



# THE WELSH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

## CYMDEITHAS GWENYNWYR CYMRU

Established/Sefvdlwvd 1943 Registered Charity – No 509929

### Annual Report

1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

#### Trustees:

Chair	<b>David John Bowles</b> until AGM 2020 (re-elected Trustee AGM 2020) <b>Lynda Christie</b> (elected AGM 2020)
Vice Chair	<b>Jill Wheeler</b> (elected SGM 2019)
Treasurer	<b>Graham Wheeler</b> (re-elected AGM 2017) – Trustee since AGM March 2014
General Secretary	<b>Jenny Shaw</b> (elected AGM 2020) <b>Christopher Clarke</b> (elected AGM 2016) <b>Peter Elvis</b> (re-elected AGM 2020, resigned 15.06.20) <b>Gordon Lumby</b> (elected AGM 2017, retired AGM 2020) <b>Keith Davies</b> (elected SGM 2017) <b>Rachel Kellaway</b> (co-opted June 2018) <b>Caroline Mullinex</b> (elected AGM 2020) <b>Karen Pratt</b> (co-opted September 2020)

#### Officers:

President	Jenny Shaw (elected SGM 2019 / resigned AGM 2020) Vacant
Vice-presidents	Fred Eckton
Membership Secretary	David Kennedy
Minutes Secretary	Jill Hill
Convention Secretary	Vacant
Exam Secretary	Caroline Mullinex
Basic Assessment Officer	Nicola Oulton
Website Manager	Nigel Dailey (deceased September 2020) Alison Mason (appointed October 2020)
Editor	Nigel Dailey (deceased September 2020) Vacant
Sub-editor	Elin Meek
Proof Reader	Chris Clarke
Technical Officer	Wally Shaw
Insurance Officer	John Bowles
Health & Safety Officer	John Pilgrim
Press & Publicity Officer	Vacant
WBKA Archive	Nigel Dailey (deceased September 2020) Karen Pratt
WBKA COLOSS officer	Garth Evans
IMYB Officer	Richard Petts
Theft Liaison Officer	Vacant
Schools Officer	Emma Davies

All trustees and WBKA officers give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits. The WBKA is indebted to these volunteers for their continued goodwill and efforts on behalf of the Association.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

## **Our Aims & Objectives:**

The encouragement, improvement and advancement of beekeeping throughout Wales by:

- developing co-operation amongst all beekeepers throughout Wales and interchanging ideas and experiences,
- improving the standard of beekeeping by:
  - i. publication of literature,
  - ii. providing and supporting the provision of apicultural educational aids and materials,
  - iii. encouraging the training and qualification of beekeepers,
- arranging for national examinations at various levels,
- encouraging community participation in observing and learning about bees in safety, and developing an appreciation of the value of bees in the environment.

## **Administration**

A list of meetings during the year can be found at the end of this section of the report.

The Trustees met with the WBKA Council three times (March, June and November) to report on the actions of the Management Team and to seek guidance from the membership. Due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions on group gatherings both the June and November meetings were held virtually. At each of these meetings a minimum of 63% (12) of the WBKA Member Associations were represented and overall 74% (14) Associations attended at least one meeting. Minutes of all Management Team meetings have been circulated via Association Secretaries. Council meetings are scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup> in 2021.

The Management Team met eight times in 2020 but, due to pandemic restrictions, only the January meeting could be held face to face. The Management Team will meet at least four times in 2021 the first meeting being on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The venue and date for Management Team meetings reflects the availability and home addresses of the Trustees to ensure that there is maximum attendance and that minimum travelling expenses are incurred. Following a three month free trial of both Webinar and virtual meeting licences the Management Team purchased licences that will run until the end of October 2021. These licences have been made available to the Member Associations of the WBKA and during the year eight Associations have used the licences to hold various meetings.

Where appropriate to their roles non Trustee officers of the WBKA have been invited to attend Management Team meetings during 2020 to assist the work of the trustees.

The policies of the WBKA have been updated and amended and a Social Media policy has been agreed. The 2021 AGM will be asked to pass amendments to the WBKA Constitution that clearly enable WBKA meetings to be held virtually or by teleconference. It is not intended that this change, if passed, will see an end to face to face meetings. The provision is to clearly enable the work of the WBKA to continue even when face to face meetings are not possible.

