and one off payments out of reserves) is approximately £3,000. The committee has quantified the costs associated with vacating the apiary to be in the order of £500 - £1,000 to remove the container. This would represent our general reserves. Equipment has largely been renewed in 2022 and the Committee has no concrete plans for any major spending in the forthcoming twelve months, therefore our current requirement for reserves is approximately £4,000.

Our actual reserves are almost £14,000.

We are actively encouraging members to put forward suggestions as to how we may consider putting our excess to good use in line with our objectives, which are:

4 Objectives

4.1 The objectives of the Branch shall be:

4.1.1 to encourage and promote the craft of beekeeping in Lancaster and the surrounding district;

4.1.2 to support the role of bees in the environment.

4.2 In accordance with LNWBA Rules, the Branch commits to conducting meetings, lectures and demonstrations within the Lancaster district.

Should you have any suggestions, please do let the incoming Treasurer, Jenny Webster know.

I would just like to thank Jenny for volunteering as Treasurer following her appointment at the AGM.

Sue Counsell
Treasurer 2021-22
20th November 2022

Education Report

Beginners Training Report 2022

This year saw 24 people registered to attend the theory course and 16 people for the practical. The theory course consisted of three face to face meetings and six zoom sessions. Two of the in person meetings were at the meeting room of Farm Gate Vets at J36 Rural Auction Centre. All were held on a Wednesday night at fortnightly intervals from February to May. The final meeting was on a Saturday at the club apiary.

The practical sessions were held fortnightly on Saturday afternoons at the club apiary for six sessions from June to September. Generally, the weather was kind to us and it was only latterly that inspections became more difficult as robbing was triggered by the inspections.

The "bee cage" seemed to work well. This allows a colony to be kept near to the store area and people can watch a hive inspection without needing to wear a bee suit. This hopefully means that in the future we can have open days there without dressing everyone into bee suits.

The bees did very well this year and plenty of honey was available for the extraction session. The top bar sadly, despite surviving a tree falling on it in winter, died out this summer. We will replenish it hopefully with a swarm next year.

The club now has 7 colonies to overwinter. Chris has already taken two hives away and I have received notice of another couple of volunteers to take a colony for the winter. I intend to overwinter 3 colonies at the apiary this year.

Looking forward to next year, there are already ten on the list of people interested in attending the beginners' course in 2023. I will shortly work out the dates and produce the course schedule.

This course puts large demands of time and effort on the members who take part and I'd like to propose a few changes to reduce the workload.

I'd like to reduce the theory face to face classes to two. One at Farm Gate Vets at the beginning and

then one on a Saturday at the apiary about half way through the course. This session would be the introduction to the equipment. I'm hoping this reduces the need to move equipment from the apiary to Farm Gate and also introduces the trainees to the apiary.

The major change would be to reduce the practical sessions to monthly, starting at 10:30 and finishing at three. This reduces the number of sessions the trainers have to commit to and gives a better opportunity to teach frame building, equipment sterilisation etc. Candidates will have to bring their own lunch.

I'd like to thank all the club members who help with the training, especially Emma who does a lot of the organising and Edell who never fails to produce one or even two fantastic cakes each practical session.

Finally, I'd like to propose an increase in the training fees per course from £75 to £100 (at least). The trainees do receive a lot of time and input from experienced club beekeepers and I'd like the fee to reflect that.

Vote: Should the price of the beginners course increase to £100 for each part?

Result: Yes, the course price should increase as it provides good value for money and means we can invest in more training resources.

Examination Update

Also noted that we are going to offer members the opportunity to refresh their beginners course so that they can undertake the Basic Assessment in 2023.

The goal of the LBKA training program is to improve the general standard of bee husbandry and enable new beekeepers to reach the levels outlined by the BBKA and assessed via the BBKA Basic Assessment. All members who have been keeping bees for a year or more are encouraged to take the Basic. The beginners training is designed to complement the basic examination syllabus and provide a good foundation of knowledge that can then be utilized and expanded upon during the practical course.

If anyone wishes to undertake the Basic Assessment during 2023 we can offer extra sessions in preparation for the assessment for both the theory and practical elements. Please contact Emma if you would like to join this group (secretary@lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk)

There are going to be upcoming online courses for those wishing to take any modular exams next year. An email will be sent by Lancashire with those details so look out for that.

Update- Bolton Le Sands Primary School

After the funding bid last year and the news got out to members, some equipment was kindly donated.

An apiary area has been built including 2 viewing windows so that the bees can be observed without suiting up.

The money donated by the club has been put towards, bee suits for both pupils and staff, equipment such as smokers, hive tools. The money has also been able to pay for frames and foundation and storage for the equipment. Plus, an observation hive so that we can show parents and visitors at events.

Epi-pens have been purchased and staff trained in case of use.

The garden area has been improved by purchased seeds and bulbs so that it can become more pollinator friendly.

Chris made a teaching broad box for the school so that children can learn while in the classroom. The donated WBC hive was divided up and the children decorated as part of a competition which was then judged by Emma and prizes donated by Chris.

The school has started an after school bee club which can take 20 pupils and is over subscribed. The school is in the process of developing the curriculum and hope to incorporate bees, pollinators and the environment into it.

At the summer fair there was a bee stall, where Lancaster Beekeepers brought along the observation hive and honey was sold. It was well received by all visitors.

Please see the attached letter of thanks from the Head Teacher and thanks given by those members of staff for the donation given by the club as it has made an impact on the school and its students.

Items 4 – Any Other Business

With the view that the club has the funds available it would be good to invest some of the money into our training course resources, for example a few different types of hives for the beginners to experience as well as bait boxes for catching any possible swarms. One of the gates at the apiary needs repair or replacing. We also have a good bird population at the apiary and it would be good to invest in some more bird boxes for the site as the ones currently there are aging and some extra would extend our objective to increase wild life in the area.

The club is committed to education of the community in relation of supporting pollinators. Therefore, it was agreed that continuing our presence at High Point at Williamsons Park and other events (Carnforth Carnival) if we have the volunteers available, would help not only promote the club and its courses but also help towards our education objective education.

Remuneration was raised for key members of the committee who have a monetary outlay to perform their roles. For example, increased mileage for looking after the bees or producing resources for the club.

Vote: For key committee members to be reimbursed for their outlay.

Result: Members present agreed for the committee to find a suitable method to make sure that committee members were not out of pocket undertaking their role.

Item 5 – Honey Tasting

This year's winner was Chris Humphreys. Well done Chris.

Final Note

The committee presented on behalf of the club some flowers and chocolates to say a big thank you to Sue for being Treasurer for the last 6 years (this time around) and Richard for being the swarm coordinator, as well as part of the committee for many years in one role or another.

You will both be missed on the committee but look forward to seeing you at future socials.

LANCASHIRE & NORTH WEST BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at St Ann's Millennium Hall, Rainhill on Saturday, 5th November, 2022

Members present

Attendance Numbers: Around 30

In the absence of a Chairman since Tony Gordon resigned in February, the meeting was officiated by Vice Chairman Doug Jones

Apologies for absence

John McCann

Eric Graham

Freddie Tonkmor

Minutes of the 79th AGM

Minutes from the 79th AGM were read out.

Matters Arising - Non

Proposed: Cliff Porter Seconded: Dave Harrison

Secretary's Report for 2022

Report

It was great to have a 'normal' year again as we welcomed the full return of in-person branch meetings without restrictions.

The weather in spring varied, with storms and prolonged unseasonal warm spells followed by one of the warmest, sunniest summers on record - a bit too dry for the bees sometimes. Global warming is having quite an impact on the beekeeping year.

Our first meeting in January was well attended. We enjoyed a talk from Fred Ayres - from the Lune Valley - who proved to be popular with his alternative 'leave the bees alone' approach to beekeeping.

We tried a pie and pea evening in March with our bee inspector, Mark McLaughlin who quizzed the barely 20 or so members who braved the elements on bee diseases.

The meeting in April was with Mark Phillipson from our neighbours in North Cheshire who gave a great talk about increasing your stocks at Rice Lane.

Keith Bartlem came across from Yorkshire to look through our bees in the Woolton Apiary in late May - a meeting which was disrupted by a group of youngsters who returned over the next couple of weeks and vandalised our apiary. This was given a lot of press coverage and raised concerns about the future of our Woolton apiary.

Instead of a BBQ in July we had a gathering with a Q & A session at Rice Lane.

The popular Karl Colyer, a regular for us now, gave a good talk in August at Woolton and left some useful notes on how to prepare your colonies for the winter.

Our very own John McCann gave away some secrets as to how to prepare the products of the hive for the various end of season shows at the Liverpool Caribbean Centre in Toxteth in September.

Taking John's advice on board, we came a close second with our collective Branch entry at the Lancashire show - next year we hope to go one better!

So some very good talks - but attendance was disappointingly low at many meetings - the branch

meal usually held in February had to be cancelled due to lack of interest and the summer BBQ also didn't take place.

Both apiaries are in good shape thanks to some hard work and dedication by our very important apiary teams. 10 people attended our new look Beginners' Course and thoroughly enjoyed it at Rice Lane - great credit must be given to all who were involved - the beginners are the future of our branch.

Honey crops were reportedly good throughout the year - those who went to the heather were well rewarded too.

John Mooney, Branch Secretary, October 2022

Proposed by: Dave Harrison Seconded by: Tracey Seddon

I will continue to organise the events in the Secretary's role again, produce a monthly newsletter. Need a Tea / Raffle help - social secretary - Karen Young and her mam Anne volunteered to help out whenever possible. Need someone to take photographs at the branch meetings and upload them onto our Facebook site.

There were no other matters arising

Treasurer's Report for 2022

In the absence of John McCann hard copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated and it was read out. Reference was made to the £500 donation from NW Housing in relation to the damage to Woolton apiary in the summer. Also noted that the very useful Gift aid was now up to date.

Fundraising was made up of colony sales from Woolton and the sale of a bucket of honey to a member. Reference was made to the income and expenditure in relation to the Beginner's course - extra expenditure due to the supply of BBKA beginners beekeeping books to each applicant. The pie and pea event in March was the only income for the Social functions and Lectures were payments to Karl Colyer, Keith Bartlem, Fred Ayres and Mark Phillipson. The supply of equipment to both Rice Lane and Woolton apiary was explained too.

Proposed by: John Mooney seconded by: Dave Harrison

The report will be audited by Geoff Todd in due course.

Education Secretary's Report

Although Cliff has stepped down as Education secretary he devised and delivered a new look beginner's course over 5 weekends at the Rice Lane Apiary - helped by Tracey, Eric and a special mention to Trevor Lathom who dealt with all the admin. The changed format - (5 sessions over 5 weekends involving 45 minutes theory followed by a practical session in the apiary) worked well and will be repeated this year. Cliff appealed for more help in the delivery of the course as it is too much of a commitment for one person over 5 weekends. Thanks to Eric for making the hives available - and to Tracey, Eric, Trevor and John M for helping out. We learnt a lot this year and hope to improve on this format next year. 10 beginners completed the course including Luke who works at the City Farm.

Apiary Managers' Reports

Woolton apiary

Read out Denis report:

At present we have twenty colonies at Woolton plus the Top Bar hive (which has never been inspected in three years). We do not expect to get them all through the winter and may lose some of the weaker ones.

To date we have been feeding eight colonies with sugar syrup and intend to replace this on a weekly basis with Fondant from November and as required into 2023. The other twelve colonies will be given Fondant as and when we think they need it.

We took thirty pounds of honey using frames from various colonies, this was sold to a member of Liverpool Beekeepers, other frames of stores from strong colonies were given to swarms or weak colonies throughout the year.

Fallen branches and leaves will be tidied up and brambles and nettles cut back in the next few weeks.

Depending upon how many colonies we can get through the winter we would hope to sell some, as at present we would have no room or equipment for swarms next year.

Denis Neale
Oct 2022

It was noted that the branch appreciate the work done by Denis and Ted this year - particularly after the hives were vandalised.

Rice Lane Apiary

Rice Lane has continued to make progress. Eric along with Rice Lane Luke, Trevor Latham and Karen Young has taken shape this year building on work done last year. John M spun honey produced by the hive donated by the family of Izzy McEgan and 3 supers later in the year which produce 84 jars for the City farm. It was also mentioned that the Whatsapp group is open to all branch members who are welcome to come along to the Apiary on Saturday mornings to assist with inspections and raise any concerns.

Election of Officers

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Chair: | Doug Jones | New Chair |
| Vice Chair: | Karen Young | |
| Secretary: | J Mooney | To remain |
| Treasurer: | J McCann (Trevor Lathom to assist this year) | |
| Memb Secretary: | Due to the development of the eR2 system the role of the membership secretary is redundant and will be amalgamated with the Treasurer. | |
| Education Secretary: | Vacant | But will be helped by C Porter and Eric Graham. |
| Honey Show Sec: | R Myron (is stepping down) - Karen Young and John Mooney to assist this year) | |
| Librarian: | J Mooney | |
| Webmaster: | David Read (TBC) | |
| Auditor | G Todd | To Remain |
| Central Council Delegates: | S Myron & R Myron (Karen Young and Ian) | |
| Committee: | D Jones, E Graham, D Harrison, J McCann, R Myron, S Myron, C Porter, J Mooney, T Seddon, F Tonkmor, Karen Salettes Young. Alan McKenzie, | |
| Apiary Managers: | D Harrison (Woolton), E Graham I (Rice Lane) | |

Suggestions for 2023:

Agreed to devise a questionnaire to circulate to all members to find out what members want. John M and Cliff P will work on this together and circulate when ready.

Attendance at branch meetings continues to be disappointingly low.

Joining with other branches - Ormskirk. Doug J invited a joint meeting with Wirral beekeepers in the Summer at his house in Heswall.

Controlling swarming / uniting colonies.

How to build a hive and other beekeeping equipment.

Trevor Lathom suggested we look into filming the presentations and make them accessible to members.

Instead of a meal it was suggested we have a less formal meeting for a drink in the Ship and Mitre which has a function room and does food as well.

Ian asked if we had a mentoring system in place -

Any other business

Membership application forms were available - but will be circulated to all members this week as membership runs from 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023

Tracey thanked John M for work over the summer in relation to the Vandalism and the recent article in the November issue of the BBKA magazine which raised the profile of the Branch.

Meeting closed at 3.20pm

Signed:

Hon. Secretary

Chair

ODBKA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the OD Beekeepers Association held on Friday, 4th Nov 2022, 7.45pm, Springhead, Liberal Club, 136 Oldham Road, Oldham OL4 5SN

1. Present

| Name | Role |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Ian Barker | Committee Member |
| Cath Charnock | Committee Member |
| Luke Charnock | Committee Member |
| Mr Charnock | Friend of the Committee |
| Stan Deary | Member |
| Marian Gartside | Committee Member |
| Bob Holland | Deputy Chair |
| Amanda Moat | Committee Member |
| John Ogden | Member |
| George Tavener | Chair |
| Robert Titherington | Member |

2 & 3 In memorandum & Apologies for Absence

George as Chair welcomed all attendees to the AGM meeting.

Apologies were received from Cath Charnock, Ian Screen, Susan Screen, E Danko, Les Latham, Jane McClean

4. Approval of Minutes AGM 2021

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved and adopted with no amendments. Proposed by Amanda Moat, seconded by Stan Deary.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes of AGM (2021)

None recorded

6. Report of the Honorary Chair

The chair made a few summary observations;

- It was a good honey show at Bamber Bridge attended by himself and other committee members and hopes for entries from Oldham BKA members in future.
- The association's finances are OK, supported by the significant repayment contribution of GIFT AID. The Chair made a point that we as a branch must encourage new and existing members to check and tick the gift aid box when signing up, or checking with our Treasurer if there is an opportunity to update records and tick this box to maximise income.
- The Chair reflected on the really good progress made with changing to a google website platform with increased functionality - with lots more to opportunities to engage with members and other useful links to follow.

- On behalf of Cath Charnock, Honorary Education Coordinator, the Chair updated the meeting with news it has been agreed through the Committee members that there is to be increased activity and governance to support members with the mentoring system and support for the BBKA Basic exam for members in 2023.
- Next meeting we look forward to a Jacob's table, details to be issued and coordinated for members.
- The branch supports and encourages members to complete the National Bee Unit hive survey. The Chair using the database, reported that there were 175 hives within 10km of his own apiary.
- The Chair made express thanks for committee member efforts in all that had been achieved this year and for the forthcoming Committee Member reports, and acknowledged thanks to our members for their contributions to the branch.
- The Committee members thanked the Chair for his contributions and support also.

7. Report of the Honorary Secretary

Aside from issuing the monthly newsletter and other notices and facilitating responses to member and community online enquires, the Secretary reported her efforts in developing relations with L&NW BKA. Oldham was noticeably absent from the April AGM, but since then she has attended the Sept Central Council meeting and will do again on November 26th. Draft minutes are circulated to committee members and referenced for comment in ODBKA Committee meetings. Agenda items cover reports from each of the L&NW Committee members. Of noted interest for Oldham Branch, (added here but not discussed at the ODBKA AGM), are

- NO EFB or AFB reported to this year in the region, although both diseases have been reported present in West Yorkshire.
- The Council proposed to second a motion from Cornwall BKA to enable sitting of exams face to face rather than the proposed abrupt termination of such facilities with online exams only going forward.

The next AGM is March 2023 during the Spring convention, date TBA.

At the September council meeting it was agreed Oldham's secretary would be a representative of L&NW BKA at the North of England Forum at on Bee Diseases, however due to a date change, the secretary could no longer attend, but will seek feedback from the useful and interesting event.

Member attendees then agreed topics for member meetings for 2023 with some proposed timings as follows:

| | |
|---------|---|
| July | - Diseases, Pests and their Countermeasures |
| October | - Using Wax to..... |
| Dec | - Jacobs Table with Bee Quiz |
| TBC | - Website Demo |
| TBC | - Honey Extraction and Labelling |
| TBC | - Guest Speaker |
| TBC | - Swarming Control and Prevention |
| TBC | - What is good beekeeping husbandry? |
| TBC | - Hive Observation - What does it tell us? |
| TBC | - Queen Rearing |
| TBC | - Promoting Bee Health |

The Dec 2022 member meeting format was confirmed as Jacob's table with a General Knowledge Quiz hosted by Bob Holland.

8. Report of the Honorary Treasurer

Marian distributed copies of the verified accounts for the Year Ending 31st October 2022 at the meeting. A new auditor with a senior professional finance background, Christine Hodgson, had been introduced for the purpose of verifying this year's accounts from outside the area, the preference being to determine a local mid-term solution in the coming year.

The accounts included 2022 and 2021 figures for comparison purposes, branch income and expenditure, cash and assets and a statement of the profit/loss excluding monies introduced from Medlock.

The verbal update made reference to the following:

- Surplus £809.23 made up of;
- Branch equipment auction proceeds £231
- Gift Aid of £536.64, however this includes prior years, expressly Sept 2019 to April 2022. The part which results from activities is £41.69.
- Subscriptions and capitation is higher this year due to increased membership.
- Postage has increased as it includes arrears from last year but there are plans to reduce this expense.
- Website costs will reduce going forward by circa £40
- Room hire - a small increase £5 to £7 per meeting for member hire.
- In summary there is a healthy bank balance

Marian proposed the ODBKA 2023 subscriptions were maintained at the same level, seconded by John Ogden.

The Hon.Treasurer's Reports were received and noted and there was a unanimous vote to maintain current subscriptions.

A discussion took place to enquire about opportunities for postage expense reduction. The secretary confirmed there are no claims for newsletter printing supplies only postage for those who cannot receive them digitally. (6 members). Instead, from Jan 2023 she suggested she will bring printed newsletters to 4 of the members attending meetings, continue to post out to 1 member and hand deliver another. This would make further postage savings in year.

