

The Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association
Lancashire and Cheshire B.K.A

(Founded 1882. Reconstructed separately 1899)

Registered Charity No 506167

Handbook and annual reports

CONTENTS

Officers of the Association
Legal and Administrative Details 2018-19

Introduction

Reports 2019

Chairman's Report
Hon Treasurer
Consolidated Accounts
Central Council Accounts
Hon Membership Secretary
Hon Exhibitions Officer report and results from The Honey Show
Hon Examinations Secretary

Branch Contact details and Reports

East Lancashire
Blackpool and Fylde
Lancaster
Liverpool and District
Medlock
Ormskirk and Croston
Preston
Southport and District

Northern Bee Unit Annual Bee Report for 2019

Includes contact details for Regional and Seasonal bee inspectors.

Useful Links
Recipes

The Lancashire and North West Bee Keepers Association

Registered Charity 506167

Founded 1882

Officers of the Association

DELEGATES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The British Beekeepers Association Mr Ray Dowson

The National Honey Show Mr Martin Smith, Mr Ray Dowson, Mrs Margaret Murdin,
Bee Craft Mr Edward Hill

The Lancashire and North West Bee Keepers Association

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Governing Document amended 16th
March 1985, 12th March 1997 and March 2010.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS 2018 - 2019

Status Registered Charity

Charity Number 506167

Public address: Old School House, Ulmes Walton Ln, Leyland PR26 8LT.

Patrons None

President Mr Ray Dowson

General Secretary Mr Mike Lavelle

Independent Examiner (audit) Karen Reid

The Association's Bank:

The Royal Bank of Scotland

41 Liverpool Road North

Burscough Bridge

Ormskirk

L40 0SA

Trustees:

President Mr. Ray Dowson

Chairperson Mr Michael Gardner

Treasurer Mrs Barbara Farbon

General Secretary Mr Mike Lavelle

Committees' Reports See Associations Reports in this Handbook

Objectives of the Society:

The primary Objectives of the charity are:

To promote and further the craft of beekeeping

To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment.

Review of Activities See Reports in this Handbook

Financial Position of the Society See Treasurer's report in this handbook

Introduction

This is my second year compiling the handbook.

Lancashire and North West BKA has 8 branches . Each branch was asked to submit reports for this handbook.

Diane Drinkwater, Handbook Editor

Reports

Chairman's Report for 2019

Each year as I compose these brief notes I'm reminded of how much the elected officers at county and branch level do for us members.

Unfortunately I can't thank each branch officer in person but I would ask that anyone reading this takes the time to do so on my behalf.

I can thank my fellow county officers though. Mike for being the master organiser; Viki for another great convention; Robina for managing all the exams and venues; Barbara for being our emergency treasurer; Elaine for putting up with our late honey show entries; and Tony for being so efficient that he's written himself out of a post!

In 2016 a new branch joined our Association for the first time in many years and amazingly this year it happened again. A warm welcome to our latest branch, Lancaster Beekeepers! Was 2019 the end of an era? It may seem so to many of us at the moment, with the country in the grip of Covid-19 and unable to visit loved ones.

Our bees adapt though and so must we hence our Association's first remote meeting (thank you Mark). Welcome to the digital age! Stay safe.

Michael Gardner
Chairman Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association

Hon Treasurer's Report 2019

Treasurer's Report to the LNWBKA Annual General meeting April 2020 for the financial year 1st Nov 2018 to 31st Oct 2019

This time last year I thought I was writing my final report as treasurer. We had been lucky to find a replacement when I decided to resign and the future looked certain. Sadly, Andy's work commitments meant that he could not continue in post. Karen Reid very kindly stepped up to the post and ensured that everything was in good order but she too had an increased work load and could not continue indefinitely.

I was asked to step back into my former role to do the annual consolidation and thankfully Karen took on the verification role as it was rather late in the day and she and I live reasonably close so the hand over of documents was relatively easy. Karen was an immense help, with her business accounting knowledge she was able to advise me on several things that were proving difficult to consolidate. These were payments that dated back to October which occurred after the books had officially 'closed' but were part of the 2018/19 accounts. I am pleased to say that we now have everything in the correct columns.

I am also pleased that Sue Counsell has said she will be willing to take on the role of treasurer at the end of the year if this is approved by council. I have therefore agreed to continue until the end of the year so that I can do the 2019/20 consolidation before handing over to her.

You will see that Gift Aid during 2018/19 was nil as the claim was not made. I am going to make two claims this year so there will be a retrospective payment on the next consolidation. You will

also note that honoraria appears as nil because they were not paid at the correct time. I have now paid these but they will appear in the next account. In spite of all this, I was very pleased that with only one exception the accounts presented by branches were clear and concise and most importantly they added up so there were no headaches regarding adding up. I have a template which I will be sending to all branch treasurers very soon so that some uniformity can begin to enter the equation with regard to the annual return.

Periodically, we ask branches to list their solid assets so that the association is aware of the value and can ensure that insurance is appropriate. I made an appeal to branch treasurers and chairs and have had no response to this appeal as yet. The insurance policy is renewed in August so I would like to have that information before then.

We are currently in unprecedented times and the situation has made us think more than ever about direct payments and online banking. If your branch is changing its account please try to change to a bank which has this facility. The Central Account will be moving as soon as lock down permits and the priority will be to move into the 21st century and have an account that allows online banking. The bees have got the best idea, they live in their cashless, CoVid free society and make pure gold for us all.

Barbara Farbon

Acting Treasurer April 2020

Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association Consolidated Income and Expenditure 2019

2018	Income	2019	2018	Expenditure	2019
£17,652.78	Subscriptions	£20,931.71	£70.74	Postages	£213.28
£1,503.99	Donations	£1,259.77	£46.34	Printing & Stationery	£237.31
£0.00	Adverts	£0.00	£13,504.00	B.B.K.A Capitation	£15,021.00
£41.53	Interest	£54.06	£102.00	Insurance	£111.75
£1,400.16	Honey Shows	£1,879.81	£1,320.74	Honey Shows	£1,936.99
£871.70	B.D.I. Extra Hives	£950.95	£2,246.01	B.D.I.	£2,107.70
£7,426.00	Education	£11,447.10	£1,280.03	Education	£2,909.13
£1,066.63	Equipment	£1,023.79	£3,696.76	Equipment	£4,858.10
£1,075.76	Convention	£2,180.40	£1,045.75	Convention	£1,915.03
£1,889.56	Socials & Raffles	£1,542.13	£913.49	Socials Functions	£928.34
£3,289.71	Tax Refunds	£0.00	£2,162.48	Rooms	£2,863.50
£87.50	Treatments	£35.00	£1,890.87	Lecturers	£1,570.00
£577.14	Newsletters/Magazines	£277.50	£238.06	Treatments	£300.03
£226.60	Sundry Income	£503.76	£502.94	Newsletters/magazines	£549.50
£858.00	Grants	£88.00	£180.00	Honoraria	£0.00
£1,125.50	Fundraising	£883.01	£30.00	Cup Engrav. & Repairs	£25.00
£1,249.50	Capitation	£1,166.50	£0.00	Handbook	£0.00
			£602.00	Subs & Donations	£512.45
			£196.95	Sundries	£106.76
			£0.00	Books	£146.99
			£281.64	Admin	£397.42
			£3,228.01	Apiary	£2,921.65
			£0.00	Cap rebate	£181.00
£40,342.06	Total Income	£44,223.49	£33,538.81	Total Expenditure	£39,812.93
£478.51	Opening Cash Balance	£618.66	£618.66	Closing Cash Balance	£583.62
£58,340.50	Opening Bank Balance	£65,000.16	£65,000.16	Closing Bank Balance	£81,224.90
	Income from Lancaster	£11,045.10	£3.44	unpresented cqs	-£469.00
				undeposited funds	£329.00
				adjustment	-£9.62

	Adj to correct historic error	£0.80	£65,622.26	Adjusted	£81,075.28
£99,161.07	Assets + Income	£120,888.21	£99,161.07	Assets + Expenditure	£120,888.21

The Consolidated Accounts of the Association have been prepared from the Accounts submitted by branches and the Central Council accounts for the year ended 31st October 2018.

Barbara Farbon Acting Treasurer 2nd April 2020

Karen Reid Independent Examiner

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Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association
Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2019 Central Council Income and Expenditure

2018	Income	2019	2018	Expenditure	2019
£13,506.00	Capitation from Branches	£15,021.00	£13.64	Postages	£0.00
£28.42	Bank Interest	£31.77	£0.00	Printing & Stationery	£0.00
£20.00	Donations	£13.66	£0.00	Handbook	£0.00
£1,075.76	Conventions	£2,180.40	£280.00	Room Hire	£250.00
£0.00	Advertising Revenue	£0.00	£56.00	Insurance	£56.00
£386.58	Members Honey Show	£30.00	£12,256.50	BBKA Capitation	£13,854.50
£3,289.71	Tax Refunds from HMRC	£0.00	£80.00	Subs/Donations	£0.00
£0.00	Education	£0.00	£230.00	Members Honey Show	£61.25
£0.00	Sundry	£0.00	£1,045.75	Conventions	£1,915.03
			£0.00	Education	£0.00
			£180.00	Honoraria	£0.00
			£18.00	Engraving	£0.00
			£3,288.26	Branch Tax Refunds from HMRC	£0.00
			£92.00	Honey Shows	£22.00
			£0.00	Sundry	£0.00
			£0.00	Books	£137.00
			£0.00	Admin (Bank Charges)	£0.00
			£0.00	Lancs Cap rebate to branches	£181.00
			£0.00	Web	£47.95
£18,306.47	Total Income	£17,276.83	£17,540.15	Total Expenditure	£16,524.73
£0.00	Opening Cash Balance	£0.00	£0.00	Closing Cash Balance	£0.00
£5,413.83	Opening Bank balance	£6,155.13	£6,155.13	Closing Bank balance	£6,796.23
£3,449.46	Opening savings Account	£3,474.48	£3,474.48	Branch savings Account	£3,502.28
£8,863.29		£9,629.61	£9,629.61		£10,298.51
	Adj to correct historic error	£0.80		unpres cq	-£245.00

		undeposited funds	£329.00
	£9,630.41		£10,382.51
£27,169.76	£26,907.24	£27,169.76	£26,907.24

B.Farbon Acting treasurer Date 1st April 2020

K Reid Independent Examiner Date

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2019

The new online membership administration system, eReturn2, was introduced within Lancashire & North West BKA with effect from 1st November 2018. This is a secure, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) compliant, system managed by Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd (BDI) on behalf of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and its membership associations. eReturn2 is developed and maintained by Purely Solutions Ltd.

The Branches worked hard throughout 2019 in managing and becoming familiar with the new system and it is a credit to them that the new system has been implemented successfully within the Association.

The Association Membership Secretary is the 'Manager' of the eR2 system who undertakes the authorisation/set up of Association and Branch officers on the eR2 system and the user access levels assigned to them ('Approver', 'Editor' or 'Viewer'). The Branches now own and control their respective membership data including online renewals of membership, online applications for new members, lapses and other changes to member information. Each Branch is now responsible for its own maintenance and upkeep of the BBKA membership system.

Overall membership numbers across the Association have remained healthy. There was a total of approximately 700 Active members at the 2019 year end compared to a total of 691 members at the end of August 2018. An analysis of member totals by Branch and class of membership is provided in the Statistics section of the eR2 site.

The eR2 system provides one database from which BBKA capitation and BDI subscriptions are extracted. It generated the Capitation invoices and remittance advice for the BBKA (and BDI), commencing with the Spring 2019 capitation. The online eR2 system has greatly improved the administration and effectiveness of those processes.

I wish to thank the Association and Branch Treasurers and Branch Membership Secretaries for their support throughout 2019 and particularly for their hard work in implementing and maintaining at Branch level the new eR2 membership system.

Anthony Lee
Membership Secretary
Lancashire & North West BKA

Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association Members' Annual Show 13th October 2019 (Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston).

The Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association Honey Show was held on 13th October 2019 at Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston.

The weather was vile which, no doubt, put off many visitors (a couple of days beforehand, there was some doubt whether the show would take place as the access road to the venue was flooded!), but the show and activity room "buzzed"!

48 exhibitors (including 4 branches) entered 341 exhibits - up, again, from the previous year.

