High Wycombe Beekeepers' Association

Annual report to the Bucks County BKA to the AGM, to be held 18th February 2023.

Membership
Current membership numbers 156 active and approved. Our chairman Phil Clarke stood down at the end of his term, and a replacement could not be appointed. The vice-chairman is standing in for the present.

Finances
Our finances remain on a firm footing.

Training
The Association ran a successful beginners' course with 28 attendees, a fall from previous years but allowing the benefit of more personal attention in the practical apiary sessions. Practical sessions took place at our training apiary in Saunderton. All beginners were provided with their full quota of practical sessions and could attend more if desired.
Six candidates passed BBKA basic assessment, which was taken at the Saunderton apiary. Two modules were passed.

Apiaries
Our training apiary in Saunderton was well attended. We have an able and enthusiastic apiary manager and team so we are getting maximum benefit from the apiary.
Improvements are now to be made to the storage and under-cover areas.
We also have two other apiary sites which can be used temporarily by members if required.

Swarm Collection
We took an average number of swarm calls this year. The purchase of a new phone and the use of "WhatsApp" improved the efficiency of the service. Most members who wanted swarms were satisfied.

Community
Our keen coordinating team organised presentations on various aspects of beekeeping to schools, scouts and guide groups, adult clubs and societies. They also attended village fetes and fun days on behalf of the Association.
A beekeeping open day was held at our apiary for interested members of the public. It is noticed that numbers of attendees for the open day have been steadily falling over recent years

Meetings
Our monthly meetings at Trinity Church have returned to normal after the pandemic, and have offered a variety of speakers on diverse beekeeping topics which were well attended throughout the year.
Our monthly Tuesday "developing your beekeeping" has been meeting to good effect.

County Honey Show
The Association successfully hosted the County Honey Show. This attracted a good number of entries from High Wycombe but less than expected from other county associations.

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Communication
Our website and monthly newsletter continued to be our main lines of communication with the general public and our members. The website has been systematically improved over the last year. Our monthly newsletter continues its regular and informative output under a new editor. Some social media groups are also working effectively.

Paul Hurley
Vice-Chairman
02.02 2023