**Insurance:** The WBKA Insurance cover is based on a number of conditions including the need for capitation to be paid on time. Payment of capitation is due from Associations on the 1st of January each year but an allowance is made providing that all monies due are received by the 31st March in that year. Member Associations are reminded of the need to make payment punctually. More details can be found in the combined Insurance and Health & Safety Report later in the document.

**Finance Reserves:** The Reserve policy states that the Charity (WBKA) shall maintain a reserve of £10,000-£13,000. This reserve is required by Charity Law to cover operational and contractual expenses should the need arise. This policy is monitored and updated annually.

Monies held on the HSBC current account are used to not only cover the running costs of the Association but to fund various projects such as the running of courses and the dissemination of information by various means such as the website, publications and booklets. A detailed financial report accompanies this document

**Governance:** The 2020 AGM saw the retirement of Gordon Lumby as a trustee. Jenny Shaw was appointed to the trustee position of General Secretary and Caroline Mullinex became the trustee with responsibility for the Learning and Development Committee. Peter Elvis resigned as a trustee in June 2020 and in September Karen Pratt was co-opted as a trustee.

Sadly Nigel Dailey, the WBKA Editor, Webmaster and Archivist, died in September. Karen Pratt volunteered to take on the role of Archivist and David Kennedy very kindly took on the role of caretaker webmaster. In late October Alison Mason was appointed as the new Webmaster. The vacant role of Editor was covered by an editorial team working with a graphic designer to publish the 2020 winter edition. The editorial team consists of the WBKA Chair, Vice Chair, General Secretary, L&D trustee, Schools Officer and Proof reader.

At the end of 2020 David Kennedy retired as Membership Secretary after almost four years in the post. Trish Calderbank was appointed to the role in August and she has worked with David to ensure as smooth a handover as possible.

Three posts have remained vacant all year: Events Secretary, Press and Publicity and Theft Liaison. It has been agreed not to continue to advertise the roles of Press and Publicity and Theft Liaison but to assimilate them into existing roles. Initial contact for both roles will be via the General Secretary.

**Membership:** The WBKA has nineteen Member Associations who represent 1,864 Indirect Members as well as one Specialist Member group. As part of the annual capitation fee levied on each Member Association the Indirect members benefit by receiving four editions of the 'Welsh Beekeeper' and third party Public and Product Liability Insurance. Also there are currently thirty nine Individual and eight Honorary Members of the Welsh Beekeepers' Association. A detailed breakdown of membership accompanies this report

Following discussion with Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) the WBKA has agreed to offer the membership management system, eReturn2 (eR2) to member associations. The system has been developed by Purely Solutions for BDI at the request of the BBKA and includes the processing of BDI insurance cover. It is separate from the online system (eReturn1) currently being used by most Welsh BKAs to set up their members' insurance cover. The system operates in a 'cloud' service provided by Microsoft.

The system allows each Association to define a set of membership record fields to suit their members, including all the membership, training, subscription, role and other options that they need to record. The principle is that all the membership data is in one system and accessible to whoever the Association grants access. No other spreadsheet or database records are needed. It also allows Association and Individual members to manage their own subscriptions and, if they wish to, make online payments.

The eR2 system that WBKA will offer is totally separate and independent of that used by BBKA. The WBKA membership secretary Trish Calderbank will offer support and guidance to assist Associations wanting to use this system to set it up and to transfer their records during 2021. The eR1 system is being withdrawn by BDI.

**Website:** It was agreed that the Webmaster, Alison Mason will create a new WBKA website whilst David Kennedy continues to maintain the current one. Work on the new site is progressing well and it should replace the current site in the first half of 2021.

**Welsh Beekeeper Magazine:** All four quarterly editions have been completed during the year. We are thankful to the many members of the WBKA who have provided articles and photographs for the magazine. Past copies of the magazine can be downloaded from the WBKA website.

