



Stockport Beekeeper

March 2022

Stockport Events

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

April 13th 7.30 p.m.
Seasonal Topic tba (Zoom Talk)
Celia Davis

[www.stockportbeekeepers.co.uk/
events](http://www.stockportbeekeepers.co.uk/events)

has a full list of events

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

I have finished my stint on this year's beekeeping course, and as usual, Alan, supported by Linda, has managed this with his usual efficiency. It is good to meet new prospective beekeepers even though many decide beekeeping is not for them. They leave the course with a better understanding of our wonderful honey bee. I recently represented SBKA at the memorial service for Derek Lockett.

It was 53 years ago that Derek with other like-minded beekeepers, had the foresight to found SBKA. We owe these beekeepers a debt of thanks, not just for setting up the Branch but for establishing a solid and successful management platform that continues to this day. SBKA has donated to Dementia UK in memory of Derek.

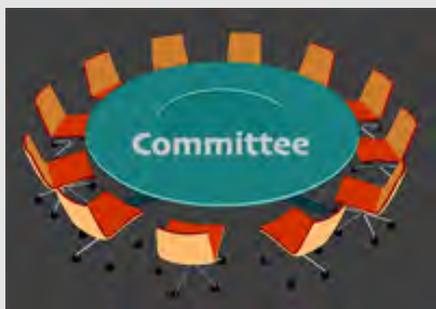
At the recent AGM, Mark Davis and Susan Payne were elected to the branch committee. Sue has previously been a strong committee member and is welcomed back as Honey Show Manager. Mark has no specific responsibility but has strong views on supporting new beekeepers and will add value to the team. David Lilley takes over as Apiary Manager following the retirement of Roy Brocklehurst. An Assistant Apiary Manager will be appointed

to support David and there will be an advert in the newsletter. Alistair has finally closed the old bank account and transferred branch funds to a new account with Barclays bank. This will enable robust and timely electronic transfer of money to comply with Charity Commission requirements and protect SBKA funds.

At the Cheshire AGM, the following were ratified:

1. The BBKA has increased the annual fees by £2 for each member beekeeper. This will not be passed on to members, so there shall be no increase in membership fees for 2023
2. There shall be no decrease in the number of editions of the Cheshire Beekeeper magazine.
3. Branch capitation will be paid in 2022 to Mid Cheshire only at the £5 rate per Registered and Partner member, payment will be at the reduced rate of £2 to the other branches.
4. The printed Cheshire Year Book will not be printed and distributed from 2023. The Year Book, with the annual reports, will be available on the Cheshire Beekeepers website.
5. A printed copy of the Cheshire Newsletter will only be sent to those members who specifically requested this when renewing their annual subscription.

Peter



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

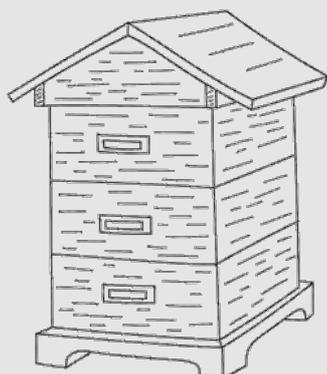
Steve Donohoe - Secretary

Mark Davis

Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 9th June at 7.15pm

Woodbank Meeting Room
(Committee members only)



At The Apiary

All my colonies survived the big storms and winds. The weather has been very wet, but the only problems have been treacherous paths. Snowdrops and crocus are blooming around the churchyard, and things are starting to wake up in the apiary. Consequently, the bees are now flying with a purpose and bringing home small bags of pollen, and I presume some nectar. Even with temperatures around 6 degrees, there are lots of fliers.

The bee activity is all earlier than in previous years, and I don't know what all this means. I suspect the queens have been laying for some time, if not all through the winter. There is no sign of nosema on the outside of the boxes, so it's fingers crossed for clean frames at first inspection. I put fondant on all the hives in early January. Only one colony has consumed at any pace and needed replacement on March 6th. I expect consumption to increase as activity levels rise.

Three colonies have clear crown boards, and I have not yet seen a cluster under these during the weekly checks since Christmas. As usual, I am beginning to get excited but will resist any temptation

Trees For Bees

I spent an hour at Mellor Junior school with 11 year 5 children making the bee hive and frames that Stockport Branch have bought for the school. The school decided to have bees after taking part in the Trees for Bees project that Stockport branch ran earlier in the year.

