MBBKA Report for the Bucks County AGM – 4th December 2024.

Committee
We have had some changes on the committee this year and have welcomed some new faces. All positions are filled apart from the apiary manager. This will be covered for the time being by a division of the jobs amongst other members of the committee and its sub groups, but we hope to fill it in due course.

Membership
MBBKA membership remains fairly constant. At our last AGM in October 2024 membership stood at 239 which is a little down on last year. However we continue to attract a good number of new beekeepers each year and the beginners course is in great demand. Numbers for the 2025 course are filling well.

Finances and Apiary Development
The Association continues on a sound financial footing. We haven't heard much about the Hampden Fields development and moving of the apiary site recently but understand it is progressing. We were asked whether we might be interested in expanding the original offer on the new site, to include more hives. We responded positively, in that we were happy to consider it, but have heard nothing more so far.

Association Meetings
Our monthly Association meetings have been a mixture of at the Church of the Good Shepherd, the apiary and virtual which seems to suit. We are intending to move the face to face meetings to Western Turville village hall in 2025 owing to some booking difficulties with the CoGS. The day of the week will have to move too and we are intending to use the third Friday of the month. Exact details of days will be sent to members via an email prior to the meeting and in our monthly newsletter.

We've had a number of interesting talks over the year and have more planned. Attendance is good.

Education, School Visits and Fairs
The beginner's course was fully subscribed at 41 people and was held in-person at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Stoke Mandeville and the Association apiary, with extra sessions elsewhere.
We continue to be enormously grateful to all those members who contribute to this both in organising, lecturing and in supervising the practical sessions. We are very lucky to have so many willing supporters.
We continue to have members involved in taking BBKA exams and microscopy.
Local fairs were held again last year and Mid Bucks attended 3 events over the summer months and supported the County stand at the Bucks County Show. We also sent members to 3 schools, 3 Beaver scout groups and 1 Scout group, and interest from the public remains high.

Asian Hornet Preparation
We remain vigilant about this and are pleased to say that general public awareness seems to be rising.

Jane Newman MBBKA Chairman