

President Honoured

Our President William Mundy has been honoured by Dartford Borough Council by being nominated for the Dartfordian Award for people who have made a huge contribution to the local Community. William has been given the award for 'Services to Beekeeping'. Our congratulations to William on receiving this award.

Council Meeting 12th March 2011

Eighteen representatives from eleven Branches together with the four officers and three visitors attended the Council meeting in March.

Council stood in silent tribute to Jean Lea who had died in February.

We will purchase two pull up pre-printed stands as publicity for shows.

Clive Watson had attended the BBKA ADM and reported it was a good day, The proposition from Twickenham & Thames Valley was skilfully dealt with by the Chairman with the meeting agreeing to end endorsements of pesticides by the BBKA as soon as possible, but to continue liaising with agrochemical companies and to allow sponsorship of research is considered desirable. The three new members were accepted: Cleveland BKA to become Area Association, The Instrumental Hive Project to become a Specialist Member and the National Diploma Board to become a Specialist Member. Jane Moseley from Hertfordshire has been appointed as the new BBKA Operations Director with a main task of gaining sponsorship for the BBKA and its activities.

Revised Bye-Laws were agreed and these take effect from 1st April 2011.

With regard to the subscription for next year Council considered that BBKA have increased their capitation to £15 from October. BDI remains at £2 and BeeCraft remains at £18, hence the payment to third parties will be £35. It was agreed not to make a decision until the next meeting and we will consider the following options after branches have discussed the options:

Raise subscription to £41 and keep branch allocation at £6

Keep Subscription at £40 and reduce branch allocation to £5

Keep Subscription at £40 and keep branch allocation at £6. For this option we need to check that subsidising branches by £1 from county funds will not upset the accounts.

A new Subscription form for new members joining between January and August was agreed. Membership names were changed to Registered Member and Partner member to match with BBKA.

With regards to the questions we ask members it was agreed to remove the question about delivering information by e-mail was deleted because e-mail distribution is now the norm and we ask for e-mail address on the form. If no e-mail address is supplied then information will be posted.

The second question was amended to 'You may release my contact details for disease control purposes'. The third question was amended to 'You may include my name and address in lists issued to members'.

The Yalding and District Beekeepers had asked to become a branch of KBKA. They have been invited to the Council meeting in May where a decision will be made.

Seven KBKA members are sitting BBKA module Exams on 19th March

Election of Officers and Committees.

Chairman – Clive Watson, **Vice-Chairman** – David Wood, **General Secretary** - Jennifer Spon-Smith, **County Treasurer** - James Cash and **Membership Secretary** - John Hendrie were elected.

Examinations Secretary – Angela Merritt from Orpington Branch.

Executive Committee: John Hendrie, Peter Hutton, William Mundy, Mike Wall.

Show Committee: Dr. J. Cowan, B. Farrow, Ronnie Eagle, Lesley Fancote, J. Hendrie, Margaret May, W. Mundy, B. Smith, M. Wall, J. Wassell, B. Wood.

Education Committee: J. Audsley, K. Erhardt, Lesley Fancote, Angela Merritt.

Current membership is: 651 Registered, 2 Junior, 118 Friends making a total of 771 members.

John Hendrie

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A company limited by guarantee, Registered No. 238630 Registered Charity No. 222946
Registered Office: National Beekeeping Centre, RASE, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. CV8 2LG



No. 55

COUNTY NEWSLETTER

April 2011

Changes at Council

At the March Council Meeting John Hendrie retired as General Secretary after eight years in the post, but will continue in the role of Membership Secretary so all membership changes need to be notified to him. Jenny Spon-Smith from Bromley is the new General Secretary. Her contact details are with all Branch secretaries. Clive Watson was elected as Chairman, David Wood as Vice Chairman and Angela Merritt Examinations Secretary.

The changes will come into effect over the next few months. Until the end of April Exam applications should be sent to John Hendrie.

A report on the Council meeting is given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of KBKA will be held on Saturday 28th May 2011 at the Detling Village Hall (near Jade's Crossing on the A249 at 11:30 am or when the Council meeting finishes if later. The formal notice and agenda is given below The meeting is purely a formality to comply with legal requirements, but anyone wishing to attend the AGM is welcome to sit in at the Council meeting as well.

KBKA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at the Detling Village Hall, Detling on Saturday 28th May, 2011 at 11:30 am (At conclusion of Council Meeting)

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 5th June 2010
3. To elect a President
4. To adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 30th September 2010
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the Accounts in accordance with statutory requirements
6. Any Other Business

William Mundy retires as President and having served four years is ineligible for re-election.

CALENDAR April – June 2011

Branch Events

Ashford

Please see Branch Newsletter. Meetings most weekends.

Meetings at 2:30 pm at the South Stour Apiary, Cheeseman's Green Lane, Mersham.

Bromley

Sun 3rd April 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.

Tues 19th April 7:30 pm. Lecture by Pam Hunter from Sussex.

Sun 2nd May 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.

Sun 5th June 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.

Sun 19th June 11:30 am Afternoon apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.

Meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.

Canterbury

Sat 2nd April 2:30 pm Spring Inspection at Julian and Joan's Apiary, Waldershare Park.

Ring Julian Audsley for directions: 0776 183 9119.

Dartford

Sat 9th April 3:00 pm General Spring cleaning at the apiary.

Sat 14th May 3:00 pm Talk on changes planned for the apiary. Investigating a feral colony.

Sat 11th June 3:00 pm Visit from Dr Nikki Gammans from Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

All meetings at Bedonwell Apiary, refreshments will be provided.

Gravesend

Sun 10th April 3:00 pm Bob Smith will talk on 'Swarm Control'. St Mary's Church Hall, Sole St.

Sat 7th May Demonstration of swarm control by Maurice Field.

Sat 21st May Harold Manley - Practical making wax foundation and candles.

Sun 5th June Making a Nucleus. Brian Wood's apiary at Vigo.

Contact Lesley Fancote 01474 702666 for details and locations.

Mid Kent

Sun 10th April 2:30 pm Spring Inspection.

Sun 8th May 2:30 pm Swarm Control.

Sun 5th June 2:30 pm Honey extraction

Meetings at the new Branch Apiary at East Malling Research.

Orpington

Saturday afternoons 2:30 pm Demonstrations at Beeche Centre, High Elms Country Park

Shire Lane, Farnborough, BR6 7JH. See Branch newsletter for details.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

9th & 30th April, 14th & 28th May 2:00 pm Meetings at Barrwood Apiary.

9th April 7th May & 4th June 2:00 pm Meetings at Hilbert Road Apiary.

See Branch newsletter for details.

Sidcup

All Saturdays Afternoon meetings at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm or Baldwyn's Apiary.

Please see Branch website for details.

Weald

Sat 30th April 3:00 pm Spring Inspection by Mike Cooper

Sat 21st May 3:00 pm Collecting swarms & preparing observation hives.

Sat 18th June 3:00 pm Queen Rearing and Swarm Control by Nick Mengham.

For directions contact Nick Mengham 01233 840660 or 07884 231514

Westerham

Sat 9th April 10:00 am Microscopy day at the John Fryth Room, St Mary's Church, Westerham

Wed 27th April 8:00 pm 'Honey from Hive to Jar' by John Williams at Westerham Hall

Please see Branch newsletter for details and directions.

Whitstable - No meetings notified.

County and Other Events

Sat 2nd April Central Association AGM and lecture day at Roots & Shoots, London.

15 - 17 April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh.

Sat 28th May 10:00 am Council Meeting and AGM at 11:30 am. Detling Village Hall.

15 - 17 July Kent Show at Detling.

24 - 29 July Irish Summer School at Gormanston near Dublin.

Sat 8th Oct 10:00 am Council Meeting at Detling Village Hall.

27 - 29 Oct National Honey Show at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey.

Sat 26th Nov 10:00 am Council Meeting at Detling Village Hall.

Sat 14th Jan 2012 10:30 am BBKA ADM at Stoneleigh.

Jean Nita Sephton Lea

Many of you will have known of Jean's phenomenal knowledge and experience of beekeeping – she kept bees for over 40 years – but her scientific knowledge and curiosity for the natural world spread much further. Insects, cosmology, flora, mycology and geology were just a few of the many areas which excited her amazingly enquiring mind.

But her intellectual wealth did not stop with the natural sciences – she was also an excellent photographer and gardener, skilled in many arts and crafts with a real talent for poetry and drawing. In previous ages such scientists were called polymaths ('having learned much') and it gave them a special view of the world. Jean was a modern day example and like them was always keen to share her knowledge and enthusiasm – her friends will attest to the fact that she was rarely stumped for an answer – a real Renaissance woman. Her enthusiasm for and wonderful knowledge of life's richness will be much missed by those who were privileged to know her.

In the 1980's she was a key player with Brian Palmer in the bee breeding project at Hadlow College. Jean died in hospital on Friday 4 February and many beekeepers attended the funeral service at Tunbridge Wells on 24th February.

Terry Hardy

County Show at Detling

At its first meeting in March the Show Committee elected David Wood as Chair and Bob Smith from Sidcup Branch as the Chief Steward and John Chapman (Medway BKA) as Secretary.

If you would like to help to steward the event please contact Bob Smith and let him know. For half a days stewarding you will be given a one day ticket allowing you half a day free to view the show.

There will be a rota and normally stints are for two hours, but that will depend on which exhibit you are assisting. We are also arranging refreshments for stewards at a nominal cost.

Contact Bob Smith on 020 8300 1807 or bsmith12@ntlworld.com if you would like to steward.

Indicate your preferred day(s). Last year we were short of stewards on Saturday and Sunday.

Visit the Kent Beekeepers web site: www.kentbee.com

Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover June - August and please note that all details should be sent to Jennifer Spon-Smith, KBKA General Secretary, at: 77 Bushey Way, Beckenham, Kent. BR3 6TH or email: Jennifer@spon-smith.com or 020 8663 1364, by 20th May with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.