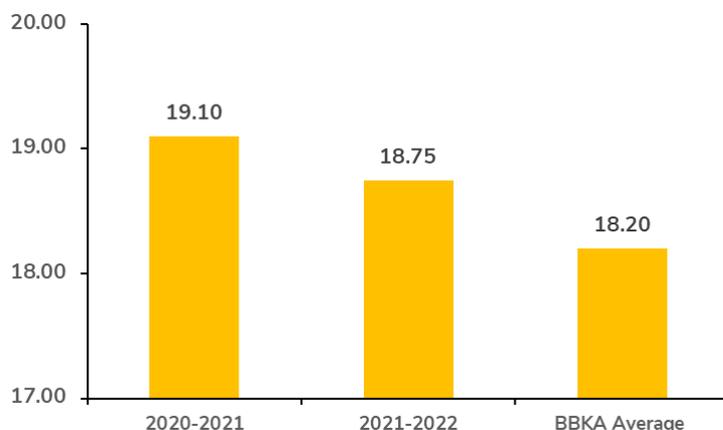




MVBKA Winter Loss Report 2021 – 2022

Number of Losses

From the 29 responses from members, 80 went into winter with 15 not making it through. Therefore, the winter loss rate was 18.75%. This is lower than the previous winters value of 19.1%. The BBKA conducts a survey across the entire UK, and the average annual losses between 2007 and 2020 was 18.2%, and our values are in line with this. Similar to last year, response numbers are low (only about 30% of members replied) so the results reported here may not be completely accurate.

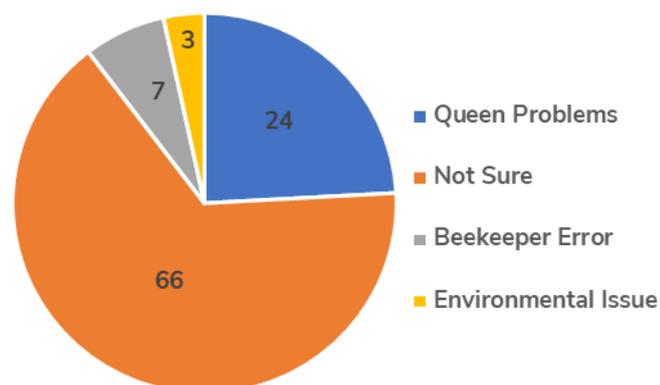


Postcode area	Number of Hives		Loss (%)
	Before Winter	After Winter	
SO32 & SO50	30	19	36%
SO24 & SO21	14	13	7%
PO17 & PO7	8	8	0%
GU34	12	11	7%
GU32 & GU33 & GU29	14	14	0%

When broken down by area, it is clear that losses are not homogenous across the Meon Valley. The highest number of responses came from SO32 and SO50 and this may have led to a disproportionately high loss percentage. The two areas with 0% only had one beekeeper in each area.

Causes of Losses

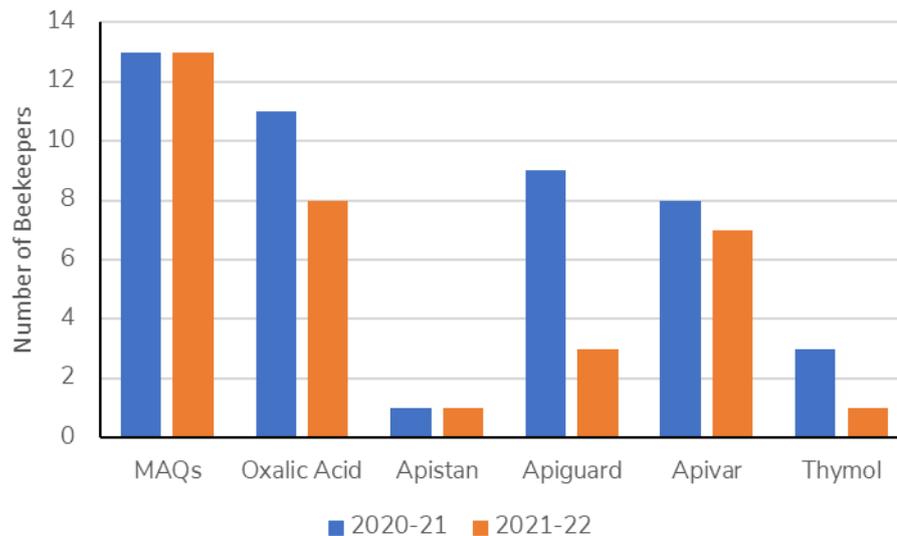
The pie chart on the right-hand side shows the percentage of causes for each category of loss. By far the largest cause reported was the “Not Sure” category. This indicates that beekeepers in our association may need more training opportunities to learn how to assess and conduct a post mortem on dead colonies. Queen problems persist as a significant factor in colony loss.



Varroa Treatment

The bar chart below shows the number of beekeepers using each type of treatment. MAQ stripes remain the most common method of varroa treatment. Brood breaks and drone brood culling both remain as highly used treatments too. The lack of variety in the treatment methods suggest more training is required in alternative treatments. More beekeepers just treated the once last season, compared with the 2020 season where more treatments were used overall.

20.6% of the respondents said that they do not treat for varroa. All but 2 of these people reported losses, however. This is higher than the number of 19.4% who reported they did not treat last year.



Conclusion

Whilst only a small picture of the entire association, this data helps to identify gaps in beekeepers' knowledge across our area. Thank you to all the respondents for taking the time to fill in the survey. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.