MBBKA Report for the Bucks County AGM – 12th February 2022.

Membership
MBBKA membership remains constant. At our last AGM membership stood at 250 individuals. There has been a slight reduction in the number of Associates but this could be attributed to the fact that we took on half the number of new beginners onto the 2021 course.

Finances
The Association is on a sound financial footing. We did make a significant investment in a new shed for the apiary as the old one was beyond repair. Membership fees were increase for the 2022 year in line with the increase in the BBKA capitation fees and to correct an anomaly in the MBBKA part of our fees. We do hold a significant reserve in our apiary development fund which has been built up in response to the Hampden Field housing development which includes the land on which the apiary sits. The Developers and the Hampton Fields action group will be part of a Judicial Review this Spring, but other than that no clear progress either way for the development has been announced.

Association Meetings
Our monthly Association meetings continued to be held virtually for most of the year. We did hold a face-to-face honey show, that was open to the public after judging, and in person meetings in September and November. Sean Stephenson continued to hold is live apiary sessions throughout the summer and these were open to all the County Associations. These were very well received and did allow some practical beekeeping training through the summer.

Education, School Visits and Fairs
The theory sessions for the 2021 beginner's course were all on-line and we also welcomed some of the North Bucks beginners to these sessions. We were able to hold the full face to face practical sessions from May to July and these were very well attended. Six candidates attended the training sessions for the BBKA basic assessment with 5 going on to take and pass the assessment.

No school visits took place in 2021 and our school visits co-ordinator of 14 years has now stepped down from the role. We are looking for a replacement but if no one steps forward visits will need to be arranged on an individual basis where we have members willing to help.

Module study groups were held on-line and in general it was felt that the on-line format worked well and is something that will be retained going forwards.

We attended only one fair/open day on Open Farm Sunday but all our other usual events were once again cancelled.

Helen Palmer
MBBKA Chair
12th Feb 2022