Our three judges, John Goodwin, Terry Ashley and Peter Lewis, ably assisted by stewards, Mike Lavelle, Robert Magee and John Mooney, got through the judging efficiently, enabling the show hall to be opened up in good time.

The general high standard of the exhibits was praised by all the judges.

I was surprised and honoured when I was awarded the Blue Ribbon for best exhibit in show for my cake of beeswax.

Once again, Robert Magee won the Sir Wroth Lethbridge President's Cup for the most points, although this year he was closely pressed by a couple of other exhibitors!

The E. McCormick President's Branch Shield was won again by Preston, but it was good to have entries from Blackpool, Ormskirk & Croston and Liverpool. Hopefully, more branches will take up the challenge for future shows!

The Barbara Roderick Memorial Lecture entitled "Demarree – More Than Swarm Control" was given by Jim Pearson of Wakefield & Pontefract Beekeepers. The lecture, which appeared to be well received, was delivered twice, enabling more members to attend.

We were fortunate enough to receive donations of some marvellous prizes for the raffle. Thanks to those who donated prizes and to all who bought tickets, we were able to give donations to our hosts, Lancashire Wildlife Trust (£160.10), and Bees for Development (£120.75).

Once again, the branches, individuals and invited traders pulled together and provided information, entertainment and produce to showcase bees and beekeeping.

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the show the success that I hope you agree it was:

Our Judges: John, Terry & Peter;

Our Judges' Stewards: Mike, Robert & John (with special thanks to John for stepping in at the last minute!);

My able assistants on the admin table: Kath Kindred & Mr Hill (capably assisted by his daughter!);

Everyone who contributed in any way to running stalls, organising the raffle, giving demonstrations and so much more!

But mostly, I would like to thank all those who entered and staged so many fabulous exhibits – without you there would be no show!

This is the third year that we have held the Lancashire Honey Show at Brockholes, and it appears to be growing year on year.

The current Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many events being cancelled. It is too early to know whether our 2020 show this autumn will be affected, but until we hear otherwise, assume that it will be going ahead on 4th October at Brockholes and start planning!

Let's make the next one the best yet!

Elaine Hargreaves
L&NW BKA Exhibitions Officer

RESULTS:

Class 1 – 2 Jars Light Honey (22 Entries; 22 Staged):

- 1st Martin Smith
- 2nd Alan Manwaring
- 3rd Paul Noblet
- 4th Greg Robertson

Class 2 – 2 Jars Medium Honey (21 Entries; 18 Staged):

- 1st John Mooney
- 2nd Robert Magee
- 3rd Paul Noblet
- 4th Alan Manwaring

Class 3 – 2 Jars Dark Honey (7 Entries; 7 Staged):

- 1st John Mooney
- 2nd Martin Smith
- 3rd Ray Dowson

Class 4 – 2 Jars Ling Heather Honey (3 Entries; 3 Staged):

- 1st Tony Gordon
- 2nd Kath Cordingley
- 3rd Dave Harrison

Class 5 – 2 Jars Soft Set Honey (9 Entries; 9 Staged):

- 1st Tony Gordon
- 2nd Ray Dowson
- 3rd Janet Preece

Class 6 – 2 Jars Naturally Granulated Honey (13 Entries; 11 Staged):

- 1st Viki Cuthbertson
- 2nd Martin Smith

Class 7 – 2 Jars 2019 Honey (23 Entries; 18 Staged):

- 1st Greg Robertson
- 2nd Steve Hargreaves
- 3rd Ray Dowson
- 4th Robert Magee

Class 8 – 2 Jars Honey – Novice (7 Entries; 7 Staged):

- 1st Simon Fowler
- 2nd Cath Knox
- 3rd Ian Hinde
- 4th Phil O'Shea

Class 9 – 1 Jars Beginners Honey (4 Entries; 4 Staged):

- 1st Emma Woodhouse
- 2nd Cath Knox
- 3rd Andrea Stephenson

Class 10 – 1 Frame of Honeycomb (12 Entries; 11 Staged):

- 1st Alan Manwaring
- 2nd Nicky Leeth
- 3rd Emma Woodhouse
- 4th William Helm

Class 11– 2 Pieces Cut Comb (6 Entries; 5 Staged):

- 1st Robert Magee
- 2nd Ian Hinde
- 3rd Anne Goodwin

Class 12 – 6 Matching Jars Honey (11 Entries; 10 Staged):

- 1st Martin Smith
- 2nd Ray Dowson
- 3rd Robert Magee
- 4th Phil O'Shea

Class 13 – Gift Class (9 Entries; 8 Staged):

- 1st Emma Woodhouse
- 2nd Ray Dowson
- 3rd Tony Gordon
- 4th Chris Carey

Class 14 – 227g Cake Beeswax (13 Entries; 10 Staged):

- 1st Elaine Hargreaves
- 2nd Robert Magee
- 3rd John Mooney
- 4th John McCann

Class 15 – 5 Matching Beeswax Blocks (15 Entries; 14 Staged):

- 1st Anne Goodwin
- 2nd Chris Carey
- 3rd Steve Hargreaves
- 4th John Mooney

Class 16 – Commercial Wax (11 Entries; 10 Staged):

- 1st Elaine Hargreaves
- 2nd Robert Magee
- 3rd Steve Hargreaves
- 4th Ian Hinde

Class 17 – Cake of Beeswax – Novice (11 Entries; 9 Staged):

- 1st Ian Hinde
- 2nd Win Sweeney
- 3rd Anne Goodwin

Class 18 – 2 Matching Plain Beeswax Candles (11 Entries; 10 Staged):

- 1st Robert Magee

2nd John McCann
3rd John Mooney

Class 19 – 1 Decorative Beeswax Candle (18 Entries; 16 Staged):

1st Robert Magee
2nd Viki Cuthbertson
3rd Alan Manwaring

Class 20 – Composite Wax & Honey (3 Entries; 3 Staged):

1st Robert Magee
2nd Steve Hargreaves
3rd John Mooney

Class 21 – 1 Bottle Sweet Mead (9 Entries; 9 Staged):

1st Kath Cordingley
2nd Steve Hargreaves
3rd John McCann
4th Dave Harrison

Class 22 – 1 Bottle Dry Mead (10 Entries; 10 Staged):

1st Paul Noblet
2nd Viki Cuthbertson
3rd Steve Hargreaves
4th M&P Goldstone

Class 23 – 1 Bottle Homemade Wine (3 Entries; 3 Staged):

1st John Mooney
2nd M&P Goldstone
3rd Dave Harrison

Class 24 – Plain Honey Cake (10 Entries; 9 Staged):

1st Paul Noblet
2nd Phil O'Shea
3rd Alan Greenwood
4th Simon Fowler

Class 25 – Decorated Honey Cake (3 Entries; 0 Staged):

NONE STAGED

Class 26 – 1 Jar Chutney, Relish or Preserve (10 Entries; 8 Staged):

1st Robina Johnstone
2nd Elaine Hargreaves
3rd Tony Gordon

Class 27 – Honey Sweets or Chocolates (6 Entries; 6 Staged):

1st Elaine Hargreaves
2nd Robina Johnstone
3rd Alan Manwaring

4th Tony Gordon

Class 28 – 6 Honey Biscuits or Cookies (12 Entries; 11 Staged):

1st Elaine Hargreaves

2nd John Mooney

3rd Wendy Noblet

4th Tony Gordon

Class 29 – Composite Cooking (7 Entries; 4 Staged):

1st Liane Doree

2nd Vicki Hall

3rd Alan Manwaring

4th Phil O'Shea

Class 30 – Photographic Print (26 Entries; 26 Staged):

1st Kath Cordingley

2nd Alan Manwaring

3rd Caroline Coughlin

4th Kath Kindred

Class 31 – Item of Craft (8 Entries; 7 Staged):

1st William Helm

2nd Robina Johnstone

3rd Alan Greenwood

Class 32 – Display of 5 Items (4 Entries; 4 Staged):

1st Viki Cuthbertson

2nd Liane Doree

3rd Tony Gordon

4th John Mooney

Class 33 – Branch Cooperation Class (4 Entries; 4 Staged):

1st Preston

2nd Liverpool

3rd Blackpool & Fylde

4th Ormskirk & Croston

TROPHIES AND AWARDS:

Southport Cup (Best Light Honey in Show):

Emma Woodhouse (Gift Class entry)

Grange-Over-Sands Cup (Best Medium Honey in Show):

John Mooney

F.C. Thompson Memorial Cup (Best Dark Honey in Show):

John Mooney

Lady Ashton Challenge Cup (Best Heather Honey in Show):

Tony Gordon

Fir Tree Farm Cup (Best Soft Set Honey in Show):

Tony Gordon

Vickerstaff Cup (Best Naturally Granulated Honey in Show):

Viki Cuthbertson

The Jasper Cup (Best in Honey Gathered in 2019 Class):

Greg Robertson

Mrs E.A.Boardman Cup (Best Honey in Novice Class):

Simon Fowler

Edward Humphreys Memorial Cup (Best Honey in Gift Class):

Emma Woodhouse

Festival Cup (Best in Honey & Wax Composite Class):

Robert Magee

A.S. Heaton Plate (Best Frame of Comb for Extraction):

Alan Manwaring

William Shuker Memorial Cup (Best Cut Comb):

Robert Magee

J. Swarbrick Cup (Best Cake of Beeswax in Show):

Elaine Hargreaves

Poole Trophy (Best Matching Plain Beeswax Candles):

Robert Magee

Fir Tree Farm Cup (Best Decorative Beeswax Candle):

Robert Magee

Rimmer Cup (Best Mead in Show):

Kath Cordingley

Fir Tree Farm Cup (Best Home Made Wine):

John Mooney

R.N. Cook Memorial Plate (Best Plain Honey Cake):

Paul Noblet

Fir Tree Farm Cup (Best Decorated Honey Cake):

Not Awarded

Lord Stanley President's Challenge Cup (Best Exhibit of Honey in Show):

Martin Smith (6-Jar Class)

Sir Wroth Lethbridge President's Cup (Highest Number of Points in Show):

Robert Magee

E. McCormick President's Branch Shield (Winner of Branch Cooperation Class):

Preston & District Branch

BLUE RIBBON (Best Exhibit in Show):

Elaine Hargreaves (Beeswax Cake)

EXAMINATION SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

EDUCATION and EXAM SECRETARYS' REPORT FOR 2019

Lancashire and North West region's provision for Members' education continues to flourish. The Education Sub-Committee meet 3 times/year, to co-ordinate Module courses and to discuss any issues and problems arising for candidates.

Applications increased for BBKA Basic Assessment and Examination Modules, undoubtedly owing to more learning opportunities made available through greater cooperation between branches.

The success of the first Bee Health candidates 2017 prompted a Bee Health and General Husbandry Taster Day at Myerscough College, attended by 25 members from across the region. The success of this event caused the region's Master Beekeepers to plan and develop future initiatives for the training of Bee Health and General Husbandry candidates in 2020/21

JUNIOR ASSESSMENT NONE IN 2019

BBKA NOVEMBER 2018 NOVEMBER MODULE EXAM SUCCESSES.

EAST LANCASHIRE

M 6 PASS 1

BLACKPOOL

M 3 DISTINCTION 1

PRESTON

M 1 PASS 1

M 2 CREDIT 3 PASS 1

M 8 CREDIT 1

BBKA MARCH 2019 MARCH MODULES EXAM SUCCESSES

EAST LANCASHIRE

M 8 CREDIT 1

BLACKPOOL

M 3 PASS 1

ORMSKIRK & CROSTON

M1 CREDIT 1

M 2 DISTINCTION 1

M 3 CREDIT 2 PASS 1

M 5 PASS 1

PRESTON

M 1 PASS 1
M 2 CREDIT 1
M 3 DISTINCTION 1 PASS 4
M 5 PASS 1
M 7 PASS 1

SOUTHPORT
M 1 CREDIT 1

LANCASTER
M 1 DISTINCTION 1 CREDIT 1
M 2 DISTINCTION 1 CREDIT 1

BBKA BASIC CERTIFICATES 2019
EAST LANCASHIRE
CREDIT 1 PASS 4

BLACKPOOL
CREDIT 1

LIVERPOOL
CREDIT 1 PASS 1

ORMSKIRK & CROSTON
CREDIT 2

PRESTON
CREDIT 6

SOUTHPORT
CREDIT1

MEDLOCK
CREDIT 1

TWO FURTHER BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENTS WERE ENTERED VIA THE MEDLOCK BRANCH
THE CANDIDATES ACHIEVING
BACUP PASS 1 and OLDHAM CREDIT 1

LEONARD ROSS TROPHY for the highest BASIC SCORE in LANCASHIRE & NORTH WEST REGION

Gillian Paul of PRESTON Branch.

