

February 2024



MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

West Sussex Beekeepers' Association

Est. 1973

WSBKA Annual Convention

This is your final reminder to book a place at our Annual Convention, which has again attracted exceptional speakers to cover a wide range of topics with the main lectures being presented by Margaret Murdin, Professor Lars Chittka and Lynne Ingram. There is something for everyone, beginner to expert.

Main lectures:

Margaret Murdin – *'The Queen'*

Professor Lars Chittka – *'The Mind of the Bee'*

Lynne Ingram – *'Know your Enemy'*



Saturday 24th February 2024

9:30am – 4:30 pm

Lodge Hill, Watersfield, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1LZ

Apart from the three main lectures, you can choose to attend two out of the six seminars and in between times it is a great opportunity to catch up with beekeeping friends throughout the County and beyond.

Seminars:

- Lynne Ingram – *'The Importance of Drones'*
- Sue Remenyi – *'Where do Honey Bees travel for pollen?' - results of a community study*
- Andrew Gibb – *'Simple Queen Rearing'*
- Margaret Murdin – *'Keeping Healthy Colonies'*
- Sue Remenyi – *'Wasp control in the apiary'*
- Andrew Gibb – *'Environment, Bees, Food'*

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The day promises to be both entertaining and stimulating. Book now to ensure your place on the seminars of your choice. Tea and coffee will be served during the breaks and also a simple lunch. Advance booking per person for WSBKA members, £30. Members of other Associations and non-members, £37. On the day if space allows, £37.

Details, booking form and speaker profiles are on the WSBKA website :

www.westsussexbeekeepers.org/convention.html

Contact: Viv Sallows on 01293 8 71092 or 07749 265944 or email: wsbkaconvention@gmail.com

BBKA Update

Annual Delegates' Meeting

West Sussex Beekeepers' Association was again represented at this year's ADM by Roger Patterson, joining the all-day meeting on 'Zoom'.

This is the annual meeting that steers BBKA policy and is now held as a 'hybrid' meeting with all Area Association Member Delegates given the choice of joining the meeting on 'Zoom' rather than travelling to the venue.

A full report of the meeting, including the results of the elections to the Board of Trustees and the Examination Board, and votes cast on the various propositions will be in the BBKA News shortly.

WSBKA had raised a proposition to ensure all members with up to and including 39 colonies are fully covered by the third party public and products liability insurance. We were supported in this proposition by Suffolk Beekeepers' Association. The proposition was passed with 62 in favour and just 2 against. See Roger's comments in his 'Chairman's Chat'.



Outreach Officer Appointed

The BBKA has appointed Kirsteen Thorne into its new role of Outreach Officer.

Kirsteen has previously worked as a journalist, presenter and radio producer for BBC Radio Norfolk and the regional BBC Look East programme. Her email address is outreach.officer@bbka.org.uk.

Initially Kirsteen will be focused on raising the profile of the threat of the Asian hornet and implementing the outreach plan to engage with a wide variety of target audiences and organisations. She will also help identify and develop the resources needed by the BBKA's associations to support their local awareness campaigns.

The first Asian hornet committee meeting of the year was held recently and plenty of action points were agreed. Luke Whyatt, who is a newly elected Trustee, is chairing the committee. His email is luke.whyatt@bbka.org.uk.

Finally, a reminder of the **BBKA Asian Hornet Conference on Saturday 17th February** which will be an online event. Speakers and further details will be confirmed shortly.

West Sussex Beekeepers' 51st Annual General Meeting

WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



President: **Mrs Christine Stevens**
Chair: **Mr Roger Patterson (Retiring)**
Vice Chair: **Mr Harry Boxall**

Honorary Secretary
Mr Graham Elliott
Tel: 07761 349281
secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Honorary Treasurer
Mr Brian Hose
Tel: 01243 533559
treasurer@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Life Vice-Presidents: **Mrs Christine Stevens, Mr Roger Patterson & Mr Ray Noakes**

NOTICE is given to all Members of West Sussex Beekeepers' Association that the **51st Annual General Meeting** will be held online on **Wednesday 13th March 2024**, commencing at 6.30pm. It is hoped that as many Members as possible will participate to support the Association.

