



Stockport Beekeeper

April 2022

Stockport Events

**Woodford War Memorial
Community Centre,
Chester Road, SK7 1PS**

April 13th 7.30 p.m.

Beekeeper vs Bee (Zoom Talk)

Celia Davis

<https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/events/beekeeper-versus-the-bee/>

Saturday 21st May 9.00am

Bee Health Day at Aquinas

College

<https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/events/bee-health-day/>

Cheshire BKA Event

Bee and Equipment Auction

April 30th at Lowes Farm Shop,
Shanty Farm, Moss Lane, Byley,
Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10
9NG

Acceptance of lots:

8.30-10.00am

Auction commences: 11.00am

<https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/auction/>

National Event

BBKA Annual Spring

Convention 8th-10th April at
Harper Adams University,
Shropshire, TF10 8NB

see BBKA website for booking
details

From The Chair Peter Carefoot

Chairman's objectives 2021 - 2024 - Progress report

Develop, implement and maintain an effective communication strategy.

Completely rebuild the SBKA website.

Stephen and I have agreed that the website should stay in its current format maintained by Adrian McGarry. In the short term, Peter and Stephen will liaise with Adrian to update and maintain the content. Newsletters have been added. Update of content needed following the AGM.

Develop an integrated social media presence.

No progress with this. There have been tentative communications on the possibility of a Twitter and Facebook page but nothing is agreed. Peter will continue to investigate.

Develop and maintain effective communications with Cheshire Beekeepers' Committee and other branches.

Peter and Alistair have attended all recent Cheshire Committee Meetings. Peter is part of a Finance subcommittee meeting to suggest robust solutions to central and branch funding. Now feel I am established in the Cheshire Group. Work in progress.

Communicate effectively with the SBKACommittee and wider membership.

Peter has discussions with SBKA Officers as the need arises. There are regular communications with the membership through the established monthly Newsletter and with individual members. Again work in progress.

Develop working relationships with key Stockport Groups

Links have been made to Stockport Council and Lisa Nuttall who manages Stockport Centre. Decisions are needed on the World Bee day event in Stockport. Alan Towse continues to support the Council beekeepers and is the main contact. Support is planned for SBKA presence at various local events and shows.

Maintain a functional events programme

Working with Tricia Watkins

Consult with members over event requirements.

No progress.

Support the Programme Manager.

This is ongoing and is working well.



Who's on the Committee?

Peter Carefoot - Chair

Paul Wheeldon - Vice Chair & Library

David Lilley - Apiary Manager

Vacant - Assistant Apiary Manager

Tricia Watkins - Programme and Events Manager

Sue Payge - Honey Show Manager

Alan Towse - Education Secretary

Brian Gee

Liz Sparkes

Alistair Taylor - Treasurer

Steve Donohoe - Secretary

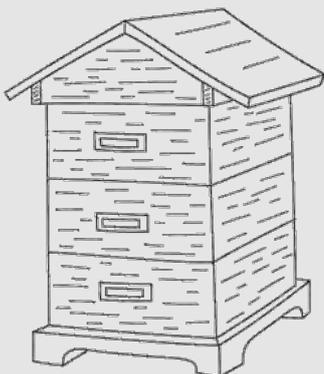
Mark Davis

Dermot Carty - Asst. Apiary Mngr

Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 9th June at 7.15pm

Woodbank Meeting Room
(Committee members only)



Develop and implement an annual events programme that meets the educational and promotional requirements of the branch.

Tricia has this in hand. Full events programme in place for 2022. Work has started on the 2023 programme.

Develop an effective programme delivery through either physical meetings or digital alternatives.

This tends to happen as required. Nothing is decided as a long term solution. Changes have been made to comply with Covid requirements. Some presenters prefer video links and this enables a broader spread of content and quality of speakers.

Ensure SBKA remains financially sound.

Working with Alistair Taylor

Ensure effective annual reporting of financial affairs.