MODULE INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE

Kath Cordingly : Preston, Janet Preece : Blackpool, Anne Stupple : Ormskirk and Croston.

MODULE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

David Heaton : East Lancashire, Alan Manwaring : Preston, David Riley : Ormskirk and Croston

GENERAL HUSBANDRY

David Heaton : East Lancashire.

Congratulations to all successful Lancashire and North West members in 2019.

Our thanks go to everyone who has given us assistance and advice throughout the year.
Your guidance and patience are, as always, much appreciated.

Robina Johnstone and Viki Cuthbertson

Branch Contact Details

Please use the websites for up to date contact details

Lancashire and North West BKA	https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/
Blackpool and Fylde	http://www.blackpoolbees.co.uk/
East Lancashire	http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk/
Lancaster	http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk/
Liverpool and District	http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/
Medlock	http://www.medlockbees.co.uk/
Ormskirk and Croston	https://www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk/
Preston and District	http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/
Southport and District	http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk/

Branch reports

East Lancs

East Lancashire Beekeepers' Association - Chairman's report 2018 / 2019

This year our club has seen an increase in enthusiasm for attending meetings, involving themselves in the apiary sessions at Offshoots and becoming more active in regional activities.

Entries at our branch honey show was up significantly and we made our presence felt at the County show for the first time in many years, winning 5 first prizes and several 2nd and 3rd places. Our success in this I feel is partly due to John Goodwin our honey show judge who for the last 2 years has done open judging at our branch show. We have learned a lot from his comments as he judged our entries and it is showing at County level.

I feel that our success can also be attributed to the programme of events at our monthly meetings. Subjects ranged from maximising honey production, vapping varroa, hints tips and cheats from more experienced beekeepers as well as the usual swarm control lessons.

Our apiary sessions are also a major contribution to improving our beekeeping standards. Dave Parker our apiary Manager for most of this year, has done an excellent job and Darren who is standing in temporarily has continued the hard work. Without this the club bees would not be such a good learning tool.

Our June meeting saw us assisting Offshoots with World Bee Day. This was a major success with a constant stream of visitors at a variety of stalls and activities provided.

We also had a club stand at the County honey show which attracted many visitors. This was enhanced by some excellent display boards which the club has purchased over recent years. Thanks also to Ken Isherwood for constructing our cutaway hive.

We took a break for holidays in July but were back with the club dinner at the Agra restaurant in Hapton. Always an entertaining event with good food and an opportunity to talk about bees naturally!

The club has provided pie and peas for some occasions out of club funds, today included. Our honey judge informed me it's the best food he gets anywhere.

In the education department 5 members achieved their Basic assessment awards, one member not only passed the last of his modules to gain the advanced theory certificate but also passed the General Husbandry practical assessment and is now a BBKA qualified beekeeper.

4 Introduction to beekeeping courses have held throughout the year.

These are always well attended and many go on to join the club to become beekeepers.

There has been work done with schools and other organisations throughout the year. Talks have been given by our members to other clubs, and it was said to me earlier in the year 'if you want to learn go to East Lancashire Beekeepers they are the best for miles' (and no he wasn't a member!)

Of course, all of this could not be done without a lot of hard work behind the scenes, not just with committee members but it seems like an army of volunteers who go above and beyond to make a success of our club. As retiring Chairman I would just like to give these people a massive thank you as they have made this job a lot easier and I wish all the best to the new committee to be elected.

ELBKA Committee Members 2019 - 2020

OFFICE	Name
Chair	Dave Heaton
Vice Chair	Vacancy
Treasurer	Hilary Wilson
Secretary	Anne Marie Parker
Membership Secretary	Juli Scott
Education Manager	Janet Murray
Website/Comms Manager	Barrie Scott
Honey Show Coordinator	Emma Woodhouse
Committee Member	Greg Robertson
Committee Member	Pat Smith

Committee Member Gwen Walton
Committee Member Jeff Ellis

Blackpool & Fylde Branch.

Lancashire & Blackpool Beekeepers Association Blackpool & Fylde Branch
Tuesday 19th November 2019. A.G.M. and Jacobs Join.

Venue - Methodist Church Hall Queensway Poulton Le Fylde.

Attendees: Christine Webb. Denise Coleman. Janet Swain. Janet Preece. C. Crabtree. J. Naisbitt. P. Leeks. P. Goldstone. Charlie Greenhill. Pam Greenhill. Derek Newton. Alex Hume. Kevin Mawdsley. Paul Edmonds. Bobby Edmonds. Mica Goldstone. A. Amatiello. J. Blanthorn Hazel. Paul Clarke. Sharon Riley Clarke. Bill Poole. M Ceils. Jack Cryer. Lee Cryer. Apologies: Peter Mason. Mark O'Donnell. Karl Bolton. Keith Hallam. Keith Hemming. Michael Gardener. Win Sweeny. John & Henry Ibbotson. Alison Sykes.

Last Year's Minutes 2018: There was no business arising from these minutes.

President's Address. Good evening and welcome to our A.G.M. Again, we have had a challenging year, especially the weather and Brexit, even the bees don't know if they are coming or going! Fortunately, as a group, we are lucky to have Charlie Greenhill as our chairman and Paul Leeks as his vice chairman. Thank you to you both and thank you also to Pam Greenhill who gives help and support to them at our out apiary at Lytham Hall. Our secretary Paulette has kept us well organised and booked excellent speakers throughout the year. Our treasurer Janet has a demanding job and we don't always understand what is involved, so many thanks for a job well done.

The out apiary at Lytham Hall is a big commitment so thank you to the volunteers for keeping it going as it is essential for training. Course trainers Janet Preece and Kath Kindred keep us up to date and train our new beekeepers. They are always happy to give advice when needed. We continue to be represented at county level by Michael Gardener who is county council chairman and representatives to the council, Eric Hassall and Kath Kindred.

Thanks to Peter Mason our web master who is always happy to receive any suggestions from members. Lastly, I thank all members for everything

you do, you are an amazing group and I look forward to the challenge of 2020 and another happy beekeeping year.

Doris Richardson.

Chairman's Report. 2019 has been a challenging year in many ways. The long cold spring meant difficulties in mating queens from the numerous swarms and splits. Our attempts at Demaree swarm control all failed. The other challenging period was in September when our varroa control using MAQ seemed to cause a number of queens to go off egg laying and we needed to unite a number of hives. The year wasn't completely bad however as the hot spell in June and July gave a good honey flow. All this variety gave our new beekeepers that come to Lytham hall apiary on a Monday evening plenty to learn about and become involved with.

Although the new apiary is not as good as our original site the bees have settled in and have provided a good source of training.

We have had good attendance from new members to our Monday training evenings with approximately 6-8 new beekeepers and really appreciate when more experienced beekeepers join us to help.

Our annual "Bee Awareness Day" at Lytham Hall was another great success. We had a very good attendance of approximately 200 – 300 children and parents. A big thank you to all those who helped.

We will be booking the event for next year. Our only major expense for the out apiary this year was the purchase of a new storage box and we managed some income from the sale of the fencing we were forced to take down and from the sale of a limited supply of honey.

Many thanks to our committee who have all been very supportive of Blackpool & Fylde beekeepers. I would like to commend Janet Preece our education officer for involving others in her module training which means that while she studies she can share the learning with others. You don't know how much you don't know until you start studying for modules.

A huge thanks to Paulette Goldstone, our secretary who plans our winter meetings, organising speakers and holds things together.

Another big thanks to Janet Swain our treasurer who has had the difficult task of dealing with the new computerised method installed by the BBKA but with Mica Goldstone's help has agreed to continue the role and overcome the problems.

Many thanks also to our members for having me as your chairman even though I am away part of the winter. I enjoy my part as chairman and would like to thank my vice chairman Paul Leeks for standing in for me on a number of occasions.

Charlie Greenhill.

Treasurers Report. There was no Gift Aid refund this year I have sent three emails to the new BBKA treasurer about it but have had no reply. Whilst doing the accounts I also realised that the Autumn capitation cheque has not yet been cashed – I paid it in September. Again I have sent an email but have not had any reply from the County Treasurer. Our out apiary at Lytham Hall brings in quite a lot of income through sales of honey, Bee Awareness Day and training courses. Thanks must go to Micah for his help with the e-return system also to Paul Edmonds for examining the accounts. Janet Swain.

Secretary's Report Thank you all for attending this year's A.G.M and Jacobs Join and welcome to our new members.

We have had some excellent speakers this year and the meetings have been well supported by our members. These meetings give us all a chance to meet our fellow beekeepers and generally to learn something new about beekeeping and exchange views. The raffle earns us some income and the generosity of members in providing prizes is amazing. (I could not belong to a nicer group) Thank you to Kath Kindred who has kept the out apiary in sugar which she collects from Sainsbury. Sainsbury gives us this free, it is sugar that has damaged bags. Kath collects large amounts I don't know how she carries such weights, but she does. The ever popular out apiary at Doris Richardson's was well attended and a very good learning day for all My thanks to my fellow officers for support and advice on speakers.

Paulette Goldstone.

Quartermasters Report.

There have been minimal changes with the club's equipment during the past year. The major purchase was the bee storage box for the out apiary which has been essential as we needed a lockable space on the new site to store some of our equipment. This has worked well. The wooden shed on the old site was sold for a £100. There was a need to reduce the amount of the unused equipment in the storeroom, and we sold the honey press and some old wood nucs. The wax extractor is currently getting little use and if any member wants to hire it over the winter to melt down old wax frames it is available. We also have an electric and manual honey extractor which are available to hire for any club member lucky enough to have honey. Due to the demand on bee suits we are buying some new ones for next year. We have washed and they are currently stored at our house to keep them away from any damp.

Pamela Greenhill.

Education Report It has been another busy year with a number of events taking place to develop everyone's skills and experiences. Module exams. In March, Win Sweeny was successful in Module 3 Bee diseases and passed her exam, congratulations to her.

Basic assessment. In April/May a basic course was put on. Paul Leeks and I had a great time discussing all things basic! Well done to Paul who passed his basic assessment in July.

Introduction to Beekeeping. Only one 1 day course was run this year at Lytham Hall but it was very successful with 10 attendees and a number of these joining the Monday evening groups with Pam and Charlie Greenhill at the out apiary.

All were registered as County members boosting the club's membership numbers.

Queen Rearing. A queen rearing course for members was run over the summer with some techniques being tried out. These included using the cupkit system, grafting and using mating hives/ apideas. The weather was against us and we were unsuccessful in our venture although Win Sweeny did manage to use all these skills and raise a queen of her own.

Bee Awareness Day Talks were held with the general public to inform them about beekeeping and all things bee related, Bee health/ Microscopy day. Preston and Blackpool clubs held a bee health day at Myerscough college in July. Members from both clubs were able to bring samples of bees and watch and take part in identifying acarine and noseema in these bees. This was an interesting event and will hopefully be repeated in the future.

General Husbandry / Bee Health Certificate. Lancashire held an awareness day in August for those who were interested doing GH or Bee Health certificate. From this there are some sessions already planned for Feb/March next year – you should all have received an email about this, make sure you book on if you are interested in developing your skills further.

Honey shows. This year the club again participated in the Lancashire Honey show, putting on the show for the club entry, thanks must go to Win and Paulette for this and to the members who lent their products for the display. We came a respectable 3rd out of 4!! Well done to all other members who entered the show – taking part is just as good as winning and we learned a lot a lot from the experience (including that my sort set honey wasn't quite up to par!) External Talks.

I did a talk about microscopy for Preston Beekeepers explaining a little more about using microscopes in beekeeping and discussing the

microscopy assessment. If I have missed anything or anyone else off, I apologise.

Janet Preece.

