

# Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

Chairman: Sean Stephenson

President: John Dadswell



## AGENDA FOR 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7.30pm  
Church of the Good Shepherd

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of 2017 meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Receive Reports from:
  - Chairman
  - Programme Secretary
  - Membership Secretary
  - Education Secretary
  - Apiary Manager
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Appointment of Auditor for 2017/18
7. Presentation of Certificates
8. Election of Committee Members and Officers for 2016/17
9. Any other business
10. Date for AGM 2019

# Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

Held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Aylesbury

The Chairman Sean Stephenson opened the meeting at 7.43pm.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Karen Dadswell, Jon Theobald, Caroline Windley, Gordon Stewart, Jenny O’Gorman, Bruce Raybould, Frank Rickett, David Davies, John Chudley and Peter Simmonds

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM were approved with no further comments made.  
Proposed by Jonathan Matthews and seconded by Kevin Crangles.

### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM.

### 4. Officer’s Reports

The MBBKA Officers’ reports were presented to the meeting. The following table records the Proposer and Seconder for each of the reports.

Report	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	George Bull	John Dadswell
Programme Secretary	Andrew Smith	Caroline Luxford
Membership Secretary	John Radford	Isla St Clair
Education	Brian Bush	Kevin Crangles
Apiary Manager	Isla St Clair	Susanna Geoghegan
Treasurer	John Dadswell	Dahud Khan

## 5. Motion: The MBBKA membership fees for 2017/2018 to remain unchanged.

This was discussed briefly then proposed by Caroline Luxford and seconded by Gillian Donald.

## 6. Election of Committee Members and Officers for the coming year

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconded
Chairman	Sean Stephenson	Ruth Stephenson	Liz Tice
Vice-Chairman	Helen Palmer	Sean Stephenson	Liz Tice
Secretary	Liz Tice	Sean Stephenson	Helen Palmer
Treasurer	Andrew Smith	Kevin Crangles	Liz Tice
Membership Secretary	Jonathan Palmer	Helen Palmer	
Apiary Manager	Kevin Crangles	Andrew Smith	Liz Tice
Programme Secretary	Sarah Turner	Caroline Windley	Andrew Smith
Librarian	Jon Theobald	Liz Tice	Sean Stephenson
Honey Show Secretary	Helen Palmer	Helen Palmer	
Education Officer	Jonathan Matthews	Liz Tice	
Novice Bee Keeper	Dahud Khan	Andrew Smith	Jon Theobald
Committee Member	Caroline Windley	Sarah Turner	Andrew Smith
Committee Member	Godfrey Clements	Sean Stephenson	Liz Tice
Committee Member	Dorrie Tutton	Liz Tice	Jon Theobald

Brian Bush will remain as Swarm Officer – this is a non-committee position.

These nominations were all announced and accepted unanimously.

## 7. Appointment of Auditor for 2017/2018

Neville Morton F.C.A. (England and Wales) will remain the association's auditor for 2017/2018. This appointment was proposed by Ruth Stephenson and seconded by Steve Adkins.

## 8. Certificates

Sean Stephenson then gave out BBKA Certificates

## 9. Any Other Business

- a) General discussion instigated by Brian Bush regarding the fact that MBBKA do not have BDI (Bee Disease Insurance) whereas most other Associations do. It is also only easily available via an Association. It was recognised that as current Swarm officer this could affect Brian more than others with only a few hives.  
Sean Stephenson took away the proposal that the Committee would look into this and see if they could come up with a solution.
- b) George Bull to become a Trustee.

- c) Apiary site. Sean Stephenson explained the current situation with the Apiary Development Fund and also went over some recent events, such as the site that came up for sale in Aston Clinton. Sean advised that Kevin Crangles had recently written a document that summarised the ideal apiary site and would be used to help find a new site. Sean also advised that MBBKA would soon have access to an out apiary at land owned by the National Grid.

