



KINGSTON BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

**Kingston Division of Surrey Beekeepers
Association**

Chairman's Report for 2017.

I am pleased to present you, with my 8th Chairman's Report, for Kingston Beekeepers Association ('KBKA'), 2017.

KBKA is a one of the eight Divisions of Surrey Beekeepers Association, which has 979 Registered BBKA members and Partners, as at 30 September 2017, which is the same as in 2016.

We are however, the smallest Division with 74 Registered BBKA Members and Partners, (2016 - 75).

For information, I attach a copy of the Unaudited SBKA Quarterly Management Report as at 30th September 2017, which shows in more detail our financial position, compared to the other Divisions.

We continue to grow and prosper. In 2010 we only had 53 members and Assets of £8.3k. Today we have a total membership of 92 members and Assets of £34.3k. Although membership is down at the moment, this usually picks up, as new members enrol for the Theory and Practical courses in the coming months.

Committee and Council Trustees

We have had a dedicated Committee for quite a few years, which meets regularly to discuss what our association can do, to meet the SBKA charitable objectives. Their involvement, organisation and participation, facilitates all the events and activities, the Association undertakes throughout the year. They met at least 8 times this year.

Committee Members are

Derek Jones	-	Chairman, Webmaster, and SBKA Council Rep
Anne Jones	-	Treasurer
Julie Hogarth	-	Secretary, News Letter Editor and SBKA Secretary
Avis Marshall	-	Apiary Manager, SBKA Education Committee
Mike Axford	-	News Letter Editor and Webmaster
Marion Hall	-	Membership & Course Secretary
John Legate	-	SBKA Trustee
Jane Satchwell	-	Member's Social Secretary
Chris Reid		
Keith McMahon		

Our meetings are formal and minutes taken and cover broadly the following items: -

Chairman's Report on SBKA's Council Quarterly Meetings, BBKA Matters, Apiary Managers Monthly Report, Treasurer's Financial & Budget Report, Courses, Members Socials, KBKA Events, Potential Apiary Sites for Members, Volunteers for National Honey Show, The Surrey Show, our Website and any other business.

I would like to thank all the Committee members for their dedicated support, at our meetings and throughout the year.

In contrast, the SBKA Council meets Quarterly. The following Kingston members are represented at the Council

Tim Lovett	SBKA President
Julie Hogarth	SBKA Secretary - Trustee
Penny McMahan	SBKA Treasurer - Trustee
John Legate	SBKA – Kingston Division Trustee
Derek Jones	KBKA Divisional Representative

However, John Legate, has decided after 10 years dedicated service as our Divisional Trustee, not to stand for re-election next year 2017/18. Thank you so much John, for your dedication, ensuring we stayed on a very stable course over this period and not to step out of line with the SBKA Council or the rules of the SBKA Constitution.

External Activities

Of our total membership, we are extremely lucky to have approximately a third of active Members, who are always willing to help. It is only through members continuing to donate their time and effort, that we can successfully undertake these activities. I would like to encourage you all, particularly new members, to join in and help to maintain this active association. If we don't get a steady supply of volunteers, KBKA will start to decline. This must not happen and we welcome you all to consider volunteering, even just for a single activity, in the running of the Apiary and Events.

During the past year, KBKA participated in a number of events, which included supporting other Beekeeping Activities, talks to Schools, Local Charities, Socials, Events, Fairs and regular farmers markets.

We undertook: -

24 Talks to Schools, Charities and Fairs,
29 Farmers Markets,
7 Members Socials

We had a super hard core team of members this year, that were always volunteering for these activities. The giving of their time, to organise and participate in these Events and Activities, making them a success. As a member of our Charity, you are helping us to promote the craft of beekeeping and educating the public about the importance of bees in the environment.

I would like again to express a very big '**Thank You**' to all the Committee and all the Volunteers, whose behind the scenes help is really appreciated. Again their dedication in volunteering for the preparation and smooth running of all Association's

activities and Events is vital. Meetings, giving talks to schools, Women's Institutes, Show events, Fairs and Farmers markets, would not be able to continue and we would not be able to fulfil our beekeeping remit as a charity, without those members volunteering.