Election of Officers. We encourage any member to nominate themselves for a position on the committee recognising that they can bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the association. Nominations for any post are welcome for the next AGM November 2020. President Doris Richardson There were no new nominations for any of the offices. It was proposed and seconded by all present that elected officers remain the same.

Elected Officers: Chairman.

Charlie Greenhill. p.m.greenhill@btinternet.com Vice chair. Paul Leeks. paul@glasgows.co.uk

Treasurer. Janet Swain janetswain196@outlook.com

Secretary. Paulette Goldstone. fylde.bees.secretary@gmail.com

Education. Janet Preece. jlpreece@yahoo.co.uk

Librarian. Janet Preece.

Quartermaster. Pam Greenhill. Central Council Rep.

Kath Kindred. kath@deekswood.co.uk Asst Rep. Eric Hassall. Eric-hassall@btinternet.com Webmaster.

Peter Mason. peter@blackpoolbees.co.uk.

Any other Business.

Bill Poole (master beekeeper) gave a brief history of the Blackpool & Fylde association and presented the club with some large beautiful illustrations drawn by himself of bees in all stages. He made these when he was learning the beekeeping craft.

There were very few beekeepers in the Fylde, but he got together with Doris Richardson and Cynthia Crabtree to revive the club (lapsed for many years) and held meetings at his house. We would not be here without them.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm with an attendance of twenty four people

Lancaster Beekeepers

AGM Minutes

Lancaster Beekeepers Club

Date: Saturday 30 November 2019

Attendees

Roger & Helen Jump

Jenny Gilpin

Geoff & Carolyn Higginson

Edell Armes

Mark Stott

Richard & Linda Wilson

Roger & Natalia Walton

Emma Wright Crooks

Jon Schofield and partner (non - members)

This represents more than 10% of our current membership and therefore the meeting was quorate.

Role	Elected	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Jenny Gilpin	Richard Wilson	Roger Jump
Secretary	Emma Wright Crooks	Linda Wilson	Edell Armes
Training Co-coordinator	Emma Wright Crooks	Linda Wilson	Edell Armes
Treasurer	Sue Counsell	Mark Stott	Geoff Higginson
Membership Co-ordinator	Sue Counsell	Mark Stott	Geoff Higginson
Vice Chair	Roger Jump	Linda Wilson	Edell Armes
Education Co-ordinator	Mark Stott	Jenny Gilpin	Emma Wright Crooks
Exam Co-ordinator	Kevin Gilpin	Sue Counsell	Mark Stott
Apiary Co-ordinator	Mark Stott	Linda Wilson	Sue Counsell
Programme Co-ordinator	Edell Armes	Helen Jump	Geoff Higginson
Swarm Co-ordinator	Richard Wilson	Jenny Gilpin	Mark Stott
Asian Hornet Co-ordinator	David Wareing	Tracey Hornby	Richard Wilson
Apiary beekeepers	Mark Stott & Geoff Higginson	n/a	

Independent Examiner	RogerJump	Edell Armes	Geoff Higginson
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Apologies

Vincent Smalley

David Wareing

Kevin Gilpin

Pat Harrison

Jackie Eaton

Jonathan Ivy

Simon Robinson

Nadia Mazza

Tracey Hornby

Appointment of Officers

Jenny reported that Nadia Mazza has resigned as Secretary, a position that we are required to fill. Jenny described the responsibilities which included the issuing of club communications and minuting the meetings. She also noted that Nadia also co-ordinated the applications for training running a spreadsheet on Google Drive. The other officers' roles were described by each individual and the following positions were filled as indicated below.

Officers Reports

Chair - Annual Report

Jenny confirmed that our membership was healthy in 2019 with 74 current members made up of 47 Registered BBKA members, 8 Partner members, 5 Country members, 1 Honorary Member and 13 Non-BBKA Members.

Activities/events in 2018/19 – Jenny gave a summary of the monthly meetings and events making up the 2018 / 19 programme. The programme is now fairly established. We had a very popular talk by Professor Martin Stephen John from Salford University in spring 2019. The training events have been very successful commencing with very good uptake for the public open day in May and a number of beekeepers attending the beginners training, going on to join the club.

Jenny also highlighted the work done by Helen Jump, Pat Harrison and Richard Wilson in introducing the value of bees and beekeeping in schools. In particular a lovely thank you letter that a Skerton primary school sent, which we will publish on Facebook. Sue mentioned that the BBKA now has a School Membership category and a suite of documents written to assist branches who may wish to encourage schools to set up an apiary.

Jenny took the opportunity to ask members for feedback on communication used by the club, the BBKA and Lancashire to get a feel for how people found the communication grouping and frequency. Two suggestions were made by attendees, 1) to create a 'What's App' group for sharing key reminders of events, 2) to send emails one by one rather than grouping them as people felt they may miss key messages in long communications. Members felt that they can easily delete messages if it is obvious it is not of interest to them. No-one felt overwhelmed by too much communication. Members felt it more likely that people would access 'What's app' than Facebook and that people could chose to opt in to a What's App group through the membership form.

Treasurer's Report

Sue presented the accounts for the year ended 31/10/19 and highlighted that these were now much simpler, in the format required by Lancashire. The highlights were: a profit made of £1,593; income from training sessions of £2,625 without which the club would have made a loss; total assets at the end of the year of £12,638.

Mark noted that there is work needed on the apiary carpark. Sue pointed out that we would be required to put the apiary back to 'as it was' if we ever had to leave and this was discussed. We have a rolling 1 year tenancy agreement on the land and neither side is showing intention to end the agreement. However it was agreed that it would be prudent for Jenny to approach Matthew Allen to find out what the terms of leaving would be.

The committee have been discussing making donations of any bank balance excess to local good causes. Once we have established any costs we would be liable for, a proposal will then be brought back to club members.

In light of this, it was also agreed that the Lancaster element of the subs will remain at £10 for the year from 1st November. (Proposed by Roger Walton, seconded by Richard Wilson.

Roger Jump confirmed that he had independently examined the accounts as required by Lancashire and they were in order.

Education Coordinator's Report

Mark reported that 20 trainees enrolled on the Basic Theory course held at Farm Gate vets Centre at Junction 36. Club members were encouraged to present sessions within the training as this relieves any monotony and

introduces the attendees to more members. This will be encouraged again next year.

12 of the attendees went on to complete the Practical sessions over the summer, 6 of whom have become club members and participated in other activities. The weather for the sessions was good and the course had been successful and very enjoyable.

Mark and Kevin are planning a refresher talk in February before the season starts again.

Examination Coordinator's Report

On behalf of Kevin, Mark reported that:

No members took the Basic exam this year.

2 members, Mark and Dawn Boswell-Challand continued with advanced learning, taking and passing Modules 1 & 2. Mark has also taken Module 5, with the results outstanding.

2 members attended the Lancashire General Husbandry introductory course and 1 attended a similar course run by Penrith Beekeepers.

Programme 2019-20

Jenny has already organised a full programme of events for 2019/20 and we also have a range of Lancashire events and other branches' activities available to our members. Jenny brought attention to 4 events in particular which need good membership support to make a success:

- 21st June National Bee Unit Bee Health day – Need 70+ attendees for this to go ahead. It will be widely advertised across Lancashire, Cumbria and the NBU.
- 10th May Public Open day – Usual format
- 13th June Piccadilly Gardens - Information stand expected and observation hive
- Early October TBC - LNWBKA Honey Show - Information stand expected

The draft programme was distributed and one date was changed, with the Improvers Session on Bailey Comb change/Shook Swarm moving from 4th to 18th April.

The business meeting closed with a vote of thanks from Linda Wilson to the committee and all who help in a wider capacity to make the club successful.

LIVERPOOL & MERSEYSIDE BRANCH

Chairman's Report

Welcome to all to our AGM of the Liverpool and Merseyside Beekeepers Branch

It has been an unusual year as far as beekeeping goes. The weather has been unpredictable and not helped our bees. Some members have had honey some have not, and in some cases the bees have been behaving abnormally. There seems to have been more late swarms this season. I even had a swarm in mid September and like Arthur my bees don't normally swarm!

Most of our meetings have been successful and attendances have been good throughout. The speakers have been mainly in-house and I would like to thank all who gave talks.

We had two home apiary meetings and I would like to thank both Evelyn and Tony for their kind hospitality at both meetings. Doug Jones gave a talk at one of our home apiary meetings and the outside speakers we had were excellent. Graham Royal rescued a weather affected home meeting with a lesson on disease identification, and Karl Colyer gave a very informative talk on the importance of raising our own queens. As I have stated before, it has become increasingly difficult to find outside speakers and Tracey certainly hit the jackpot finding Karl Colyer, who we have not had before.

We are constantly looking for members who will serve on the Committee, which is going through a possible exciting transitional time. We have Committee members who seem to have all the skills and expertise to try and obtain an all purpose new Branch apiary. Our current apiary, which is very ably run by the amazing, intrepid Dave Harrison and his cohorts, is a very picturesque and perfect aspect for bees, but lacks the modern facilities required for the modern age. This topic will be fully discussed in AOB.

During my term as Chair I have seen some very positive changes for the Branch. No more so than when Tracey agreed to become Secretary. She has held this post for a number of years now and feels it is time to step down. I think we should now show our appreciation for all the admiral work she has done throughout her term.

John McCann has been Treasurer for as long as I can remember and we are in a good financial position due to his efforts. He would also like to step down if we can find a successor and has agreed to stay on for another year if needs be. We can always count on him to give a talk at Branch meetings. He is the Godfather of the Branch.

Geoff Todd does sterling work behind the scenes as Membership Secretary, and his input is a valuable asset.

Cliff Porter, apart from being our Education Secretary, is also the chief teamaker at our meetings ably assisted by Tracey. He has transformed the beginners course to another level. He also does an incredible amount of work behind the scenes and is a very valuable member of the committee.

Dave Harrison had his 80th this year and has been on some bucket list adventures to mark birthday. He is a very positive guy and does so much for our branch apiary and my thanks to him. And last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Izzie for the lovely cakes which she bakes for us. Also I would like to thank anyone I have omitted to mention.

Thank you

Peter Wass (Chair)

Branch Secretary's Report

The size of our membership has remained more or less stable since last year, now including three junior members since we opened our doors to youngsters. We moved to the eR2 membership system in November 2018 and since then have been using the facility for reliable and secure email contact with our members as well as managing subs, receipts etc.

Our membership has once again been boosted from our popular Beginners Course early in the year. Several of the beginners now have bees and it's been great to see a number of them attending and actively participating in branch meetings.

We have held eight branch meetings at various venues with good attendance of between 20 and 35 members. But the highlight of the year was a special annual dinner in January to honour Arthur Gillett on his 100th birthday. His family have since generously funded a new silver trophy in his honour to be awarded to the entrant winning the most cards at the Liverpool Honey Show.

With Cliff Porter's, help and encouragement a couple of members took the Basic Assessment this year and he is himself persevering with another Module.

In February several members attended the BIBBA event 'Sustainable Bees for Everyone' delivered by Roger Patterson at Frodsham and two members attended a BIBBA queen-rearing course in North Wales in summer. Also, 11 members attended the excellent 'Healthy Bee Day' at Norton Priory in May and out of only 47 participants in total this was a very satisfying turnout for Liverpool

Cliff Porter gave some practical mentoring to Calderstones School pupil, Natalie, in preparation for her bid to attend the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers. She was subsequently selected for the second year running.

I am now standing down as Branch Secretary after four years. The role has been fairly full-on and not easy to fit in to 'spare' time around a full-time job but the constant appreciation that I have received from members from day one until today has been a great boost. Thank you. I am sure the next Secretary will keep the branch running effectively and will bring their own particular strengths to the role.

Tracey Seddon

Branch Secretary.

Medlock Bees branch

Medlock yearbook report 2019

Officers:

Chairman Vacant

Secretary Catherine Charnock

Treasurer George Tavener

Committee Ian McDermott

Leam McCulloch

Alexsander Capewell

Leslie Latham

IT and Social media officer Luke Charnock

Medlock started the year on a positive note. The new beekeepers training course was a first for the club. The practical sessions were held at Stott's Lane Allotment apiary as the club apiary wasn't up to the demands of the training sessions.

Medlock wishes to express our thanks to Stott's Lane for their hospitality at such short notice.