**Publications:** The booklet 'An Apiary Guide to Swarm Control' was updated and sent out to all members with the spring edition of the magazine. Additional copies, with minor changes, of the booklet 'Simple Methods of Making Increase' were printed early in 2020. A sixth WBKA booklet 'Feeding Bees' was written, published and distributed to all members with the autumn edition of the Welsh Beekeeper magazine. All six booklets are free to download from the WBKA website. Printed copies can be collected at Council Meetings. During the restrictions on face to face meetings Association Training Officers can request that supplies of booklet are sent to them for handing out to new beekeepers.

The Trustees have worked with several external agencies during 2020 to ensure that Welsh beekeepers are kept fully informed and supported at a Wales, UK and European level. A list of the external meeting attended by the WBKA is given below.

**Bee Health Advisory Forum (UK):** The Bee Health Advisory Forum (BHAF) is a UK Government arranged meeting where all National Beekeeping Associations are represented as well as the NBU, APHA, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Bee vets etc. It offers an opportunity to discuss and influence current and forthcoming issues which may threaten the welfare of our bees. The items covered in the last year are included in more detail in the Technical Officer's report.

**Wales Pollinators Taskforce:** This is a Welsh Government sponsored forum which brings together a variety of groups who represent organisations that have an interest in protecting the wild environment and improving land management for the benefit of pollinators of all types varying from butterflies, hoverflies to bumble bees and honeybees. We believe that whatever can influence and improve the physical landscape and the management of land for any pollinator will also benefit honeybees. The forum meets twice or three times per year, usually in Newtown.

**CONBA:** The Beekeeping Associations of Wales, England, Scotland and Ulster as well as the Bee Farmers Association jointly form CONBA (Council of National Beekeeping Associations) which supports the interests of all beekeepers and beekeeping in the UK. It gives us the opportunity to develop joint strategies to deal with a variety of issues including government plans both home grown and European. John Bowles currently chairs CONBA on behalf of the WBKA. CONBA normally meets twice annually face to face and several times by teleconference.

**NDB:** The L&D Lead joined the NDB Advisory Panel when it met in April to consider and discuss ways in which NDB might support beekeepers generally. The NDB is keen to raise its profile and hopefully encourage more suitably qualified candidates for the NDB Exam.

## Meetings Attended in 2020

### Internal WBKA Meetings 2020:

24<sup>th</sup> January Management Team (Trustees) - Machynlleth

7<sup>th</sup> March AGM, Council meeting – Machynlleth

14 <sup>th</sup> April	Management Team (Trustees) - virtual
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Management Team (Trustees) – virtual
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Learning & Development Committee - virtual
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Management Team (Trustees) - virtual
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Council meeting – virtual
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Learning & Development Committee - virtual
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Management Team (Trustees) - virtual
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Learning & Development Committee - virtual
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Management Team (Trustees) - virtual
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Editorial Team - virtual
30 <sup>nd</sup> October	Management Team (Trustees) - virtual
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Editorial team - virtual
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Council meetings – virtual
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Editorial team – virtual
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Meeting with BDI re eR2 membership system - virtual
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Learning & Development Committee – virtual
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Management Team (Trustees) - virtual
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Events team - virtual

**WBKA representation at External Meetings 2020:**

Lynda Christie (L.C.), Jenny Shaw (J.S.), John Bowles (J.B.), Caroline Mullinex (C.M.), Wally Shaw (W.S.)

6 <sup>th</sup> March	Bee Health Advisory Forum: Virtual (W.S. and J.B.)
20 <sup>th</sup> March	CONBA: Virtual (J.B. & J.S.)
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	CONBA: Virtual (JB and JS)
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	NDB Advisory Panel: virtual (CM)
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Bee Health Advisory Forum: Virtual (W.S. and J.B.)
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Bee Health Advisory Forum: Virtual (W.S.)
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Wales Pollinator Task Force: Virtual (L.C.)
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Bee Health Advisory Forum: Virtual (J.B. and W.S.)

## REPORTS

### **Treasurer's Report Financial Year 2020**

There was a small deficit this year of £788 against the budgeted surplus of £276.

Additional costs were incurred in setting up a capability to run online meetings and webinars, but these were offset in the main by substantially reduced meeting costs as meetings moved online using the new capability.