Proposed Robert T, seconded Ian Barker.

9. Honorary Editor's Report

Ian acknowledged the Chair's 'clanger of the month' contribution to the newsletter this month, and to others who regularly contribute.

He highlighted that editorial pieces have largely been concentrated on efforts being undertaken in warmer climates especially reflecting on the impacts of the Mid European and Italian fires. Of interest too has been New Zealand's excesses in Manuka honey. In effect the editor wished to make note that he has tried to anticipate interest in the many major happenings this year and report to members.

Next year the editor proposed some cleansing of some of the repeated sale offers that are no

longer relevant and using volunteers, (Rob, John, Bob and Stan to name a few), to contribute their valuable skills, experience and knowledge to newsletter articles on topics such as equipment tweaks and tips. There will also be attention to practical jobs advice. Members contributions would be very welcome to share helpful practices to our community for both new and long standing members.

10. Honorary Library Custodian's Report

There was very little to report due to only 1 or 2 books being borrowed with 1 not returned.

A discussion concluded in recommending a system to increase visibility of the library online and at meetings, and a retainer system for books borrowed. This proposal was unanimously supported by members present.

11. Election of Officers of the Association for the Ensuing Year

The following were elected unopposed en bloc. Proposed by George Tavener, Seconded by all member attendees.

Officer

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Chair | Mr George Tavener |
| Deputy Chair | Mr Bob Holland |
| Hon Secretary | Mrs Amanda Moat |
| Hon Treasurer | Mrs Marian Gartside |
| Hon Webmaster | Mr Luke Charnock |
| Hon Education Coordinator | Mrs Cath Charnock |
| Hon Examiner of Accounts | Ms Christine Hodgson (until further notice) |
| Hon Editor & Librarian | Mr Ian Barker |
| Hon Library Custodian | Mr Bob Holland |

11. AOB

None

Date of next AGM – To be confirmed

There being no further business, the meeting was brought to a close at 8.50pm before the ODBKA Honey Show

**Minutes of the Ormskirk & Croston Branch of Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association
81st Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7:30pm Church House,
Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3RD.**

1. **Apologies** – Vicki Hall, Phil Newton, Tony Lee, Steve Hargreaves.
Present were committee members Martin Smith (Chair), Graham Hull, Graham Curwen, Ian Bickerstaffe. The meeting was open to members and a good attendance can be reported.
2. **Minutes of the 80th AGM held in December 2021**
These were presented to the meeting by Martin Smith and the following matters arising were noted:
 - Mark and Penny Oakley were made Life members supported by the Branch
 - Ian Bickerstaffe confirmed that Beginners' assessment fees are in the process of being paid. Refunds of exam fees (50%) for successful Modules passes also being paid – funded by L&NWBA.
 - Martin Smith negotiated a second apiary at a site in Aughton, as the proposed site in Newburgh was not completed. At the time of the meeting the branch had been given notice to leave the Aughton site. Discussions were in place to move to a new site at Burscough Community Farm.
3. **Adoption of the branch accounts for the year ending 31st October 2022**
 - Ian Bickerstaffe gave a summary of the accounts, a copy of which had been circulated to the chair prior to the meeting. As in the prior year the branch was considered to be in a healthy situation.
 - Ian Bickerstaffe to contact Conor Edwards to act as Independent Reviewer and sign off the accounts before submission to L&NWBA.
4. **The Branch Report**
In the absence of the secretary a verbal report was presented to the meeting consisting of:
Review of the accounts by Ian Bickerstaffe that highlighted the following:
 - The branch had invested in new equipment during the year to the value of £3,430
 - Gift Aid returns were brought up to date by L&NWBA resulting in a cash inflow of £4,056
 - Fund raising increased via auctions, hive and honey sales to a total of £2,692
5. **Presentation for 50 Years in Beekeeping**
Martin Smith presented the BBKA 50 years of Beekeeping Certificate to Ian McLean, Master Beekeeper, NDB.
Ian gave a short talk on his experiences over the past 50 years as an exam moderator, teaching beekeeping in Pakistan, and the early research of varroa on behalf of MAFF.
6. **Election of Officers**
The following Committee Members were confirmed.

Chairman, Martin Smith
Vice Chairman, Phil Newton
Treasurer, Ian Bickerstaffe
General Secretary, Vicki Hall
Membership Secretary, Graham Hull
Fir Tree Farm Apiary Manager, Graham Curwen

The following Team Leaders were confirmed.
Burscough Out Apiary, Mike Hinton
Education, Tony Lee
Schools Liaison, Vicki Hall

Outside Events, Hazel Smith
Independent Examiner, Conor Edwards
Equipment Hire, Dave Farmer (tbc)
Webmaster/Social Media, Mark Oakley
County Reserve Delegates, Ian Bickerstaffe & Graham Curwen

7. **Any Other Business**

Branch Honey Show – Graham Curwen proposed that Ormskirk & Croston should hold a Honey Show for members in the upcoming year. This was agreed.

BBKA policy on written exams – Robina Johnstone outlined the case being put forward by BBKA to limit the number of in person examinations for Modules; the intention being to promote the on-line portals for exams. It is understood that L&NWBA will be writing to the Association to propose that in- person exams should continue. The Branch endorses this proposal.

Date of the next AGM, to be decided at a later date.
There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Addendum:

The Committee note with great sadness the passing of Ian McLean just a week after his attendance at the AGM and acceptance of his 50 Years of Beekeeping certificate. He will be sadly missed by all.

**Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association
Preston Branch Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 24th November 2022

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Liane Doree who thanked everyone for attending.

2. Members Present

Viki Cuthbertson, Liane Doree, Alan Manwaring, Kath Shield, Chris Carey, Andrew Fowler, Arthur Walmsley, Tony Houghton, Joanne Kennedy, Kathryn Wilkinson, Nik Birkby, Sheila Birkby, Najma Shafi, Arthur Leyland, William Helm, Elaine Hargreaves, James Haworth, Phil Halliwell, Joe Worden, Jan Blanthorn Hazell, Jan Elkins, Ertan Demir, Alison Wilson, John Wilson, Sheikh Ahmed, Tracey Ragsdale, Johnny Wilson and Gill Paul.

3. Apologies for Absence

Caroline Coughlin, Keith Pearson and Nick Middleton.

4. Minutes of the last AGM

These were accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

6. Reports

Copies of the reports are attached to these minutes.

Chair's report – Liane Doree presented her report.

Secretary's report – Kath Shield presented her report.

Treasurer's report – Arthur Leyland presented his report and distributed the Income and Expenditure

Report for the year ending 2022.

Education Secretary's report – Alan Manwaring presented his report.

Apiary Manager's report – VC presented her report.

There were no questions from the members regarding the reports. LD thanked everyone for their reports. AL brought up the issue of apiary insurance. AL clarified all questions and assured the meeting that the club has sufficient funds to cover its own insurance due to the restrictive conditions set by potential insurers.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

LD explained the work of the committee and the need for new members. She explained that all committee meetings have been held by Zoom and this would continue in the future with meetings held every two months.

Election of Chairperson

The current Chair, Liane Doree, is willing to continue in the role. KS proposed, VC seconded and LD was re-elected unopposed.

Election of Secretary

The current secretary, Kath Shield, is willing to continue in the role. LD proposed, SB seconded and KS was re-elected unopposed.

Election of the Treasurer

The current treasurer, Arthur Leyland is willing to continue in the role. LD proposed, AF seconded and AL was re-elected unopposed.

Election of the Committee

JH asked if the current remaining members of the committee were happy to continue and they all

agreed apart from Andrew Fowler who would like to step down. The committee thanked him for all his hard work.

LD asked if anyone at the meeting would like to join the committee and the following members volunteered : Jan Blanthorn Hazell, Jane Hassall and Arthur Walmsley. Roles will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Committee members are now as follows: Liane Doree, Arthur Leyland, Kath Shield, Alan Manwaring, Viki Cuthbertson, Gill Paul, Chris Carey, Caroline Coughlin, Sheila Birkby, Joanne Kennedy, Keith Pearson, N Middleton, Kath Cordingley, Jane Hassall, Jan Blanthorn Hazell and Arthur Walmsley.

Election of Reps to Central Council

JH and AL are happy to continue as PBKA reps along with Jan Blanthorn Hazell. Proposed by KS and seconded by VC.

Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts

John Ward is willing to continue as Independent Auditor. Proposed by AL and seconded by KS

8. Any Other Business

Donations to Bees Abroad/Bees for Development are to be doubled by the Government next year.

Date of next AGM

The provisional date of the next AGM is Wednesday 22th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

LD thanked everyone for coming and wished them and their bees a very successful 2023.

Meeting closed.

Preston BKA Committee 2022

Chair's report Nov 2022

Firstly; I would like to thank ALL the members of the committee for their time and commitment. Without this dynamic and hardworking team there would be no PBKA.

Much of this work goes on unseen and because of it we are able to maintain our reputation as a proactive, friendly and accessible club which provides a high standard of education for both beginners and advanced beekeepers.

So a BIG thanks to you all.

This year after 2 years of Covid restrictions we have been able to be more active.

We have designed and produced a glossy information leaflet which we can hand out to prospective beekeepers, interested parties for the beginners course and interested members of the public.

It directs readers to our new updated website.

If anyone would like a few leaflets to hand out please let me know.

The website has undergone a huge overhaul and upgrade making it easier to navigate and keep up to date with club activities. Please do access the pages for current information.

This year we were able to run a well attended beginners course face to face, and followed with our usual practical sessions at the apiary.

In addition to this for the first time we held 2 taster days at the apiary which although did not have a huge attendance was well received and may yet generate some new beekeepers.

We intend to repeat these 2 days in mid summer 2023

We continue to hold our committee meetings, occasional lectures and training via Zoom and we now have 3 licensees.

We have had an interesting and varied lecture programme, thanks to Andrew who is sadly stepping down from the committee.

These events didn't generate the attendance I would like to see but we are looking into this for 2023, we have booked a new venue at Tanterton village centre on 3rd Wednesday of each month. Was an organised coach trip to the Harper Adams Spring Convention, something members would be interested in?

Our apiary shop has gone from strength to strength and has been well patronised by the members. We now have some classy looking corporate hoodies, which are still for sale.

We held a well attended Honey show with over 100 exhibits. The club entries at Lancashire county all gained awards. We then had 3 members attend the national honey show, all of whom brought home prizes.

I think PBKA has continued to maintain a progressive attitude to the support and education of local beekeepers and the public and this ultimately gives rise to healthier and more productive local bees.

Finally I would like to invite all members to the Christmas lunch to be held at Stumbles Bar at Myerscough on Saturday January 7th beginning with a walk round the Apiary at 11am, lunch served at 12.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all.

Liane

Lancashire & Northwest Beekeepers Association – Preston Branch Treasure's Report Year Ending 31st October 2022

The club continues to hold bank accounts with Barclays. Throughout the year we have continued to develop and encourage online banking. All but one expenditure payments have been made by bank transfer and most income payments have been made by BACS. All monies collected are paid directly into the bank.

During the year steps have been taken to improve our communication and image. This has involved the professional development of our web site, printing of promotional leaflets, purchase of a gazebo, the running of Taster Days, producing a monthly newsletter and the subsidising of "hoodies".

Throughout the year meetings have been held covering a range of topics. Most meetings had an outside speaker. The annual honey show was once again a great success. A buffet lunch was provided and a speaker entertained the exhibitors in the afternoon.

The development of the apiary has continued. The four sheds are almost complete, perimeter fencing and the entrance gate have been renewed, extensive ground work carried out and a new mower purchased.

Generation of income has followed the pattern of previous years. The main sources being membership (£3.00 per member), education (running a beginners' course and modular courses), shop sales (66% increase on last year) and gift aid.

Membership continues to rise with 198 members at the end of October, making the club one of the largest in the Lancashire and Northwest BKA.

Gift Aid is now up to date with 2 years being refunded. Future payments will be refunded annually. This will yield approx. £1200 per year.

The shop has proved to be very successful. It now carries a much wider range of stock and is used by more members. The aim is to provide a service to members, supply equipment at a competitive price whilst making a small profit for the club. The shop is run by a team of 7 members.

The finances continue to be sound with healthy bank balances. Consequently, I see no need to raise the membership fee. I will propose that it remains at £3.00, one of the lowest in Lancashire, for the

year 23/24. (This is included in the £28 membership fee)

Many thanks to all those who help to raise funds and collect money, to the committee for their support and financial prudence and to John Ward for checking and verifying the accounts.

Arthur Leyland

Treasurer

31st October 2022

Education Secretary's Report 2022

Education is at the heart of this club. The financial benefit from course fees and equipment sales enables us to continue moving forward in replacing and updating materials needed to provide quality education for all club members.

This year, courses have been run for beginners, the Basic exam, different module exams and preparation for the General Husbandry exam. None of these would be possible without the commitment and dedication of all those members who give up their time to deliver and support the theory sessions and practical sessions at the club apiary.

Our beginners' course continues to be popular, with 31 people undertaking the course this year. The new taster days were well received by those who came and have spurred at least one family member to undertake the beginners' course next year.

Modules were passed this year by Liane Doree, Joanne Kennedy, Louisa Simpson-Brown, Janet Harrison, Jan Elkins and Caroline Coughlin. The Basic Exam was passed by Sue Cross, Denise Davies, Michael Nolan, Helen Wright and Louisa Simpson-Brown. Thanks to Viki Cuthbertson for providing module training and to Jane Hassall and Jan Elkins for training people to take the Basic Exam.

Thanks also to Viki for organising the Annual Convention which had visiting speakers, food, presentation of certificates for successful candidates, and a chance to compare notes with other beekeepers. (Make a note in your diary to attend next year's event).

Despite not having the Myerscough Open Day Show again this year, we have had representations at several shows and fairs around the area this year and we were even able to use our new gazebo at some of the events! Thanks to everyone who helped to run these stalls and to Nick Middleton for jumping in at the deep end and helping to co-ordinate these events.

The Honey Shows are a chance for members to showcase the results of their beekeeping activities and it was pleasing to see members old and new winning trophies and certificates at local, county and national events. Particular thanks are due to Caroline Coughlin and Elaine Hargreaves for organising the Local and County Honey Shows. Thanks also to Liane Doree and Janet Harrison for co-ordinating the club entries into the County Honey Show.

Thanks to all those who offer mentoring services, both verbal and practical to new beekeepers. Apart from designated mentors, I include all those who attend the club apiary on instruction days and on shopping days, as people often come to receive advice along with their purchases.

A huge thank-you goes to Joanne Kennedy, who has taken responsibility for improving and updating the club website which is dynamic, informative and a valuable resource for beekeepers and the general public. Thanks also to Viki for the newsletters to members,

which keep all members informed of club issues. Thanks also to Liane for co-ordinating the design and content of our information leaflets about the club.

At the time of writing this report in November, the continued warm weather is keeping the bees flying longer than used to be the case but, hopefully, as long as suitable winter preparations are in place, we can look forward to a good start in 2023.

Alan Manwaring - PBKA Education Secretary

Apiary Manger's Report 2022

2022 has been a successful year at the Joe Birkby Teaching Apiary. Inspections resumed with lunch

organised by Janet Harrison, and eaten at the apiary. There was also a raffle in aid of Bees Aboard which raised over £100! As always the dedicated team of inspectors turned up every week to share their knowledge and experience with the beginners, who gain so much from this practical activity. We have had a bumper crop of honey this year, with 120 jars (approx 90lb) being bottled and sold for funds, either to members or the Myerscough shop (where I'm told it is a best seller!) The shop has also been a success, although we have had quite a steep learning curve on stock levels – especially for frames and foundation – but we hope we have a better feel for demand and so will not have shortages in 2023. It has also been nice to see club members visiting the Apiary, who hadn't been before – they were usually impressed with all our facilities. I will finish with my very grateful thanks to the Inspection Team for continuing to support our beginners, and to the Maintenance Crew and the Shop volunteers. I also want to thank Jan Elkins (my deputy) and Janet Harrison for their support and Ribby Hall for generous sponsorship of the Apiary lunch, and a new notice board. You all do a fantastic job, and the Apiary would not function without you.

Viki Cuthbertson
Volunteer Apiary Manager

Secretary Report

It is great to see everybody here in person and back at the apiary and café afterwards. It does feel like we are back to normal.

The main point I want to make in this report is that I feel that the club has really moved up a level this year. We have almost 200 members and have made significant improvements to the club throughout the year.

We now have a fourth shed at the apiary for storage with new flagging and a seating area – many thanks to the Thursday Crew for all their ongoing work and maintenance and to Janet for our table and chairs.

Our website has had a makeover and is now much more informative, professional and easy to navigate for members and anyone interested in starting beekeeping – thanks to Jo Kennedy for sorting this for us. A monthly newsletter sent to all members keeps us all informed with the latest news and events.

We have also no excuse not to look smart and professional at shows and events now that we have polo shirts and hoodies with our new Preston and District logo. Thanks to Caroline for arranging these. Liane has organised promotional leaflets to hand out at shows and events promoting our club and these have been very useful at the shows we attended this year including the Garstang Show and the Chorley Flower Show amongst others.

This year was the first year we have run Taster Days where anyone interested in beekeeping can visit the apiary and find out what beekeeping involves. We ran one in May and one in July and these were a great success and we will run them again next year although probably in July and August to avoid swarm season.

Health and safety has also been a focus this year with Epi Pen training given by Kath Kindred and a sign at the apiary with directions to the nearest defibrillator at Myerscough College.

We have had a busy start to the year with 30 new beginners on the course and it has been great to see new faces at the apiary. All our Basic Assessment entrants passed the course and we hosted the Honeybee Health Course in July for county members. Thanks as always to Viki for all her hard work keeping the bees in check at the apiary.

The Queen rearing course was very popular and it is something we would like to run again next year. Our own Preston Honey Show was a great success with over 100 entries and we had success at the County Show with 2nd place for our 6 jars of honey, 3rd place for our beekeeping calendar and 3rd place for our display.

The shop is thriving with record sales and a fantastic range of stock and has proven to be a great asset to the club. We are also running a wax exchange where 1kg of wax gives you £9 to spend in the shop. Many thanks to Arthur and his shop team for all their hard work.

We are arranging an interesting programme of monthly speakers for next year to be held on the third Wednesday of every month and we aim to promote this as much as possible.

I think next year we will continue to go from strength to strength. A huge thankyou to all our committee and helpers. We would not be in this great position without you.
I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful time over Christmas and get all your equipment cleaned and ready well in advance instead of last minute as I do every year!

Southport Branch Annual Report

SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 10th November 2022 at 7.30pm at The Community Room, Southport Fire Station

1. Members Present

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| John Bryan | Barry Milne | Vinnie Greenall |
| Mike Lavelle | Mal Rossi | Jim Duffey |
| Jim Dayus | Fran Lunan | Katie Brown |
| John Whitton | Ken Fleming | Dave Aspinall |

12 in total

2. Apologies for Absence

Anne Belcher; Susan Fisher; Chrissy Gregory; Diane Drinkwater; Diane Banahan; & Karen Reid.

3. Minutes of the Previous AGM (11th November 2021)

No changes were necessary and they were adopted as being correct. Proposed by John Whitton and Seconded by Mike Lavelle

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of last AGM

None recorded

5. Reports

Barry Milne, co-Chair, read the co-chair's report (copy attached) which was received and noted. Karen Reid's Treasurer's report was circulated for perusal in her absence. Copies of both reports are to be found at the foot of these minutes.