Those members wishing to join the meeting should note that the ID and passcode for the 'Zoom' online meeting will be published in the members' edition of the March County News - or contact the Secretary for details.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 50th AGM, held via 'Zoom' on 8th March 2023
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Chair's Report
5. Election of Officers. All officers are prepared to stand for re-election with the exception of Mr Roger Patterson who has reached the end of his three-year term of office as Chair.

Present Holders:

President – **Mrs Christine Stevens**
Chair – **Mr Roger Patterson (retiring)**
Vice Chair – **Mr Harry Boxall**
Treasurer – **Mr Brian Hose**
Secretary – **Mr Graham Elliott**

6. To appoint the Accounts Scrutineer for 2024
7. Any Other Business (as notified to the Secretary)

If there are any items Members would like to add to the Agenda these should be notified to the secretary **no later than 7th March**.

Likewise, we are seeking nominations for all the executive roles and the accounts scrutineer for 2024. These too should be submitted to the secretary in the same timescale.

The March Newsletter will contain the details for logging in to the 'Zoom' online meeting.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM, Treasurer's Annual Accounts, and Chairman's Report can be found at the end of this newsletter (Members only).

Graham

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



Asian Hornet Update



On Thursday 24th January the National Bee Unit notified the BBKA that they had received a credible sighting of a lone Asian hornet in Hastings, East Sussex.

It is not expected to find Asian hornets flying until later in the year, nevertheless local volunteer Asian hornet teams will be asked to be alert and monitor for Asian hornets in the area.

WSBKA 48th Bee Market & Auction

Our 48th Bee Market & Auction will be held on **Saturday 27th April**. The venue is again Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus in Pulborough.

Full details, Guidance Notes and an Entry Form for registering Lots for sale are on the website:

www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html

It's time to take stock of all that surplus beekeeping equipment you may wish to sell at the Auction. Remember, the equipment must be clean and in a saleable condition. Any bees offered for sale must have been inspected by the Regional or Seasonal Bee Inspector within 14 days prior to the Auction.

Lots registered to be auctioned are already in double figures, with the promise of a number of bee colonies or nucs. The first of our volunteers have pledged their time!

As usual, a large team of volunteers will be required to manage this event and ensure a successful experience for the Association, buyers and vendors. So if you can offer some time please contact Ben Hewson by email: ben@benhewson.com or me. We promise you an enjoyable and interesting day benefiting members, non-members and your Association.



Graham

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



Congratulations

In November last year two members sat the BBKA Modules on-line. Congratulations to Alan Aldridge (Chichester) who achieved Distinction in **Module 2 - Honey bee products and forage**, and Martina Hendry (Wisborough Green) achieved Credit in **Module 1 - Honey bee management**. Very well done to both members.

BBKA Examinations & Assessments

We are entering a new year for BBKA Examinations and Assessments. Exams can appear daunting at first glance but they are a great way to improve our understanding of how to work with our bees to get good results.

The starting point and entry requirement for all other examinations and assessments is the **Basic Assessment in Beekeeping**; this practical assessment tests the basic skills and knowledge of the craft. You may sit the Basic Assessment at any time this year up until 31st August giving 1 month's notice. It is probable that a number of group sessions will be held across the divisions this summer.

Following the Basic Assessment, you may choose to take your bee husbandry further by taking the **Honey Bee Health Certificate**. A practical assessment to encourage beekeepers who have been awarded the **BBKA Basic Certificate** and have at least three years of beekeeping experience to improve their understanding and practice of beekeeping. You will also be able to demonstrate a range of beekeeping skills.

Bee Breeding Certificate is a practical assessment to promote the skills required to improve stocks of local bees.

General Husbandry Certificate, and subsequently the **Advanced Husbandry Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry**.