Membership - Association membership was up by 33, individual membership also up by 3

Welsh Beekeeper - Advertising was up substantially this year partly down to a 5% increase in prices but also through an increase in adverts placed. Additional costs (£540) were incurred for a paid editor to enable the publishing of the autumn edition following the death of Nigel Dailey.

Welsh Convention - Some costs were incurred before the decision to pull the convention this year, advertising and printing of the programme coming to £818, a deposit for accommodation of £85 at Neudd Henllan will be redeemed in 2022. BDI sponsorship was retained for use against costs of speakers in 2021 with the blessing of BDI.

Examinations - No examinations occurred in 2020, some postage costs were incurred in sending out certificates from the previous year.

Special Projects - There were two booklet reprints this year and a revised booklet on Feeding Bees. Expected IMYB costs were not incurred due to the cancellation of the event.

### **Learning & Development (L&D) - incorporating Exam Secretary Report**

Despite 2020 being anything but normal, quite a lot has actually been achieved.

#### Meetings

The L&D sub-committee has held quarterly meetings. Emma Davies (as Schools Officer) and Richard Petts (as IMYB Officer) joined L&D and a full list of its members is shown below. At the current time, the secretariat duties within L&D are being consumed by Jenny Shaw and Caroline Mullinex but the make-up of the committee will be kept under review and expanded if and as required going forward.

Caroline Mullinex (Chair of Committee)	Lynfa Davies
Jenny Shaw	Nicola Oulton
Wally Shaw	Richard Petts
Trisha Marlow	Emma Davies

#### Exams & Assessments

No written exams were held in 2020, so the exam secretary part of this report is somewhat shorter than usual.

It is clear, however, that some candidates have put lockdown to good use evidenced by a number of applications to sit more than one module in the spring. Module application numbers in Wales continue to rise and the move to online exams with remote invigilation does mean that exams can

resume again after a year-long gap. The vast majority of candidates (both new and those whose entries rolled over from 2020) are keen to give the online exams a try but it is reassuring to know that BBKA plan to hold conventional, written exams in November (Covid restrictions permitting).

A pilot virtual study group (for Module 2) is also up and running with the aim of suggesting a model which other groups may wish to follow. This may well result in more module entries in the future.

The removal, last year, of the requirement for module candidates to have passed the Basic Assessment has at least meant that those wishing to embark on module study have not been prevented from doing so through being unable to take their Basic Assessment. No practical assessments took place in 2020 and L&D will be considering WBKA Basic Assessments, with a view to deciding whether or not it will be possible to resume these, when it meets in early March.

When we are able to resume Basic Assessments, the support of local associations in encouraging their members to try this will be valuable.

### 2019 L&D Survey

In 2019, a survey was conducted to try to establish what support WBKA might provide to the local associations e.g. around training delivery. Our response to the survey results has largely been diverted and driven by the pandemic and the restrictions this brought, but the survey is a standing agenda item and L&D will continue to explore ways in which support can be provided.

The bullet pointed items below outline areas which L&D have been/are involved in: -

- General Husbandry Preparation Course  
The theory element of this course was delivered successfully at Gregynog just prior to the first lockdown back in March. WBKA are grateful to Lynfa Davies and Marin Anastasov, (both NDBs) who delivered the training, and to Montgomeryshire BKA who hosted the event. The practical element of the course is outstanding (due to Covid restrictions) but will be rearranged when it is safe for this to proceed.
- Virtual Study Group  
As already mentioned, the aim is to share a model which other groups may wish to adopt.
- Feeding Bees booklet  
The latest in the range of WBKA booklets, authored by Wally, was published and circulated to members. These booklets are always well received, and this one was no exception, attracting readers way beyond WBKA through a link on the website. Planning is underway for the publication of another booklet in 2021 and more details will be shared as soon as possible.
- Webinars  
The WBKA decision to purchase GoTo Meeting & Webinar licences meant that the webinars delivered during an initial, free trial period were able to continue. These events proved extremely popular and, whilst webinars on beekeeping related topics are now abundant, WBKA were among the first to take this plunge into a virtual world.