6. Vote of Thanks to the Officers of the Branch

Acknowledging the officers and apiary helpers work, Barry Milne proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of all S&DBKA members to all concerned

7. Election of Officers of the Association for the Ensuing Year

The following were elected unopposed:

Southport & District Beekeepers AGM 10.11.2022

Election of Officers

| Southport & District Beekeepers AGM 10.11.2022 | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Election of Officers | | | |
| Officer Position | Current | Stand for Re-Election? | Opposing? |
| <u>Co Chair</u> | John Bryan | Yes | None |
| <u>Co Chair</u> | Barry Milne | Yes | None |
| Secretary | Chrissy Gregory | Yes | None |
| Treasurer | Karen Reid | Yes | None |
| Apiary Manager | Diane Banahan | Yes | None |
| Education Officer | Diane Drinkwater | Yes | None |
| Central Council Reps 1 | John Whitton | Yes | None |
| Central Council Reps 2 | Susan Fisher | Yes | None |
| Webmaster | Karen Reid | Yes | None |
| Swarm Liasion /AHAT Coordinator | John Bryan | Yes | None |
| Librarian | Diane Banahan | Yes | None |
| Quartermaster | Diane Banahan | Yes | None |
| Spray Liaison Officer | John Bryan | Yes | None |
| Liaison Officer - Southport Flower Show | Barry Milne | Yes | None |
| Recorded by: Mike Lavelle 10th November 2022 | | | |

11. AOB

Nil

There being no further business, the meeting was brought to a close at 7.50pm

Joint Chairman's Report S/P & District Beekeepers 2021/22

1. At last we have managed to get back to some sort of normality after the Covid outbreak.
2. The winter was a fairly mild one again followed by a very warm spring and then the weather took a nosedive with it being wet, windy and cold but then the weather went the other way to being quite hot and dry. Members had problems with queens either disappearing or not mating properly. Honey yields on the whole are lot better than last year.
3. Diane our Branch Apiary manager along with Kate and Justine have been looking after the Branch Apiary this year. Lorraine had to call it a day after getting stung and having bad reaction. Thanks to them for all their help.
4. Our Introduction to beekeeping course, taster day and our main publicity event, The Southport Flower Show all went well.
5. Diane Drinkwater our Education Officer has again organised some module tutoring online as well as organising monthly speakers at our new venue in the Community Room, Southport Fire Station. Thanks again Diane for your dedication.
6. The supply of spilt sugar from Tesco's is still ongoing with a good amount coming in.
7. The situation with our Branch Apiary in Hesketh Park is still in abeyance as the new tenant for the compound has still not finalised its tenancy with the council. Unofficially we have heard that if the Bridge Inn do take it over they will probably allow us to stay but under what conditions we do not know as yet. It maybe we might have to pay them some sort of rent!
8. The Southport Flower Show went very well with Barry, Diane and Pat Hustings sorting out the organisation. We did not have a lot of honey to sell because of being a funny year with the bees a

lot of our members had not extracted their honey until after the show

9. Finally can we thank all the committee and members for their hard work in what has again been a very trying year 2022.

Barry & John (Co-Chairmen)

Treasurer's Report 2022

| Membership | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------------|------|------|
| Full | 52 | 54 |
| Partner | 3 | 2 |
| Country | 0 | 3 |
| Junior | 1 | 1 |
| Family/Social | 3 | 3 |
| Totals | 59 | 63 |

Branch subscription fees had to be increased for 2022 due to the BBKA increasing Capitation. Income to the branch from 63 members, after the Capitation and BDI payments, is £315.00. Gift aid is now up to date and we received £672.89 for 2020, 2021 and 2022 subscriptions. We held a Beekeeping Taster session which raised £80.00, and commission on the sale of members' honey at Southport Flower Show and Bank Hall raised a further £833.55.

A mobile observation hive for live bee demonstrations at shows was purchased at a cost of £478.20.

The branch made a profit of £1,336.64, although part of this is gift aid from two previous years. The bank balance at the end of October is £10,026.55.

Finally, I would like to thank David Souheard for verifying the accounts. This concludes the Treasurer's Report to the L&NWBKA Southport & District Branch AGM 2022.

Karen Reid, Treasurer

November 2022



National
Bee Unit



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

National Bee Unit

Northern England Annual Report 2022

National Bee Unit Changes and Updates 2022

You may be wondering why there's only one report this year rather than separate documents for the North West and North East Regions. It is because Dhonn Atkinson, the Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) for the North East is currently seconded to assist with the avian influenza outbreaks across the country, so is not available at the time of writing to compile the North East report. Hopefully, Dhonn will return to his region in spring 2023.

During the 2022 season three northern based Seasonal Bee Inspectors (SBI) left the National Bee Unit (NBU). Phil Khorassandjian from the North West, and Adrian Wilford and Simon Oglesby from the North East. Phil joined the NBU in 2018, initially being a member of the North East Team. When the regional boundaries were changed Phil's geographical work area of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire meant he transferred to the North West Team. Phil retired early in the 2022 season. Adrian joined the NBU in 2013 and was the inspector for the East Yorkshire area. Adrian retired at the end of the 2022 season. Simon joined the NBU in 2019 and was the inspector for the Lincolnshire area. Simon left during the summer of 2022. I would like to thank them for their service and wish them well for the future.

We have just completed a recruitment round to find replacements for Phil, Adrian, and Simon. Successful candidates will start their training early March 2023.

I would also like to welcome Kay Phillips to the North West Team. Kay joined the National Bee Unit in March 2022 as SBI for West Yorkshire. Kay has already made a huge contribution, working to identify and deal with foulbrood outbreaks throughout the summer.

National Bee Inspector Cristina Ruiz was on maternity leave from January and returned to the National Bee Unit in October 2022. Her maternity leave was covered by Dhonn Atkinson prior to his secondment. As a result, throughout the 2022 season SBI David Bough covered for Dhonn by taking over the role of North East RBI. David has done an excellent job, continuing to promote the close working relationship we have between the northern regions.

Finally, the National Bee Unit office also welcomed Samantha O'Toole in June to provide programme support alongside Diane Gillibrand.

You can use the post code search on the contacts page of BeeBase to check for your local SBI, who can be contacted on the numbers below from the beginning of April until the end of September. During the winter period of October to March, or if you cannot make contact, please direct all enquiries to the Regional Bee Inspector for your area.

| Regional Bee Inspector | Area | Contact |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Mark McLoughlin | North West Region | 07500 891425 |
| Seasonal Bee Inspectors | Area (North West Region) | Contact |
| Julia Hoggard | Cumbria, North West Yorkshire | 07900 394303 |
| Caroline Coughlin | Lancashire | 07500 891423 |
| Kay Phillips | West Yorkshire | 07796 435125 |
| Vacancy | South Yorkshire, West Derbyshire | |
| Regional Bee Inspector | Area | Contact |
| Dhonn Atkinson | North East Region | 07775 119437 |
| Seasonal Bee Inspectors | Area (North East Region) | |
| Tim Roper | Derbyshire | 07775 119441 |
| David Bough | Yorkshire | 07824 408973 |
| Brian Murphy | Northumberland, Tyne & Wear | 07747 765934 |
| Keith Bartlem | North Yorkshire | 07385 397936 |
| Vacancy | East Yorkshire | |
| Vacancy | Lincolnshire | |

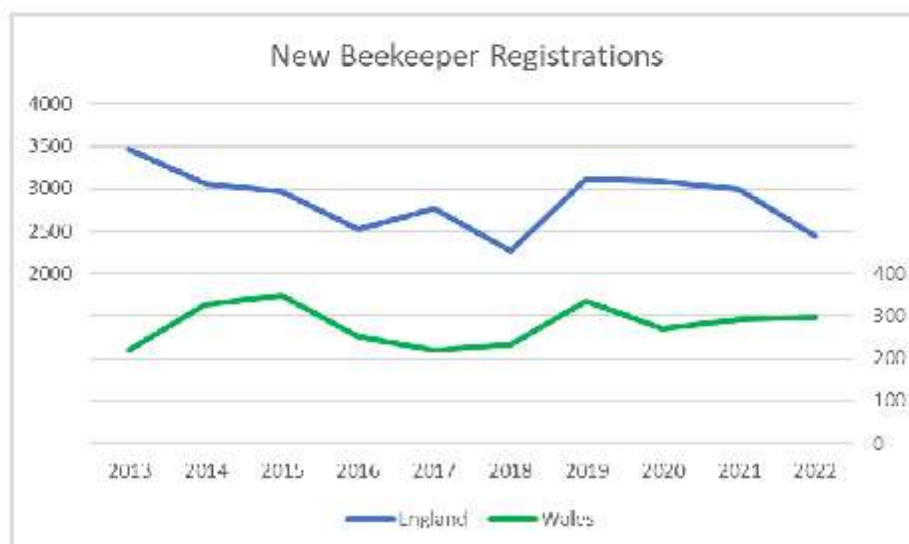
BeeBase Registrations

This year has seen the general trend for a decrease for new beekeeper registrations in England continue.

It is important for beekeepers to remember that being a member of a beekeeper's association does not mean that you are registered on BeeBase (the National Bee Unit's website and database). However, if you have been inspected by the National Bee Unit then your details will automatically be on BeeBase.

If you are registered then thank you, but please keep your apiary locations updated. If you have lost your password, there's a forgotten password link on the BeeBase login page. You can register online (www.nationalbeeunit.com), by contacting the NBU office on 0300 3030094 / nbu@apha.gov.uk or by contacting your SBI.

Registration is free and all your details are kept confidential. You can receive email alerts if foulbrood or exotic pests (including Asian Hornet) are found in the area where your apiaries are situated. Your registration also benefits the wider beekeeping community by allowing inspectors to know where to look for disease or pests so that outbreaks can be quickly brought under control.



Trends in new beekeeper registration in Northern England and England for the last decade (2022 data to end of October).

Beekeeper and hive numbers

There are currently 40,745 beekeepers registered on BeeBase in England. Between them they have 197,686 colonies in 54,650 apiaries, which is an average of 4.8 colonies per beekeeper and 3.6 colonies per apiary.

The North West and North East Regional statistics are reproduced below. The North West has a total of 5,504 current beekeepers registered, the North East 4,792. Furthermore, there are a total of 22,647 colonies and 7,094 apiaries registered for the North West, and 31,369 colonies and 6,521 apiaries registered in the North East. The actual figures are probably much higher due to unregistered beekeepers, also apiaries/colonies that have not been added to existing records. Beekeepers and apiaries that are not registered reduce the effectiveness of the response to disease or exotic pest outbreaks, as they could act as reservoirs for re-infection.

Almost 9,000 beekeepers updated their details on BeeBase during the 2021 hive count. The Hive Count provides a very useful indication of the number of managed colonies in the UK and helps to ensure that BeeBase records are kept up to date. Information about numbers and location of hives is very important for the National Bee Unit and Scottish Government inspectors in terms of preparing and planning for outbreaks of disease and exotic pests. Please take the time to complete the 2022 hive count which is live now and finishes on the 31st of December 2022.

| Region | County | Current beekeepers | No of Current Apiaries | No of Colonies | Non-current beekeepers |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| North West England | Cheshire | 936 | 1264 | 4348 | 436 |
| | Cumbria | 684 | 873 | 2980 | 762 |
| | Derbyshire | 765 | 1007 | 3148 | 333 |
| | Greater Manchester | 519 | 663 | 2313 | 354 |
| | Lancashire | 994 | 1208 | 3748 | 580 |
| | Merseyside | 409 | 556 | 1426 | 366 |
| | West Yorkshire | 1197 | 1523 | 4684 | 540 |
| | NORTH WEST ENGLAND TOTALS | 5504 | 7094 | 22647 | 3371 |
| Region | County | Current beekeepers | No of Current Apiaries | No of Colonies | Non-current beekeepers |
| North East England | County Durham | 359 | 470 | 1739 | 301 |
| | East Yorkshire | 351 | 468 | 4522 | 254 |
| | Lincolnshire | 1027 | 1451 | 6306 | 574 |
| | North Yorkshire | 1356 | 1896 | 8708 | 1317 |
| | Northumberland | 331 | 453 | 2714 | 445 |
| | Nottinghamshire | 575 | 779 | 3609 | 238 |
| | South Yorkshire | 583 | 717 | 2801 | 257 |
| | Tyne & Wear | 210 | 287 | 970 | 204 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------|
| | NORTH EAST ENGLAND TOTALS | 4792 | 6521 | 31369 | 3590 |
| | Current beekeepers | No of Current Apiaries | No of Colonies | Non-current beekeepers | |
| England totals | 40745 | 54650 | 197686 | 27960 | |

Inspections

During the 2022 season North West SBIs visited a total 294 apiaries and inspected 1,272 colonies. Ten colonies were destroyed due to foulbrood across five apiaries, and three colonies with European Foulbrood (EFB) were treated by shook-swarm. During the same period, North East SBIs visited 726 apiaries and inspected 3,794 colonies. Twenty-nine colonies were destroyed due to foulbrood across twenty apiaries, and thirty-seven colonies with EFB were treated by shook-swarm. Inspectors have also obtained honey samples for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and have taken samples from sentinel apiaries for laboratory analysis.

Bee Health Days and other Events

The North West Team held two events in 2022. Stockport Bee Health Day (BHD) in May and Lancaster BHD in July. The events were well attended with fifty beekeepers at Stockport and forty-eight at Lancaster.



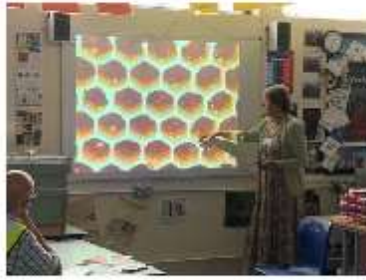
Caroline outlining the importance of biosecurity



Kay describing how to identify foulbrood in diseased comb

The events covered the same subjects namely Varroa, biosecurity, the continuing threat from Asian hornet, and a comb room for viewing live foulbrood and other diseases or conditions. I would like to thank David Bough for assisting Julia, Caroline, Kay and me on both days.

The North East Team held at bee health day in May, based on practical handling skills, near Morpeth, Northumberland. Approximately fifty beekeepers attended the event. RBI David Bough, SBI Adrian Wilford, SBI Keith Bartlem and SBI Brian Murphy gave practical demonstrations including equipment sterilisation, how to conduct a shook-swarm and how to introduce queens.



Julia pointing out what to look for in the comb (varroa)

Professor Giles Budge from Newcastle University was present and gave a talk on EFB. Our thanks to Giles for assisting on the day.



North East Region Bee Health Day May 2022

In September, inspectors from the North East and North West came together to run an Asian Hornet Team (AHT) training day at Harrogate, Yorkshire. This was the second joint event, the first being in 2021, where beekeepers learnt the basics of tracking and how AHTs could support the NBU with observations and public awareness. Currently only NBU inspectors can catch and release Asian hornets, as a licence to do so is required. However, should Asian hornet become established in the UK this may be reviewed to allow beekeepers to mirror the great work being done in Jersey by their volunteers.

In November we held the Northern England Regional Forum at Sand Hutton near York. These events were held in other regions during 2022, there being a hiatus in our area, mainly due to COVID restrictions, since Dhonn and I took over the role of regional bee inspectors. The purpose of the forum was to bring together representatives from the northern associations so we could give presentations on what we considered the top four issues that have concerned us, during 2022. This was not a definitive list and at future events we plan to cover other subject matter.

The subject matter for the day included an overview of the Healthy Bee Plan 2030 by Becky Clarkson (Healthy Bees Plan Manager at the NBU). I then talked about the threat from exotic pests and the sentinel apiary programmes. Victoria Tomkies from Fera Science Ltd gave an overview of Foulbrood Multi-Locus Sequence Typing (MLST), and how it informs our approach to tracing and treating foulbrood cases. Julia Hoggard discussed the continuing threat from Asian hornet, followed by Professor Giles Budge who outlined the current scientific knowledge about Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus.

The forum ended with Dr Ben Jones outlining some bee related research work currently being carried out by Fera Science Ltd. at Sand Hutton. The event was Chaired by Kay Phillips throughout the day.



Victoria Tomkies from Fera Science Ltd explaining her work on Multi-Locus Sequence-Typing – North of England Regional Forum 2022

My thanks to all who attended and were involved in the running of this event.

Disease and Pests

European Foulbrood (EFB) and American Foulbrood (AFB)

AFB was found in six colonies in the North West Region during the 2022, compared with three colonies in 2021. Keighley features both years, but it has now been found in the Bradford area too.

AFB 2022

| County | Grid Square | Area | Positive tests | Month |
|----------------|-------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| West Yorkshire | SE04 | KEIGHLEY | 2 | July |
| West Yorkshire | SE04 | KEIGHLEY | 1 | August |
| West Yorkshire | SE13 | BRADFORD | 2 | July |
| West Yorkshire | SE13 | BRADFORD | 1 | September |

EFB continues to be found in Derbyshire, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. EFB was found in South Yorkshire in 2021 but not in 2022. This could be the result of carrying an SBI vacancy for that area all season.

Page 9 is blank

EFB 2022

| County | Grid Square | Area | Positive tests | Month |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Derbyshire | SK23 | ETWALL | 1 | June |
| Derbyshire | SK24 | BRAILSFORD | 1 | June |
| Derbyshire | SK32 | MELBOURNE | 8 | June |
| Derbyshire | SK32 | MELBOURNE | 1 | August |
| Derbyshire | SK33 | DERBY | 2 | June |
| Derbyshire | SK33 | DERBY | 1 | August |
| Derbyshire | SK34 | BELPER | 5 | April |
| Derbyshire | SK34 | BELPER | 3 | May |
| Derbyshire | SK34 | BELPER | 2 | August |
| Derbyshire | SK35 | WHATSTANDWELL | 4 | May |
| Derbyshire | SK43 | BORROWASH | 10 | July |
| Derbyshire | SK43 | BORROWASH | 2 | August |
| Derbyshire | SK43 | BORROWASH | 1 | September |
| Derbyshire | SK44 | ILKESTON | 1 | June |
| Derbyshire | SK44 | ILKESTON | 1 | July |
| North Yorkshire | SE37 | RIPON | 3 | June |
| North Yorkshire | SE37 | RIPON | 1 | July |
| North Yorkshire | SE44 | THORPE ARCH | 2 | July |
| North Yorkshire | SE45 | WHIXLEY | 1 | April |
| North Yorkshire | SE52 | WEST HADDLESEY | 1 | August |
| North Yorkshire | SE54 | COPMANTHORPE | 1 | June |
| North Yorkshire | SE55 | YORK WEST | 1 | June |
| North Yorkshire | SE56 | HUBY | 1 | May |
| North Yorkshire | SE63 | SELBY | 2 | June |
| North Yorkshire | SE87 | THORPE BASSET | 1 | May |
| Nottinghamshire | SK63 | COTGRAVE | 1 | April |
| West Yorkshire | SE23 | WEST LEEDS | 3 | May |
| West Yorkshire | SE23 | WEST LEEDS | 4 | August |
| West Yorkshire | SE53 | EAST LEEDS | 1 | May |
| West Yorkshire | SE53 | EAST LEEDS | 4 | August |

Further details on the distribution of disease in the North of England can be found on the disease incidence pages of BeeBase at www.nationalbeeunit.com.



AFB ropiness test.



Contorted larvae with EFB

Varroa

Varroa remains one of the commonest significant problems that inspectors see. To maintain strong vigorous colonies, the NBU advice is to monitor and control Varroa when necessary. Control can be achieved by using biotechnical methods and authorised products as directed. Varroa treatments should be targeted before colonies start to produce their 'winter' bees but monitoring of Varroa levels throughout the season will help determine whether an earlier treatment is required.

Varroa acts as a vector for viruses which will reduce the longevity of the bees and so impact on the foraging capability of colonies during the summer. Colonies treated too late in the season will result in winter bees being affected by viruses and they will be weakened by the Varroa mites feeding on them. This may lead to colony mortality in the winter or early spring.