You can also further your knowledge of bees and beekeeping by studying for the written **Module** examinations. In 2024 **Modules** may be sat in either March or November. Whilst it is still recommended that you pass the **Basic Assessment** before attempting any of the written **Modules**, you are now able to take a **Module** without having passed the **Basic Assessment** but should have at least 2 years experience of beekeeping.

If you are planning to sit **Modules** this March, please contact me by **6th February** so that I can e-mail you a link to the online application form as the BBKA's closing date for entry is 9th February. Please note the syllabi for **BBKA Modules** have been updated for 2024. These can be found on the BBKA website alongside updated reading lists: www.bbka.org.uk/syllabi-for-written-exams

Details of Examinations and Assessments dates and fees for 2024 can be viewed on the BBKA website: www.bbka.org.uk/general-help. If you need any further advice please contact me by phone or email. Tel: 01403 752493 or mobile: 07746 093729.

BBKA's Education and Husbandry Committee is offering a 2-day course preparing for the **Advanced Husbandry Certificate**. This course, which is aimed at experienced beekeepers, will cover both theoretical and practical aspects of the **Advanced Husbandry Assessment**, aiming to give the participants an understanding of what the assessment entails and what they need to do to be successful.

This is available to BBKA members only and the participants are required to hold the **BBKA General Husbandry Certificate** and to be eligible to take the **Advanced Husbandry Assessment** in the near future.

Venue Location: Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

Course Dates: Saturday 20th July and Sunday 21st July 2024

Course Fee: £160.00 per person

There are still a few places left on the **Beginners', one-day Microscopy and the two-day Intermediate Microscopy courses** in February. For more details and to book a place, please go to the Shop on the BBKA website: www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/departments/training-courses

Sue Elliott, WSBKA Exam Secretary
examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Chairman's Chat



Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.

I have recently spent a couple of days teaching beekeeping in the Isle of Man. I was first invited in 2009 and I have probably been there a dozen times since, presenting winter courses, summer demonstrations and bee improvement sessions. They don't have *Varroa* and the last case of foul brood was so long ago that even the longer-term beekeepers can't remember when.

Beekeeping is just like it was here pre-*Varroa*, with none of the *Varroa*-related problems we have. This provides a danger that is difficult for the Manx beekeepers to understand. They have an import ban on bees, queens and used equipment, making it easy for them to become complacent by assuming no pests and diseases will be introduced.

I was quite forceful in explaining that foul brood is in many colonies at sub-clinical levels and it will only take something like stress for them to show infection. Also, foreign honey is often infected, so bees robbing unwashed containers could take infection home. I produced two empty new queen cages from my pocket that I had brought through airport security unchallenged. I said that if one had a queen and attendant workers, together with one *Varroa* mite hidden between abdominal segments on the underside, *Varroa* would probably spread throughout the island in 3 years and ruin Manx beekeeping forever. Also ordering online would probably be undetected.

There is a list of notifiable pests and diseases, but not one of 60-odd beekeepers knew them. I wonder if readers of this newsletter know all ours, or can identify them. Can you? If not, then just like I said to the Manx beekeepers, if you don't know them or can't identify them, then how are you going to notify the bee inspectors? If you are in this position, then please check out the NBU website.

Roger
chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Around the Divisions

All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

Central Sussex Division



Wednesday 21st February 'The Asian Hornet' with Ben Hewson. The Millennium Hall, Crawley Road, Roffey, Horsham, RH12 4DT at 7:30PM. Further details of the Division's activities from: secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk or the Division's website: <https://centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Chichester Division



Wednesday 21st February 'Asian Hornet Briefing' with Harry Boxall and the Isle of Wight Asian hornet team, 7:30pm. at Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, PO18 0EE. Further details of the Division's activities from: Cheryl Barton, secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk.

