



DORSET BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Secretary's report on behalf of the Council to the AGM 21 March 2021

Since the Dorset BKA AGM on 8 March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on beekeeping events both locally and nationally.

Council meetings: the Council meeting in May 2020 was cancelled; virtual meetings on Zoom took place in September 2020 and January 2021

Membership: as at the Council meeting in January 2021, Dorset BKA had 500 members. Officers with access are finding eR2 email particularly useful, and some are making good use of online membership renewal

BBKA 2021 ADM: Dorset BKA had a delegate, a reserve delegate and two observers in attendance at the BBKA ADM which was conducted on Zoom on 16 January 2021. A report of the ADM was circulated to Council delegates including member representatives on 17 January 2021

South West Beekeepers' Forum (SWBKF): meetings were held on-line on 1 December 2020 and 2 February 2021; the meetings were reported in HoneyCraft

Education and Training: although apiary meetings, social events, honey shows and the Dorset Convention have been cancelled, opportunities for on-line learning have increased and many have been highlighted in HoneyCraft. BBKA examinations and assessments were cancelled in 2020; examinations are going ahead in April 2021 with over 600 candidates which include some from Dorset BKA. The SWBKF is considering how best to develop regional education programmes including on-line module study groups; Branches have been offering on-line meetings and education programmes including courses for new beekeepers in 2021

HoneyCraft: continues to be published four times in the year, in electronic form. By carrying paid advertising and incurring no costs, the magazine earns money for DBKA. Overall it excites little comment, but a sufficient variety of articles are submitted for publication to supplement the branch reports to make it an interesting read

Asian Hornet: there were few reports of Asian hornet sightings in 2020; Dorset BKA has developed AH Action Teams, has made and will develop in-county preparations and will work with other BKAs in the South West to develop strategies in the event of sightings or incursions in 2021; see separate report from County AHAT Coordinator

eR2: the BBKA eR2 system is being used for an increasing range of applications and appears to offer potential in a number of areas, including exchanging information with the new BBKA examinations database

Liz Rescorla
County Secretary