Bucks County Secretary's Report
1st October 2023– 30th September 2024
Registered Charity No. 297335

The County held a very successful face to face seminar on Feb 18th at the Wendover Memorial Hall. The speakers were Robin Dartington, showing us his bespoke hive with all its advantages; Gerry Brierely, talking about honey bee warfare her personal story surviving Lyme disease; and Sean stepped in, as Stewart Spinks was unable to attend, with a talk on the history of swarming and control. This was an in-person meeting and about 70 people attended in person.

The advent of videoconferencing has meant that we held all the committee meetings this year by videoconferencing. This is a cost effective and efficient way of meeting. The committee has converted to google email addresses and we are now using google drive to store documents and we will use the google meet facility going forward for committee meetings.

The two-year programme for Honey Bee Health and General Husbandry assessments continued this year; Sean hosted a couple of zoom theory sessions and a practical session at his apiary to practice manipulations. Two people took and passed the General Husbandry assessment this year. The two-year programme will restart with focus on preparation for Honey Bee Health in 2025.

We attended the Bucks County Show, held on the last Thursday of August again this year, with all four associations playing their part. The BCBKA won Third Prize for **"**the best non-agricultural stand" at the Show.

We supported the National Honey Show, with sponsorship of a lecture, sponsorship of two classes and paying the prize money for the Bucks County section of the Show. Bucks County again retained the Smallholders' Shield for the County with the most points in Classes 15-150 but the runners up were very close!

Fiona Matheson
Secretary, Bucks County Beekeepers Association