Alistair has this in hand. 2021 finances accepted at AGM Feb 2022.

Ensure branch funds are used effectively.

Alistair has established a rigorous and robust money transfer by opening a new account with Barclays. He has also produced and presented spending plans for 2022. I am confident systems and communications are robust. SBKA finances are in good hands.

Explore opportunities to grow funds through effective education and promotional programme.

In progress, discussions with various people.

Develop and maintain an effective Education Programme

Working with Alan Towse

Ensure an effective annual education programme.

Alan is establishing communications with local schools. He is teaching beekeeping at Mellor primary school and Torkington primary school, both have started apiaries and are waiting for bees for the new season. Alan continues to support Bramhall High School apiary. Excellent progress has been made.

Ensure an effective theory and practical Beginners' Course

The 2022 Theory Course was successfully delivered by Alan. The content of the course and presenters have been refreshed creating a sound platform for 2023. Plans for 2023 are finalised as are Taster Days.

Ensure the effectiveness of the committee

Working with Stephen Donohoe

Ensure an effective and efficient programme of Branch Committee Meetings.

Work in progress. This will be established with 12 months of practical experience for Stephen

Where necessary develop a succession plan for key Committee positions

The Assistant Apiary Manager position has been filled. Two new committee members were appointed to replace Roy Brocklehurst, Pat and Colin Booth. Build the capacity of the Committee by getting the wider membership involved in all branch events.

Sarah Booth and Dominic Hughes have volunteered to support Sue Payge with 2022 Honey Show. Work in progress.

Ensure Health and Safety at all SBKA gatherings

Ensure all gatherings of Branch members are covered by legislative Health and Safety requirements.

Have re-written risk assessments from pre-covid and included additional safeguards. Amending templates from BBKA which are general rather than specific to branches. Will be in place for future face to face meetings and apiary gatherings.

I believe that it is important for me to be open with members about what the committee are working on for the benefit of Stockport BKA members.

Peter Carefoot

BBKA Modules

The syllabi for the BBKA module exams have been updated for 2022.

The updated syllabi are available on the BBKA website alongside updated reading lists:

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

Mentors

If you are a beginner and want the guidance of a beekeeping mentor please ask the secretary about this secretary@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

Also, if you are more experienced and **wish to become a mentor**, your services will be very much appreciated. You don't have to be the world's leading authority on keeping bees - just share what you know and you can always ask a more experienced beek for support if needed. Again, contact the secretary about this.

Contact Details

If you want to contact the secretary (Steve Donohoe) the email address is:

secretary@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

Feel free to send in any articles for the newsletter, snippets of news or events.

From The Apiary by Peter Carefoot

Springtime, or so I thought. After 10 days of bright, sunny and warm weather I am writing this looking out as sleet and snow fall gently to the warm earth. It is 4 degrees and after days of activity in the apiary, there are no bees flying.

The first inspection was on March 22, a warm and sunny day, a T-shirt wearing day as some books suggest. I was reassured all my colonies have laying queens, but disappointed with the double brood containing my best queen. There were not as many bees as I expected and there has been a supersedure since I inspected on September 16 last year. I suspect the old queen is still alive because in the top box there are two frames with perfect patterned worker brood. In the bottom box, there is one frame with a mixture of worker and drone brood in worker cells. There are drones walking around in the colony.

I did not see the old queen but the new queen is small and dark. I fear she has not been mated properly. On the other hand, she may just be having a stuttering start to egg-laying as some newly mated queens do. When I am next in the hive I must make a proper search to find the old queen and get her into a nuc until I have a clear picture of what is going on. Anyway, I had intended to raise new queens from this good old girl and now I must reappraise my plans. My other queens are not of the same

quality and don't quite make the grade. The colonies have sufficient stores and plenty of room for the queens to lay, so there is no rush to get inside for a week or two at least.