Wisborough Green Division

Full details of the Division's activities from: Martina Hendry, secretary@wgbka.org.uk or the Division's website: www.wgbka.org.uk.
Newsletters may be viewed here: www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html

Worthing Division



Thursday 8th February 'Varroa-resistant Traits' with Steve Riley at The Glebelands Centre, Greystoke Road, Ferring, BN12 5JL at 7:45pm.
Further details of the Division's activities from: Debra Edwards, dmcd.edwards@gmail.com or the Division's website: www.worthing-beekeepers.org

'Share your Division's activities with readers of the County News'

...and Dates for your Diary



Saturday 24th February - 'West Sussex Beekeepers' Annual Convention'. From 9:30am at Lodge Hill, Pulborough, RH20 1LZ. www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html

Saturday 27th April - 'West Sussex Beekeepers' 48th Bee Market & Auction'. From 8:30am at Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough, RH20 1DL.
www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html



Friday 12th - Sunday 14th April - '150 years of the British Beekeepers' Association. Spring Convention', Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB.
www.bbka.org.uk/pages/category/about-spring-convention

We are on facebook so if you would like your events featured please send details to the Editor.





Bookings open Noon 29 Jan!



Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 April 2024

Lectures, Workshops & Seminars

Bumper Trade Show Sat 13 April

Ticket prices held: Trade Show only - £6

For latest information including full programme, visit

www.bbka.org.uk/springconvention

***PLUS A FREE HIVE TOOL* FOR EVERY ADULT PARTICIPANT,
INCLUDING TRADE SHOW ONLY!***



Enquiries to: scenquiries@bbka.org.uk

...and finally

BIBBA Training

The Bee Improvement & Bee Breeders' Association is presenting a number of training courses this month:

'From Hobby to Business' - for beekeepers who sell their hive products

Saturday 3rd February at Lawshall, Suffolk and

Sunday 4th February at Denton, Northampton

Full details and speakers' profiles on the BIBBA website:

<https://bibba.com/casca-events/>

'The Early Years' - a course for progressive beekeepers

Saturday 17th February at Lawshall, Suffolk and

Sunday 18th February at Denton, Northampton

Full details: <https://bibba.com/early-years-events-2024/>



MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

We're on the web:

www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



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Previous newsletters from the last 12 months are available on the website.



Minutes AGM 2023

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meetings of the West Sussex Beekeepers' Association held on 'Zoom' on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mrs C Stevens, Ms K Mair, Ms C Blakeman (Worthing), Mrs S Elliott (Chichester), Mrs V Stoneham (Chichester), Ms M Hendry, Mr R Patterson, Mr B Hewson, Mr H Boxall, Ms D Edwards, Mr B Hose, Mr R Dyer, & Mr G Elliott.

The Life Vice-President, Mrs Christine Stevens, opened the meeting and welcomed all those participating.

Apologies for Absence

Mr M Essen, Mr G Farley, Mr T Moore (Chichester) and Mr G Allan (Wisborough Green).

Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes had been circulated to members in advance. Minutes of the 49th AGM held on 23rd March 2022 were adopted as a true record. Mrs C Stevens to sign.

Treasurer's Report

A copy is attached to these Minutes with the scrutinised accounts for 2022 and had been circulated in advance. The scrutineer, Mr K Breen was thanked for his services. The adoption of the report was proposed by Mr R Patterson, seconded by Mr R Dyer and adopted nem con.

Chairman's Report

A copy is attached to these Minutes. Although the Report was not available at the AGM it was circulated the following day to all those present. The report was subsequently adopted retrospectively without comment.

Election of Officers

All officers had agreed to stand for re-election with the exception of the President, Mr Melvyn Essen, who had reached the end of his 2-year term of office. One nomination had been received by the secretary for President, Mrs Christine Stevens.

President – Mrs Christine Stevens, proposed by Mr G Elliott, seconded by Mr B Hewson and elected nem con.

Chairman – Mr Roger Patterson, proposed by Mr B Hose, seconded by Mr R Dyer and re-elected nem con.

Vice-Chairman – Mr Harry Boxall, proposed by Mr R Patterson, seconded by Ms M Hendry and re-elected nem con.

Treasurer – Mr Brian Hose, proposed by Mr B Hewson, seconded by Mrs S Elliott and re-elected nem con.

Secretary – Mr Graham Elliott, proposed by Mr R Patterson, seconded by Ms D Edwards and re-elected nem con.

