NBBKA Chairman's report.

My first year as chairman has gone relatively smoothly.
I have a keen interest in education and I feel this has been reflected in our achievements this year. The beginners' course was full with over half proceeding to the training apiary and eventually finding their own bees.

On July 5 candidates took and passed their Basic Assessment practical exams with one achieving a distinction.

To celebrate "Bee Day" we had a safari to 4 members' apiaries, where we saw underfloor entrances, commercial size hives and a great success at "Checker boarding" with one hive already supporting 5 supers and reporting no swarming.

We were pleased to welcome the pupils of Oak Grove Secondary School to a new membership category specifically for schools this year. They at present have 90 children in after-school bee clubs and run 25 hives.
We had a very exciting afternoon when the president of BBKA, Anne Rowberry, visited to present them with BEACON STATUS. Two new schools are expected to join us in the new year.

We moved the Honey Show this year to a different venue and invited the children of Russell Street Primary School to take part with a drawing competition " My Best Bee"
It was a very successful day, where the Blue Ribbon was awarded for the second year in succession, Well done Rachael for organising this.

In June, we were sad to lose one of our oldest members "Gunter Webber". He was 82 and had been a beekeeper all his life. I'm glad to say he passed his bees and experience down to his daughter Louise and her husband James, who have carried on where he left off with this great tradition.

Our ever popular monthly "Beer and Buzz" meetings go from strength to strength and this year I am really proud to announce we have our very own year book, "The Buzz", (which has been a great asset in writing this report!)

We now have an Asian Hornet (or Yellow legged hornet) Coordinator, who is setting up a team this winter and we are preparing to put out our bait stations in February.

Although it is very early days, we are in discussions with Mercedes Benz about sponsoring hives in our training apiary, so check out the logo on Lewis Hamilton's hat next season to see if we have been successful.

Merry Christmas!

Caroline Luxford
Chairman, North Bucks Beekeepers association