#### **10. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.50pm.

## BDI Compensation Rates for 2018 season

The rates of compensation for property insured are:

British Standard Brood Frame	£2.50
Top Bar Hive Frames	£1.10
Warre Hive Frames	£0.70
All other Brood Frame sizes	£3.40
British Standard Shallow Frame	£1.80
All other Shallow Frame sizes	£2.50
Slotted Zinc Queen Excluder	£7.00
Wire Queen Excluder	£17.10
Plastic Queen Excluder	£3.80
Polycarbonate Quilt	£17.30
Glass Quilts	£16.40
Open Mesh Floors	£10.00
Saleable honey - £3.00/lb; maximum 40lb per colony	

Subject to Condition – Excellent-as New, Good or Poor.

No other property will be paid for. e.g. hive bodies are not covered.

Both Plastic, including 'Flow Hiive' frames and wooden frames are covered. Where no specific rate is quoted above for none standard hive components the rate will be by agreement with the claims manager Compensation for destruction due to Small Hive Beetle incorporates a hive allowance.

If claims have been made in the previous two consecutive seasons compensation will be reduced by 25%.

If claims have been made in the previous three consecutive seasons compensation will be reduced by 50%.

The maximum compensation payable to an individual is £3,000 in any one year of insurance.



## **Chairman's Report 2017-18**

This, my last year as Chairman of our Association, has been a really enjoyable year. With the support of a keen and willing Committee I feel we have made progress on many fronts.

The weather has been the biggest story of the last twelve months. It has affected our members in different ways. The long cold winter meant that there were significant colony losses, reminiscent of 2012/3 when the cold wet winter lasted until well into May.

The long winter was followed by an intense Spring with the blossom seemingly coming all at once. This is a trend that I have noticed in my apiaries over the last few seasons, the colonies that were strong and bursting in early May were the ones that did well in honey production, those on catch-up, produced hardly any honey.

What a summer! Little or no forage, everything started to blossom early and the flow was over before we knew it. I heard of Beekeepers who were feeding colonies in July.

Hopefully you will have noticed through the Newsletter and our monthly meetings, particularly the summer meets, that we have tried pass on Beekeeping knowledge for all levels of experience within our Membership.

I would like thank Brian Bush for becoming Editor of the monthly Newsletter, it is a hard task to produce the document each month. It is the main way of keeping us all informed of the Association's activities and those in Beekeeping in general. In his spare time Brian has again done a sterling job as Swarm Officer.

Yet again Helen Palmer and Jonathan Matthews ran another great New Beekeepers Course in the Spring. The enthusiasm that everyone puts into running the course is great to see, thank you to everyone who took part in the course this year, your time and efforts are much appreciated.

The highlight of the year for me was the Disease Day, although it was a County event all the organisation and running on the day was by Mid Bucks Members. Thank you to Jonathan Palmer for all your support for making the day such a success.

It is difficult to believe that I have been a member of this Committee for 10 years! I have to thank Frank Rickett (the then Chairman) for asking me to become Apiary Manager, if I had not taken on that role I would not have become Chairman. Thank you to all the Committee members I have worked with over the years and in particular, to Liz Tice who is standing down as Secretary this year.

No matter how you look at it, we as an Association finish 2017/18 strong and healthy, I hope all your colonies are in a similar condition and I wish you all the best for the coming season.

## **PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Winter Programme of evening members' meetings covered a wide number of topics. In November, Chris Parks gave his talk 'Skep Beekeeping Past and Present' which not only gave insight into his beekeeping but also his many bee products. In January, Alan Roberts gave his first hand account of dealing with Asian Hornets in France. In February, Michael Keith-Lucas gave a fascinating talk on 'Pollination' using his wonderful collection of slides. In March, Iain Judge gave his talk about products of the beehive. In April, members of the Association stepped up to give their short papers to the meeting. In September, Paul Walton stepped in at very short notice as Ash Samuelson was unwell. Paul Walton described his part in a multi-country programme of queen rearing in his talk 'B+-Queen rearing for the future'.

This year's winter programme is already in place but any suggestions for future topics, speakers and summer visits will always be gratefully received.