Mid-year saw two resignations from the club The Chair and Secretary. Medlock thanks them for their service and wishes them well on their onward journey.

Our summer event at Broadhurst Playing fields was a great success as usual. Alan Greenwood, our member, did candle rolling with the children and brought in over £100 to club funds.

The end of the year brought a positive AGM and plans for the year ahead to include monthly meetings at a variety of venues, a visit to a queen rearing apiary and talks and training booked with John Hewitt. All has had to be postponed due to Covid 19.

Medlock has 19 members and is in a secure financial position.

Ormskirk & Croston District Branch of L&NWBKA
Branch Report Year ended 31st October 2019.

Recruitment and Membership

Membership for the branch is 217 for the past year which up from 170 the previous year. We have seen a renewed interest in beekeeping with an increase in the numbers for the Introduction to Beekeeping course that is run in the Spring.

Schedule of meetings

Winter meetings this year were held at New Church House in Ormskirk and all were well attended. On Tuesday 22 January Pete Sutcliffe gave his Super Organism talk.

On 26 February Viki Cuthbertson gave a talk about bee products and over 50 people attended.

On 26 March Margaret Murdin gave a very informative talk about honeybee dances and Spring Management with 44 people attending.

We returned to the out apiary on Sunday 28 April for a queen rearing theory meeting and 45 people attended.

Our next meeting on Sunday 19 May focused on swarming and bee health certificate. 28 people attended.

The following meeting on 15 June was with John Hewitt and Eddie Farrell who talked about General Husbandry and making up nucleus hives. 15 people attended.

On Sunday 14 July 15 people attended a talk about honey show preparation with Martin Smith.

On Saturday 10 August Vicki Hall gave a talk on disease. 15 people attended.

On the 7th of September the Branch Honey Show was held at Aughton Village Hall.

On 7 October Margaret Murdin gave a talk about beekeeping on the Pitcairn Islands and offered members a taste of the honey from there. She also talked about bee pheromones.

Introduction to Beekeeping course and practicals

This year Brian Jones gave the training course on 6 April at Ormskirk School which was attended by 31 people up from 19 in 2018. The day was followed by a series of practical sessions at the out apiary. Practical sessions were run by members of the committee and other branch members. As in the previous year, all new members were assigned a mentor and all those who wanted bees received colonies by mid-summer supplied by branch and committee members.

Examinations

Thanks to Paul Roberts for this information

We had a good year with six members attending the Basic Assessment course and a number of groups studying BBKA modules, including modules 3 and 5. The BBKA correspondence courses are the preferred method of study for small groups but also for the individual beekeeper who wants to self-study.

As you will be aware the BBKA is keen on local associations running queen rearing courses. This is primarily to reduce the number of bees imported and hence limit disease and pests but also helps in rearing local bees best suited to the regional environment. Ray Dowson and Eddie Farrell ran a queen rearing course over the summer, with a number of opportunities for members to initiate the process, so those interested could have an opportunity to attend.

Regionally, a Bee Health and General Husbandry day was undertaken in Preston with eight Master Beekeepers running the sessions. The Ormskirk branch was well represented and additional Bee Health and General Husbandry Preparation courses will be scheduled next year.

As a final comment on education and learning, the BBKA runs the Spring Convention each year but other Associations also have conventions, including your Lancashire & NW Association, so please keep a look out for upcoming events.

Events

Thanks to David Farmer for the following information:

From May to September the branch attended at least nine outside events

[Sutton Park Gala](#), St Helens

[Blacksmiths Heritage Day](#), St Helens

[Victoria Park Memorial Day](#), St Helens

[Taylor's Open Farm Day](#), Lathom

[St Aidans School](#), St Helens

[The Green Fayre](#) Parbold - 2 Day Event

[Southport Flower Show](#) - 4 Day Event

[Animal Magic Martin Mere](#) - 2 Day Event

And A Talk To The [Maghull Women's Institute](#)

That's 10 Days Local and 4 days At Southport Flower Show covered By Ormskirk & Croston in 5 months.

I think a mention of thanks from myself and the club is warranted to all volunteers who have given their time

Thanks Dave Farmer.

The branch web site continues to be a useful resource for members and interested parties. Information about our programme of events and contact details can be found at www.ormskirkbeekeepers.org.uk We welcome contributions for the newsletter from all branch members and hope that we can continue to provide meetings and events that people will support.

Penny Oakley
Branch Secretary
November 2019

Preston Beekeepers

Chairman's report

Good evening and welcome to everyone

I hope everyone had a reasonable year despite the unsettled British weather.

Please keep setting your Asian Hornet observation traps and report any findings to your Bee Inspector. Members are encouraged to attend Asian Hornet awareness events throughout the area as this problem involves all Beekeepers. There have been 4 Asian Hornet sightings confirmed in England this year and many more in the Channel Islands.

As usual the branch has had a busy year with numerous activities, shows and events highlighted in the various reports and as always this was due to the help and cooperation of officers and members of the branch. The average number of attendees at the events was 30 and thanks should go to Mrs Jane Halsall for producing an interesting and diverse programme along with very good speakers at the events. I attended the planned Hive openings at Great Nelson Farm, Ulmes Walton and was made to feel very welcome and enjoyed the friendly and social discussions not to mention the Cakes. I wish to highlight that we are all members of Preston BKA whichever side of the river we live and are welcome to all events and activities.

1. Club Apiary. I would like to thank Viki and the Apiary Committee, and everyone involved in the successful running of the Apiary for their hard work and support throughout the year. Taking into consideration the apiary is a teaching apiary we have also had a reasonable honey harvest this year with some of the honey being sold at the various shows and events throughout the year. Viki will have more details in the Apiary managers' report.

2. PBKA Honey Show. Sadly, the attendance at the Honey Show was very disappointing considering the number of members we now have in the branch. There is a lot of hard work goes into organising the show and booking the Judges and Speakers a Special thanks should go to Lianne Doree who planned and organised the show and produced the 'Honey Show Schedule and Entry form thank you also to the members who assisted at the show. Congratulations to those who came away with a certificate in their chosen category. Well done also to all who entered and just missed out don't be deterred and keep trying. The A J Fisher Trophy was presented to the person whose item on show was considered by the Judge to be the Best in Show and that was Paul Noblett. The person who had the best wax in show was Viki Cuthbertson and she received the Red Rose Shield. The entry for Novice Honey was

Cath Knox and she received The Joe Birkby Cup. The person who accumulated the most points in the show was Alan Manwaring and he received the Andrew Todd Trophy well done to them and thank you to everyone who supported the show.

3. Lancs&NW BKA Honey Show. The County Honey Show was held on Sunday 13th October at the Brockholes Nature Reserve. There was 300 plus entries. The winners from our branch were: The Branch Co-Op class shield was won by Preston, The Frame of Honey - Alan Manwaring, Composite Cooking (Scones Cakes) - Liane Doree, Display of 5 Items-Viki Cuthbertson, Cut Comb - Robert Magee, Craft (Actually Mat) – Bill Helm, 2 Matching Candles – Robert Magee, Honey Cake – Paul Noblet, Naturally Set Honey – Viki Cuthbertson. We also had many 2nd and 3rd placed items. Well done to everyone who took part in the show.

4. Education. Alan has continued to develop a successful programme of courses aimed at beginners and experienced beekeepers alike. Congratulations to Viki Cuthbertson and Paul Noblett who have achieved the great height of Master Beekeeper. -Congratulations to everyone who passed their various exams, I am sure Alan will have more details in his report. If anyone is interested in studying for any of the courses next year, please contact Alan for details.

5. Website Manager. If you feel an item could be on the website or needs updating, please contact me ASAP on my mobile or E-Mail with your suggestion and I will update if needed.

6. Finally, I would like to thank all those members who have helped to make 2019 an interesting and a successful year for the Branch. The Officers and members of sub committees also deserve a special mention. I would like to thank Mr Arthur Leyland for all his hard work in his first year as Branch Treasurer. Arthur together with Mr Keith Pearson has brought us into the 21st Century regarding Membership and Banking. If you would like to join one of the committees, please make it known during the elections following the reports.

Now the various reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Education Secretary and Apiary manager will add some detail to my report and demonstrate that the branch is thriving.

A H Fowler

Chairman PBKA

November 2019

Here we are again, another year has flown by. I think on the whole this was a good year for honey crops but we heard reports of Queens going missing and problems with chalkbrood. It was quite a bad year for wasps also. I hope you have overcome any problems and your bees are going into Winter with good prospects.

Way back in March the Convention at Archbishop Temple School was enjoyed by all who attended. Clive de Bryn and the other speakers were very informative and interesting.

We then went on to have some fantastic talks and presentations by the likes of Tom Seeley, Viki Cuthbertson, Sheila Birkby, Paul Noblet, Kath Cordingley, Katherine Howarth, John Hewitt, Dave Heaton and Janet Priest.

There were workshops at the Teaching Apiary on Comb sterilisation, Preparation for queen rearing, Patch method, Making up a nucleus. Swarm control, Queen marking and clipping. The new beekeepers joined us there every week whatever the weather.

Our Teaching Apiary has evolved into a great place for learning and this years new beekeepers have faithfully attended every week whatever the weather. However, it needs regular maintenance and our Thursday maintenance crew do a great job in keeping the grass down and clearing space for more hives.

The club provided education in the form of the BBKA Introduction to Beekeeping which was a 10 week course. There were also classes for various modules throughout the year all these were provided voluntarily by members of our Club.

Our Honey Show was held at a New venue this year and it was a success with lots of entries. We saw quite a few NEW beekeepers at this event who entered the various classes.

Throughout the year we have been represented at various Spring and Summer Shows, manned by volunteers of our club. If you would like to help at any of the shows please contact one of the Committee. It's a great day out (weather permitting) and it helps to bring beekeeping to the community.

We are so lucky to have in our Club people who can educate and also to provide support for our beekeepers even when things go wrong.

The Committee meet on a monthly basis to discuss and organise all these events. If you have any speaker in mind which you would like us to book for 2020 or have anything that you would like to tell us about please let one of us know.

Thanks for all your support this year. Looking forward to 2020.

Treasurer's Report AGM November 2019

During the year two significant changes have been made to our banking system.

Firstly we have moved to online banking. Despite many initial difficulties it has proved to be advantageous. We are able to; access our accounts online, pay by BACS, track payments made by BACS into our account and transfer money between our accounts.

Secondly we have closed the petty cash account. All money received is now paid into the bank and all expenses paid by BACS or cheque. This has simplified our accounting systems.

The accounts continue to show a healthy balance hence we are able to keep the membership fees due to the branch at a modest level. During the year we had 145 paid members this yielded an income of about £280.

Income.

Education/Courses: These prove to be a main source of income. During the year; Introductory Course (£395), INTACT Beekeeping course (£350), BKA Basic course and BKA MOD 3&8 courses were all run.

Sales: Sales include the sale of refreshments, polo shirts, equipment (e.g. MAQS treatment) and honey from the apiary at Myscough College.

Sponsorship: St Wilfred's Church continues to sponsor a hive (£100) this includes payment for 1 Country Member.

Grant Aid Refund: This is claimed by L&NW BKA, it is then refunded to our account. To date this has not yet been refunded.

Expenses

These are kept to a minimum thanks to the work carried out by the many willing volunteers.

Apiary: This includes the cost of maintaining and equipping the apiary so that it can be used as a teaching apiary. It also includes beekeeping items purchased to sell on to members e.g. MAQS Treatment. These costs are offset by the sale of honey and equipment.

Equipment: During the year: a honey extractor, wax extractor and honey comb cutters were all purchased. These are available to members.

Room Hire: Room hire includes: 2 honey shows (2018 & 19), Introductory course (10 weeks) and general meetings. The vast majority of events were held at the INTACT Centre.

Many thanks to the committee for their support and encouragement throughout the year, with particular thanks to Paul Noblett, Keith Pearson, Alan Manwaring and Vikki Cuthbertson. Thanks also to Neil Buck who scrutinised the accounts.

