

Report on the Mid-Cheshire branch of the Cheshire Beekeepers accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

We have a total of £4592.55 in our Barclays Community account.

There is a surplus of £910.33 and this has been achieved by some very kind donations and also because we have had some payments in for the training course which begins in January.

We have received regular donations throughout the year from J Parker's Ltd. This brilliant sponsorship was arranged by Jo Zielinski and has enabled us to set up our new apiary by buying hives, equipment and a shed. The total amount donated this year has been £2100.

We have sold honey and wax on behalf of members at the shows we have attended and this has resulted in donations from the sellers totalling £526.33.

Steve Purkis has donated money from the talks he has given and Steve, Lesley Jacques and Stuart Forbes have all dealt with swarms resulting in donations to our association.

The CBKA have discontinued capitation to all the other branches in Cheshire but have paid us £5 per member for the 92 members we had in 2022. Capitation has always been paid for the number of members in the previous year based on numbers published in the Year Book.

The meeting entrance figures have been very encouraging this year and there has been a large increase in the amount of money raised by entrance fee. However, we have not had regular raffles and we increased the entry fee to £2 which partly accounts for the increase.

Approximately half of the payments for our theory training course have been received but we should receive more during January.

We are hoping that our investment in our club apiary will become a very valuable resource for the club during 2024.

We only paid expenses to three speakers in 2023, Diane Drinkwater, Joyce Nisbet (honey show judge) and for the Buckfast Abbey zoom talk. Many thanks to Nick Mould and Jonathan Arnold for their excellent presentation at the AGM which they gave free of charge. We would also like to thank Lesley Jacques for the excellent talk in September for which she took no expenses.

We are very thankful to Ian and Jane Turley, Nick and Sarah Johnson, Lesley Jacques, Joshua Hampson and Ken Houghton who have held apiary meetings during the summer and have not charged for the refreshments provided.

Sarah Johnson (treasurer)