In the churchyard allotments, the gardeners will be disappointed to learn that the rabbits are back. One of the allotments has been handed over but there is no sign of any activity. My back aches with just the thought of starting to clear the thatch of weeds and couch grass. S. has made a good job of laying bark chips on the path to the hives which makes the carrying of equipment much easier. She has spent the winter clearing lots of undergrowth and the place looks good, especially with the new growth lighting up the bare dark corners. My mood is lifted with my daily visits, it is a lovely place to come to keep bees and meditate.

On the farm, the gander escaped from his lockdown due to bird flu and nipped the back of my legs as went to check the hives. D. quickly rounded him up but he did not want to be caged again and what a racket he created. It is my own fault that he is aggressive towards me. Some time ago I turned around and hissed back at him and he has not forgotten or forgiven me. It is a love-hate relationship.

Peter Carefoot

Woodbank Apiary

Help and Learn

Weekly colony checks will start soon at the Woodbank Apiary. If you would like to help, and at the same time learn from the experienced beekeepers, you are welcome to come along. Text your name and contact mobile number to David Lilley (07708 103872), or email to chairman@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk and you will be added to the WhatsApp group to receive a day and time. These will vary according to the weather forecast. Just come along with clean kit, there is no requirement to attend weekly

New Season - help needed

Help is needed to get the apiary ready for the season. Boxes to clean and paint. Frames to make and if the weather is suitable take a quick look inside the colonies. Beginners can come along to meet the apiary team and get acquainted with the variety of beekeeping equipment. It's also a chance to assemble your flat pack hives and frames under supervision. Tools and equipment will be provided. Old clothes advised. **Saturday, April 9th.** Meet at the apiary. Two sessions **10am - 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm - 3 pm.**



Stockport Beekeepers' Association
with
National Bee Unit
present

A BEE HEALTH DAY

On Saturday, May 21, 2022
From 9.00 am to 3.30 pm

At Aquinas College, Nangreave Road, Stockport, SK2 6TH

Activities include:

*Welcome and overview by Mark McLoughlin
What we look for by National Bee Unit
Diseased comb by Julia Hoggard & Kay Phillips
Biosecurity and new comb by Caroline Coughlin
Varroa and actions by Phil Khorassandjian
Asian Hornet by Mark McLoughlin
Your best bees! by National Bee Unit*

The National Bee Unit team will bring live examples of key diseases for close up examination in a secure environment.

*Numbers are strictly limited to 80 persons and entry is by ticket only.
£20 in advance*

*Tickets are available online from the events calendar page at
<https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/>*

or

Contact Peter Carefoot chairman@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk for advanced payment and ticket collection on the day.

Light refreshments will be provided. Delegates must bring their own lunch.

Members are advised to book early for this popular event.

Programme

9.00am - 9.30am	Arrival, badges and drinks	
9.30am - 9.40 am	All delegates Welcome and Overview Mark McLoughlin	Main hall
9.40 am - 10.25 am	All delegates What we look for NBU team	Main hall

Delegates will be divided on arrival into 4 groups rotating between rooms and lectures throughout the day.

Biosecure Room 1 **Diseased comb** *with Julia Hoggard & Kay Phillips*

Room 2 **Biosecurity and new comb** *with Caroline Coughlin*

Room 3 **Varroa and actions** *with Phil Khorassandjian*

Room 4 **Asian Hornet** *with Mark McLoughlin*

10.30 am - 11.15 am	Group breakout	Biosecure Room 1
11.15 am - 11.30 am	BREAK	
11.30 am - 12.15 am	Group breakout	Lecture Room 2
12.15 am - 1.00 pm	LUNCH	
1.00 - 1.45 pm	Group breakout	Lecture Room 3
1.45 pm - 2.00 pm	BREAK	
2.00 pm - 2.45 pm	Group breakout	Lecture Room 4
2.50 pm - 3.30 pm	All delegates Your best bees! NBU team	Main Hall