This year the Varroa treatments Bayvarol and PolyVar Yellow are no longer permitted for use in the UK. Formic Pro is **not** authorised for usage with supers present and if a honey super remains on the hive during treatment that honey may not be used for human consumption. The list of medicines registered and approved for use by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is available on their [website](#) together with the 'Summary of Product Characteristics' giving full details of use. For the full list, select 'Bees' on the drop-down list of species in the product search link.

To avoid Varroa mites becoming resistant to specific chemicals it is good policy to rotate your treatments on a regular basis.

There is a legal requirement that the use of any treatments is recorded, and these records must be kept for a minimum of five years. Full details can be found on this link -

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=110>

BeeBase has pdf links to numerous free fact sheets including the 'Managing Varroa' advisory leaflet.

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=167>



Collapsed colony - typical signs of late-stage Parasitic Mite Syndrome (Varroosis)

Exotic Pest Surveillance

As well as NBU inspectors carrying out specific exotic pest surveillance inspections (for Small Hive Beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites), we also have a group of volunteer beekeepers who have apiaries near risk points and who specifically monitor their honeybee colonies for these exotic pest species on behalf of the NBU. These 'Voluntary Sentinel Apiary' (VSA) apiaries represent a valuable front-line early warning against exotic pest incursion.

Risk points include freight ports, plant importers, airports, crude hive product importers, honey and queen importers. The distribution of VSAs both near risk points and at random sites maximise the likelihood of early pest detection. VSA beekeepers are provided with a sampling kit and regularly examine their colonies according to standard protocols. Samples of hive debris are sent the laboratory in June and September each season to be examined for the presence of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) and *Tropilaelaps* mites. Everything required is supplied including postage so there's no cost to the beekeeper to take part.

In addition, by agreement with the beekeeper, NBU inspectors monitor selected 'Enhanced Sentinel Apiaries' (ESA) three times each season near to areas deemed as high risk.

We are keen to hear from beekeepers with apiaries near to risk points who would like to join the VSA programme, or from beekeepers with local knowledge who wish to make us aware of high-risk points near them. If you are interested contact your Regional Bee Inspector or Seasonal Bee Inspector to discuss.

Yellow-legged Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina nigrathorax*)

This year has seen continued low levels of confirmed Asian Hornet sightings in the UK with just one Asian Hornet nest found by NBU inspectors in a sycamore tree in the Rayleigh area of Essex on Friday 30th of September 2022, which was subsequently destroyed. This followed reports from a beekeeper in the area who had identified Asian hornets entering their greenhouse where the beekeeper was rendering wax. The nest was large compared to others previously found in the UK at approximately 40cm in diameter, local beekeepers were made aware via the Asian Hornet Teams (AHTs) and monitoring has continued in the area.

Single Asian hornets were also photographed and reported via the Asian Hornet Watch app in Chelmsford in Essex and Dover in Kent. No further insects were seen but local Asian Hornet Teams have been alerted and are continuing to observe forage and monitor insects in the area.



Chelmsford Asian hornet.



Rayleigh Asian hornet nest being held by RBI Dan Etheridge.

We are encouraging everyone to:

- download the free Asian Hornet Watch iPhone or Android app
- familiarise yourself with what the hornets and similar insects look like
- keep a look out on late summer flowering plants such as ivy where the hornets (and other insects) forage on the flowers.
- report suspect sightings using the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app, or by filling out an online report form, or by emailing alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk.

We in Northern England are currently at the northern edge of the Asian hornet's European range and by working together hope to keep this invasive species at bay and protect our nation's important pollinators.

Imports and exports of honey bees

Third Country rules now apply to import and export trade between the UK and EU member states. Movements of honey bees from Great Britain to Northern Ireland are treated as exports and so are also subject to these rules. Import rules do not apply to movements of honey bees from Northern Ireland to GB.

Imports

Honey bees imported from a Third Country must have an appropriate Export Health Certificate (EHC). The health certificate must be issued by the Third Country's Competent Authority or their Official Certifier. Currently only the import of queens (in cages with attendant workers) is permitted under Third Country rules, except from New Zealand where the import of packages of bees is also permitted.

Importers must notify all imports in advance via the IPAFFS system. From 1st November 2022, the health certificate for imports from EU countries must be uploaded onto IPAFFS (Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System) so that it can be viewed online. There is no longer a requirement for the original paper EHC document to accompany the consignment. Original documents will remain valid but, by providing an original document, this does not remove the requirement to upload an electronic version.

Imports from countries other than EU member states must enter via a Border Control Point (BCP). For now, imports from EU member states will continue to be checked at destination by a Bee Inspector on a risk basis; this approach is expected to change in 2023, with the exact date to be confirmed.

Exports

If you intend to export bees, you must ensure that the destination country permits imports from GB and that you can comply with their import conditions. It is the exporter's responsibility to do this.

If you export your bees to any country without the correct certification, the consignment may be rejected/destroyed by the destination country. If the consignment required an inspection prior to export and this was not carried out, the NBU would not be able to issue a certificate retrospectively.

From January 2022, Export Health Certificates for exports to EU countries must be signed by an Official Veterinarian (OV). For countries outside the EU, whether an OV is required to sign the EHC is determined by the authorities in the country of destination, so it is important for the exporter to check the requirements with them.

Exporting to EU countries

Only queen bees can be exported to EU countries. To export queen bees, you must obtain an Export Health Certificate and arrange for it to be signed by an OV. The OV must carry out a health inspection at the apiary before the certificate can be signed, and exporters should expect that there will be a charge for the services of an OV. The health certificate template can be found on GOV.UK, along with Notes for Guidance and information on how to contact an OV.

The OV will confirm whether a National Bee Unit inspector also needs to be present to support the OV at the health inspection. There is no separate charge for a bee inspector to be present.

The OV can find information about how to contact a Bee Inspector on BeeBase or contact the National Bee Unit at (nbu@apha.gov.uk). For exports to EU countries, a signed health certificate is valid for 10 days.

To keep up to date with the latest guidance on importing and exporting live honey bees, please visit the following link <https://nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=47>



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www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/ or email

PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

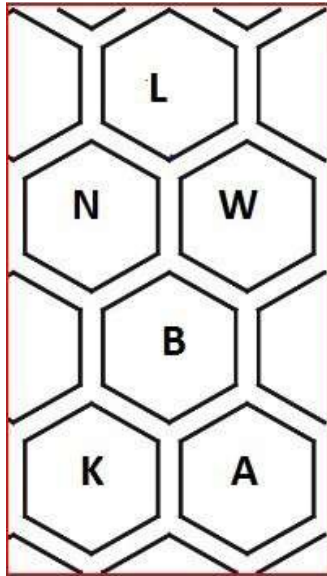
APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who help Lancashire & NW BKA through the year.

THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH-WEST BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 506167

Accounts



The Lancashire and North West

Beekeepers Association

Handbook and annual reports 2020-21

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association
(Founded 1882. Reconstructed separately 1899)

Registered Charity No 506167

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Hon Treasurer

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Hon Examinations Secretary

Branch Contact Details

Please visit the branch websites for up to date contact details and details on how to join

Lancashire and North West BKA

<https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/>

Blackpool and Fylde <http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/>

East Lancashire <http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/>

Lancaster <http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/>

Liverpool and District <http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Oldham & District <http://www.odbka.org>

Ormskirk and Croston <https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Preston and District <http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/>

Southport and District <http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/>

Northern Region Bee Unit Report

Officers

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| President | Mr Ray Dowson |
| Chairman | Mr Michael Gardner |
| Vice- Chair | Mrs Janet Murray |
| Hon Gen Sec | Mr Mike Lavelle |
| Hon Treasurer | Ms Sue Counsell |
| Hon. Convention Officer | Mrs Viki Cuthbertson |
| Hon Handbook Sec. | Mrs Diane Drinkwater |
| Hon Exhibitions Officer | Mrs Elaine Hargreaves |
| Hon Webmaster | Mr Mark Oakley |
| Hon Education | Mrs Viki Cuthbertson |
| Coordinator | |
| Hon Examinations | Mrs Robina Johnstone |
| Secretary | |
| Hon Examiner of | TBC |
| Accounts | |
| Disease Liaison Officer | Miss Caroline Coughlin (Co-opted member) |
| Beecraft | Ms Jan Blackthorn Hazell |
| BDI Rep | Mr Martin Smith* |

** It is noted that Mr Smith is also President of BDI. The Council is satisfied that this does not present any conflict of issues*

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS 2020 - 2021

Status Registered Charity Number 506167

Public address: Old School House, Ulnes Walton Ln, Leyland PR26 8LT.

Patrons None

President Mr Ray Dowson

General Secretary Mr Mike Lavelle

Independent Examiner (audit) Mrs Karen Reid

The Association's Bank: Metro Bank

Trustees: President Mr. Ray Dowson Chairperson Mr Michael Gardner Treasurer Mr Arthur Leyland General Secretary Mr Mike Lavelle and Susan Counsell

The primary Objectives of the charity are to promote and further the craft of beekeeping and to advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment.

Hon. Chair's Report

This year we lost a dear central council colleague and long standing member of Ormskirk & Croston branch, Edward Hill. We'll each have different memories of him. Mine are of a smart dressed, quite formal and very well spoken chap who liked to surprise you with some revelation or other when you least expected it. One memory we'll share is that he was a gentleman, in every sense of the word. Our thoughts are with his family.

In October Elaine and Viki managed to pull together a combined Convention and Honey Show at Archbishop Temple School after the earlier convention date had to be cancelled due to Covid. Given there was still some uncertainty around what was happening with Covid this was an impressive feat.

Our convention actually returned in full in 2022. Thank you to everyone who came along to support it, the branch members for stewarding and Viki for all the organising. I missed the combined show in October so it was nice to see some familiar faces after so long. Hopefully the trade stands were well attended .. the alcohol stand always seems to be popular amongst our members.

Whenever I sit down to write these brief notes all I really want to do is say how thankful I am for the work that you all do both at county and branch level. I help a number of other organisations and know how valuable the people are who are willing to volunteer their time.

So thank you to the branch committees; thank you to the members of this council; and a big thank you to our elected officers.

None of this would work without you.

Michael Gardner

Chair Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association

Hon Treasurer's Report to the LNWBKA Annual General Meeting April 2022 for the financial year 1st Nov 2020 to 31st Oct 2021

Annual statement

All branches have provided accounts in the required format and the closing balances have all been verified to the relevant bank account statements. After making any enquiries necessary, it is clear that there has been no income or expenditure that is out of the ordinary or outwith the LNWBKA objectives.

Accounts have been prepared and independently examined for both Central Council and on a consolidated basis across are now being circulated to Central Council members.

Many thanks to Karen Reid for acting as Independent Examiner in verifying the year end accounts and to all the branch treasurers for their assistance and co-operation in enabling the accounts to be prepared accurately and on time. It's very much appreciated and makes the county treasurer's job much easier.

Items from last year's report

Looking back at my report from last year, the main items outstanding were:

Gift Aid

There was an amount of £5,099.97 within the Central Council accounts due for distribution to the branches covering outstanding Gift Aid to April 2019. This was paid out during the year. At 31/10/21 Year End, the claim up to April 2021 had not yet been made to HMRC.

Honoraria

These were brought up to date with payments made after last year's AGM. Payments will now be due for the current period.

Banking

This time last year, we were in the process of changing banks from RBS to Metro in order to secure the £1,500 transfer incentive payment. I can confirm that this has all been completed and that the incentive was received in July 2021 and shows in the CC accounts under Sundry Income.

Highlights from the 31/10/21 accounts

Branch changes

On 1st January 2021, Oldham Beekeepers joined as the newest branch of LNWBKA introducing assets of £2,279.32. Medlock merged with Oldham transferring their assets of £1,249.50.

Convention and other events

The Convention and Honey Show were combined into one event in 2021 and have broadly covered their costs.

The Leonard Ross Account

Having been extinguished in 2020, this segregated account no longer shows in the LNWBKA Accounts.

Cash balances

CC cash balances reduced from **£17,536.40** to **£15,224.00** allowing for cheques and deposits that had yet to clear at the year end. This reflects the fact that LNWBKA passed on the £4,739 Gift Aid which had been received in the previous year.

As a whole, LNWBKA currently 'sits on' cash balances of **£100,580.37**, up from **£89,718.84**.

The Charity Commission requires charity trustees among other things to '**apply the charity's income for the benefit of its beneficiaries. This usually means income should be spent rather than invested.**' However, the Charity Commission also recognises the need for charities to hold **reserves** in which case, the Trustees should consider the need for a reserves policy, managing the level of reserves held and the disclosure of any reserves policy in the Trustees' Annual Report.

I have provided further comment in my notes for discussion by the Central Council meeting to be held after this AGM. For the purpose of this year end report, it is noted that LNWBKA is holding a growing cash balance which would appear to exceed a reasonable requirement for reserves.

Sue Counsell

Hon Treasurer

April 2022

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Accounts to 31st October 2021

| 2020 | Income | 2021 | 2020 Expenditure | 2021 | |
|------------|---------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| £20,894.80 | Subscriptions | £23,231.85 | £152.73 | Postages | £0.00 |
| £3,146.72 | Donations | £1,241.48 | £1,231.63 | Printing & Stationery | £218.69 |
| £0.00 | Adverts | £0.00 | £15,731.00 | B.B.K.A Capitation | £16,456.00 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| £53.66 Interest | £14.49 | £198.00 Insurance | £180.00 |
| £669.53 Honey Shows | £312.20 | £979.01 Honey Shows | £524.33 |
| £1,828.50 B.D.I. Extra Hives | £1,662.05 | £2,299.35 B.D.I. | £2,573.35 |
| £8,111.00 Education | £7,941.00 | £2,251.78 Education | £1,965.42 |
| £1,380.75 Equipment | £0.00 | £2,141.42 Equipment | £1,846.07 |
| £2,176.85 Convention | £1,492.30 | £1,512.40 Convention | £1,598.40 |
| £1,379.63 Socials & Raffles | £176.74 | £2,337.56 Socials Functions | £135.25 |
| £5,099.97 Tax Refunds (Gift Aid) | £4,739.49 | £1,207.00 Rooms | £315.00 |
| £24.00 Treatments | £238.95 | £960.83 Lecturers | £715.00 |
| £198.25 Newsletters | £0.00 | £86.00 Treatments | £266.15 |
| £0.00 Apiary Income | £695.00 | £198.25 Newsletters/magazines | £0.00 |
| £155.25 Sundry Income | £1,803.23 | £340.00 Honoraria | £320.00 |
| £0.00 Grants | £0.00 | £128.60 Cup Engrav. & Repairs | £0.00 |
| £190.00 Fundraising | £867.00 | £0.00 Handbook | £0.00 |
| £1,986.00 Capitation | £1,338.00 | £1,218.80 Subs & Donations | £1,153.78 |
| £1,376.96 Sales to members | £7,999.85 | £239.15 Sundries | £321.00 |
| Funds introduced | £3,528.82 | £137.00 Books | £0.00 |
| | | £255.50 Admin incl postage | £820.92 |
| | | £5,995.18 Apiary | £5,195.48 |
| | | £12.00 Cap rebate | £0.00 |
| | | £0.00 Gift aid to branches | £4,739.49 |
| | | £466.77 Purchases for resale | £6,003.22 |
| | | Funds transferred | £1,249.50 |

£
4

£40,079.96 Total Expenditure **£46,597.05**

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| £583.62 Opening Cash Balance | £300.42 | £324.50 Closing Cash Balance | £3,063.27 |
| £80,553.31 Opening Bank Balance | £89,614.55 | £89,674.34 Closing Bank Balance | £98,385.60 |
| unpresented chq | -£20.00 | -£270.00 <u>unpresented cqs</u> | -£1,368.00 |
| | | <u>undeposited funds</u> | £499.50 |
| £81,136.93 Adjusted | £89,894.97 | £89,728.84 Adjusted | £100,580.37 |

£129,808.80
Assets + Income

£147,177.42

£129,808.80
Expenditure

Assets+

Note:

There are the following differences In the closing balances for 2020 and the opening balances for 2021:

Medlock had cash of £26.71 which was not included in its closing balance at 31/10/20.

Blackpool's opening balance does not match 2020 closing balances. However, I have received a copy of their 01/11/20 bank statement and it matches this year's figures. Therefore the error was last year. The stated closing balances in 2020 were

£44.29 cash and £4,066.79 bank, a difference of £139.42 to the opening balances.

Consolidated closing balance 31/10/20 was £89,728.84 + £26.71 + £139.42 = £89,894.97 (opening balance above).

Oldham Branch joined 01/01/21 with opening assets above of £2,279.32 and took In Medlock's assets at 31/12/21 of £1,249.50. Medlock then ceased to **be a** branch In Its own right.

Signed 
Sue Counsell Hon Treasurer

Date 28/03/22

Signed \ Karen Reid Independent
Examiner Date 01.03.22
\ '2_'L

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Central Council Accounts to 31st October 2021

| 2020 | Income | 2021 | 2020 | Expenditure | 2021 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| £15,836.00 | Capitation | from £16,575.00 | £0.00 | Postages | £0.00 |
| Branches | | | | | |
| £29.65 | Bank Interest | £4.62 | £0.00 | Printing & Stationery | £0.00 |
| £44.39 | Donations | £212.26 | £0.00 | Handbook | £0.00 |
| £2,176.85 | Conventions | £1,492.30 | £80.00 | Room Hire | £120.00 |
| £0.00 | Advertising Revenue | £0.00 | £112.00 | Insurance | £56.00 |
| £347.88 | Members Honey Show | £0.00 | £13,850.00 | BBKA Capitation | £15,237.00 |
| £5,099.97 | Tax Refunds from HMRC | £0.00 | £0.00 | Subs/Donations | £0.00 |
| £530.00 | Education | £0.00 | £492.85 | Members Honey Show | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Sundry | £1,533.00 | £1,512.40 | Conventions | £1,598.40 |
| | | | £80.00 | Education | £20.95 |
| | | | £340.00 | Honoraria | £320.00 |
| | | | £128.60 | Engraving | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Branch Tax Refunds from HMRC | £4,739.49 |
| | | | £102.00 | Honey Shows | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Sundry | £0.00 |
| | | | £137.00 | Books | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Admin (Bank Charges) | £0.00 |
| | | | £12.00 | Lanes Cap rebate to branches | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Web | £17.74 |
| £24,064.74 | Total Income | £19,817.18 | £16,846.85 | Total Expenditure | £22,109.58 |
| £0.00 | Opening Cash Balance | £0.00 | £0.00 | Closing Cash Balance | £164.80 |
| £6,796.23 | Opening Bank balance | £14,008.91 | £14,008.91 | Closing Bank balance | £12,400.21 |
| £3,502.28 | Opening savings Account | £3,527.49 | £3,527.49 | Branch savings Account | £3,527.49 |
| £10,298.51 | | £17,536.40 | £17,536.40 | | £16,092.50 |
| | unpres cheque | £20.00 | £20.00 | unpres cq | -£1,368.00 |
| | | | | undeposited funds | £499.50 |
| | | | £17,516.40 | | £15,224.00 |
| £34,363.25 | | £37,333.58 | £34,363.25 | | £37,333.58 |

Note

Sundry items are £33 received in error and later refunded to Preston branch and £1,500 bank transfer incentive one off receipt.

Signed

Sue Counsell Hon Treasurer

Date

28/03/22

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2021

Each of the eight Branch membership secretaries control their respective membership data including online renewals of membership, online applications for new members, lapses and other changes to member information.

Similarly, each Branch is responsible for its own maintenance and upkeep of the BBKA membership system.

Strict abidance to GDPR rules is meticulously followed.

Despite the interruption caused by the COVID pandemic, its pleasing to report that overall membership numbers across the Association have seen significant growth.

There was a total of 888 Active members at the 2022-year end (April AGM) compared to a total of 811 members for the same period (April 2021 AGM).

I wish to thank the Branch Treasurers and Branch Membership Secretaries for their continued support throughout the year.