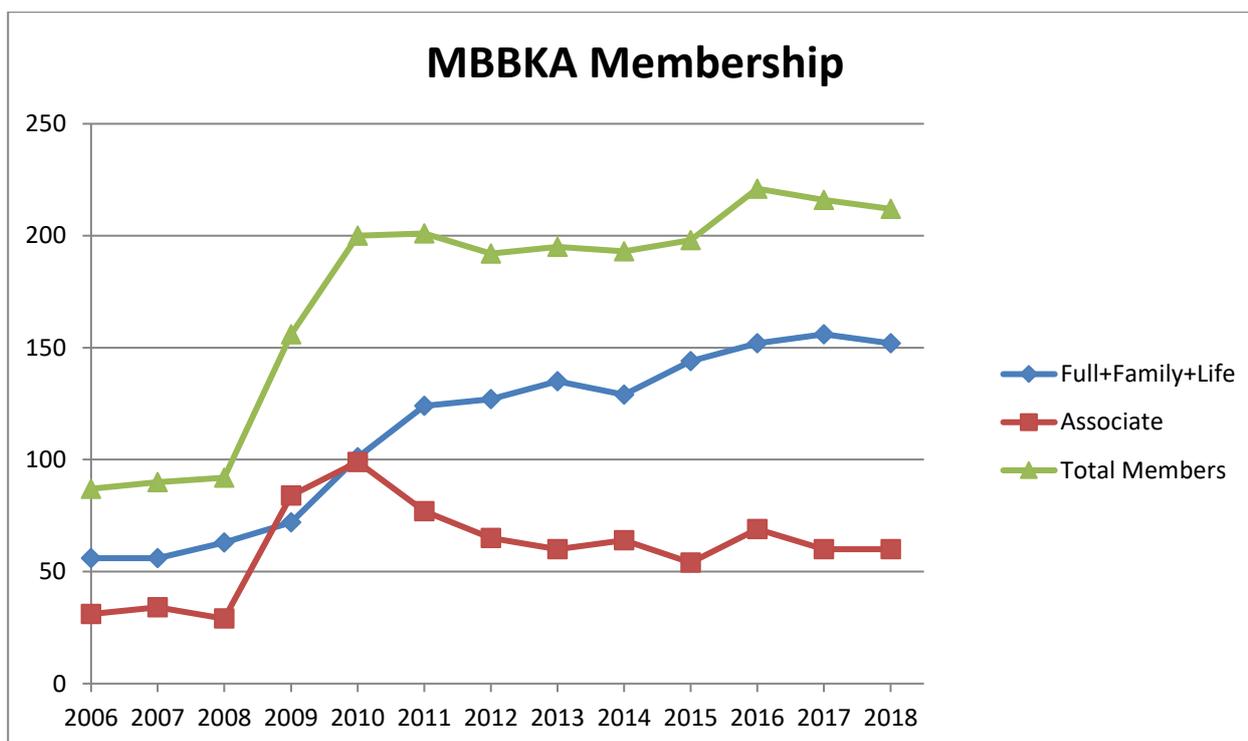
## MBBKA Membership Report 2018

Summary of MBBKA membership status as of 13<sup>th</sup>. October, 2018

Total membership numbers have remained relatively stable and above the 200 mark. The number of full members (including family) has decreased slightly (146 this year vs 150 last) while associates have remained at 60. The table below shows the breakdown of 2018 membership grades compared to the last 3 years with the graph showing additional member data back to 2006.