Arthur Leyland

Treasurer : L&NW BKA Preston & District Branch

Education Officer's Report - 2019 Education, in our case, includes providing guidance for new beekeepers, sharing information with fellow beekeepers and sharing knowledge with the general public about the importance of all pollinators (and honeybees in particular); especially in these times of concerns about global and local environmental issues. To that end, some of the educational activities undertaken by club members this year have included: Delivering a 10 week course for new beekeepers, and then a shorter course for beginners at Dob Croft Nature Reserve, Ingol; Providing mentors to new beekeepers and practical sessions at the club out-apiary; Delivering courses for modules and Basic Assessment Exams; Providing hive openings (and refreshments); Formulating a varied programme of meetings for members to enjoy; Putting on a club honey show and helping out at the County Honey Show at Brockholes; Organising and staffing the Lancashire Beekeeping Conference at Archbishop Temple School, and the Husbandry Taster Day at Myerscough College; Giving talks to schools and other organisations; Attending beekeeping stalls at numerous shows and markets throughout the year and volunteering to collect swarms.

That's a pretty comprehensive list and I would like to thank everyone who has helped with any of these events because they couldn't have happened without you.

Apologies if I miss anyone off this next list but, since our last AGM, the following people have been successful in passing BBKA exams:

The practical and oral 'Basic Assessment' for people who have kept bees for a least one season was passed by: Gillian Paul, Caroline Dawson, Pamela Buck, John Ward, Liane Doree, Chris Ireland and Fatima Kamal. Well Done.

The following people have been successful in passing written modules (with some of them achieving credits):

Module 1 - Jan Elkins

Module 2 - Arthur Walmsley, Sandra Taylor, Janet Harrison, Fred Archer

and Kath Cordingley Module 3 - Jan Elkins Module 7 - Caroline Coughlin

Module 8 and, by virtue of having completed all the written exams, The Advanced Theory Certificate - Wendy Noblet

Well done everyone.

The courses and exams are there for all club members who would like to learn a little more about our favourite creatures but, as I mentioned in the report, there are lots of other ways to become involved in the club

and all members are more than welcome to join in with the various activities on offer.

2019 has been a good year, with the club apiary going from strength to strength, people undertaking beekeeping studies, and lots of people willing to help to spread the message of the importance of honey bees.

Let's carry on the good work in 2020.

Alan Manwaring, Education Officer

Southport and District beekeepers

Southport and District Beekeepers.

Minutes of the Annual General meeting. Held on November 14th, 2019.

Present.

Barry Milne (Chairman) Mike Lavelle, Sue Scott, Diane Banahan, Peter Banahan, Karen Reid, John Bryan, Pam Miller, Linda Alger, Sue Hall, Duncan Hall, John Whitton, David Southern, John Blundell and Chrissy Gregory.

Apologies.

John Turner, Francine Sagar, Zelda Fearnley, Mal Roderick and Diane Drinkwater.

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were accepted and signed.

Reports from the Chair, Treasurer and secretary were presented and attached.

Election of Officers and committee members for 2019/2020.

Position.	Nomination.	Proposer.	Seconder.
Co-Chairs.	John Bryan	Diane Banahan	Chrissy Gregory.
	/Barry Milne.		
Secretary	Chrissy Gregory.	Mike Lavelle	John Whitton.
Treasurer	Karen Reid	Sue Hall	Linda Alger
Apiary manager	Diane Banahan	Peter Banahan	Karen Reid
CC Rep 1	Karen Reid	Sue Scott	Linda Alger
CC Rep 2	John Whitton	Sue Scott	Linda Alger
Web manager	Karen Reid	Sue Scott	Diane Banahan
Swarm Liaison	John Bryan	Barry Milne	Karen Reid
Librarian	Diane Banahan	John Bryan	Pam Miller
Flower Show liaison	Sue Scott	Sue Hall	David Southern.

The Education Officer and Spray Liaison Officer posts remain vacant.

The committee members are; John Bryan and Barry Milne (joint chairs)

Karen Reid as Treasurer, Chrissy Gregory (Secretary) Diane Banahan, Sue Scott, John Whitton and Mike Lavelle.

Any Other Business.

John Whitton suggested that a branch strategy for the next year would be a useful thing to have. This will be discussed at another time.

The Apiary has two polyhives, that are of limited use.

We need to sort out Flyers for the various branch meetings.

The Apiary needs some flagstones.

The meeting closed.

The next committee meeting will be on January 15th 2020.

Joint Chairman's Report 2018/19

1. The year 2018/19 has yet again been a very busy time for the branch.
2. Two of our committee members stood down from their positions earlier this year and Chrissy Gregory kindly stepped in at short notice to take over the secretary's job. Thank you Chrissy.

3. The branch has been quite busy attending events this year namely, Hesketh Park and The Atkinson in June, Bank Hall in July and of course our main event of the year The Southport Flower Show in August. The turnout from the members was very positive and with the new gazebo and banners, it proved to be very popular with the public. Branch and members honey was also sold at these events and we gained some prospective new members.

We manned a table at the Lancashire Honey Show back last month and the branch have been asked to man a stall at the West Lancs Yacht Club on the 3rd Dec for their Xmas Fair where we can sell honey and publicise beekeeping in Southport.

4. We also ran a Taster Day on Sunday 1st September at the Branch Apiary in Hesketh Park at a charge of £10 per head with refreshments, which was very well attended by prospective new bee keepers.

John Bryan gave half the group a talk in the Oakbridge Rooms whilst the other half donned protective clothing and were taken to the Apiary for a hive opening by Ken Fleming. Then the groups changed over. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

5. We will be running a 2 day "Introduction to Beekeeping Course" next year on April 25th/26th at the Fleetwood Hesketh Sports & Social Club and our branch apiary at Hesketh Park. Karen has enrolment forms for those wishing to attend. Paul Roberts will be presenting the BBKA course with help from all our members please.

6. The council hold meetings quarterly for all the groups that use Hesketh Park. This is to see if there is anything that the various groups need help with from the council and vice versa. Two of our committee members usually attend. At the last meeting all the groups were informed that we will all be having a Health & Safety meeting with the Head Ranger (Will) from Hesketh Park. Date to be arranged.

7. The bees in the branch apiary were in poor condition when Diane took over the role as apiary manager. She has managed to pull them round to the extent that we have had a reasonable honey surplus and an increase in colony numbers. All credit to Diane and her helpers for this. Next year we are hoping to produce some nucs for members.

Barry has also been in touch with Tesco in Southport about supplying the branch with sugar from burst bags. They have agreed and will inform him when there is any available.

8. The monthly informal meetings at The Fleetwood Hesketh Sports & Social Club are proving to be reasonably well attended especially when we have a speaker. Unfortunately we do not have an education officer at present and we have endeavoured to do the best we can. If anyone has any suggestions for speakers or topics for our meetings please let anyone from the committee know. So if anyone fancies the job please volunteer.

Members can attend the Ormskirk & Croston branch talks if they so wish. Keep an eye on their website for dates, times and speakers.

9. The Flower Show was again very well attended and thanks to Sue for all her hard work on organising our Bee, Honey & Preserves marquee.

10. Thanks to Karen for her hard work compiling and running the branch newsletter which is proving to be very popular with the branch members.

Finally thanks to the committee and branch members for all your support this year.

Barry & John

Secretaries report, Southport and Formby AGM. 14/11/19

I took over as secretary in March, replacing Christine Finnegan.

I must thank Karen Reid, for all her technical help and support.

My main role is facilitating communications between members of the group, receiving and distributing emails.

My computer skills are a bit limited, but I'm hoping to improve.

Chrissy Gregory.



National Bee Unit Northern Region Annual Report 2019

Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Wirral, Lancashire, Cumbria, Tyne and Wear, County Durham and Northumberland.

This is my second annual report as the Northern Regional Bee Inspector (RBI). The 2019 inspection season has flashed by, Halloween and Bonfire Night have been and gone, and at the time of writing Christmas is fast approaching.

Work has not finished for myself, nor for the Seasonal Bee Inspectors (SBIs) who have elected to continue during the winter months. I will be catching up on departmental duties and providing cover for any bee related issues, whilst across the country the aforementioned SBIs will be working with the Animal or Plant Health Teams.

From a personal beekeeping perspective 2019 has been another good year. One of my apiaries was surrounded by oil seed rape (OSR) for the first time in years, so the colonies expanded rapidly and produced a good surplus. Not next year though; I was chatting with the landowner and he told me that OSR is grown once in a four-or-five-year cycle on his land, it will be all wind pollinated wheat in 2020!

The 2020 Bee Inspection Season

At the start of the year the inspection list for each of the inspectors will be compiled by the National Bee Unit (NBU). These lists are purely based on risk factors such as targeting areas where notifiable disease has recently been found, or near to places at high risk of exotic pest incursion.

We appreciate the cooperation given when contacting beekeepers to make inspection appointments. We do not have the inspector numbers to visit every beekeeper in the region during the season, so if you are contacted it's purely due to risk factors not for any other reason. A visit from a bee inspector should be welcomed as an opportunity to have a free health check of your colonies, and to discuss any beekeeping concerns or difficulties. We are not there to be critical or treat the visit as an assessment of the beekeeper, our role is to ensure that statutory diseases or pests are not present. Throughout the country the majority of statutory disease is found by bee inspectors, even in colonies managed by experienced beekeepers.

Beekeepers can also contact their RBI or SBI if they have concerns about bee disease or pests. If you see anything suspicious take a photograph, and in relation to insects try to take a sample. The photograph can then be sent via picture message or email to your SBI or

RBI, or you can contact us by phone to describe the problem. If we can't rule out it being a statutory disease or pest, we will arrange to visit free of charge. *Please note that it's a legal requirement to inform the NBU if you know or suspect a statutory disease or pest is present.*

At the beginning of April bee inspectors from across the county will attend a three-day technical conference at Sand Hutton, York. This is an opportunity to hear details of the latest research and trends relating to honey bees. At the time of writing the conference schedule is not finalised, but in previous years virus research, the strain mapping of bacterial disease, and Asian hornet genetic analysis have been delivered amongst many other subjects. This technical knowledge helps inform the delivery of the service throughout the coming season.

NBU Changes 2019

Mike Brown, Head of the NBU for many years retired at the beginning of 2019. Mike made contributions to bee health around the world and is admired and respected by those who had the good fortune to work with him.

Julian Parker, formerly National Bee Inspector (NBI), has now taken on the responsibilities of Head of the NBU, with Sandra Gray, formerly RBI of South East Region taking on the NBI role.

Jenna Cook who worked at the NBU Office in York left us this summer to join the Health and Safety Executive. Jenna's knowledge of Beebase, field delivery iPads and virtually everything else about the administration side of the NBU was exceptional. Jenna also provided essential back up to inspectors, and gave advice to beekeepers over the telephone.

Jason Learner, NBU Technical Support, decided to make beekeeping his full-time profession leaving us just prior to the start of the 2019 inspection season. Jason Provided articles for BBKA News, Bee Craft etc. and provided technical assistance to beekeepers as well as helping in the NBU Office.

Mike, Jenna and Jason will be greatly missed.

Jenna and Jason have not been replaced at the time of this report due to financial constraints. To negate the reduced numbers of NBU office staff all bee related enquiries should be directed to your local SBI or myself, contact details are on page 4 in this report.

We still have Kate Wilson (Office Manager), Lesley Debenham (Admin and Support), Sarah Chadwick, (part time Admin and Support) and Rebekah Clarkson (Healthy Bees Plan Project Manager), all of whom work very hard to support inspectors and beekeepers across England and Wales.

The Northern Region Team

Caroline Coughlin and Brian Murphy joined the team as SBIs in April 2019. Caroline is primarily responsible for the Greater Manchester and East Cheshire areas, whilst Brian is primarily responsible for the North East of England.

This takes the total number of SBIs to four. Julia (Hoggard) and John (Zamorski) are contracted to work four days a week, Caroline and Brian five days a week.

From April 2020 you can search via postcode on the NBU contacts page of Beebase for your appointed SBI, who then can be contacted on the numbers below.

I can be contacted for any issues relating to Merseyside and West Cheshire, and across the region when your SBI is not available.

