

# Barnet and District Beekeepers Association Annual Report 2022

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## **Chairmans report for Middlesex Federation AGM 18th February 2023**

2022 saw the resumption of face-to-face meetings again although the popularity of using Zoom for members meetings and committee meetings has continued so a hybrid meeting format has emerged.

As all of the Middlesex Associations will know, in December we lost Pat Morgan. Pat was a very active member of our association, being the only Master Beekeeper in our association. she also was an apiary manager of one of the associations apiaries, an active committee member and also did a stint as Chair of the committee. Her knowledge and guidance to other members will be missed by all members of the association.

Our beginners' course which is a major activity of our association. The course started with the 12 planned lectures, the majority given by zoom, followed by the beginners getting weekly practical sessions in our training apiary. Unfortunately, right at the start we discovered EFB in the training apiary so the beginners had the experience of dealing with voluntary standstill of an apiary followed by the statutory standstill after the bee inspector had been. The beginners where then split into smaller groups and then mentored by individual beekeepers in their own or other association apiaries. So a positive experience in that the beginners get to see what to do in such circumstances, which unfortunately seems to be getting more prevalent, and also that although not planned a backup plan swung into action immediately so the education could continue with minimal disruption.

A quick update on the 2023 be3ginners course. After a lot of analysis of previous courses, this year we are reversion the structure of the course. We are running a taster day at the start of April, as we seem to get a batch of enquiries after Christmas and early in the year for training which we can then capture, then go straight into practical session sin the training apiary. This will be followed up in the autumn with theory, with the hope that the increased knowledge gained from the practical sessions will help in the understanding of the theory so a higher level of theory can be given.

2022 was a good year as far as honey production for our members, many reported bumper crops and also being able to extract spring honey which is not always the case.

During the year we held members meetings, although not as regularly as we would have liked. We did hold our annual BBQ which had a good attendance and our annual honey show saw an increase in exhibits as well as people attending although we just fell short of the 100 exhibits threshold. In December we held our AGM, which was well supported, and also gave the members the opportunity to attend by zoom. This was shortly followed by our Christmas social to bring our year to a close.

Membership numbers for 2022 again seemed to hover at the 110 mark, the biggest churn is with the first year beginners not renewing, probably as they no longer want to keep bees after experiencing what it takes on our course!

**Wilfred Wood**

**BDBKA Chair**

**13/02/2023**