Mike Lavelle

Hon Gen Sec & Membership Sec

EXAMINATION SECRETARY'S REPORT 2021

Lancashire members continue to pursue their education in the form of BBKA Modules and Practical Assessments.

NOVEMBER 2021 MODULE RESULTS (14)

EAST LANCS M3 CREDIT (1)

BLACKPOOL M1 PASS (1)

LIVERPOOL M7 CREDIT (1)

ORMSKIRK & CROSTON

M1 PASS (3) CREDIT (1)

M2 CREDIT (1)

M5 CREDIT (1)

M6 CREDIT (1)

PRESTON

M6 PASS (1)

M7 CREDIT (1)

LANCASTER M3 (1) CREDIT

OLDHAM M2 CREDIT (1)

Congratulations to all successful Lancashire members.

BBKA PRACTICAL ASSESSMENTS

I am currently receiving applications which to date total as follows on eR2.

Basic 8 Hopefully many more to follow. BBKA Assessment deadline 31st August, Applications should be sent to BBKA one month before candidate is assessed.

Bee Health 11

General Husbandry. Members currently studying with Viki Cuthbertson and Master Beekeepers will take their assessments in 2023.

Advanced Husbandry. One candidate

Show Judge One Candidate

BBKA SYLLABUS CHANGES.

Candidates who sat Modules in March 2022 took the BBKA's revised syllabi. Further revision of syllabus content and a new 'History' module being planned.

PASS/FAILURE RATE

I had questioned Nicky Campbell re Online pass rate for Lancashire and was told that the issue would be raised at Exam Board meeting in late March. eR2 does not currently indicate if an applicant fails to sign in on exam day which causes confusion as to whether they have taken the Module and failed or simply been a "no show".

Online candidates are now required to log in in advance and any failing to meet BBKA Registration Deadline are not permitted to take the exam. This eliminates some, but not all of the above issue.

A few anomalies occurred within refund/withdrawals which will hopefully be rectified next year.

To conclude, I am as always grateful to Mike Lavelle, Viki Cuthbertson and Ray Dowson for their support, patience and good humour. Everyone involved in education, (including Branch Education Officers) is now getting to grips with new systems and syllabi.

My thanks to Ian Hinde who assisted me with the In Person March 2022 Modules at Ormskirk School. Results should be out shortly by direct email to candidates.

Robina Johnstone

Examination Secretary.

Honey Show Report 2021

Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association Honey Show was held on 2nd October 2021, in conjunction with the Convention, at Archbishop Temple School, Preston.

Although presenting its own challenges, the combined event worked well, and it was good to be together again.

41 Exhibitors (including 2 branches) entered 288 exhibits (274 Staged) – understandably down a little on the last show held in 2019, but enough to provide a challenge for our judges.

The show was judged by Joyce Nisbet, Shirley Bond and Peter Lewis, ably assisted by stewards, Nicky Leeth, Robert Magee and John Mooney.

The general high standard of the exhibits was praised by all the judges.

The Blue Ribbon for best exhibit in show was awarded to a novice exhibitor, Graham Curwen (Ormskirk & Croston) for his Frame of Honeycomb (which he subsequently took to the National Honey Show where it was awarded 2nd prize – a tremendous achievement!)

The Sir Wroth Lethbridge Presidents Cup for the most points was won by Robert Magee.

It was slightly disappointing that only 2 branches (Preston and East Lancs) entered the branch classes, the E. McCormick President's Branch Shield being awarded to Preston.

It would be really good to have a true "Battle of the Branches" at future shows, if more branches will take up the challenge!

Although it was a very enjoyable event, there was a tinge of sadness that two friends, who had made a tremendous difference to the running of the show in the past, had passed away: Sue "Scottie" Scott, who freely offered her help and words of wisdom (& humour!) and generally kept me sane!

Mr Edward Hill who, with assistance from his daughter, took the burden of prize card writing from me during the show in 2019.

They are both missed.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the show happen:

Our Judges: Joyce, Shirley & Peter

Our judges stewards: Nicky, Robert & John

My very capable assistant on the admin table: Mike Lavelle

And all those who moved things, polished things, fetched things etc

But mostly, I would like to thank all those who entered and staged so many fabulous exhibits – without you there would be no show!

Plans are well underway for the next show which is to be held on Saturday 8th October 2022 at a venue in Bamber Bridge near Preston.

There will be a wide variety of classes – something for everybody (even if there is a poor honey crop this year!); 3 senior judges; an interesting speaker giving 2 presentations.

So get planning and consider making some entries – let's make the next one the best yet!

Elaine Hargreaves (Hon. Exhibitions Officer)



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

North West Region Annual Report 2021

Some notable changes have taken place during the 2021 season. Ever since I commenced my role as Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) I have sought to continue to increase our cross-border reciprocal working relationship with the North East Region headed by RBI Dhonn Atkinson. In practical terms this resulted in shared training events and the Northern Team assisting in disease outbreaks in the North East Region along the border with our original Northern Region. Apart from supporting Dhonn's team at times of high demand, this approach was working any disease outbreaks before they could



At the beginning of 2021, a review of the National Bee Unit (NBU) England and Wales regional boundaries took place. This resulted in the formal moving of the boundary between the Northern and North East regions eastwards to the M1 motorway. The Northern Region was then renamed the North West Region and lost Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and County Durham. However, to keep the regions balanced the majority of West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Derbyshire were transferred from the North East to the North West. We also cover a small area of North Yorkshire.

I have attached a map indicating the new boundary, the North West Region being represented by the (darker) blue area, the North East by the lighter area.

s, Brian Murphy to the North East team and Phil

The 2021 Season

During the early part of the season the often cool and wet weather did hold back some colonies. I am always hesitant to generalise without caveat, as I am sure that some beekeepers will argue the opposite was true for their stocks or locality.

However, we did receive many reports of dwindling and dead colonies in the spring. Nosema was suspected in some cases, either directly or indirectly. Evidence that varroa infestation had been present was often evident.

The summer was mostly settled and warm. Those I spoke to who had taken colonies to the heather moors at the beginning of August reported a good crop.

As a result of ongoing precautions and restrictions in connection with Covid-19 and its variants we did not undertake any Bee Health Days in 2021. However, Dhonn and I did arrange Asian hornet training for our two teams to hone tracking skills, and a training exercise led by SBI Keith Bartlem for the Harrogate Asian Hornet Team, both of which being well received. We are also currently in talks with local associations to plan Bee Health Days in May and July 2022. Further details will be published nearer the time.

With the acquisition of parts of West, North, and South Yorkshire, and Derbyshire, the North West inspectors have travelled far greater distances in 2021 to reach the more easterly and southern parts of the region. However, we have just finalised a recruitment process for a Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI) to cover West Yorkshire.

Once in post this appointment should help us to reduce overall travelling time, and as a result release more time for field work.

I have below reproduced the inspection chart from Beebase which outlines the number of inspections carried out by the North West Team per county during the 2021 season. In 2021 the North West field inspection team consisted of myself and three inspectors, one of whom works four days a week.

| Region | County | Colonies Inspected | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| | | Total | Dead |
| North-West-England | Cheshire | 100 | 3A |
| | Cumbria | 200 | 2 |
| | Derbyshire | 618 | 17 |
| | Greater Manchester | 44 | 6 |
| | Lancashire | 160 | 3 |
| | Merseyside | 142 | 11 |
| | West Yorkshire | 606 | 15 |
| | | | |

NBU Staff Changes

At the end of the 2021 season SBI John Zamorski retired. John had joined the NBU as a Bee Inspector in 2010 mostly covering Lancashire. He was an invaluable member of the North West Team. Since 2019 John had been supporting the NBU with office-based tasks, taking a significant role in staff training, imports, and with Asian hornet triage. Not only will his experience and knowledge be missed by the North West Team, but by the whole of the NBU. We wish him a happy retirement.

Across the wider NBU further staff changes have or will take place before next season. Colin Pavey, the RBI for the Western Region, and Keith Morgan the RBI for the Eastern Region both retired in 2021. Colin has been replaced by RBI Jon Axe, and Pete Davies has moved from being RBI of the Southern Region to RBI of the Eastern Region.

As part of the review mentioned earlier in this report, Southern Region is now 'Central Region' and will be covered by RBI John Geden. In Wales RBI Frank Gellatly will retire in early 2022, Maggie Gill has been appointed to succeed him.

Finally, from January 2022 RBI Dhonn Atkinson will be covering the National Bee Inspector (NBI) role whilst Cristina Ruiz is on maternity leave. At the time of writing Dhonn's temporary replacement has not been identified.

From 1st April 2022, you can use the post code search on the contacts page

of BeeBase to check for your local SBI, who can be contacted from the beginning of April until the end of September. During the winter period of October to March please direct all enquiries to the RBI ([Beebase - Beekeeping information resource for Beekeepers \(nationalbeeunit.com\)](https://nationalbeeunit.com)).

Notifiable Disease

American Foulbrood

| County | 10 km Squares where AFB Found | Area Name | Number of Colonies Infected | Month AFB Found |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| North Yorkshire | SE04 | KEIGHLEY | 3 | August |
| South Yorkshire | SK38 | UN-NAMED | 1 | August |

European Foulbrood

| County | 10 km Squares EFB Found | Area Name | Number of Positive EFB Diagnoses (including re-currents) | Month EFB Found |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Derbyshire | SK28 | BAMFORD | 1 | April |
| Derbyshire | SK28 | vvvvvBAMFORD | 3 | July |
| Derbyshire | SK33 | DERBY | 2 | April |
| Derbyshire | SK34 | BELPER | 1 | April |
| Derbyshire | SK35 | WHATSTANDWELL | 1 | May |
| Derbyshire | SK35 | WHATSTANDWELL | 1 | June |
| Derbyshire | SK43 | BORROWASH | 7 | May |
| Derbyshire | SK43 | BORROWASH | 4 | June |
| South Yorkshire | SE50 | BENTLEY | 2 | July |
| South Yorkshire | SE50 | BENTLEY | 1 | August |
| South Yorkshire | SK28 | UN-NAMED | 2 | July |
| South Yorkshire | SK38 | UN-NAMED | 2 | May |
| South Yorkshire | SK38 | UN-NAMED | 2 | August |
| South Yorkshire | SK59 | CARR | 1 | June |
| West Yorkshire | SE12 | BRIGHOUSE | 1 | April |
| West Yorkshire | SE23 | WEST LEEDS | 1 | April |
| West Yorkshire | SE23 | WEST LEEDS | 13 | May |
| West Yorkshire | SE23 | WEST LEEDS | 8 | August |

It can be seen from the above charts that the disease found in 2021 is in the new area acquired after the

boundary moved east into Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

The NBU has a Red/Amber priority list meaning that our inspections are directed to areas of objectively calculated risk, so naturally our focus in 2021 has been the newly acquired territory. I am, however, very aware that disease can appear anywhere so this will be a consideration when planning the 2022 inspection strategy.

SBLs are given areas by 10k squares based on OS mapping. The border between regions is therefore not a linear border, mosaic-like squares hence there being some overlap.

I sometimes get asked how 10k squares are identified by the above references. You can work-out your own 10k square by taking a ten-digit OS map reference at your apiary and using the first and sixth number after the two letters. For example, if your OS map reference is SD1111122222, the 10k square will be SD12.

Being able to identify areas with previously recorded foulbrood is a useful tool so these lists, including for previous years, are on Beebase in the disease mapping section. However, if a grid square is not present it does not mean there is no disease within 10K as some squares are not listed but border those that have confirmed cases, and another consideration is disease may be present but not yet discovered. All these charts can do is inform where positive discoveries have been made. This can be useful if considering the movement of bees or collecting swarms, but it is best practice to assume a disease risk in every case and take appropriate precautions.

The disease mapping available to inspectors is based radial distance from incidents, but we can only use 10k squares for public use to prevent the identification of individual beekeepers.

One interesting joint initiative by the North West and North East Regions has been to take swabs from beekeepers' vehicles whilst dealing with foulbrood outbreaks. This was undertaken in specific cases where European Foulbrood (EFB) was found across apiaries.

In the three outbreaks where swabs were taken live EFB bacteria was found on a steering wheel and other dashboard controls, on a beekeeper's toolbox and in the area where colonies and equipment were carried for transportation. We cannot do this routinely but are able to use these findings to highlight the importance of biosecurity, the cleaning of equipment between colonies, and barrier management. Whilst in these cases EFB was the issue of concern, it shows how easily diseases in general can be spread by beekeepers. Guidance documents are available on Beebase with regards to apiary hygiene which I would encourage you to be aware of.

It is also worth mentioning that we treat 'call-outs' by beekeepers for suspected foulbrood as priority 'Red' inspections. If you suspect the presence of foulbrood, it is a legal obligation to inform the bee inspectorate. It is a free service so you will not be charged, even if we visit and deal with a confirmed incident. It is good practice to have a smartphone/camera with you at inspections so you can take pictures of anything suspicious. These can then be emailed to your SBI or me for an opinion before attendance.

BeeBase Registration and Association Membership Lists

I would like to emphasise how essential it is that all apiaries are registered on BeeBase so that we can identify any at risk of notifiable disease or an incursion of an exotic pest into the UK and target control measures effectively. Self-registration is free via the link at [Beebase - Beekeeping information resource for Beekeepers \(nationalbeeunit.com\)](https://nationalbeeunit.com) or you can register by contacting the NBU office on 0300 303 0094 or your RBI. All beekeepers registered on BeeBase with a current email address will receive an automatic email alert if disease is found within 3km of the registered apiary. If you are self-registered, please ensure that you keep your apiary records up to date or contact one of us if you are unsure. Self-registration is recommended as it also gives beekeepers secure password protected access to personal details and inspection records.

Your association can send us their list of members if they wish but can only do so if they satisfy the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) website provides guidance on best practice).

These lists are extremely useful to us as they allow us to identify new beekeepers and to update contact details for existing beekeepers. We use our database every day to prioritise our notifiable disease inspections. An up-to-date list is something that will be hugely important if we are unfortunate enough to find Small Hive Beetle (SHB) in the North of England.

Surveillance of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) in Italy in 2021

Information from the National Reference Laboratory for Apiculture in Italy below, updated in September 2021, shows surveillance for Small Hive Beetle in Sicily with no positives found again this year. Meanwhile in the Calabria region on the mainland, two positive apiaries and five positive sentinel nuclei have been found, their website documents a total of thirty-seven adult beetles found this year.



Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*)

On Wednesday 6th October, a beekeeper in the Ascot area of Berkshire filmed live insects near a hive. He captured a sample and reported the sighting using the free 'Asian Hornet Watch' app.

The insects were confirmed as Asian hornets. After mounting a track and trace operation in the area, the nest was found in a poplar tree and was destroyed on Monday 11th October. It measured approximately 35cm in diameter, the largest nest found to date in England.

Monitoring continued in the area supported by local Asian Hornet Teams (AHTs). This involved residual trapping and surveillance and was carried out daily for three weeks following the destruction of the nest. When nothing was seen or caught for seven days the traps were removed and the local AHTs and beekeepers were asked to remain vigilant.

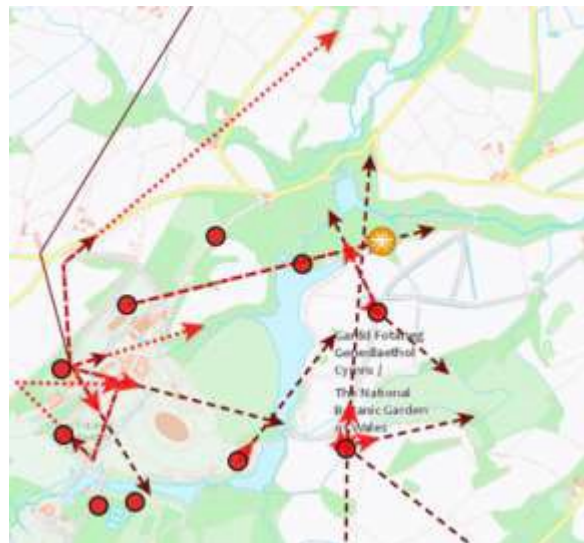
This success was followed three weeks later by another report of Asian Hornets feeding on nectar on garden plants in the Buckland area of Portsmouth. The report via the Asian Hornet Watch App on the morning of Friday 29th October was accompanied by clear photographs.

NBU inspectors followed up the sighting quickly, being on site by 2pm that afternoon. An Asian hornet nest was then located in a Norway Maple tree on Saturday 30th October shortly after midday and it was destroyed early Sunday evening 31st October. The nest was subsequently sent to FERA Science Ltd for analysis and monitoring continued in the area supported by local beekeepers.

An NBU tracking App has been developed for the inspectorate which has been used successfully during the 2021 outbreaks. The App can track hornet flight lines and record positions of bait stations and traps. It has been proved to be an asset when dealing with incidents.



*Asian hornet nest found
app October 30th in Portsmouth*



Track and trace mapping

If you have a smartphone, please make sure you download the free Asian Hornet Watch iPhone or Android App and familiarise yourself with what the hornets and similar insects look like. It is a bit late for this season but in the future keep a look out on late summer flowering plants such as ivy where the hornets (and other insects) forage on the flowers. Report suspected sightings using the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app, or by filling out an online report form, or by emailing alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk or contact the NBU.

Varroa

Varroa continues to be a challenge, it is responsible for many colony losses each year, however its incidence varies across the country and depends very much on its management. Out in the field inspectors have found that the general level of knowledge amongst beginners about how to manage varroa was poor, not helped by the lack of BKA training due to the pandemic. We felt that many knew of treatments, but not much detail about them, which is something we hope to cover in our bee health events next year.

It is strongly advised that beekeepers regularly monitor mite levels as part of the management of their colonies and act if they reach damaging levels. Control can be achieved by using biotechnical methods and/or authorised products as directed by the manufacturer.

The manufacturers of the authorised treatments spend a great deal of time formulating how they should be used to ensure the maximum efficacy. Please ensure that when using treatments that the manufacturer's instructions are strictly followed to achieve the greatest benefit from the product. It is also worth noting that some treatments, such as those that are thymol or formic acid based are affected by temperature. Strips such as those containing Amitraz need to be placed correctly in the brood chamber in line with instructions, for maximum effect. There is a new authorised varroa product - Formicpro 68.2g Beehive Strips for Honeybees which is listed on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate website [Product Information Database - Search \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/Product-Information-Database-Search)

Most beekeepers will complete two treatments at specific times in the year. The first after taking the honey off and checking for stores, often a thymol-based treatment starting in August, which promotes healthy winter bees. Secondly a winter treatment with an oxalic acid-based product in December, when there is little or no brood, keeping mite numbers low as new brood is normally starts being produced in the spring. Both of these active ingredients don't induce resistance in mites through regular use, unlike some harder chemicals.

The rule of thumb is to have colonies going into winter with low mite numbers and likewise going into the spring. Treatments performed too late in the season, e.g., late September, will often be less effective, resulting in winter bees being weakened by the varroa mites feeding on them. As inspectors we often see colony mortality in the winter or early spring as a result of poor varroa management.

There is a legal requirement that the use of any medicines is recorded, and these records must be kept for a minimum of five years.

Full details can be found on Beebase along with free fact sheets including the 'Managing Varroa' booklet. [Beebase - Beekeeping information resource for Beekeepers \(nationalbeeunit.com\)](https://nationalbeeunit.com)

Imports and Exports

The UK is now considered a Third Country by the EU and similarly all EU member states are now considered a Third Country by the UK, so Third Country rules apply for both imports and exports.

IMPORT of Honey Bees

Honey bees imported from a third country must be accompanied by an appropriate export health certificate (EHC) from the Third country. This must be issued by the Third Country's Competent Authority or their Official Certifier. Currently only the import of Queens (in cages with attendant workers) is permitted under Third Country rules, except from New Zealand where the import of packages of bees is also permitted.