Appointment of the Accounts Scrutineer

The treasurer had spoken to last year's scrutineer, Mr Kevin Breen, who had agreed to stand for re-election. Proposed by Mr B Hose, seconded by Ms M Hendry and re-elected nem con.

Any Other Business

There was a proposal from Mr B Hose to amend the wording of the Association's 'Rules'. Although the current 'Rules' had been written as the Association's 'Constitution' the document does not reflect this. A recent interaction with a financial institution has resulted in them querying the absence of a 'Constitution' and thus this proposed change.

For clarity it is proposed to change the title of the Document to **'Constitution and Rules of the West Sussex Beekeepers Association'**. In addition, it was proposed to spell out BBKA in Rule 9 in full for the understanding of outsiders.

Mr R Patterson had proposed a further amendment to Rule 9, **'WSBKA shall be an Area Association Member (AAM) of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and join or be affiliated to any other organisations the Committee feels beneficial'**. The entire proposal was seconded by Mr G Elliott and the change adopted nem con. No s' will be used throughout this document for consistency. It was further proposed by Mr G Elliott that this change should be adopted immediately, seconded by Mr B Hose and agreed by all.

The secretary will produce the amended document, attach a copy to these minutes and replace the document on the website by 1st April 2023.

No further business had been notified to the secretary and the meeting was closed at 6:50pm.

Signed by President, Mrs Christine Stevens

Date

WSBKA Chairman's report 2022

Like others, WSBKA and the divisions have now largely recovered from COVID related problems. Meetings are being held again, but as with other areas of the country, attendances are patchy. The general feeling is that it will take some time to normalise.

For the second year running the WSBKA convention was cancelled, though the auction was held very successfully, although costs are rising sharply. There was plenty of equipment changing hands, showing it is a valuable event for both vendors and buyers. Owing to beekeepers purchasing much of their equipment online, no suppliers are willing to attend outside events, so losing the convenience of seeing before buying.

Committee meetings are now held by Zoom, which is saving time, cost and carbon footprint.

On behalf of WSBKA, I attended some BBKA online discussion sessions that were called to help improve the knowledge and skills of beekeepers. These were attended by people, mainly education officers, representing BKAs throughout the country. I was rather disappointed in the responses, as many BKAs now only teach their first year intake, then they are on their own, when I think it is the second year onwards that needs the most attention. Some only teach enough to pass exams, often believing the BBKA Basic is enough. There are still many BKAs who don't have a teaching apiary, which all WSBKA divisions have. I firmly believe they are an important asset for teaching beekeeping, as it is a lot easier to learn with a hive of bees open in front of you than from a book, video or PowerPoint.

On behalf of all WSBKA members I wish to thank all those who work hard at divisional and county level to provide benefits to members.

Roger Patterson

8th March 2023.

Minutes AGM 2023

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association shall be 'West Sussex Beekeepers Association', and shall be referred to as 'WSBKA'.

The object of WSBKA shall be to promote the interests of beekeeping generally, including beekeeping education, and foster close co-operation with agricultural and horticultural interests. Encouragement shall be given to all groups and in particular young people. WSBKA is a not-for-profit organization.

Groups of beekeepers may form their own area Divisions (Subject to Committee approval). Divisions may write their own rules which shall not conflict with these rules.

Membership shall fall into two categories:

Full Membership. For those: -

Active beekeepers who pay a capitation fee to WSBKA.

Life Vice Presidents (See Rule 13).

Full Members may vote at any meeting.

Social Membership. For those: -

Who are Full Members of another County BKA and therefore an Associate Member of a WSBKA Division.

Who are exempt from paying a Capitation Fee (See Rule 15).

Who are not eligible to be Full Members and are classed as 'Social Members' of a WSBKA Division.

Partners of Full Members.

Dependents of Full Members (Under the age of 18).

Social Members may not vote at a General Meeting.