	2015	2016	2017	<b>2018</b>
Full Members	111	120	121	<b>124</b>
Associate Members	54	69	60	<b>60</b>
Family Memberships	28	26	29	<b>22</b>
Life Members	5	6	6	<b>6</b>
TOTAL*	198	221	216	<b>212</b>

\*Total excludes family partner members



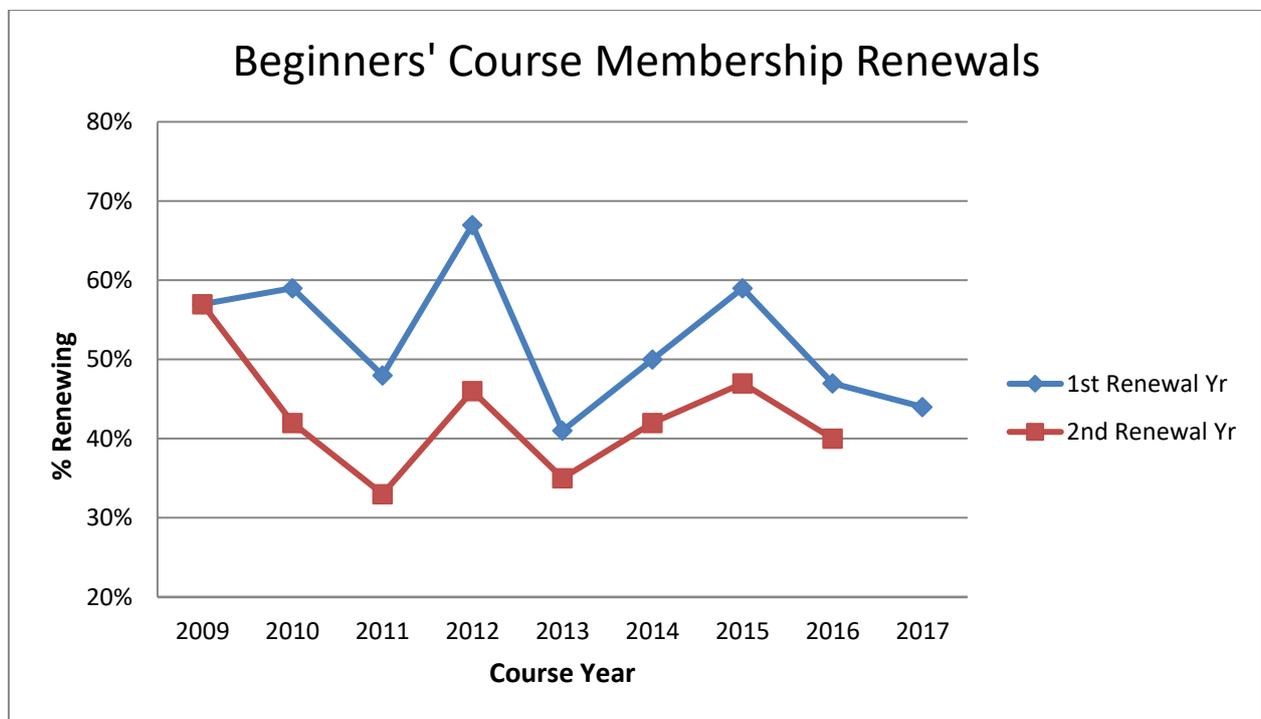
### Beginners' course membership renewals

The raw membership figures are a snapshot as of October 13th 2018 and give limited information on member turnover. Therefore we also track how many beginners course members renew their membership in the 2 years following their course. As there is no selection process for course entry and many other factors affect whether course members go on to keep bees with us, this is only a rough indicator but suggests that overall new beekeepers joining the association after their course are broadly in balance with those leaving.

1<sup>st</sup> year renewals from the 2017 course decreased slightly vs 2016 from 47% to 44%. This remains well within the historical range.

2<sup>nd</sup> year renewals continue to broadly track the first year values but at a lower level. From the 2016 course 40% renewed in their second year. Given the small numbers, the difference between the 1st and 2nd year renewals has remained relatively constant over the past 4 years.