Importers wishing to import bees from a listed third country must comply with the import requirements. Importers must notify all imports in advance via the IPAFFS system (Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System). Imports from countries other than EU member states must enter via a Border Control Point (BCP). Until March 2022 imports from EU member states will be checked at destination by a Bee Inspector on a risk basis.

The Northern Ireland Protocol sets the principle of unfettered access for Northern Ireland businesses to Great Britain. NI beekeepers may continue to export packages and colonies to the UK. There will be no border checks on consignments despatched from Northern Ireland.

EXPORT of Honey Bees

Honey bees exported to a third country must be accompanied by an appropriate health certificate. This is issued by the NBU once the bees to be exported have been inspected and confirmed free from serious notifiable pests and diseases. Currently only the export of Queens (in cages with attendant workers) is permitted under Third Country rules to EU and Northern Ireland.

As Northern Ireland is treated as though it still resides within the EU, movements of bees to Northern Ireland must now be accompanied by a health certificate and the full Third Country export procedure must be followed.

In the same way, only queens may be exported to Northern Ireland. The export of colonies and packages to Northern Ireland are no longer permitted.

To keep up to date with the latest guidance on importing and exporting live honey bees please visit the following link

[Beebase - Beekeeping information resource for Beekeepers \(nationalbeeunit.com\)](http://nationalbeeunit.com)

Finally

I would like to thank the North West Region SBIs, Julia Hoggard, Caroline Coughlin and Phil Khorassandjian for their hard work and commitment throughout the season. I would also like to thank everyone who has welcomed us into their apiaries, and those who supported the sentinel apiary schemes during 2021.

I wish you all a happy and productive 2022 season.

Mark McLoughlin
Regional Bee
Inspector, North
West England
National Bee Unit

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

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Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: aphagov National Bee
Unit Website (BeeBase): www.nationalbeeunit.com Address: National Bee Unit, Sand
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APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Branch reports

Branch reports supplied from all branches are included below.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Blackpool and Fylde | http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/ |
| East Lancashire | http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/ |
| Lancaster | http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/ |
| Liverpool and District | http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/ |
| Oldham & District | http://www.odbka.org |
| Ormskirk and Croston | https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/ |
| Preston and District | http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/ |
| Southport and District | http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/ |

Blackpool & Fylde Branch.

Tuesday November 16th, 2021. 7:30pm

A.G.M. minutes.

Attendees. C. Hibbert, P. Jamison, H. Hong, P. Goldstone, P. Leeks, D. Richardson, M. Goldstone, P. Clarke, S. Riley-Clarke, D. Coleman, C. Webb, J. Blanthorn-Hazell, E. Hassall, M. Gardener, J. Preece, J. Rimmer, D. Newton, M. Wills, K. Lay, H. Littler, W. Aucott, S. Schorn, M. Quinney, P. Leadbetter, L. Cryer, J. Cryer, C. Crabtree, Darren Unwin.

Last year's minutes on zoom (2020) - were considered a fair representation of the meeting. No amendments were requested.

Apologies:

Alison Sykes, Peter Mason, Kevin Mawdsley, Mark O'Donnell, Win Sweeney, Keith Hemming.

Presidents Report.

Welcome to the AGM, what a great group you are to turn out tonight. Last year we had the AGM on zoom.

We have to accept that Charlie and Pam are now settling "down under" and are a great loss to the club. Both Charlie and Pam dedicated a lot of time and energy to keep the club successful. We send our best wishes and hope they keep happy and healthy in Australia.

Our thanks to Paul Leeks who has ably stood in as vice chairman and kept us together by the meetings on zoom.

Paulette our secretary of 10 years has kept us well informed and booked interesting speakers for our meetings

Thank you also to Janet our treasurer for her hard work.

Congratulations To Janet Preece who has been successful in her exams and passes on her knowledge as education officer to our new beekeepers.

It was great to see show entries from Blackpool & Fylde at the Lancashire honey show and some members did well. Keep showing, it is our chance to showcase our products.

We had a good out apiary and BBQ at Michael Gardeners. May we all carry on enjoying our beekeeping and help each other out when needed. The more you are involved, the more you learn.

I am to step down as President at the next AGM. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be your president, so it is to give someone else a chance to be involved.

Doris Richardson.

Chairman's Report. (Read out by Paul Leeks)

Dear members of Blackpool and Fylde Beekeeping Association, it has been enthralling to watch what has been happening to Blackpool and Fylde beekeepers' association during the past year. Covid has kept Pam and I locked in here since March 2020 and although there are many advantages to being here, our 4 grandchildren and the lovely weather, we have missed our bees and our involvement with yourselves. Covid has messed up our plans, as it has also put restrictions and difficulties with your meetings. What has been so impressive watching from here is how well you have all coped and adapted to the numerous restrictions and managed to achieve some wonderful Zoom meetings and have kept the membership informed and interested.

I must thank all the committee for their commitment to the club and especially thank Paul and Will for not only looking after our bees while we have been exiled to then sell the bees and equipment when the decision was taken to remain in Australia. It is with very great regret that I must now resign as Chairman but also as a member of Blackpool Beekeepers. Paul has been doing a wonderful job standing in for me during my enforced absence and I know he will transition seamlessly into the role of Chairman and that the members will continue to support what is a very happy and thriving association. Blackpool and Fylde beekeepers are very lucky to have a great President in Doris and a wonderful committee of very experienced beekeepers. During the years of being your chairman I am indebted to the support we all received from Paulette, Janet P. our treasurer Janet S. and Kath plus many others.

It has been a very emotional decision to leave Lytham. Our involvement with the Hall and the development of the Club Apiary gave us enormous pleasure and the Monday evening teaching sessions introduced us to some wonderful future beekeepers. Pam and I found that the more we learnt, and the knowledge gained from taking modules and teaching at the club Apiary resulted in us becoming better beekeepers. We know the apiary will be in good hands for the future with the wonderful input from the other members, The club is lucky to have so many skilled members.

We are intending to get Native Australian bees; they don't sting just bite. Unfortunately, you only get 1kg of honey a year from them if you are lucky It sells for a huge amount of money \$25 (£13) for 50gr. However, we are fortunate to have beekeeping friends who we can get local honey from. It's not though, as good as Fylde spring blossom honey!

We have sold our house in Lytham and our belongings are in the process of being shipped out here. We have bought a lovely house out here overlooking a creek and parkland. The only downside is the occasional snake visitor!

As soon as Australia opens its borders to international tourists, then we plan to return to the UK for a holiday and catch up with all of you and family and friends. So hopefully we will be along to one of the out apiary meetings. If anyone fancies a trip to Brisbane, please come and stay with us, it's always fun talking bees. Wishing you all the best.

Charlie Greenhill

Treasure's Report.

I'm sure it will come as no surprise that this year has seen a slight reduction in income. We have not been able to carry out the same fund-raising activities with meetings, venues and shows being cancelled.

The out Apiary, however, has been maintained with resources purchased as and when needed and general bee care has been carried out.

I am very grateful for the help and support that I have received from fellow members this year.

Janet Rimmer.

Secretary's Report.

Good evening, and welcome to all new members and to all our regular members.

This year has been difficult for the club with the lockdown. Many thanks to Paul Leeks for keeping us all in contact with his Zoom meetings.

The out apiary at Lytham Hall has been well attended and thanks also to the members, Keith Hemming, Paul Leeks, Win Sweeny, Janet Preese, and Derek Newton, who came down nearly every Monday evening, to go through the hives with some of our newer beekeepers.

(Apologies if I have left anyone out)

The out apiary at Doris Richardson's was cancelled due to bad weather but those of us who did go retreated to the conservatory for tea and cakes. Doris is to have a speaker next year so if the weather is bad the speaker can give us a talk in the barn and if it is good, the speaker can take the inexperienced through the hives and teach them how to spot and mark a queen.

The barbeque and out apiary at Michael Gardeners had good weather and we all enjoyed some lovely food. Michael is having his out apiary earlier next year so we can all enjoy his wildflower meadow.

The bee awareness day, which could not be held for two years due to the lockdown, is to be reinstated and held on the first of June, bank holiday Wednesday next year at the Hall. We run a tombola at this event, if you have anything to donate for this stall it will be gratefully appreciated. Helpers needed on the day, good ideas wanted, a face painter perhaps. Can anyone do a good bee face? (Margaret Steel has offered to do the face painting)

Paulette Goldstone.

Quarter Masters Report.

Paulette and Win did a tidy up and stock take of the bee store. The bee suits have been washed and a new trunk purchased to keep them in for the winter and safe from mice.

We will be looking for volunteers from LH Monday night club to keep the store room tidy and the stock up to date. (Paul Leeks for Pam Greenhill)

Education Officer's Report.

Module 7 in February.

Zoom, had 6 attending over 8 weeks looking at bee genetics and queen rearing. My self and another beekeeper from Liverpool took the module exam in April which was online. I had a few technical issues when using the exam software but eventually did the exam and gained a credit.

This is the first-time online exams have taken place. BBKA are offering both on line and in person ones, at the moment.

Running courses on zoom was good as members from further afield could attend without travelling.

Introduction to beekeeping May and June.

There were 2 Sunday mornings on Zoom and then meetings at the apiary on Monday evenings and 1 Sunday afternoon. This always brings some new faces into the club.

Basic assessment.

Again, run over Zoom for four weeks May/June and Monday apiary meetings. Jan Hazell gained a credit this year in her Basic Assessment - well done.

Courses next year.

Courses next year may be a mixture of online theory and practical elements on a Monday evening as the room normally used at Lytham Hall is quite small. The dates for these will be sent out when confirmed.

Courses in Lancashire will be advertised on the **Lancashire Beekeepers** website - members should check this if interested in doing any of these. You do not need to sit the exam/assessment, you can simply join to improve your knowledge.

Janet Preece.

Central Council Report.

Due to Covid, the Lancashire & Northwest Beekeepers Association (LNWBKA) annual convention was unable to go ahead in March, so we combined it with the honey show and hosted it at the Archbishop Temple school in Preston. Thanks to Blackpool & Fylde Beekeepers Association for volunteering to steward the day. The feedback we received was that it was really a good event.

The LNWBKA 2022 convention is already being planned with the intention of hosting it in March 2022.

Earlier this year an email from the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) caused some consternation when it was highlighted that although registered members running an out-apiary course were covered by insurance, any members of the public weren't. The BBKA are currently in discussion with their insurers to improve this position.

One of our longest serving council members sadly died this year. Edward Hill was a true old school gentleman and will be sorely missed.

Our webmaster, Mark Oakley, is currently seriously ill with covid but fingers crossed, he appears to be on the long road to recovery.

BBKA recently raised, or intends to, the exam fees. LNWBKA feels that since education is a core BBKA the exam fee should at least be

frozen if not reduced. To that end we have submitted a proposition saying as much to the Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) where it will hopefully be considered / debated by all other associations and adopted by the BBKA.

Michael Gardener. (for Eric Hassall)

Election of Officers.

Outgoing officers. Paulette Goldstone secretary, Janet Rimmer treasure, Paul Leeks vice chairman Charlie Greenhill chairman.

Elected Officers. (Proposed and seconded)

President. Doris Richardson. dorisbees@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman. Paul Leeks. Paulleeks909@gmail.com

Vice chair. Will Aucott. waucott@yahoo.com

Treasurer Karen Lay. Karenlay9gmail.co.uk

Secretary. Janet Rimmer. Janet.rimmer@yahoo.com

Education. Janet Preece. jlprece@yahoo.co.uk

Librarian. Janet Preece.

Quarter Master. Out apiary will manage this.

Central Council Rep. Eric Hassall. eric_hassall@btinternet

Asst. Rep. to be appointed.

Webmaster Peter Mason. peter@blackpoolbees.co.uk

Any other Business.

Janet Preece is to circulate a list of library books. Old books to be sold off. Recent relevant study books to retained.

Paul Leeks will draft a letter of thanks to Charlie and Pam for their fantastic service to the cub over the years. To be sent with a gift from this club. Doris gave Paulette a gift for her services to the club as secretary.

Doris will be stepping down as President next year.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm with an attendance of twenty-eight people.

East Lancashire branch

ELBKA Chair report 2021

Welcome

As Chair of the committee I would like to welcome all members to the annual AGM.

I would especially extend this to and new and recent members that have never experienced a face to face club meeting yet. I would encourage you to try to get involved and reach out to other members of the club. Between us we have a vast experience of beekeeping within our area that has been passed down over many years. It is a valuable resource that you should make the most of.

2021 sees us hold the AGM via zoom once again as we are far from clear of COVID.

Membership

As will be reported by our membership secretary Juli, the numbers of members remains similar to previous years. Despite an increase in our capitation fee to the BBKA, our membership subs will remain discounted, Juli will provide the details in her report. I would like to thank everyone that was able to do the online payment early, and hope everyone will do it at renewal. This simplifies the somewhat difficult task of membership management. Once again the club is indebted to Julie for managing membership during what has been a difficult year.

Finance

Club finances remain very healthy. Hilary Wilson, our treasurer talk us through the audited finances. She took on the role this year, and has done a great job, keeping control of it.

Committee

As a committee we have a zoom call roughly every month to keep the club ticking over, Viv Tolley as Club secretary keeps us in order during these meetings.

Education

The education report does show that a limited number of courses and workshops were held during 2021, despite the various restrictions, and these have been well received. Nicky Leeth hosted BBKA module 6 self study group for the spring exam, and we ran a series of queen rearing workshops. Jeff and Barrie have recently run some introductory courses for our "newBees", and some more are planned for the new year.

We took some of our training materials and demonstration hives into Stonyhurst, West Bradford and Broadway Primary schools. These have been very well received, thanks to the members that devoted time to help.

We have operated without an Education Secretary in 2021 as the previous secretary stood down due to personal commitments. This has caused a couple of issues that have been managed, however as one of the prime objectives of the Club is education, we simply have to have someone to take a lead and coordinate our training going forward.

Club Apiary

The number of hives at the Club Apiary club hives was kept to 4, for ease of management during the various lockdown restrictions. As reported in last years minutes the decking at Offshoots was hazardous, so has been removed. It is somewhat disappointing that this work is only partially completed as we move into the winter, however I am confident that come the start of next year we will see the bees return to Towneley with a first rate teaching capability that will meet our members needs. As a committee we are engaged with the new members of the Offshoots management and have a great working relationship that we will continue to build on in 2022.

Club Meetings

In addition to our own panel of expert type meetings we have had some great guest speakers for our club zoom meeting this year.

In February Brigid Strawbridge-Howard gave us an insight into Bumblebees and other solitary bees. One lasting piece of information I gleaned was that male bumble bees have facial hair and moustaches.

Dave Bonner from Warwickshire gave us his view on Queen rearing in April, and this was followed by a number of grafting workshops lead by Dave Rayner. The weather was not too kind to us during this time, so we struggled to get the virgin queens mated, however we were successful in the end.

We had a talk from Andrew Dunham from Cambridgeshire in June on his study of how French Beekeepers are managing Asian Hornet. This will undoubtedly become a problem once travel to continental Europe returns to pre covid levels, and Asian Hornets are inadvertently brought back in camping equipment etc.

Coordinating the club meetings, organising the speakers and Zoom admin has fallen onto Barrie Scott, in addition to the work he does on the club Buzz website, club emails and the "who wants bees" swarm register. Much of what Barrie does for the club is behind the scenes and probably not apparent to anyone other than the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to once again, thank him, for what at times feels like thankless tasks, the club would be a lot worse off without his considerable efforts.

Hive openings

As we were without access to the Club Apiary a number of the senior beekeepers hosted apiary sessions for a small number of members towards the end of the season. These were much appreciated at the time, however the weather, again, could have been a lot kinder, meaning that some of the planned sessions were curtailed.

Honey Show

The Honey show this year was a physical event held in Burnley, organised by Emma. Understandably the number of entries was lower than previous years, however it was good to be back. I would encourage members to enter next year, it is quite fun to feel the tension across the room as the Judge considers each entry carefully before declaring the best in class. There is a lot of pride to be had on winning a class.

County and BBKA

Further afield the Lancashire County honey show was held this year in Preston, with a number of our members entering classes.

One of the highlights of the beekeeping year for me is the BBKA Spring Convention. This year it was virtual, and set to return to its home at the Harper Adams University in Warwickshire in April 2022

Whilst we mention the wider BBKA, we have representation to the BBKA through the county committee which meets roughly every couple of

months. Should you feel that there is something that the wider BBKA should be considering then please let one of the committee know.

Notifiable diseases in our area

The Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) Bee Inspectors formal report for 2021 has yet to be issued, but once again it looks like we have had no reporting of EFB or AFB in our area, for which we should be thankful. This does not mean however that we are free of these serious diseases and vigilance is required. We as a club should ensure all our members are aware of the signs of the diseases, and encourage potential non members to be aware. As a minimum I would hope that all our members are registered on the National Bee Units "BeeBase" database of beekeepers and hives.

During 2021 there was a heated debate amongst the wider Beekeeping community as one source of mated Queens revealed they intended to import European mated Queens through Northern Ireland to bypass importation rules. It may well come as a surprise to many that the queens purchased from UK suppliers on the internet do not always originate in the UK.

During 2022 one of our objectives is to ensure we are self sufficient producing sufficient new queens for our members. If we are to maintain our low levels of disease we simply must try to stop members obtaining bees from adjoining counties, or abroad where the potential for Small Hive Beetle and Tropilallaps beetle has not gone away.

The maxim remains, locally raised queens are better.

Honey harvest

Most years in this report I mention some unusual weather event, too hot, too cold at different times of the year impacting the honey crop. I have now got to the stage of thinking that these variations are now the norm. Some members reported their first Spring harvest this year. Overall honey yields have been in line with previous years, but perhaps not at the same time. Himalayan balsam was late to produce nectar this year, and some members reported a lot of heather honey in supers for the first time, causing some consternation when extracting, due to the nature of the honey.

I would now pass on to the committee leads for their reports...

Closing words

To close I would reflect on what has been reported here to say we have had a good year in 2021 against the background of the continuation of the pandemic.

I would like to once again thank all the committee and members for their support and efforts in 2021

Finally we need to move forwards in 2022. We can only do this if we have members that support the club, and we need your specific help.

- We need members to attend club meetings.
- As the season starts we will need hands on help to complete the works at the Apiary
- We need input to guide the direction of the club

As always this is a specific request for you to devote some of your time to the club, to be active and not passive. We are always looking to share the workload. If you have specific skills and knowledge that will help, please make yourself known to us

ELBKA Committee members 2021-2022

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Chair | Dave Heaton |
| Vice Chair | Janet Murray |
| Treasurer | Hilary Wilson |
| Secretary | Gwen Walton |
| Membership Secretary | Juli Scott |
| Education Manager | Nicky Leeth |
| Website/Comms manager | Barrie Scott |
| Honey Show Coordinator | Emma Woodhouse |
| Committee Member | Jeff Ellis |
| Committee Member | Viv Tolley |

Lancaster Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 13th November 2021

Agenda

- | Item | Topic |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence |
| 2 | Election of Management Committee |
| | • Chairman |
| | • Secretary |
| | • Treasurer |
| | • Vice Chairman |
| | • Education Coordinator |
| | • Programme Coordinator |
| | • Apiary Maintenance Coordinator |
| | • Examination Coordinator |
| | • Swarm Coordinator |
| | • Asian Hornet Coordinator |
| | • Marketing Coordinator |
| | • Health and Safety Lead |
| 3 | Officers Reports |
| | • Chair - Annual Report |
| | • Treasurer's Report |
| | • 2021/2022 Subs |
| | • Bid for funding |
| | • Education Report |
| | • Certificates |
| 4 | Commitment to 2022 Events |
| | • Bee Health day - July 22 |
| 5 | Honey Tasting |

Attendees

Jenny Gilpin

Emma Wright Crooks

Richard Wilson

Linda Wilson

Mark Stott

Sue Counsell

Edell Armes

Sue Capstick

Roger Jump

Helen Jump

Jane Rees

Stephen Rose

Thomas Cross

Chris Humphreys

Neil Buck

Nicola Hacking

Ian Morley and Michaela

James Anderton

Apologies

Kevin Gilpin

Geoffrey Higginson

Tracy Hornby

John Barber

Natalia and Roger Walton

Richard and Nia Sewell

Julie Harwood

Christine Bell

Philip Lee

John Cross

Jessie and Stuart Brakewell

Pat Humphreys

David Wareing

Vincent Smalley

Peter McClintock

Item 1

Item 2 – Election of Management Committee

Roger opened the meeting, welcoming attendees and pointing out housekeeping for the venue.