Regional Bee Inspector	Area	Contact
Mark McLoughlin	Merseyside, Wirral and West Cheshire	07500 891425
Seasonal Bee Inspectors	Area	Contact
Caroline Coughlin (April to September)	Greater Manchester, East Cheshire	07500 891423
Julia Hoggard (April to September)	Cumbria	07900 394303
Brian Murphy (April to September)	Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, County Durham	07747 765934
John Zamorski (April to September)	Lancashire	07775 119446

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/Contacts/contacts.cfm>

2019 Inspection Season

The Northern Team visited 505 apiaries and inspected a total of 2,301 colonies for statutory disease and pests during 2019. As part of our duties we inspected imported queen consignments and package bees for any sign of exotic pest life stages.

The Northern Region currently has a total of 3,990 beekeepers registered as 'current' on Beebase, with 17,470 colonies in 5,088 apiaries. Additionally, there are 3,063 non-current beekeepers who have indicated they do not keep bees and will not be resuming their beekeeping activity in the future. These figures do not take into account of beekeepers, apiaries or colonies (including feral) not currently registered.

The statistics are broken down below so you can see the numbers for your county. *When compared to other regions we have the lowest number of registered apiaries and colonies, and second lowest for registered beekeepers.*

I'm sure the true numbers are higher but we are reliant on beekeepers registering and updating Beebase regularly in order to keep the statistics accurate. This includes non-current beekeepers updating Beebase should they resume keeping bees.

Why is this important? As resources are targeted to where there's the greatest need Beebase must truly reflect beekeeper and colony numbers to ensure an informed and correct allocation. *Please encourage any beekeepers who are not yet registered to do so, and ensure you visit your account regularly to update apiary and colony numbers.*

Region	County	Current beekeepers	No of Current Apiaries	No of Colonies	Beekeepers unknown status	Apiaries unknown status	No of Colonies	Non-Current beekeepers
Northern England	Cheshire	822	1114	3585	0	0	0	387
	County Durham	339	411	1405	0	0	0	247
	Cumbria	633	788	2481	0	0	0	676
	Greater Manchester	475	597	1976	0	0	0	330
	Lancashire	841	1020	2860	1	0	0	513
	Merseyside	361	485	1306	0	0	0	341
	Northumberland	324	421	3085	0	0	0	400
	Tyne & Wear	195	252	772	0	0	0	169
	NORTHERN ENGLAND TOTALS	3990	5088	17470	1	0	0	3063

Beebase is a free and confidential service. Beekeepers can register on Beebase here <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/public/register.cfm>.

Statutory Disease – Northern Region 2019

Only American Foulbrood (AFB) has been found in the Northern Region (Northumberland) during 2019 and both infected colonies were destroyed in accordance with legislation.

The exact locations of outbreaks are not disclosed as they would identify beekeepers and apiary locations. The 10km Ordinance Survey Map grid references are published to provide information about the wider area affected (see below link).

Northumberland	NU11	ALNWICK	1	July
Northumberland	NU11	ALNWICK	1	August

Northern SBIs have also been assisting the North East Region with inspections, and where necessary the destruction of diseased colonies due to a number of European Foulbrood (EFB) outbreaks. This joint working is to proactively help prevent spread of this disease into the Northern Region.

Details of the 10km squares where statutory disease has been found throughout England and Wales is available to the public on Beebase, along with other statistical information. This is of interest if you plan to move bees into our region. The page can be accessed via the following link.

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/BeeDiseases/diseaseIncidenceMaps.cfm>

The Bees Act 1980 and The Bee Diseases and Pests Control Order 2006 for England and Wales (as amended) are the legislation concerned with statutory disease and pests. Details can be found by following this link:

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=79>

The statutory brood diseases are American Foulbrood and European Foulbrood. The statutory pests are all life stages of small hive beetle (SHB) and tropilaelaps mites.

When a statutory disease is found all beekeepers registered on Beebase and within a 3km radius of the outbreak are notified. Bee inspectors then inspect nearby colonies to prevent the infection becoming established in the area.

Beekeepers who are not registered on Beebase may remain unknown, and if their colonies harbour disease they may continue to infect neighbouring apiaries. Also, the beekeepers who have not registered or updated their email contact details will not be alerted to local disease outbreaks.

Beekeepers, as mentioned above, regardless of registration status, must contact the National Bee Unit or their SBI/RBI if they suspect or know the whereabouts of a statutory disease or pest.

Varroa

NBU advice is to 'monitor and control varroa using biotechnical methods and authorised products to keep them below the level where they cause significant harm'.

Inspectors continue to see varroa damage in colonies, often illustrated by Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS). Signs of PMS are damaged wings, stunted bodies, bees at the point of emergence dead in cells with proboscis extended, and mites running on the comb. Other symptoms can be sporadic bald brood and the chewing of pupae in their cells. A colony with PMS will usually be close to collapse, with the risk of infecting nearby colonies due to drifting and 'robbing'.

The Beebase website has pdf links to numerous free fact sheets including the 'Managing Varroa' booklet.

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=167>

The list of those currently registered and approved for use by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is available on their website, together with the 'Summary of Product Characteristics' giving full details of use. For the full list select 'Bees' on the drop-down list of species in the product search link. At the time of writing this report no treatments have been added to the list of authorised products in 2019.

<https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Search.aspx>

There's a legal requirement that the use of any treatments is recorded, and these records must be kept for a minimum of 5 years. Full details can be found on the below link.

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=110>

Exotic Pest Surveillance (EPS)

We have 16 Voluntary Sentinel Apiaries (VSA) and 6 Enhanced Sentinel Apiaries (ESA) in the Northern Region, but we would like to increase these numbers.

Both voluntary and enhanced sentinel apiaries act as an early warning system to alert the NBU should exotic pests of honeybees enter the UK. Samples are taken from the varroa floor insert and beetle floor traps which are then sent to the APHA laboratory at Sand Hutton for analysis. If any part of an exotic pest is found a coordinated response will be triggered to contain and eradicate the outbreak.



Tropilaelaps Mite



Small Hive Beetle oil trap in a hive

Locating sentinel apiaries near to places of risk is key to maximise the chance of detecting an early incursion. Ports are deemed to be a very high risk and we have some of the busiest in the country (e.g. Liverpool and those in the Tyneside area). We also have container rail links from Europe into Manchester, and numerous depots for imported food and other goods.



Julia collecting debris for laboratory examination

In the future a sentinel apiary may just give us enough notice to identify and deal with an outbreak before it spreads.

The main difference between the sentinel apiary schemes is that the appointed bee inspector visits the enhanced sentinel apiaries to take the samples, but it's the beekeeper who does it at a voluntary sentinel apiary. Beekeepers who participate in the voluntary sentinel apiary scheme are issued with all they need to enable them to participate at no cost to themselves. Likewise, there is no cost to the beekeeper who participates in the enhanced sentinel apiary scheme.

I would like to thank all the beekeepers who currently take part, your involvement is highly valued and appreciated.

If you would like to join either scheme in 2020, or would just like to chat through what's involved please contact me by

email (mark.mcloughlin@apha.gov.uk) or mobile phone (07500 891425).

Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

When Asian hornets were found in Tetbury in 2016 the NBU made it a priority to inform beekeepers and the wider public about their potential impact on honey bees and other native insects.

I had assumed that with the speed of its spread across Europe we would get increasing numbers of nests in the UK year after year. This was reflected in talks given by bee inspectors across the country where we wanted to reinforce how serious a threat this predator can be, and to encourage beekeepers to be vigilant.

I remember talking to groups of beekeepers after the 'cauliflower hornet' was seen in Bury in April 2018 and in my usual animated way saying words to the effect of our bees were 'doomed' if we didn't treat this threat seriously, probably sounding a bit like Private Fraser from the TV series Dad's Army!

My concern now is that because the worst-case scenario has not yet manifested itself in the three years since Tetbury focus will be lost, and the annual warnings about Asian hornet will not be heeded.

I expected that in 2019 we would see significantly increased activity when compared to 2018, but this has proved to be wrong. However, it has been wet and cold this autumn and it may be fair to assume beekeepers have not visited their apiaries for as long, or as frequently as they would normally do thus reducing the chance of detection.

It may actually be that all the UK nests were found in 2018, *as all hornets discovered in 2019 were found to be genetically consistent with being new incursions from France*. However, there is a possibility that once the leaves completely fall the remains of undiscovered nests may be found. If so, numerous queens could be hibernating and ready to start colonies in 2020. Even if none are discovered evergreens such as conifers could continue to conceal nests, along with any hidden away in man-made structures.

Even 'dead' nests should be reported, a photograph and accurate location will be essential to speed up identification and response. If such a nest is found and confirmed as belonging to Asian hornet, the NBU will consider targeting the area for queens the following spring.

This year three Asian Hornet nests have been located and destroyed following sightings by members of the public. The first was near Tamworth, Staffordshire on 6th September.

On 4th October a nest was destroyed following the confirmed sighting of an Asian hornet near Christchurch, Dorset, and a further nest primary nest was destroyed nearby on 11th October. These nests were linked via genetic analysis.

In addition, there have been two confirmed individual sightings of Asian hornets. The first was on 3rd July of a female in New Milton, Hampshire. Based upon visual examination the hornet was likely to be a queen. A single hornet was also captured by a member of the public to the south west of Ashford, Kent, on 9th September.

Surveillance continues in both areas. The NBU have sent out an alert to encourage all beekeepers and members of the public to watch for Asian hornets in their apiaries, on fallen fruit and on flowering plants such as ivy.

We ask beekeepers and the general public to remain vigilant and report any suspect sightings using the iPhone and Android app 'Asian Hornet Watch', by filling out an online report form or by emailing alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk .

- The 'Asian Hornet Watch' app is available to download free from the Apple and Android app stores.
- Members of the public can also report sightings by email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk . Please provide a photo along with where you found it and a contact number to reply to.
- Reports can be sent via the online submission form on the Non-native Species Secretariat website, again with a photo.
- Details on the identification of an Asian hornet can be found on the Bee Base guide or the NNSS Asian hornet ID sheet.

Bee Inspectors Visit Jersey

In late summer John Zamorski and I were invited in our official capacity as bee inspectors to spend a week in Jersey, working alongside their volunteers as they searched for Asian hornet nests. I visited in September with SBI David Burns from the Eastern Region, and John in August with RBI Dhonn Atkinson from the North East Region.



Asian hornet at the potato field bait station – photo David Burns

Our experiences brought home how difficult it is to see Asian hornet nests when located in the tree canopy, and that tracking hornets back to the nest is a skilled and sometimes lengthy task.

Electronic tracking is being developed which may be used increasingly in the future, but for now the main method is to mark hornets at a bait station and record the compass bearing of their departure. Once a hornet is regularly visiting the bait station it can be timed to give an estimated distance to the nest.

The following illustrates how well hidden these nests can be.

On our third day in Jersey David and I were asked to

meet a team of volunteers in a car park near to a pub. We parked the car and joined them for an open-air briefing before everyone moved to bait stations some distance away. A few weeks after we returned to the UK, I discovered that they had found a nest (number 71 of 2019) high up in a sycamore tree directly behind where we had parked the car!



Destruction of nest 47

David and I were part of the team tracking hornets in the heavily wooded valley at Saint Peter. The nest was situated at the top of a conifer, and even with the team situated around the base looking up with binoculars it was hidden by foliage and couldn't be seen. Eventually it was spotted when someone on an upper valley trail stood in the only position it was visible. Literally, if you took a step either side of that position it was completely hidden from view. If you follow the Jersey Asian Hornet Group on a certain social media site it was nest 56 of the year.

After the nest was found and location coordinates supplied to the Jersey Authority, we moved about a kilometre away to track hornets previously seen visiting a potato field. David and I marked, tracked and timed the hornets but the resulting data suggesting they were from the nest our team had just

found.

Dhonn and John found nest 47 which was situated in a tree next to a road in Saint Brélade. The destruction took place on the day of our arrival so I was able to take the attached photographs.

Anecdotal information from the Jersey volunteers outline how hornets have landed on fishing boats and rocky outcrops out at sea. So, even if they destroyed every nest during the season it would probably not be too long before more arrived from France.

It should be noted that handling or being close to Asian hornets, and especially the resultant destruction of the nest is very dangerous and should be left to the professionals with suitable protective equipment.



Preparing to destroy nest 47

It's not just the nest at the top of a tree or structure that can cause danger, often a primary nest which still contains brood and attendant hornets will be hidden nearby in undergrowth. If this is trodden on or otherwise disturbed, a potentially life-threatening event could be triggered.