Course Year	Course Members*	1st Renewal Yr	2nd Renewal Yr
2009	23	57%	57%
2010	71	59%	42%
2011	40	48%	33%
2012	39	67%	46%
2013	34	41%	35%
2014	36	50%	42%
2015	34	59%	47%
2016	47	47%	40%
2017	32	44%	



### Membership Fees

The BBKA are not changing their capitation fees in 2019. Therefore, subject to AGM approval, the MBBKA subscription fees for 2019 will remain as follows:

Full Member: £30	(BBKA: £19)
Family: £45	(BBKA: £31.50)
Associate: £12	(No BBKA)

Jonathan Palmer  
Membership Secretary

## Education Report

### Beginners' Course

The Beginners' Course ("New Beekeepers' Course") attracted 40 participants. It followed the established format: six weekly classroom lectures followed by a series of practical sessions.

The lectures started on 19<sup>th</sup> February. The practical sessions started on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 with two woodworking half-days.

10 Apiary Sessions were originally planned, but another was added in order to create a little extra capacity; 10 offered only the capacity for all the new beekeepers to attend three sessions with no slack at all.

However, only 97 of the 132 available places were booked and one session (on 30<sup>th</sup> April) was lost to poor weather.

Two Honey Extraction Workshops were arranged (for 30<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August):

- the first was fully booked but only 6 people turned up.
- 7 places on the second had been booked, but only 4 people turned up

Next year the Honey Extraction Workshop will be an Association event, advertised and open to all members.

### Bucks Beekeepers: Microscopy Course

Sean Stephenson organised and has been running microscopy sessions on Saturday mornings once a month, starting in January.

### Bucks Beekeepers: Disease Day

On 11<sup>th</sup> August Jonathan Palmer and others ran a "Disease Day", a chance for beekeepers to see the diseases that they don't want to see in their colonies, European and American Foulbrood.

### Basic Assessment

Helen Palmer organised a Basic Assessment course, held over four weeks starting on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May, with a Mock Assessment on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July and an assessment proper on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Three took the course, and two took the assessment, with Deborah Campbell as assessor. Both candidates passed, one with credit.

### Shows

The MBBKA has had stands at 11 events this summer:

Date	Location	Name	Organisation
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Chinnor	"Green Living"	Chinnor & Thame Friends of the Earth
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Great Missenden	Great Missenden Show	Berks, Bucks & Oxford-shire Wildlife Trust
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Wendover	Lindengate Open Day	
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Boarstall	Boarstall Tower Fete	

23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Weston Turville	Weston Turville Fete	
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Lee	Lee Flower Show	
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Monks Risborough	MRHS Show	Monks Risborough Horticultural Society
30 <sup>th</sup> August	Weedon	Bucks County Show	
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Monks Risborough	St Dunstan's Fun Day	St Dunstan's Church
15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> September	Stone		Hartwell Nursery
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Wendover	Lindengate Open Day	

BBOWT's event at College Lake on 15th/16th September was cancelled.

### **Modules**

A Study Group for Module 5 (Honey Bee Biology) met during Winter 2017/2018.

Three members of the MBBKA took the exam in March 2018; one passed with distinction, one with credit and one merely passed.

In Winter 2018/2019 there will be Study Groups for

- Module 1 (Honey Bee Management),
- Module 3 (Honey Bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning) and
- Module 7 (Selection & Breeding of Honey Bees)

preparing for exams in March 2019.

The next Beginner's Course will start on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019. This will be later than usual, but Easter is later in 2019. As a result, there would be no gap between the end of the lecture course and the start of the apiary sessions, with only the wood working day in between.

## 2018 AGM Apiary Report

There were 5 colony losses over the 2017/18 winter and we started the season with 7 full colonies.

During the year we hosted:

- A total of 11 of Beginners' Practical sessions:
  - From mid-April until mid-July.
  - Only one session cancelled
  - All delegates placed on later sessions
  - 100 bookings made using Eventbrite
  - Actual turnout fell short due to no shows
- We hosted 5 Members Meetings over the summer period
  - All very well attended with between 25 to 35 members
- We hosted Apiary visits from 4 external groups from youth organisations, schools and young potential beekeepers.  
All keen to see and work with actual bees.

By mid-term season all colony losses had been replaced by expansion of colonies split from Demaree manipulations into nucs. The direct result of key members training meetings given by Sean.

