

Dunblane & Stirling Beekeepers' Association (SCIO)

Report from the Chair 2020-2021

As another business year for DSBA closed, I found myself reflecting on the various activities which we would normally undertake, but which we have been unable to do. Then I realised that it would be better to focus on what we have achieved during a very restrictive year.

The vast majority of our members felt that our virtual AGM was a success, and so the Board made the decision to do the same for this year. Members meetings via Zoom have also proved popular and it has been good to be able to provide informative and interesting meetings for our membership.

Our new beekeepers' classes were held virtually, and I would like to thank all those involved in their organisation and presentation. Sadly, due to restrictions, we were unable to provide any hands-on beekeeping classes at the Association apiary until much later in the season, but to date, all those who wished for a taster, have had some hands-on meetings.

Work behind the scenes has continued, with improvements at the apiary, and with the distribution of the bulk order, bee feeds and jars. The website is updated regularly with news items, photos and resources. Our mentoring scheme has provided support to the membership, and we have been able to secure the use of our heather site once again.

Sadly, for the second year, we have been unable to offer the competitive fun of our honey show; neither have we held our summer outing or apiary visits, but I am ever hopeful that we can resume these in the next 12 months.

With regards to meetings, the Board has managed to book the Cathedral Halls with the proviso that we may cancel at any time if that becomes necessary. It is hoped to hold our new beekeepers' classes in a face-to-face situation which will permit new members to meet and make new friends. At present, the Board is considering a mix of indoor meetings and Zoom meetings, the latter being preferable during the winter months.

I would like to extend a very large thank you to my fellow Trustees and to all the volunteers who help make DSBA the success that it is. It has been a privilege to be Chair of the Association for the past three years and, as I step down from the Board, I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement. I look forward to when we can meet up and catch up in person.

Christine Craig Chair DSBA SC048615