Very early in the year, at our first Committee meeting, we increased the Committee by one and asked Jane Satchwell, to be our Member's Social Secretary. We felt that we needed to arrange more beekeeping events for our members. Jane dived in at the deep end and has arranged a wonderful array of talks during the year, ranging from Pollen processing techniques, the Australian 'Flow Hive', Venom allergies, as well as other member social activities. Her enthusiasm radiates and I cannot wait to see what Jane has up her sleeve for next year.

Apiary and Courses

In the first instance, I refer you to Avis Marshall's Apiary Management report.

The Apiary was again managed extremely well this year, no nasty bees of concern or notifiable diseases and relatively swarm free.

The Apiary's grass area now, not only covers the Apiary and our car park but the new adjacent allotment plot. We now have a considerable amount of grass to cut throughout the growing season. I wish to thank all those volunteers, who responded to our desperate call for help, to keep the grass cut on a regular basis. This was a big achievement. The grass cutting, together with the tree pruning, regular pond maintenance and fence repairs etc, has seen the Apiary looking the best it's ever been for years.

This year, the Apiary produced 203 lbs. of Honey, up by 11% on last years crop of 180 lbs. A big '**Thank You**', goes to the Beginners and Intermediates and all the other member beekeepers, that did a splendid job to improve on last years yield. Our honey yields, fall well inline with the BBKA's Annual Honey survey. We are lucky to be in one of the two regions of England with highest crop yields, especially when the whole of England's yield was marginally down on last year.

We must always remember that our Apiary is a teaching Apiary and so we cannot expect, unless in exceptional circumstances, for the crop to be vast, but we do try hard.

Once again a very big '**Thank you**' must go to Avis and David Marshall for overseeing the Apiary and organising all the lectures and Courses for our members again this year. Without their management expertise, we would be in a very difficult position.

I am extremely pleased to report that two members took the BBKA Basic Assessment this year and passed with Credit.

These members were

Jane Satchwell	Credit
Jeremy Andrews	Credit

Congratulations go to both these members.

We now have 43% of our registered BBKA members, who have passed the BBKA Basic Assessment. I am very confident that we will have half of our members, that will have taken and passed the basic by the end of 2018.

We are hugely appreciative to Frank and Mary Telling, our 'engineering and maintenance technicians', who quietly behind the scenes, ensure that our honey extractors, (that our members can borrow for free), are kept in excellent working order. They also ensure regularly, that our Toilet Shed at the Apiary, (that Frank built), continues to smell sweetly, for all who attend the Apiary. The latter is one of our biggest assets. A huge selling point for all Courses at the Apiary, so that we can enjoy our beekeeping and drink plenty of tea (and eat Pat Reid's cakes, Thanks Pat) on Saturday afternoons, without the need to rush away. It also makes our daylong 'Can I keep Bees' and Practical courses and events at the Apiary, a relaxing place for all our attendees.

During the year, our old wax extractor was found to be on its last legs, literally. But thanks to Emma Knivett's connection with the Princess Alice Hospice 'ManShed' Team, they not only helped design but also made us a completely new wax extractor. Their 'can do attitude', was very much appreciated. So instead of paying a beekeeping supplier for an expensive piece of much needed kit, KBKA made a donation of £150.00 to the Princess Alice Hospice. We are hoping that we can continue our relationship with the ManShed team and they might be able to produce other items for us. We have offered our services of talks about Beekeeping at their various events.

Finances.

I refer you to the Audited Accounts for the year-end 30th September 2017, produced by Anne Jones our Treasurer.

I am very pleased to report that our Total Assets have increased once again this year by approximately 6% to £34,343 (2106 - £32,477).

Highlights of our Accounts show that our net Income rose by 30% to £2,987, despite a decrease in Subscriptions and Donations.

Total Income increased by 5.28% to £11,203.30. Total Expenditure, on the other hand, decreased marginally by 1.39% to £8,216.