The management of WSBKA shall be vested in a Committee composed of a President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and not more than two representatives from each Division. All Officers shall be elected annually at a General Meeting. The Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer's terms to be unlimited with the President limited to two years and the Chairman to three years. Both may be elected again after a one-year break.

The Committee has the power to co-opt. All members have the right to vote (Including Social Members) except the meeting Chairman who has a casting vote.

Representatives to outside bodies where they are not Divisional Representatives shall be co-opted.

The Committee shall appoint replacement Officers and Representatives.

WSBKA shall be an Area Association Member (AAM) of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and join or be affiliated to any other organisations the Committee feels beneficial.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held within four calendar months of the end of the financial year.

A Special General Meeting may be called (within 30 days of notification) at any time by the Committee, or following a request to the Secretary signed by at least seven full members stating the item for discussion. No other business shall be discussed.

All Full Members to be given at least fourteen days notice of a General Meeting. The notice to include time and venue and if an Annual General Meeting a statement of accounts.

A person who has given valuable service to WSBKA over a long time may be elected a Life Vice President at an Annual General Meeting, and shall enjoy the same rights as a Full Member.

The financial year shall end on 31st December.

WSBKA shall be partly funded by a capitation fee that shall be set at a General Meeting. No Capitation fee shall be charged to those under the age of 18 on or before the end of the financial year.

WSBKA and BBKA levies to be collected by Divisions and forwarded to WSBKA Treasurer. The amount and payment date to be notified by the WSBKA Treasurer.

WSBKA accounts shall be examined by a 'Scrutineer' who is appointed at a General Meeting. They may be a member but must not have served on the Committee in the previous financial year. In an emergency a replacement may be appointed by the Committee.

No member shall gain any pecuniary advantage from WSBKA.

WSBKA shall only be wound up at a General Meeting called for that purpose. Any funds and assets shall be dealt with at that meeting taking into account the objects of the Association and beekeeping in West Sussex.

Any circumstances not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Committee.

These rules can only be changed at a General Meeting. Any proposed rule changes shall be circulated to members at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. The changed rules are not to come into effect (apart from legal reasons) until the start of the next Financial Year (1st January).

These rules passed at 2002 AGM 09/04/02 to come into effect 01/01/03. Amendment to Rule 16 passed at 2010 AGM 24/03/10.

Title changed to include 'Constitution' and Rule 9 wording changed to include AAM and full BBKA title. Passed at 2023 AGM 08/03/23 to come into effect immediately.

wsbka/gmte/mar23

Treasurer's Report & Accounts 2023

West Sussex Beekeepers' Association Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st December 2022.

Any members wishing for a copy of the Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts should contact the secretary: secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Web copy Feb24

Chairman's Report 2023

Now the COVID restrictions have been relaxed, local BKA activity is returning to something like the previous levels, although it is still patchy. It allows BKAs to use their teaching apiaries for teaching beekeepers of all levels. All four WSBKA divisions have teaching apiaries, although they probably use them in different ways. That doesn't matter, what is important is they are used to help increase knowledge and skills, both of which are important.

Annual events, such as the **Convention** and **Auction sale** were both successful and provided good service. These need careful planning, which they have, mainly through experienced teams, but there are many helpers needed on the day.

WSBKA committee meetings continue to be held by *Zoom*, which is disliked by some beekeepers, but it saves time, expense and carbon footprint.

A West Sussex beekeeper highlighted the BBKA Third Party, Public and Product Liability Insurance that beekeepers thought covered them for up to 39 hives, didn't always do that, as it was a policy for 'hobbyists', which the insurance brokers interpreted in different ways, but essentially if income was above expenditure, then you weren't a hobbyist, therefore uninsured. WSBKA presented a proposition to the 2024 BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM), that determines policy, that all beekeepers with up to 39 hives are covered, however much profit they may make. This was passed by a large majority, showing that ordinary members can influence BBKA.

I have now come to the end of my 3-year term as chairman, which I believe was my 5th term. Phew! I will hand over to a successor at the AGM and I would like to thank all the officers and divisional representatives for helping to progress beekeeping in the county on behalf of members.

Roger Patterson

24th January 2024