We are hugely grateful to all those who have presented at these webinars, whether from within or outside of WBKA, and to everyone who has supported their organisation & delivery.

We know it is difficult for some members to participate, perhaps because they are in Broadband “not spots”, and acknowledge that there is probably no real substitute for face-to-face events (although remote delivery of events has actually been more convenient, and therefore inclusive, for many). But, face-to-face simply hasn’t been possible since March 2020 so the GoTo platform gave us an opportunity to engage directly with members and this happened on an unprecedented scale. (At the time of drafting this report, our webinar registration count stood at over 2500).

The webinar licence is also available to be used by the local associations and we will happily provide support any who wish to arrange and deliver their own webinars. We can also help you to publicize these beyond your own association so as to draw more attendees. (WBKA also has a Vimeo licence which may be used to share recordings).

- Meetings

The GoTo meeting licences, through which all of the L&D meetings were held in 2020, are also available for local associations to use and, again, we are more than happy to share our experience of these to support others to use them

2020 has been a learning curve in terms of the technology but the knowledge and experience we have gained will help us to support and facilitate events such as the forthcoming virtual Spring Convention.

- Social Media

WBKA now has an active Facebook page (@WelshBeekeepersAssociation) & Twitter Feed (@welshbee) and will also explore other platforms (e.g. Instagram) when time allows.

- New website

L&D are also delighted to be working with our new webmaster Alison Mason to develop content for the new website which is expected to launch later this year.

- Welsh Beekeeper Magazine

We have been actively involved in the Editorial Committee, formed to ensure the continued publication of our quarterly magazine. The Winter edition included, for the first time, a section devoted to Young Beekeepers.

- Schools

Emma has been key in arranging content for the Young Beekeepers section of the magazine and is also working on content for the new website under this heading. Encouraging the next generation of beekeepers is both essential and rewarding but, because of the Covid restrictions, beekeeping activity in schools has been curtailed. Emma is continuing to develop a WBKA schools offering through an “Everything but the bees” project.

- IMYB (International Meeting of Young Beekeepers)

We were disappointed to learn that the 2021 event in Slovenia, originally postponed from 2020, has had to be cancelled due to the continuing impact of the pandemic.



Having supported a Welsh team for the event in 2019, we look forward to working with Richard to field a team for the 2022 event which will be held in Russia.

The new website will include further information on IMYB within the Young Beekeepers Section.

If you have young beekeepers in your association who may be interested in IMYB in 2022 or beyond, contact Richard ([imyb@wbka.com](mailto:imyb@wbka.com)) for further information.

### Summary

During what has been a challenging year, a lot has been achieved thanks to the hard work, support, and contributions of all members of the L&D Committee.

### **Events Committee:**

Due to the emerging pandemic in March the Management team took the decision to cancel the 2020 annual convention on 16<sup>th</sup> March. All traders, speakers and support companies were told promptly before the wider membership were informed. All lecturers were invited back for the 2021 Convention. Some were happy to provisionally commit to this. Due to the severity of the pandemic no RWAS shows, which the WBKA support with stands, have gone ahead so there is nothing to report.

Throughout 2020 the WBKA has been seeking to find people to join the Events team through adverts and articles in Welsh Beekeeper. To date no one has stepped forward.

### **Webmaster**

Nigel Dailey was managing all aspects of the [wbka.com](http://wbka.com) website until his death in September 2020.

David Kennedy (then Membership Secretary) maintained the site after that and will be helping with the changeover to a new site which our Webmaster, Alison Mason, is developing.

Since the Convention and live events generally in 2020 were cancelled, the site has been used to publicize WBKA webinars and other online events. It has links to recordings of past webinars.

Statistics from 1<sup>st</sup> September onward show that around 800 people visited [wbka.com](http://wbka.com) each month. About 40% were in Wales, 30% were elsewhere in the UK, 12% were in the USA.

After the home page the most visited sections were Webinars, Learning & Development, Library and Associations list.

The separate Welsh language site [cymdeithasgwenynwycymru.co.uk](http://cymdeithasgwenynwycymru.co.uk) is no longer being maintained and will close in February 2021 when the current hosting licence expires. The Welsh language content will be incorporated into the new website.