We have a Flow Hive, a Top Bar hive, and this year we have had donations of a WBC type and a Long Dartington type which we will try to commission next season.

Four sets of essential hive tools and equipment have completed for use by New beginners' groups practical sessions this year and in future.

Two Observation hives with Bees were supplied to support the School Visit programme and the numerous external local shows manned by association member teams

We have renewed approximately 65% of brood and super frames and completed 10 new double hive stands. These will be in place over the winter period.

We have acquired a 14ft x 8ft shed from Chalfonts Beekeepers and part constructed a foundation base at the Apiary to place it on. The shed needs to be dismantled at its current location, transported and re-erected at the Apiary. Ongoing. Members help required

Honey production was moderate this year and honey from the apiary was extracted at two demonstration sessions at Drywick yielding 100+ lbs.

We continue to investigate the possibilities to relocate the apiary to an alternate location.

My thanks go to all those who have helped during the year:

Special thanks to the Apiary work team members below:

Pete Brown  
Godfrey Clements  
Paul Spencer  
Ray Young  
Rob Spiller  
Andrew Smith

Lisa Hurley  
Tina Hood Liles  
Peter Ginger  
Jeff Bratt  
David Linley

For their time and patience and to Sean Stephenson and Andrew Smith for their continued mentoring and support.

Kevin Crangles

## MBBKA Swarm Officer Report 2018

Following the harsh winter of 2017/2018 we were not expecting there to be a large number of swarm calls this year. As you can see from the attached graph we received our first calls later than usual on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.

From this date forward we received calls, average about 2 a day reaching a peak on the 25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> June.

Almost exactly 1/3 of calls were swarms. The greater part of calls being bees in the fabric of buildings, generally bumble bees. These calls were passed to Mr Bees Knees and Baughan Pest Control.

We had 2 calls in September the last one being on 18/09/2018 probably the latest we have ever received.

Of the total of 38 calls to swarms very few were of a viable size.

Reading comments in the log, *'Would not fill a mug!'*, *'Half a pint!'*, *'Waste of time!'*, *'Cannot be reached!'*, *'F\*\*\*\*d Off!'*, I realised how much time our collectors and I wasted.

I try to build up and check small swarms before passing them on to new members in particular. I have only managed to nurture one swarm from 6 in my apiary through the summer, and they have the most evil temperament, and the queen will need replacing if they survive the winter.

The other swarms have had non-laying and drone-laying queens or in some cases a sense of total apathy and just dwindled away.

Other club members have reported similar tales of woe.

Half a dozen of the calls were outside our area and callers were referred to the Chalfonts, North Bucks or Wycombe swarm line numbers.

This year I have had 2 calls from the public about Hornets. Thankfully they were European Hornets, (Vespa Cabro).

I would like to thank Nadia, my wife, who had manned the phone line and incidentally, has become an expert of Bumble Bees!!!, and all those members who have helped in any way with collection of swarms. With such small numbers many volunteers were not needed.