Hopefully we will not have the same issues with Asian hornets in the North of England anytime soon.



Professionals wearing protective clothing at nest 47

Small Hive Beetle (SHB)



*SHB larva – photo
Beebase*

The running contingency exercises in England and Wales is a key performance indicator in the bee health programme. In July 2019 the NBU in liaison with Welsh Government ran a contingency exercise to respond to a simulated outbreak of SHB. A 'Forward Operating Base' (FOB) was located at the Welsh Government Offices, Llandudno Junction. An incident command system (ICS) as used by the emergency services was put in place involving set roles of incident commander, sector commander, and command support. I was fortunate enough to be assigned the sector commander role.

The two-day exercise was designed to test procedures both in command and field activities, specifically –

- FOB operation with daily briefings, monitoring of field activity and handover procedures where spans of control and command are maintained.
- Daily reporting from FOB to NDCC (National Disease Control Centre) to LGD (Lead Government Department).
- Liaison with local beekeeping associations and beekeepers with apiaries in the area, booking and monitoring inspections in the field and reacting to unfolding events as a result of the inspections.

A total of 129 colonies in 28 apiaries were inspected during the exercise, requiring specific inspection procedures in line with the contingency plan for SHB which can be found at <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=206>. Feedback was collected from participants and the major conclusions recorded for future implementation.

Current situation in Italy

On the 18th June 2019, the presence of SHB was again confirmed in eastern Sicily, in an apiary located in the municipality of Lentini in the province of Syracuse. Two adult beetles were detected in two different colonies at an apiary which had been under surveillance since May 2019.

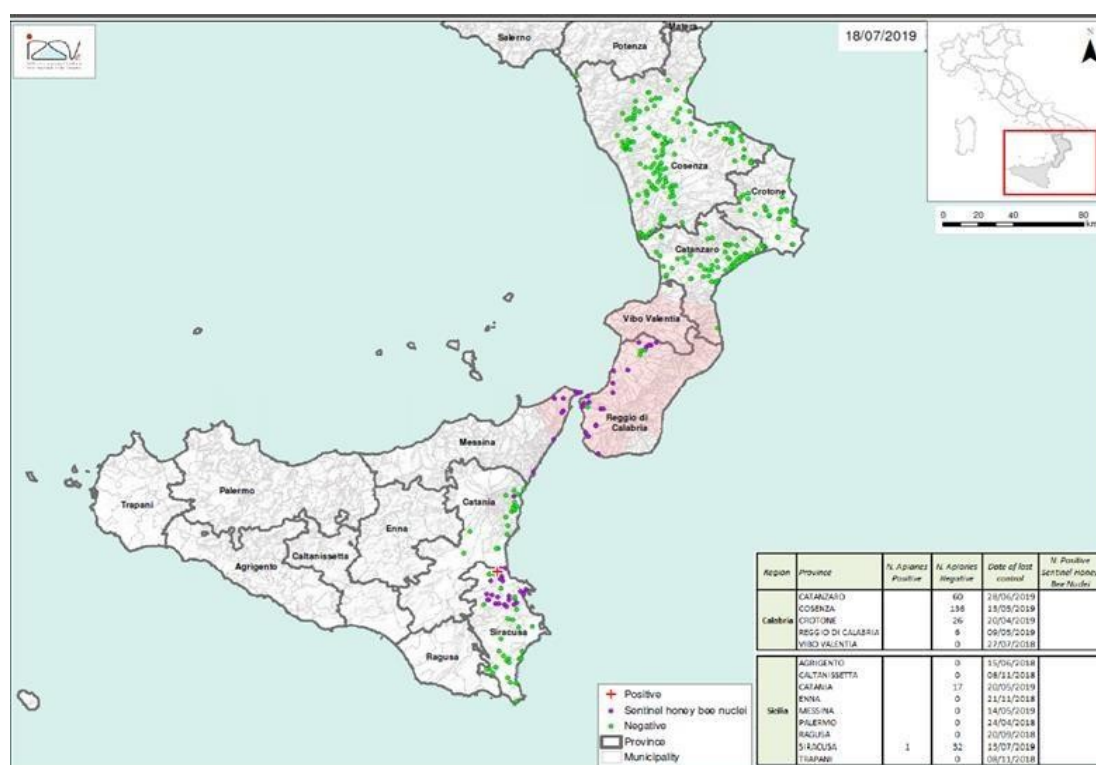
The authorities had intercepted a movement of 64 undocumented colonies from Sicily at the port of Villa San Giovanni on the Italian mainland. These colonies were sent back to the apiary of origin in Sicily. Several inspections were subsequently carried out at this apiary to look for SHB. During one visit 13 colonies of unknown origin were discovered and SHB was detected in two of them. Epidemiological investigations showed that these 13 colonies had been stolen on 9th June in the protection zone of Reggio di Calabria located on the mainland.

SHB had only been detected once in Sicily prior to this outbreak, on 7th November 2014. SHB adults were detected in a migratory apiary in the municipality of Melilli, located approximately 35 km away from Lentini. At the time, the epidemiological investigation had shown that the colonies were present in Gioia Tauro between April and August 2014. Gioia Tauro is the municipality of the Calabria region where the first detection of SHB appeared. Following this outbreak, surveillance has been carried out every year with inspections in selected apiaries and sentinel apiaries.

As no new case had been discovered in the two years following this positive find, a Commission Implementing decision of 1st March 2017 had removed Sicily from the list of areas subject to protective measures in relation to SHB in Italy. A phylogenetic analysis was carried out on the specimens detected in June 2019. The results showed that the genetic profile of the specimens was similar to the one of other specimens previously isolated in the Calabria region, but different from the genetic profile of the specimens isolated in the previous outbreak confirmed in Sicily in November 2014. It confirms that the outbreak was due to an illegal movement of colonies from the protection zone of Reggio di Calabria and not a consequence of the spread of SHB in Sicily.

The infected apiary was destroyed on 23rd June 2019 and the soil was treated with a permethrin solution. A protection zone of 5 km radius around the site was set up and inspections are being carried out at the 54 apiaries registered in the zone.

No new outbreaks have been reported in the protection zone of Reggio di Calabria the original outbreak site on the mainland, since November 2018 when the last detection occurred in a sentinel apiary. No new outbreaks have been reported in the province of Cosenza (situated in the North of Calabria) since September 2016.



The 100 km surveillance of SHB in Calabria and Sicily, dated 18th July 2019

Imports 2019

At the time of this report we are still in the European Union.

Therefore, as I write the import or export of bees, (including queens, packages and colonies), is permitted only if accompanied by an Official European Union (EU) or Third Country Health Certificate.

This is issued by the competent authority where the bees originated. Importers must notify the NBU *at least* 24hrs in advance of imports of bees arriving from outside the UK. You can do this by completing the 'Importer Notification Form' and posting, faxing or emailing it to the NBU office.

Alternatively, if registered, you can log in to the Beekeeper pages of Beebase and click the 'Import Notifications' link from the left-hand index. It is of course illegal to import bees, queens or any bee-related products from within the SHB exclusion zone around the affected areas in southern Italy. Further details can be found on the Imports/Exports pages of Beebase, which also includes advice in relation to Brexit via the following link.
<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=47>

A considerable number of import inspections were carried out in the Northern Region throughout the 2019 season. Of these many were consignments of queens but there was also a considerable number of packages containing worker bees clustering around a queen pheromone insert. The charts below outline the number of 2019 and 2018 imports into mainland Britain from the EU. It can be seen that package bee consignments from Italy have greatly increased since 2018 whilst imports of nucleus colonies has reduced. Queen imports have also risen.



Beekeeper decanting package bees

Imports 2019

Country of origin	Number of consignments imported	Batched number of queens	Batched number of nucleus	Batched number of packages	Batched number of Colonies	Number of consignments inspected
Bulgaria	1	3	0	0	0	1
Cyprus	18	318	0	0	0	10
Czech Republic	7	159	0	175	0	1
Denmark	43	2574	0	0	0	20
France	1	0	0	0	15	1
Germany	25	203	0	20	1	11
Greece	88	4928	0	0	0	18
Italy	85	3304	0	2428	0	57
Malta	36	3529	0	0	0	26
Netherlands	4	12	0	0	0	3
Poland	3	40	30	0	20	1
Romania	37	2806	0	0	0	11
Slovenia	65	2205	0	0	0	21
Spain	1	0	0	0	100	1
TOTALS:	414	20081	30	2623	136	182

Imports 2018

Country of origin		Number of consignments imported	Batched number of queens	Batched number of nucleus	Batched number of packages	Batched number of Colonies	Number of consignments inspected
Croatia		2	0	0	100	25	2
Cyprus		6	66	0	0	0	4
Czech Republic		9	142	0	345	0	4
Denmark		38	2014	0	0	0	16
France		2	0	0	360	0	1
Germany		20	302	0	0	1	7
Greece		107	5340	0	0	0	44
Ireland		1	2	0	0	0	0
Italy		53	2436	915	61	0	32
Malta		12	1055	0	0	0	11
Netherlands		3	9	0	0	0	0
Poland		5	0	59	130	0	5
Portugal		1	0	0	0	4	1
Romania		21	1570	0	0	0	5
Slovenia		75	3010	0	0	18	38
Sweden		1	0	0	0	4	1
TOTALS:		356	15946	974	996	52	171

Bee Health Days

Bee health days (BHDs) are events arranged by beekeeping clubs or associations which are supported, free of charge, by their local bee inspectors in terms of lectures and subject materials.

A suitable venue is required which must satisfy certain criteria. For example, an insect-proof room for showing live foulbrood combs, and enough space for attendees and their parking needs. A suitable outside area is also required for colony inspection demonstrations which focus on pest and disease detection.

The arrangements to hold a BHD event requires a high level of organisational commitment by the club or association concerned and should not be underestimated. Nevertheless, a successful event provides an opportunity for attendees to learn more about pest and disease threats, and it also helps to raise the profile of the club or association hosting it.

The Northern Region Team and the Cheshire Beekeepers Association held a joint BHD at Norton Priory in May 2019. Due to staffing issues at that time we were only able to provide staff for the showing of diseased combs and the apiary inspections. Live foulbrood combs



were available for examination by attendees, and lectures were given by members of the Cheshire Beekeepers' Association.

We are currently in discussion with two beekeeping associations within the region about holding BHDs in June 2020. Further information will be circulated in due course.

If your association or club is interested in holding such an event in the future, please contact me or your local SBI for further information.

Finally

I would like to thank Brian, Caroline, John and Julia our current SBIs for their dedication, commitment and hard work during the 2019 season. Also, thanks to all the beekeepers we visited during 2019 for their time and cooperation.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and productive 2020 beekeeping season.

Mark McLoughlin

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Useful Links

The British Beekeepers Association

Website has members area, shop selling educational materials and news from the BBKA.

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/>

BBKA News

An archive of BBKA News magazine available to members of the BBKA

<https://bbkanews.com/issues>

BBKA Forum

For beekeeping help and advice

<https://bbkaforum.co.uk/>

BBKA on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/britishbee>

BBKA on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishBeekeepersAssociation/>

BBKA on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/britishbeekeepers/>

Recipes for the honey show

HONEY FRUIT CAKE:

Ingredients

227g self-raising flour
227g honey
113g butter
113g chopped cherries
113g sultanas
57g mixed peel
2 eggs
pinch of salt and nutmeg
milk as required

Cream together butter and honey.

Beat eggs together and add alternately with the flour and salt. Add fruit, peel and nutmeg.

Beat lightly but well. Add a little milk if required.

Turn into a prepared tin (cake should not exceed 200mm in diameter)
and bake for approximately 2 ½ hrs. in a moderate oven.

HONEY FRUIT SCONES:

Ingredients:

448g self-raising flour
112g margarine
84g sugar (caster)
28g honey
2 eggs
3 Tablespoons of milk
1/4 tsp salt
84g fruit

Sieve flour and salt into bowl. Rub flour, margarine & sugar together.

Whisk eggs, honey & milk. Add this to the mixing bowl to make a smooth dough. Add fruit.

Turn out onto a floured board and knead until dough is smooth.

Roll lightly to ¾ inch thick. Cut out circles and put on floured tray. Glaze with egg.

Bake on top shelf for 15 minutes at 400°F / 200°C