

End of Year Report. Guildford Division. November 2021

Survey.

In the first quarter of the year, we carried out a membership survey in an effort to connect with our members and to see how we can make the Association more relevant to the membership. Each Associate member was called individually by a committee member and a series of questions were offered.

The Survey revealed that overall, our members were happy with the value of the membership, although among other things, it revealed 3 three key areas that could be improved. These were: a) Individual practical support or mentoring. b) a request for more social events, and c) a request for more learning talks.

We made a start on these during the year despite Covid and they will be followed on through next year and with our members support, be brought to a higher level.

The Wisley Christmas Lecture.

At time of writing, this is yet to happen. It will be held on 1st December at RHS Wisley.

The Wisely Lecture with Prof Dave Goulson came about because we thought to do something different at the end of this year; to emphasise the urgent need to somehow include Conservation as a key theme into our beekeeping practice and relate to the whole issue on a bigger scale, acknowledging the huge issues brought about by the changing environment we now find ourselves in.

The invitation was extended to all beekeepers and other conservation groups and associations that we wanted to reach, such as the Wildlife trust, Butterfly Conservation, Bumblebee Conservation, Bat Conservation, Plantlife and many others.

Because the honeybees we care for share the same biodiverse environments as all other creatures, we recognise that a sustainable future for bees can only be found by working together.

Thanks to all the committee for making this event happen and a special thanks go to Gillie Muir, our logistic lead on this event.

Teaching Apiary.

Following unexpected losses over last winter, we moved the hives away from the wet part of the gardens, where they had been the previous year, to a different apiary a few miles away for a suitable period, and then back to the well-drained, higher part of the garden.

We later found out from other Associations throughout the Southeast region, that we were not alone, many of them also experienced unusual heavy losses, these stretched right over to Kent and down to the coast.

Through careful management and the kind donation of some bees from members, the Apiary Team have managed to build the colonies back up to full capacity, as well as use them for teaching over the year.

The Apiary is the backbone of the Association and thanks go to the whole Apiary team led by Susan Kimber who unassumingly creates conditions that allows the Apiary to be a beautiful place that runs smoothly and successfully.

Huge thanks go to the core team who regularly turned up throughout the 11 weeks of the first Training Course;

Alastair Heslop, Angela Massie, David Bennett, Ian Carmichael, Jacqueline Tolley, Pauline & Geoff Lane, Sara Cannell, and Mel Robertson.

The core team gave full commitment not just throughout the summer but also through the hard winter & spring.

Through big efforts, the team achieved a lot in the time after the Covid restrictions were eased up a bit, which meant there was a much shorter time to run the courses and get things done.

The **Taster Day** and the **Two-day Intensive** course that we held, also had the help from Gillie Muir, Sue Keystone, Lou Major and Mary-Jane Hannah-Brown.

A big thanks to Georgina Giaccamuzzi, and Steve Cotney and the others who provided the catering not just for the **Taster day** and **Autumn 'spring clean'** we had, but also the **Cream tea afternoon** in August.

Educational Talks.

We offered three evening Educational talks via Zoom during the year with Celia Davies.

In May; **The World of the Honey Bee, - the Queen.** In June; **Mr Bee** - a talk on the importance of Drones, and in July; **Silent Messages**, a talk on how bees use of Pheromones.

These talks were interesting, on topic and very well-presented. However, the turnout from members was rather disappointing. I can safely say that we have some communication lessons to learn for future events.

BBKA Exams.

Congratulations go to the four that completed the Basic, Chris Heath, Simon Fear, Sharon Campbell and Rebecca Moore, who both achieved credits.

An extra thanks go to Geoff Lane for helping with the BBKA Basic revision sessions, as well as the exams on the day.

BBKA Modules:

Congratulations to Pauline Lane and Jacqueline Tolley for successfully completing 4 modules between them; Honeybee management, Pests and Diseases & Bee Behaviour.

Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter went through a smooth Editorship transition from Peter Smith to Peter Jones. A big thank you to Peter Smith for doing it in the previous years and bringing to it a great sense of humour. An equal big thank you, also to Peter Jones for taking on the role and for keeping the newsletter going to such a high standard. Also, I'd like to also say it's really lovely to see the articles that members write and send in, and I want to thank you on behalf of all the members, who I know really enjoy them as highlighted in the survey. The Newsletter really links us together and brings life to the Association as a community.

Looking Forward to 2022

As Covid subsides even further next year and things begin to get back to normal, we hope that more Social Events will become more possible.

The Website,

A big thanks to Colin Marshall for taking on the role of webmaster in the first Quarter of the year. I would also like to thank Ian Beaumont for giving his time looking after it during previous years.

We plan to give the website a bit of an overhaul and we'll continue to bring it up to date over the coming year.

Members Handbook

We have made a small start on the Handbook already and there is a lot more to do for 2022.

The idea of the handbook is to have in one place, all the information that members may need; from the structures of BBKA, SBKA and Guildford, insurance, our legal structures, our rules and regulations, protocols, how GBKA is managed, Apiary management, Honey extraction hazards, Risk assessment, Health and safety etc.

Potential new Project.

Guildford has invited Weybridge to explore the possibility of creating an Education Centre and Training Apiary together. Over the last two months, we have been investigating the feasibility of forming a joint venture with Weybridge to create a new site, where both associations will have access to a teaching apiary and a proper classroom.

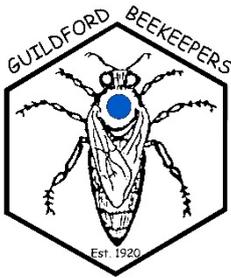
This project will be run in parallel with the Birtley Apiary which is a fantastic resource for Guildford and we will continue to enjoy and develop that as far as we can.

The potential new site will be situated on about 380 Acres of land that currently is managed as semi wild with a small proportion, lightly farmed with some livestock. It is envisaged that being allowed to exclusively manage bees on a large estate such as this, means we can encourage restorative land management and have a higher level of influence over the environment that the bees live in which will help also with open mating.

This way, it will be possible to better support pollinators and over time, help create and develop a wider, more balanced ecosystem.

There is no detail to report at present, as this project is in the pre-feasibility stage and therefore, may not happen at all.

Jonathan Brookhouse. 22/11/2021



Surrey Beekeepers Association Guildford Division (GBKA)

AGM 2021 – Membership Secretary’s Report

1. MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Members after completion of the 2020 renewal cycle (16/11/2020):	191
Members before the start of the 2021 renewal cycle (01/09/2021):	216
Less: Former Members not renewing this year:	14
Less: Former Member who have not yet responded:	31
Members who have renewed (as at 12/11/2021):	171
New Members (since 01/09/2021):	4
Total currently active Members:	175
Membership categories:	
Registered:	144
Partners:	16
Local Members:	15
Number of 2021 Trainee Members who have renewed:	10
Membership categories:	
Registered:	7
Local Members:	3
New Membership enquiries actively in progress:	4

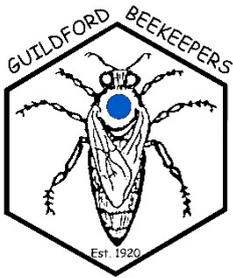
2. MEMBERSHIP RECEIPTS

Membership receipts for all renewing members, and for new joiners, will be distributed by e-mail before the AGM on 18th November.

3. ONLINE RENEWALS

We have now almost completed our second year of using BBKA’s online record-keeping system to handle our membership renewals. As with last year’s renewal process, there have been a few anomalies, and I would encourage all members to check their receipts to ensure that they reflect their requirements. If you find any problems, please contact me and we will be able to resolve them.

David Reeve
Guildford Beekeepers Membership Secretary
13th November 2021



Surrey Beekeepers Association Guildford Division (GBKA)

Treasurer's Report to 2021 AGM

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1) Voluntary income.