Virtual Annual Convention. As the WBKA Convention is moving online in 2021, work is underway in collaboration with the Events and L&D teams, to deliver the live content using links from web pages which can be used on the existing WBKA site or on the new site if it is ready.

There will also be a virtual Trade Hall with links to trade websites, trade video, contacts and convention offers for visitors to browse online. We hope it will provide a new way of engaging with the Convention in these challenging times.

## **Editor**

The Editorial Team was extended to form a new editorial group consisting of 6 trustees and officers after the sad loss of our Editor in the middle of the year. Nigel had already put together the content for the Autumn magazine and, with the help of the Editorial group and Claire Waring of Buzzwords, we were able to get this issue to print and out to the members. Following advertising for a new Editor we have recruited two further volunteers to the Editorial group to assist with layout and content for future magazines.

An important function of the Editorial group is to highlight trends and appropriate news items and themes in order to keep the magazine content as current as possible whilst upholding the principles of the WBKA. The magazine has had a few changes in the style and layout and has also had additional pages added for younger beekeepers' contributions. The magazine gives an opportunity for beekeepers to voice their ideas and views through articles and letters. We welcome and look forward to receiving contributions in the future.

## **Publicity & Theft Liaison Officers:**

These positions have remained unfilled throughout 2020. The tasks assigned to both these positions have been incorporated into the roles of other officers. All relevant notifications, going forward, should initially be sent to the General Secretary on [secretary@wbka.com](mailto:secretary@wbka.com).

## **Technical Officer**

Bee Inspection Service – The WBKA has continued to work closely with the Bee Inspection Service. A comprehensive report from the Regional Bee Inspector (Frank Gellatly) was published in the winter edition of the Welsh Beekeeper and there is nothing I can add to that. Despite the problems created by Covid-19, the Service has continued to function seamlessly.

Queen Problems - I have heard a few reports of beekeepers having problems with queen mating (colonies not re-queening) but we have encountered very few ourselves. The weather in July was certainly not conducive to queen mating and it remains to be seen whether or not queens mated during this period will survive their first winter and make good long-term queens. Personally, I think that queen problems are less about weather and more about infection with deformed wing virus (DWV), which is now confirmed as a sexually transmitted disease.

Small Hive Beetle (SHB) - A full account of developments with SHB in Southern Italy appears in Frank Gellatly's Annual Report in WB.

Asian Hornet (AH) - Again, there is a full report on this year's activity with AH in Frank's report. In September Frank gave a very informative WBKA Webinar on the Asian hornet. There is still no evidence that there are any established nests of AH in the UK but, as beekeepers, we need to remain ever-vigilant as it could crop up almost anywhere.

Bee Health Advisory Forum (BHAF) Meetings - Again, a lot of the discussion at BHAF this year has been about BREXIT. Now that it has nearly happened, we may get some clearer information about how this will affect beekeeping. There has been a suggestion that UK beekeeping may still be able to claim money from the EU Apicultural Fund but I have no idea why or how this could work. I have

seen figures concerning the number of queens imported to the UK in 2020 but can't remember where I encountered this information. There seems to be no published data, so it must occurred in the context of a BHAF meeting. As I recall, imports were slightly up on the previous year with Italy being the main source - which is probably not good news. Better news is that it is no longer legal to import colonies or packages of honey bees and this greatly reduces the risk from Small hive beetle. As is the case with most trade with the EU, details concerning the future control and inspection of imports have yet to be decided but, in the interim, adequate biosecurity seems to be in place.

The Annual Hive Count was repeated this year but no data on the outcome are available at the time of writing.

Bee Health Plan II has been accepted and is now in process of implementation.

Varroa Levels 2020 - Varroa levels do not seem to be particularly high this year, possibly because most colonies came through the winter quite small and there was quite a slow build-up in colony size. Drones came on the scene quite late. In contrast to 2019, there has been a low level of swarming in 2020, which would tend to cause Varroa levels to be higher so it is probably a case of swings and roundabouts.