Jenny welcomed the attendees and explained the format of the evening for those new to attending the AGM. Roles were explained and opportunity for questions offered. Richard explained that he no longer collects swarms but does keep a list of volunteers who meet the BBKA criteria (Passed basic assessment or beekeeping for 5 years). If anyone would like to help with swarm collections to please get in touch.

| Role | Elected | Nominator/Seconder |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chairman | Nicola Hacking | Roger/Everyone! |
| Secretary | Emma Wright Crooks | Linda/Mark |
| Treasurer | Sue Counsell | Roger/Sue |
| Vice Chairman | Roger Jump | Emma/Sue |
| Education Coordinator | Mark Stott | Emma/Linda |
| Programme Coordinator | Edell Armes | Linda/Mark |
| Apiary Maintenance Coordinator | Mark Stott | Sue/Jane |
| Examination Coordinator | Mark Stott and Emma Wright Crooks | Jane/Chris |
| Swarm Coordinator | Richard Wilson | Edell/Thomas |
| Asian Hornet Coordinator | David Wareing | Emma/Linda |
| Marketing Coordinator | James Anderton | Sue/Emma |
| Health and Safety Lead | Tracy Hornby | Emma/Linda |

New members of the committee were asked if they would like to introduce themselves.

Nicola has recently completed the beginners training and currently has 3 hives and is also overwintering one the clubs. Nicola works as a lawyer part time having recently returned from working abroad.

James is a new beekeeper has 4 hives and Vincent has been mentoring him. James works in social media and also runs several Facebook pages.

Item 3 – Reports

Chairman's – Annual Report

2021 has been a successful beekeeping year with the club managing to run a full programme of educational and social events due to the mixture of COVID managed 'in person' events as well as lots of on line opportunities. Although the weather sadly prevented us from running the Bee Safari we received a couple of interesting talks from Buckfast Abbey by zoom which were talks we would have had to pay significantly for in the past; but we are finding external speakers much more accessible due to virtual sessions. Also our members seem to enjoy being able to join in the comfort of their own homes. Linda and Richard delivered two improvers events on Bailey comb change and extracting honey and Linda also shared her wisdom around competing at regional honey shows. We would like to encourage more members to submit items at next year's LNWBKA Honey Show in Preston and if there is enough interest, there is no reason why we can't do more of a local honey show as we do have lots of beautiful trophies that we haven't used for years!

Whilst most public events were postponed due to the pandemic we did manage to fit in a late summer information stand including children's activities at The Judges Lodgings in Lancaster, which I think we have been invited back for next year. We didn't run a public open day at our club apiary this year, but as we had lots of people pre booked on our training, this didn't inhibit our new intake of beginner beekeepers as we managed to run a full set of virtual theory training and then practical training at the apiary as scheduled. Mark will talk more about this shortly.

Unfortunately, the National Bee Unit cancelled the Bee Health Day this year but we have been rebooked for Saturday 23rd July 2022. This will be a heavily attended event from across the region or even further afield and for those who have never been to one, I highly recommend attending. We will also need a small army of ushers and organisers to manage the day, so please put the date in your diary.

We did manage to undertake some significant apiary maintenance this autumn with an army of workers to help Vincent improve the drainage. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and muscles to the undertaking and especially Vincent who spent two days on it. I think he just wanted an excuse to drive a digger really! ☐ We hope the French drains will reduce cars getting stuck in particular and as the last drain lasted 10 years hopefully we won't need to do it again for a while!

At the end of our bee club year we have 91 active members which is 19 more than last year and is split as follows:

63 Registered BBKA

13 Partner

3 Country

1 Honorary BBKA

3 Honorary LBK

11 Local (LBK only)

Included above are 3 honorary Lancaster Members; Richard and Linda and now Martin Tovey who we invited to receive honorary life membership this year.

The committee has almost completed a programme for next year and this will be shared soon with a similar variety of events.

I wish to thank our growing committee for each taking their continued time from their private lives to help the club sustain and manage itself as a friendly, hobbyist beekeeping club with an excellent reputation. I am very proud that we managed to keep the positive vibe, ensure excellent training standards and grow the membership over my 5 years as Chairman and I now look forward to sitting more on the periphery whilst the club further flourishes. And finally I wish the best of luck to our newest committee members going forward and hope you enjoy being involved as much as I have.

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

The accounts are set out in the format required by Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association using their categories for income and expenses.

The accounts presented are currently in Draft and have not yet been independently verified. Final accounts will be circulated with the AGM minutes.

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The club's total income in 2019/20 was £2,745, down from £4,799.76. This year has seen it increase over the 2019 figures to £6,540, with training courses bringing in £2,550 as the training team has managed to deliver a comprehensive program of theory and practical training this year.

Income from membership subscriptions is up for the third year in succession from £1,860 in 2019 to £1,943 in 2020 and £2,418 this year which again is a reflection of growing member numbers, as subs were again held at their previous level. It should be remembered that we retain only £10 of each member's subscriptions, the remainder being passed on to BBKA and Lancashire.

Additional income of £467 came to us by way of Gift Aid reclaimed by LNWBKA for the years 2018-2019 and passed on to us. Further amounts are due for 2020 and 2021 in due course which is likely to be in the order of £800.

Finally, we also sold some surplus kit to some of our new beekeepers raising a further £250.

Expenditure

The costs allocated to the apiary make up the greatest proportion of our expenses. As well as ongoing regular expenses such as apiary rent, ongoing maintenance and beekeeping costs, there were some investments made with two new Abelo 14 x 12 hives bought at a cost £809, some new chairs and the cost of improving the drainage at the site which amounted to £700.

We had no room hire costs and speaker fees again reflected the fact that speakers we did engage were via Zoom.

Following the presentation by Jacqui Cottam of Heron Hill Primary School at last year's AGM we were delighted to be able to make a meaningful donation of £500 to them.

Bank Balance

We opened the 2020/21 with a bank balance of £12,132 and petty cash of £63, total funds of £12,195.

We closed the year with a bank balance of £13,431 and petty cash of £49, total funds of £13,480.

2020/21 Subscriptions

Based on these accounts and the plans for 2021/22, the committee propose no change to the Lancaster Beekeepers' element of our subscriptions which would remain at £10 for the year.

There will however be an increase for the classes of membership including membership of the BBKA as BBKA has increased their fee marginally.

Assuming that members are in favour of retaining our £10 fee, the overall subs from 1st November 2021 will be

| Category of membership | Previous Fee | Fee from 1st November |
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| School | £33.00 | £35.00 |
| Local (LBK only) | £10.00 | £10.00 |

We will be issuing the invitations to renew via the online renewal system some time later in November.

Reserves

Our reserves policy is to hold three years' ongoing expenses as reserves together with any costs associated with leaving the apiary should we need to and a provision for any potential larger items of expenditure such as this year's investment in kit and the drainage.

Ongoing costs (excluding BBKA subscriptions that we pass on) are approximately £2,000. Three years would therefore be £6,000. The committee has quantified the costs associated with vacating the apiary to be in the order of £250 to remove the container. This would represent our general reserves. In addition to this we are currently renewing our display material.

The above totals approximately £7,000.

Last year, we made a donation to The Bee Team at Heron Hill, as mentioned, and the committee invited suggestions as to how to be utilise our excess funds in line with our objectives, which are:

4 Objectives

4.1 The objectives of the Branch shall be:

4.1.1 to encourage and promote the craft of beekeeping in Lancaster and the surrounding

district;

4.1.2 to support the role of bees in the environment.

4.2 In accordance with LNWBA Rules, the Branch commits to conducting meetings, lectures

and demonstrations within the Lancaster district.

One suggestion that has been put forward is that we provide financial assistance to a project to bring bees and beekeeping to the pupils of a local primary school in Bolton-le -Sands. This is to be discussed further at the AGM.

Members suggestions would be welcomed at any time.

2021/22 Subscriptions

Vote: Should the clubs portion of membership they remain at £10?

Result: All agreed that subs should remain the same.

Bid for Funding

Jane Rees is a club member and works as a teacher at Bolton Le Sands Primary School. She and her colleague Caroline who is also a club member have set up a Bee Club with pupils. They have been busy collecting donated equipment and with Chris Humphry's help have set up an apiary in the school grounds.

Jane presented her bid sharing a lot of information about the school before going on to ask for the club's financial help with the purchasing of equipment so that the pupils can have hands on experience next spring with bees. The presentation is attached for you to have a look at.

Vote: Should the club provide the financial support to the school to help set up their bee club?

Result: All present voted for supporting the school, based on the presentation's scheduled list of items needed.

A few points were raised-

The bee club/ school noted that they anticipated financing ongoing/future costs post set up from other fund raising efforts.

Would the money would be ring-fenced to the school bee club and not used by the wider school? It was confirmed that the money would be ring-fenced for club use.

James thought that it might be a good idea to contact Paul at the Honeycomb Company and ask if they would be able to purchase any of the

equipment with their contacts at a better price and build a mutually beneficial relationship with the school.

Action: Sue to contact Paul and see whether they can help.

Thomas offered to help with equipment at cost price with the items they can source through a work contact

Neil recommended contacting Thornes as they may offer a discount with a bulk order for schools.

James proposed that the club ask its members to see if they have any surplus equipment that they would like to donate to the school.

Action: Emma to email club members inviting them to donate if they wish to, with no expectation.

Education Report

Beginners' Training

There were 21 people registered onto the both the theory and practical courses this year. Due to COVID restrictions the theory sessions were held over Zoom, which according to the feedback we received was popular with the attendees for convenience reasons but they missed meeting their fellow participants until the end of the course.

The practical's were initially well attended but numbers did dwindle towards the end mostly due to other commitments.

I'd like to thank those in the club who gave presentations and gave up their Saturday afternoons to help with practical training. A special thank you to Emma, who did the vast majority of organising the course, reminding attendees and running the zoom meetings.

Looking forward to next year and taking on the feedback we received from this year's attendees we aim to do the following.

- Start the course earlier in early February with a face to face meeting.
- This will be followed by fortnightly zoom meetings.
- In late March, a face to face demonstration evening and a visit to the apiary in late May.
- I need to have a think about the practical sessions which lack structure and this needs addressing.

Apiary Report

The Bees

After a slow start, the apiary was populated from donations from club members with a mixture of full colonies and nucs. The top bar and DZ hive colonies survived over winter in the apiary.

The colonies were well used in by the beginners and for the basic assessments.

We even had honey this year!

The top bar colony remains on site this winter. The DZ after splitting and subsequently swarming, resulted in two drone laying queens. I took the decision to let them die out. I took weaker six colonies to my apiary and united them down to three overwintering colonies. Three remaining colonies are being cared for over winter by Linda, Chris, Emma and Nicola in their own apiaries.

We sold five club wooden national hives and purchased four poly Abelo 14x12. Three colonies will be overwintering in these new hives.

The grounds

Thanks to everyone who took part in the apiary tidying days. Special thanks to Vincent for his digger work. The drainage along the track has been improved so hopefully now vehicles are less likely to get stuck.

I plan to have a session in February to lay the hedge between the two apiary areas. The date TBC.

In addition, we're investigating the possibility of having a hive in a cage near the container. This is so that members of the public can observe a hive inspection without putting on a bee suit.

A discussion was held about the possibility for the club apiary moving if a more suitable site was found. Currently it is felt that the apiary serves its purpose for its main use, the beginners training course. Setting up a new site would cost a lot of money and the funding streams we used previously are not now available. The main pressure at the club apiary is lack of bee forage which was effectively managed by moving club colonies off site from September to May during 20/21. Therefore the club remains open to the idea but not actively looking.

Action: Mark to send Emma an updated Beginners Course Information Pack so it can be sent out to those that have expressed an interest in the 2022 course.

Examination Update

Certificates were presented to those that recently took exams. Congratulations on your achievement.

Mark Stott - Bee Health

Dawn Boswell-Challand – Bee Health
Chris Humphreys – Basic Assessment
Jane Rees – Basic Assessment
Jackie Eaton – Basic Assessment
Emma Wright Crooks – Basic Assessment

Items 4 – Commitment to 2022 Events

The Bee Health Day (23rd July) booked into the programme for next year. We will need volunteers to help the day run smoothly. Jenny explained what a great day the previous ones she had been to have been and that you acquire a lot of knowledge during them.

The event is widely advertised and open to any beekeepers with more than one year's experience. Please see our club webpage on this.

Item 5 – Honey Tasting

This year's winner was the Club Apiary's honey!

The club hives produced 30lbs of honey which was for sale during the AGM.

Final Note

The committee presented on behalf of the club some flowers and chocolates to say a big thank you to Jenny for being Chair for the last 6 years.

Jenny you will be missed but we wish you well in your new job and enjoy spending time with your family and new puppy.

LBK chairman's report November 2021

2021 has been a successful beekeeping year with the club managing to run a full programme of educational and social events due to the mixture of COVID managed 'in person' events as well as lots of on line opportunities. Although the weather sadly prevented us from running the Bee Safari we received a couple of interesting talks from Buckfast Abbey by zoom which were talks we would have had to pay significantly for in the past; but we are finding external speakers much more accessible due to virtual sessions. Also our members seem to enjoy being able to join in the comfort of their own homes. Linda and Richard delivered two improvers events on Bailey comb change and extracting honey and Linda also shared her wisdom around competing at regional honey shows. We would like to encourage more members to submit items at next year's LNWBKA Honey Show in Preston and if there is enough interest, there is no reason why we can't do more of a local honey show as we do have lots of beautiful trophies that we haven't used for years!

Whilst most public events were postponed due to the pandemic we did manage to fit in a late summer information stand including children's activities at The Judges Lodgings in Lancaster, which I think we have been invited back for next year. We didn't run a public open day at our club apiary this year, but as we had lots of people pre booked on our training, this didn't inhibit our new intake of beginner beekeepers as we managed to run a full set of virtual theory training and then practical training at the apiary as scheduled. Mark will talk more about this shortly.

Unfortunately the National Bee Unit cancelled the Bee Health Day this year but we have been rebooked for Saturday 23rd July 2022. This will be a heavily attended event from across the region or even further afield and for those who have never been to one, I highly recommend attending. We will also need a small army of ushers and organisers to manage the day, so please put the date in your diary.

We did manage to undertake some significant apiary maintenance this autumn with an army of workers to help Vincent improve the drainage. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and muscles to the undertaking and especially Vincent who spent two days on it. I think he just wanted an excuse to drive a digger really! ☐ We hope the French drains will reduce cars getting stuck in particular and as the last drain lasted 10 years hopefully we won't need to do it again for a while!

At the end of our bee club year we have 91 active members which is 19 more than last year and is split as follows:

63 Registered BBKA

13 Partner

3 Country

1 Honorary BBKA

11 Local (LBK only)

Included above are 3 honorary Lancaster Members; Richard and Linda and now Martin Tovey who we invited to receive honorary life membership this year.

The committee has almost completed a programme for next year and this will be shared soon with a similar variety of events.

I wish to thank our growing committee for each taking their continued time from their private lives to help the club sustain and manage itself as a friendly, hobbyist beekeeping club with an excellent reputation. I am very proud that we managed to keep the positive vibe, ensure excellent training standards and grow the membership over my 5 years as Chairman and I now look forward to sitting more on the periphery whilst the club

further flourishes. And finally I wish the best of luck to our newest committee members going forward and hope you enjoy being involved as much as I have.

Lancaster Beekeepers 2021 Treasurer's Report

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Sue Counsell

Treasurer

9th November 2021

Training and Apiary Officer's Report for 2021

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In addition, we're investigating the possibility of having a hive in a cage near the container. This is so that members of the public can observe a hive inspection without putting on a bee suit.

Mark Stott

Liverpool branch

Branch Secretary's Report

Another beekeeping year massively affected by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Zoom committee meeting and lockdown restrictions continued. Even when restrictions were eased, people were quite rightly very cautious about venturing out.

Our first branch meeting was in June with a 30 people limit - all of whom had to pre-register and adhere to strict social distancing procedures. It was great to meet again and we were treated to an interesting talk on Queen rearing by Mark Phillipson from North Cheshire branch.

The traditional branch BBQ, usually held at Woolton, was cancelled as unfortunately Dave Harrison wasn't too well. This event was replaced with a very pleasant social gathering at the Courtyard, Little Crosby. Thanks to Matt Jones for his hospitality.

August's meeting was held outside at the Woolton Apiary (August Bank Holiday). Karl Colyer went through the hives - and even did a little grafting.

September saw John McCann give a very detailed talk about how to prepare your honey and wax and related products for the show, using plenty of props to help in the Campion Tennis Club in Crosby.

The promise of a good first surplus of honey due to an early warm spring was dashed by a prolonged wet spell in May - the bees relying on their stores for food. This was followed by very mixed summer weather with plenty of swarms reported. A warm Autumn has kept the bees very active - our beekeepers report feeding more than usual. Those who took hives to heather in North Wales reported a good crop.

We unfortunately lost one of our longest serving members Evelyn Hall this year. Evelyn used to hold memorable meetings in her garden in Fulwood Park. She will be sadly missed.

Our Chairman Peter Wass, our Membership secretary Geoff Todd and our Education Secretary Cliff Porter are all stepping down and will need to be replaced at the AGM.

The Rice Lane apiary has had a major facelift thanks to some very hard work by Tony Gordon, Angela Falconer, Eric Graham and Matt Jones. Matt used his digger to clear a large area and laid the foundation for the apiary to develop even further in the next few years. Maria at the Farm has been very appreciative of the work that has gone on - and the honey she has received.

Our Beginners' Course was delayed until later than usual - and we had 9 successful newbees. Thanks to Cliff, Tracey and Geoff for managing to stage this despite being faced with the restrictions we are all having to get used to.

John Mooney, Branch Secretary, October 2021

Oldham and District Bee Keepers Association Branch of L&NWBKA Society

Chair's report

The merging of Oldham and Medlock clubs has continued successfully with a few hiccups along the way but, with a lot of good will has been successfully carried out under the guidance of Martin Smith and Mike Lavelle who we thank for their help.

Unfortunately this year our Chair Idrees Khawaja and Secretary Ian Screen had to stand down for personal reasons. Our good wishes for the future and appreciation for their past services to our club go with them.

We are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable bee keeping season this coming summer and enjoying the fruits of our and above all the bees labour in our great hobby.

Talks and Events

A very successful Christmas Jacob's table was held and enjoyed by all. Most members retired at the end of the evening with full stomachs and quite a few smiling faces.

Talks by Ian Barker on queen rearing and Honey Bee Tool Kit by John Hewitt were held and well received and found quite informative by the members. A number of other events and talks are planned for the coming year.

Examinations

Three of our members successfully passed with distinction the basic assessment.

George Tavener (Chair)

Branch Secretary's Note

As the new branch Secretary for Oldham and District, I have had a warm welcome from members and long standing supportive Committee members since picking up the reigns from Ian Screen at the start of this year. Of the current 73 active members, we have a very good proportion attending the monthly meetings. It is a significant amount of personal effort by committee members and our members to make these meetings both enjoyable and informative, and in between, we provide our members with regional and national updates as well as disseminating our monthly newsletter .