The result, nevertheless, saw our Net Capital continue to increase by 10.55% to £31,298.

Thanks must go to Anne Jones our Treasurer and Penny McMahon (KBKA Member and the SBKA Treasurer), for their detailed accounting and budgeting, that goes on behind the scenes throughout the year. From the submitting of financial reports to Committees, Quarterly reports to the SBKA Trustees and the compiling by Penny of the Consolidated accounts, from all the 8 Divisions, for submitting to the Charity Commission.

Plans are afoot to get an accounting package for the Divisions to use and this will make life easier for accounting/reporting at all stages. I very much welcome this long-term investment expenditure, to get away from the quill pen and spread sheet accounting, as each division has a different accounting procedure, making accounting and consolidation a daunting process for all concerned.

The Future for KBKA

We just cannot give up on our Association and we must all continue our marvelous efforts as best we can. We all have lives outside beekeeping, but however small your contribution is during the year, you can be assured it's very much appreciated and welcomed by all, to achieve what we do for beekeeping.

If you have any ideas about next season, then please let any of the Committee members know. We are always in desperate need for new volunteers, to teach new beginners, give talks or even cut the grass at the Apiary and to hear what speakers you might want to hear at our Socials. As I said, we are still one of the smallest of the eight Divisions in terms of membership. The only real way we can grow is with more members volunteering, to implement our future plans. I know that by volunteering, you will find it is fun and will bring you in touch with other beekeepers and Divisions and the general public and expand your knowledge of beekeeping. Don't forget you are always welcome to pop in at the Apiary on Saturday afternoons **at anytime**, to chat to us about beekeeping and tell us how your bees are or if you have concerns about your bees. We can tell you about how our bees are doing and also how the Apiary bees are fairing.

Well, we did not see any Asian Hornets here in the South East, but there are still some regular sightings in the UK over the past two years. We can only pray and hope that the English Channel is still a barrier for their natural expansion. However, they still seem to be getting through somehow and 'Brexit' will make no difference whatsoever.

"Thank you" all.

I would like you all to enjoy your winter break and look forward to another fascinating and I am sure, very eventful Beekeeping year for KBKA, in 2018. Keep a watch for those Asian Hornets.

Derek Jones

Chairman

Kingston Division - Surrey Beekeepers Association.

Dated 17th November 2017

SBKA Trustees Quarterly Management Report as at 30 September 2017

UnAudited

	Croydon		Epsom		Farnham		Guildford		Kingston		Reigate		Weybridge		Wimbledon		Central Fund	
	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-16	Sep-17
Members	77	76	88	87	130	128	153	153	66	64	166	174	113	105	78	80		
Partners	10	7	12	15	29	27	21	24	9	10	1		14	14	12	15		
Country & Jnr			7	4			3	1	1		4	9	1	3				
Assocs	3	1	10	9	24	18		21	22	18	39	41	18	17	13	24		
Courses			1						2	3	1	3						
Attendees			20						19	30	14	64						
Exams		8								2								
Events	9		1	3					18	25	10	26	3	3	2	1		
Cash	13,161	11,022	21,730	28,363	10,229	11,680	27,648	37,111	30,354	31,068	27,062	39,072	23,331	26,359	17,264	15,944	25,984	20,507
Liabilities		(13)	(259)				(325)	(5,750)	(3,000)	(885)	(2,030)	(2,082)	(13,342)	(20,740)			(917)	859
Fixed Ass.	2,000	2,000	8,340	8,340	9,476	6,030			2,561	1,536	112,048	115,778	1,194	218	872	610	678	509
Stock			9,820	7,632			850	1,000	963	567	4,000	4,000						

	Total	
	30.9.16	30.9.17
Members	871	867
Partners	108	112
Country	16	17
Assocs	129	149
Courses	4	6
Attendees	53	94
Exams	0	10
Events	43	58
Cash £	196,763	221,126
Liabilities £	-19,873	-28,611
Fixed Assets £	137,169	135,021
Stock £	15,633	13,199

Total BBKA membership - Registered and Partner members only	
September 2016	979
September 2017	979