WBKA Technical Publications - A 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *An Apiary Guide to Swarm Control* was distributed to all members of WBKA with the spring edition of the Welsh Beekeeper. A new booklet, **Feeding Bees**, was distributed to all members with the autumn edition of Welsh Beekeeper. Unfortunately, due to the ill health of and subsequent death of our Editor (Nigel Dailey), this was delayed and was therefore not much help to beekeepers this year (feeding was all done and dusted by the time they had the booklet in their hands). Normally there is a supply of all booklets available at Council Meetings so that associations can stock up and new beekeepers can be supplied with a full set. If, as now looks highly likely, we will not be meeting face-to-face anytime soon, arrangements will be made to supply associations directly.

## **Insurance & Health & Safety.**

The WBKA is somewhat limited in its choice of brokers willing to quote us for our insurances. The reported reason last year and this was that they cannot compete with our current prices. For that reason we have remained with the same Broker – Coversure Insurance.

Copies of the policies have been sent to all Association Secretaries. Please note that again this year the insurer has emphasized the need for all organisations to which the cover applies to protect the volunteers who work on their behalf. To evidence this each Association should complete simple risk assessments as provided by our Health and Safety Officer John Pilgrim in the past. We are all aware of the main risks posed by beekeeping activities and in the maintenance of Association apiaries. Generally these are low risk but particular attention should be paid to those activities where risk is higher such as grounds maintenance with machines or pest control using harmful substances such as oxalic or formic acids. Volunteers who are working on Association activities must be provided with the correct protective equipment and work to the safe working practices identified by your risk assessments. Failure to take these simple actions could lead to the refusal of the insurer to settle a claim.

We have previously suggested that you formulate a Safety Policy for your Association which could be modelled on that of the WBKA and that a member of the Association Committee/Board be given the responsibility for ensuring that its requirements are followed.

It is our intention to, once again, ask for current copies of Association policies and simple risk assessments early in the new year.

The main areas of cover provided by policies funded through the WBKA are Combined Liabilities which provides cover for beekeeping activities, liability arising from products of the hive and employers liability. Another policy provides cover for Members/Officers of Association Committees/Management Groups/Boards for risks specifically arising from their management activities.

On the more general subject of Health and Safety it is good to be able to report that John Pilgrim who contracted Covid 19 at the end of 2020 and spent some time in hospital has now recovered and after a short period of recuperation has returned home albeit a little weakened in wind and limb. He has asked me to remind you all of the necessity to keep safe, follow the Senedd guidelines and he recommends that we wear the FFP 3 level of protective mask which actually protects the wearer rather than just everyone else.

## **BHAF - Healthy Bees Plan 2030**

The Implementation phase of the Healthy Bees Plan 2030 is now underway and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Implementation Group will be held in the new year. This plan seeks to identify and encourage initiatives to support bees and to safeguard their health against diseases and pests. It follows on from the HBP 2020 to which Wales and the WBKA were able to identify specific steps towards achieving these objectives. One of the problems identified in the previous Healthy Bees Plan was how to measure its success and what we can attribute that success to. We do not seem to have got much nearer to solving this problem in the initial meetings. It is encouraging, however, that the problem has been recognized which must be the first step in addressing it.

Wales is represented on this group by the WBKA and by the Welsh Government.

## **Asian Hornet**

It is encouraging to report that we now have Asian Hornet Teams identified for Associations in Wales. The contact details for the Coordinators for these teams are published on the WBKA website.

The WBKA would like to thank all those who have stepped forward to take on this role.

The expectations of the Teams are clearly set out on Beebase but we will be working towards developing a Welsh coordinated approach which mirrors those listed. While there was only one identified Asian hornet incursion/nest found in September 2020 (Gosport) we should by no means consider that the threat is reducing and need to remain vigilant.

It is interesting to note that the RSPB have recognized the threat posed to UK wildlife by the Asian Hornet and have published details of how to identify it and the necessary actions to take.

**Archive:** Work is currently continuing to update the WBKA Archives.

## **APPENDED REPORTS**

**Appendix 1: Membership 2020**

**Appendix 2: Accounts Financial Year 2021**

**Appendix 3: 2020 Year End and 2021 Budget**

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**Declaration: The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature:**

**Full name: Lynda Christie**

**Position: Chair**

**Date:**