You will have noted that George Taverner has been appointed our new branch Chair and we have also appointed Bob Holland as our Vice Chair. Other additional committee appointments made in this year are Catherine Charnock who is also Education Officer, and Luke Charnock who will be leading a new forum around communication and enabling IT to support that.

We look forward to increasing our visibility and collaboration with other branches, community partners and Lancashire & NW over the coming year.

Amanda Moat (Branch Secretary)

Preston BKA

Chairpersons' Report 2021

My aim tonight is to thank everyone for their support during another difficult year.

This year we have had to adapt the way we run the club because of the continuing restrictions due to the Covid pandemic. We have had to embrace technology, particularly zoom, to continue with committee meetings, education courses and training events. We have also had to change the way we organise the inspection rota at the out apiary to make sure we have complied with the seemingly constantly changing Covid restrictions.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for the support they have given Viki and me during our year as acting Chairperson. They have always found ways to carry on the activities of the club and to support each other through the trials of the epidemic.

I would also like to thank all the members who have volunteered their time and energies to keep the club running, inspecting bees, and maintaining the out apiary. The club would not be able to run without your continuing support.

I would also thank to thank Shaun Horsfield for his generosity in offering us the use of this training room free of charge.

The officers and members of the committee will now report on the club's activities in greater detail.

Jane Hassall & Viki Cuthbertson

AGM 2021 Election of Officers and appointment of Committee Members

It is usual at this stage to hand over to the Secretary for the election of the Chairman but as neither myself or Viki are standing for election then I'll continue with the election of officers & committee

Chairperson

We have received one nomination so far

Lianne Doree proposed by JH Seconded by AM

Treasurer

Arthur Leyland p KS s

Secretary

Kath Shield p VC s

Election of the committee

The following members would like to continue:

SBirkby, C Carey, C Coughlin, V Cuthbertson, A Leyland, A Manwaring G Paul, S Shield,

K Pearson, K Cordingly

New members J Harrison, A Fowler any others

Auditor John Ward

Election of Committee members - roles

Membership Secretary - KP

Education Sec - AM

Apiary Managers - VC & JE

Shop Committee - AL, KS, GP

Honey Show Coord - CC

Programme Sec - avail

Show/events coordinator - avail

Website/zoom coordinator - avail

Date of AGM 2022

Apiary Manger's Report 2021

There was a quiet start to the year at the Joe Birkby Teaching Apiary. The Pandemic restrictions were still in place when regular inspection of the bees began, so sadly we could not have our beginners join us for the weekly sessions in the spring. Thankfully, most of the Inspectors were again willing to continue so we had a team working with the bees, on a rota basis, through to the summer, when we were finally able to reinstate the Saturday morning sessions. Jan Elkins joined me this year as Deputy Apiary Manager, she is an experienced beekeeper and is a valuable addition to the team.

Mr Good's final donation to the Club was his shed - a substantial building with a clock tower! This required a special effort by a team of volunteers to get it dismantled, transported to the Apiary and reassembled. A special thank you to all involved.

This year has seen the launch of the shop at the apiary, which has proved popular with members, I am sure it will go from strength to strength.

I will finish with my very grateful thanks to the Inspection Team for continuing to support our bees through the pandemic and beyond, and also to thank the Maintenance Crew who have erected the third shed, and are currently working on a patio, new paths and a gate and fence . You all do a fantastic job, and the Apiary would not function without you.

Viki Cuthbertson
Volunteer Apiary Manager

AGM 18th November 2021

Secretary Report

It's good to finally have everyone back face to face. We have seen a return to normality this year with the bees carrying on regardless - although under the watchful eye of Viki our apiary manager and the inspection team. The beginner's course went ahead at the start of the year on Zoom with small groups visiting the apiary complying with restrictions at the time.

There has been a lot of interest in beekeeping and plenty of membership enquiries throughout the year. It's also been a bumper year for bumblebees if the number of queries re bumblebees nesting in roofs, bird boxes etc are anything to go by.

Restrictions were finally lifted at the end of July and the apiary reopened with a good turnout on that 1st Saturday.

Shows and events have gone ahead including the Chorley Flower Show and the Garstang Show. Our own Preston Honey Show was a great success with 90 entries and Preston Branch won the Display Entry for the third time and the photo competition.

The club is going from strength-to-strength with the shop far exceeding our expectations. We now have a shop committee dedicated to continuing its growth and success in the future.

We have continued to hold committee meetings on Zoom and have run our Basic Assessment and Bee Health course and had a 100% pass rate for these exams.

Our teaching apiary now has 3 sheds with gravel and flags laid as well as a new gate and fence. Many thanks to our Thursday Crew for all their hard work.

We have 109 members as of our Autumn Return and a new venue to hold our meetings in. There are speakers booked for next year and our future looks very bright.

A big thank you goes to our committee for all their hard work this year in keeping the club and the apiary going and I hope you've all had a successful year with your bees.

Here's to a peaceful and restful festive season for us and our bees.

Kath Shield

Secretary

Education Secretary's Report 2021

Despite the continued threat of the coronavirus epidemic, beekeeping continued

and we were able to provide different educational opportunities via zoom meetings.

After the lifting of restrictions, practical activities were also undertaken.

Our beginners' course was delivered through zoom meetings and was very successful, with sessions delivered by different club members being followed by small group discussions. Thanks are due to all who helped to deliver the sessions. A total of twenty-seven people took the course. This included one junior member, people from different areas of Lancashire and, thanks to zoom, three people from Essex! As the restrictions were eased, we were able to follow the theory sessions with practicals at the Joe Birkby Teaching Apiary and thanks are due to all those who helped with this aspect of the course. Mentoring services were offered to new beekeepers and this aspect of the course is very much appreciated by those who receive assistance in the early stages of beekeeping. A big thank-you goes to those who provide verbal advice and practical assistance (you know who are)!

This year, the training for the Basic Practical Examination was undertaken by Jane Hassall and Jan Elkins with zoom sessions followed by practicals at The Joe Birkby Teaching Apiary. All the candidates passed the exam, with some earning credits or distinctions, so thanks to Jane and Jan for their hard work and commitment.

After the cancellation of written exams last year, this year the candidates were able to sit the exams in person or remotely via a computer, so the people who studied for module 5 last year with Viki Cuthbertson were able to take the exam this year. Thanks to Viki for organising the training and thanks also to Viki and Kath Kindred for providing refresher sessions for all those candidates who took and passed the Bee

Health Practical Exam this year.

Certificates for successful candidates were awarded at the Annual Convention, at which visiting speakers provided opportunities for extending beekeeping knowledge. Thanks to Viki for organising the event.

Thanks to Liane Doree for organising the club Honey Show. This is a good social occasion, providing an opportunity for all beekeepers to extend their beekeeping repertoire and for new beekeepers to take home a trophy. The co-operation and skills of different club members was evident at the

County Honey Show, with the club winning two trophies for displays of photographs and mixed beekeeping products.

Despite our 'Home' show at Myerscough College Open Day being cancelled early in the year, we managed to have a stall at several other events throughout the year. These included The Fylde Vintage and Tractor Show, Garstang Show, Goosnargh Show, Chorley Eco Market and three days at Chorley Flower Show. Many thanks to all the people who helped to organise and give up their time to attend these events as well as those members who continue to spread the word via talks to different community groups and schools.

Thanks to Viki for the online newsletters that keep people informed, provide helpful tips and have proved to be effective in harnessing the support of members for tasks at the club apiary (especially when free coffee is on offer)! As beekeepers and bees hopefully have a well-earned winter break (despite global warming sometimes confusing the bees) we look forward to another eventful year in 2022.

Alan Manwaring - PBKA Education Secretary

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association

Preston & District Branch

AGM Treasurer's Report November 2021

Despite all the problems of COVID I am happy to report that the activities of the club have continued and that the bank balances remain healthy. As a result, we have been able to keep the club portion of the membership fees to £3.00 per member.

The Bank account is held with Barclays. Online Banking makes payments and general banking easier. The dual signature to operate the account is safeguarded by the banks dual authorisation system. Two members A. Leyland (Treasurer) and V. Cuthbertson (Vice Chair) are signatories for the account and operate the online banking system. For convenience this is being increased to 4 by the addition of K. Shields (Secretary) and L. Doree (Committee Member)

Taking into account, £960 advance membership payments for 2022, the closing bank balances have increased by about £640. In addition, we have shop stock totalling £2628.

The membership closed at 168 paid up members, a slight increase on last year. This yielded about £550. During the year we have received £941 outstanding Tax Refund (Grant Aid) for the year 18/19. (The refunds for years 19/20 and 20/21 are still outstanding)

As in previous years the main source of income has come from running courses, these yielded over £1700. Thanks to all the members who give their time and expenses freely to run the courses, these courses make almost 100% profit for the club.

The shop, a new venture for the club opened in April. Its two main objectives to provide equipment to members at a reduced price whilst making a small profit for the club have exceeded all expectations. Sales have totalled almost £7500, 199 receipts/invoices have been issued and 66 members have used its services.

Payment by BACS has again worked well with most of the membership and course fees, and a majority of shop sales being paid by BACS. This eliminates the need to visit the bank and makes accounting much easier. Payments by cheque and particularly by cash are causing problems due to the closure of bank branches.

Expenditure once again has been kept to a minimum. COVID has resulted in fewer meetings and the cancellation of the Christmas Social.

Another extractor has been purchased, it is stored at the apiary and is available to members.

The Apiary expenses of £1177 include the completion of the third shed, about 40m re-aligning and refencing the perimeter, a new gate, extensive groundwork and paving. Apiary expenses also include, caring for the bees and replacing beekeeping equipment.

For the first time all the expenditure has been paid by BACS.

Many thanks to Alan Manwaring, Vikki Cuthbertson, Keith Pearson, Jayne Hassall, Sheila Birkby, Neil Buck, and the shop team Gill Paul, Jan Blanthorn Hazell and Kath Shields, who throughout the year have collected and recorded monies for the club. You have all helped to make my role as treasurer much easier.

Arthur Leyland

Treasurer Preston & District Beekeepers.

Southport Branch

Secretary's Report for the AGM, 2021.

During lockdown, communications were very limited as of course we were not allowed to meet in person. However, the committee did hold a few, fairly successful Zoom meetings, it was good to catch up.

Since we were allowed to meet up again, the branch has got busy, and I hope I manage to keep communications running smoothly? The number of emails I circulate can vary week to week, and although no longer a beekeeper, I am happy to carry on as secretary.

Chrissy Gregory.

Joint Chairman's Report Southport & District Beekeepers 2020/21

1. We are sorry to report that not a lot has happened again this year with our association owing to the Covid19 virus
2. The winter was a fairly mild one again followed by a very warm spring and then the weather took a nosedive with it being wet, windy and cold. Members had problems with queens either disappearing or not mating properly. Honey on the whole at the backend was in short supply again because of this poor weather.
3. Diane and Lorraine have been looking after the Branch Apiary this year. Thanks to them.
4. Our Introduction to beekeeping course, taster days and our main publicity event, The Southport Flower Show, all had to be cancelled due to the virus and lockdown, but our monthly meetings have resumed. Hopefully next year we will get back to some sort of normality.
5. Diane Drinkwater has taken on the job of our Education Officer and has organised some module tutoring online as well as organising monthly speakers at our venue in the Fleetwood Sports & Social Club again.
6. The supply of spilt sugar from Tesco's has now resumed with a good amount now coming in.
7. As regards the situation with our Branch Apiary site at Hesketh Park. Barry has been attending zoom meetings with Suzanne McCuminsky from Sefton Council and the volunteers from the park. The latest situation is that the council's solicitors are in dialogue with an organisation to takeover the lease of the whole of the old Oakbridge site. I asked if we would have to leave when the new leaseholders take over and Suzanne has said we will have to ask the new organisation when and if this happens but for the meantime we can still occupy our part of the site.

8. The Southport Flower Show is back on again for 2022 and because we lost our organiser, Scottie, earlier on this year, we need volunteers to help put together a committee to run the Bee & Honey tent.

9. Finally can we thank all the committee and members for their hard work in what has again been a very trying year and hopefully 2022 will be a much

better one.

Barry & John (Co-Chairs)

Treasurer's Report 2021

| Membership | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| Full | 52 | 52 |
| Partner | 3 | 3 |
| Country | 0 | 0 |
| Junior | 1 | 1 |
| Family/Social | 4 | 3 |
| Totals | 60 | 59 |

The BBKA did not increase capitation for 2021 so branch subscription fees remained unchanged once again. Income to the branch from 59 members, after Capitation and BDI payments, is £141.00. The sale of branch honey at the apiary raised £134.00 and we attended one event at Bank Hall where we raised a further £79.90. We received £241.34 Gift Aid for 2019 subscriptions, but we are still awaiting Gift Aid payments for 2020 and 2021. Repairs and maintenance of the club shed and apiary cost a total of £366.34. The branch made a profit of £205.89. The bank balance at the end October is £8685.78. Finally, I would like to thank Barbara Farbon for verifying the accounts. This concludes the Treasures Report to the SDBKA AGM 2021.

Karen Reid, Treasurer

Thanks to all branches for providing reports.

THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH-WEST BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 506167

Accounts

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Income and Expenditure 2020

| 2019 | Income | 2020 | 2019 | Expenditure | 2020 |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| £20,931.71 | Subscriptions | £20,894.80 | £213.28 | Postages | £152.73 |
| £1,259.77 | Donations | £3,146.72 | £237.31 | Printing & Stationery | £1,231.63 |
| £0.00 | Adverts | £0.00 | £15,021.00 | B.B.K.A Capitation | £15,731.00 |
| £54.06 | Interest | £53.66 | £111.75 | Insurance | £198.00 |
| £1,879.81 | Honey Shows | £669.53 | £1,936.99 | Honey Shows | £979.01 |
| £950.95 | B.D.I. Extra Hives | £1,828.50 | £2,107.70 | B.D.I. | £2,299.35 |
| £11,447.10 | Education | £8,111.00 | £2,909.13 | Education | £2,251.78 |
| £1,023.79 | Equipment | £1,380.75 | £4,858.10 | Equipment | £2,141.42 |
| £2,180.40 | Convention | £2,176.85 | £1,915.03 | Convention | £1,512.40 |
| £1,542.13 | Socials & Raffles | £1,379.63 | £928.34 | Socials Functions | £2,337.56 |
| £0.00 | Tax Refunds (Gift Aid) | £5,099.97 | £2,863.50 | Rooms | £1,207.00 |
| £35.00 | Treatments | £24.00 | £1,570.00 | Lecturers | £960.83 |
| £277.50 | Newsletters/Magazines | £198.25 | £300.03 | Treatments | £86.00 |
| £503.76 | Sundry Income | £155.25 | £549.50 | Newsletters/magazines | £198.25 |
| £88.00 | Grants | £0.00 | £0.00 | Honoraria | £340.00 |
| £883.01 | Fundraising | £190.00 | £25.00 | Cup Engrav. & Repairs | £128.60 |
| £303.50 | Capitation | £1,986.00 | £0.00 | Handbook | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Sales to members | £1,376.96 | £512.45 | Subs & Donations | £1,218.80 |
| | | | £106.76 | Sundries | £239.15 |
| | | | £146.99 | Books | £137.00 |
| | | | £397.42 | Admin | £255.50 |
| | | | £2,921.65 | Apiary | £5,995.18 |
| | | | £181.00 | Cap rebate | £12.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Gift aid to branches | £0.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Purchases for resale | £466.77 |
| £43,360.49 | Total Income | £48,671.87 | £39,812.93 | Total Expenditure | £40,079.96 |
| £618.66 | Opening Cash Balance | £583.62 | £583.62 | Closing Cash Balance | £324.50 |
| £65,000.16 | Opening Bank Balance | £80,553.31 | £80,435.48 | Closing Bank Balance | £89,674.34 |
| £11,045.10 | Income from Lancaster | | -£807.62 | <u>unpresented cqs</u> | -£270.00 |
| | | | £80,211.48 | Adjusted | £89,728.84 |
| £120,024.41 | Assets + Income | £129,808.80 | £120,024.41 | Assets + Expenditure | £129,808.80 |

B. Farbon Acting treasurer
Date 1st April 2021

B. E. Farbon

K Reid Independent Examiner
Date 1st April 2021

K Reid

Sue Counsell Hon Treasurer
Date

Sue Counsell 04/04/21

Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association

Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2020 Central Council Income and Expenditure

| 2019 | Income | 2020 | 2019 | Expenditure | 2020 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| £15,021.00 | Capitation from Branches | £15,836.00 | £0.00 | Postages | £0.00 |
| £31.77 | Bank Interest | £29.65 | £0.00 | Printing & Stationery | £0.00 |
| £13.66 | Donations | £44.39 | £0.00 | Handbook | £0.00 |
| £2,180.40 | Conventions | £2,176.85 | £250.00 | Room Hire | £80.00 |
| £0.00 | Advertising Revenue | £0.00 | £56.00 | Insurance | £112.00 |
| £30.00 | Members Honey Show | £347.88 | £13,854.50 | BBKA Capitation | £13,850.00 |
| £0.00 | Tax Refunds from HMRC | £5,099.97 | £0.00 | Subs/Donations | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Education | £530.00 | £61.25 | Members Honey Show | £492.85 |
| £0.00 | Sundry | £0.00 | £1,915.03 | Conventions | £1,512.40 |
| | | | £0.00 | Education | £80.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Honoraria | £340.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Engraving | £128.60 |
| | | | £0.00 | Branch Tax Refunds from HMRC | £0.00 |
| | | | £22.00 | Honey Shows | £102.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Sundry | £0.00 |
| | | | £137.00 | Books | £137.00 |
| | | | £0.00 | Admin (Bank Charges) | £0.00 |
| | | | £181.00 | Lancs Cap rebate to branches | £12.00 |
| | | | £47.95 | Web | £0.00 |
| £17,276.83 | Total Income | £24,064.74 | £16,524.73 | Total Expenditure | £16,846.85 |
| £0.00 | Opening Cash Balance | £0.00 | £0.00 | Closing Cash Balance | £0.00 |
| £6,155.13 | Opening Bank balance | £6,796.23 | £6,796.23 | Closing Bank balance | £14,008.91 |
| £3,474.48 | Opening savings Account | £3,502.28 | £3,502.28 | Branch savings Account | £3,527.49 |
| £9,629.61 | | £10,298.51 | £10,298.51 | | £17,536.40 |
| £0.80 | Adj to correct historic error | £0.00 | £245.00 | unpres cq | £20.00 |
| | | | £329.00 | Undeposited funds | £0.00 |
| £9,630.41 | | | £10,382.51 | | £17,516.40 |
| £26,907.24 | | £34,363.25 | £26,907.24 | | £34,363.25 |

B. Farbon Acting treasurer
Date 1st April 2021

B. E. Farbon

K Reid Independent Examiner
Date 1st April 2021

K Reid

Sue Counsell Hon Treasurer
Date

Sue Counsell
04/04/21

The Leonard Ross Account

| 2019 | | 2020 |
|--------|-------------------|---------|
| £70.93 | NS and I account | £51.03 |
| £0.00 | Interest | £0.00 |
| £19.90 | Engraving | >£51.03 |
| £51.03 | Balance remaining | £0.00 |

Notes to Central council Accounts

1. Accounting Policy – All items of income and expenditure are accounted for on a receipts and payment basis
2. Assets excluded from the accounts – nineteen Silver Challenge Trophies, Library Books and the Presidents Insignia
3. The Leonard Ross account is included in the Savings Account the above deduction for 2019 - 20 is demonstrated on paper only, no money has been withdrawn from the savings account to cover this expenditure. The NSI deposit account stands at £3527.49 (Jan 2021)