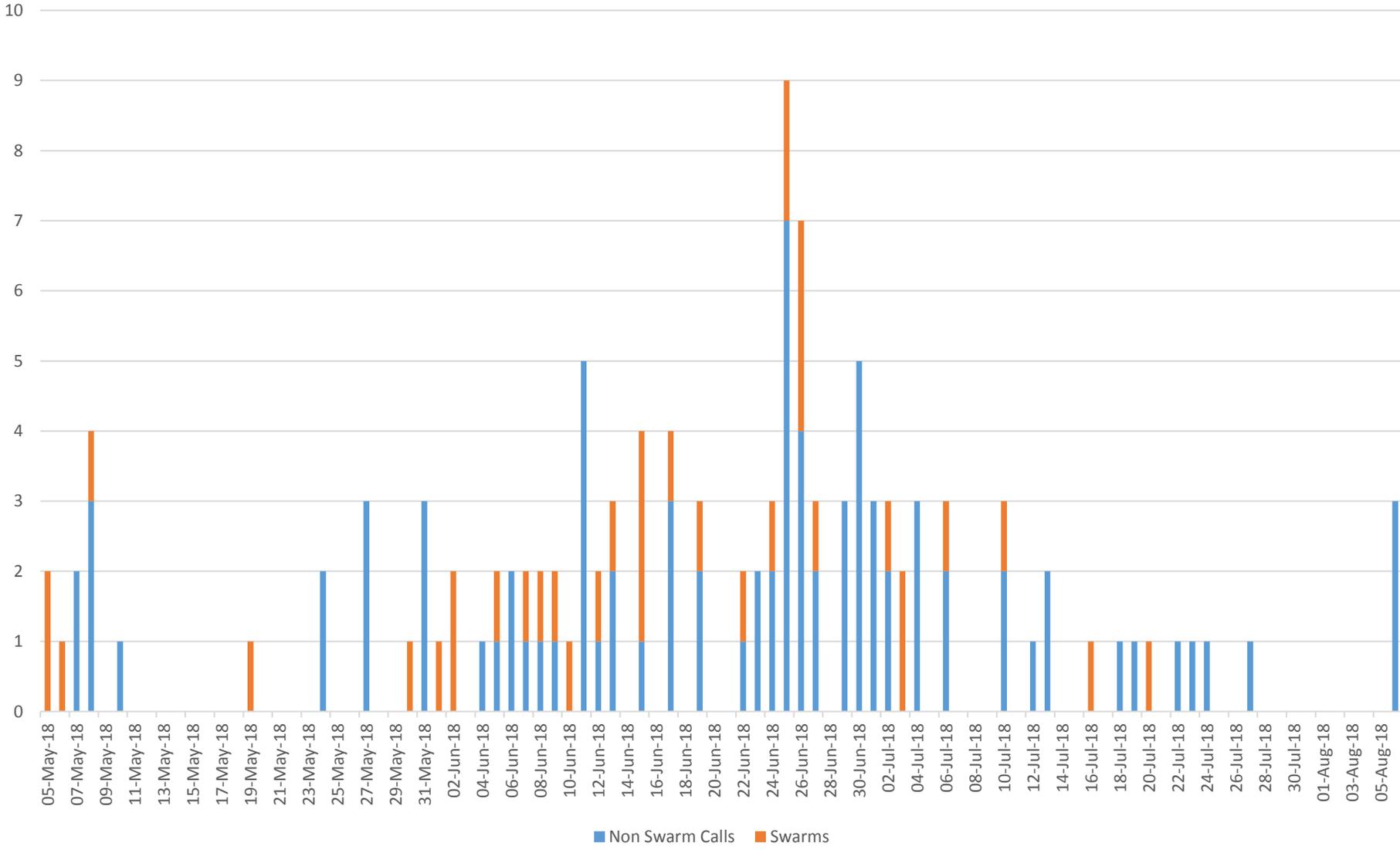
I apologise to those members who were hoping to make good winter losses or start beekeeping with a swarm for being unable to help you all.

Providing this winter is not as severe or long as 2017/2018 I believe, from past experience that next year may be a busy year. Stand by everyone.

Unless another member wished to take on this task Nadia and I will continue in this role for another year. I believe 2019 will be our 6<sup>th</sup> year and following the lead of the committee wonder if it may not be sensible to hand over to new volunteer.

Brian Bush 2018.

# Swarm Line Calls 2018



## MBBKA 2018/19 Committee Nominations

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Chairman	Helen Palmer		
Vice-Chairman	Caroline Windley		
Secretary	Godfrey Clements		
Treasurer	Andrew Smith		
Membership Secretary	Jonathan Palmer		
Apiary Manager	Kevin Crangles		
Programme Secretary	Sarah Turner		
Librarian	Jon Theobald		
Honey Show Secretary	Ruth Stephenson		
Education Officer	Jonathan Matthews		
Novice Bee Keeper	Rob Spiller		
Committee Member	Dorrie Tutton		
Committee Member			
Committee Member			