Subscription income was healthy. However, most of this is paid away to BBKA, BeeCraft and BDI. Our net income from subscriptions this year after these payments was £2,188 compared to £2,487 in 2020 and £2,326 in 2019. Our income from **Course fees** was very strong, as following a difficult year for provision of courses in 2020 due to covid, we concentrated our efforts to run many of the deferred courses. We are very appreciative of the **Donations** received from members and from the public who have received assistance from our members.

Gift Aid. The Gift Aid received this year came through the Virgin Giving account, and as a direct payment from HMRC in respect of donations received from our members. Unfortunately yet again, I have to report that discussions between SBKA and the Revenue continue regarding the Giftaid status of subscriptions.

2) Activities for generating funds.

Activity this year was very much subdued due to covid. Traditional fundraising activities such as the Christmas dinner, quiz night, garden events and shows were all sadly cancelled. In addition in this year of unusual weather, and in common with the experience of many other beekeepers, the apiary yielded no honey for sale.

3) Investment Income.

This is the interest paid on our savings held with NS&I.

4) Costs of generating voluntary income.

I have covered SBKA (which is almost entirely Members' BBKA memberships), BeeCraft and BDI above. There were no **Communications** costs as there was no expenditure on postage or stationery and web-hosting is not renewable until 2022.

5) Fund raising costs.

With all events and shows cancelled, we incurred no associated costs this year.

Cont'd.

Treasurer's Report to 2021 AGM cont'd.

6) Charitable activities include **Apiary expenses** which are variable. Having fallen by £420 in 2020 compared with 2019, these rose again this year by £233.

Surplus for the year

The overall outcome of all these movements was that the surplus was £3,217, which is slightly smaller than the 2020 surplus, and a similar size to the 2019 surplus. This is a creditable result in a difficult year and a tribute to all the hard work of the committee and members.

BALANCE SHEET

7) Fixed Assets. This is the composting toilet. The asset is being depreciated over 7 years as there is a break clause after 7 years in the ten-year term of our licence at Birtley apiary. If not renewed the licence would expire March 2029.

8) Stock and Debtors. Stocks are little changed. In prior years the Debtor position has included our prepayments to book venues for the AGM and the Christmas Dinner. The delivery of AGM by Zoom removes the need for a venue, and this year we are arranging a very different and exciting winter season event which has not required payment of a deposit. Consequently the debtor position is much lower than in previous years.

9) Cash at Bank. We have added a further £4000 to National Savings & Investments, which together with the annual interest of £331 brings the total to £47,662.

10) Creditors. I am grateful to members for their early renewal payments. The large movement in the creditor position is in respect of courses. Following the postponement of courses in 2020 due to covid, we started the 2021 year with a large sum of advance payments carried forward. The effort during 2021 to deliver an excellent year of courses in spite of the ongoing covid issues has allowed us to recognise the course fees as income, and significantly reduce the creditor position in this respect.

Total Funds. The funds we hold have been justified to SBKA and the Charity Commission on the grounds that if we had to replicate the apiary at a new site, the acquisition and building costs would be very significant.

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Treasurer's Report to 2021 AGM cont'd.

This is my first report to members. I am tremendously indebted to the retiring treasurer, John Bainbridge, for his invaluable help during our handover period which, courtesy of the administrative processes of our banks, turned out to be rather more protracted than we had anticipated.

I have also been very fortunate to have had the support of Graham Morrow as Examiner of the Accounts, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for that support and for his professionalism.

2021 has been another challenging year for the division, with lockdown continuing to restrict shows and other face-to-face events. Nevertheless we are delighted to have been able to run so many courses, and have also invested in excellent talks on Zoom by Celia Davies. We are all very much hoping to be able to expand our programme of training and events further again in 2022.

Keep yourselves safe.

Helen

Helen Boughton
10th November 2021