Mrs Christine Skelly the Forrest teacher at the school wrote "Oh goodness, be ready for boundless enthusiasm when you meet our year 5 children next week! They are so fired up about saving the bees it's unbelievable. They have come to me asking what we can do to fundraise for equipment and came up with the idea themselves of a school bee day, so we are now having a bee day in school, with the entire school coming in dressed in black and yellow for the day. They have already done lots of posters of the

to open up for a peep. Last year my first check was March 31. It was a hot and sunny day in Glossop - honestly!

I now know how I intend to start with each hive. I have two good queens, and I intend to raise new queens from these. I'm thinking of using the Millar method and hope to work with S. and utilise all our resources. The aim will be to produce calmer bees for S. With open mating, it will be a lottery, but at least we will start with two calm donor queens.

I will do Bailey comb changes on three of my colonies when the dandelions flower. There is some decent comb in these boxes from last year, and I will use these for raising the queens and making up the nucs.

A green woodpecker was seen near the apiary by a neighbour. It has excited local birders, but I don't expect any interference at the hives. Mrs C. And I celebrate our golden wedding at the end of April and are going bird watching for a week to Brittany. I know! But this holiday is unavoidable, so I must integrate it into the beekeeping timetable as best I can.

Peter Carefoot

plight of bees (all on their own backs, this hasn't been part of their school work) and they are going to do a display which will go up in Marple train station (one of the children's parents is on the committee) detailing the plight of bees and about our project.

She was right about the enthusiasm and I am going back over the next 5 weeks to complete the work and advise on keeping bees.

The photos I took we cant use as not all the kids parents have given consent. Mrs Skelley will send photos when she has checked with parents. I dont know how long that will take.

Alan Towse

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>

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.

Award Winners

Alan Towse received the prestigious Canon Evans Memorial Cup at the recent Cheshire BKA Spring Convention near Whitegate. The trophy is awarded annually for service to Cheshire Beekeeping.

Peter Carefoot received the Jim Tucker Salver for services in the past year to Stockport Beekeepers. He was the unanimous choice of all SBKA committee members.

Congratulations to both - we are lucky to benefit from their hard work and experience.

Honey for Sale

I have three food grade 7.2 kilo buckets for sale, either set or clear so about 16 lbs in each. £56 each, collected. Good value at only £3.50 per pound.

Malcolm Robinson, Alderley Edge
malcolm@wrenproperties.co.uk

Swarm Collection

If you are an experienced beekeeper who wants to be listed as a BBKA swarm collector please contact me to find out more. It's a service offered to the public for free, but the swarms you collect are yours to keep.
secretary@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

Assistant Apiary Manager

The purpose of the Stockport Beekeepers' Apiary at Woodbank Park, Stockport is:

- 1) To provide an area where members can meet to practice beekeeping techniques and exchange ideas.
- 2) To provide education facilities where new or intending member beekeepers can experience practical beekeeping and handle bees prior to owning their own bees.
- 3) It is the location where the Association's hives are located and maintained for education and honey production.
- 4) Area provided for members to locate their hive in emergency situations.

The Job

Working with and supporting the Apiary Manager

- a) To manage, with the help of other members, the 10 SBK Branch hives.
- b) To organise the seasonal weekly hive checking
- c) To organise the maintenance of equipment, hives, apiary infrastructure.
- d) To organise the extraction, storage and sale of SBK honey.
- e) To liaise with SBK Committee to support education projects.

This is a full committee position with the opportunity to influence SKB policy.

Tasks

Check the apiary at intervals to ensure hives are safe and weather resistant.
Check for early spring season feeding requirements
To assess pre-season equipment needs. Agree to purchases with Committee.
Mobilise branch members in early spring to clean and prepare equipment.
Organise first spring health checks of colonies
Work with committee members to conduct weekly checks
Liaise with Alan Towse about Beginners' course requirements
To liaise with Patricia Watkins to agree with annual programme requirements
Manage the removal of supers for extraction
Support the autumn bee feeding programme
Review bee health during winter

Interested? Contact Peter Carefoot chairman@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk